

The Philadelphia Remnant

July/Aug/Sept 2012



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

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CONTENTS

Feast of Trumpets	Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong	1
Personal from the Editor	Mr. Alton 'Don' Billingsley	5
The Spirit of Truth	Mr. Alton 'Don' Billingsley	10
The Rapture Fable	Mr. Mark Mendiola	21
Prophecy Now!	Israel Isolated	40
Web sites, statistics		Back Page

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

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

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Christ's Tremendous Return!

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

Feast of Trumpets 1985

I've caught some kind of a virus, and my temperature rose up and stayed more or less for two weeks or more at about an additional two degrees. It did not rise higher for which I was very grateful, but then it began to improve somewhat. And now for the past three weeks or so, I find that my temperature will be normal in the morning, but it rises in the afternoon.

Now, that's one reason that we set this service 30 minutes earlier today because my temperature does rise in the afternoon and by evening if I walk about 10 steps just across the room, I'm huffing and puffing as if I'd run a quarter mile at full speed, and that is the toughest race as anyone who goes out for track, any athlete, will tell you because the quarter mile is usually run at full speed, and it leaves you with you feeling like your heart's going to break by the time you get to the finish, and I've felt that way many a time, and often it's that way at bedtime. I have a hard time even getting from a chair where I can undress into bed.

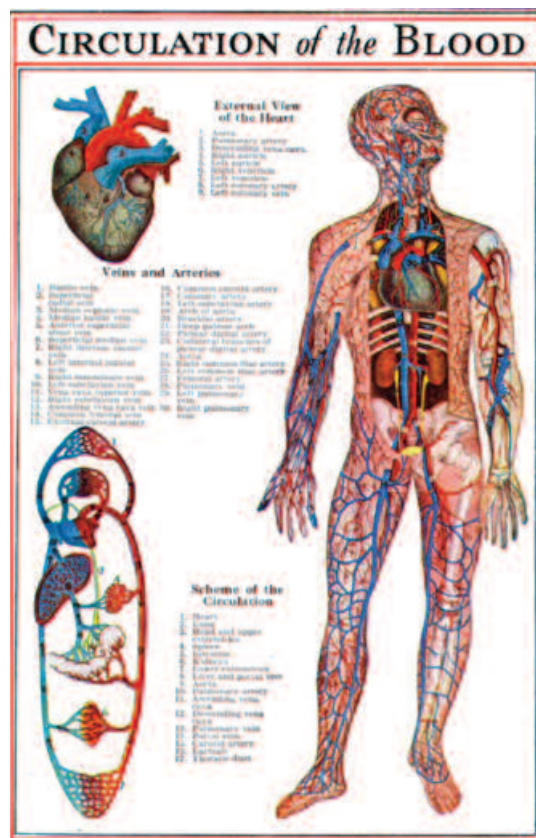
Now we've had some broadcasts made. Unfortunately during the morning service, I was listening to it on my television set, where I'd see it just as if I was sitting in the front row here and better than I would in my usual seat in this auditorium. There was a knock at the door, and there was a woman coming to take some blood and withdraw some blood for another blood test, and I had to explain. I guess the doctor who had sent her at that time didn't realize. I said, "We are in the midst of a very serious annual Holy Day service. We are in a Church service, and I cannot be disturbed now. I am very sorry."

So I think she's going to come tomorrow. I hate to have them take blood because two such tests have already been made and analyzed, and the trouble in my condition seems to be I just do not have enough blood. It's not anemia. Anemia is a lack of iron. My blood shows sufficient iron content. The doctor thought that I



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

should not take milk, and for the first three weeks or so after this thing started, I withdrew from all milk, cheese and everything of that sort.



Well, I'm the calcium type. Every one of us is of a different chemical type physically. Most people don't know that, but I do need calcium, and the blood tests showed I was short on calcium, so I've gone back to more milk again.

I do try to watch my diet, and blood it seems is manufactured in the marrow of the bones, and bones come from calcium. Now, my doctor says that any other doctor would say that I needed an immediate blood transfusion. He doesn't want me to have that. First place, he says it would only be temporary, a stop-gap. Second place, I could catch this new fatal disease of AIDS. Again, he laughed, and



DUST OF THE GROUND

he said, “You won’t catch AIDS if you ever take it because,” he said, “I’ll get the blood from some of your own people.” So, some of you’d better look out.

Fortunately, my doctor doesn’t believe in much medicine. He’s very careful about diet, however. But I do need your continued prayers, and I’m just, I don’t know perhaps I have 80 or 85 percent enough blood. But you know what your life is? Your Bible tells you if you listen when you read. The blood thereof is the life thereof, and God breathed into man the **“breath of life and man became a living soul.”**

And of the dust of the ground, the BREATH is the life and the BLOOD is the life. So your life comes from two things, breath and blood, and they mix in your lungs where the blood is oxidized by the breath, impurities are thrown out and the blood goes on to supply the life.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Well, brethren, we are gathered here today on a very solemn Sabbath day. I doubt if we fully realize just how serious and how solemn it is.

I hope I can make that a little more plain and simple to you this afternoon.

We are here to be reminded of the day that is a foreshadow of the most tremendous event that has ever happened in the history, not of mankind, not of this earth, but the most important event that has ever happened in the ENTIRE UNIVERSE!

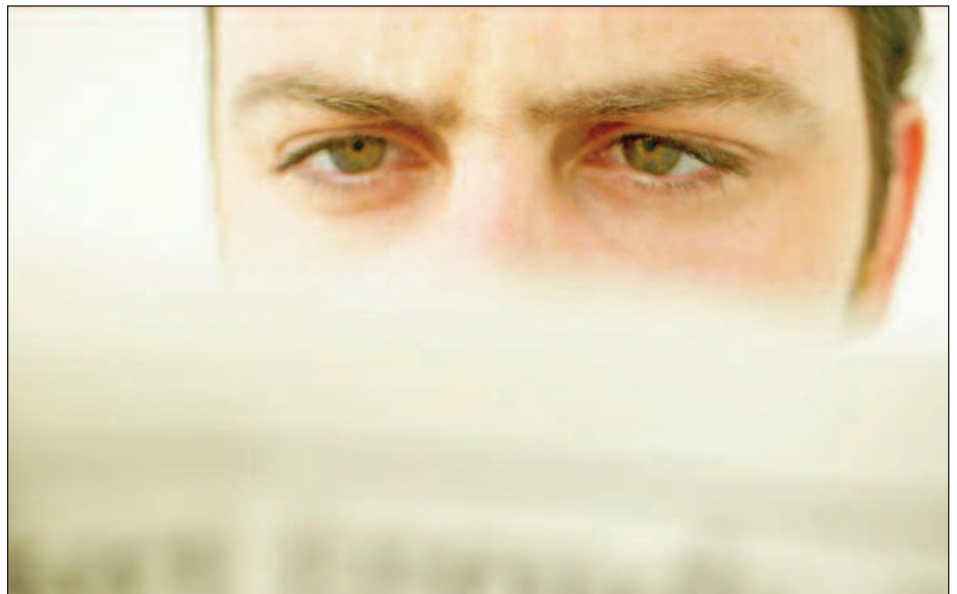
And I don’t think you’ve ever realized that full scope before. I want you to realize it this afternoon.

The event we’re here to celebrate in one sense is the greatest event that has ever happened in the history of the entire universe, except that God has always existed and has always lived. And that was not a beginning. There was no beginning and there will never be an ending because God was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor shall ever have an end of life.

But I’m reminded of the time when I was advertising manager and editorial writer on a daily newspaper. And one day about four or five of us were having a little sort of a talk. They were the newsmen, the editors and the news writers, and they were discussing what would be the most astonishing and the GREATEST headline that you could possibly write on a newspaper. And one of them suggested, and by the way this was before World War II, one of them suggested “Another World War Breaks Out,” the Second World War.

Another one said, “I think something else would be even more shocking, ‘New York City Suddenly Blown Entirely Off the Map, New York City Totally Leveled!’”

Then another said, “Ah, that’s tame. He said I think the most important headline would be ‘Second Coming of Christ Happened this Morning.’” Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! And they all had a big laugh, except me. I said, “You men, if you live long enough, may live to write that headline.”



NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

And they didn't laugh any further because to them it was a big joke, but, brethren, I want to tell you, it's no joke!

But why could the Second Coming of Christ be the most important event that has ever happened in the ENTIRE UNIVERSE?

I don't think you've heard it put that way before. I doubt if many of you understand the real reason why it is that important.

You know I've mentioned many times how Winston

Churchill said before the United States Congress during World War II, "There is a purpose being worked out here below." You know, somehow he knew there was a purpose being worked out, but and "here below," means there was a Super Power above working it out.

He didn't know much about that power. He didn't know what that purpose was and very few people on earth do know. And very few people even realize there is any purpose to life or any purpose being worked out.



WINSTON CHURCHILL ADDRESSES U.S. CONGRESS

Now about the Second Coming of Christ, when they asked Jesus, "**Teach us to pray,**" He gave what is generally called the "Lord's Prayer," although it isn't the real Lord's Prayer. The REAL Lord's Prayer is found in the 17th chapter of John. But He taught us to pray a few things, about four or five things there, among which was **"THY KINGDOM COME, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**

Do you know the churches don't pray that? They don't understand that God's Kingdom has not come and is going to come. They think it's already here. They say they're in the kingdom. Some say the church is the kingdom. Some say that, well, the kingdom's something in the hearts of men. They have every kind of wrong idea, but none of them seems to understand it.

They don't understand the prophecy of Isaiah the ninth chapter, verses 6 and 7, where it says that a virgin is going to conceive and bear a Son and His name will be called, now that's in the seventh chapter of Isaiah, but the ninth chapter, that the nation Israel would have a child that would be born as a baby and would grow up and **the government would be on His shoulder**, that He would live forever and His Kingdom would last forever and ever.



TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF HELL

They don't seem to know that that's in the Bible, and they don't understand it. They have been deceived. They just think that we live. They don't know how we came to be on earth. They don't know of any purpose in life. They think if you do good you'll go to heaven when you die, and if you do what you think is wrong, and of course YOU decide what's right and wrong for yourself, but if you do what you think and what you know is wrong, then you're gonna go to hell where you're going to burn and burn and burn and burn and never burn up and just keep burning forever, shrieking and screaming in pain forever and ever and ever.

And, of course, if that were true, then the same mothers who had gone to heaven will see some of their children down there shrieking because they seem to be able to see them and know what's going on. Well, this world has been terribly deceived, and they just simply don't understand.

Some look at the passage in the 14th chapter of John where Jesus said He was going to heaven and He said if I go that He would come again, but they forget about His coming

He's not coming to meet us as we go to heaven. We're going to meet Him in the air in the clouds ... Zechariah 14 says that **that very same day** we're going to meet Him in the air in the clouds and He's coming on down from those clouds and land on the Mount of Olives just to the east of Jerusalem, and **they overlook that entirely**.

again. But He said in My Father's house are many mansions.

Now if you will go to the original Greek in which that was written, you will find it means positions, occupations, positions of government. Not houses to live in, nailed out of wood or of stone or brick, but positions, and some can't understand if He went to prepare those places why we don't go on to heaven, and then He said, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself," and **so they think that when He comes He's only coming to meet us as we take off to heaven.**

They overlook I Thessalonians in the fourth chapter where it says that at that time the dead in Christ will be resurrected, and they shall rise first, and we which are alive will not prevent or precede their coming. They will rise first. And we which are alive and remain shall be instantly translated from mortal into immortal and shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to MEET THE LORD in the air.

He's not coming to meet us as we go to heaven. We're going to meet Him as He returns to the earth, but WHERE DOES HE GO? Zechariah 14 says that **that very same day** we're going to meet Him in the air in the clouds and He's coming on down from those clouds and land on the Mount of Olives just to the east of Jerusalem, and **they overlook that entirely.** They only read a FEW of the scriptures. They leave out the ones that would entirely ... made everything they had claimed and everything they believe.

But why is it of such great importance? Why do I say that it will be the greatest event in the entire universe so far? To understand that, we have to go back to the very beginning, and I want to go through it and skip through it real rapidly. We need to have a background. You need to get the whole picture. We can get little details. You can get lost in the detail if you don't know what goes



Continued on Page 30

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

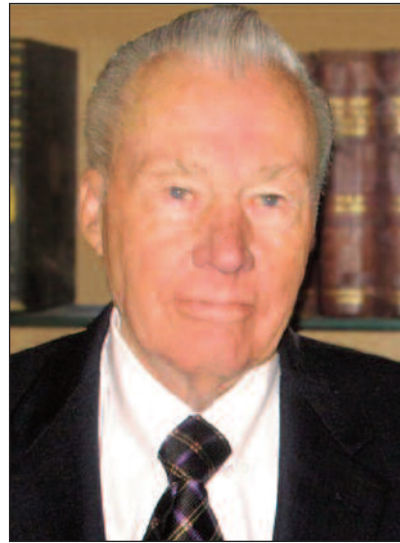
‘Zerubbabel’

‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!’

Zechariah 4:6-7

In the end-time book of Zechariah, we find this little understood prophecy about Zerubbabel, a special chosen human instrument of Jesus Christ who would be used by Him to not only continue laying, or building, on the foundation of the Spiritual Temple, God’s Church, but also would use him to complete it by the Work he would be used to do in the end time.

This was the very foundation of the Church of God that Jesus Christ established in 31 A.D. and began using His early apostles to add to the building of it during their life-time work. Scripture reveals Zerubbabel was a real life human being – a man who was chosen and used by God in ancient Israel to join Joshua and Haggai in re-building the



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

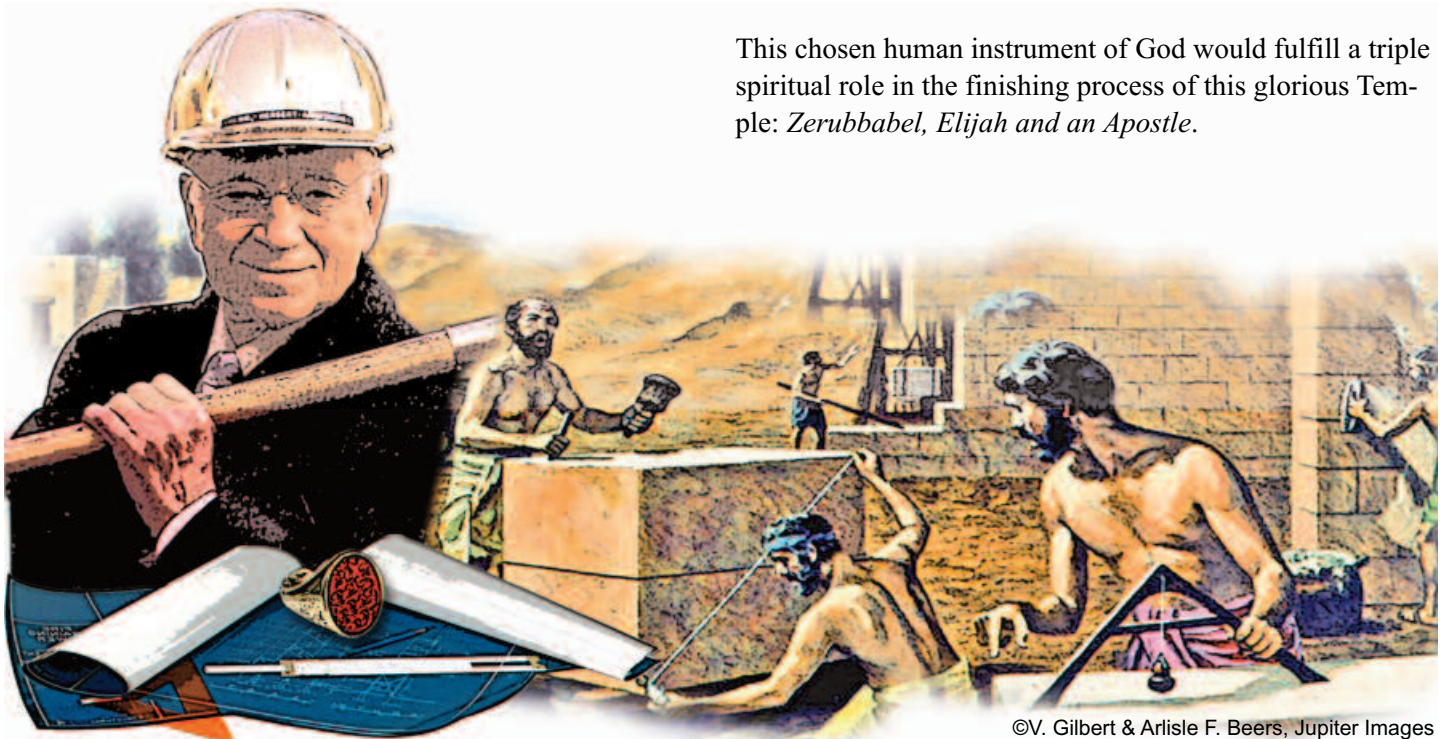
Temple of God, but Zechariah’s prophecy is also an end-time prophetic book revealing there would be the spiritual type.

“‘In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you Zerubbabel ... and will make you as a signet ring; for I have CHOSEN you,’ says the LORD of hosts (Haggai 2:23).”

A special chosen man who would be the Zerubbabel for the end time; a man who would be a human instrument in the hands of Jesus Christ to build and complete the Spiritual Temple, just as He had chosen and sent the end-time Elijah in the Spirit and power of the ancient Elijah to restore all things (Malachi 4:4-6, Matthew 17:10-11, Luke 1:17).

He would also use him toward the continued process of building and completing the Spiritual Temple with the true and faithful membership of the Church of God.

This chosen human instrument of God would fulfill a triple spiritual role in the finishing process of this glorious Temple: *Zerubbabel, Elijah and an Apostle.*



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THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE OF GOD

The Apostles Peter and Paul clearly define the Spiritual Temple as being the Church of the living God of the end time:

“You also, as living stones, are being BUILT UP a Spiritual House (Temple), a holy priesthood ... you are a CHOSEN generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people ... (I Peter 2:5, 9).”

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but ... members of the Household of God, having been BUILT on the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being JOINED TOGETHER, GROWS into a Holy Temple in the LORD, in whom you also are being BUILT TOGETHER for a habitation of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22).”

WHO WAS THIS MAN OF THE END TIME?

This is a question the corporate Churches of God for the most part do not want to even think about, let alone seri-

ously ponder. They are afraid of the real answer. Those who do agree to the correct answer do not want to carry it through to its fullest meaning.

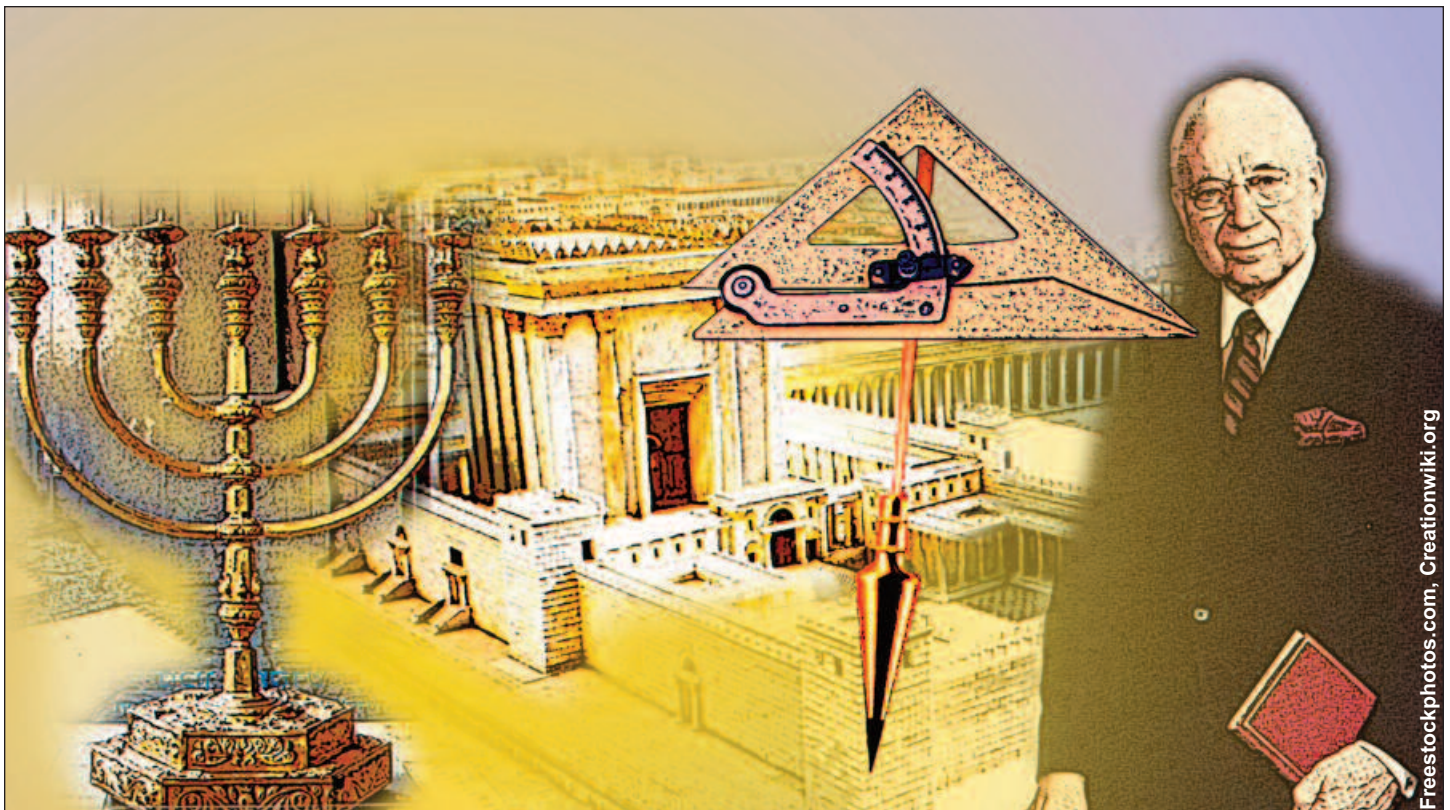
The Scriptural answer to this question has a direct bearing on the true and faithful Elect of God’s true Church and the Work of it; and the man Christ would use with the completion of the living stones in the building of the Spiritual Temple – a completion that in reality began with Christ and the early apostles and prophets of old (Matthew 16:18).

This man was called to begin THIS WORK and the BUILDING of the Church in 1934 – having had his eyes opened to the truth of God as one awakened from the darkness of sleep.

THE UNRECOGNIZED CALL

“In a matter of days after our marriage, while living in Chicago, my wife had a dream so vivid and impressive it overwhelmed and shook her tremendously. It was so realistic it seemed more like a vision. ... Then it seemed in her dream that ‘Christ descended from among them (the three angels) and stood directly in front of us. ... As we went up to Him, He put His arms around both of us, and we were so happy. ... Then it seemed He had changed into an angel. I was terribly disappointed at first, until he told me Christ was really coming in a very short time.’





Freestockphotos.com, Creationwiki.org

“At that time, we had been going quite regularly to motion picture theaters. She asked the angel if this were wrong. *He replied Christ had important work for us to do preparing for His coming – there would be no time for ‘movies.’* ... In the morning, she told me of her dream. I was embarrassed. I didn’t want to think about it, yet I was afraid to totally dismiss it. ... I managed to put it out of my mind.

“Then in the fall of 1926, at age 34, it seemed the roof had caved in and I was crushed! I was assailed by very disturbing dual challenges. My wife after nine years of happy marriage began keeping the seventh-day Sabbath instead of Sunday ...” – **Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Pages 15-17, 18-30.**

It was in this manner that Jesus Christ woke up Mr. Armstrong to the Work he would be used in doing the remainder of his physical life from 1934 to 1986.

“The angel who talked with me came back and ‘WAKENED ME’ as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there is A LAMPSTAND of solid gold (the Philadelphia Era of God’s true Church) with a bowl (filled with OIL, symbolic of God’s Holy Spirit, Matthew 25:3-9) on top of it ...’ (Zechariah 4:1-3).”

The beginning of the Philadelphia Era of the Church of God and the Work that Christ began using him to do was the smallest of the smallest – with 19 members! It was arduous and always a lack of money for the expenses. But Christ kept it alive and growing ever so slightly until it began reaching the world by the end of His apostle’s life.

THE POWER OF GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ empowered Zerubbabel to do His Work – **“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts (Zechariah 4:6).”**

Christ did the Work through Mr. Armstrong by supplying the needed POWER through His Holy Spirit to reach out to mankind with His Gospel and the Ezekiel Warning Message (Acts 1:8).

Though there were many obstacles in his path that had to be overcome through the many long years of doing the Work of God, what is before mankind in the closing years of this age is even greater; and especially so, with the greatest danger yet before the Church of God and Israel, as described in symbolism.

“Who are you, O great mountain (Revived Roman Empire)? Before (in the path of) Zerubbabel (Jeremiah 51:25), you shall become (be turned into) a plain! And he

shall bring forth the CAPSTONE; (*preparing the way for the coming of Jesus Christ; as did John prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah to become the chief corner stone, Malachi 3:1*) **with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’** (Zechariah 4:7)”

In reality, it is Christ who is doing this, but He used today’s Zerubbabel (*Mr. Armstrong*) to do it.

“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this Temple; his hands shall also FINISH IT (*Christ re-activating the Recorded Works of His late apostle, Zerubbabel – Habakkuk 1:5, 2:2, 3:2; Isaiah 29:14*). **Then you will** (come to) **KNOW that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. For who has DESPISED** (*Hebrew – SCORNE*D) **the day of small things** (*beginnings: Hebrew – poverty, slender resources, as Gideon*)? **For these seven (angels) rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the EYES of the LORD, which SCAN to and fro throughout the whole earth** (Zechariah 4:8-9).”

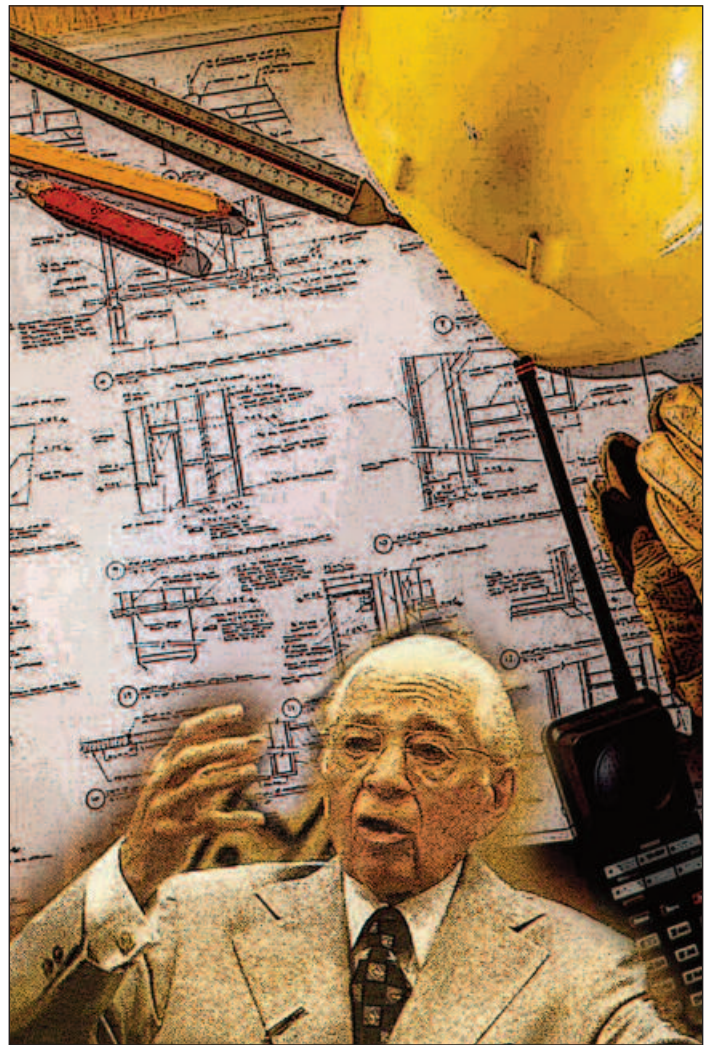
THE ZERUBBABEL OF THE END TIME THE WORK OF GOD

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was used by Jesus Christ during his lifetime ministry from 1934 to the time of his death in 1986.

Not willing to use an apostate pastor general to continue His Work, Jesus Christ temporally closed the door to His Work at that time (Revelation 3:7-8). He did not re-open it until the Passover season in 2006!

Jesus Christ then began using the web sites He gave to this Congregation of the Philadelphia Church Era to carry forth the “*Recorded Works*” of Mr. Armstrong to the world – using the very same Zerubbabel, Elijah, His Apostle, *though now dead*, to finish the work of building the Spiritual Temple.

And because of their faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus Christ and His TRUE TEACHINGS, as taught by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the *Zerubbabel* of this end time, the Spiritual Temple, the Elect of His faithful and true Church, will shortly be going to the place of refuge (Revelation 3:7-13), leaving behind the *Laodicean* and *Sardis* members to endure the **horrors** that are even now beginning to fall on the House of Joseph and this world (Revelation 3:14-22).



DELIBERATE TURNING AWAY FROM EVIDENT FACTS

Regardless of the “*denials*” or “*I don’t knows*”, the honest and *unbiased* person would have to admit no one else has been used by Jesus Christ to fulfill the office of the end-time *Zerubbabel* but Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

It should also be remembered that all of the teachings the ministers of the corporate churches once learned as students in the three Ambassador Colleges, they were taught by this one man, directly or indirectly!

A NEEDED QUESTION

Will YOU be numbered among those who will be counted worthy to escape and later stand before the glorified Jesus Christ at His coming (Luke 21:36)?

You can come to know by having a right and close relationship with God and Jesus Christ – and by coming to be part of the Congregation of the *Philadelphia Church Era* that Jesus Christ is now using to complete His Work and true

teachings – that, by the grace of God, is continuing to go through the Door that is yet OPEN (Revelation 3:7-8).

Whether you will believe this, or not, this is the Congregation that Jesus Christ is using as His instrument to finish His use of the end-time human Zerubbabel; this special man who was given the mission of laying the foundation of the Temple.

“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this Temple; his hands shall also FINISH IT ... (Zechariah 4:8-9).’

Soon Jesus Christ will return and then become the CAPSTONE of the Spiritual Temple, the Holy City, the New Jerusalem and the Bride of Jesus Christ.

“...For he shall bring forth the CAPSTONE; (preparing the way for the coming of Jesus Christ; as did John prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah to become the chief corner stone – Malachi 3:1) with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”

In the interim, the closing years of this age, Jesus Christ is very close to completing His Spiritual Temple when He will no longer be adding spiritual building blocks to it.

Then the CAPSTONE will be added for its completion.

In the meantime, Jesus Christ has some very encouraging words for each one of His true and faithful members:

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but ... members of the Household of God having been BUILT on the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone in whom the whole building, being JOINED TOGETHER GROWS into a holy Temple in the LORD, in whom you also are being BUILT TOGETHER for a habitation of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22).”

Are YOU **“AWAKE”** and of God’s Faithful Elect – helping to do the Work of Christ through the Zerubbabel in the closing years of this age?

You can know by prayerfully studying what Christ says of the Laodicean Church Era and then compare it with the Philadelphia Era, the **“LAMPSTAND of solid gold** (Revelation 3:7-22).”

Please know – soon Jesus Christ will close the door and all of us need to do all we can to make sure it will be open for us before that takes place (Matthew 25:10-13). Your life now and in the future could depend on your decision!



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God's Spirit of Truth VS. Satan's Deceptive Lies

Satan's World of Darkness

'SATAN KNOWS HE HAS A SHORT TIME'

'So the GREAT DRAGON was cast out, that SERPENT of old, called the Devil and Satan, who **'DECEIVES'** the whole world, he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him ... **woe to the earth and the sea!** For the devil has come down to you, **HAVING GREAT WRATH** because he knows that he has a short time.'

– Revelation 12:9, 12

By Alton 'Don' Billingsley

After almost a full 6,000 years of failing to completely destroy mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-3), Satan the devil is now concentrating his efforts with great wrath here at the end time to complete his deadly objective through deception and persecution to not only seek the death of God's true Church, but also the violent death of all mankind, beginning with the **Great Tribulation**, and then **Armageddon!**

Satan the devil is a master of deception! And by viewing this blinded world blundering around trying in vain to solve its many problems, it becomes easy to see why! Multitudes have been blinded by Satan to the recognition of the true God and Jesus Christ and rejected Their Holy Righteous Laws.



LUCIFER BECOMES THE ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL

Satan the devil was originally created by God as Lucifer, the greatest of all of the angels (Ezekiel 28:12-17, Isaiah 14:12-15). And though his mind became perverted and evil, Scripture does not reveal his power has been diminished nor his rule of this earth been removed by God!

“Lucifer was created the most perfect in beauty, mentality, knowledge, power, intellect and wisdom, within the Almighty God to create in a being, with power to think, reason, make choices and decisions on his own. ... When Lucifer allowed thoughts of vanity, jealousy, lust and greed, then resentment and rebellion, to enter and occupy his mind, **SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIS MIND! His mind became perverted, distorted, twisted! His thinking became warped.** ...” – *MYSTERY OF THE AGES*, Pages 92-93, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong



PRINCE OF THE AIR WAVES

Satan the devil is the prince of the power of the air waves continually at work in a disobedient world (Ephesians 2:2, like radio and television)! His mind and attitude are within mankind; and people are receptive to the sway of his broadcasting hostile attitudes through those air waves; air waves so powerful that one can only be protected from his deceptive influence through God's protective care while clinging to His Spirit of TRUTH (Romans 7:13-25).

“We know that we are of God, and the WHOLE WORLD lies under the SWAY of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may **KNOW Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ** (I John 5:18-19).”



While making known the kind of spirit being Lucifer came to be to the Pharisees, Jesus Christ also made known they were being held captive by him in his world of darkness:

“**YOU are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do; he was a MURDERER** (Greek: ‘manslayer’) **from the beginning** (he influenced Cain to murder Abel), **and does NOT stand in the TRUTH, because there is NO TRUTH in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources for he is a **LIAR and the FATHER OF LIES** (John 8:44).”

DEFENSIVE LINE OF PROTECTION

To His true and faithful Church, Jesus Christ makes known through the Apostle Paul what one has to do in order to be protected against his deceptive wiles:

“**Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against THE WILES (Margin: schemings) OF THE DEVIL.** For we do NOT wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE (*powerful high ranking demons*), against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:11-12).”



With the lone exception of God's true and faithful ELECT, the chosen few from this world, the whole wide world in which all of mankind lives is totally enveloped in spiritual darkness – deceived by its prince and ruler, Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2, John 12:31)! When compared to the **LIGHT OF GOD'S TRUTH** as revealed in His Holy Bible, this becomes fully evident.

STRONG DECEPTION WITHIN THE CHURCHES OF GOD

Satan is actively at work within the Corporate Churches of God. The life-threatening danger of DECEPTION has fallen upon them. It is so powerful and pervasive that hardly anyone ever sees it!

There has been an ongoing effort of trying to wake up these people by placing full page writings in a church newspaper with wide circulation for more than 10 years. The objective



follow their destructive ways, because of whom **‘THE WAY OF TRUTH’** will be blasphemed (*NRSV: maligned*), by **COVETOUSNESS** they will **EXPLOIT** you with **DECEPTIVE WORDS ...** (II Peter 2:1-3).”

When and how did all this occur? Why did once known and faithful ministers reverse themselves from having taught the true teachings of God and begin believing and teaching pagan Protestant teachings?

has been to try and get the members to compare the beliefs and teachings where they now are with the true teachings in the last book Mr. Armstrong wrote – *THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES* – to see who is right and who is wrong. Sadly, it has had little to no effect.

They either don’t bother to read these writings or, if they do, they think nothing of what is written in them. *They remain contentedly asleep!*

The thinking of the ministers and membership – “*There is nothing to be excited about, no real problems within their individual churches!*” One of their evangelists said in reply to a comment made about the differences between the churches: “*These little things do not make any real difference.*” He, and all others, should know their Bibles well enough to know differences, small or great, are very meaningful to God and can lead to **the lake of fire!**

Tragically, the members are totally blinded to the real identity of their apostate leadership, and even their destructive purpose – as Scripture clearly makes known:

“...There will be false teachers among you who **SECRETLY** will bring in **DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES** (and by so doing), even **DENYING** the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction, and **MANY** (not the few – Matthew 7:13-14, Luke 13:24) will

To understand, it is necessary to touch briefly on the past 25 years of what took place within the Worldwide Church of God after the death of God’s late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, January 16, 1986.

THE NECESSARY DEATH OF GOD’S APOSTLE

The time came in God’s plan for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to die. This was necessary to fulfill a number of prophecies that connect with the prophesied *falling away of the vast majority of the membership* from the Church of God shortly before the **Great Tribulation** would occur!

These people were called by God to enable His apostle to do His work as long as he lived (Matthew 22:14, 20:16), but were not chosen to be among the Elect of God. Now that he was dead, and Jesus Christ having temporally closed the door to the gospel going out to the world, it had also come time for the tares to begin being separated from the called and chosen people of God for the harvest was soon to begin (Matthew 13:24-30, 43):

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **NOT** to be shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one **DECEIVE YOU** by



THE LESSER MAN OF SIN

Due to the need of this Man of Sin at that time to fulfill the prophecy of *the falling away*, Jesus Christ permitted Mr. Armstrong to appoint him as pastor general to succeed him, while blinding him to his future role as a destroyer, similar to Simon Magus, the one who began what came to be the Catholic Church (Acts 8:9-23).

After his death, there was no longer any restraining force or fear of making changes away from the TRUTH. *Satan then began moving his human instruments into the needed places to begin the total destruction of the Church of God!*

Almost immediately, to lower the guard of members, and popularize his office, this man dealt with two of the most unpopular teachings almost immediately:

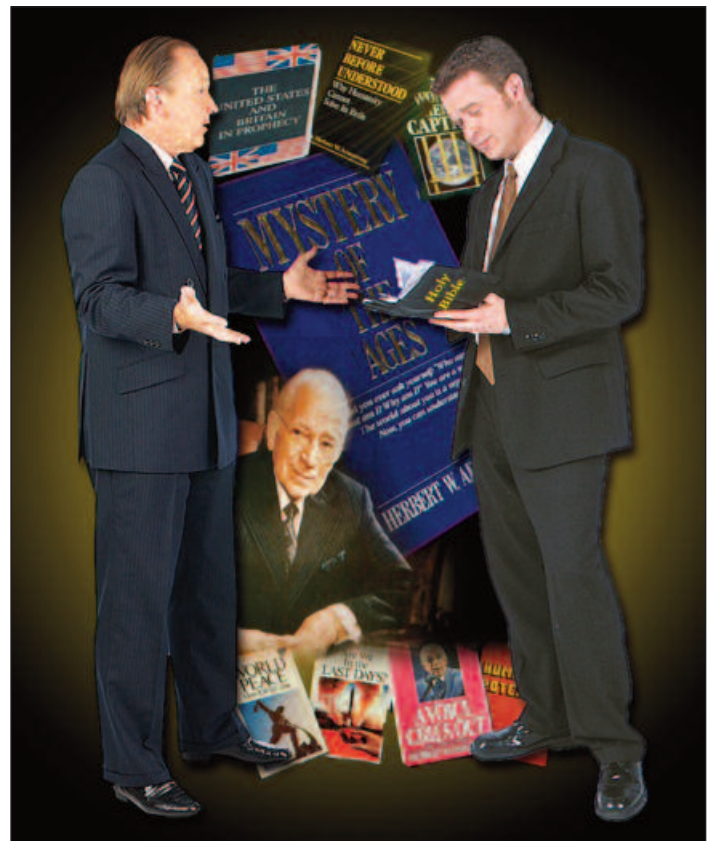
- 1) He removed the rule of no makeup – women were *ecstatic!*
- 2) Then he dealt with the doctrine of divine healing by saying there is no such thing as physical sin; there was no longer a need to trust God for their healing.

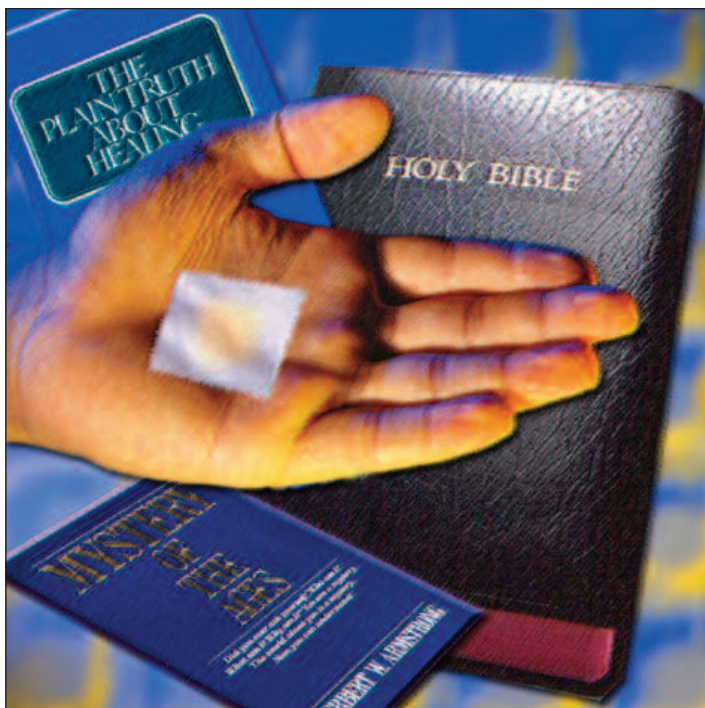
any means; for that DAY will NOT come UNLESS (or until) THE FALLING AWAY (Greek: *Apostasia* – falling away from the apostle's teachings) comes first, and the MAN OF SIN (margin: lawlessness) IS REVEALED (an apostate pastor general – in type and foreshadowing the 'False Prophet' yet to arise, Revelation 13:11-18), the son of perdition (Greek: *destruction*) (II Thessalonians 2:1-3).

Due to the very strong authoritative office of an Apostle of God (II Corinthians 10:8, I Corinthians 4:21, Titus 2:15), which had been given to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong by Jesus Christ, His chosen instrument for this end time, the huge falling away could not take place as long as he lived!

Biding their time, the unknown ravenous wolves within the church waited for his death for they were afraid to do anything while he was alive. Instead, they played up to him with pretension while seeking high offices in the ministry that would enable them to destroy the law and doctrinal teachings of the Church of God.

“And NOW you know what is RESTRAINING, that he (the man of sin) may be revealed in his time (II Thessalonians 2:6).”





Now the membership felt no remorse for placing their health problems completely in the hands of medical science; and they did. No longer was there a need of calling for the elders to pray for them when they became ill, and most didn't (James 5:14).

This was a master stroke by Satan! He knew this would begin the removal of a close intimate relationship between God and the members of His Church and move them toward his world of darkness.

In his letter that contained the anointed cloths to be mailed to the membership, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, wrote: "... **Healing expresses a deeply personal relationship between an individual and his God.**"

SATAN'S MAN OF SIN GAINED POPULARITY

Satan achieved his purpose through his man of sin! Like Absalom, son of King David, standing in the gate to welcome the people of Israel with their legal problems saying what he would do for them if he were a judge of the land (II Samuel 15:1-6), he used the same devious means by shaking hands with each member of

the Church. His popularity continued to rise in the minds of the members, as did Israel toward Absalom. He stole their hearts. This made it much easier for him to begin implementing the pagan Protestant teachings into the beliefs of the Church while removing the true teachings. This was done *very subtly and carefully* – and over needed time, not wanting to alarm the ministry or the membership. Tragically, they were accepted by all but the very few.



SATAN'S STRATEGY – DESTROY THE LEADER

To accomplish their satanic mission, there was also a need to begin carefully destroying the credibility of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *little by little*! This would make possible the complete removal of all the doctrinal teachings, including the laws of God that Jesus Christ had used Mr. Armstrong to RESTORE within His Church (Malachi 4:4-6, Matthew 17:10-11).

They began by using innuendo (*hinting, insinuations, veiled reflection on his character and reputation that would affect his office as an apostle*). Upon seeing no visible problem, they boldly accused him of deception through his writings by plagiarizing the writings of others, and wrong





about this country never winning another war, and wrong about the income having grown 30 percent each year, etc. etc.! A reputable source very close to the apostate pastor general said he lied all the time.

DOCTRINES REMOVED AND REPLACED

When introducing the pagan doctrines, such as being ‘born again now’, and to mislead the membership, they would say it was just a matter of semantics, nothing to be concerned about. The Apostle Jude described them perfectly:

“Likewise also these dreamers **DEFILE** the flesh, **REJECT** AUTHORITY, and **SPEAK EVIL** of dignitaries (margin: glorious ones, lit. glories) ... These are worldly persons, who **CAUSE** divisions, **NOT** having the Spirit (Jude 8, 19).”

Satan well knew that by destroying the apostle’s credibility—the laws and doctrinal teachings with which he had been used, and is yet used by God, would have the result of turning members back to him and his spiritually dark world. And in the final analysis, *it worked!*

OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED

It may be recalled that it was in December 1994 when this Man of Sin said in a sermon, to be played in all the Churches of God, that all of God’s laws were part of the Old Covenant, therefore the 10 Commandments, Holy Days, dietary laws, tithing, etc., were done away with it having been replaced with the New Covenant.

Freedom at last it was said and taught!

Without looking into the Scriptures whereby this erroneous teaching could easily be disproved, more than 100,000 members believed him and walked away with the Pied Piper to be slaughtered in the soon-coming **Great Tribulation**. Possibly 50,000 remained with the Apostate Pastor General. Many returned to their former Protestant churches. Others chose not to go anywhere.

It was in this manner that Satan used this man of sin and his administration to accomplish his destructive purpose of totally destroying the Corporate Worldwide Church of God, while bringing about the falling away from the Church (II Thessalonians 2:1-3), and causing the true people of God to scatter in their flight from it (Daniel 12:7, Jeremiah 23:1-2, Ezekiel 34).





AN OVERVIEW

This has been only an overview of all that took place during those years. There is much more in evidence as to how, when and what was done between 1986 and December 1994 by the apostate leadership of the Worldwide Church of God, but this should be enough to refresh the memories of what did take place, and not all that long ago.

But, Satan was not yet through with his plan of destruction for there were approximately 50,000 others who could not believe God's laws had been done away. He had another plan that would be used to destroy them as well.

ANOTHER DECEPTIVE PLAN OF SATAN

Satan's new plan began through the formation of new churches in 1995, and a few before, that were developed from the destructive ruins of the former parent Church of God (WWCG), with mostly unconverted ministers to pastor them; ministers who had accepted some of the apostate's teachings, but could not accept all of them.

Because of their long-time familiarity, and not knowing what else to do, the larger number of the members became a part of the churches formed by evangelists and pastors.

Knowing he had to use a different deceptive tactic with these people, Satan cleverly began using his ministry to replace a few of the major doctrinal teachings through their doctrinal committees while retaining others.

Satan well knows that to *break* one of God's laws is to *break* all of them (James 2:9); he also knows that by rejecting a major doctrine will lead to the rejection of others.

This would be the area needed to lead the membership into total darkness, and along with the others, experience horrible deaths in the **Great Tribulation**.

These false ministers knew they had to first move the memory of God's late apostle into the background of the member's minds. And to do this, they followed the same pattern as before by using subtle ways of speaking and writing against Mr. Armstrong, but not as badly or boldly as did the apostate leadership in WWCG.

DECEITFULLY MALIGNING THE NAME OF MR. ARMSTRONG

And to throw the members off guard, the larger corporate churches continued to use the name of God's late apostle in somewhat of a favorable light so as to appear they still accepted him as the apostle, but this was a ruse for they do not!

Jesus Christ has some harsh words to say against all those who would speak against the man He chose to send to mankind at this end-time:

"... They are presumptuous, self-willed, they are NOT afraid to speak evil of dignitaries (*margin: glorious ones, lit. glories, meaning God's chosen apostles*). They have FORSAKEN the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam ... who LOVED the wages of unrighteousness (II Peter 2:10, 15)."

Like watching the one hand of a magician and not carefully watching what was being done with the other hand, the leading ministers, through



their doctrinal committees, subtly began implementing *the pagan teachings* they had accepted from the Man of Sin. The membership was so mesmerized they did not grasp that some of the true doctrinal teachings had been rejected in favor of the teachings of the devil.

These ministers came to one of the three Ambassador Colleges in their younger years, believing what they heard, but were unconverted. Realizing the need of a ministry to pastor a large enough membership to enable the preaching of the gospel and the Ezekiel warning message, God blinded

Mr. Armstrong as to their lack of conversion and what Satan would be able to use them to do in years to come to the Church of God:

“For certain men have CREPT IN UNNOTICED (and undetected) ... ungodly men who TURN the grace of our God into licentiousness (freedom to do evil by saying God’s laws have been done away with the Old Covenant) and (by so doing) DENY the only Lord Jesus Christ ... These are spots in your love Feasts while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves ... (Jude 4, 12).”

SATAN’S SUBTLE REJECTION OF GOD’S APOSTLE

How would these ministers go about making the erroneous changes without the outright and complete rejection of Mr. Armstrong? For the answer please note the following quotes:

correspondence@herbertarmstrong.com: “Most of God’s people today have for many years greatly neglected to review Mr. Armstrong’s writings and sermons. The unfaithful shepherds they follow calculatingly, subtly influenced them to assume there is no need to do so.



“Interestingly, however, most of these people do not think negatively of Mr. Armstrong, but rather still consider him a kind of ‘patriarch’ of today’s Church.

“Most think they are in harmony with his teaching. They generally know doctrinal changes have been made, but they have been deceived into accepting these under spiritually innocent-sounding titles such as ‘doctrinal research,’ ‘growing in grace and knowledge,’ ‘admitting error,’ ‘new revelation,’ etc.

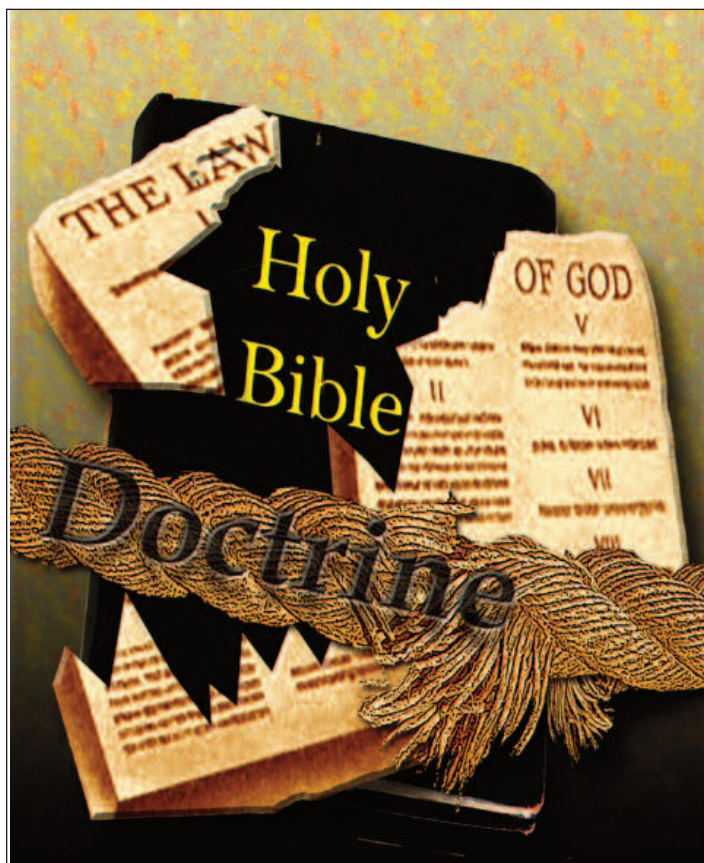
“A widespread belief [and teaching] is that Mr. Armstrong probably would have made these changes himself if he had lived on: He is thought to have never fully considered or researched the issues in question.

“Few such people remember the true history and origin of these apostate doctrines; few remember Mr. Armstrong’s (and Christ’s) exhaustive, grave, miraculous, absolute repudiation of these identical doctrines.”

SLEEPY TIME CONTENTMENT

It is very sad that to the members all these Scriptures are just words that have no real meaning in their lives.

One elder said to me, after I had pointed out the doctrinal problems within the United Church of God to him, **“I am satisfied.”** *Satisfied* – not grasping he and all others are in a church headed by familiar longtime evangelists and pastors, who themselves are deceived by Satan the devil – **“... deceived and being deceived (II Timothy 3:13).”**





The Apostle Paul wrote enlightening words of **WARNING** of not only their claim of being used by Jesus Christ in their high offices of leadership, but also about all of the other Corporate Churches of God as well:

“For such are false apostles, *DECEITFUL WORKERS*, transforming themselves INTO apostles of Christ (*appropriating for themselves that high office*). And no wonder! For Satan himself TRANSFORMS himself as AN ANGEL OF LIGHT. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers transform themselves into ministers of righteousness (Matthew 7:15-20), whose end will be according to their works (II Corinthians 11:13-15).”

TEST THE LEADERSHIP

Through His true apostles, Jesus Christ **WARNS** His people of the ever present danger that is continually confronting them from Satan’s world!

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but *INWARDLY* they are ravenous wolves. You will KNOW THEM by their fruits (*straying from the true teachings of Christ*) ... (Matthew 7:15-16).”

True and faithful members are exhorted to put them to the **TEST** with God’s true teachings as I did while with the United Church of God and the Church of God AIC, and then left them upon seeing there was no hope of either one getting back on track.

“Beloved, DO NOT BELIEVE every spirit, but ‘TEST’ the spirits, whether they are of

God; BECAUSE many false prophets (*ministers*, II Peter 2:1-3, Jude 4) have gone out into the world (I John 4:1).”

Apply the Test of the TRUTH of Scripture – proving who is of the TRUTH and who is not (Romans 8:14; John 16:13, 14:16-17), just as did the true members in the early years of the Ephesian Church of God Era and were commended by Jesus Christ for doing it:

“... I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you CANNOT BEAR those who are evil. And you have TESTED those WHO SAY they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars (Revelation 2:1-3).”

The faithful elect people of God are living in an extremely dangerous time and the TEST of God’s Truth continually has to be applied to all the approximate 700 corporate churches who claim to be of the true ministry. The Apostle John makes the following test very plain:

“We are of God. He who knows God HEARS us; he who is NOT of God does NOT HEAR US. By this – we KNOW the SPIRIT OF TRUTH and the spirit of error (I John 4:6).”

And if one places any real value on their calling from God and Jesus Christ, when these corporate churches of God are found to be wrong, as the affianced bride of Jesus Christ, *they are commanded to flee spiritual fornication!!!* (Revelation 14:4, I Corinthians 6:18)



THE AWESOME GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Sometime before the death of Mr. Armstrong, enemies outside the church began searching his background trying hard to find any flaws and sins that could be used against him. Slandorous books were written about his supposed sins.

Recently, I found some things written on the Internet about Mr. Armstrong's treatment of me at the time of the death of his eldest son. What they wrote were outright lies!

Sadly, some members have been deceived by these erroneous negative writings about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and left the Church because of what they read or heard about him and his supposed sins.

Whether true or untrue, one should not neglect to think of his or her own past, and the forgiveness that was granted after their repentance. Scripture makes known there is no one who has not sinned, and yet sins (I John 1:8-10).

They forget the greatness of God's mercy that upon heartfelt repentance will be granted to anyone; as God forgave King David (II Samuel 11:27, 12:13-14; Psalm 51); and as God forgave King Manasseh of Judah (II Kings 21:9,16, 23:26; II Chronicles 33:13, 23).

SATAN'S USE OF THE LAWMAKING BODIES

While continuing to use his powers of deception to try and deceive the true elect of God's Church, Satan the devil also is beginning to use the legal powers of the government in the United States and also in the other tribes of Israel to pass laws that would close the mouths of God's ministers to prevent them from crying aloud and sparing not to show His people their sins (Isaiah 58:1).

This began in 2009 in this country and will undoubtedly be added to and enforced before much longer. Please note portions of the "Hate Crime Bill" passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on October 28, 2009.

The Hate Crime Bill

From the Internet: religioustolerance.org

- Who would be protected by bill HR 1913:

- **The text of the 2009 bill states:** "Whoever ... willfully causes bodily injury to any person or, through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explosive or incendiary device, attempts to cause bodily injury to any person, because of the actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability of any person.... [Note that the bill does not include the word "homosexual"]"
- **As interpreted by TheWinds.org:** "Homosexuals are protected from assault under the [existing] law just like everyone else, and what is sought is special rights and protection above what everyone else has. Essentially, they aim to make sexual deviancy a protected and privileged class above normal behavior, and to make speaking out against sexual deviancy a hate crime."



Concerning hate speech by pastors and others:

- **The text of the bill states:** "Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct protected from legal prohibition by, or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment to the Constitution."
- **As interpreted by Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Convention:** This bill puts Christians and many other religious groups in the government's cross hairs. Those who teach that homosexuality is contrary to God's design may find that they as well are targeted by this law."

PROPHESED TO HAPPEN IN THE END TIME

This was prophesied to take place in this time of the end by God's prophets: "They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they ABHOR the one who speaks uprightly (Amos 5:10)."

There is hatred expressed toward any minister of God who would make them feel guilty by pointing out what they do is sin: "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for TRUTH has fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So TRUTH fails, and he who DEPARTS from evil makes himself a prey (Isaiah 59:14-15)."

It must be realized that God loves His people and the TRUTH must be made known to them through the preaching of the gospel and the Ezekiel warning message, as a witness to them for God's eyes are upon His TRUTH:

Jeremiah 5:1, 3: **“Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth ... O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth?”**

In this day and age, most do not know what truth really is nor do they seem to care anymore than did Pilate when he said to Jesus Christ, **“What is truth?”** (John 18:38). Jesus Christ had already told him that TRUTH came from God and He was bearing witness to it (John 18:37). This had no more meaning to Pilate then – than it does today with anyone other than the very true and faithful people of God.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

It must be remembered that Scripture teaches us that Satan the devil is a liar and the father of lies. What he teaches through his ministers are lies of deception to capture the unsuspecting and naive members to murder them in the *lake of fire*.

In view of the deceptive lies on every front promulgated by Satan, Jesus Christ plainly tells us the true definition of truth: **“Thy word is TRUTH!”** (John 17:17) Further, Christ tells us: **“The TRUTH shall set you free** (John 8:32).”

The truth that comes from God will set one free spiritually from the lies of Satan the devil, also while knowing **“the word of God is the foundation of all knowledge”**

(*Ambassador College motto*). It is also by

God's truth that His true people are set apart from all others (John 17:17).

Truth emanates from God the Father through Jesus Christ. And that blessing has been given to His true people by and through the Holy Spirit of God: **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that it may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of TRUTH,**

whom the world cannot receive ... (John 14:16-17).”

In our school of learning – **“Howbeit when the Spirit of TRUTH shall have come, it will GUIDE you into ALL TRUTH (not into error) ... it will show you things to come** (John 16:13).”


And it will, as we apply ourselves in prayerful study of the Holy Bible and meditating over what we study. The Apostle Peter wrote a need of caution for the people of God, and with it the need for Spiritual growth: **“... beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked. But GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen** (II Peter 3:17-18).”

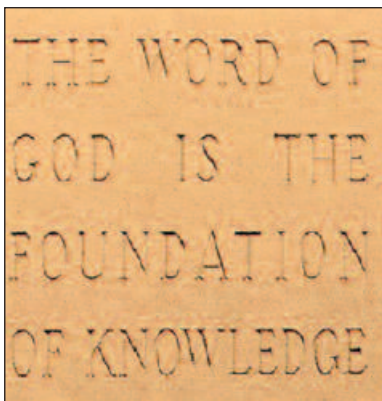
To grow Spiritually – necessitates daily meaningful prayers and diligent study of the Holy Scriptures and then meditating over what we have studied – otherwise, error comes to be possible.

FIRSTFRUITS NOT ORPHANS

There is a need of the true Christian to reflect back to his or her beginning and how each one came to be God's people: James 1:18: **“Of His own will He brought us forth BY THE WORD OF TRUTH, that we might be a kind of Firstfruits of His creatures.”**

Each one was brought forth from Satan's world by God through Jesus Christ by Their Holy Spirit opening the mind to true understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Further, this special calling from God was only given to a select few: Revelation 17:14: **“... those who are with Him (Christ) are Called, Chosen, and Faithful.”**

To encourage His disciples, Jesus told them: **“I will NOT leave you orphans (Greek). I am coming to you by the Spirit** (John 14:18).” Though one does not visibly see Jesus Christ, He nevertheless is always with His true and faithful people (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5-6) – *people who continue to believe and practice the Truth of the Holy Scriptures.* 



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A man in a light-colored suit and dark tie stands on a metal ladder, looking upwards towards a bright, cloudy sky. The ladder is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a dramatic sky with white clouds against a blue backdrop.

The Rapture: Fact or Fable?

Will Jesus Christ rapture His saints to heaven for a wedding supper and later return to earth with them at His Second Coming?

By Mark Mendiola

In the New Testament, the Apostles Peter and Paul specifically warn Christians to beware of “fables” and not give heed to them. Shortly after Jesus Christ’s miraculous resurrection and the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit on His disciples in 31 A.D., the fledgling Church of God was besieged by waves of false teachers – just as Christ explicitly forewarned.

In His famous Olivet Prophecy given to His disciples before His imminent crucifixion, Christ emphasized first and foremost that widespread religious deception would be a major sign of His Second Coming and the end of the age. It started almost immediately after His Church’s inception.

“And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ... Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ... For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, the very elect’ (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24).”

Within decades of the Church of God’s founding on Pentecost 31 A.D., Christ’s warning about deception assailing His disciples was dramatically, undeniably fulfilled. His apostles were on the front lines combating every imaginable false doctrine perpetrated by cunning false ministers infiltrating the Church. That deception continues down to our day today and even has worsened.

The Apostle Peter used an interesting choice of words when warning about the tactics used by seducers and imposters. “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty,” Peter wrote (II Peter 1:16).

He added: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive (damnable, KJV) heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words ... (II Peter 2:1-3).”



The Apostle Paul also warned against religious deception so “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:14).” He also urged Christians not to heed “fables,” which the dictionary defines as fictitious narratives or statements.

Cunning, greedy false ministers fabricated fables to gain followers and exploit them with deceptive words, making merchandise of the people for their own selfish gains. That trend continues today. The Apostle Paul adamantly resisted these wolves in sheep’s clothing who came in and rose among God’s people, devouring the flock, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves (Acts 20:29-30). They almost immediately perverted the TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, shifting emphasis from Christ’s message to Christ the messenger (Galatians 1:6-9).

TRUE, SOUND APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

The Apostle Paul strongly warned against the absurdity of believing fables. Notice what he wrote to the Evangelist Timothy: “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia – remain in Ephesus that you may charge (*command*) some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith (I Timothy 1:3-4).”

The Apostle Paul showed that fables contradict sound doctrine and cause division. Notice how he again contrasts good doctrine with fables, which he said should be rejected: “... If you instruct the brethren in these things, you

will be a good minister of Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself rather to godliness (I Timothy 4:6-7).”

Fables are to be rejected because they are erroneous, harmful and misleading, contradicting good, sound doctrines established by the apostles of Christ under Christ’s divine inspiration. We must carefully follow true apostolic doctrine and reject fables.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (II Timothy 4:3-4).”

The Apostle Paul recognized the tendency of people to turn from true, sound doctrine and veer toward fables or titillating twists of the truth, chasing after Pied Pipers whose different tunes are like music to their ears. The Greek word that he used for “fables” was “*muthos*,” meaning “fiction” or “myth.”



ITCHING EARS

The Apostle Peter even warned the Apostle Paul’s writings would be twisted by unstable deceivers – to their own destruction. He urged Christ’s disciples to remain steadfast and not be led away by error (II Peter 3:14-18).

Whenever people deviate from true, sound apostolic doctrine, they go off tangent, pursuing fables or fictional teachings. Like the Athenians, they prefer to tell or hear scintillating “new things” as opposed to well-established foundational truths (Acts 17:21).

The Apostle Paul also warned that a “falling away” would precede Christ’s Second Coming, using the Greek word, “apostasia,” which literally means defection from apos-



BURYING THE TRUTH

toxic truth – or apostasy! In other words, **apostasy involves spurning sound doctrine established by God's apostles** in favor of fables and lies concocted by cunning deceivers.

After God's Holy Spirit was poured out on Christ's disciples on the Feast of Pentecost in 31 A.D., they were commended because **"they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine"** (Acts 2:42)."

As emphasized, the Apostles Peter and Paul strongly admonished early Christians to avoid "fables" like the plague and **hold fast to sound doctrine.**

That applies just as much to Christians at this end time before Christ's return when religious deception is absolutely rampant. The Apostle Paul also warned: "But know this, that **in the last days** perilous times will come. ... But **evil men and imposters** (*seducers, KJV*) **will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.** But as for you, **continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of,** knowing from whom you have learned them (II Timothy 3:1, 13-14)."

A WEDDING SUPPER IN HEAVEN?

Millions of professing Christians believe they will be **whisked off to heaven in "a rapture"** to be protected from a nightmarish Great Tribulation that will be unleashed prior to Christ's return. **Many of them believe they will be feasting with Christ and God the Father at a wedding supper in heaven while "all hell is breaking loose" on earth below and millions of people are slaughtered in unthinkable, unprecedented carnage.**

Because millions happen to believe in various versions of **"a rapture,"** does that mean Christians actually will be taken to heaven by Christ and then return with Him later? **When Scriptures are carefully examined, it is obvious that belief in a rapture to heaven is one of the fables the Apostles Peter and Paul warned against.**

The word **"rapture"** can nowhere be found in the Holy Bible despite what is commonly believed. **Most rapturists contend Christ will return in two distinct stages or installments, not a single climactic event.** In other words, according to this notion, Christ will return the first time to retrieve His saints, but make a U-turn back to heaven with them before returning later with them, **contradicting and twisting plain Bible Scriptures.**

One of the largest Sabbath-keeping denominations believes Christians will be glorified and **taken to heaven** at Christ's Second Coming. **The idea of a "wedding supper in heaven" is embraced by many worldly denominations.**

One organization says: "But there will be **a bride in heaven** ... Today, we come to an event in the future when Jesus will receive His bride. ... This event is commonly referred to as the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb.** It will be a



time of great joy for all the redeemed people of God! ... In the Rapture, we will be caught up ... and at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we will be given the special place God has for us!"

Another group states: "The marriage supper of the Lamb is after the Rapture ... A marriage will take place. The church,

'the bride of Christ' and our Lord Jesus Christ will be officially married in heaven. While the earth is suffering through the last throes of the Tribulation, the church will enjoy a heavenly wedding. And then a feast!"

Yet another proclaims: "At His return, in the Rapture at the end of the Great Tribulation, Jesus will come back to catch away His Bride, His church, out of the evil clutches of the Enemy and then whisk them away to the grandest, most glorious and thrilling wedding party that's ever been held, the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven! We will be taken out of this old world to the great Wedding Feast, the Grand homecoming Party, the Celebration of the Victory!"

"The Bible calls it the 'Marriage Feast of the Lamb' because it will be the great Wedding of the Bride, His Bride – all believers, the entire true Church of God, the true believers in Christ, all of them counted as one great Bride though it be composed of millions – marrying Jesus at this great celebration in heaven, this great Wedding Feast, this great party!"

'DOCTRINES OF DEMONS'

The Apostle Paul warned the Evangelist Timothy: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron (I Timothy 4:1-2)."

He warned Timothy there literally are doctrines of demons, demonic doctrines inspired by wicked spirits



that can deceive us and seduce us to depart from God's truth and the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). These false doctrines would get especially worse in the latter times, directly contradicting true, sound, apostolic doctrine.

These unsound doctrines can sear our minds like a hot

iron can scorch clothing. Yet, people are itching to hear something false and titillating, turning away from God's plain truth and turning to fables, getting burned in the process.

The Apostle Paul also warned in Hebrews 13:7-9: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines."

Where does this concept of going to heaven originate? Millions believe they will ascend to heaven upon death and even yearn for it. The rapture theory also caters to this same innate desire of humans to somehow transcend the earth's gravity and rise to heaven.





Notice Isaiah 14:12-15: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, ‘I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ‘I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, ‘I will be like (or ‘I will be)

The Bible, however, shows the meek will inherit the earth and true Christians will be made kings and priests to reign on the earth! (Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:9, 11; Revelation 5:10) That is the TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

The Bible plainly shows that only Jesus Christ has ascended to heaven. Christ Himself emphatically stated: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven (John 3:13).” Referring to Christ, Ephesians 4:10-14 also states: “He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.” Mark 16:19 says Christ “was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”

In other words, Christ plainly showed that none of the most righteous people in the Bible went to heaven when they died. The Apostle Peter reinforced that when he preached on the Day of Pentecost 31 A.D.: “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he *is both dead and buried*, and his tomb is with us to this day. ... For David did not ascend to the heavens ... (Acts 2:29, 34).”

Because no human being has ascended to heaven at death and only Christ has done so following His resurrection, where does this pervasive belief about going to heaven either at death or in a rapture originate? The answer is startling!

the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

Lucifer fell from heaven and has been consigned to the earth. He has never relinquished his burning desire to ascend into heaven, exalt his throne above all the angels and depose God the Father and Jesus Christ in a brazen coup d’etat designed to make him the god of the universe!

After Lucifer’s rebellion, God changed his name to “Satan,” which means adversary or enemy. Notice what Jesus Christ said of him in Luke 10:17-18: “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’ And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven’.” Christ the Word was with God the Father the first time Satan and his demons rebelled. He saw Satan ejected from heaven like a bolt of lightning!

Satan is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), surcharging the atmosphere with the false demonic doctrine that humans will ascend to heaven above the heights of the clouds, too. He “deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9).” Satan cannot stand to be subservient or trapped on earth. He wants to climb, ascend and be supreme. His demons, too, want to ascend to heaven above the heights of the clouds!

Revelation 12 plainly shows Satan and his rebellious demons still want to rocket into heaven, exalting themselves above the stars, which symbolize angels (Revelation 1:20). It shows Satan and his demons once again will wage war and invade heaven. They will be unsuccessful and cast back down to the earth.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan was cast to the earth, and his angels (*demons*) were cast out with him (Revelation 12:7-9).”

This desire to ascend to heaven commonly permeates the world's religions. Going to heaven has been believed by millions throughout the world for thousands of years, but the Bible plainly shows heaven is not the reward of the saved. Planet earth is where God's saints will reign for 1,000 years as kings and priests in the KINGDOM OF GOD!

CHRIST'S SPECTACULAR RETURN!

When Jesus Christ's disciples saw Christ literally taken up in a cloud from the Mount of Olives following His resurrection, two angels told them, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).”

The Bible refers to three distinct heavens – the heaven of the earth's atmosphere, the heaven of outer space and the heaven where God sits on His throne. It also plainly shows that Christ will return in the clouds of the earth's atmosphere with the sound of a trumpet blast before He touches down on earth. His spectacular return will not be in secret, but will be witnessed by every human being alive at that time!

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

All nations on earth will be fully aware of Christ's stupendous return in absolute power and glory! There is no hint that He will sweep His saints in a rapture to the heaven of God's throne for a wedding supper prior to His Second Coming. The saints will rise and meet Christ in the clouds of the air at the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet, not a moment sooner!



Christ could not have explained it more plainly. “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ... Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to another (Matthew 24:27, 30-31).”





The Apostle Paul describes this same end-time scenario: **“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.** And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And thus we shall always be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).” He stresses that will happen **at the blowing of the seventh and last trumpet** (I Corinthians 15:52).

It is **at that precise time** the glorified saints will unite with Christ to rule all nations in the Kingdom of God **on earth**, joining the armies of heaven that accompany Him (Revelation 19:14). **The elect will not whoosh off with Christ to the heaven of God’s throne in a rapture, but rather touch down with Him that very same day in Jerusalem after uniting with him in the clouds of the earth’s atmosphere.**



“Behold, **the day of the LORD** is coming ... for I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem ... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And **in that day** His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives ... And **the LORD shall be King over all the earth** (Zechariah 14:1-4, 9).”

COMING MARTYRDOM

The vast majority of those who believe in the rapture think hundreds of thousands if not millions of Christians will be **raptured to heaven** by Christ to be protected from the Great Tribulation, failing to explain why **a massive mar-**

tyrdom is plainly foretold to occur before Christ’s return, which contradicts their theory.

The Bible shows there will be **a terrible martyrdom** on earth prior to Jesus Christ’s return. **These victims will not**

be swept off to heaven in a rapture. If Christians are **raptured away to heaven** for protection, how does that explain this major martyrdom to come?



“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of **those who had been slain for the word of God** and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until

You judge and **avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, **who would be killed as they were**, was completed (Revelation 6:9-11).”

If those who believe in a rapture are waiting for a big liftoff, they are in for a big letdown!

MODERN APOSTASY

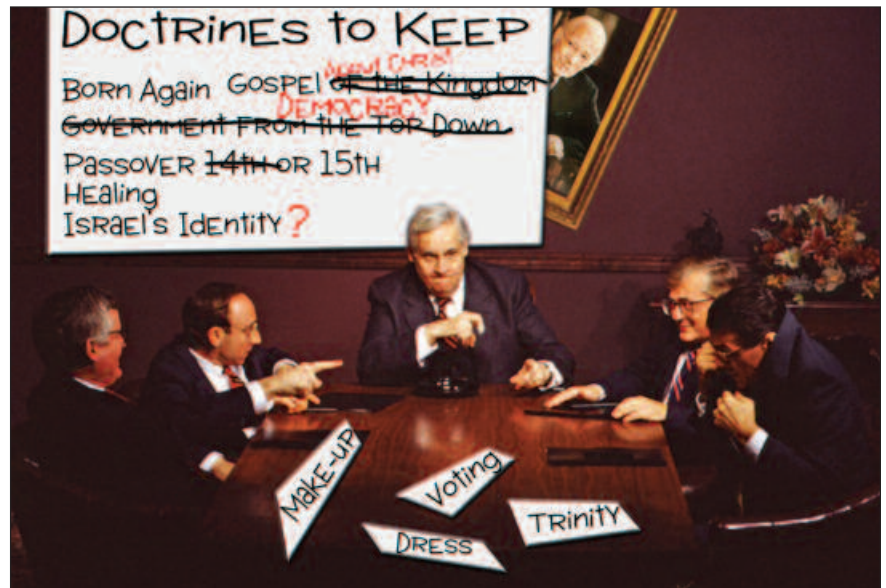
Ordained an apostle in June 1931, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong exhaustively studied into many doctrines during his 52 years of ministry and absolutely rejected the rapture to heaven. In fact, during the very last sermon that he delivered on the Feast of Trumpets in 1985, he once again denounced it – only a few months before his death in January 1986 (See “Christ’s Tremendous Return!” on Page 1).

Speaking of Jesus Christ’s return, Mr. Armstrong said in that sermon: “And if we’re still living, the dead will come first. They will rise first at the coming of Christ. Then we’ll be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal and rise and meet them in the air, but we’re only going to meet Christ as He’s on the way back to earth. He’s not meeting us, and we’re not going to heaven. There’s not a word in the Bible that says we’ll ever go to heaven!”

Referring to those who believe in a rapture, he said: “They think that when He comes He’s only coming to meet us as we take off to heaven. ... He’s not coming to meet us as we go to heaven. We’re going to meet Him as He returns to the earth, but WHERE DOES HE GO? Zechariah 14 says that that very same day we’re going to meet Him in the air in the clouds, and He’s coming on down from those clouds and land on the Mount of Olives just to the east of Jerusalem, and they overlook that entirely.”

Mr. Armstrong was an ordained apostle of Jesus Christ, the apostolic leader of the Philadelphia era of God’s Church and the Elijah to come who would restore all things (Matthew 17:10-11, Malachi 4:5-6). In assessing the Philadelphia era of His Church, Christ not once criticized it, unlike other eras listed in Revelation 2-3. God gave Mr. Armstrong an understanding of His true doctrines like no other man since the early apostles of the Ephesian era.

Yet, there has been a major, wholesale falling away from God’s truth since Mr. Armstrong’s death. Many Church of God members are being buffeted by various strange, weird, deceptive, destructive winds of doctrine and heresies espoused as the apostasy continues and decep-



tion worsens. Now, even the rapture doctrine has been introduced among some like leavening.

Some Church of God groups have “councils of elders” or presbyters who determine and establish doctrine. Their bylaws or statements of be-

lief show they are authorized to overrule apostolic doctrines – doctrines established by apostles such as Mr. Armstrong, exalting themselves, determining for themselves what is true doctrine, ruling by committee. They view Mr. Armstrong’s final published work, *Mystery of the Ages*, as riddled with errors and cunningly turn their people away from it.

Different versions of the rapture and wedding supper in heaven are now being taught among Church of God groups. Many are following such deception as leaders twist Scripture into tangled knots. This is one of the most frightening deviances from God's truth since Mr. Armstrong’s death!

Notice how the Prophet Ezekiel describes such ministers. “And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, ‘Hear the word of the LORD!’ Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! ... They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD!’ But

the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed (or *come true*). Have you not seen a futile vision, and have you not spoken false divination? You say, 'The LORD says,' but I have not spoken. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have spoken nonsense and envisioned lies, therefore I am indeed against you,' says the Lord GOD (Ezekiel 13:1-3, 6-8)."

WEDDING SUPPER ON EARTH

In his booklet, "*The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*," Mr. Armstrong explained: "Yes, when the Seventh Trumpet is sounded the nations are going to be angry. Once again it is proclaimed, 'Thy WRATH is come.' The only thing described under the opening of this Seventh Trumpet that could possibly be the Third Woe is THE WRATH OF GOD! But all the trumpets have been plagues, pouring out the WRATH of God – His punishments to bring this hellbent world to its senses and to a happy peace! The Seventh Trumpet consummates this wrath!"

At this time of the Seventh Trumpet, the seven last plagues will be poured out on rebellious nations, completing the wrath of God. Those plagues will include malignant sores, water turning to blood, men scorched by the sun, darkness and pain, ultimately leading to "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" or what the world calls "the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14, 16)."

It stands to reason Jesus Christ's Second Coming will coincide with the Feast of Trumpets and true Christians will be harvested as firstfruits at the Seventh Trumpet. It also makes sense that the seven last plagues accompanying that Seventh Trumpet or Third Woe will take some days to complete the wrath of God.

Given God's emphasis on decency and order, could that occur between the Feast of Trumpets on the first of Tishri and the Day of Atonement on the 10th of Tishri? It makes sense that Satan will be literally locked up on the Day of Atonement, which pictures his banishment. Once Satan is eliminated, there will be great cause for rejoicing and celebrating! In the final verses of Revelation 19 and the first verses of Revelation 20, we see the literal fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. In Revelation 20:11-15, the Last Great Day is fulfilled. All of God's Annual Fall Festivals are concisely outlined in these two chapters!

No, Jesus Christ will not rapture off His saints for a wedding supper in heaven while absolute chaos, death and destruction are under way on earth and millions of people are suffering the worst afflictions ever recorded. Scripture indicates the marriage of Christ and His saints, who will comprise His bride, will occur at the time of the Seventh Trumpet and the wedding supper will ensue on earth upon His return. It will be upon His return to earth, not before!

"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' (Revelation 19:6-9)"

Could the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles – when God commands us to rejoice (Deuteronomy 16:13-15) – picture the seven days of feasting traditionally celebrated by Hebrews after the marriage of a bride and groom was consummated?

Could this occur after Jesus Christ marries His Church and the Kingdom of God is established on the earth? The Bible indicates seven days of feasting followed Jacob's wedding with Leah (Genesis 29:26-28) and Samson's wedding with a Philistine woman (Judges 14:10-20).

Yes, just as Jesus Christ and His apostles foretold, religious deception, heresies and apostasy abound prior to Christ's Second Coming as the vast majority pursue cunningly devised fables, not enduring true, sound, apostolic doctrine. The rapture is one of those diabolical doctrines that shifts attention from the TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD and diverts it to a false hope.

Take heed and remember Christ's emphatic words to the Philadelphian era of His Church in Revelation 3:11: "Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown!"



Feast of Trumpets

Continued from Page 4



around and what's on the other side. The old saying, "The bear went over the mountain." He went over the mountain to see what he could see, and the other side of the mountain was all that he could see when he went over it.

Well, most people don't know anything except what they see immediately around them. We need to go back in time. We need to go out in space. We need to get the WHOLE picture, and in that whole picture I want to give you something that perhaps you hadn't realized before quite this afternoon. I said a while ago that God and the Word, that in the Greek language is called the Logos, who was with God and was God, but another personage all together and the Logos became flesh and dwelt among us and became Jesus Christ. And of Him it is said in the book of Hebrews that He was without father, without mother, without descent, without beginning of days or end of life. The same is true of God the Father.

Now, in Him was life. In the Father was life, and if He had life, He had movement and action, and He was doing something. Well, when Jesus was on earth, He said, "**I work and My Father works.**" They did work, but what did they, how did they work? What did they do?

Well, we find the Bible reveals they were Creators. Now they had a job to do and there were two of them. They were two different personages and yet both were God. The Word was with God, but the Word also was God and so God is God and the Word is God.

Well, I am Armstrong, and my two sons were Armstrong, and all of my male grandsons are Armstrongs, but they're different people.

And so the Word finally became the Son of God by being born of the human virgin Mary, but He had existed from eternity with God. Now, what did they do? Way back there before He became Jesus Christ, and that was before there was any earth. That's before there was any universe. They were Creators and to create they had to think out a plan and the design and design what was to be created. They had to create whatever was made. At first, it was spirit. I was going to say the material that anything they created was made of, but angels are not material even. They're spirit beings.

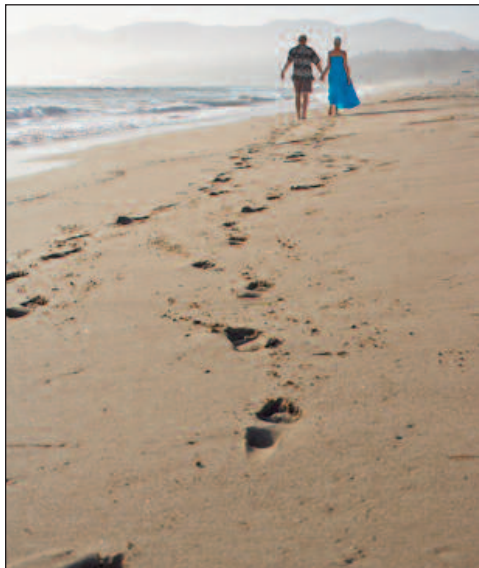
Now the first thing that the God family, and God is a family, the first thing that the God family, God and the Word, created was angels. Now if they're working to do something, they have to have some kind of relationship in the way that they work together and do it. And two cannot walk together except they be agreed. Well, they were PERFECTLY agreed. Jesus was the Word, but He said, "**I have spoken nothing except what My Father told Me to speak.**" He said, "**I have kept My Father's Commandments.**" He said, "**My Father is greater than I.**"

At another time, He thought it not robbery to say that He was EQUAL with His Father. He was EQUAL, in the family sense, just as a son may be equal to his human father. He's a human being the same as his human father is, but he's not equal in authority. And Jesus was not quite equal in AUTHORITY, but He was as a Being. And finally, AFTER He had been born human and after He had ascended up to heaven where He said He would go and that He would come again, **God had turned ALL POWER in heaven and in earth, in the ENTIRE UNIVERSE over to Jesus Christ,** but He STILL operates it and does everything He does as His Father dictates.

Two can't walk together except they be agreed [Amos 3:3]. Again let me tell you, two cannot walk together except one is the leader, the boss. People don't believe that today. God made the husband the head of the wife. You'll never find a real happy marriage unless the husband is the head of the wife [Ephesians 5:22-23]. They might even get along to a certain extent. They might kid themselves they're happy,

but they're not AS happy, and they don't know happiness unless they are happy in the way God intended them to be.

Now the wife is equal with her husband. She's a human being the same as he is. She's an heir of salvation the same as he is, but he is the leader. Jesus is equal with God the Father. He is God, but God is in charge. They are NOT equal in authority.



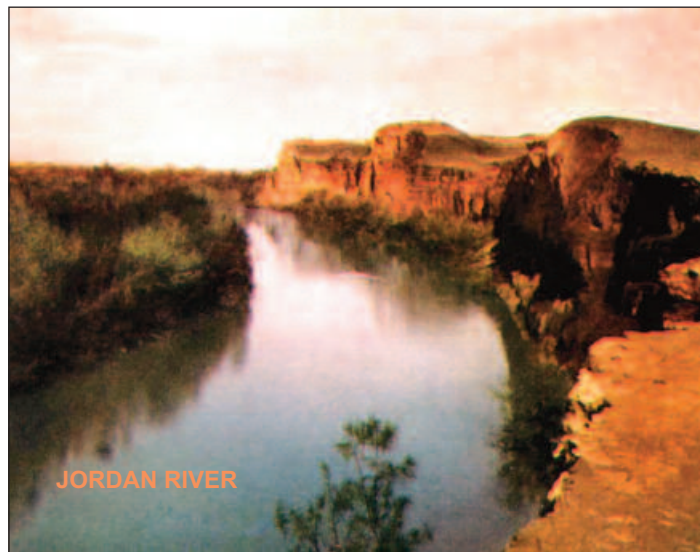
Now the first thing that They created was angels, and each angel was created separately and individually. Angels were not reproduced or born as humans are. Each one of us humans has come from a mother impregnated by a father, and it took a father and a mother to produce each one of us. Angels have no father or mother, except that in the sense of being their Creator they have been called sons of God, as you find in the first chapter of Job. But we also find in Job 38 that at the time of the creation of the earth the angels were singing and the archangels shouting for joy because this earth was made to be their abode.

Now God created the earth. Well, how did the sun and the moon get there? How did Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the other planets of our solar system? How did they come to exist? How did our whole system which is part of a Milky Way, which is one galaxy, come to exist? And there are many other galaxies besides the galaxy of which our Milky Way is one, and our solar system is even part of that. GOD CREATED IT ALL! And in Ephesians 3 and verse 7, I believe it is, **God created ALL THINGS BY AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!** So, in a sense, Jesus Christ was the Maker, but He only made by His word. He spoke and it was done, and He only spoke what the Father told Him to speak. There was complete harmony and unity.

How did they live together? They lived in LOVE. Love one to the other. The Son loved the Father and obeyed Him. The Father loved the Son and when He became Jesus and was born and was being baptized, and was being baptized

in the River Jordan, God the Father said, **"You are My BELOVED Son in Whom I am well pleased."** He LOVED the Son. Jesus loved the Father and obeyed Him. There was absolute cooperation.

Now how did They live? They lived by the way of love, which is cooperation, mutual respect, working together, but one in leadership. And **in the Bible we read that there is ONE LAWGIVER. Jesus Christ is not that Lawgiver. God the Father is the Lawgiver, but God the Father judges no man. He turns all judgment over to Jesus Christ the Son.** So there is organization, and there had to be organization and to have organization you have to have some sort of government. You have to have a structure by which people operate together or you have friction and run against the other and finally anarchy and self-destruction.



Now the way they operated together was love, and love is an outgoing concern toward the other. That becomes a law because what is a law now? When I made a very short address before the graduate school of the constitutional law department of the law school of the University of Southern California, I gave them a definition of law, and I said, "I'm not a lawyer. I haven't studied your law books here, but I have studied a law book that," I said, "you may not even have in your library here, but it's the foundation of all law books. It's one called the Holy Bible, and it speaks about law from the very beginning to the very end, all the way through. And lawyers ought to know what it says about law if they want to know about law."

You know later they did look it up and found one copy of that book in the whole library of the law library of the University of Southern California? So they told us that they were ordering I think about a dozen more of Bibles.

Well, law is merely the rules of human conduct. It's a rule which if you violate it, brings with it a penalty. Now, you might call the rules of a football game, and football is just on now, I guess, the rules are a law, and if there is a violation, if a man is off side, that's a violation. They fine that team by a five-yard penalty. There are certain other violations, if they violate that law or that rule it could be 10 or 15 yards. A law brings penalty, and a law is merely rules of human performance or conduct.

THE CREATION OF ANGELS

Now, the first thing that God created was angels. He had a law that they should love one another, and love is an outgoing thing from one TOWARD others, of having concern for the welfare of the other. That's what it amounts to, and cooperation with the other, being a kindly feeling toward the other, not hostility, just the opposite, but rather cooperation. That was the relationship between God and the Word, and it was cooperation.

Now I've gone over all this before, and I'm going to go over some more of this because I want to come to something. So God put angels on this earth, perhaps a third of them because a third of them went wrong, and I would assume that probably those were the third that were on the earth.

Anyway, He put a super archangel, and there are three kinds of angels – ordinary angels and seraphs and then cherubs. Cherubs are the highest, and only three of them are mentioned in the Bible. If God has created more, He doesn't tell us, but He does mention the three and give us their names.

They're Michael and Gabriel and Lucifer. And Lucifer is the one who was one of two whose wings had spread out over the very throne of God in God's heaven, and God's heaven, I guess you would think of it as being on a planet where gravity keeps drawing it down. But you see originally there was no earth. There was no matter of any kind. Everything was spirit out in space, but there was a throne of God and God is Ruler.

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

And the very fact that God began to create others, there had to be rules that applied to their conduct one with the other so they could work together and do what they were given to do. And that means government, and the government is based on the principle of love.

Now for humans, that is given in the Ten Commandments, the first four of which tell us how to love God, define love or that is the general principles of love toward God, and the last six give the general principles of how we love neighbors. But that's only in principle, and sin is the transgression of the law, and sin is transgression of the obvious intent or principle of that law, not just the letter of the law as we understand it, and you'll read of that in the third chapter of II Corinthians, but God had to have organization.

THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

Now when He created the earth, He created the entire universe at the same time. In Genesis 1 verse 1, **“In the beginning,”** Elohim which is translated as the English word “God,” and it should be “Gods,” it's in the plural, **“created the heavens,”** and that should be plural. It is in the original language as Moses wrote it, **“and the earth.”**

So the heavens, everything in the whole universe was created at the same general time. Now in the second chapter of Genesis, you read about “in the day,” in which God created the **“heavens and the earth.”** That means the ENTIRE universe, but there “day” doesn't necessarily, “day” is used in two ways in the Bible.

Sometimes it's a 24-hour day consisting of a light part we call day and a dark part we call night. The seven days of the first chapter of Genesis were 24-hour days, but here it speaks of “day” in the general sense of an approximate time. That doesn't, that's without regard to whether it is 24 hours or maybe several days or it could be maybe 24 years or more. It's an approximate, general time.

God created the universe. Now, He had created the whole universe. Now we find that He put the angels on this earth, and we find a great deal of evidence in the Bible, and, of course, I've written on this.

It was in the book on “The Human Potential.” You'll also find it in the book that has just been printed [THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES], and many of you haven't received your copy as of yet. Some of you have. All will receive it at least at the Feast of Tabernacles if not sooner. There will be a copy at least for every family in the Church, and we're sending a copy, by the way, to all co-workers, too.

GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE

And, anyway, God had a GREAT purpose. When He created the universe, He wanted that universe perfected. Now God creates in dual stages, not all at once. It's like a woman



baking a cake. She bakes the cake first, but it's not complete until she takes it out of the oven and then later puts the icing on it. Now what she takes out of the oven, it's good as far as it's gone, nothing wrong with it. It just needs to be a little something more added to it.

So when God created the heavens and the earth He took one planet and that planet was called earth and THAT planet, God had designed and intended to become His headquarters of the WHOLE UNIVERSE!

Now I don't think you've heard that spoken of before though I think you'll find something spoken of it in the "Human Potential" book.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ANGELS

Now He put angels here to try them to see if they could do what He wanted done. He had created the earth and as far as He went everything that He had done was VERY good. Not ordinary good, VERY GOOD, but it wasn't complete. The icing wasn't on the cake yet.

And He put angels here on the earth. Now He intended angels to work the earth, and the earth, it comes in three different forms: the solid part of the earth which consists of rock and metals – iron, steel, all kinds of metals. It consists of dirt, and it consists then of liquid which can be water, oil and various liquids, and it consists of gas, which we call air or gases.

For example, one which we call H₂O or water at 212 degrees Fahrenheit it begins to be converted into steam or a gas that goes up and just goes into the air. At below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, it becomes a solid, just like rock, and we call it ice, and you know you can melt gold. You can melt silver. You can melt bronze until they flow just like thick water.

Now, there are forces in the earth. There are elements that produce electricity in the earth. There are elements that can produce GREAT power. Oil can burn. We find elements in the earth that can explode. Now we find what they can do with an atom and that there is energy and POWER within the matter of the earth.

God intended the angels try out on the earth first before they went to the other planets and the other places in our solar system, in our galaxy called the Milky Way and in other galaxies. This was the try-out, the earth. He wanted them to work the earth and beautify it and improve the face of the surface of the earth and make it more beautiful. Instead, they defiled the earth. They ruined it, and it went into a state of decay, and decay is not a created state. God cannot, never did create anything in a state of decay.

But now while I'm on that, we find that the moon is in a state of decay. I knew all along that Mars and the other planets in our solar system are in a state of decay and when they first landed a camera in an unmanned spacecraft on the face of Mars and it sent photographs back here, we could see nothing but decay.

THE REBELLION OF ANGELS AGAINST THEIR CREATOR

Now decay is not an original created condition. It has become that way. Instead of improving the earth, the angels destroyed it, and they became demons, and Satan rebelled against the government of God. The government of God would have given them the way of teamwork, of working together, of cooperation, organization to produce the result. Instead of that, there was chaos, and they rebelled against God and against God's basic principle of government

which is LOVE, and they went into competition and strife and hatred and destruction instead of construction.

... if they could finish the earth properly, then they could go to all these other planets and the entire universe and beautify it and perhaps put life forms on all these other planets and all the places in the WHOLE, VAST universe that goes farther than any astronomer even knows.

So He put one man on the earth. Now, in the beginning God had created the heavens and the earth, and He put the angels here, but a lot of things happened between that first verse and the second verse of Genesis 1. The angels had destroyed things, and the Archangel Lucifer had become Satan the devil. The angels were only a third of all of the angels that followed him. He had probably talked them into it, convinced them, and they became demons, and they were bent on destruction and chaos and not order and beauty and joy and happiness.

THE RENEWAL OF GOD'S CREATION

And so God in six days renewed the face of the earth, and God said in the first chapter of Genesis verse 26 while He was reshaping the earth after He had brought about life and brought land out from the water, created the sun and the moon to shine on the earth, had created fish and water animals in the seas, fowl in the air and some on the earth and land animals on the earth and even down to insects and other things.

Then God said in verse 26, **“Let Us make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness.” In other words, “Let Us reproduce OURSELVES!”** God CREATED angels, and they turned wrong. Now no one but God Himself, now He knew could be depended on and relied upon NEVER to go contrary to His Law of Love and that Law of Love was necessary to work together to have the organization so that they could reclaim the ENTIRE UNIVERSE! Not just this earth alone. This earth is only a trial place and this life, when He said, **“Let Us make man in Our image,”** He made him with mortal life, not immortal life.

So in Genesis 2 verse 7, we read that God formed man of the dust of the ground and into the dust of the ground He BREATHED the breath of life and man, made out of the dust of the ground, became a living soul. The dust of the ground became a living soul and now people have been deceived into thinking that man IS a soul and that a soul is spiritual. No, a soul is living matter breathing the breath of

air into the circulation of blood in it, and the life comes from the blood and the breath of air.

But there is a spirit in man and God put a spirit in man, but the spirit was not enough. The man needed another spirit to go with that spirit, just like God Himself needed someone to go with Him, so there was the Word Who became Christ, and they two became one God. And God is a family, and they're a God Family, but they're ONE Family, but they're two Persons.

Now they said, **“Let Us reproduce Ourselves. Let Us make man in Our image.”** In other words, **“Let's increase Our Family.”** They'd still be one Family, and we become one with God. Man was made with a spirit. If the Spirit of God comes into him, that begets him by a process of reproduction to be reproduced as a God being and that unifies him with God. The Spirit of God joins with the spirit of man and the two join together like a husband and wife join together to form one family, and the Spirit of God joins with the human spirit of man to form one God, but only in the begettal state in this life. We're only like an embryo or a fetus, not yet born. So God created one man, and all human life has come from that one man.

You say, “Well, didn't He create Eve?” Now, He made Eve out of Adam. He put Adam into a deep sleep and took out one of his ribs and turned it into a woman, and Eve came out of Adam. But they could reproduce, and they had children, and their children had children, and all those children had children, and today there are about between four and a third and four and a half BILLION of us humans on the face of the earth today. That's quite a swarm of people. *[It is now seven billion!]*

Now the first man Adam had a chance to do what Satan had not done and to submit to the government of God and to organize and then he would have children, and he would organize the children into a government of cooperation, of mutual love and concern where they would work together in an organized way of government. And they would work the earth and do just what the angels should have done and beautify this earth.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

God gave them a sample. He took the man and the woman He had created and put them in a beautiful garden that God created called the Garden of Eden. Maybe that was to show them how the rest of the world or the earth should be made and maybe He intended them even to beautify the Garden

of Eden because He commanded them to dress it and to keep it.

But Satan got to Mother Eve, and she took of the tree that she was forbidden to take of and gave to Adam, and he took of it, too, so they simply followed Satan instead of God. God gave them permission to have of every tree in the garden except one, *The Knowledge of Good and Evil*, but also in that garden was The Tree of Life.

Now if they had taken the Tree of Life that was God life. The Spirit of God would have come into them. They would have been united with God and united with God they would be like Christ is united with God. And as a human being He is a Son of God and we would have become and man, Adam, would have become a son of God, a begotten son of God. He would have God's Spirit. That would have connected him with God, and God's mind would have come into him just like the mind of God can come into us.



In Philippians [2:5] it says, **“Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus.”** The Spirit of God coming into us is really the mind of God coming in with our spirit to join it and join us with God so we can begin to see things the way God does and to understand spiritual knowledge because the human eye cannot see and knowledge cannot enter through the eye or the ear cannot hear nor has it entered into the MIND of man the spiritual things that God has prepared and the spiritual knowledge. But God reveals it to some of us, but God reveals it, not the Holy Spirit reveals it. God does! But how does He reveal it? By the Spirit which after the Spirit of God is in us. In other words, without the Spirit of God you can't understand it. When God reveals, you don't understand the revealing, but with the Holy Spirit you can. But it is God Who does the revealing, not the Holy Spirit if you notice the wording in I Corinthians the second chapter and verse 10.

But then it shows in verse 11 that there is a spirit in man and no man can have the knowledge that he has and an animal can't have it and a man could not have it save by the spirit of man which is in him, that's the human spirit. In the same way, we can't understand the spiritual things except the Spirit of God is in us WITH the human spirit.

Now God gave man the chance to do what the angels had not done, but the first man turned wrong, Adam. So God closed up the Tree of Life from Adam's descendants. Cain and Abel and Seth and the others that came along, and the Tree of Life was closed except that God opened it to certain ones to prepare for something later, the same as He is opening it to those in His Church. He's calling certain ones out of this world that has been developed, influenced by Satan and Satan held the world captive.

I'll pass over the early ones because, of course, Abel is called righteous Abel and Enoch walked with God, and there was Noah who was a preacher of righteousness, but we'll go on to Abraham because all the promises of God have come from Abraham and passed on to Isaac and Jacob and to a certain extent to Joseph and then there were the prophets of the Old Testament in the nation Israel. Now God did give them His Holy Spirit for the writing of the Bible and as a part of the foundation of what was to become His Church.

THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

And in due time He sent the Logos who was made flesh and He became a human being and dwelt among us and became Jesus Christ, and He came as the Second Adam. He came to do what the first Adam should have done, should have received the Spirit of God and been one with God and had the love of God within him and then organize and carry on the government of God on the earth.

Jesus Christ called out a few to start the formation of the government of God in the Church. There was Peter and Andrew, and they were fishermen. Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and He called them, and He drafted them and He said, **“Come follow Me,”** and they had to forsake all and follow Him and they did. And He called 12 to start with, and He started with those 12, and He taught them for 3½ years and then He paid the price of the penalty of human sin. Now at the time God shut up the Tree of Life, which means He shut up the Holy Spirit from all flesh except those that were called for the Church, just that one exception, otherwise it's still closed to everybody else.

At that time, God said it was already decreed that Christ would come as a Lamb of God to be slain to pay the penalty in our stead because sin is the transgression of God's law [I John 3:4]. Adam had broken it. All of his sons have broken it, and the penalty is death [Romans 6:23], but Jesus came and DID NOT sin and when He died He took our sin on Him and He paid the penalty and paid it in our stead.



Then God resurrected Him from the dead. He had not sinned, and now He has all the power that He originally had, which He had forsaken and given up to come down here and to start the Church, to lead us and to show us the right way and to pull us out of Satan's world and to pay the penalty in our stead that we could be reconciled back to God the Father.

Now, we're not saved by His blood, by His death. We are reconciled to God, and God is the One who has immortal life to give. But if we REPENT and if we accept what Christ did for us and accept Him as Personal Savior, and repent means that we're going to live God's way from here on. We repent of having broken it because we didn't go that way. We change our life. It means a totally changed life from here on to live BY GOD'S LAW, and God's Law is the direction of the way to live, not the way that seems right to a man.

Now the churches of this world only follow the way that seems right to a man the same way as Adam did. But God formed a Church that would have His Holy Spirit, and God would come into those in the Church that He called that God the Father would draw to them, and Jesus said no man could come to God the Father THROUGH Him, no man could come to Christ except God the Father would draw them.

THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO THIS EARTH

And so Jesus paid the penalty. He rose and went to heaven to be our High Priest and prepare positions for us as our High Priest in training us in this life so that if we overcome

when He comes to rule the earth and take over the throne from Satan, we shall sit on that throne with Him. And if we overcome He will give us power, just as He has power over the nations, and we will rule them and God will set up His Kingdom, His government on the earth.

And we're the ones that are preceding in the Church, and the Second Coming of Christ is going to be followed by the next annual Holy Day, the Day of Atonement, which means putting Satan off that throne, and Christ will sit on it.

Now when Christ comes, Satan will still be on the throne, and Christ isn't going to have Satan put off before Christ comes, but AFTER He comes. Maybe it'll be 10 actual, literal days. We don't know. That's the way the Holy Days are arranged anyway.

Of course, it doesn't mean that Christ will come on this certain day in just so many years from now. But there is ample reason to think that things have happened that way in the fulfillment of prophecies previously in the other Holy Days, and it could happen that way, but we don't know because God has said that no man, not even Christ, knew the time or the day or the hour when Christ would come. Only the Father knows that. So we can't set any time whatsoever.

But we DO know by all signs and enough of the prophecies that we know it's now near, even at the door. It's very close to us now. We're the last generation of this world in this age.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS

Then Christ is to come, and when He comes the dead in Christ are going to rise first. Now, I can't tell you for certain whether that includes Abel and Enoch and Noah, but I

know it'll include Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because Jesus Himself said to the Pharisees, **"You will see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."** It will include the prophets because they're part of the foundation of the Church. It will include those that have had the Holy Spirit of God and have been overcomers, right down to us if we're overcomers today.

And if we're still living the dead will come first. They will rise first at the coming of Christ. Then we'll be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal and rise and meet them in the air, but **we're only going to meet Christ as He's on the way back to the earth! He's not meeting us. We're not going to heaven. There's not a word in the Bible that says that we will ever go to heaven.**

God has ordained that THIS EARTH IS GOING TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNIVERSE! But we have to learn first how to work this earth and turn it into the kind of beauty that it should be.

You know there's one little comment I'd like to say right here. We are part of the remnant of God's one true Church of the Philadelphia era. There's another era yet to come, and I think it will only exist briefly at the most about 2½ or three years, but in any event this Church has taken what was the nearest thing to a slum in Pasadena, which is the very ground on which we're stationed right here right now and here is in some respects the most beautiful building on the face of the earth put here. This was all slums, and the most beautiful place in Pasadena is this campus, and we have taken it, or rather Christ has taken and used us and we have submitted to Him, and He has done it, we haven't really, and turned it into beauty.

Now, that's what is going to be done to the whole earth during the Millennium and during the Millennium that we will celebrate with the Feast of Tabernacles that is soon coming up.

I can't see anymore. I just want to see that I'm not running way over on time. God is always on time, and I like to be, and I like to have our services start and end on time, and I usually do, but sometimes I have to run over, and I just wanted to check.

GOD'S SABBATH AND ANNUAL HOLY DAYS
So God has given the Church Seven Annual Holy Days.
Now He gave the Sabbath to man. Jesus said the Sab-

bath was made for man, and therefore Jesus, the Son of Man, is Lord of the Sabbath day. And so the Sabbath is the Lord's Day not Sunday. The Sabbath was given when man was made.

Man was made on the sixth day of that, what is called Creation Week, which is only a re-creation, and on the very next day God made the Sabbath for man. The first thing He made for man was the Sabbath.

But He didn't give the annual Holy Days until the Church started, and the Church was started in two phases. One was the physical, material phase of ancient Israel, and the other is the spiritual phase which is the Church of God, which started with Christ.

And so the annual Holy Days were given to ancient Israel, and they didn't know the meaning of it. God caused me to see that He had ordained these Days forever, and they should be kept, and so back in the year of 1927 I saw that we should keep these annual Sabbath days, and I said, "We shall keep them." And my wife and I began doing it. We couldn't convince anyone else to do it with us. And for about seven years, we did it alone by ourselves. But we didn't know why. We didn't know the meaning. We just knew God commanded it, and we said, "If God commands it, we're going to obey." And we'll obey first and let God show us why later.

So later, God did show us why. These days are picturing the plan of God working out His purpose here below, which Winston Churchill talked about. It begins with the Passover in the spring, the crucifixion of Christ. That made possible the beginning of the Church. The Church is starting a new creation, a spiritual creation. The Church is starting the Government of God all over again!

We've had the government of man. Adam chose the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, doing what seemed right to him, relying on himself, doing what he thought was right. Oh, yes, there was good as well as evil in human nature and man. There's good in the world.

Sure there are people that have ethics, good morals, good intentions, but it's all on the human level, and it is all on the self-centered level. It's a long ways from being on the high plane of the love of God which shed in our hearts alone can fulfill the law of God at the SPIRITUAL level that transcends anything that a human can have until they have the Spirit of God.

But God also decreed, He decreed that Christ would come. When He closed off the Tree of Life, He decreed that it was appointed to men to DIE once and AFTER THAT the judgment. And then as we read in I Corinthians 15:22, **“as in Adam all die,”** because all have sinned in Adam, **“so in Christ shall ALL be made alive!”** EVERYONE who has sinned and died and all that died are say under 140 years of age today because there is no one quite that old on earth.

I think if God would extend my life that I could get fairly close to it. I'm in my 94th year now, and I don't know how long God will extend that life. That's up to Him, and you brethren had better understand that. There is no guarantee that He is going to extend it on and on and on and on. I'm going to hope He will and as long as He wants to use me, I think He will, but when David was old and stricken with years at 23 years younger than I am, He let King David die, and David was a man after His own heart, and David was ruling His people.

So God determines a lot of these things. We can't by our wishful thinking do it, either, and we need to realize that and take it a little bit seriously, brethren. Your faith must not be in me. It must be in Jesus Christ. He's the Head of the Church. I'm not.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PASTOR GENERAL

And if I were not here there would be another who would become the Pastor General, and if that should ever happen, if you want to get into God's Kingdom you will follow that Pastor General, and you will remain UNITED, and you will remain ONE and YOUR eternity depends on that, every one of you. Don't you forget it because 10 years ago this Church was very seriously, a matter of seven or eight years ago, still divided.

[To fulfill a number of prophecies, Jesus Christ blinded Mr. Armstrong to the true nature of the man he would appoint to replace him. He believed that man would be faithful to the doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ used him to restore within His Church – the Church of God! That is why he said, we should follow him. Had he known, he would have never appointed him as pastor general; but prophecy had to be fulfilled (II Thessalonians 2:1-3, 7; Daniel 12:7). – Alton 'Don' Billingsley]

Thank God it's not really divided today. There may be a little contention here or there that maybe we just haven't

quite discovered. Maybe some have a little contention they are keeping to themselves. It hasn't surfaced, but we have such wonderful cooperation now, such a wonderful attitude in spirit of love, the Spirit of God and of God's Holy Spirit. Brethren, do everything and pray your heart out that it can continue that way in the Church.

Anyway now to finish, when Jesus comes Satan will have been discredited, the Church will have been made immortal and ALL the government will be restored. In Acts the third chapter verse 19, 20 and 21, the heavens have received Jesus **“UNTIL the time of restitution of all things!”** And then He's coming back again.

Restitution means restoring to a former state or condition or restoring what had been taken away. He's coming to restore the Kingdom of God. **There was an Elijah to come and to restore things in the Church. That has happened, and what has been restored is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD**



and many of the truths, at least 17 or 18 principal, vital doctrines of truth have been added to about the three that had survived in the Sardis era of the Church that they still had, but they had clung onto those three. But they didn't know about the government of God in the Church. They didn't know about what I'm telling you about today. They didn't know about these Holy Days.

So it started with the Passover, then follows seven days putting sin out of our lives, but we can't do it alone without the Spirit of God and so then comes the next Holy Day, the Day of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and then comes this whole Church age and the next thing to happen after that and after this 1900-some years of the Church age is the Second Coming of Christ. And He's coming to take over the government of the earth, and He's coming to restore GOVERNMENT!

It has been restored into this Church, and **there are those that are just waiting for me to die and like buzzards they would like to come and gobble up all you people and tell you that no one else is fit to lead you but them, and they look to human charisma, someone who has a certain personality, someone who's a good entertainer, but God looks on the heart. Don't forget it, brethren.**

People are always fooled by human personality and the charisma that attracts them right to someone. That must never happen in this Church. And I'm going to do all I can to stay alive and prevent it happening as long as I can.

Now when Christ comes, the government will be restored and for 1,000 years we go through the time reflected and foreshadowed by the Feast of Tabernacles, a thousand years.

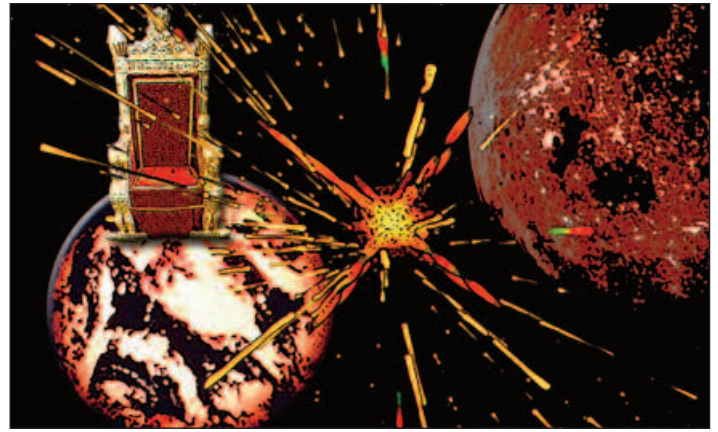
I think it'll take at least three generations before we can weed out all of the evils and have a real utopia here on earth, but it'll come. It will come, and it will come comparatively fast.

At the end of that time, Satan will be loosed for a little season at the end of the Millennium, and there's great possibility that there is supposed to be in the six thousand year period in God's plan before the Second Coming of Christ, and He's coming a little sooner than that because He's going to cut it, the Great Tribulation and this time short because there wouldn't be a human being left alive if He didn't.

And that little space that He cuts short may be added on the end of the Millennium and that's when Satan will be loosed for a little while to go out and deceive those that are living and yet have not been made immortal in the last generation of that thousand years and after that, Satan and those he leads will be put away and reserved for the Lake of Fire.

And then will come the 100 years of the Great White Throne Judgment, and everybody who ever lived will be resurrected and at the end of that time God's purpose of humanity, of reproducing Himself will have been completed. And then finally the New Jerusalem is coming down. There'll be a new heaven and a new earth, and even God the Father is coming to this earth and this earth is going to be the headquarters of the universe!

And according to the second chapter of Hebrews and the eighth chapter of Romans, the whole universe is in decay,



waiting for the appearance of the sons of God, resurrected, and finally God's purpose in humanity completed. And earth is just a place of starting.

This life, brethren, is one of qualifying. This life is one of qualifying to reign and rule with Christ, not just to get saved, not just to get into the Kingdom, but to qualify for a big position. And then even that and this earth then will be made as it should be and as all planets should be, and this is where we're practicing so that we can then begin to go out through ALL eternity into ALL the universe, and the Second Coming of Christ is that event, which will start everything and the government of God to doing that for the first time.

It will be the greatest event that has ever happened in the history of the UNIVERSE! Not just the history of man. Not just the history of this earth, but the greatest event that has ever happened in the history of the universe when Christ comes to take over the government of God and to rule the earth! And the earth will be the headquarters of God and from there He will rule.

He didn't create all these planets and all this universe in vain! And it's in decay now and it is in vain, but of course a thousand years are like a day and a day is like a thousand years to God and there's a lot of time. Eternity's a long time ahead and ultimately God is going to make something beautiful out of this entire, vast universe.

Now Jesus said if we overcome, we will sit with Him on His throne. We will be given power over the nations. Are you overcoming, brethren? Examine your own self. That's something I can't do for you. I can teach you if you will listen and let it sink in.

Well, keep it there and then take on it and be sure and make your calling and election SURE!





Israel Isolated

Tiny Israel is finding herself more isolated and ostracized as the tide of world events increasingly turns against the world's only Jewish nation and radical Muslims seize control of strategic Arab countries, threatening Israel's very existence.

With a hostile Iran feverishly striving to develop nuclear weapons on Israel's eastern flank, Egypt's once-friendly government is now dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist organization that has made no secret of its disdain for Jews or its desire to see Israel obliterated. The noose is undeniably tightening around Israel.

The Muslim Brotherhood's seizure of power represents a dramatic shift for Egypt, a densely populated Arab country with a population of about 83 million. Under Presidents Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak from 1970 to 2011, Egypt was considered one of the most pro-western and moderate Arab countries in the world, receiving about \$1.5 billion in U.S. military and economic aid annually – the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid behind Israel.

Sadat's assassination by Islamic extremists in October 1981 culminated with the Muslim Brotherhood's ascension to power in Egypt, sending shock waves throughout the western world, especially Israel. Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Mursi's election as Egypt's president also has alarmed Jewish leaders.

Al Arabiya News reported June 7 that a prominent Egyptian cleric proclaimed at a presidential campaign rally if Mursi were elected, **"Our capital shall not be Cairo, Mecca or Medina. It shall be Jerusalem, with Allah's will."** Safwat Hagazy also predicted "millions of martyrs will march toward Jerusalem. ... Yes, we will either pray in Jerusalem or we will be martyred there."

At the same rally where Hagazy predicted a United States of Arabs would form, cheering crowds waved flags of the terrorist organization Hamas along with Egyptian flags. In alliance with Iran and Syria, Hamas has been the de facto ruler of the Gaza Strip under Israel's purview since 2007. At the rally, crowds chanted: "Tomorrow Mursi will liberate Gaza!"

On June 10, *Israel Today Magazine* reported that Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mohammed Badie issued a written statement calling Israel's establishment the "worst catastrophe ever to befall the peoples of the world" and demanded that the "Zionist entity" withdraw entirely from "the land of Palestine."

On June 22, *Israel Today* noted that more than 120 mortar shells, short-range rockets and medium-range missiles slammed into southern Israel that week. "The attacks began late Monday, following a similar missile attack from the Egyptian Sinai. Israeli commentators believe Hamas and other allied terror groups in Gaza have been encouraged by Muslim Brotherhood claims of victory in Egypt's presidential election."

What has been especially unnerving for the Israelis has been U.S. withdrawal of support under the Obama administration. Since assuming the U.S. presidency in January 2009, Barack Obama conspicuously has avoided visiting Israel.

On June 8, the United States blocked Israel's participation in the Global Terrorism Forum's first meeting in Istanbul due to fierce objections from Turkish President Erdogan. Ten of the 29 participating countries were Arab and/or Muslim. Meanwhile, Turkey refuses to recognize Hamas as a terrorist group.

The U.S. snub came "despite Israel's having one of the most extensive counterterrorism experiences in the world," *Arutz Sheva* reported. "In May, Turkey blocked Israel's participation in a NATO summit in Chicago and maintained that NATO-Israel relations cannot be restored until Turkey-Israel relations are normalized."

The status of Jerusalem remains the most divisive issue between Israelis and Muslims.

Free Beacon reported March 27 that the U.S. State Department backtracked on an official communication that labeled Israel and Jerusalem as separate entities.

"Keeping up with its longstanding policy, **the State Department refuses to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's official capital – despite a U.S. law stating otherwise.** Obama faced criticism on the issue last year, when it was revealed that **the White House had scrubbed all references to Jerusalem being part of the Jewish state from a collection of photos on its web site.**"

Of Israel's many enemies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu views Iran as his country's most dangerous adversary as that Persian nation continues to make ominous threats against Israel and rushes to manufacture nuclear warheads and the missiles needed to launch them. Israeli leaders have sent strong signals that they are prepared to preempt such an attack with a military strike of their own.

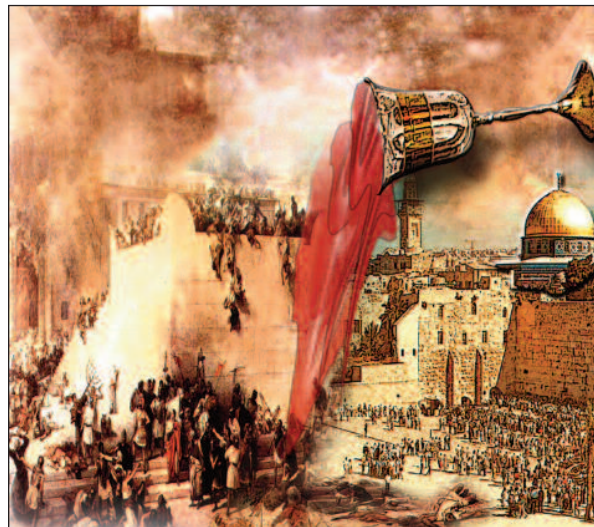
When six leading world powers failed in mid-June to make a breakthrough at curbing Iran's nuclear program, Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz urged them to impose tougher economic sanctions on Tehran, adding there was a

need "to continue to prepare all other options," *Newsmax* reported.

Most analysts say it's not a matter of *if*, but *when* Israel will launch a preemptive military strike on Iran's nuclear operations.

On July 3, Iran test fired dozens of long range missiles as a war of nerves escalated. Iranian Revolutionary Guards General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said in reference to Israel, "If they take any action, they will hand us an excuse to wipe them off the face of the earth."

Iranian officials also repeated threats to close the Strait of Hormuz through which up to 33 percent of the world's petroleum travels. As a result, the price of Brent crude oil broke \$100 a barrel for the first time since early June, spiking more than \$3 in a day.



The Holy Bible indicates actions of Jewish leaders will enflame the world and Jerusalem will be a crucial flashpoint in the final world war prior to Jesus Christ's Second Coming to establish THE KINGDOM OF GOD on earth. As more nations line up against Israel on every front, Bible prophecy shows this ultimately will lead to foreign armies surrounding Jerusalem.

"Behold, **I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.** And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though **all nations of the earth are gathered against it.** ... In that day **I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves;** they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place – Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2-3, 6)."

Could this Old Testament prophecy be referring to an Israeli attack against Iran that could engulf the Middle East in a global conflagration eventually leading to Jerusalem's surrounding by foreign armies, just as Jesus Christ forewarned? (Luke 21:20, 24) Given the rapid acceleration of events, that military strike could happen any day now!

– Mark Mendiola



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

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

Watchman for the House of Israel
www.ezekielwatchman.org

World News Bulletin
www.worldnewsbulletin.com

Lost 10 Tribes of Israel
www.losttribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

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

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

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

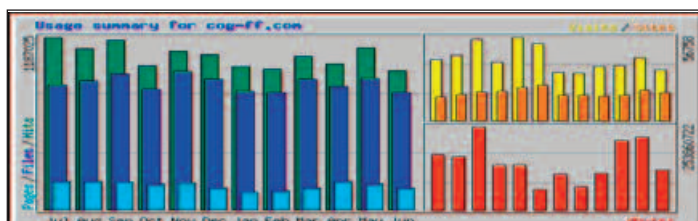
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

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

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



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