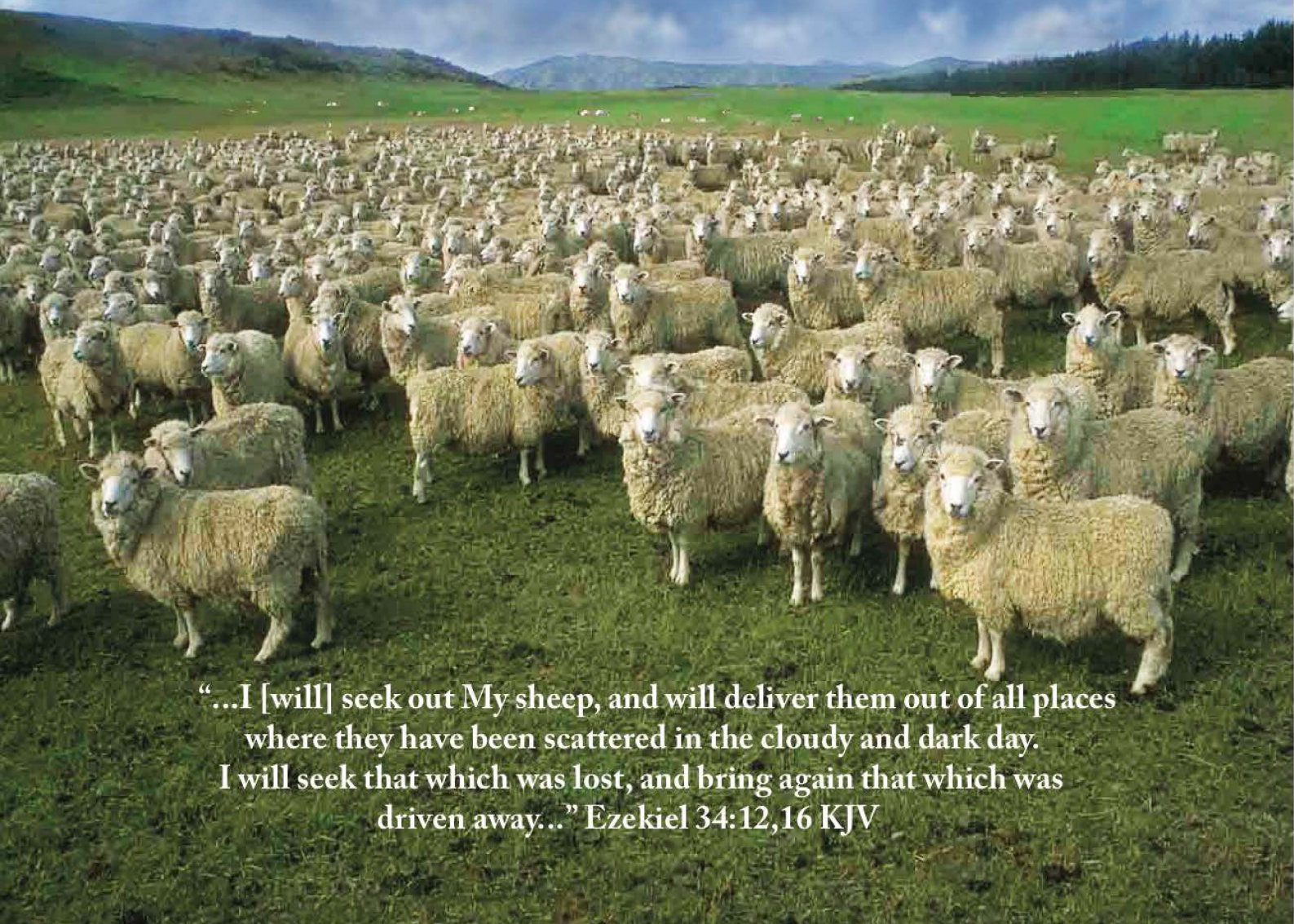


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Jan/Feb/Mar 2013



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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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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What is Sin?

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong



Well, greetings everybody once again. At this season of the year a phenomenon is playing a very great part in the lives of almost everybody all over the world. Of course, you know that phenomenon is Christmas, but why?

The Christmas Season



You know the average person looks forward to Christmas. It's a big thing in their lives. Many people are looking forward to it throughout the year. Many people have savings plans to save up money to do some shopping to buy presents to trade and exchange back and forth with other people. They don't know themselves why they do it. Some people think they do because it celebrates Christ's birthday. But even they don't look into it, and they don't really understand or they don't know. Actually it doesn't celebrate Christ's birthday at all. There are newspaper headlines at this time of the year that say that there's a great increase in crime. There's a great increase in shoplifting in stores. That's stealing; running into hundreds of



millions of dollars all over the nation. There's an increase in murders in the home; and other places. Christmas is a time of merrymaking, but they usually use alcohol and other stimulants to make themselves merry. And it leaves them in a debt now that it's over. Why do they do it? They don't know. Why does it influence such a great portion of the people? A lot of people think that Christmas started with the early church or that it's in the Bible. There's not a word in the Bible about it. In fact, the Bible is very careful to conceal the date of the birthday of Christ. No one knows when He was born. We do know this much about it. It was before the winter season. It was while the sheep were still out in the pasture; and they were always corralled, oh from six to eight weeks before Christmas and brought in, and were not out with the shepherds watching over them. It was not observed by the first century church. It was not observed by the apostles. People don't understand where the church got it; the church didn't get it for three hundred years, in the fourth century before it came into the church, and it came from an ancient pagan custom. They got it from the ancient pagan customs back as far as Ancient Egypt.

There's an Ancient Egyptian sculpture, we have a picture of it in our booklet—"What Do You Mean Christmas?" And why do people observe Christmas? Now, if you haven't read that recently, and most of us have not... We've been taking this thing for granted. We've understood the truth about Christmas in this church. And we suppose we understand it. Perhaps we should read it all over again. You ought to get that booklet and read it once again.

Nimrod and His Mother-Wife, Semiramis

And in it there is a picture of an Ancient Egyptian sculpture of a Madonna and child. In other words, it

is the sun god of Horus, and his mother god, Semiramis. And Horus actually was the Nimrod of the Bible.



So, the Ancient Egyptians got it clear back from the time of Nimrod and his mother-wife, Semiramis. The first time I ever visited in Cairo, Egypt, I think it was in 1956, my wife and I stayed in the Semiramis Hotel. I think it's been torn down now and they're building a new Semiramis Hotel there. And even the Hilton Hotel where we stayed this year, and I stayed a number of times before, is beginning to look a little bit old now, it isn't new any longer, but it's been built since our first visit there. There are hotels named after Semiramis in a number of Middle Eastern cities. There's one, one as I remember in Damascus, The Semiramis Hotel.

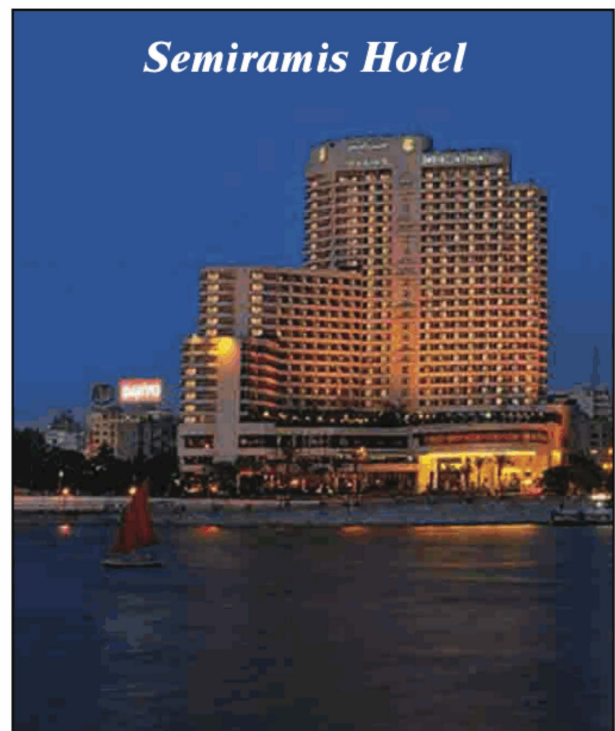
The Infamous Semiramis

Semiramis was the famous mother-wife, the goddess, who was a sun goddess. And we'll go clear back in your Bible to the tenth chapter of Genesis. Now, the tenth chapter of Genesis gives us the genealogy of the sons of Noah; and I'd like to read you just a little bit of it.

Genesis 10:6, and then beginning with verse 8: ***And the sons of Ham***, Ham was one of the sons of Noah. Shem, Ham, and Japheth; the sons of Ham were ***Cush, Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.*** **8 Now,**

and Cush begat Nimrod: and he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the ETERNAL: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the ETERNAL.

That is, he put himself before God the Creator. He put himself as number one on the earth, as the greatest man, but he was more or less ruled by his mother-wife, Semiramis. ***10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, the tower of Babel***, and later the city of Babylon, which was the first capital of the first real empire in the world, ***and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, and the land of Shinar.*** ***11 And out of the land went forth Asshur, and he builded Nineveh, and of course Assyria is named after Asshur; for Assyria. He builded Nineveh***, which is probably the oldest city still remaining in the world today; I've been there, ***he builded Nineveh and the city of Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city***, it was at the time this was written; when Moses wrote it. ***13 And Mizraim begat Ludim***, and it gives a few more that were children. ***15 And Canaan begat Sidon the firstborn, and Heth, 16 and the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite.***



Now, the Jebusites were the first settlers in what is now called Jerusalem. And David went up among the Jebusites and started building Jerusalem. The Jebusites were there in the days of Abraham. So, it goes clear back to that time just after the flood. Now, you would think that people would have learned their lesson in the flood, but there's a reason why they didn't. They didn't learn any lesson at all about God, but some knowledge of God had been passed on.

We read in the New Testament that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was slain from the foundation of the world [**Revelation 5:6**]. Now, we knew something about that. It was sort of known that the Messiah would ultimately come from a virgin mother, that He would be both man and God; but He would be born of a human virgin, a human mother. Semiramis claimed that she was that mother; and she married her own son, Nimrod. He became great, he built cities, but he was the ruler. He wanted to be the big "I Am". He wanted to be the big boss, but he had more skill and more ability than most others.

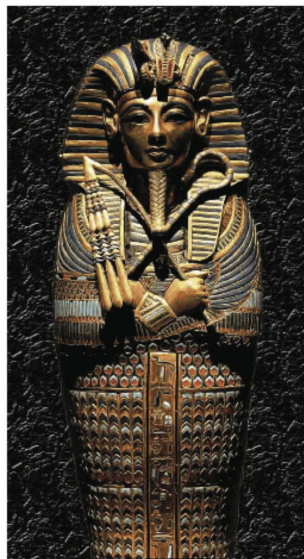
He was the first one when they were living in fear of animals, to start building a city with a wall surrounding it; and originally walls around cities were built to protect the people from the wild animals when there weren't very many people on the earth back in the early days of mankind.

But Semiramis is a type of evil, and she called her son, the sun god; and she developed a religion. She claimed to be the virgin. And Nimrod became a sun god, and was worshipped. And then it got into the Ancient Egyptian worship of Isis and Osiris, the ancient gods of Ancient Egypt.



So, Nimrod was the ruler, and was on the principle

of get; I love me, I want to get, I want to rule over others, I want to take away from others. Now, he was willing to protect others as long as he could take from them. He wanted to protect. Well, if you've



ever studied a type of psychology that I remember studying when I was in my early twenties, there was a bit of psychology that came out at that time and it really had a lot of psychology that the modern psychologists are not teaching in the universities today.

It taught about self and what self is. It taught about an empirical self.

Now there is no such

word in the dictionary. The word empirical, that's a different word with a different meaning, but he meant empirical from the sense of an empire; yourself is sort of an empire. Now, it includes first whatever is yours, whatever is closest to you. Your clothes, the house you live in if it's yours, then your children. Maybe even your mother and father, you call them yours; your mother, your father. Whatever you call yours. Then it extends on to even your relatives. Then as you grow up in your teens you get interested in sports. Your team is part of self, and your team is against the other team. It's always competitive. Self is against whatever is not self. Your team is self, and therefore you have that through that extent instead of loving the one that it's in competition against. Now you can carry that on and you see, in the case of war, your country is part of self. That's why people are willing to go to war and even die for their country. It's dying for self-love, and self-love is the very essence of sin. And it started from the very, very beginning.

So, Christmas sort of started out of this Nimrod-Semiramis situation, but the origin of it all was even a great deal earlier than that. Now, this world began with the first Adam. I've had a lot to say recently about the two trees and Adam, and someone will say, 'Well, here goes Mr. Armstrong once again. Now, I'm going to go back to it again, again and again, as

Franklin Roosevelt used to say, because everything started at that time.

This world; and we need to know what this world is, because God is calling us out of this world to be separate **[1 John 2:15-17]**. We should not be part of this world. **Well, what's wrong with this world?** Why isn't it alright? Most people seem to think it is alright.



The Two Trees

So, we get back to those two trees once again that were symbolic trees. Now, I don't question that there were two actual literal trees that really grew out of the ground in that garden, but the fact that these literal trees is not the point; it is what they symbolized, what they meant, what they represented, and they did represent something. And they represented the two ways of existence.

Now we find in **Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God, [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth.** And Elohim means more than one person, but only one God. God was like a family. You read of them in the New Testament, the Word and God, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a person and God was another person. And they were two persons, but they formed God. They formed Elohim.

And in **Genesis 1:26 [Elohim] said, "Let Us make man in Our Image, after Our Likeness."** God was going to reproduce Himself. Now, God is defined as a spirit. He is composed of spirit; He has immortal, everlasting life. He doesn't have physical life that comes from the earth. He has spirit life that is life inherent. He could not be killed, He cannot die; He is everlastingly alive.

And even of Christ, who was the Word, made flesh

and born of the virgin Mary. We read in Hebrews **[7:6]** that **"He was without father, without mother; without descent; having neither beginning of days nor end of life"**, but had always existed. And your mind won't conceive of that, neither does mine for that matter. You just have to accept it. Life had to always exist. Where did life come from? But of these two trees that were before the first man. Now, God said, **"Let us make man [after] our image, after our likeness"**: but He didn't make man of the same immortal spirit that God was composed of because God formed man of the dust of the ground as you read in **Genesis 2:7 . . . and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man, from the dust of the ground, became a soul.** And so the soul came out of the ground. The soul is material. The soul is not spirit. And yet, God did put a spirit in man. The spirit in man works with the brain in man.



Now, animals have brains and just as good as human brains. And some of them even larger; elephants, and dolphins, whales have larger brains; others slightly smaller. Some of the monkey family, the anthropoid ape; and so on. But they can't use their brains like a human can because there's no spirit in them to give them instant recall of knowledge and to record and file it and be like a computer to keep it recorded give them instant recall, so you could put this and that

and the other; in fact you have acquired knowledge together with other facts and in the process we call reasoning and thinking. Man thinks, at least he thinks he thinks; but do animals really think. They can't think and reason like we do; come to conclusions and make decisions, think creatively, plan.

God has given us a mind like God. Now, God has a mind but man's mind is limited in a way that God's mind is not. Now, I'm going back to this original teaching again, but there'd be times God may give me another little part of this story that I didn't get over to you before. For example: a part of what God has given man is to comprehend things that animals cannot.

Now, man has a mind that can acquire knowledge of the physical and the material; things that he can see.



Now he can only see matter. Matter can be present in three forms: the solid form, like wood, like stone, iron, or ice; the liquid form, like water; the gaseous form, like air. Water below 32 degrees Fahrenheit becomes solid ice; above 212 degrees Fahrenheit it evaporates and becomes vapor or air, a gaseous form. And so, the earth even includes all of the earth's atmosphere, including the clouds. That's part of the earth. The Bible speaks about on the earth and in the earth and uses such terms and sometimes not realize that the Bible really does distinguish all those things. But those two trees before Adam, now he was only a temporary existence. He did not have immortal life but he was made like God and he had a mind like God, but not as good as God's. His mind was limited to what he could see, or hear through his ear, or taste, or smell through his nose, or through the sense of feel and touch.

Now you can't see spirit, you can't feel it, you can't

hear it, you can't taste it or smell it. So man was not able to learn anything about spirit. Man was limited to physical knowledge. That's why man has been able to accomplish awesome things in progress dealing with matter. And even then it has taken him six thousand years to do it. And most of the great progress in even physical, material areas has been in this twentieth century since many of us were born. And I was born before this century, eight years before this century even started. I remember, I very well remember the midnight when the old century passed. But now, here was Adam with a temporary existence with a mind limited to the physical and the material. A mind that could acquire by itself physical and material knowledge with a spirit in man that could store up that knowledge in the form of memory like fifteen or twenty years before we even knew anything

about such things when the computer was invented, which would be instant recall of knowledge out of millions and millions of pieces of knowledge that was stored up there we think in the brain but were actually stored up in spirit; very few people know that but man was not given immortal life he was only given a temporary existence.

God offered him life; so one of the two trees was the tree of life. Of those two trees, the other tree was really the way of death. It was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But that kind of knowledge alone without the other kind of spiritual knowledge, which could be revealed, would result in death. So it was also the tree of death.

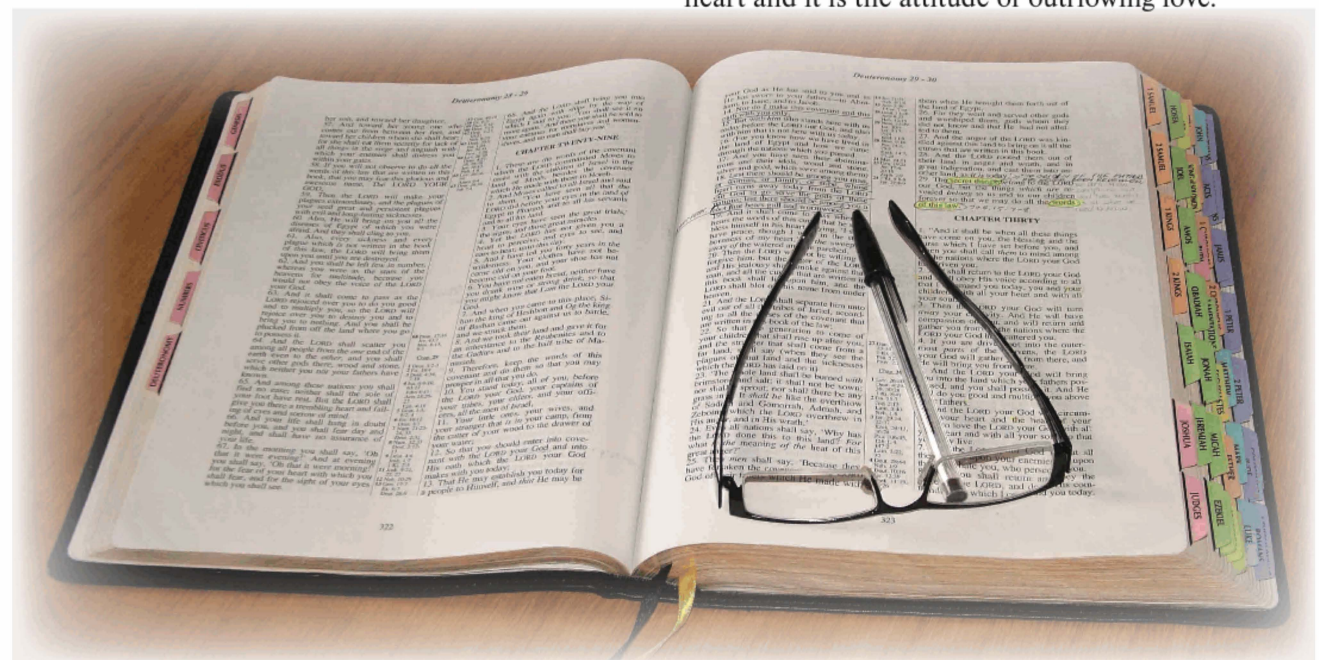
Now, the tree of life was also the tree of knowledge. So, each was a tree of knowledge; one of revealed spiritual knowledge and the other of self-acquired human knowledge. Physical, limited to the physical and material.

The one revealed by God spiritual. One was the tree of life, the other the tree of death. Very few people have ever understood that.

Adam had to make a decision. The one tree represented the way of life, which was the way of righteousness; God's revealed spiritual law, the way of righteousness. The other represented the way of sin. And brethren, I say to you today, that even some of the ministers; the ministers in this church don't know what sin is! It's time for us to wake up. I am absolutely astounded that some of us still don't know what sin is.

Now it all originates in the attitude of the mind. It finally conceives into an action which is sin. James will tell you what sin is when you are tempted and retain the thought and the temptation finally turns into the action, that finally is sin **[James 1:13-15]**. But it starts first in the mental attitude or the mind which decides what to do.

Now, the way of righteousness is one way, and the other way is sin. And we need to learn the difference between those two ways and the way we don't seem to understand even yet. It's an attitude of mind and heart and it is the attitude of outflowing love.



Now it all started back there. Christmas had something to do with it; I'll try to explain that as I go along. But one of those trees represented righteousness, a way of life. The other: a way of life of sin, and the result in death. The way of righteousness would result in eternal life; and the way of sin would result in death. Is that plain? Now they are both trees of knowledge; one was life, the other was death. But even we in this church do not fully know what sin is.

Now the tree of life was a way of life. The tree of life represented a way or an attitude of mind. Now humans are not led by instinct; they are led by the mind. And the tree of life is a state of mind or an attitude of mind that leads to an action that is the way of life, the way of righteousness.

Now let me say this: the law of God can be expressed in one word only; love. But love is never incoming, that is not love, that is lust.

Love is always flowing out toward God first of all. That's more important than toward neighbor but, also toward your fellow man.

That is the very essence of righteousness and sin. It is an attitude of mind that leads to an action. Now, let's get that straight because it seems we haven't gotten it straight yet. And it's out flowing of love first of all to God. That is more important but, the world doesn't think that's of any importance.

The First Man - Adam

Now the world started off with Adam and he chose the way of get, the way of vanity and of self. Now, I

explained self a while ago. It includes everything you call self, but it's self, in self-love. I love me, I don't care about you. I'm bigger than you are. My old man can lick your old man. Did you ever hear young kids say that? My old man's bigger than yours. Well, that's mine; that's part of self isn't it? I hope we can teach our kids to not call our fathers 'old man'. Did you ever think about that? Did you ever teach your children?

So, the way of love toward God is exalting God. Now the way of self, exalts self, and that is vanity; and vanity is sin. I'm getting down to the root principle of sin. What is sin? It's all in one word.

Now we've had too many men and ministers in this church, they've gone to Ambassador College, I guess it's all my fault brethren. I should have taught all of the students better in the first year of college. I couldn't think of all of these things. I haven't done a perfect job. I'm just an ordinary human being. I felt when I was converted I was a burned out hunk of human junk not worthy to be thrown on a junk pile. But I learned that giving is better than getting, that that's God's way.

I gave myself to Jesus Christ who bought and paid for me. I told Him I couldn't see what He could ever do with me and how He could ever use me but, if He could, I would give myself to Him. Now I have tried to do that and I have not done it perfectly. I haven't given myself to Him perfectly. I've retained a little bit of self along the way, I'm ashamed to say. But I will say this, and so will you, every one of you. Not one of you can say you haven't, but we've all done that.

All Have Sinned

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" [**Romans 3:23; 5:12**], every one of us. Oh yes, I'm a sinner saved by grace the same as everybody else. But actually it gets down to the attitude, and the attitude is that you really want to give yourself to God, you want to serve Him, you want to give rather than get; give yourself to Him. And that was my attitude and I haven't changed that as a basic attitude.

Now, already many habits had developed that I didn't overcome right away. Some of them I overcame right

away, others took a little longer. Perhaps some of them haven't been totally overcome yet. I hope that before I die that I shall have overcome every habit. I can only do that through the help, the grace and the power of the living God. Of myself alone, I cannot do it [**Romans 7:24-25**]. Of yourself alone you cannot do it, but we can will to do the right thing.

We can pray to God, and in enough prayer, and enough submission, and enough keeping in constant contact with God, He will put His Spirit in us; and through His Spirit He will make us righteous. And we can't do it by ourselves.



We need to get into this sin question. Actually in Hebrews we learned that we shouldn't have to get back to these elementary things [**Hebrews 6:1-2**]. I said, I think last Sabbath, "When a child is born, we neglect our child usually." Have you neglected yours, you parents? You that are going to be parents and that are now in college, you'd better be thinking about this thing.

When you're married and you begin to have children you're taking on quite a responsibility. Most people think, well, the children are just; in other words we already get, we want to enjoy, we want to have. We want to enjoy children. Why do people want children? Not because they want the responsibility of taking care of them, but because they want whatever they can get from that child; the love, the affection, a lot of things you get from a little child. But you have

to give and there's a great responsibility that accompanies it.

So, the average family neglect the teaching of their child until he's seven years old and then they send him to school and let the schools teach him.



And what do the schools teach? Just whatever is come from the way of Adam, only materialistic and physical knowledge. The way of get as against the way of give. And they don't know of any other way. The way of righteousness they know not. And they don't teach the way of righteousness in first grade, second grade, third grade in school, or in high school, or in college, or in universities. They don't know anything about it.

Now, Adam chose one way, self-acquired knowledge, which is materialistic knowledge. Finally, in this twentieth century we've come to the place where many great awesome accomplishments have been made but, on the other hand look on the other side of the story. Look at the appalling evils in the world today. **One half of the world is hungry, ill fed, living in filth and squalor, poverty stricken.** One half of the world is ignorant, illiterate and they can't even read

and write.



Hunger and Poverty

Without education; and what is education? Education in this world is physical, materialistic education. And it doesn't tell you how to live. And it doesn't teach you what is sin. Most people think sin is doing what you think is wrong. And of your own mind you will never realize what is wrong and what is right. So you don't think like God does.

Now, God's law is the way of love [**1 John 5:3**]. I'm coming to that a little more as I go along. But this world started with Adam. Adam chose the way of get, he chose the way of self, he chose the way of vanity, exalting the self. He debased God. He said, "God, get out of my life. I don't want a relationship with You."

So, God shut up the tree of life and it was shut up until the second Adam, Christ came and Christ has opened it to the few that are called just in the church. And all of the others Jesus said, "No man can come to Me except the Father, which sent Me, draws him [**John 6:44**]."

The Great White Throne Judgment

God isn't calling the world to salvation even yet. It isn't true that all, that whosoever will, may come, that is not true. You know, that occurs in the Bible in one place and that's over in the last book of your Bible [**Revelation 22:17**]. After the millennium; after the

judgment, after the Day of Judgment, after judgment has come to the world **[Revelation 20:5, 11-15]**. It hasn't come to the world yet. It is not true now that whosoever will may come to Christ. They cannot.

Now, the world doesn't know that, the churches in the world don't know that. The Methodist church doesn't know it, the Roman Catholic Church doesn't know it, the Baptist's don't know it, the Church of Christ doesn't know it, the Pentecostal people don't know it; they just know how to yell glory hallelujah, I'm better than you are, and when you get the spirit like I got then you'll be as good as I am. I exalt me. I debase you. **And that is not the Holy Spirit brethren, it just isn't.**

Sin the Way of Vanity

But Adam chose the way of get, the way of vanity, I love me. And that's the way the world started out. And the world started acquiring knowledge on that way, and from that attitude of life and knowledge about material things and how to deal with matter; the things of the ground and the things that come out of the ground.

Now love to God is to exalt God, not yourself. To love first of all is to God and secondly to neighbor **[Matthew 22:37-39]**, and that is the law of God, and sin is the transgression of that law **[I John 3:4]**. Now what is the world that we must come out of **[I John 2:15-17]**? God tells us to come out of the world and be separate as we're **a separate people** altogether **[II Corinthians 6:4-17]**.

This Worldly World

What developed from the forbidden fruit that Adam took? This world is what developed. This world developed. Now what is the world, and what developed? And all along in the world they developed this thing of merry making and Christmas time, but it has no meaning whatsoever when you get down to it. No meaning that is going to mean anything immortal, eternal to you, or that is everlasting. It's just merry making for the night and wake up with a headache tomorrow morning; maybe in jail, if you're caught with drunk driving. And that's all the world knows. But just what do we mean? If you'll notice now from **I John 2:15** "Love not the world that's the teaching of

the New Testament that God tells us and we have to come out of this world and be separate: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world . . . Now, what is worldliness? What is in the world? What is it? What is the way the world has gone?, ". . . the lust of the flesh . . ." that is, desires of the flesh. To have things to please the different senses. The sense of sight, the sense of feel, sex, the sense of the exhilaration that you get from alcohol, or you get high on drugs. Lust of the flesh, what is it?



Even the taste of foods: many foods that taste good that are bad for your health; and people wonder why their health is not good. They don't think about eating food that's good for their health that will keep their minds clear and their bodies in good

shape. They only think about what tastes good to the palate; lust of the flesh.

Brethren, I tell you, we're just simply loaded with that and we don't realize it. All that is in the world, ". . . **lust of the flesh. . .**" That is desires, just selfish, self-centered desires of your own flesh, of the five senses.

The sense of hearing: Now there's good music and bad music and Satan has got bad music going and has gotten all the younger generation today on bad music

Rock and pure Rock like it's finally come is having a very bad effect on the mind and the spirit.

It's pleasing and they want to do it. They just want to go the way that seems to please them for the moment.

"All that is in the world, lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes . . . what looks pretty to the eyes, and the pride of life." Vanity.

Wanting to be like the world, the world wants them to belong, there's no other reason. Tell me any other reason and I'll begin to consider it.

"Of course if someone doesn't love, Mr. Armstrong, I, you know I don't do it to look more pretty. I do it for the nicest reasons." Well, don't kid yourself please, 'cause you'll never get into the kingdom of God doing that. You just won't get into the kingdom of God. Now this thing all has to do with an attitude.



The Wearing of Makeup

Now we've been saying something recently about make-up for women. And women that cannot see it seems, many have not been able to; well, I tell you I've learned one thing and the women of this church and I'm just amazed and so thankful to God. It seems we've not had a problem in this church here. The women responded immediately as soon as they found that we're trying to get back on the track in that regard.

But you tell me any reason that any one wants to use make-up. Men don't seem to need, to want to use it, except in certain occasions, like certain men on television and on the stage. But in general men don't use it. Don't even think about it.

Why do women do it? They think it makes them more pretty. Lust of the eyes, they like to see themselves in the mirror and they think other people are going to think they are going to look more beautiful than God made them; vanity, pure and simple.

Sin Exalts the Person

Sin is the transgression of the wrong attitude of love toward God; exalting God instead of the person. It means humbling the self and exalting God. A woman paints up to exalt herself; don't tell me she doesn't. She does it because she wants to be like the world. She wants to go along, sheep instinct. I don't need to say that to you people here. I think you already know it. I've heard of not one example of criticism of our women in this church.



A Radio Broadcast

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

Well greetings friends, this is Herbert W. Armstrong with the Good News of the World Tomorrow. Now for the past two or three weeks we've been going through the prophecies: What's Going to Happen to the United States?

We've been getting into a lot of prophecies of what is going to happen to the United States, we have seen that there is to be a yoke on our neck and we've seen that it is not Russia that is going to put it there.

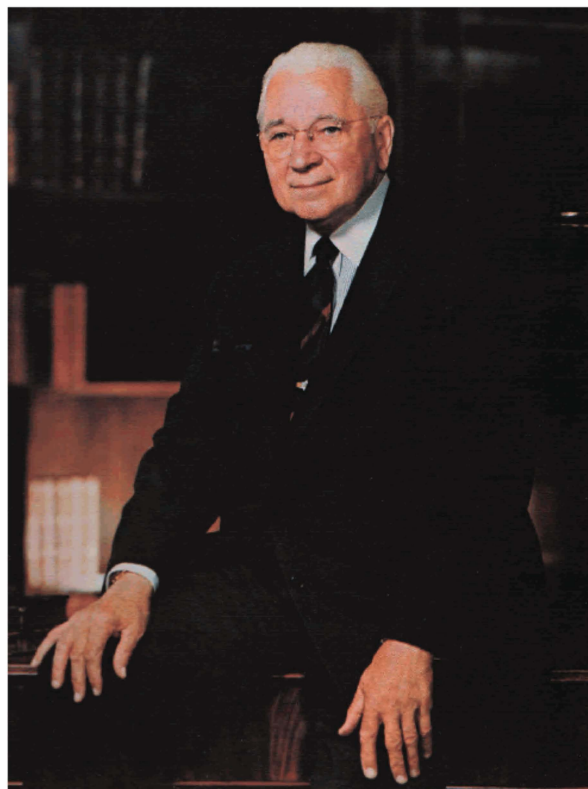
And we have seen that there is going to rise up in Europe an assembly, a union of 10 nations. It's going to be a resurrection of the ancient Roman Empire in the territory of Europe and around the Mediterranean.

It's going to absolutely startle and dumfound the nations and the people of this world when this thing comes as you read in the 17th Chapter of the Book of Revelation in your Bible [**Revelation 17:8**], that is all whose names as it says in that prophecy, all whose names are not written in the Book of Life. They're going to be absolutely dumfounded because it's the thing that the world today least expects.

Now I've shown you that in this time of trouble to come the great tribulation Jesus Christ prophesied in Matthew 24 that there would be a time of trouble such as had never happened before since there was a nation and never will again and except those days should be shortened that no flesh could be saved alive [**Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1**].

In other words it is a time when mankind has proceeded along scientifically and technologically to the place where he has invented such mass destructive measures, such powers of destruction that at last had become possible to blast human life off the face of this earth.

Now in the very past few years for the first time our scientists are telling us that that is now possible.



Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

And we have already had the warning that it is now possible to lay a waste an entire continent. Not just a town, not just a city, but an entire continent and without warning. That is now possible. There has never been such a time before.

Now we've read in Daniel, in Daniel the 12th Chapter, that at the time of certain things when this same power in Europe is going to actually take over the land of Palestine and half of the city of Jerusalem [**Zechariah 14:2**], and set up the palace of His tabernacle over there [**Daniel 11:45**] that at that same time the arch-angel Michael will stand up for our people [**Daniel 12:1**], and then there is going to be a terrible time of trouble among nations such as has never happened on the face of this earth until that same time, never happened before, never will again will that's the same time that Jesus Christ was talking about [**Matthew 24:21-22**].

There can't be two times of trouble, each of which is greater than the other. And then we have seen back in the 30th Chapter of Jeremiah that at that time there is going to be a yoke on our neck and at that same time of trouble is the time of our national trouble in the 30th Chapter of Jeremiah [**Jeremiah 30:5-6**].

"It's a time so great that there is none like it, never has been and it's the time of our national trouble, and there is to be a yoke on our neck [**Jeremiah 30:8**]" Now we turned back to see who is going to put that yoke on our neck into the 47th Chapter of Isaiah remember?

And back here we've found about this Babylon but it is the virgin daughter of Babylon. "**Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon**" (**Isaiah 47:1**).

Now let's pick it up, I want to identify the people being spoken of here in these prophecies once again. This is not the Babylon of Jeremiah's day or Isaiah's day. This is not the ancient Chaldean empire 600 years before Christ, this is the daughter of that Babylon and this says, "... O virgin daughter . . ."

That Babylon was always spoken of in the male gender. This one is spoken of in the female gender. A daughter of Babylon. "**Sit on the ground: there is no throne O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Now verse 5. Sit thou silent, get thee into the darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.**"

A woman now, now here is a woman, a lady who is a

lady of kingdoms, in other words, a women ruling over nations or kingdoms [**Revelation 17:1-6**]. Then God says, "**I was wroth with My people, I polluted Mine inheritance** [that's Israel] **and given them into thine hand;**, the hand of this daughter of Babylon now in our time and our day and, **thou**

didst show them no mercy; upon the ancient, that's Israel, hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke."

Now there is the power that is to lay the yoke.

"And thou saidst, verse 7, **I shall be a lady forever:**

so that you didst not lay these things to heart neither didst remember the latter end of

it."

Now then if you will turn over to **Revelation 18** we see the same identical things mentioned over here.

Revelation 18 in verse 7: "**How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, here's a woman, so much torment and sorrow is given her: for she saith in her heart, 'I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.'** And therefore the next verse, "**Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord GOD that judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication, and, lived deliciously with her..."**

Now here is a lady committing fornication with the kings of the earth. Here is a woman, a lady, ruling over the governments of the earth. And in verse four God has said to His people, our people, "**Come out of her, My people, that ye should be not partakers of her sins, and that should ye receive not of her plagues."**



The Bible definition of sin, my friends, is the transgression of the law of God [**1 John 3:4**], now then, in the 17th Chapter of Revelation you find this lady, this daughter of the ancient Babylon described.

In the first verse here comes one of the angels with one of the seven last plagues that are her plagues that God is going to pour on her [**Revelation 16:1**], her judgments, alright, here's one of the seven angels that had the seven vials and he talked with me saying unto me: "Come hither, and I will show thee . . . speaking to John who wrote it now, John is seeing this in vision, and in vision he sees this angel, one of the angels that had one of the seven last plagues saying to John who wrote it, John is not the revelator, John is merely the recorder who recorded it. But saying, I will show thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters."

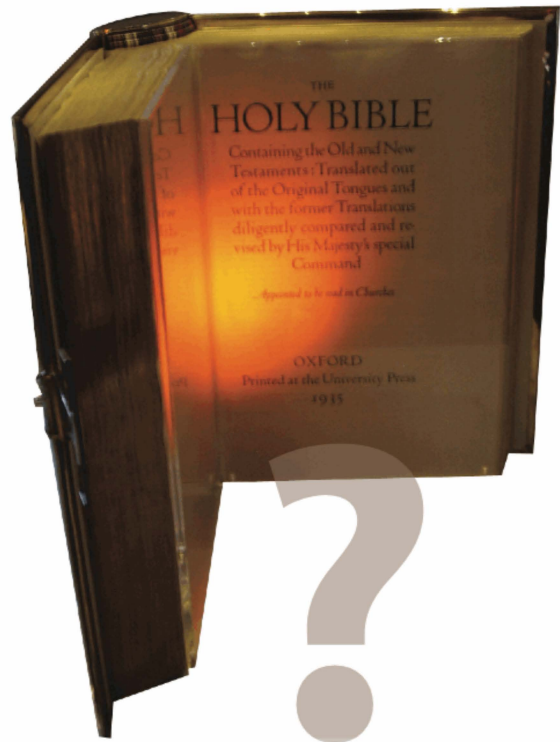
Now here is a great woman, but she's a fallen woman called by a very ugly name, an immoral name and she is, of course, in speaking spiritually, she is spiritually immoral. Now here is a great woman that sat upon many waters. And verse 15 says, "The waters which thou sawest, where the fallen woman sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and languages." In other words, this woman's sitting over many nations.

Now read right on. "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication." Now this is the same lady that is spoken of in Isaiah 47, the daughter of that ancient Babylon.

Now let's get the identification with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication. And the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication, spiritual fornication, they're drunk spiritually, a man drunk physically doesn't see clearly physically, everything is out of focus before his eyes, maybe he sees double, but he doesn't see things in a sharp clear focus, everything is all fuzzy, it's all hazy, it's all out of focus, he doesn't see clearly.

Now my friends, when you're drunk spiritually on spiritual wine, your mind is blurred up spiritually, you can't see spiritual truth, you just can't understand the Bible, it doesn't seem to make sense.

Well that's what people say today, the whole earth is like that you know, our author who said the Bible is the book that nobody knows, like Christ is the man that nobody knows, Bruce Barton it was, "**The [Man and The] Book [that] Nobody Knows.**"



Now here this woman has committed fornication with the kings of the earth, the inhabitants are drunk, in other words the people of the whole earth have been deceived, this is the deceiving power, it is the power of Satan the devil,

Satan has deceived all nations [**Revelation 12:9**], they're honest, they're sincere people, yes, they're good people as good as human nature because there's good in human nature as well as evil. power of Satan the devil,

Satan has deceived all nations [**Revelation 12:9**], they're honest, they're sincere people, yes, they're good people as good as human nature because there's good in human nature as well as evil.

There's a lot of evil in it too, and it's in every one of us and we need to look down into God's spiritual mirror and see the dirt that's on our hearts.

There's plenty there in every one of us unless God has washed it away by the blood of Jesus Christ, it's there.

“So [verse 3] he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman . . . now here's this woman, *sit upon a scarlet-colored beast*. Now this beast, my friends, is the civil governments with whom this woman has been committing spiritual fornication. *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color . . .* Purple is the color of royalty, royal purple and scarlet is the color of a harlot, a fallen woman, *decked with gold and precious stones and ornaments having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication: . . .*



and her fornication is that she has this relationship with the kings of this earth. And upon her forehead was the name written, now listen, who is this woman? Here's her identity! Here's her name! Listen, *“and upon her forehead was the name written, “Mystery, Babylon . . .”*

Why her name is Babylon, this is a female Babylon, this is the daughter of the ancient Babylon, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, why my friends, she has carried the same philosophies, she has carried the same practices, she has carried the same religious practices and the same doctrines as the ancient Babylon right down to this very end time.

Now here is something to appear, and listen, [verse 8] *“ . . . this beast that thou sawest was and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.”*

Now I've shown you my friends before, that I think that every, well I would think that every kind of church or denomination that is Christian or goes by the name of Christian, that is called Christian and claims to be Christian in the western world holds to the position that this beast here is the ancient Roman Empire.

“The beast that thou sawest was and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.” Now let's go a little further, the ancient Babylon did fall and that was the type of the fall of this modern daughter of that Babylon, ancient Babylon fell, ancient Chaldeia, the Chaldean empire fell and was conquered by the Persians. God saw to it that they fell, God gave them that kingdom. In the 2nd Chapter of Daniel you will find that the prophet Daniel stood before the king Nebuchadnezzar of that ancient Babylon 600 years before Christ, and he said, *“ . . . the God of heaven has given you a kingdom and power and strength and glory . . . you were this head of gold.”* God gave you your kingdom.

But he wouldn't believe it. He admitted that God existed but he never would surrender to the government of God, he never would acknowledge that God rules, he continued to think that he ruled and so God limited his kingdom and then that of his son. You remember the handwriting on the wall of Belteshazzar and his kingdom was numbered and he was killed that same night – he died that night [Daniel 5:1-30].



And so God saw to it that the kingdom passed over to the Medes and the Persians. And the Persian

Empire appeared on the scene and dominated the world, it was the greatest empire in the world, but they wouldn't acknowledge God's government either, and so in due time along came Alexander the Great and conquered them and then the Greco-Macedonian empire was set up.

But in the meantime, Rome was beginning to grow in the west and Rome was coming along farther east and gobbling up more and more territory all the time and of course the old Macedonian-Grecian empire was divided into 4 divisions after Alexander's death and one by one the Roman Empire began to come of that as Rome began to develop into an empire that swallowed up one by one those 4 divisions until it dominated the world, now you see it was the successor, this Roman Empire was the successor politically as so far as civil government is concerned of the ancient Babylon.

Now here is this modern Babylon, the whole system is called Babylon, but here is a woman tied up with this Babylon. The Babylon is in the male gender. The Babylon is the father and the great fallen woman pictured here is the mother. Now then, verse 8: ***"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; . . . that's the ancient Roman Empire, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit..."***

The Resurrected Roman Empire

It's going to be resurrected, that's coming in our time. Now we have seen that it is yet to come that is coming, it's a prophecy, it's going to happen. It isn't here right now, it's a beast that was and is not ***[Revelation 17:11]***, it isn't now and yet it is because the germ of it's there and it's going to rise.

Now listen, it had seven heads, the seven heads are seven mountains, and the mountain is the symbol of a nation, seven nations or seven dynasties of government on which the woman sitteth.

Now there are seven kings, five are fallen, one is and the other has not yet come ***[Revelation 17:10]*** and I've given you the names of them repeatedly on this program and there is one more yet to come and it's forming right now in Europe.

If you have the eyes to see, if you can understand

world conditions and you can't understand world conditions unless you understand Bible prophecy because one-third of your Bible is prophecy and it outlines world conditions, it tells what's happening and what's going to happen and the cause of it.

God Almighty rules, He rules over the nations of men ***[Daniel 4:17, 25-26, 32, 35]***. Men don't know it today, men won't acknowledge it today. They're going to have to acknowledge it.

Now there were ten horns on this last head the same as there were the seven heads on the beast. The seventh head had ten horns on it. ***"The ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings . . ."*** ***[Revelation 17:12]***.



You see the horns are symbols, the heads are symbols. The heads are symbols, there's seven mountains that's a symbol but always you find in the Bible it's to explain it itself in the Bible that a mountain is the symbol of a kingdom or a government or a nation. Now the ten horns, there are ten kings, kings and kingdoms are used synonymously in these prophecies.

The kings or kingdoms which haven't received no kingdom as yet but receive power as kings one hour with the beast – now that's a very short time. So they're dictators, they don't inherit their kingdoms from a previous dynasty or from a father on back so they are dictators.

These have one mind and give their power and

strength unto the Beast these shall make war with the Lamb and the Lamb shall overcome them for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Lamb, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world **[John 1:29]**, He is and will be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords only and not until His second coming when all the kingdoms of this world it is pronounced in the 11th Chapter of Revelation in your Bible shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. **[Revelation 11:15-19]**

Now I want you to notice, these are only going to last a very short time and these make war with the Lamb and the Lamb shall overcome them for He's King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but there're only going to continue a short space, they're going to have power one hour **[Revelation 17:12]**, a very short space with the beast, it doesn't mean a literal hour, it means a very short time.

I've seen some people try to figure it out on the day-for-a-year basis to 15 days, well they will have that power longer than 15 days.

Every prophecy indicates it and makes it plain. But it will be a comparatively short time. I will say this: it will not be over seven years. Now and I'm not trying to set the exact time but it will not be over seven years. Now they're only going to last a short time after the resurrection of the Roman Empire.

They are going to fight Christ at His second coming **[Revelation 17:14]**. They will last then not more, that is they will come into existence not more than we'll say approximately seven years supposing it should be a very, very little more than that, it'll be a very short time prior to the second coming of Christ. So you see it is yet future it has not yet happened.

Now we have this Babylon and the whole system, as a matter of fact, my friends, listen, in a larger sense this modern Babylon, this daughter of the ancient Babylon is symbolic of our entire western way of life and civilization today.

Now I'm not speaking of what we call our American way of life in contradiction to the way of life they have in Europe, I mean something broader than that,

I'm not speaking even that specifically but there is a general way of life that we have that we call our modern civilization today, in our entire western world.



Tower of Babel

And the whole thing, my friend, is merely patterned after and is copied after the ways of the ancient Babylon and even prior to the Babylon that we call the Babylon, the Chaldean empire named after it's capital city Babylon, there's the old Babylonia way back before that and it really goes clear back to the ancient Babylonia and it goes back to the civilization that was started by Nimrod who you read of in the tenth chapter of Genesis in your Bible and his wife Semiramis and there's a great deal in the annals of history of various nations about her.

She is the original Venus, she is the original that called herself the mother of God. She is the original Easter, believe it or not that set herself up as a pagan deity and had the people worshipping her way back there hundreds upon hundreds of years before Christ. Way back in ancient history, that was the very beginning and my friends out of those roots has our modern civilization more or less developed.

I tell you my friends we need to wake up, we don't realize why we do the things we do today. We don't know where our modern customs came from. You can go to any library, you can look it up, the history, in the encyclopedia in your library you can check these things. Why is it people won't check the truth?

You know the truth isn't always present, and so we don't like to face it. We want to believe what we want to believe not what is always true. Now you just go to the library and you check up on some of these things you believe.



Why do you believe in Christmas, and New Year's and Easter for instance? Go to the libraries and check up, but write-in for our booklet on Christmas and New Year's if you want to and it'll show you where to check up. But you go to the library and check up and find out whether this is verified and whether it's truth but you read both before and after and all around it and be sure it is true. You better get a little experience in research and learn how to study because a great many people seem to have never done it.

It's seems, my friends, people don't want to use their minds. I've heard of a lot of lazy people. I've seen a lot of them. I've had to deal with a lot of lazy people. But we think of people that are lazy as physically lazy. Listen, for every man that's physically lazy that doesn't like to move his hands and arms and work with his hands or something, I want to tell you there are at least 100 people for every one of those there are another 100 people that are lazy mentally. They just don't want to think. They hate to use their minds.

The one thing that God gave you that lifts you above an animal, my friends, is a mind and God gave you

your mind to use. Why don't you people use your minds? Let's begin to use them.

Now I'm not mad at you, I'm just, am earnest that's all. Sometimes you know I think you know that what I preach and the way I say these things, some of you people think I'm really angry at everybody. No, I'm not.

I'll tell you though if you're going to know the truth it's disillusioning [*Ecclesiastes 1:18*]. When I was a young man 16-years-of-age ambition was awakened in me and a desire to try to make something of myself, a thirst for knowledge and above everything the one thing that I wanted, the one thing I craved, the one great desire of my heart and my life was to have understanding.

I wanted to just understand, you know my father used to say when I was a little boy five years old I can remember dad, I was only about five years old and my father used to be very provoked with me and he said to me and I was a little boy he said, "Herbert when you grow up I'll tell you what you're going to be..."

You know what I thought I'd be? What I wanted to be? I wanted to be a streetcar motorman. You know they had just gotten rid of the old horse cars about that time and they had the first electric street cars and they were little-bitty cars too, those little "dinkies" we used to call them, I remember. You ask any little boy five years old and he'll have some funny ideas what he's gonna be when he grows up.



Well, of course, he never is.

But I tell you what my father said I'd be, he said, "Herbert, he said, you're gonna be a Philadelphia lawyer when you grow up. He said you can ask more fool questions than any boy I ever knew."

I always did have an inquiring mind. I wanted to know all about it, I'd ask why and how and whether and everything else until my father got so tired of answering my crazy questions. Well I got information that way.

Well, I wanted understanding and especially after I passed age 16 I used to go to the libraries, I used to spend my time back in the books of the philosophy and the philosophy division and I used to love to read Socrates and Plato and epic pieces and some of the ancient philosophers and I could see that they weren't exactly right in their thinking too quite often.

So I asked for understanding, and when I came to know enough to really ask God for something I didn't ask for wisdom like Solomon or just knowledge, there is a difference, I asked for understanding. Well now God gave me a certain measure of it, I won't brag at all about how much but He did give me some and I learned this: that the more understanding you acquire the more disillusioned you're going to be.

And listen my friend, let me give you a little warning because I've had a lifetime of going through this. I asked God for understanding, He gave it.

If you ask Him for it He'll give it to you [**James 1:5-6; Proverbs 4:7**].

But listen, don't ask God for understanding unless you first ask Him for a great deal of tolerance and the kind of love that can come to a still broader understanding to understand people and have a lot of tolerance for them because your'e going to be disappointed in people when you come to really have understanding.

Now a lot of people in this world go around, they make a fetish and almost a religion of wanting to trust people. Well the Bible says put not your trust in people - don't trust any man [**Jeremiah 17:5**]. That's what your Bible teaches. The Bible teaches you to trust God, believe in God [**Mark 11:2**].

So what does the Bible teach you to do with man, your fellow man? It's what we don't want to do. It's have love for your fellow man, have charity for him. You know, he needs it and you need it from him because there's plenty wrong with you too. And you need a lot of charity from your neighbors. You see thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself [**Matthew 22:39**]. There's the great commandment but you know we think, "No I would rather trust my neighbor and then get mad at him when he



Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, age 23.

disappoints me."

Now I wanted to establish this Babylon, and this is the Babylon that's coming, well I can go just a little further I wanted to get a little bit here in the 47th and 48th chapters of Isaiah first.

Now notice here for instance let's read on to verse 11. "...thou sadist, I shall be a lady forever: . . . this is the Babylon now that is to put the yoke on Israel, so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear

this now, thou that are given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else besides me; **I shall not sit a widow neither shall I know the loss of children:** But these two things shall come to thee ...



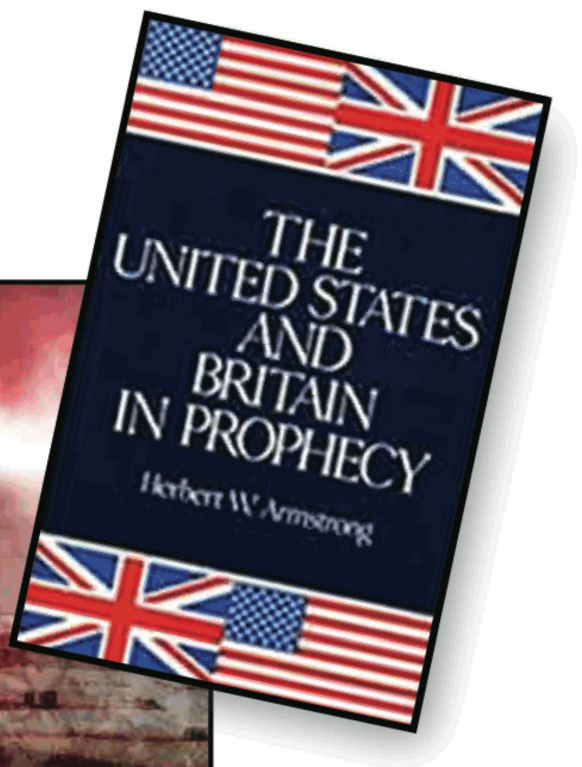
Now listen to what God says to this **Babylon**, these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood:



and they shall come upon thee in their perfection for a multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, that have perverted thee; . . . says to this modern Babylon now, **thou have saidest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. . . .** They have even rejected God and made God out of themselves.

Therefore shall evil come upon thee; and thou shall not know from whence it rises: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, when thou shalt not know." And that desolation and that thing is coming on this newly revived Europe that is coming up.

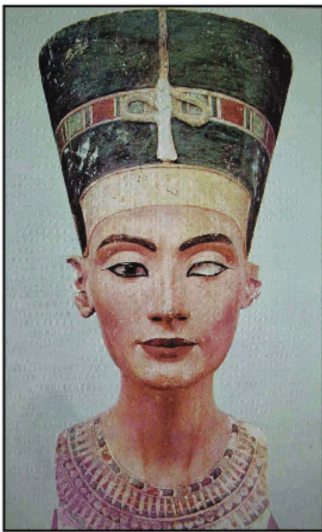
Now remember that booklet, "**The United States in Prophecy**," you can't understand prophecies without it. So until tomorrow then, goodbye friends.



What is Sin?

Continued from page 10

Let me say that I'm not criticizing you people here at all, but I'm telling the ladies in general. And it has been that way in the case of a few women in a few of the churches; not in general. A matter of fact in the churches of God all over the world as a whole we've had no problem on this issue whatsoever. But there is a problem in one or two cases. One or two women, even one or two ministers that are going to be dealt with, and God Almighty is going to deal with them, believe you me.



But, now get this; for all of the human world; "... *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life vanity is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away and the lust thereof.* ..." and the paint on a woman's face is going to pass away, it isn't going to last. You'll never get into God's

Kingdom with it.

No one in God's kingdom is going to have to paint a face. I'll tell you why. Your face is going to shine like the very sun, why dull it with a lot of paint? No, they won't do it. No one is going to want to. ***"The world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth..."*** it gets down to doing but it starts with an attitude of mind that inspires the doing and then you act on it. We have to think and we have to act according to the thinking and the mind must direct what we do, our actions. And sin is when that action, that thought conceives into a wrong action. I'm trying to get down to the Biblical definition of sin and just what is sin [1 John 3:4]. It is a spiritual thing. ***"The world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."*** I might read a little more right here.

18 *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come..."* you see it is the last time; we are in the last days now. We're in the very last days. "... ***even now are there many antichrists...*** well the world's full of them, all false religions; ***whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us."***

Liberalism within the Church of God

Now, many went out on this very question of, what is sin, not necessarily just on make-up alone, that's only one, but on the whole thing in general. It just isn't the split up of the church back in 1974 and the liberalism that was coming into God's church.

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us..."

I can't understand why some that I love so much have gone out from us. And I have to read this and say well, they just probably were not really with us, or they wouldn't have gone out. That's what God says. Can I say, 'Well, God, you're wrong? That's not true,' Well, God, says here in plain language: "... ***for if they had been of us, they would not have no doubt would have continued with us but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*** All together of us. They just were not.

The Bible's Definition of Sin

Now what is sin? Isn't it funny that the world doesn't know? I said this before and I want to say it once again, just even if I do repeat and need this for emphasis and sometimes some of these things need to be emphasized a little, so we remember them. We seem to forget so easily

I was in Springfield, Oregon. Now that's a little town that adjoins Eugene, Oregon, and our group was across the river. Anyway it just adjoins Eugene. And I'd gone over to see someone to ask a question for Bible study or something.

At that time there was an evangelist from Los Angeles that drove certain cars; they bought second hand Cadillac's, I believe they were. And they had painted in Old English Type that looked religious you know, they made it look churchified, religious; certainly I think it was scriptures or looked like it was scriptures that were religious.

And they had a tent pitched there in Springfield and they were trying to get me to come to his meeting. Now he had about five or six young men of college age; I'd say 21 or 22 years of age. And each one of them had a Bible. And they were going by on the street, accosting everyone on the street, and one of them accosted me. He stopped me and wanted me to come to the meeting that night. I said, 'Well, I said, "Does your minister preach repentance from sin?"

"Oh, yes sir, yes sir," he said.

Well what do you mean, what do you repent of?

What is it you quit doing? **What is sin?**

Well, Christ died for our sins.

I said, "Well yes, I know that. I've heard that before, but I said, "I want a definition. Is there somewhere in the Bible that says sin is...just like a dictionary gives the definition and of what it is?" Well, he said, "Christ died for our sins."

I said, "**Well, that's not giving me the definition.**"

Well, a crowd began to gather around us and pretty soon another one of the other young fellows a half a block away and he came running over, and he couldn't give me an answer. And then another one came, and he couldn't get an answer and he ran and brought the evangelist himself there.

And I said to the evangelist, "I won't come to your meeting unless you know what sin is and what I have to quit doing. **What is sin?** What have I got to repent of? What do I have to turn away from? **I want a Bible definition.** Now I" said, "Mister, I know that you know and I don't think you want to tell me." He just got angry and turned and told all of his men to come on away from this man.

By this time there was quite a crowd around there, and they all laughed. You know what I said? I said, "Well, he wouldn't give me the Bible definition. I know that he knew, but he wouldn't tell me because he didn't believe it. He preaches just the opposite of what the Bible says. I said, "Would you like to know what the Bible says?" "Oh yes," they said, they would. "Well, I said you know," I said, "I just happen to have a Bible here with me in my briefcase."

So I got out the Bible and I turned to **1 John 3:4.**

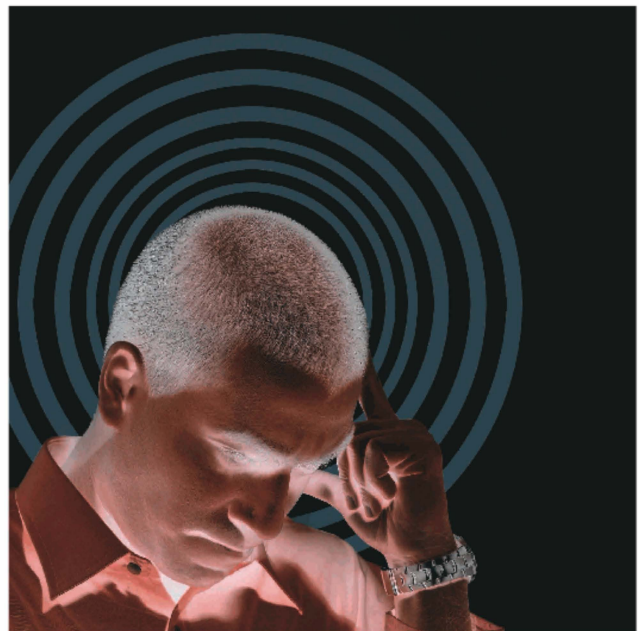
Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. Now he said Christ nailed the law to the cross so you don't have to obey the law. So, Christ did away with sin. I

said, "That's why that man wouldn't answer me;" and they all looked. Well, that man didn't have a very big crowd that night. It was spread all over the town and people just didn't go to see him.

And I just showed them right there in the Bible. And they said, "Well when someone knows what's in the Bible... I said, these fellows, they start to run don't they. Well, he certainly did. He certainly did.

Sin an Attitude of Mind that leads to Transgression

What is sin? Sin is the way Adam chose and he rejected the law of God and the whole law of God is an attitude of mind that goes into the action that following that attitude and doing their own way.



It is a way of life. It is self, it is vanity, **it is the way of get;** I love me, but I want to have and I want to acquire and I want to exalt myself. I want to glorify myself, or a woman says I want to make myself more beautiful than God did. Or, I want to look good in the light, in the sense of others, or maybe, I don't want to appear better than others.

You know, the funny thing, I know a man that I knew very, very well many, many years ago. And you know I've never heard him swear or say anything like that in my life. And then I've known him for many, many years. And once I was over at his place and he was doing his own work on his car. He had a lot of things

apart on his car and doing his own mechanical work. And a couple of the neighbors came by and they started using slang and profanity. And this man for the first time in my life I heard him use profanity. He was ashamed not to use it. He knew that I stood for God's way and that that was, well very unpleasant to me. But he did not want to have those fellows think he was better than they were. It's the same thing, well some people say, well I'm no angel. They bragged about it. They want the world to think I'm as bad as they are. What gets into people? It is human nature that I want the world to think I am like they are. This man began swearing a blue streak and I never heard him swear before in my life. He was ashamed not to in front of the other guys and did use profanity.

Why is it that some people will brag about how evil they are? You don't hear any of these teenagers growing up brag about how they are righteous and they don't do those things in front of other kids. They just don't do it.

Physical Sin

Now, talking about this thing, sin: There is both physical sin and spiritual sin and many even of our ministers don't seem to understand that. And many people in the church don't seem to understand that.

The penalty of physical sin is physical sickness or debility of some kind and pain and suffering that is physical. Now, physical sin is transgressing the law that normally that operate in the body that God started functioning and working. He started you breathing from the first breath when you were born. You keep on breathing and your hearts been pumping ever since. Your heart has not missed. It might miss a half a beat, or a beat once in a while, but it goes right on. You've never missed very many or you wouldn't be here today.

There is a law that works in your body. There are a number of systems in the body: the digestive system, the elimination system, the nervous system, many different systems in the human body and God devised them all and He designed them. It's a marvellous mechanism. No machine man has ever designed and made is as marvellous. That's something to go along with **[Psalm 139:14]**.

Now it isn't always that you have committed a sin. You haven't always done it intentionally, and maybe you didn't know it, and maybe you caught a germ that brought transgression of the physical laws of your body. Maybe it was a contagious something from someone else. It might have been in the water you drink. I think that's what happened to me when I was nineteen years old and I had Typhoid Fever; the only time in my life when I went to a hospital. But it is a physical sin, and the penalty is physical suffering and of course it could result finally in this physical death too, or the cessation of this physical existence. **Spiritual Sin**

Now there is spiritual sin. And the penalty of spiritual sin is not the first death even, but the second death. The first death is appointed to all man once to die. As in Adam all die. Not because of your own sin but, as in Adam all die. So, in Christ shall all be made alive by a resurrection, but that's speaking of the Great White Throne Judgment resurrection.

The penalty of physical sin is physical suffering. It's a physical penalty. The penalty of spiritual sin is death or the loss of spiritual life. Now you don't have spiritual life and the penalty is that you will die even the second time because you finally will just expire. But most people think its sin in the spiritual sense. So, it is the transgression of the spiritual law of God that we think is sin. I'm taking it from the spiritual point of view.

Now spiritual sin is the violation of the principle; I want you to get this brethren. You have never seemed to get it. Now the principle of love, of out flowing love first to God, and then to neighbor.

A woman for example who exalts herself, through the lust of the eyes, and what she sees in the mirror, and what she thinks others are going to see. And the desire to be like the world and to go along with the world. That is spiritual sin! S-I-N! **And the penalty is eternal death! The second death!** Did I say that loud enough so you get it? I hope I did.

The spiritual law is applied by the principle of the law not by so many laws that said this specifically is wrong, that specifically is wrong. Now there again they want to say well, they want to live with a specific law.

I explained in the article that I wrote that every policeman is required to enforce six times as many laws, specific laws of do's and don'ts if he's even able to memorize and keep in his mind. Man's law gets down to every little detail and I mentioned that I was reminded of the cartoon of many years ago—there ought to be a law. And every day someone came out with there ought to be a law about this or make another law for every little specific thing. No, God just has one general rule of love, and from there on He goes on, and you apply the principle. You apply that principle of sin.

Now, I want you to notice in **Romans 7:14** ***"The law is spiritual."*** I'm talking about the spiritual law when you talk about spiritual sin, the law is spiritual.

Now, in **2 Corinthians 3:1** where Paul says, ***"Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation for you, or that is recommendations or some certificate, or something of the kind, or letters of commendation from you? 2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not in ink . . . now notice it, not by the letter written in ink by a certain word, but with the Spirit of the living God . . . just by the Spirit, getting down to the real principle of the thing involved; not in tables of stone . . . where every little detail is written out; and the tables of stones there are referred to the tables that were written on stones not with the Ten Commandments written on the two carved tables of stone, but written on whole stones; the physical laws, the ritual laws of Ancient Israel.***

If you turn back to it and read it: . . . but in fleshy tables of the heart. 4 And such trust we have through Christ toward God: 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; 6 who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit maketh alive. 7 For if the ministration at death, written and

engraven on stones, on all stones as glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of His countenance; which glory was to be done away : 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?"

So, we come to the ministration of the spirit. In other words, we go by the spirit of the law instead of the letter of the law. I want to explain that.



Now, I had an example of that and I've used it time and again. Many of you have heard this two or three times maybe. Some of you have not heard it at all before. But when my daughters were in Junior High, or it might have been about eighth grade, I don't know. My older daughter Beverly was inclined to read a great deal; she was reading a lot of fiction books. And I received a letter from her teacher that she was reading so much fiction, and she'd read late at night; read a whole book through. It was hurting her eyes and it was her mind also, and was interfering with her school work. So, she was getting all those books from the school library. And I said, "Beverly, you'll just have to quit taking any more of those books home from the library. I don't want you to read them. All of this reading is hurting your eyes and it's hurting you; you've got to stop reading so much." Yes, daddy.

Well, she was the daughter that my wife used to always say didn't need punishment that you could just reason with her. So, she didn't get any punishment of course. But the very next day, in the evening

I noticed her reading a book. I looked and she was half way through that book already. I said, "Is this another book of fiction?" Well, yes daddy. Well, I thought I told you not to read any more of these books, Beverly. Well daddy, you said not to bring any more books home from the library. I didn't get this book at the library; I borrowed this book from Helen; that makes it alright. She was going by the letter of the law, not the spirit. The spirit is the obvious meaning and intent, the principle involved; you get the idea?

When I was first converted in the spring of 1927; I don't think any of you were converted prior to that time. Maybe some were, some may have been, but I doubt it that are here.

The Smoking Habit

I began to think: is smoking wrong? Now, at that time women didn't smoke yet. Today women have a harder time getting rid of smoking than men, but at that time women hadn't started it yet. They hadn't started the advertising campaign.

First they started advertising women right with a man who was smoking, and the woman she enjoyed the second hand smoke.

And she came to approve of him smoking. And a little later it showed a woman just taking one puff on that cigarette, and she enjoyed it. And then the first thing you know they were having pictures of women smoking, and then all began to do it. That's how subtly the advertising men changed the habit of women, and they begin to do something that is harmful to their bodies; harmful to the minds. That's the way of the

world; leading you into it. Well, I began to say what is the principle? Does the Bible say "Thou shalt not smoke?" Now, we've had ministers in the church, they've gone out from among us now. They've said, "Well, if the Bible doesn't say thou shalt not smoke, then it's alright." But, they apply the same principle to make-up, for example.

The Bible does not say specifically though shalt not use make-up, but, make-up is a sin. Now the Bible isn't going to say anything of the sort. It doesn't say anything about smoking. I admit, why do I do it? What is the principle? What is the principle of God's law? It is love toward God and love toward neighbor. It's away from self. It's loving God and love toward neighbor, or concern for the neighbor's welfare. Now, do I smoke to please God? No, I don't. Do I smoke to please other people? No, I don't. I do it because its habit and other people do it, and I want to be like them. Maybe some people enjoy smoke second hand, but a lot of others don't.

What about self. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? You never loved yourself enough to take care of yourself. It's the temple of the Holy Spirit. God says, ***"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? And the***

Spirit of God dwells in you." And you must take care of it. That's why we love our selves even in the righteous manner.

Well, I didn't know that it would bring on lung cancer. I don't think anybody knew it back in 1927. But I did know something of the function of the lungs, and I knew that smoke going into the lungs



was harmful. Now some might say, 'Now, I don't inhale.' But, you still get some of it in the lungs. And I did inhale. I didn't smoke very much. I had a few cigarettes, not three packs a day, just only three little cigarettes. So, I haven't had any problem in quitting, but I had to decide what to do. So, I quit smoking, and that's why there's no smoking in the church. God put it in the church through me in that manner. I applied the principle of the law of God. That's the way we decide what is sin.

Well, some people once said, "Isn't it alright? Isn't it OK under this circumstance? How can we get away with it? How close can we go to Satan's way? Isn't Satan's way better after all than God's way?" Now, smoking is Satan's way, brethren. No getting around it. Don't tell me it's God's way; God never told anyone to do it. Do you think Satan's way is better? Well, I'm wasting my breath on this church because you don't need that here, but most churches do. Now, I want you to get the principle just the same.

The Magnification of God' Law

Now, Jesus magnified the law [*Isaiah 42:21*]. The law is a principle. You don't have to get down to every specific thing. You know the principle of law and apply it to circumstance.

Now, let's take one example; what Jesus said back in the beatitudes of *Matthew 5:17* first, where He said, ***"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."***

The law and prophets meant the Old Testament writings. Verse **21**; now He takes the literal law. Under the old covenant they were under the letter of the law, but they had these specific things to do morning, noon, and night. They were only a temporary substitute for the Holy Spirit.

Today we have the Holy Spirit and we don't need the substitute. So, that law figuratively is done away, but the spiritual law is not. Now He said, "[You] ***have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill . . . now that's one of the spiritual laws; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment."***

Now notice how Christ magnified that law. How He

applied the principle, not just the letter. **22** ***"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."*** **He magnified the law.**



It went a lot farther than just the letter of actually killing the man and his wife and son killing the man to his wife and son. It went a lot farther.

Now, in **verse 27**. ***"Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time . . . now, going back to when they had the letter of the law, Thou shalt not commit adultery . . . Unless you are caught in the very act and it wasn't adultery, but you apply the principle. 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already with her in his heart."***

He magnified that law and expanded the principle. You don't have to get down to the literal letter. And people want to get to the letter and if they can't get a simple letter, they say then it's OK. Well, would you rather go Satan's way? Do you think that's a better way to live for all eternity? Satan's going to live with it for all eternity, and he's the most unhappy, uncomfortable, mixed-up mind in all the universe.

Yardstick Religion

Let's see how time is going. I haven't had enough time for a lot of the things that I wanted to say, but I'd like to read something that Mr. Dean Blackwell

gave me just a day or so ago on 'A Majoring in the Minors.' He said, "This term began to be used about the time of the 1973-74, blow up in the church."

Apparently it was a reaction to yardstick religion, which had prevailed in skirt lengths, hair lengths, bell bottom jeans, music controversies, and Talmudic approach to drawing the line, or spelling it out in musicians.

That of getting down to every little detail of the - you can, and you can't and getting every shade meaning. But true to human nature, habit of some went into the ditch on the other side, from the previous ditch; on the ultra-legalism.

The Observance of Birthdays

Quote, "majoring in the minors", unquote, began to be used to refer to those in the circle of old school, which meant my teaching, on which the church was founded; and God used to build this church; who were split about birthdays. Now, I found in the Bible that God's people did not observe birthdays, but the world did. And the Bible gives us an example to follow. So, I said in the church we do not observe birthdays.

Now, we don't have to get down to every little picky thing, its' just a general principle. There's a general rule why the world observes birthdays and why we don't. We don't observe the birthday of Christ, the Bible nowhere tells us to. Or, us the date of His birth, but it does give us the day of His death. And we celebrate His death, why? Because His death cleared up our record and wiped our sins clean, and reconciled us to God so we can have eternal life. And God wants us to remember that; and remember the price that was paid. That was His death.

The second and third tithe is an absolute law for all.



It is God's way. And if we want to do God's will we will do it, and so it is a doctrine of the church.

Healing: being an absolute promise and law of God. **[James 5:14-15] "Any sick among you let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him and anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayers of faith shall heal the sick. And the Lord shall raise him up and if they have committed sins they shall be forgiven."** Is that a definite promise? Yes! And yet someone said there's no definite promise so we can go to the world's way, of doctors and medicines.



Brethren, I want to get as far away from Satan as I can get. But we have had ministers in this church who want to get as close to Satan as they can get, and as far away from God as they can get, and still think they're going to kid themselves of getting into the kingdom of God. You'll never do it in that way. Healing—being an absolute promise; I read that, of God without trust in doctors, except in limited areas; Children staying totally out of Christmas artwork and activities, make-up, etc, etcetra.

The knowledge about our identity of Israel was not the key to understanding the Bible prophecy. They wanted, in other words, there was there for a while, that I wrote, that established this church that built this church on a solid foundation!

They wanted to knock out that solid foundation and put a foundation of sand under the Church and destroy the Church. Now, most of them went out in 1974 and they haven't been in the church since.

There's been a rebel movement in the church even since that time, and we've been getting away from that and back on the track since.

You were majoring in the minors if you smoke; on health foods, on prohibition, and prohibited anything to do with birthday parties.

I insisted on modest apparel among the women, and extraordinary Hollywood stuff that is unseemly, and no long hair among the boys and men. The Bible says even nature should teach you it's a shame for the man to have long hair. So, it is a doctrine of this church that our men must not have long hair. Do I have to spell it out? Or, do we want in our hearts to have the spirit of wanting to obey God? You know God; I didn't want to have to go farther than I have to.

Partially Obeying God

They want to partially obey God. You turn back here to **1 Kings 11:6** about King Solomon and his son David. ***And Solomon did evil in the sight of the ETERNAL, and went not fully after the ETERNAL, as did David his father.*** David went fully after the ETERNAL. He didn't say, well, I don't want to go fully after God's way. I just want to go as far as I have to.

Brethren, God's way is to go wholly after God's way, spiritually. It's an attitude. Where is your attitude? What do you really want in your heart?

Now then; God says in **Revelation 18:4** to us, come out of Babylon and that is this world and this world's religion. ***"Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues."*** I don't want to see you people be partakers of the plagues that God is going to visit on Babylon because of her sins if you get into them. Now then, here's what God tells me: God says, you come out of Babylon. What does He say to me and to our preachers? ***Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet . . . I lift up my voice now and then my brethren, I do, and show My people . . . God says, their sins . . . or their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins."*** And we are the house of Jacob, and we found that out.

A Letter from a Lady

I wanted to read you a letter that I have received from a lady from South Africa, but there isn't time. So, I must close it with that. And she's a very nice

lady from South Africa, and how her mind was opened and she sees that it is the right way, the spirit of wanting to please God and do the things that are pleasing to Him.

Some say, "Well, but what is the husband, what is the unconverted husband, we have to consider what he thinks. Maybe the wife should wear make-up if he wants her to." I can't understand why any man would want his wife to wear make-up, but some do. I don't understand it, I never did. I never did. I don't see how paint on a face makes that face even more beautiful. And when I kiss, I don't want to kiss a lot of paint and lipstick, either one. I just don't.

Getting Back on Track

Brethren, if we keep getting back on the track, and getting to God's way, and realize that sin is the attitude of wanting to please God. And what about that letter: I'd have liked to have read it. What about teenage girls coming to church? Do we put them out because they have a little lipstick on? We must think of them. What about them? But we mustn't think about God and what does He think. Oh, no, we mustn't think about that must we? Well, let's think about what concerns God and Christ, and what does He think about it? I put my daughter out of church when she came with lipstick on one day years ago. I've tried to set you an example, brethren. I've tried to set an example. I say again, ***"Be ye followers of me even as I follow Christ" [1 Corinthians 11:1].*** They always want to consider the unconverted husband, the unconverted child. Let's rear up a child in the way he ought to go and when he is old he won't depart from it ***[Proverbs 22:6]***. Let's think of God's way.

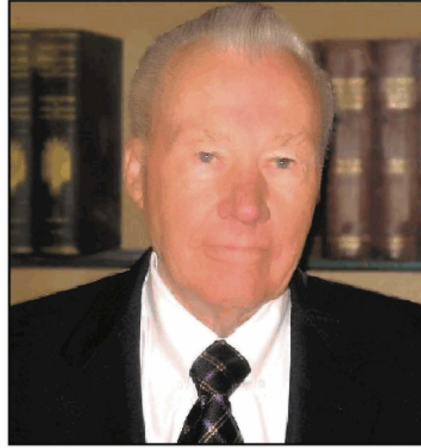
Too many ministers are only concerned about what will people say, and I don't want to offend people. They don't think about what does God say and we don't want to offend God. Let's look about what God says about it and go His way. Are you with me? I think you are, brethren. Thank you very much.

A very small amount was edited out of this sermon due to the length of it while trying to fit it in the magazine. However the continuity of the subject has not been affected. For those who would like to receive the complete sermon are encouraged to write and request it from us. Edited by Alton (Don) Billingsley.

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

“The Falling Away”



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

“Now, brethren. concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together . . . Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will NOT come unless the FALLING AWAY COMES FIRST.”

II Thessalonians 2:3

Though Jesus Christ has made it very plain through this Scripture, when the Falling Away was to occur, there are those who have used human reason for the timing of it, and who it was, that fell away in an erroneous teaching.

A serious study of the Holy Scriptures reveals the TRUTH by Jesus Christ through the guidance and understanding of His Holy Spirit of TRUTH (***John 16:13***).

An Overview of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians

To understand the ***TIMING*** of the falling away, and ***WHO*** it was that fell away, it is needful to keep in context the running theme as seen in both these two books. For throughout each one the Apostle Paul

wrote of the prophetic happenings of the end-time.

1st Thessalonians 1, the Apostle Paul encouraged the members to endure persecution and to patiently wait for the coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth. The theme continues and leads into the ***4th chapter***

in which he wrote of the resurrection of the dead and the change of those who will be living at that time; and all will meet together with Christ in the clouds of heaven (***4:13-18***).

In the ***5th chapter***, he wrote Christ's coming would catch many in spiritual darkness, but the Elect people of Christ would have the needed understanding by being in the LIGHT of the true teachings of Christ and clinging faithfully to them (***5:1-8***).

The close of this first book makes known the timing:

“But concerning the times and the seasons (*the prophesied events to occur shortly before the Day of the Lord and the resurrection*), brethren, you have no need that I should write you. For yourselves know perfectly that THE DAY OF THE LORD so comes as a thief in the night—

“For when they say, ‘Peace and safety (*as did Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Britain who returned from a meeting with Hitler just prior to war breaking out with empty promises, saying “Peace in our time!”*)!’ then **SUDDEN DESTRUCTION comes upon them (*blitzkrieg nuclear warfare, Ezekiel 7:14*), as labor pains upon a pregnant woman (*Jeremiah 30:4-7* – the time of Jacob’s trouble). **And they shall NOT escape**” (*I Thessalonians 5:1-3*).**



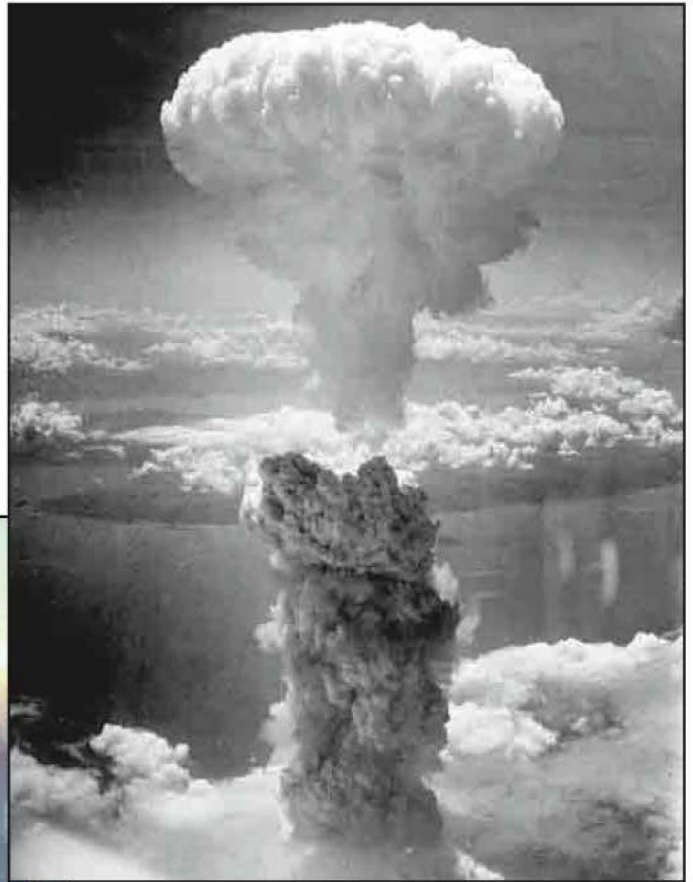
“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this (coming) Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness” (*I Thessalonians 5:4-5*).

II Thessalonians

The same theme continues as the Apostle Paul wrote of the coming of Jesus Christ in this second book:

“... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in **Flaming Fire**

taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . when He comes in that Day, to be glorified in His saints. . .” (*II Thessalonians 1:1-9, 11-12*).



The Apostle Paul’s prayer was that God would make His people worthy of His calling.

Both of these books lead up to the specific events that must take place preceding the coming of Jesus Christ by just a few short years as the context clearly shows when studying closely each verse in the **2nd chapter**.

“The Falling Away”

“Now, brethren, concerning THE COMING OF THE LORD and our gathering together to Him (*I Thessalonians 4:13-18*), we ask you (beg or plead), brothers, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word, (a demon or from man) or by letter, as if from us, as though the Day of Christ had come— (*II Thessalonians 2:1-2*).

Scripture Reveals the 'Falling Away' Takes Place Twice

"Let no one DECEIVE YOU by any means; for that Day WILL NOT COME UNLESS (until) the 'FALLING AWAY' (Greek: apostasia—meaning the falling away from the teachings of the apostle, II Timothy 4:1-2) COMES FIRST, and the Man of Sin (lawlessness) is REVEALED (come to see who he really is - an instrument of Satan the devil: II Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4; II Corinthians 11:13-15), the son of (that causes) destruction— (II Thessalonians 2:3).

Two Men of Sin

This Scripture has a dual meaning: it reveals the **Man of Sin** as being both the lessor type of the greater **Man of Sin**, who brought about the destruction of the Worldwide Church of God (1986-1994); and the **Greater Man of Sin** who will soon be revealed to the world via of his miracles and direct association with the Beast who will then head the Revived Roman Empire and will be used by Satan to destroy the House of Israel (*Revelation 13:11-15*).

The Lessor and Greater Man of Sin

When considering the similarity of the lessor human type (*King of Tyre - in Ezekiel 28:11-12*) that is lifted to the greater spirit anti-type, Lucifer, one can see the same is true between verses **3** and **4** of II Thessalonians. This shows the lessor type of the man of sin lifted to the greater antitype Man of Sin, the Pope himself, as is clearly made known in the following Scripture:

"Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself as God (The apostate pastor-general didn't call himself God; the Pope will) - (II Thessalonians 2:4).

"Do you NOT remember that while I was with

you I used to tell you this? So now you know THE POWER (the God-given power of authority of the office of the apostle) that is holding him back (Satan's Man of Sin), so that he is unveiled at his appointed time (meaning a particular time of becoming the head of the church, and fully unveiled as to who he really was in December 1994)— (II Thessalonians 2:5-6, Wms. Trans).

Prior to January 16, 1986

"For the SECRET POWER OF LAWLESSNESS is already at work, but only until he (the apostle, the Apostle Paul then, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong before his death) who is HOLDING IT BACK has been gotten out of his way" (II Thessalonians 2:7).

The Underground Conspiracies

The conspiracies to overthrow the office of the apostle began during the closing years of the life of

Mr. Armstrong; they began in earnest and out into the open after his death. Any unbiased long-time member will remember there were those who continued trying to take the Church off-track doctrinally while Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was visiting Heads of State internationally up to 300 out of 365 days a year. They were successful in part but not fully while God's apostle remained alive.

Upon returning to Headquarters and learning what was being done he would put a stop to those trying to derail the Church of God doctrinally, but would leave on another visit and the dirty work would begin again. Liberalism was alive during those years among the unconverted ministers and members alike especially so regarding Sabbath observance.

But due to the timing of the need of fulfilling the prophecy of the '*Falling Away*' within the Worldwide Church of God, the time came for Mr. Armstrong to die; and he did January 16, 1986. The lessor type of the Man of Sin replaced him as the Pastor General, but not as an apostle. Mr. Armstrong would not give him this office through ordination or verbally.



The Major Man of Sin, the Pope

Though the Apostle Paul continues to write about the lesser man of sin, he then focuses more fully on the man of the end-time who will soon have the whole Christian world falling at his feet in worship:

“Then the representative of lawlessness will be uncovered, and the Lord Jesus will destroy him (the lesser type by an extremely painful cancerous death nine years later- this Scripture also speaks of the Pope who will be killed by Christ at His coming) with the breath of His mouth and put a stop to his operations by His appearance and coming (the greater man of sin, II Thessalonians 1:7), that is, the representative of lawlessness, whose coming is in accordance with the working (active planning) of Satan, with his plentitude of power and pretended (illusionary) signs and wonders (Revelation 13:13-14), and with a completely wicked deception for men who are on the way to destruction, BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO LOVE THE TRUTH so as to be saved. This is TILL they actually believe what is false, so that all who have REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE TRUTH but have CHOSEN unrighteousness might instead be condemned” (II Thessalonians 2:8-12, Williams Trans.)

Needed Scriptural Context

“Some saying the Day of the Lord is already here” (II Thessalonians 2:2 Wms. Trans.)— For needed understanding this Scripture should be in context with verse five—**“Do you not remember that while I was with you I used to tell you this?”** - speaking of the closing few years of this age, as other Scriptures in this chapter and elsewhere makes clear to the unbiased reader.

The timing of the initial ‘Falling Away’ can be found in Verse Seven:

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work, but only until he who is holding it back has been gotten out of the way. Then the representative of lawlessness will be uncovered . . .” (II Thessalonians 2:7-8).

This makes known that because of the continued life of the apostle this could not take place for he stood in the way of it until his death took place on January 16, 1986.

Immediately Satan the devil began using this leader and his administration to dismantle the rulings and doctrinal teachings that had been taught by God’s late apostle for over 52 years of his lifetime ministry and replacing them with Catholic and Protestant teachings.

And after eight years of his leadership the Worldwide Church of God (1986-1994), virtually the total membership accepted his pagan teachings and fell away with him in early 1995 by believing his teaching that all of God’s laws had been done away!

The secondary falling away will soon take place and it will be the final one as made known by the Prophet Daniel:

“And when the power of the holy people has been COMPLETELY SHATTERED, all these things shall be finished” (Daniel 12:7).

Wolves Waiting in the Wings

In his last sermon during the Feast of Trumpets, 1985, Mr. Armstrong spoke of the wolves that were waiting for him to die.



However Jesus Christ had blinded Mr. Armstrong to the real danger to the Church of God. He thought

the wolves would be coming from those who had been disfellowshipped from the Church not realizing the grave problem to the Church was INSIDE the Church—a Simon Magus type of man who had the confidence of Mr.

Armstrong.

This is evident for Mr. Armstrong would never have named this man to replace him had he really known Satan would use this man to destroy the Corporate Worldwide Church of God.



Satan knew better than to begin using this man for his destructive purpose against the Church as long as Mr. Armstrong was alive.

After his death Satan began using this man to subtly and gradually begin destroying the rulings and teachings that were not popular with the membership; and they were met with great happiness. It was all downhill from there though it took eight years to completely destroy all of the commandments and teachings Christ had used Mr. Armstrong to restore within His Church in the minds of the many thousands of members.

Approximate Membership Numbers

The Church of God membership in early 1995 totalled somewhere close to 150,000 (including children). Out of approximately 100,000 members, in round numbers, possibly 25,000 went back to their former churches or gave up on religion altogether. Possibly 75,000 remained with the Apostates.

Approximately 50,000 ended up in the Corporate Churches that had either begun forming prior to 1995, or after that year.

Out of that number there were possibly seven thousand true and faithful members who scattered in different directions (***Daniel 12:7; Romans 11:4-5***).

These Scriptures make known the '***Falling Away***' prophesied by God was to take place in the closing years of the end-time. This will continue to be proved to the unbiased mind in this writing.

Who was it that 'Fell Away'?

In 1958-1959, an evangelist in the Worldwide Church of God wrote a series of articles in which he believed the Falling Away had to do with the time of the Protestant Reformation that began with Martin Luther breaking away from the Catholic Church in 1517.

In those articles he used the Scriptural writings of the Apostle John to the Thyatira Church of God Era to support his theory.

Though it has already been established by the Scriptures in II Thessalonians 2, the 'Falling Away' took place within the Worldwide Church of God around the Passover time in 1995; additional proof can be seen from the Thyatira Era when we consider where we are now in time that was not understood in 1958-1959.

The Thyatira Era of the Church of God

"Thyatira – the Compromising Church of God Era" 1104-1600s A. D.

Now we will consider God's letter to the Thyatira Era that were used to base his belief that what was written in it had to do with the Protestant Reformation (***Revelation 2:20-22***).

While keeping in mind what did take place in very recent years within the Worldwide Church of God, it becomes easy to see that the 'falling away' had nothing to do with the Protestant Reformation, but rather the Worldwide Church of God.

To clearly make this understood there is a need to explore these verses a little further in view of what has taken place in the ongoing Church of God history.

Three things to remember:

- 1) This letter is addressed to the Church of God.
- 2) The context of this writing to this Church of God Era is the compromising of the true teachings of the Church with the Catholic and Protestant Pagan Teachings just as did the apostate pastor general and his administration.
- 3) And in the closing part of this letter, Jesus Christ admonishes—**Verse 29 “He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.”**

Jesus Christ intends His chosen people to learn from each one of the Seven Church Eras while focusing on the last three Church Eras, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

With these three very important things in mind we will now consider the key verses that were, and are yet believed by some to be the Protestant Reformation, but are in Scriptural error, as can be seen from the Thyatira Era:

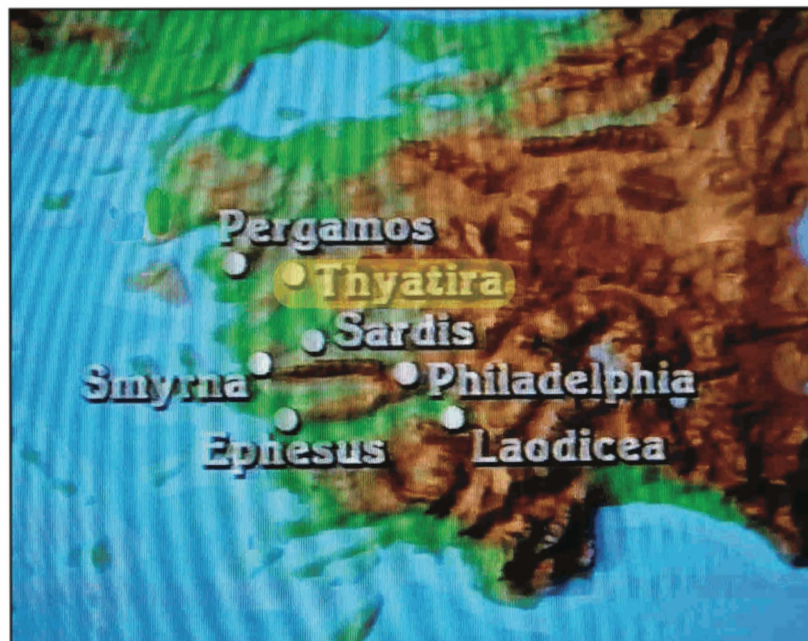
“And to the angel of the Church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: I know your works, and charity, and service, and faith, and your patience, and as for your works; the last are more than the first’ ([HYPERLINK "javascript:void\(0\)" \o "View scripture" Revelation 2:18-19](#)).

Please note—this letter with its contents is addressed to the Church of God in Thyatira!

“Nevertheless I have a few things against you (the Church of God), because you allow (tolerate) that woman Jezebel], who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to beguile [seduce to entice and lead astray by persuasive teachings, promises, flattery] My servants to commit sexual immorality (in contrast, Revelation 14:4-5), and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” (demons, I Corinthians 10:20, Revelation 2:20).

Jezebel – the Patroness of Baal-worship has her sinister antitype during the time of the promised Elijah of today as she was in real life to the ancient Prophet Elijah (**I Kings 18:13-19**).

Experimental Commentary, volume 6, pages 664-665 (excerpts): “The symbolical Jezebel was to Thyatira, what Jezebel Ahab’s wife, was to him, powerfully influencing for evil that Church as Jezebel did Ahab [**I Kings 21:25**], a woman of power and influence who corrupted the true religion and harassed the followers of God in that city as Jezebel did in Israel.”



Clarke Commentary, volume 6, page 981, “Fornication and eating things offered in sacrifice were matters of indifference, and thus they were SEDUCED from the truth. It is probable that by fornication here is meant idolatry which is often its meaning in the Scriptures.”

It was during the Middle Ages, 1104-

1600s, that Jesus Christ wrote of **the gravity** of this danger to the Thyatira Church of God Era by naming the ancient infamous Jezebel, and her daughters, personified by the Catholic and Protestant Churches, as being evident and witnessed by others during that time by the very same diabolical teachings and practices.

“And I gave her time [space of time that is yet ongoing] to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not (Greek: “willed not” to repent of her fornication] (Revelation 2:21).

This was not written for that Church Era alone, but written for all of God’s people then and now.

“Indeed I will cast her (the Church of God, WWCG) into a sickbed (due to false ministers reigning over the Church and she became sick spiritually), and those who commit adultery with her (members accepting false ministers and pagan teachings in part or in whole thereby prostituting themselves) into (the) **Great Tribulation (Compare Romans 2:8-9), unless they repent of their deeds” (Revelation 2:22).**



“And I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall (come to) know that I am He who searches the reins and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works” (Revelation 2:23).

“And I will kill her children with death” > Corporate churches of God borne of their mother, the apostate Worldwide Church of God, who have accepted either in part or fully her pagan protestant teachings, while rejecting the restored teachings of Jesus Christ through His Apostle and Elijah to come, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. (**Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11**).

“But to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira (the faithful), as many as do not have this doctrine, they call them; I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.

And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him will I give power over the nations– He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces– as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star’ ” (Revelation 2:24).

Before continuing to prove through the Scriptures and prophecies of the end-time, when and who fell away, first consider an overview of the Protestant Reformation – people who were never true people of God by not having His Holy Spirit:

Protestant Reformation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Protestant Reformation** was the 16th-century [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schism_\(religion\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schism_(religion))" \o

"Schism (religion)" [schism](#) within [HYPERLINK](#)

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Christianity"

\o "Western Christianity" [Western Christianity](#)

initiated by [HYPERLINK](#)

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther" \o

"Martin Luther" [Martin Luther](#), [HYPERLINK](#)

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Calvin" \o "John Calvin"

[John Calvin](#) and other early [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestants>" \o "Protestants"

[Protestants](#). It was sparked by the 1517 posting of Luther's [HYPERLINK](#)

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninety-Five_Theses" \o

"Ninety-Five Theses" [Ninety-Five Theses](#). The efforts

of the self-described "reformers", who objected to ("protested") the doctrines, rituals, and ecclesiastical structure of the [HYPERLINK](#)

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church" \o "Roman Catholic Church"

[Roman Catholic Church](#), led to the creation of new national [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantism>"

\o "Protestantism" [Protestant](#) churches. The largest

of the new churches were the [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutherans>" \o "Lutherans"

[Lutherans](#) (mostly in [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany>" \o "Germany"

[Germany](#) and [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scandinavia>" \o "Scandinavia"

[Scandinavia](#)) and the [HYPERLINK](#)

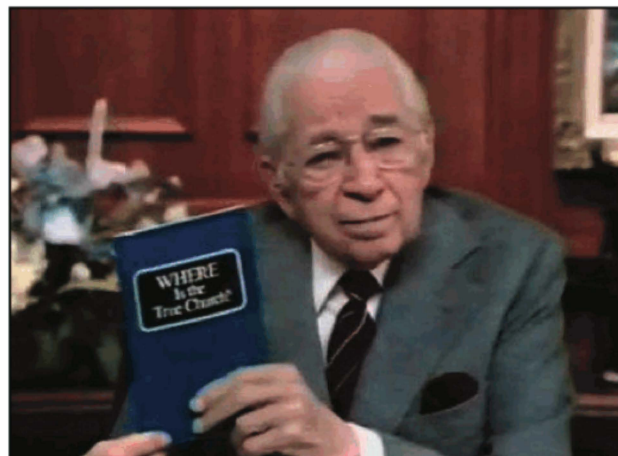
"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformed_churches" \o "Reformed churches" [Reformed churches](#) (mostly in Germany, [HYPERLINK](#) "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland>" \o "Switzerland" [Switzerland](#), the [HYPERLINK](#) "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands>" \o "Netherlands" [Netherlands](#) and [HYPERLINK](#) "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland>" \o "Scotland" [Scotland](#)). There were many smaller bodies as well. The most common dating of the Protestant Reformation begins in 1517, when Luther published [HYPERLINK](#) "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ninety-Five_Theses" \o "The Ninety-Five Theses" [The Ninety-Five Theses](#), and concludes in 1648 with the [HYPERLINK](#) "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Westphalia" \o "Treaty of Westphalia" [Treaty of Westphalia](#) that ended years of [HYPERLINK](#) "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_wars_of_religion" \o "European wars of religion" [European religious wars](#). [HYPERLINK](#) "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant_Reformation" \l "cite_note-EuanCameron-0" [1]

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

For many years Mr. Armstrong spoke of the false ministers mentioned in the holy Bible as primarily being ministers of this world. However it was not until about 1974, and later, that he began to realize the real false ministers were within the Church; they were ordained high-ranking ministers who had been within the Church and had **apostatized** themselves.

It was in 1974 the Church of God experienced a minor falling away of approximately 3,000 members and 100 ministers; however, that number was insignificant compared to the 150,000 who fell away in 1995.

Though Mr. Armstrong disfellowshipped those, and others, while he yet lived, he was unable to discern the real problems were yet within the Church of God. Jesus Christ purposely kept him blinded to these men otherwise he would not have named the apostate pastor general to replace him.



The True Church of God

Though deception and persecution indeed did come from the world's church leaders in the ongoing history of the Church of God from its inception, Scripture however reveals the apostasy would develop inside God's Church in the end-time just as it did in the early Church.

This can clearly be noted through all of the centuries unto now as revealed in the letters to the Seven Church Eras.

Cruden's Concordance: False Teachers (See also Shepherd)

Acts 20:29-31 savage wolves will come in among you...men...to draw away

1 Tim 1:5-7 teachers...understanding neither what they say nor...affirm

2 Tim 4:3-4 they will heap up for themselves teachers

Titus 1:10-16 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert (vs 11)

Jude 4 certain men have crept in unnoticed

2 Peter 2:1-3 false teachers...will secretly bring in destructive heresies

2 Peter 2:12-17 whom...gloom of darkness is reserved (vs 17) (Jude 8-13)

Though Dead, Jezebel Symbolically Yet lives

The Problems of the seductive apostasy that took place within the Worldwide Church of God parallels the problems within the Thyatira Church Era with its

seductive prophetess, Jezebel, and even more damaging are those same problems of apostasy that found a foothold, though divisive as they came to be, now exist within the Churches of God today and leading them into **martyrdom** in the **Great Tribulation**.

Previously Satan also used this ghostly-like demonic spirit, **Jezebel**, via of her diabolical pagan teachings, to enter into the Sardis Church Era and virtually brought about her death.

“Similarities”

When considering how a demon was able to create an illusion of the deceased prophet Samuel (**I Samuel 27:11-19**), one should also be able to see how Jezebel has been embodied by an evil spirit into a woman prophetess in Thyatira, Sardis, and the Worldwide Church of God.

She revealed herself symbolically via the same destructive demonic teachings in the Thyatira era as in the time of Elijah. As the result, the woman prophetess in Thyatira is named by Jesus Christ as Jezebel.

This is just another reason why the Elijah of the end-time was also to have the same name as the prophet Elijah in ancient Israel.

The Seventh Day Adventists

In this same manner, Satan the devil used this ghostly-like specter, Jezebel, via of her seductress powers of deception, to enter into the leadership of what came to be the **Seventh Day Adventist Church** formerly of the Sardis Church of God Era.

Based on numerous writings that can be found on the internet under her name, this self-styled prophetess, Ellen G. White was given many erroneous visionary teachings. Leaders and members were so caught up by her satanic teachings they wholeheartedly accepted them—just as did the members in the Worldwide Church of God.

The symbolic Jezebel of that time carried away with

her a very large group of members from the true Church Era **[Sardis]** back into the darkness of the world as she had done with ancient Israel.

A quote by an LDS Member (internet): “It is clear that Ellen White claimed that her book *The Great Controversy* was written under the guidance of i) **God**, ii) **Holy Spirit**, and iii) **angels of God**. She claims that this guidance was manifested in her visions, in which the scenes of the past were presented to her exactly as they happened, so that “they were fresh and vivid” in her mind while she wrote the book.”

Satan the Death Angel

Satan’s use of the diabolical teachings of Jezebel that are fully embodied in both the Catholic and Protestant Churches also brought about the virtual death of the Sardis Church Era via her false ministers.



Not only did they not want to accept any new truths [admitted to be true by Mr. Andrew Dugger to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *Autobiography*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Volume 1, Pages 359-362] during the past century, but instead began permitting some Protestant teachings to be accepted within their Church from false ministers.

Some of them either spoke in tongues, as do the Pentecostal Churches, or accepted those who did (*Autobiography*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Volume 1, Pages 431, 487-489).

As Jesus Christ said, the Sardis Church of God Era

has a Name (**Church of God**), but is virtually dead (**Revelation 3:1-6**).

In view of the false ministers and pagan teachings taking the Sardis Era from life to death is something to be very seriously thought about by those who have gone off-track from the true teachings of Jesus Christ as restored within the Church of God by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong.

The Worldwide Church of God

In the same manner Satan continued his deceptive work in the Corporate Worldwide Church of God after 1986.

Satan well knew Jesus Christ was using Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as His apostle with the Philadelphia Church of God Era to preach the Gospel and preparing its members for the coming of Jesus Christ (**Revelation 3:7-13**).

To seek its destruction Satan began infiltrating the Worldwide Church of God with selected wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. These were men who had either already believed some of the pagan teachings and remained quiet as long as Mr. Armstrong lived (**and some admittedly did after his death**), and others who were ripe for the receiving of the pagan teachings of the seductive Jezebel (**who symbolized the Catholic and Protestant Churches**), to destroy it. The Apostle Jude wrote of this for our time:

Jude 4 "For CERTAIN men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were MARKED OUT for this condemnation, UNGODLY MEN, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness (freedom to sin – God's laws done away) and DENY the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

These ungodly men (*wolves in sheep's clothing*) could have been likened to an implanted micro-chip within them just waiting for the right time to be activated by Satan. And immediately after the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Satan did begin to activate

his primary minister-wolf and later the other wolves to begin devouring the membership of the Worldwide Church of God.



Unpopular Rulings and Doctrine

Knowing how unpopular the rulings that were made by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong regarding women's use of Makeup and the celebration of Birthdays, the **apostate pastor general** made known his decision to disannul both of them.

Another popular decision was later made to change the belief in divine healing by saying there is no such thing as **Physical Sin**. This had a direct negative impact on eating the morsel of bread during the **Passover service**.

This was a master stroke by Satan that set up the Church to begin the dismantlement of the doctrinal teachings Jesus Christ had used His apostle to restore within His Church.

The removal of these teachings was met with great enthusiasm by the majority of the membership; they rejoiced! These decisions prepared the membership to accept all the changes in doctrinal teachings that would take place.

Slowly at first, so as not to alarm the membership, the long-established doctrinal teachings began systemically being removed and replaced by Protestant teachings with the goal of the destruction of God's Church in mind. And it happened just that way over an eight-year period of time (1986-1994).

Jezebel Opens Wide Her Seductive Arms

In December 1994, the wolves were so sure of themselves they came completely out into the open unmasking who they really were by proclaiming their heresies and saying all of God's laws had been done away. Tragically, they were believed by the majority of the membership.

They devastated the corporate Worldwide Church of God taking with them many thousands of members (*II Thessalonians 2:1-3*).

The true members fled and for the most part are yet scattered (*Daniel 12:10; Ezekiel 34; Jeremiah 23:1-2*), leaving behind, like the empty shell of a forsaken old home, the parent corporate Worldwide Church that only exists in name today having taken on another corporate name by the apostates.

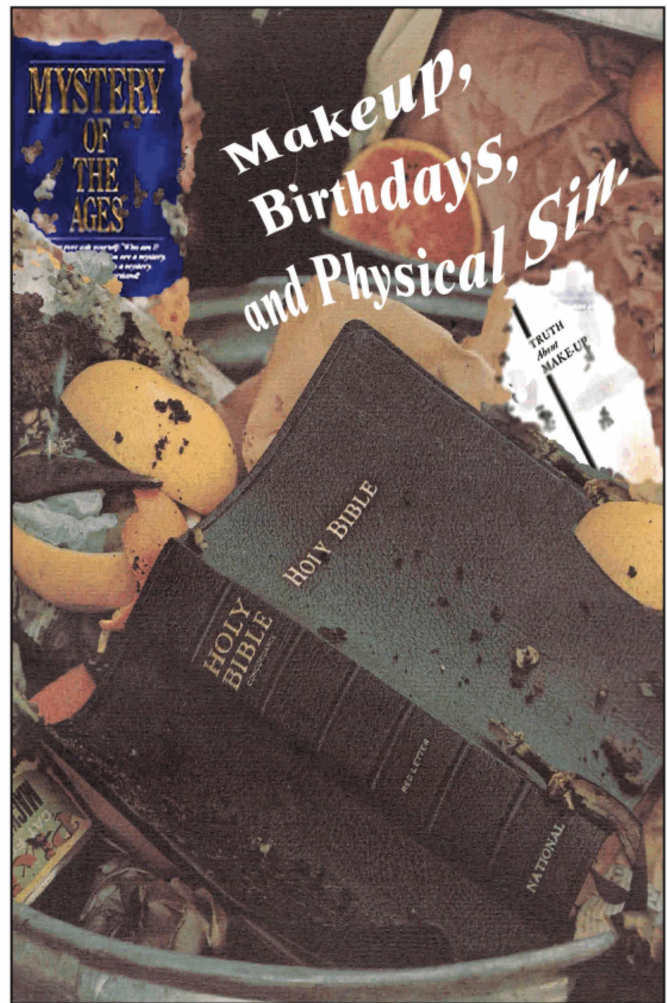
"You Suffer (tolerate) that Woman Jezebel"

However some of the same destructive demonic teachings of Jezebel that destroyed the Worldwide Church of God have surfaced in part within the many Corporate Churches of God that were formed taking with them many of the true teachings – enough to satisfy their members into believing they were yet following the truths that were taught by Mr. Armstrong.

To this day virtually all of them still refuse to restore the rulings on **Makeup, Birthdays, and Physical Sin** for they know they would lose many of their members if they did.

To make the point on the above Scriptures: It is a known and admitted fact that ministers were allowed and accepted in the larger Corporate Churches of God who had either preached, or believed, some of those pagan doctrines, such as the **Trinity, Born Again Now, etc.** One well-known pastor referred to these ministers as having a rainbow of beliefs. This testifies to the fact that virtually none of the almost 700 corporate churches of God have not focused on this grave warning from Christ, and as the result have been subtly pulled into Jezebel's charm-

ing seductive arms by accepting just enough of her teachings as to blind them spiritually.



There is a principle that can be drawn from the Book of James that makes known the tragic error of accepting part or in whole the pagan teachings:

James 2:10-11: "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

Due to not heeding the warning by Jesus Christ at the close of this letter to Thyatira, they fail to realize the source as being that of Satan the devil.

Ancient History of Jezebel and Israel

One can learn much about Jezebel and what she did by exploring the ancient history during the time of King Ahab and Elijah the prophet of God and then

compare that time to what is taking place in our time today.

This is just another reason why Jesus Christ raised up another Elijah in the end-time to recognize and warn against this same evil woman who would symbolically reappear in the guise of the Catholic Church and her daughters with the same objective of seeking to **massacre** God's people today as she literally did with the prophets of that ancient time (**I Kings 18:4; 13**). Jezebel was not only a queen in Israel but also a priestess of Baal and Asherah. She not only led her husband into the depths of idolatry (**I Kings 21:25**), but all Israel as well, with the exception of 7,000 Israelites (**I Kings 16:29-33; 19:18; Romans 11:4**).

Jezebel/Catholic Church

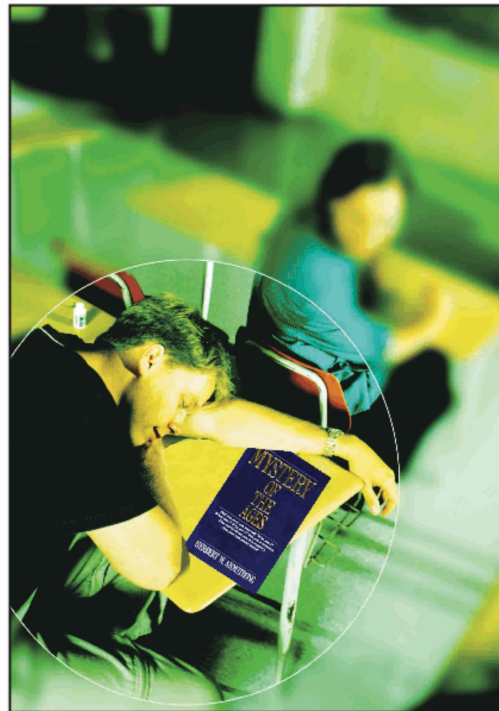
Those same demonic murderous teachings were absorbed with open arms by what came to be known as the Catholic Church, which is the personification of Jezebel, in its beginning in about 33 A. D., through Satan's chosen instrument at that time, Simon Magus. Satan the devil virtually incarnated the same spirit of Jezebel into the very willing and able magician Simon Magus who was steeped in those same Babylonian teachings (**Acts 8:9-10**).

'The True Falling Away'

In view of the prophetic end-time in which we now live, and the closeness of the coming of Jesus Christ, what took place in 1995 within the Worldwide Church of God, when approximately 150,000 members embraced Jezebel and her pagan teachings, it becomes easy for the unbiased reader to understand the **'Falling Away'** (*apostasia - reject and fall away from the teachings of the apostle*), as prophesied by the Apostle Paul in **II Thessalonians 2:1-3**, had nothing to do with the Protestant Reformation!

Instead the prophecy of the **Falling Away** was fulfilled when the apostate pastor general guided and influenced by Satan the devil led away almost the total membership of the Worldwide Church of God while giving birth to her daughters, the many corporate churches, who followed her lead by accepting in part or fully the pagan teachings of the symbolic

Jezebel by which they have seduced their membership and leading them into the **Great Tribulation**.



It is fervently hoped this writing will cause many to **'WAKE UP'** before it comes to be too late! Scripture clearly says to God's true people: "... **concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the Saints . . .**" (**Jude 3-4**).

To help - in addition to your Bible, please study the **Mystery of the Ages** that Jesus Christ led Mr. Armstrong to write in the last year of his life to help the Elect to stay on track with the true teachings through these very difficult and trying times. **concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the Saints . . .**" (**Jude 3-4**).

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The World Crying Out for Freedom

“For we know that the Whole Creation (*mankind and all living creatures*) groans and labors with birth pangs together until now . . . For the **EARNEST EXPECTATION (*Companion Bible: anxious looking with outstretched hand*) of the creation **EAGERLY WAITS** for the **REVEALING of the Sons of God** (*to be delivered and freed from futility and the bondage of corruption*).”**

Romans 8:19-23

By

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

This world is in its death throes writhing with convulsions and painful spasms while gasping for breath with its many unsolvable problems that are overpowering and bringing it to its final gasp of life! And like a drowning person with agonizing cramps going down for the third time, it is holding out its hand for someone to save it from going under to its watery death.

Sadly the world under the cunning influence of Satan the devil, having been subjected to human reason, due to mankind's original parents having rejected the LORD God's command to eat only of the Tree of Life, continues their choice of eating from the tree of good and evil, and has brought on itself its death (*Genesis 3:6; 2:18-19*)!

They have shoved away the only hand that could save it from the sorrows, tragedies, sufferings, and death by their choice of living their lives their way (*Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:20, 22*).

Over the millennia futile efforts have been made to turn the world's society around from its path of suffering and death, but those efforts only slowed it down for a brief moment in time. It then picked up speed again while moving forward to its rendezvous with death much as did the pre-flood world of Noah (*Genesis 6.*).

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Perhaps the unrealized plaintive cry from the world can be compared to the turbulent 1960s in this nation with the lamentable song of that time: “Bridge over Troubled Waters.”

This song was created after two young Jewish men, Simon and Garfunkel, observed the many tragic

problems that had begun to tear the nation apart, such as the assassinations of President Kennedy, his brother Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, violent protests of the Vietnam war, together with other problems that were tearing this nation apart. Because of its words of hope this song became very popular having appeal, resonating with many people then, and does yet today in this nation.



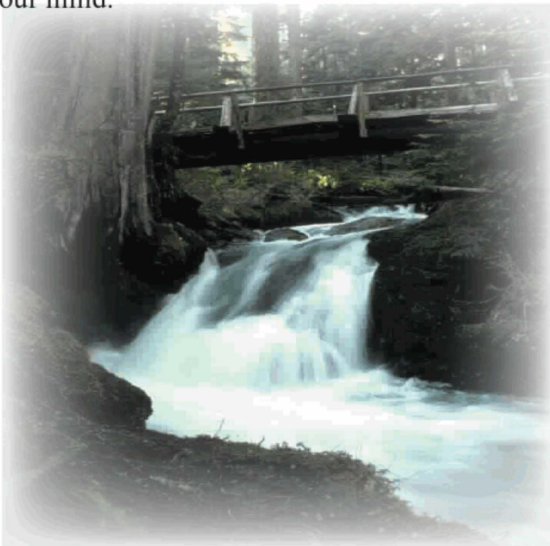
It spoke of the hope of building a bridge over the troubling waters of a turbulent and violent society of that decade, which was termed the worst of that century.

The song expressed the hopes of trying to save themselves and the nation. Then society could move forward with their dreams being realized in the generations to follow without fear and in peace. It never happened! As society is viewed today it is apparent the problems have worsened, mushrooming to the time *of no return!* The hoped for mythical bridge never really came into existence nor does it exist today.

The lyrics of the song are as follows that offered compassionate comfort with the futile hope for that

"Bridge Over Troubled Water"

When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes I will dry them all
I'm on your side Oh when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water I will lay me down
When you're down and out When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard, I will comfort you
I'll take your part Oh, when darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water I will lay me down
Sail on silver girl, sail on by Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way See how they shine
Oh, if you need a friend I'm sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water I will ease your mind.



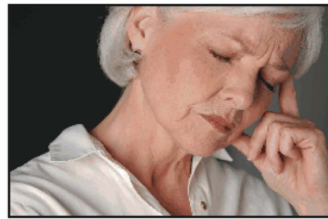
In recent years there were a few men such as President Ronald Reagan and Charleston Heston who tried turning society around in this nation but only succeeded in slowing it down for a brief moment in time. It has since virtually exploded due to an overwhelming rebellious and lawless society with politically-minded leaders in the highest offices and the judiciary legally paving the way for lawlessness on all fronts; it is a world reeling out of control!

The Revealing of the Sons of God

Thankfully a new age is on the horizon in which righteousness will begin to be firmly taught (*Isaiah 26:9; Psalm 111:3; Isaiah 30:19-21*).

This will be brought about by the return of Jesus Christ who will establish His Kingdom and government on Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

Jesus Christ will then extend his loving and caring hand to the survivors of this age offering once again the opportunity to re-enter the Garden in Eden (originally located in Jerusalem) with the choice of eating from the Tree of life (*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*). Having made the right choice they will then be released from the shackles of futility and the bondage of sin.



“For we know that the Whole Creation (*mankind and all living creatures*) groans and labors with birth pangs together until now . . . For the EARNEST EXPECTATION (*Companion Bible: anxious looking with outstretched hand*) of the creation EAGERLY WAITS for the REVEALING of the Sons of God (*to be delivered and freed from futility and the bondage of corruption*)” (Romans 8:19-23).

What a wonderful world that will be when Jesus Christ and His Bride will be here teaching the right and good way (*Isaiah 32:1, 16-18*), while wiping away the tears of the repentant in that world to come (*Revelation 21:4*).

Those of mankind, who will have made the right and good choices to become part of such an awesome and wonderful world, will come to know and worship the true God and Jesus Christ and will then begin realizing such awesome and wonderful blessings that will exceed their wildest imagination. **“Thy Kingdom Come” (Matthew 6:10).**

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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

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

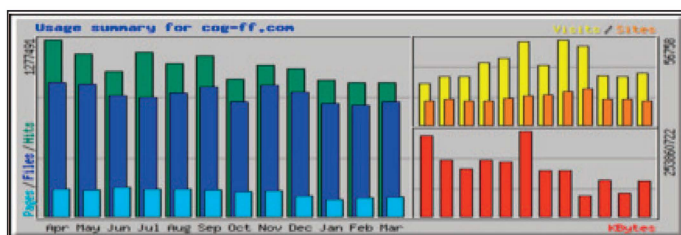
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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