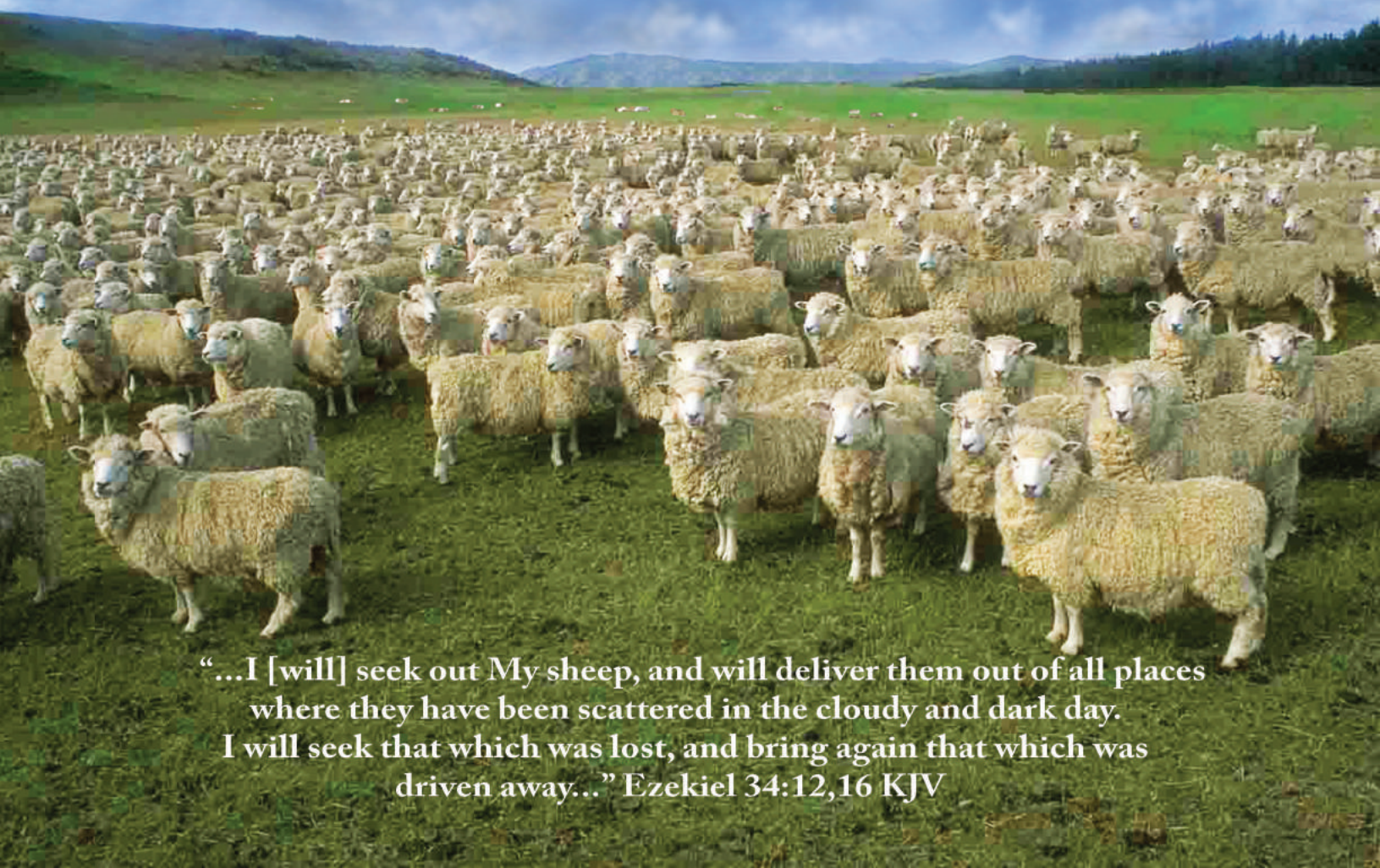


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Apr/May/June 2014



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

The Philadelphia Remnant

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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. (*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 in which Jesus Christ used Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong during his life-time mission reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God through his preserved recorded writings.



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

DESIGN/LAYOUT

Steve Serfontein

WRITERS

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley
Steve Serfontein
Duane Miller
Larry Burns

PHOTOS/GRAPHICS

Steve Serfontein

PROOFING

Peggy Billingsley
Elizabeth Serfontein
Marie Duncan

TRANSCRIBER

Melissa Nash

COVER, WEB GRAPHICS

Jason Busa
Frank Olive
Steve Serfontein

PUBLISHER

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

CIRCULATION/BUSINESS MANAGER

Joseph Duncan

SECRETARY

Larry Burns

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

Zerubbabel's Temple



9. "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple. His hands shall also finish it." Then you shall know That the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

1978 Bible Study - Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

Greetings everybody! I just want to first announce to you that before the Bible study tonight, I'm going to do about a 15-minute televised talk that will be shown in all the Feast sites on the opening night. And it will be quite brief. And so I'll record this first and then we'll have a Bible study, and I'm a little disappointed that there are so few people out tonight. Someone told me that they didn't know I would be here. And that is VERY discouraging and very disheartening.

I tell you, brethren, I'm going to write an article on the purpose of the Church. I don't think many of our people know it or else most of our people just finally want to become ashes under the feet of the few

of us some day in the Lake of Fire. We're not taking this thing seriously! We're in the very last days! There isn't much time left! And I tell you, the reaction is pretty discouraging. This Church has been going down, DOWN DOWN! I can't bear it all up single-handed and alone. I've got to have someone here to back me up. I get letters from one now and then, "We're back of you 100 percent!" Well, I need more 100 percent of the people to be back of me.

This Church has been letting down spiritually. We're told to "**not forsake the assembling of ourselves together**

and so much the more as we see the day approaching." And, I guess we don't see it approaching, do we? I'm going to get back to prophecy. Where are we NOW, in prophecy? I understand that our ministers are not, as far as I know, not any of them have been preaching on prophecy for the last two years. It seems like we've all got discouraged, maybe we didn't understand the prophecies, maybe they're not being fulfilled, maybe they're not working out. Well, I'll explain that! It's a lot later than you think.

But God has been holding up things. Did you ever read in the seventh chapter of Revelation, how when we get to the place that we haven't reached yet,

that'll be after the Great Tribulation and after God sends these TERRIFIC, well, mind-shattering almost, signs in the heavens, in the stars, the sun and the moon, to sort of shock this world into realizing that there is a God after all, and He's beginning to intervene. And it's said of the things going right on, that scheduled



to go at that time and the last plagues, and the Second Coming of Christ, God sends an angel that says "Wait a minute! Hold up! I've still got something else, and we've got to hold up until it gets done!"

DO YOU KNOW THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED AFTER 1972? AND GOD HAS HELD THINGS UP UNTIL THIS JOB GETS DONE! And so we get discouraged and we decide, "Well, my Lord delays His coming. Maybe He's not going to come at all." Now, what I'm saying is for the empty seats that are not filled. Obviously, it's not for you people that are here, and it's

just too bad that those who need it aren't here to hear it.

It was very disheartening for me to find that they were going to suspend the Bible studies for the summer. Now, where are the ministers? We used to have the front row filled with ministers. I don't see a one of them. Is there a minister here?

But I can't see you over there. Well, I'm glad there's someone here. A lot of the ministers think, "Oh well, I don't have to go unless I speak, and if it's that Herbert Armstrong speaking I don't want to hear him anymore, any how." I don't know whether that's what you think or not. I know none of you would be here if God hadn't used me. I

wonder how many of you think you would be here if I hadn't been used?

We need to wake up. I tell you that if you don't wake up I can't do it for you. God have mercy on your soul if you don't! That's all that I can say. And some of you are going to need it.

Well, I tell you, the day is coming and Christ needs the Church all prepared and ready, and I think we're a long ways from that. I don't know how to wake you people up. I frankly don't. I've just sort of give up.

Now, we're going to have to pretend this is the opening night now of the Feast of Tabernacles if you will for just about 15 minutes.

Opening Message for the

Feast of Tabernacles

Well, Greetings everybody! Once again, let me ask as I used to ask time and time again, year after year at these Festivals, WHY ARE WE HERE?

Now, these annual Festivals were ordained of God not by man and if God did it, He had a reason. And if God did it, it's very important that we realize that reason, very important. Now, why did He ordain these Festivals? Because our God, our Creator, knew that His people need to be reminded year after year of what is the most important thing in the lives of us, for His people, to be reminded of what God has prepared for us if we love Him.

I'd like you to notice what it says in I Corinthians the second chapter, beginning with verse 7, **"But,"** as Paul said in a letter written to the Church at Corinth, **"we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world,"** that is the leaders of the world, the heads of governments, the heads of big business, big banks leaders in every walk of life in the world.

“For had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Even “as it is written,” now listen, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for them that love Him.”

How does knowledge get into your mind? How do you come to know anything at all? How do you know everything you came to know? Well, it's about 95 to 98 percent through your eyes and ears, and the rest will come through the sense of smell, taste or feel.

“But,” it continues, “God has revealed it unto us, by His spirit: for the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” And so, these things are revealed by God, the things that God has in store for us.

Now, to us, these Festivals are the most important thing in our lives, but the last few years we've been getting lazy. We're getting into the Laodicean condition, and that is a condition in which Jesus Christ says He will SPEW US OUT OF HIS MOUTH! You spit out of your mouth things

you don't want in there any longer. And I think we'd better wake up. To us, these Festivals are important, but many of us are not considering them any longer as important as we ought. Now, last year I heard reports of some Feast sites, that NOT ONE WORD, during

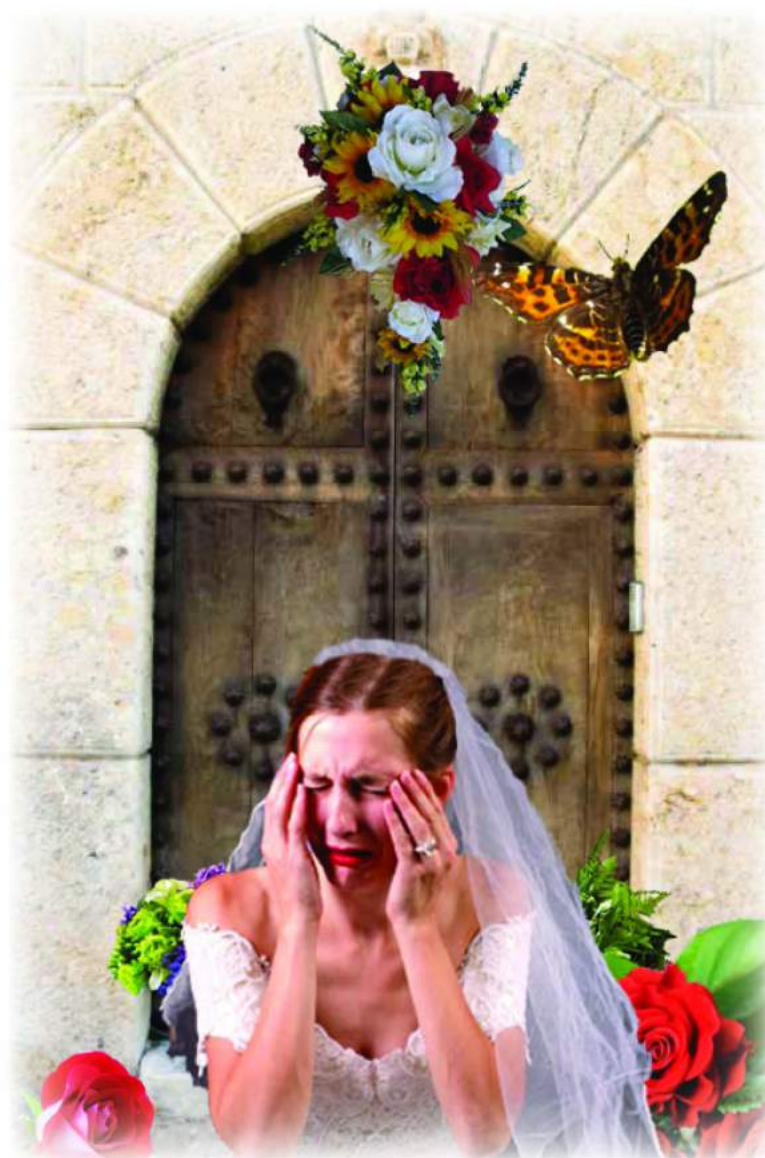
anyway. And some wrote, “I could get better sermons if I'd stayed at home than to have gone!”

I tell you we need to wake up and our MINISTRY needs to wake up! God's ministers need a new spirit of URGENCY and POWER! Jesus Christ the Living Head of the Church, has been moving swiftly these last couple of months, these last three, four months to put His Church back on the track, and so much the more because we now see the day approaching when Christ is going to appear. We're in that generation, and we're the ones that are getting sleepy. And we're asleep at the switch brethren! And we're deciding that “my Lord delayeth His coming, let's slumber and sleep.”

And read in the 25th chapter of Matthew while some were slumbering and sleeping like that, the Lord came. **And the DOOR WAS SHUT!** And they POUNDED on the door and tried to get in, but

Christ is going to say to those, “Go away! I never knew you! You haven't known me, and you haven't cared.”

So, I've assigned to the ministers speaking here and at the various Feast sites the



the whole eight days, was spoken by any minister of telling why they were there, what the Festivals mean, what is the meaning or the purpose of having these Festivals

IMPERATIVE OBLIGATION to preach the meaning and the purpose of these Festivals, not only the Feast of Tabernacles, but all the Festivals that show the master plan of God working out His purpose here below.

Now, I plan to speak on this very theme tomorrow on the first of the Holy Days. Let me say that this is the 51st year of these Festivals for me. I first began keeping them with my wife, my wife of 50 years that was taken from me in death now way over 11 years ago; she and I began keeping these Festivals alone for seven years.

Because we told the brethren that I had discovered that they were ordained forever and that we should be keeping them now, that Christ did, the apostles did, the early Church did. And when I told the brethren in the Church then, and they were the Church that we find described as the Sardis Church in the Bible, the one that was spiritually dead, they laughed me to scorn. That's all, and they would not keep these Festivals, and so far as I know those same people have not begun to keep any of them to this day.

And my wife and I kept them for seven years until the parent Church of this Philadelphia Era of the Church was founded in August of 1933 in Eugene, Oregon. And that is the parent Church. And so I've been continuing to keep these Festivals for 51 years. Now, I know that I'm the only one

here that can say that, but I just want to tell you how much gratitude it gives me to see that it has grown into what is now the largest Festival or convention or conclave held by any Church or religious organization or group on the face of this earth every year.

So now there will be announcements. I will see you again tomorrow, and so I will say, good night until tomorrow.

Bible Study – The Building of the Temple

Now, maybe we can get back to what I thought I would bring you tonight as a Bible study and maybe I should have gone right into the prophecy, but I had something else that I thought I would go through.

Did you ever wonder about the Temple that Christ is coming to? Now, you read in Malachi the first chapter, and the first verse, **“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me.”**

Now, that messenger was a human messenger and for Christ's First Coming you will read in the first chapter of Mark and beginning in verses one, two and three and along in there, that it was John the Baptist preparing the way for His First Coming.

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“And the Lord whom you seek,” which is Jesus Christ, **“shall SUDDENLY come to His TEMPLE.”** Well, what about that? Where is that Temple?

Now I remember we were discussing that over at Bricket Wood some 10 years ago, and we said, “Well, is there any indication that the Jews are going to build a Temple?” And there was a rumor that maybe the Jews when they took Jerusalem in the Six Day War, and that was back, in fact that was JUST after my wife died in the year 1967, and the Israelis took over the old city of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem, you know, like the city of Berlin, had been a divided city up until that time. And many of us wondered at that time if the Jews were going to demolish the Dome of the Rock, which is the large Muslim temple there and build a Temple to which Christ would come. But I don't know why we didn't understand. It's very, very plain in the Bible about that Temple. And I thought maybe it would be good if I would explain that to you tonight.

Now, these books in the Old Testament are not so-called “Old Testament stuff.” They were written for us.

The Book of Haggai

I'm going now to the book of Haggai. What I just read was in the last book in the Old Testament, in Malachi. But these books were written at a time when both Israel and Judah were in captivity, and the

ONLY people in Jerusalem were that small contingent, comparatively small of the Jews who had been sent back 70 years after the destruction of the Temple, which means about, let me see, that would be right around 475 B.C., to build the Second Temple.

speaketh the Eternal of hosts saying, This people say the time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.

Do you know that that's a prophecy for today, and that that's what we're saying today,



And so, as a matter of fact this book of Haggai talks about the building of that Second Temple. And it starts out, you may think this is just some old history. Oh, no it isn't! This is a prophecy for now! So, let's listen:

“In the second year of Darius the king,” and this was the Persian, Medo-Persian, Empire now. **“In the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Eternal, to Haggai the prophet, unto Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel.”** Now, Zerubbabel is **“the governor of Judah, and to Joshua,” who was the high priest and the son of Josedech, “saying, Thus**

and when you see what the Lord's house is, you will see that what I've been saying to you up until now is absolutely true.



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“Then came the word of the Eternal by Haggai the prophet saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses and this house lie waste?”

They were sent there to build the Second Temple of God, and that's the one that was still there extant at the time Jesus Christ came, only the Roman King Herod, who was king over that part of the Roman Empire, occupied by the Jews at that time, had added some to it and enlarged it somewhat, but it was the same Temple.

“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?” Many of us are more concerned about the houses in which we live than the house of God that I'm going to show you about.

“Now therefore, thus saith the Eternal of hosts; Consider your ways.”

Now, this is true today. Notice this: **“Ye have sown much, but ye bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag of holes.”** Do you recognize that as being true today? And inflation is going up and the value of the dollar is going down.



Now continue verse seven, **“Thus saith the LORD,”** or the Eternal, **“of hosts; Consider your ways! Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Eternal.”**

Now, He's talking here literally about the Second Temple

that was built at that time. As I say, about 450, 475 years before Christ.

“Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run everyone to his own house.”

Now, you're going to see pretty soon that the house it's speaking of is the Church of God. And the work of the Church of



getting this gospel out, and we're growing weary, and we don't want to work on building this Temple, this Church, which is the Temple. **“Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew and the earth is stayed from her fruit.”**

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stayed from her fruit.”

God sends the rain on the just and the unjust alike, and God can control the weather. Now, I don't mean that He always does every little bit of the change in the weather. God has set laws in motion that pretty much work automatically and all of that, but God has sent lightning to strike certain ones dead that I guess are better off than those that go on living, that He did for a great and a good purpose.

“And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountain, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground brings forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon the all the labour of the hands.”

“Then Zerubbabel ... and Joshua ... the high priest, with all of the remnant of the people,” this was just a remnant of Judah that remained now, that had gone back over there to build this Second Temple **“obeyed the voice of the Eternal their**



God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Eternal their God had sent him, and the people did fear before,” and I hope that’s true of us today, that we really will, they **“did fear before the Eternal.”**

“Then spake Haggai the Eternal’s messenger, in the LORD’s message unto the people saying, I am with you says the Eternal.” Look, brethren, if we are only with Him, let me tell you the Living Christ is with us.

We’ve got to believe that HE IS LIVING, THAT HE IS HERE!

Now, let’s see, **“Then spake Haggai the Eternal’s messenger in the Eternal’s message unto the people, saying I am with you saith the Eternal,”** And you need to realize that He is with us, and He’s going to take care of His part of it.

I am not here because a lot of people decided to vote for me or put me here. You had nothing to do with me becoming God’s apostle. Someone says to me, “Well, Mr. Armstrong, how do you know that you’re God’s apostle? Did Christ appear to you? Did He speak to you and say, ‘Now Herbert Armstrong, I make you My apostle?’” And I answer, “no.”

“Did you know back in 1933 when this era of the Church started that you were God’s apostle, that you would be?”

“No, I didn’t.”

“Did you know how big or how great this Work was going to be?”



No, I didn’t. I just knew that God had called me, was using me and I would go as far as He wanted me to go, no further and no less. Whatever that is, if it meant the whole world, I knew I would be able to do it because I would do it in the power and the strength of the Living Christ.

Well, then how do I know today? Well, I will answer just as Jesus Christ answered when the messengers of John the Baptist came to Him and said, **“Well, John wants to know, are you really the Messiah who was to come?”** Jesus didn’t say yes or no. He said, **“You go tell John what you hear and what you see being done. Go and show him the FRUITS of what you see coming from Me. By their fruits you shall know.”**

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No, back in 1933 I didn’t know. So how do I know now? Because I look back in all these

years, and I see the FRUITS AND YOU’RE HERE AS PART OF IT! You’re part of the evidence because you’re here. And I had some to do with it and so did Jesus Christ, and He was using me. I didn’t do it myself. And woe be to me if I ever take credit for doing it.

“The Eternal stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ... and the spirit of Joshua ... the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people and they came and worked on the house of the Eternal of hosts, their God, in the four and the twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the King.”

Now, come to chapter two, **“In the seventh month, in the twenty first day of the month, came the word of the Eternal by the prophet Haggai saying, speak now**

to Zerubbabel, the son of Shialtiel, the governor of Judah and to Joshua ... the high priest, and to the residue of the people saying, Who is left among you who saw this house in her first glory?" Meaning Solomon's Temple, that had such great glory, more than any other that had been built up to that time on the face of the earth. "And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes, in comparison of it as nothing?" Well, it had been completely thrown down and demolished. It was gone.

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, says the Eternal, and be strong, O Joshua ...and be strong, all you people of the land says the Eternal, and work, for I am with you." And He says to us today to be strong and WORK, AND GET BACK TO THIS THING!



Now, I tell you, if you look in to the New Testament, you will see that Christ did not train all of the people, and there were, oh, within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, but then it



might have been the very next day the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people, but Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles. Later, He taught and apparently appeared after He had gone to heaven. And yet came down and appeared to Paul the apostle in Arabia and taught him just as He had taught the other apostles.

God sent them. APOSTLE IS A WORD THAT MEANS "**ONE SENT FORTH!**" ONE SENT FORTH! I AM SENT FORTH AND IF I GO FORTH AND LEAVE HERE, SOMEBODY WILL SAY, WHY ISN'T MR. ARMSTRONG STAYING HERE IN PASADENA AND TAKING CARE OF THE



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG



AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD PEACE

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God to World Leaders.

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CHURCH? I'll tell you why, the Church is supposed to take care of me, not me of you. I AM ONE SENT FORTH WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE! That's what God has laid on me. Christ didn't work from nine till five in an office. He went from one city to another.

Christ, there is a great deal of evidence there that He had even gone over to Britain and Western Europe. That was before He started preaching, however, at the age of 30, and there is nothing in the Bible about it, but there is other evidence that He probably was there. I've often thought that He probably was at the very place that is the very site of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood in England.

Now, let's see, "**for I am with you, says the Eternal of**



hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so my spirit

remaineth among you:
fear ye not."

Brethren, is God's spirit still with us in this Church? We're getting a little bit spiritless, and we need to revive with the energy and the vitality of the Spirit of the Living God.

The Temple Being Built is the Church

"For thus says the Eternal of hosts; Yet once," and it will be "a little while, and I will shake the HEAVENS and the EARTH, and the SEA, and the DRY LAND!"

NOW WHEN IS THAT? He hasn't done that yet. Now, He begins to talk about us today. That's the point I want you to see, that all of this about Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest building THAT Temple was about the building of the real Temple today to which Christ is going to come.

Now, let's listen, **"I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come,"** meaning Christ in that case, although they don't really desire Him, **"and I will fill this house with glory, says the Eternal of hosts."**

Now, I don't think that He ever did in the sense that it is intended here, fulfil that Second Temple with glory. So now He's talking about a different Temple! That was only a type of it, typical of it, a forerunner of it!

Now He carries on and says, **"The silver is mine, and**

the gold is mine, says the Eternal of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former!" THE GLORY OF THAT SECOND TEMPLE NEVER REMOTELY COMPARED TO THE GLORY OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE and yet He's talking about a Temple that will be FAR greater in GLORY than SOLOMON'S TEMPLE! He's talking about the Temple to which Christ is coming NOW in OUR time! In our living generation.

Now, keep your ears and your mind open brethren. You're going to hear something here.

"And in this place shall I give peace, says the Eternal of hosts." There is no peace on earth yet. You see it is coming when this happens.

"In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Eternal by Haggai the prophet, saying, Thus says the Eternal of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of a garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any food, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

"Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead

body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, "So is this people and so is this nation before me, says the Eternal." He's talking now about our nation today and our Church today, and I'm going to prove it to you.

"And so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean." And we'd better take heed.

"And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Eternal," or the beginning of today's Church of God, in the Philadelphia era of the Church today.

“Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat [wine vat] for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.

“I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in the labours of your hands; and yet you turned not to me, says the Eternal.” He’s speaking of us, today, my brethren.

“Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid, consider it.”

Now, I have marked here in my Bible, “Was the glory of the Second Temple greater than Solomon’s? No. This is speaking of the Day of God and the Temple yet to be built, which is the Worldwide Church of God.” And it’s pretty well built already.

“The fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day I will bless you.” And God has blessed this Church, but we are getting very lazy in returning His blessing in being appreciative.

“And again the word of the Eternal came unto Haggai in the four and

twentieth day of the month, saying, Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will ...”

Now, He doesn’t mention Joshua the high priest now, but speak unto **“Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah,”** who was the one who was sent to build this Temple. **“I will shake the heavens and the earth; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen.”**



Egypt



Libya



Syria

Do you know that that has been occurring in the last four or five years at the rate of one a month? The kingdoms haven’t been completely overthrown. It was the throne of the kingdom being overthrown, a military coup turning it into a military government or the military.



Greece

Now, that happened in Greece and then about a year or more ago the military government decided to turn it back to civilians, and it’s just a change in the government like we have a change when we elect a new president. It’s talking about a time when He would overthrow the kingdoms, of the throne and kingdoms of the governments all around the earth and that never happened until now. It’s speaking of today.

“And I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, says the Eternal of hosts, will I

take thee, or Zerubbabel, my servant ..." and it's talking about today and not that day. Zerubbabel was as I say, only a type, **"says the Eternal, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, says the Eternal of hosts."**

Now, that is the entire book of Haggai, which consists of only the two chapters. Now I'd like you to turn to the third chapter of, or the fourth chapter rather of Zechariah.

The Book of Zechariah

"And the angel that talked with me," now this is Zechariah the prophet, the book, **"and the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And he said to me," and we need to wake up brethren,** **"he said to me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof."**

Now a candlestick you will find in Revelation the first chapter is symbolically referring to the Church.

"And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?"



And **"the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Eternal unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by MIGHT, nor by POWER, but by MY SPIRIT SAYETH THE ETERNAL OF HOSTS!"**

This building is being built by the Spirit of God, not by might and power, not by brick and mortar and wood and plaster and other physical materials, but by the Spirit of God.

"Who are THOU, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain and he shall bring forth the headstone

thereof with SHOUTINGS, saying Grace ... unto it," which is Christ, of course. Speaking about Christ and bringing forth Christ in our generation.

"Moreover the word of the Eternal came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house."

What house is He talking about? The one when Christ is coming. **"His hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Eternal of hosts hath sent me unto you."**

I have taken great courage in reading that more than once. Maybe you can understand why.

"For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and they shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven;" and "they are the eyes of the Eternal which run to and fro over the whole earth," and so on.

The Book of Malachi

Now, I'd like to go back to Malachi again. Now let me just say that in the New Testament, you will find that the Church is built into a Holy Temple unto the Eternal, and it talks about every joint and every part of it is built by Christ and it is built perfectly.

Now, some are going to be cast out, but those that are really in the Temple of God, in the Church are going to be here for

the coming of Christ.

On over now to Malachi once again, and I'd like to go right on from where I was. Now, He talked about a messenger coming to prepare the way before Christ and, as I say, you will find in a number of places in Mark and Matthew and so on that the one who prepared the way before Christ's first coming was John the Baptist.

But I'm going to prove to you now that this is talking about not just a First Coming but a Second. Let's go on reading the second verse which I didn't read before. It says that the Lord shall suddenly come to His Temple, which is the Church, and that Church by the power of God and with the Holy Spirit in it will be made immortal and its glory will be greater than the glory of Solomon's Temple. But no human, physical Temple ever was or will be.

"Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, says the Eternal of hosts." Now, that's speaking of Christ, and He's the messenger of the New Covenant. Now the Old Covenant set up the children of Israel as one of the nations of this world. But Moses was the mediator of that covenant. It was a material, physical covenant of a material, physical people with only physical and national and material promises, no promise of the Holy Spirit whatsoever was given to ancient Israel, only some of the prophets.

Moses will be in the Kingdom of God and some of the prophets, of course, but not the people as a whole.

Now then, let's go right on, verse two **"But who may abide the day of His coming?"** The coming of Christ. **"And who shall stand when He appeareth?" for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver."**

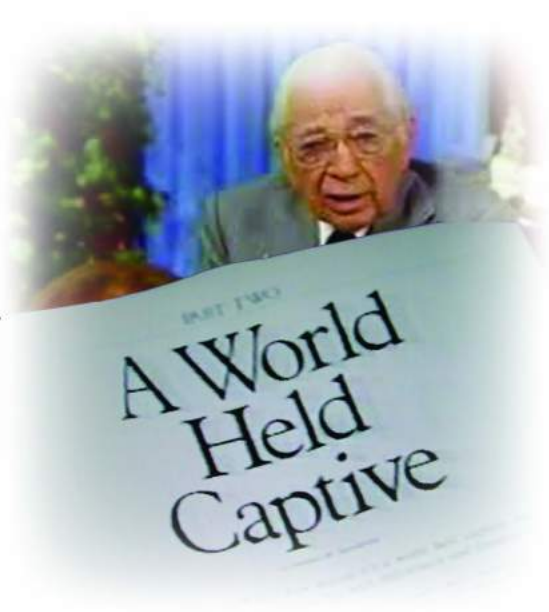
Now, Jesus didn't do any of these things when He came the first time, not a one of these things.

"And he shall purify the sons of Levi," He didn't do that when He came before. **"And purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Eternal an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Eternal, as in the days of old, and as in the former years."**

That didn't happen when He came before. The Jews rejected Him, Judah and Jerusalem. It was not a pleasant offering that was so happy and peaceful and joyous and all of that.

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against

the adulterers," Jesus didn't come doing that when He came the first time, but when He comes to RULE WITH A ROD OF IRON OVER ALL NATIONS, that's when He's going to do this! This is talking about the Second Coming.



Now, it talks about a messenger coming before Christ, but Christ's coming, the only coming described here is the Second Coming! Do you think if He had John the Baptist preparing before the First Coming of Christ, He wouldn't have someone preparing the way before His Second Coming? When He's coming in glory and the power and Spirit of God Almighty? In all the supernatural power to rule the world and to take over the thrones of every nation on this earth?

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers," I guess I read that, **"and against those that oppress the**

hireling in his wages, and the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from the right, and fear not me, says the Eternal of hosts. For I am the Eternal, I change not."

But some people think He's changed! Some people say this is Old Testament stuff! This doesn't apply to us today!

The only people that could have read this were a little contingent of a little part of the tribe of Judah, and there might have been a little of Benjamin and Levi among them, but NONE of Ephraim and Manasseh. None of the 10 tribes were there and not even but a small part of Judah!

"And that turn aside the stranger from the right, and fear not me, says the Eternal of hosts. For I am the Eternal, I CHANGE NOT." Some people think He does change.

"Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." For "from the days of your fathers you are gone away from Mine ordinances," this is talking about us today. It is talking about just before the Second Coming of Christ. THIS IS A PROPHECY! It's not a case of some old ancient history! We need to see what the prophecy is all about here.

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept

them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, says Eternal of hosts." But you have said, Whereunto shall we return?"

Yeah, we don't know where we have gotten away from God. Well, let me tell you we have in more ways than one in this Church.

But He comes to this one thing, **"WILL A MAN ROB GOD?"** THAT IS NOT OLD TESTAMENT STUFF THAT'S FOR US TODAY! AND IF YOU THINK THAT STEALING IS ALRIGHT AND YOU ARE WITHHOLDING YOUR TITHE, God have mercy on your MISERABLE soul, is all I can say! THIS IS A PROPHECY! IT'S FOR NOW! AND GOD SAYS, **"I CHANGE NOT!"**



You think He's changed today? Jesus said, **"You tithe with mint and cumin and so on and this ought to have been done."** Why did He say you ought? Because it is

commanded and to withhold it is STEALING FROM GOD! GOD DOESN'T WANT THIEVES IN HIS CHURCH! THEY SAY THERE IS NO LAW! AND THE MINISTERS HAVE TRIED TO COME OUT AND I'M GOING TO CHANGE ALL THAT AND ANY MINISTER THAT DOESN'T WANT TO GO ALONG WITH IT CAN JUST GET OUT OF THE CHURCH AND OFF OUR PAYROLL!

Now those are pretty strong words, and I mean every word I say. ***I would rather have one or two faithful ministers with me than four or five hundred that have gone the way of BAAL!*** And they've wanted to make this a secular work and get Christ out of it! They say there is NO LAW AT ALL ABOUT TITHING! THEY ARE MISLEADING YOU! THEY ARE LIARS! I'm speaking with the authority of Jesus Christ and these others are not!

Is stealing part of the Law of God? Thou shalt not steal! Is that part of the Law of God? It says, **"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me."** You are stealing! We ask Him how. How have we robbed Thee? And He answers, **"In tithes AND OFFERINGS!"**

"Ye are cursed with a curse," and this Church has been cursed with a curse, and this is one of the reasons, and I'm going to try to knock that out! I think we are probably going to lose a few members.

And you know if you've got a crate of apples and one or two of them becomes rotten, they are going to rot the ones next to them and that will keep on if you don't get them out of there they'll rot the whole crate. Now, if we've got any rotten apples among us, I tell you, the quicker we get rid of them, the better, brethren.

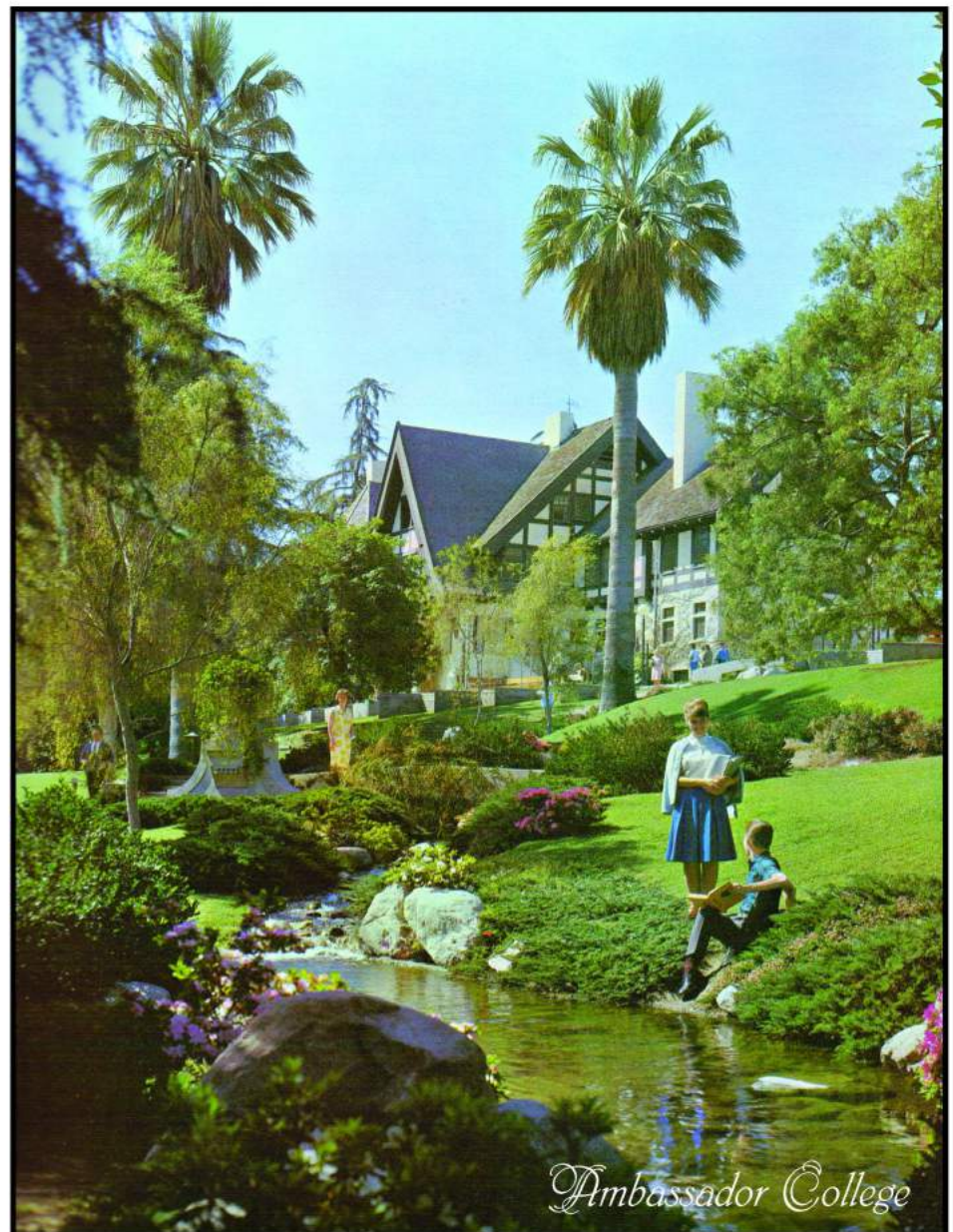
“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,” that's to God's Church and not just to any individual you want to, **“that there may be meat,”** or food, **“in mine house, and PROVE ME herewith, says the Eternal of hosts.”** He says PROVE me, **“if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”**

Brethren, back in the early days, we were, what few of us there were then were tithing. Most of you weren't in the Church yet. I'm talking now about 1948 and very few of you were in the Church in 1948, maybe three or four here. I doubt if there is anymore than that. And if you are you are pretty faithful to have still been here all that time.

But in 1948 we were going to lose all of the campus that we had at that time. And we had to come up, I didn't know how much money at that time, but I found out later it was going to

take \$50,000. At that time how much do you think was the income of the Church? The whole work of God was averaging \$500 a day. Now, we thought that was pretty neat. That was pretty big compared to where it had been when I had to hitchhike in order to preach in a country schoolhouse and the only reason I had to go out to a country schoolhouse was because I didn't have money to hire a hall in town! And I could

get the country schoolhouse without any charge whatsoever. That's the way this work was built. Others were to come along later and say “I devoted my life for the last so many years to this work, but YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE HELL THAT I DID TO START IT! I lived and I slept and bled and died that this Church could be built! And this work could go on and that Ambassador College could be built!



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And we were going to have to turn a lease and option on what is now the library building into a sale, and there had to be back taxes and back property tax and insurance to be paid and what I didn't know was that the man we were purchasing it from had also borrowed about 17 or 18 thousand dollars that he was delinquent on and he had not paid. And he couldn't turn it over to us until that was paid, and we had to have enough money to pay him that much before we could even get the property.

I had done everything I knew how. I had sent letters telling people of the situation, but the money didn't come. I had gone and this was before Mr. Rader's time when we had Boliver O'Rear who had been for some 10 years an attorney in the Internal Revenue Department in Washington, D.C. and Mr. O'Rear died a good many years ago now, but he was our attorney at the time. And he and I went to Washington and to a lawyer friend of his, that he thought was the specialist in this kind

of thing and who he thought could help us raise that kind of money. We tried every way we could, but the money didn't come.

Then I got on my knees and asked some others to fast and pray and let's take it to the Lord Jesus Christ, and we did. And you know about Thanksgiving time, I had to have this by about the 15th of December and about Thanksgiving time, lo and behold one day, instead of the \$500, \$2,000, let's see was it two or three thousand dollars? And the next day to our amazement, \$3,000 came in and we couldn't account for it, but we had fasted and prayed, and we had put it up to Christ. And that kept up for over 10 days until we had over \$50,000 on hand. I finally came to realize that we had to have more money than I dreamed of, but Christ had answered and had sent every bit of it.

I know. I've been through this. I've seen the answers to prayer. I know that Christ is living. I know that He hears us when we pray. And some of you have never had that experience. It's time that some of you get it! Get down on your knees and wear them out.

But this Church is cursed with a curse if we don't tithe. So I'm going to correct that no matter, come hell or high water or whatever else. And if some of our ministers say, Oh, they're not for tithing. All right, goodbye! The Baptists will probably open up for you.



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They don't believe in it, either! That's the way it is! If we've got that kind of ministers, I'll be very happy to say good riddance. And God will supply us with men filled with His Spirit.

Well, He goes on to show the blessings He'll pour out if we do obey Him and we trust Him. Can you believe that Christ is alive? Are you worried about if anything happens to me? I'm not.

I know that God will do one of two things. He'll either keep me alive or He will raise up the right man that will be His man, and it won't be someone that you people are going to vote on. You'll have nothing to say about it. You had nothing to say about the fact that I am where I am. Christ did it, and there is no way that you could have stopped it, is there?

Christ put me in and all of you put together couldn't put me out, not if you wanted to. Well, there are many promises here. Let's prove God. He says, **"Prove Me,"** that He won't do this. I've been proving Him, and He's been taken care of me all these years.

So, I think that I'll ... I'd like to go on and read all the rest of that fourth chapter, but I think we've taken up enough time tonight. But anyway, I don't want to overextend myself now tonight, and I'm going to rest you and let you go home and get some rest.

I always have something to do. Well, I'm working harder now than I worked 10 years, 15 years ago, even 20 years ago, and I'm having to come back and do it, God will give me the strength and the energy and the vitality, but will you let

Him give you the strength and energy and vitality you need for your part, brethren?

The apostle is the ONE SENT, not you. You're to BACK. And you will find in the New Testament the Church didn't go out, the apostles went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been a deacon who went out preaching and that was Phillip and God blessed him because he had been with the apostles, but he then became a minister and became an evangelist. But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. An apostle is a word that means "one sent forth" with Christ's message, and I just look back at the fruits of the last 51 years and I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because by their fruits you know and that's how I know.

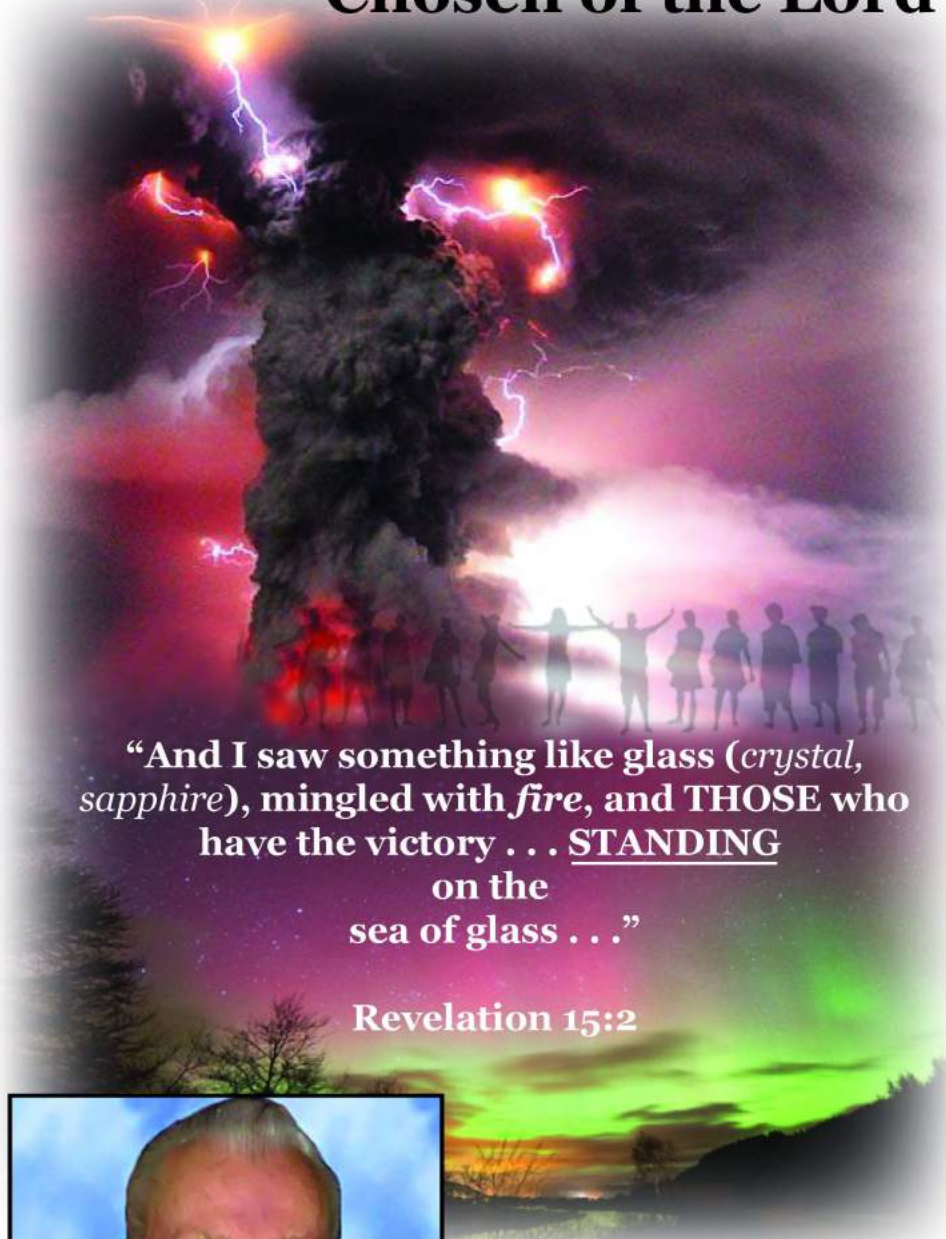
Now have a good night's sleep, and I think I'm not as badly worn out as I was two weeks ago tonight, and I hope I'll have a good night's sleep and I'll see you tomorrow afternoon.



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Editor's Comment: To make room for this Bible Study to fit into an article it was necessary to edit out a large portion from it. However what was removed did not take away from the subject matter. For those who would like to have the complete sermon please write or call and it will be mailed to you on a CD or Cassette. Alton (Don) Billingsley

The Resurrected - Changed - Chosen of the Lord



“And I saw something like glass (*crystal, sapphire*), mingled with *fire*, and **THOSE who have the victory . . . STANDING on the sea of glass . . .”**

Revelation 15:2



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

SEQ CHAPTER \h /r 1 **Personal**

From the Editor

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

imperative that God's true people should be preparing for His coming.

This soon coming time should indelibly be etched in our minds realizing the desire of each of us to be among those who are to be counted worthy to stand before Jesus Christ in all of His awesome glory and power as He returns to this earth.

As members of God's Church for many years, we have heard many sermons regarding the coming resurrections. And this could pose a critical problem due to taking this coming time for granted without realizing the seriousness of it! It should be realized to be blessed by Jesus Christ and be in the first resurrection will require continuous zeal with humility for the fulfilment of our hopes and dreams.

While witnessing the rapid approach of the end of this age it is hoped this writing will renew effort with enthusiasm to be among all those who will be in the first resurrection.

The Sequence and Order of the First Resurrection

To His disciples Jesus Christ spoke of His coming and the resurrection of the saints:

“Then the SIGN of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds

Dear Brethren,

Though I have written and spoken on this subject in the past, due to the worsening conditions in this nation and of this world that clearly make known the closeness of the coming of Jesus Christ with the resurrection and the change of the saints, it is

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of heaven with **POWER and GREAT GLORY**. And He will SEND His angels with a great sound of a Trumpet (*Seventh Trumpet*), and they will **GATHER TOGETHER** His **ELECT** (*margin: chosen ones*) from the four-winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (*Matthew 24:30-31*).

"...with POWER and GREAT GLORY..."

When connecting Christ's coming in the context of the VISION given to Ezekiel in chapter one portrays a PICTURE of the awesome glory and power of Jesus Christ when He returns to this earth:

"I Looked, and lo, a stormy wind came sweeping out of the north—a huge cloud and **flashing fire**, surrounded by a great radiance, and in the centre of it, in the **centre of the fire**, a gleam as of amber. In the centre of it were also the figures of four-creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the figures of human beings. However each had four-faces and each of them had four-wings..."

Above the heads of the creatures was a form: an **EXPANSE**, with an awe-inspiring gleam as of crystal, was **SPREAD OUT** above their heads...

above the **EXPANSE** over their heads was the semblance of a **THRONE**, in appearance like sapphire; and on top, **upon this semblance of a THRONE**, there was the semblance of **A HUMAN FORM**.

From what appeared as His loins up, I saw a gleam as of amber—what looked like a **FIRE** encased in a frame; and from what appeared as His loins down, I saw what looked like the appearance of the [rain] bow which shines in the clouds on a day of rain (*Revelation 4:3*), such was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. **This was the APPEARANCE of**



**the semblance of
the LORD”**

**(Ezekiel 1:4-6, 22,
26-28, New Jewish
Publication Society
Bible)**

The Apostle John
also saw in vision the
semblance of Jesus
Christ as He now is:

**“I turned to see
who it was that
was speaking to
me, and as I
turned I saw . . .**

**One resembling
the Son of Man,
wearing a robe
that reached to
His feet, and with
a belt of gold
around His breast.
His head and hair
were as white
as wool, as white
as snow. His eyes
were like coals of
fire. His feet were
like bronze refined
to white heat in a furnace,
and His voice was like the
roar of many waters . . .
and His face was shining
like the SUN at midday”
(Revelation 1:12-16, Wms.
Trans.).**

These Scriptures present A
PICTURE of Jesus Christ in
His awesome POWER and
great GLORY when returning
to this earth to begin His glori-
ous reign in what will over
time come to be the Wonderful
World Tomorrow.

Viewing His coming will stun
this evil world:

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

**The Great White
Throne Resurrection**

Though the Scripture is very
clear regarding all who will
SEE Jesus Christ coming with
clouds as He orbits the earth,
but how will those responsible
for crucifying Him SEE Him,

and when? With this in mind
consider what Jesus Christ
said to the high priest
Caiaphas:

**“Behold, He is coming
with clouds, and every eye
will see Him, EVEN THEY
who PIERCED Him. . . .
(Revelation 1:7).**

After Jesus Christ had been
arrested and brought before
the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas put
Jesus Christ under oath to
admit whether or not He was
the Messiah:

**“I put you under oath by
the living God: Tell us if**

You are the Christ, the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, HEREAFTER you will SEE the Son of man sitting on the right hand of the POWER, and COMING on the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 26:63-64).

There is no indication Caiaphas or the Roman soldier who pierced Him, along with others who were also responsible for His crucifixion, repenting before they died. Therefore they will not be among the saints in the first resurrection. Then how and when will they SEE Jesus Christ coming on the clouds of heaven?

This can only mean that Jesus Christ will come in like manner at that time as He will in this coming time.

All the billions of people, who have died prior to that time, while not having been selected by God to be in the first resurrection, will then be made alive in human life as they were during their life-times to be given their opportunity for salvation:

"But the rest of the dead (many billions of people) did NOT live again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5).

They will then SEE Jesus Christ with the clouds of heaven as He of necessity will orbit this round earth to enable

the many billions of people to see Him. They will then know that Jesus Christ has restored life to them.

"Then you shall KNOW that I am the LORD when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves" (Ezekiel 37:13).

The Two Witnesses

Preceding the coming of Jesus Christ, Scripture reveals the terrible sixth plague that will be brought primarily on Europe and brought about by God through His Two Witnesses just as He used Moses and Aaron to devastate Egypt with plagues:

"And I will give POWER to My Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy three and one-half years, clothed in sackcloth . . . These have POWER to SHUT heaven so NO rain falls in the days of their prophecy (famine); and they have POWER over waters to TURN them to blood, and to strike the earth with PLAGUES, as often as they desire" (Revelation 11:2-6).

The Apostle John wrote of what he saw in vision of the destruction and panic of mankind due to the visible signs accompanying the Sixth Plague that will pave the way for the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet:

"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold there was A GREAT EARTHQUAKE, and the sun became BLACK as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars (meteors – as did in 1908, and again 2-15-13 in Russia; similar to Joshua 10:11), as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind."

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place (due to this Great Earthquake).

And the kings of the earth,



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the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men,

every slave and every free man, **HID** themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said, “Fall on us and **HIDE** us from the **FACE OF HIM** who sits on the throne and from the **WRATH** of the Lamb! **For the great day of His WRATH has come, and who is able to stand?**” *Revelation 6:12-17.*

The Seven Trumpets

Then the first six of the seven trumpets will begin sounding bringing even more destruction on Europe (*Revelation 8:1-21*). Again, and again, Jesus Christ will be using His Two Witnesses to **STRIKE** the earth with plagues of all kinds. This will prepare the way for the seventh and last trumpet to sound:

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your GREAT POWER and REIGNED. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the nations (*not dead*) that they should be judged,

and that You should REWARD Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who FEAR Your Name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth (*Armageddon*).” Then the Temple of God was opened in heaven, and the Ark of His Covenant was seen in the Temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail (*Revelation 11:15-19*).

Jesus Christ Begins His Descent from Heaven

During the sounding of the Seventh and last Trumpet, Jesus Christ will begin His descent to this earth. After coming into this earth's atmosphere He will remain there for possibly a few hours before touching down on the Mount of Olives for a very special reason.

Scripture indicates it will be in this earth's atmosphere where Jesus Christ will then call forth His Bride from their graves and change the living saints to Spirit life. He will then have them ascend to where He will be and with great love embrace them (*Revelation 21:4*).

The Apostle Paul describes what will take place at this time:

“In a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the DEAD will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (*born again from above – the BIRTH taking place as Christ descends from heaven, John 3:3, 5-8*)” (*I Corinthians 15:52*).

Like the rain falling on seeds in the field or garden, so will



the saintly dead who will have returned to the dust of the earth be made alive:

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in INCORRUPTION – raised in GLORY, raised in POWER, raised a Spiritual Body . . . as we have borne the IMAGE of the man of dust (Genesis 1:26-27), we shall also bear the IMAGE of the heavenly Man (Jesus Christ) . . .” (I Corinthians 15:42-44, 49).

“Who will TRANSFORM our lowly (*human*) body that it may be CONFORMED to His glorious Body” (Philippians 3:21).

The Glorious Transformation of the Saints

The Apostle Paul describes the awesome greatness of all those who will be resurrected back to life together with those who yet live at that time. This awesome change will be made due to a new birth (***John 3:3, 5-8***). Each one will then have become fully changed into the Spirit and Image of God our Father and Jesus Christ and all of them will SHINE like the sun:

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth SHALL AWAKE, some to everlasting life . . . Those who are WISE SHALL SHINE like the BRIGHTNESS of the firmament, and those

who TURN many to RIGHTEOUSNESS like the STARS in heaven” (Daniel 12:2-3).

Having been born again and changed into a Spirit Being, we will then be able to see—the Spirit World—for then we will have become part of it (John 3:3).

Have you ever wondered WHY the angels of Jesus Christ are to be sent to each of the chosen ones who will then be resurrected? The following Scriptures give understanding.

The Resurrected and Changed Saints in Time Order

The Apostle Paul further wrote about those having been resurrected and changed into Spirit:

“For this we say to you by

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the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain shall NOT PRECEDE those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will DESCEND from heaven with A SHOUT (*like the shout to Lazarus, John 11:43-44*) and with the TRUMPET of God. And the dead in Christ will RISE FIRST (*why?*). Then we who are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them into the air (*the earth's atmosphere*). And thus we shall always be together with the Lord” (I Thessalonians 4:15-16).

The resurrected chosen ones will be gathered up in their pre-designated order for a very special reason: the dead will be the first to be made alive, afterwards those who are yet alive.

Each in their own order, the

resurrected saints will then be guided by the angels into their predetermined place to be on the sea of glass. This will be where all the saints will come together, 144,000 saints – the Bride of Jesus Christ (**Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1; 19:7-9**).

Leadership Established

The answer as to why those who are dead will be resurrected **FIRST** is because among them will be the leaders, both major and lesser leaders under whose high offices of authority will be the resurrected saints. (Please Review: *TOMORROW . . . WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE*, “Government Planned from Beginning”, Pages 48-59, by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.)

While considering this, it should be remembered Jesus Christ is a God of order (**I Corinthians 14:33**). For that reason all the placements of the resurrected Elect will have been predetermined by Jesus Christ including the leadership.

The leaders and those appointed to be under them will be highly organized as were the 12 Tribes of Israel coming out of Egypt (**Exodus 13:18; Numbers 1:5-18; 2:2**).

Scripture makes known that upon arrival all the saints will then **STAND** on the sea of glass in their predetermined places before Jesus Christ who will be seated on His glorious

throne to judge each one.

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will SIT on the throne of His glory” (Matthew 25:31)

The Apostle John wrote of this coming time that he saw in vision:

“Then I saw another SIGN in heaven, great and marvellous . . . and I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and THOSE who have the victory over the beast . . . STANDING on the sea of glass . . .” (Revelation 15:1-2).

The Apostle Paul makes known **WHY** the Saints are to **STAND** before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ on the sea of glass:

“Therefore we make it our aim (objective in life), whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all APPEAR before the JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ, that EACH ONE may RECEIVE the things done (while) in his (human) body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:9-10).

Rewards to the Saints
Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus

Christ spoke to His disciples of the future offices and home of His beloved Bride:

“In My Father’s house are many dwellings (margin); because I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2-3).

Critical Commentary: “I go—according to what is undoubtedly the true reading, ‘Because I go’ to prepare a place for you [Greek word-ing inserted by all critical editors] The meaning is, ‘Doubt not that there is for all of you a place in My father’s House, for I am going on purpose to prepare it.’”

Clarke Commentary: “Our Lord alludes here to the Temple, which was called the House of God, in the precincts of which there were a great number of chambers, **I Kings 6:5; Ezra 8:29; Jeremiah 35:2, 4; 36:10.**”

The chamber to be given to each one of the saints will be based on the rewards having been earned in human life as Jesus Christ made known in the following parable.

The Parable of the Talents

Jesus Christ used this parable to make known the Work that His people are to be involved in doing prior to His return (**Matthew 24:45-47**). The primary work is to take His Gospel Message to the nations of Israel and the world

to serve as a witness to them (**Matthew 24:14**). And further it also involves sounding the Ezekiel Warning Message to them (**Ezekiel 33:7-11**).

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus Christ spoke of entrusting His ongoing Work to His disciples of all time to continue doing until He returns to this earth:

“A certain noble man went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return” (Luke 19:12).

Though Christ used the example of a certain noble man in this parable, He was in reality speaking of Himself. The parable continues:

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to each he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, TO EACH according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey . . .

After a long time (2,000 years) the lord of those servants came and SETTLED accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look I have gained five more talents besides

them.’ “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, “Lord you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ”His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.

‘Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant . . . you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. . . .

Therefore take the talent from him and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; and

from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:14-30)

Rewards Given by Jesus Christ for Work Accomplished

Because of the continued diligent work of His Elect people, each one will be rewarded greatly by Jesus Christ:

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and THEN He will REWARD each according to his Works” (Matthew 16:27).

**Afterwards,
the Beginning Reign
of Jesus Christ with
His Bride aiding Him
“. . . He is LORD of Lords
and KING of Kings; and
those with Him are
Called, Chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).**

Because of her faithfulness and perseverance the Bride of Jesus Christ will have prepared herself to meet her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ and will partake of the Marriage Supper:

**“. . . Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns
. . . For the MARRIAGE of**

the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready . . . Blessed are those who are called to the **MARRIAGE SUPPER of the Lamb**" (*Revelation 19:5-9*).

In That Same Day

"Behold, the Day of the LORD is coming . . . then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations (*Revelation 19:11-16*). . . And in that day His feet will STAND on the Mount of Olives . . . thus the LORD will come and all the saints with Him" (*Zechariah 14:1, 3-5*).

The Chosen Virgins of God

The following Scriptures make known the total number and why they will be His bride:

"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion (*on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem*), and with Him 144,000, having His Father's name written on their foreheads . . . These are the ones who were NOT defiled with women (*off-track churches*), for they are VIRGINS (*have clung to the True Teachings*).

are without fault BEFORE the throne of God" (*Revelation 14:1, 4-5*).

A Glorious Future

It should be understood this is only an overview without the many details of all that will take place during this coming time.

However this should be enough for us to see the GLORIOUS FUTURE for those who are blessed to be among the Elect – those who follow Jesus Christ wherever He goes – those who are yet of the Church of the Philadelphia Era, the few from the Sardis Era (*Revelation 3:4*),



And with His Bride at His side, Jesus Christ will then begin His firm and loving rule over this world while teaching mankind His way of life. And upon repentance and acceptance of God the Father and Jesus Christ as their Savior they will be given His Holy Spirit and become members of God's begotten Family.

These are the ones who FOLLOW the Lamb wherever He goes. These were REDEEMED from among men, being Firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found NO DECEIT, for they

and those of the Laodiceans who survive their **martyrdom** during the **Great Tribulation** while repenting and remaining faithful to God! *Revelation 3:16-19.*

Altogether these three Church eras will number possibly seven thousand saints. (*Romans 11:4-7*).

Coupling them together with all of those who were called and selectively chosen by God to be used by Him from the beginning of the creation of mankind unto the beginning of God's New Testament Church in 31 A.D., will bring the total number to—144,000 (**Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1**).

This is a perfect number and exactly the number Christ Jesus wants to begin working with Israel and the Gentile nations in the millennium.

NOTE: The New Oxford Annotated Bible RSV, Revelation 7:3-8 > "The seal (Ezekiel 9:4-6) marks those under God's protection. Verse 4: The explicit number (144,000) symbolizes completeness; not one of the redeemed is missing."

Experimental Commentary, Revelation 7:4 > "Twelve is the number of the tribes, appropriate to the Church: three by four: three, the Divine, multiplied by four, the number for worldwide extension. Twelve by twelve, fixity and completeness: **taken a thousand fold in 144,000**. A thousand implies the world perfectly pervaded by the Divine; for it is ten, the world number, raised by the power of three, the number of God. Of all the tribes—'out of every tribe:' not 144,000 of each, but the aggregate of the 12,000 from every tribe. Children—'sons of Israel.' . . ."

NOTE: Among the 7,000 chosen from each of the

twelve tribes of Israel are also the Gentile Converts. They are considered to be part of Spiritual Israel (**Galatians 3:29**).

The Beginning of the Millennium

These Scriptures reveal that God knew in advance the exact number of the Firstfruits needed to begin His millennial reign. Those who fail will be replaced by others (**Revelation 3:11**). They will be used by Jesus Christ to reign and teach mankind in Tomorrow's World. To make this possible, God will give them possession of the Kingdom:

"But the saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom forever, even forever and ever" (Daniel 7:18).

Christ in bringing about a world of peace and harmony while making known to mankind their potential by the preaching of the Gospel to them:

"And have made them Kings and Priests to our God; and they shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10).

God also led the Prophet Daniel to write of their responsibilities as rulers and teachers that will be given to them by God:

"The Ancient of days came and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the Kingdom . . . Then the Kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,



The Bride of Jesus Christ will have been given the needed offices necessary to aid Jesus

shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them" (Daniel 7:22, 27).



God's Counsel

To be counted worthy to be among those who are the called, chosen, and faithful of the Most High God to be resurrected and changed, the Apostle Paul wrote:

“But YOU must continue in the things (*true teachings as restored by God's late apostle and the promised Elijah, Jude 3*) **which you have learned and been assured of, KNOWING from WHOM you have learned them”** (*II Timothy 3:14*).

Do YOU remember from whom you learned them? Are YOU remaining FAITHFUL to those teachings? You can know by REVIEWING the *unedited MYSTERY OF THE AGES* by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Further, are you yet a member of the remnant Philadelphia Church Era with all of those true restored teachings in place with God's government in place and being pastored by a true faithful pastor of Jesus Christ?

This is something to seriously think about with fervent prayer and Bible study for this

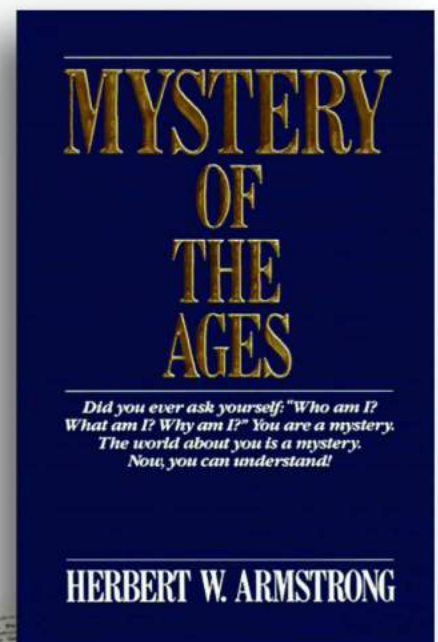
could mean the difference whether you will be in the first resurrection.

The End of this Age is Near

Please realize there is little time left before Jesus Christ returns to this earth and resurrects His faithful, tried, and proven Elect people of God, while changing those who are yet alive (*Revelation 17:14*).

And to be counted worthy to be among them, we must have the strength of enduring faithfulness to God together with the fullness of His TRUTH (*Jude 3*) — while earnestly seeking the GOAL He has set before us—to be in the First Resurrection—just as did the Apostle Paul:

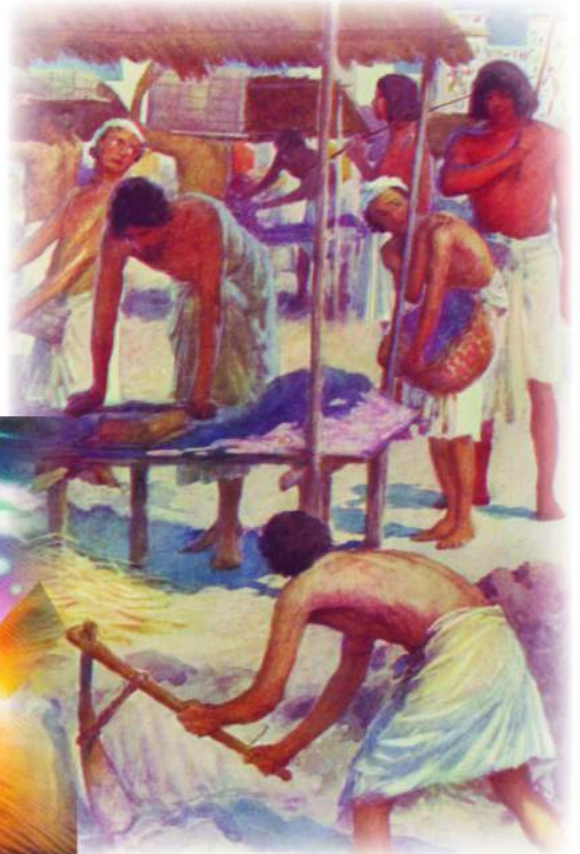
“... if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead ... who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body” (*Philippians 3:11, 21*).



The Passover and the Feast of Firstfruits

And the LORD said, “I have surely seen the oppression of My people in Egypt . . . so I HAVE COME DOWN to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land, to a land flowing with milk and honey . . .” Exodus 3:7-8

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley



In the context of God's Passover and the Feast of Firstfruits, it would be well for us to consider that as the LORD came down to this earth from His most high and holy place in heaven above to DELIVER His people, Israel, from Egypt and lead them into the Promised Land, He will also deliver the Firstfruits, His affianced Bride, from the plagues to soon befall spiritual Babylon (*Revelation 18:4-5; Jeremiah 51:6; Joshua 5:13-15*).

This coming time will be extremely stressful for God's faithful elect. To survive its perils will necessitate having a real close knowing relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Having that closeness with

God will make possible the imperative need of living active faith built on TRUST in God, His Scriptures and promises to survive these terrible times, **“such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be,”** so said Jesus Christ (*Matthew 24:21-22*).

Considering the observance of the Passover in Egypt with the one to be observed either in Jerusalem where God's Elect will rendezvous just prior to the final departure for the place of safety (*Jeremiah 51:6, 50; Matthew 24:15-16*), or in Petra,

Scripture reveals this will be a time very similar to that of Egypt prior to the departure of Israel for the promised land of milk and honey.



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people will be in the place of safety for three and one/half years (**Revelation 12:14**). When we consider the Feast of Trumpets pictures the coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth this would imply God's Church will flee shortly before the Passover to fulfil that time period.

Egypt had been devastated by plagues from God and left in wreckage (**Exodus 10:7**). The same will be true with the House of Joseph during that same time due to the prophesied famine and disease epidemics (**Revelation 6:5-8**).

The very Serious and Continuing Drought in America

Though the News Media do not grasp the fullness of their reporting of the accelerating DROUGHT taking place in key places in America, prophecy reveals it is leading to the prophesied famine and disease epidemics (**Joel 1;** **Ezekiel 6:11-14**). Considering its present and worsening seriousness there is little time left before it reaches its fullness.

Due to the severity of the famine and disease epidemics, the House of Joseph will begin experiencing unprecedented deaths on a

scale heretofore never known and will grow into the many millions as prophecy makes known (**Ezekiel 5:12**).

The societies of both Ephraim and Manasseh will come to be in utter chaos and confusion, as well as the other tribes of Israel, due to the judgment of God on His people for their abominable sins (**Ezekiel 6:11-14**). Afterwards, He will have compassion for them:

“For the LORD will judge His people (Israel, and afterwards) have compassion on His servants when He SEES their POWER is gone and there is no one remaining bond or free” (Deuteronomy 32:36; Jeremiah 30:7-9).



The Vital Importance of God's Passover

The deliverance of ancient Israel from Egypt by the LORD had a direct connection with the Passover. It would not have happened otherwise.



And to bring them into the land of milk and honey is directly associated with the Feast of Firstfruits; the Feast that pictures the Elect people chosen by God to be the Firstfruits to experience a new BIRTH into the Family of God (**John 3:3-5, 8; Ephesians 1:12-14; James 1:18; Romans 8:23**), and to become the Bride of Jesus Christ (**Revelation 19:6-9**).

Whether Jesus Christ will manifest Himself to the presiding pastor of His Church, who will be used by Him to lead and deliver His Elect from spiritual Babylon, as He did with Moses to deliver Israel, is very possible as Scriptures implies— **“... so the LORD alone led him . . .”** (**Deuteronomy 32:11-12**).

It is an absolute certainty that Jesus Christ will be directly involved in every way for He has promised never to leave or forsake His people (**Matthew 28:20**).

Parallels and Dualities

It has been emphasized by God's late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that the Holy Bible is filled with parallels and dualities that connect with the past and Scripture bears out this fact. This is very necessary for understanding in studying the Scriptures and in the writings of articles that bear on the past as well as bringing them into the present and future as can be seen in this article.

God makes this very clear through the writings of His Prophet Isaiah:

“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept (doctrinal teachings) must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little . . . that they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught” (Isaiah 28:9-13).

This makes known there is a lack of understanding for all but the true and faithful people of God for the Scriptures are written like a jig-saw puzzle and have to be put together correctly for understanding (**Matthew 13:10-16**).

It is also understood that when verses or lines are taken from a

chapter or a line from a verse each has to be in context and harmony with the subject.

Learning from Biblical History

Further, the Apostle Paul wrote of the past concerning ancient Israel that virtually always corresponds with the present:

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition (margin: instruction), upon whom the end of the ages have come” (I Corinthians 10:11).

The Apostle Paul also wrote:

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience (margin: perseverance) and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Understanding Symbolic Language

Consider these Scriptures in the context of the near future are also important for understanding:

- Egypt is symbolic of sin (**Revelation 11:8**).
- Ancient Babylon was an empire, however the name is also used spiritually for the mother of harlots (**Revelation 17:2**), and used for the sinful

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society of the House of Joseph (**Revelation 18:4; Jeremiah 51:6**).

- God refers to the House of Joseph as Sodom and Gomorrah (**Isaiah 1:10**).

- In prophecy, Jerusalem (Judah) is referred to as symbolic of sin (**Revelation 11:8; Luke 13:33**).



A Need for Understanding of Scriptures

This should prove to be very helpful in understanding how the happenings of ancient Israel during the Passover and their exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land will correspond to the trials of the true Church of God in the near future. The analogy begins with ancient Israel with their

preparation for the observance of the Passover in Egypt.

God's Instructions for the Observance of His Passover

The Passover that was observed at that time by ancient Israel will play a vital dual role for the coming deliverance of the ELECT of God's true Church as will be seen in the following Scriptures.

Just before the final plague to befall Egypt, Moses said to the Pharaoh:

"Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt: and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die . . . then there

like it again. But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move (*Margin: sharpen*) **its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make A DIFFERENCE between the Egyptians and Israel. And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out" (Exodus 11:4-7).**

The Murder of the Born and Unborn

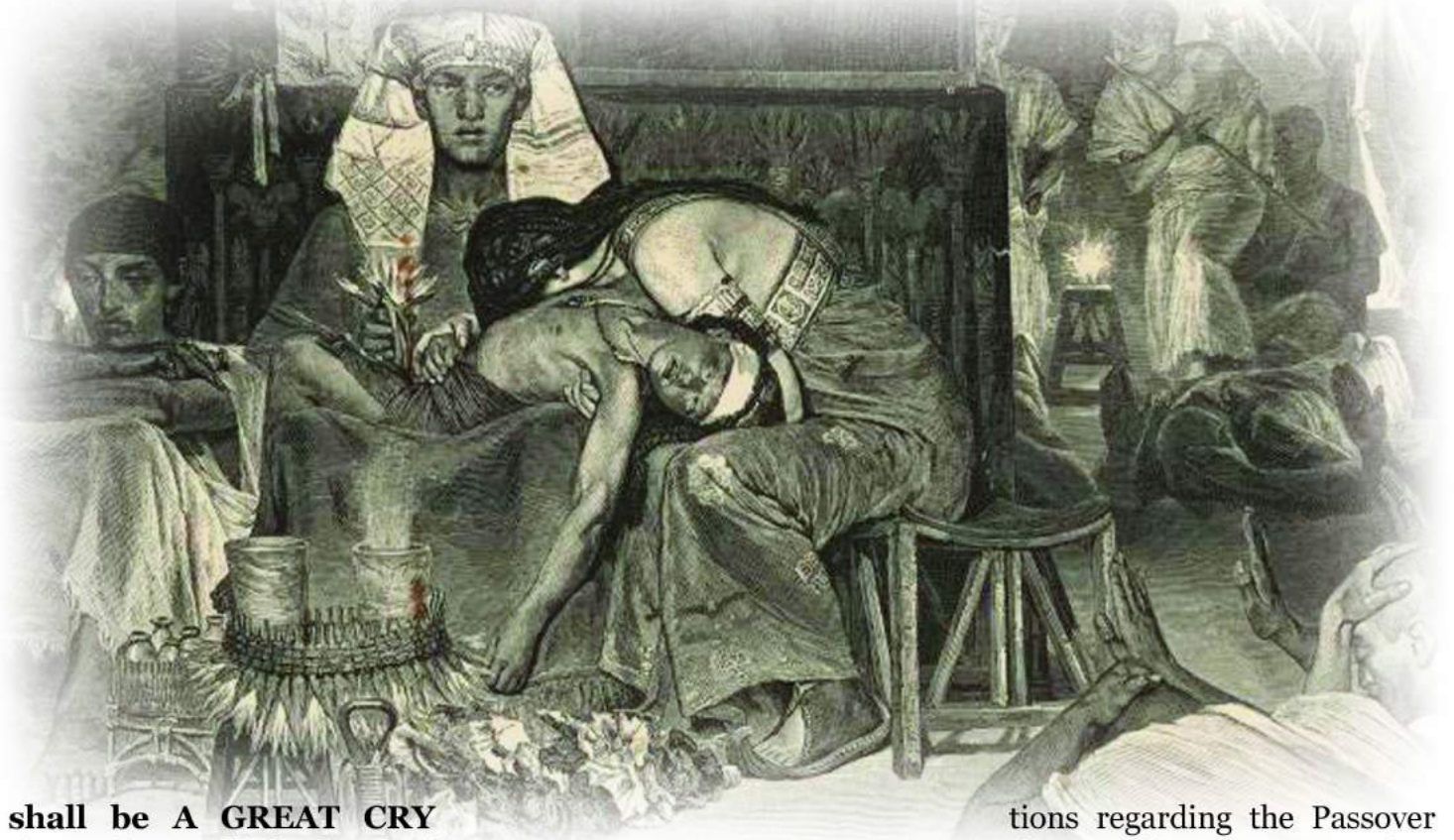
Because Egypt was responsible for murdering the newly born sons of the Tribes of Israel (*Exodus 1:15-16, 22*),

the LORD God killed all of the firstborn of the Egyptians during the night of the Passover (*Exodus 12:29-30*).

Compare this to the House of Joseph who has been responsible for the murder of the unborn that runs into the many millions (*55 million in America alone*). God says vengeance is His, He will repay (*Hebrews 10:30-31*). Not only will multiple millions of the firstborn die in the near future but many other millions as well (*Ezekiel 5:12*).

The Selection of the Sacrificial Lamb

Immediately afterwards the LORD gave Moses instruc-



shall be A GREAT CRY throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall it be

tions regarding the Passover that would set apart Israel as both a Congregation of God and the birth of Israel as a nation.

“Speak to all the Congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the 10th of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. . . . Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year . . . Now you shall keep it until the 14th day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the Congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the BLOOD and put it on the two door posts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. . . . And so shall you eat it in haste. It is the LORD’S PASSOVER.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the FIRSTBORN in the land of Egypt, both man and beast, and against all the gods of Egypt. I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Now the **BLOOD** shall be A SIGN for you on the houses where you are. And WHEN I see the **BLOOD**, I will PASS OVER you; and the plague shall NOT be on you to DESTROY you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:3-7, 11-13).

The Blood from the Sacrificial Lamb

The lives of the people of Israel were spared from death due to following the explicit instructions given to them to swab the blood from a freshly killed lamb over the entrance to their homes (Exodus 12:3-7, 12-13).



The lamb that was chosen and killed was in type that of Jesus Christ the true Lamb of God who was to take away the sin of the world by voluntarily giving His back to the whip (Matthew 27:26), and his life to be taken from Him on the stake by pouring out His life’s blood (Isaiah 53:12; Hebrews 10:5-6; John 1:29).

In this manner He paid the penalty for both our physical and spiritual sins as made known by the prophet Isaiah in very descriptive detail:

“Indeed, My Servant shall prosper, be exalted and raise to great heights (where He is today). Just as the many were appalled at Him (as such an abject person claiming to be the Messiah)—His form, beyond human semblance (made him lose the look of a human being, John 19:1;

I Corinthians 11:24, 27)– Just so He shall startle many nations (cause to spring or rise suddenly in admiration and reverence). Kings shall be silenced because of Him (in amazement at the exaltation of the despised Servant, Psalm 72:11), for they shall SEE what has NOT been told them (at such a miraculous and sudden transformation had never before been heard or seen) shall behold what they never have heard” (Isaiah 52:13-15 NJPS Translation).

“. . . He had no form or beauty, that we should look at Him, no charm,

that we should find Him pleasing. He was despised (*treated like an outcast*), shunned by men, a Man of suffering, familiar with disease. As One who hid His face from us (*so as not to behold such a repellent face*), He was despised, we held Him of no account (*did not know His true worth*). Yet it was OUR SICKNESS (*pain and disease*) that He was bearing (*I Corinthians 11:24*, He was very sick as the result of what He had endured), OUR SUFFERING that He endured, we accounted Him plagued, smitten and afflicted by God; but He was WOUNDED because of OUR SINS (*spiritual sins*), CRUSHED (*blows cut into His body*) because of OUR iniquities (*I Corinthians 11:25-26*). He BORE the chastisement that made us whole, and BY His bruises (*blows cut into His body by the whip*) we were HEALED (*I Peter 2:24*)” (*Isaiah 53:1-5 NJPS*).

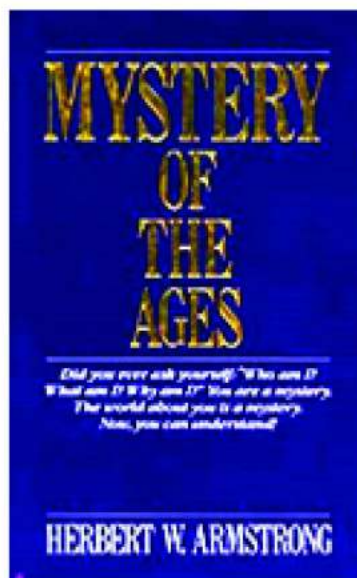
God's New Testament Passover

To **RENEW** the covenant made with God at baptism is much more than form—it has to do with RELATIONSHIP, believing, and living, the TRUE teachings of God and Jesus Christ our Lord, that including the explicit instructions regarding the observance of God's Passover. Tragically the churches that are off-track moved away from the true Passover service by

accepting the satanic one put together by the apostate pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, who coupled the bread together with the wine – teaching erroneously there is no such thing as physical sin, thus removing the blessing of physical Healing that expresses the deeply personal relationship between an individual and his God.

To partake of those precious very meaningful symbols, as clearly made known in Scriptures, it is of vital necessity to refresh our memories of the true meaning of both the **BREAD** AND **WINE**.

And to refresh the memory concerning the symbols of the BREAD and WINE, one should study the Scriptures related to it along with the writings of God's late apostle (*the unedited Mystery of the Ages*, pages 211-213; and the booklet, *The Plain Truth About Healing*, 1979 publication).



It is an absolute MUST that the blood of the Messiah, the true Lamb of God, upon godly Repentance, cover the sins of God's true and faithful people, to be delivered from the **Great Tribulation and the second death** (*Acts 2:38; Hebrews 9:7, 11-15; Revelation 12:10-11*). The same will be true with all of mankind within God's Time Table of approximately 7,100 years.

Passover – A Time of Testing

Prior to the beginning of the 4th plague, Moses made known to the Pharaoh the LORD God would begin making a difference between the sufferings of Israel and the Egyptians:

“And in that day I will SET APART the land in Goshen, in which My people dwell, and no swarms of flies will be there, in order t h a t

y o u
m a y
k n o w
that I am
the LORD
in the
midst of the
l a n d .
I w i l l
M A K E
A DIFFERENCE
between My people
and your people.
Tomorrow this SIGN shall
be” (*Exodus 8:22-23*).

Before the LORD God MADE A DIFFERENCE between the tribes of Israel and the Egyptians they endured very hard and trying tests, experiencing—“... **anguish of spirit and cruel bondage**” (*Exodus 6:9*)

Though the ELECT people of God will also experience some of the same difficulties and trials as did the people of Israel, Jesus Christ will begin to make a real difference between His Elect people and spiritual Babylon just as He did at that time.

A Remarkable Duality with the Church in Jerusalem

The Passover was a time of severe testing for ancient Israel during their preparation for its observance. The same has been true each and every year for the members of God’s Church from its inception and it will become more critical at this end-time with each coming year before the time of departure for the place of safety as did God’s Church in Jerusalem in 70 A. D.

Leading up to that time the people of God suffered persecution from the Jews in Jerusalem as made known from historical writings:

Ancient History in Bible Light, The Early Roman Empire, Dorothy Ruth Miller, page 259: “... the Christians suffered fanatical persecution from the Jews because they did not sympathize with the determination

of the Jews to revolt. The Lord Jesus had by example and precept taught His disciples obedience to the temporal powers, and the teaching of Paul was the same. The persecution to which they were subjected because of their adherence to these principles was doubtless a contributing cause, two or three years later, to their removal from Judea, and their consequent escape from the horrors of the siege.

The Destruction of Jerusalem, 70 A. D.



Page 260-261 > *The Date of the beginning of the Siege.* The siege of Jerusalem by Titus began at the Passover season, on the fourteenth of Nisan, 70 A. D.

Fearful Sights and Great Signs. (Luke 21:11). Yet the Jews who suffered in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem were not left without warnings immediately preceding the siege . . . [several miraculous signs—beginning in 66 A. D.].

Again on the night of the last Pentecost [69 A. D.] ever

celebrated in this Sanctuary [Josephus recorded] “as the priests were going by night into the inner Temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a sound

as of a great multitude, saying, ‘Let us remove hence.’”

Josephus adds, “But these men interpreted some of these signals according to their own pleasure, until their madness was demonstrated, both by the taking of their city and their own destruction.”

The Terrors of the Siege. None of the previous calamities which had befallen Jerusalem is to be compared with this terrible siege. It lasted 134 days. The city was crowded for the Passover. The public granaries became empty. Private supplies were plundered. “At length no table was

spread, nor regular meal eaten in Jerusalem. People bartered all their wealth for a measure of corn, and ate it in secret, uncooked or snatched half baked from their coals. They were often compelled, by torture, to discover their food, or were still more cruelly treated if they had eaten it. Wives would steal the last morsel from their husbands, children from parents, mothers from children; and there were instances of dead infants being eaten by their parents, so that the ancient prophecy (**Deuteronomy 28:56, 57**) in which Moses had described the punishments of the unbelieving Jews was fulfilled.” . . .

Page 262 > The Escape of the Christians. Attention has been called to the fact that the Christians in Palestine took no part in the revolt of the Jews. Some time before the siege [shortly before the Passover], following the warning in **Luke 21:20-22**, they withdrew to Pella, beyond the Jordan, led by Symeon, the cousin, it is thought of the Lord Jesus, and of James the first pastor of the Church at Jerusalem. . . .”

The Analogy of that Time and the Future

Understanding the end-time prophecies relating to the time just before this country's demise, and the escape of God's Church, one should be able to see what took place at that time with the Christians in Jerusalem will be an almost exact parallel to the time just ahead for God's people of

today.

These coming years will present even greater TESTS than ever before for each one of God's true and faithful people! And whatever few years that are left the TESTS will intensify—grow even greater! We must understand this and draw near to God to have His loving protective care for each one of us (**Psalms 34:7; Hebrews 1:14; James 4:7-10**).

Disasters Striking the House of Joseph

It should be realized in view of the end-time prophecies together with the increasing frequency of disasters striking this country along with the accelerating problems in the nations of this world continuing to break all records, that we are on the very precipice of the beginning of the horrors to befall this nation and the world.

This once great nation has now begun experiencing payback from God for the terrible problems that have surfaced of late as never before witnessed by this older generation—horrible problems that will spell the end of this country and other nations of Israel!

There will come to be the deaths of multiple millions of people in the House of Joseph; tragically there will also be the deaths of many of the elect members of God's Church, as prophecy makes known:

And it was granted to him (the Beast Power) to make WAR with the saints and to overcome them . . .” (Revelation 13: 7; Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 3:16, 19).



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This coming martyrdom was foretold in Scripture:

“When He opened the 5th seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been SLAIN for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held (through the centuries). And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, UNTIL You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them, that they should rest a little while longer, UNTIL both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.” (Revelation 6:9-11).

Survival Strength Comes From God

Knowing all the terrible horrors to be inflicted upon Him, and the strength he would need, Jesus Christ prayed so intently to His Father that— **“... His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:39-44).**

This is an example of to how earnest we will have to come to be in the face of these coming trials. Trials can develop growth in perseverance through the exercise of faith in God **(James 1:2-6)**, the strength of will of faithfulness coupled with living active faith

and implicit trust in our relationship with God **(Matthew 22:37-38)**. And there should be preparation taking place for them now.

The Vital Importance of God’s Passover

To be under the protective caring love of Jesus Christ from all that we will soon be experiencing, we **MUST** have an ongoing relationship with our Father and Jesus Christ.

And a major TEST of the strength of that relationship is whether we will continue to be **OBSERVING** the true Passover and its symbols exactly in the manner prescribed by Jesus Christ our Lord as was required by ancient Israel on the night of the Passover in Egypt.

It must be emphasized the Passover is the most important service in God’s Master Plan for it pictures the agonizing beating and crucifying death of the Lamb of God who voluntarily gave His back to the whip and His life on the stake for the payment of sins for mankind **(John 3:16)**. And it must be observed according to Scripture if God’s people are to have His Mark upon them for escape and survival **(Ezekiel 9:1-11)**.

Passover—2014

The observance the of Passover by God’s people during this year of 2014 possibly could be the harbinger of the coming terrible times. This is a vitally important time in the life of each and every true member of God’s true Church; just as it was with Israel at the time of the Passover in Egypt **(Exodus 12:1-14; 21-24)**.



The Passover is the annual time of the year to once again RENEW our covenant that was made with our Father and Jesus Christ at the time of our repentance, baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit (**Act 2:38; Romans 6; Ephesians 2:1-3; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:53-54**).

To RENEW that covenant is much more than form—it has to do with RELATIONSHIP, believing and living the TRUE teachings of God and Jesus Christ our Lord while fully believing in those precious symbols to be partaken of during the Passover service.

It is an absolute MUST to bring back into our memories the true meaning of what the **BREAD** (that has been rejected by churches off-track) and what the **WINE** symbolizes by studying the Scriptures related to it along with the writings of God's late apostle (*Mystery of the Ages, pages 211-213, The Plain Truth About Healing, 1979 publication*).

Departure from Egypt

On the following night after the observance of the Passover, the people of Israel began their departure from Egypt. When considering the Scriptures about their departure it should also become easy to see the duality of ancient Israel at that time, and the elect people of God today who will also depart from spiritual Egypt and Babylon (**Revelation 18:4; 12:13-16**):



“... the enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw out my sword, my hand shall destroy (or, repossess) them. You BLEW with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. . . . You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them (**Revelation 12:15-16**). You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength to Your holy habitation.

The people will HEAR and be AFRAID, sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Palestinia (*Philistia, Philistines, Palestine*). Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling will take hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away (*this will make possible permission for God's people to live in Petra*).

Fear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of Your arm they will be as still as stone, **TILL Your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over WHOM YOU HAVE PURCHASED**. You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the

place which You have made for Your own dwelling, the Sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established. The LORD shall reign forever and ever.” (Exodus 15:1-9, 12-18).

The Psalmist wrote further about this time in the history of Israel:

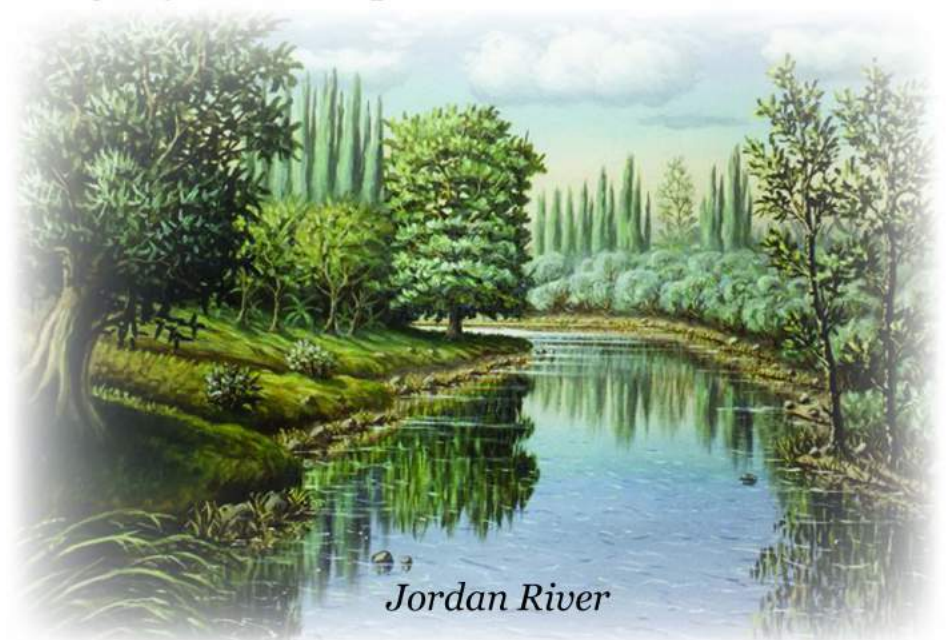
“Nevertheless He saved them for His name’s sake, that He might make His mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea also (as He did the Jordan River *Joshua 3:1-17*, and will again, *Revelation 12:13-16*), and it dried up; so He led them through the depths, and through the wilderness. He saved them from the hand of him who HATED them, and **REDEEMED** them from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their enemies; there was not one of them left. Then they believed His words; they sang His praise” (*Psalm 106:8-12*).



The Wave Sheaf Offering of the Firstfruits

Israel began their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land the following night after the Passover:

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I also give you, and reap its



Jordan River

harvest (rewards), then you shall bring a sheaf of the Firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the Day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that Day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year (symbolic of Jesus Christ), without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD” (*Leviticus 23:9-11*).

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Jesus Christ was the First of many Firstfruits. As the Apostle James wrote, “... we also who have the Firstfruits of the Spirit ...” (*Romans 8:23*).

Israel Entering the Promised Land

Upon entering the Land of Milk and Honey, Israel had to RENEW the covenant made with God through the circumcision of the flesh to continue

being accepted as God’s chosen people (*Joshua 5:1-9*). Then they were counted worthy to keep the Passover:

Then the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the 14th day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. And they ate of the produce of the land ON THE DAY after the Passover, unleavened Bread and parched grain on the same Day” (*Joshua 5:10-12*).

NOTE: **Joshua 5:11**> Sunday – beginning of new grain eaten on the morrow AFTER the Sabbath. The offering of the Wave Sheaf Offering occurred at the end of the Sabbath. Here is the introduction to the Days of Unleavened Bread.



Then the LORD (*Jesus Christ*) appeared to Joshua as the Commander of His armies of to make possible Israel entering and possessing the Promised Land (**Joshua 5:13-15**).

Ancient Israel /The Elect People of God

The duality continues with the continual annual renewal of the Covenant the Elect people of God made with Him through the partaking of the symbols of the Passover (**Matthew 26:28**). There was also the need of Israel having to be circumcised upon entering the Promised Land. Circumcision is also required of God's people – *the circumcision of the heart* (**Romans 2:28-29**).

And to be accepted among the Firstfruits, that will total 144,000 (**Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-4**) who will be graced to be the Bride of Jesus Christ, the Firstfruits must be Virgins (*remaining faithful to God and His restored teachings*) while following the Lamb wherever He goes:

Then I looked, and behold, A LAMB standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144, 000, having His Father's Name written on their foreheads. . . . These are the ones who were NOT defiled with women, for they are Virgins. These are the ones who FOLLOW the Lamb wherever He goes. These were (had been) redeemed (purchased) from among men, being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb (Revelation 14:1, 4).



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Self-Deception

Members MUST NOT place themselves in peril by deceiving themselves into thinking they are all right with God while being with groups they know are off course, but justifying themselves into remaining with them because they themselves are still clinging to the original teachings.

These members are on the verge of losing their Virginity for they are not following the Lamb wherever He goes (**Matthew 7:13-14, 24-25; John 10:1-5**). Jesus Christ is not with off-track churches regardless of who is the leader!

To remain with them could very well take members back into spiritual darkness along with those churches. Scripture tells us: **"They do not know, nor do they**

understand; they walk about in darkness . . . (Psalm 82:5).

Churches Off-Track

Prophecy reveals these churches have lost their bearings! And though they think they are all right, God tells us otherwise. The time is soon coming when they and their flocks will be scattered! Where will they be then?

“For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have NOT sought the LORD (in truth); therefore they shall NOT prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered” (Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-2; John 10:10, 12-13; Daniel 12:7; Ezekiel 34. ; James 4:7-9).

God's Counsel

Jesus Christ counsels each one of His people to examine themselves (**II Corinthians 13:5**). If you as a member are affiliated with a church that is off-track, Jesus Christ would have you leave post haste, and return to where the TRUTH that was taught and believed by God's true apostle and promised Elijah, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was the very instrument Jesus Christ used to restore His teachings within His Church (**Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11**). God's counsel is for everyone to return to what they once were taught and believed at the time:

Thus says the LORD:

“Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the GOOD WAY is, and walk in it; then you will find REST for your souls.

But they said (leaders and members of off track churches), ‘We will NOT walk in it.’

Also, I set watchmen over you, saying (Ezekiel 33:1-11), ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet (imminent warfare)! But they said, ‘We will NOT listen!’ Therefore HEAR, you nations, and KNOW, O Congregation, what is (the evil) among them . . .” (Jeremiah 6:16-18, 22-23; II Timothy 3:14).

A Very Disappointing Future for the Unrepentant

Scripture makes known the unrepentant that are spiritually blinded in this age will be resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgement.

In the meantime they will either perish during the Great Tribulation or rest in their graves until that time:

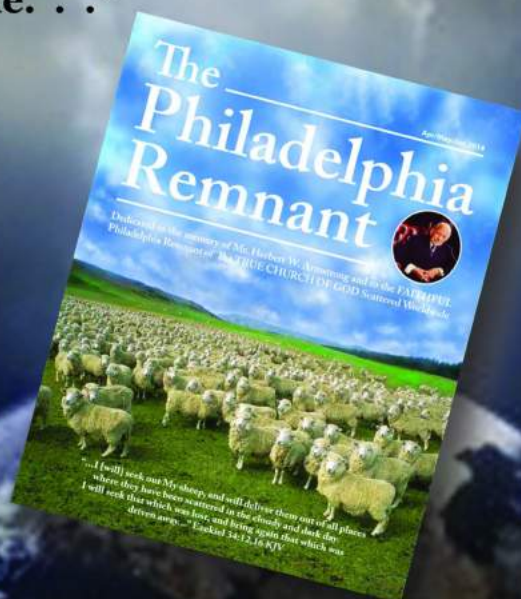
“A Glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our Sanctuary. O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who FORSAKE You shall be ashamed (Daniel 12:2; Ezekiel 37—the GWTJ). Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth (Malachi 4:3), because they have FORSAKEN the LORD; the fountain of living waters” (Jeremiah 17:12-13; John 7:37).



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Jesus Christ pleads with His people today to return to the old paths with true repentance and humility in order to be spared from the terrible times ahead of us. To return is also the requirement of partaking of the true Passover symbols to be accepted among the Firstfruits of God's true people. The door is yet open:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone HEARS My voice and OPENS the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. . .”
Revelation 3:20-22).



Church of God - Faithful Flock
P.O. Box 130
Valley Springs, CA 95252



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

Free Online Bible Study
www.cog-ff/biblestudytools

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

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

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

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

Herbert Armstrong-His Life & Work
www.herbertwarmstrong.info

Lost Ten Tribes of Israel
www.losttentribes.org

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

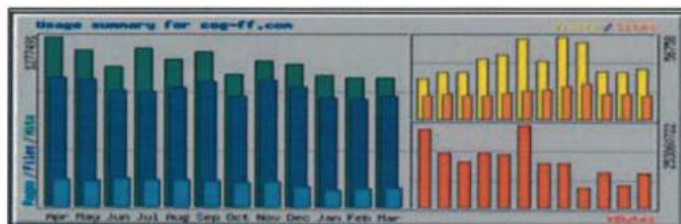
Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

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

COGFF-Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

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

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