



The Midnight Cry

July 2009, Volume 1, Number 5

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding



THE
MIDNIGHT CRY
HAS BEGUN



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Living in Bible Times!



Dear Brethren,

Here we are in the last half of July 2009! It is amazing to me how fast time whizzes by. And what is truly amazing is the fact that we are living in "Bible Times"! Prophecy is being fulfilled at an accelerated rate and yet so many of the called and chosen of God are oblivious to the fantastic events that have so swiftly sped by. The living Head of the True Church, Jesus Christ, has told us in Luke 21:34-36 in no uncertain terms that we must be careful and watchful:



And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all the things that must come to pass and to stand before the Son of man.

How watchful have you been? Are you really aware of the prophesied events that you have lived through in the past 23 ½ years? The reason I mention 23 ½ years is that is how long it has been since the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Recently a sermon was given here in the CGF that is available on our website and is presently being written into article format. The title of that powerful sermon is, *Are You Afraid of Truth?* Let me list some of the Truths that were brought out in the sermon in fulfillment of the prophesied events you have lived through in these Bible Times—then you evaluate yourself to see how "watchful" you have been!

- The end-time Elijah has come and gone (Mal. 4:6).
- The Gospel of the Kingdom of God has been proclaimed to all nations as a witness (Mat. 24:14).
- The Laodicean Work of Christ was raised up (Rev. 3: 14).
- The "man of sin" of II Thess. 2 has been identified.
- The great "falling away" has already occurred (II Thess. 2:4).
- The Day of the Lord came right on time at the end of 6000 years (Rev. 1:10).
- The spiritual "abomination of desolation" is standing in the Holy Place (Ezek. 8; 16-18 and Mat. 24:15).
- Joshua, the High Priest of Zech. 3 has been identified.
- The synagogue of Satan of Rev. 3:9 has been identified.
- The midnight cry of Mat. 25 to awaken the sleeping virgins is beginning to be heard.

Those are ten very important prophesied

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A Date Which Will Live In Infamy!

by Robert Ardis

In 1941 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered a speech to the American people—and to the world—stating that the surprise attack by the Japanese military upon Pearl Harbor was “*a date which will live in infamy*”! And that fateful day plunged the United States of America into WWII and changed the entire world.

The Japanese attack was an infamous act, but just one among many that have occurred throughout history. However, there is one particular day that God Almighty seems to consider the chief of the **Days of Infamy**. For the purpose of this article let’s take a look at this evil day.

Rejecting the Promised Land

In Numbers 13 the Eternal instructs Moses to select twelve spies to go into the Promised Land to see how wonderful the land was. God was giving them a fantastic blessing—a land “flowing with milk and hon-

ey” and He was going to fight their battles for them.

Verses 17-22 read:

“ And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, **Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; And what the land is that they dwell in whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strongholds; And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.** So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now He-

bron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bore it

Jewish tradition involving the time of the commissioning of these men was during the “time of the first-ripe grapes” and was on our modern calendar, early August. There were three gatherings of grapes; first in August, second in September and a third in October. The grapes that were cut down during the spies 40 days of examining the land was evidently from the second gathering, but the main point is they were sent out on their mission in early August.

When the 12 returned, 10 gave a positive report on the fruitfulness of the land but an extremely fearful and negative report on the inhabitants of the Promised Land.

Verses 32-33:

“ And they brought up an *evil report* of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land,

through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Occasionally, throughout history very evil events have happened on Av 9-10

tervened on their behalf (vv 12-15), and the Eternal cursed that entire generation. They would wander 40 years in the wilderness, a year for every day they had spied out the promised land, and that every one of that generation would die in the wilderness—but their children would enter into the Land of Promise. Read the remainder of Numbers 14.



Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month [Atonement], even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

I want to present a brief list of some of the terrible events that have occurred to the Jewish people on Av 9-10 as reported by the *El Shaddai Ministries*.

They list as number one the failure of the 10 commissioned spies to report the truth with the resultant curse placed upon that generation as beginning on Av 9—truly a Day of Infamy.

585 BC—the first Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (100,000 Jews died and millions were exiled).

70 AD—the second Temple was destroyed by General Titus (2 million Jews died/1 million exiled).

135 AD—the Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by the Emperor Hadrian (100,000 Jews slaughtered).

136 AD—General Turnus Rufus leveled Jerusalem, rebuilt it as a pagan city to be called Aelia Capitolina and forbade Jews to enter.

1095 AD—Pope Urban declared the 1st Crusade (thousands of Jews died/many communities obliterated).

1492 AD—Spanish Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews from Spain.

1914 AD—WWI started, stemmed the resentment for the Holocaust.

Verses 1-4 of chapter 14 relates the faithless reaction of the people:



And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Therefore the Eternal was greatly angered at their total lack of confidence in Him:



And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have showed among them?

Thus God was ready to destroy the entire nation, but Moses in-

Av 9, Tisha B'Av (The Fast Day)

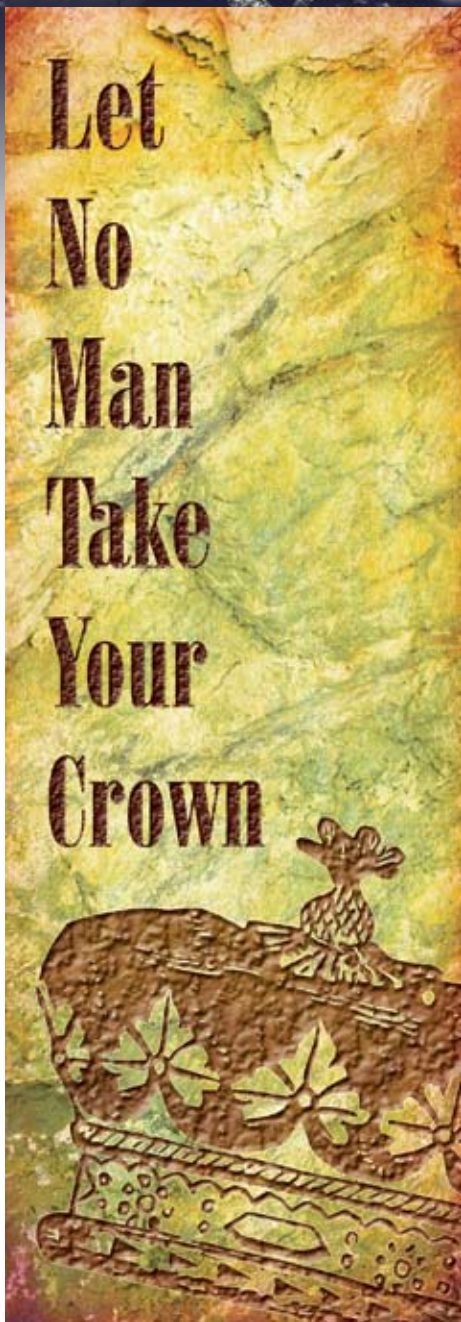
According to Jewish tradition the commission of the spies to go into the Promised Land was on the ninth day of the fifth month (Av) of the Hebrew Calendar (God's Calendar)! That was a fateful day that developed into a Day of Infamy when the spies brought back the opposite report that they should have delivered. God was very provoked—He was furious! This year Av 9, on the Gregorian calendar, is July 30.

Occasionally, throughout history very evil events have happened

on Av 9-10, especially for the Jewish people. And I suspect if a search was done it would be seen that many of the truly evil days in the his-

With the world in the state of turmoil that is evident today, we expect anything to happen anytime

tory of the nations of Israel would have occurred on Av 9-10 also. Av 9 became a day of repentance and fasting for the Jews, but was seen by God as just a self-righteous practice.



by Frank Borg

Since the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in January 1986, Satan has leveled a tireless attack against God's Church aimed at deceiving and spiritually destroying as many of God's begotten children as possible. He has blinded the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17) and caused the most part of the remainder of God's begotten children to be driven into a state of deep spiritual sleep (Matt. 25:5). Despite

Satan's astounding success in deceiving tens of thousands of God's people in recent years, God's Work and goal will not be thwarted! Those few deep within the inner court of His temple, comprising His remnant Work, continue to be spiritually alert and perceptive to what is happening to His Church in this end-time (Matt. 16:18).

Vanity – Always A Problem!

Over the last two decades or so, Satan has succeeded in fragmenting God's Church into hundreds of splits and splinter groups – each a counterfeit of the one organization through which God is working and delivering Truth. A number of men who *today* lead these organizations have meanwhile appropriated various titles to themselves - including apostle, prophet, That Prophet - each giving his own interpretation as to why they feel these titles pertain to themselves! Essentially, vanity has motivated and tricked these men into exalting themselves, believing that it is their divine right to (mis)appropriate various scriptures to their end and to think that God will honor their unbiblical teachings and reckless advice which they impose

on their followers! These same men also reject New Truth which means they are rejecting God, His voice and His revelation. They are essentially telling God they do not need Him, nor want to listen to Him, while alienating themselves and their followers from deeper Biblical understanding being given by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. In so doing, these leaders are teaching error! This is a grave

...vanity has motivated and tricked these men into exalting themselves...

mistake and each will be held accountable!

Interestingly, as these leaders assign themselves titles and responsibilities (which are not theirs to take), they manage to hoodwink, seduce and hypnotize the faithful who form part of their organization. It is weird to see so many blindly and unquestionably submit to the unbiblical requests of these same physical leaders. By doing so, individuals deepen the loyalty toward a man (their physical leader), while unwittingly push God into second, third or worse place. These actions mean that so many individuals are digging themselves into a deeper spiritual hole because of a failure to *test their leaders* (Rev. 2:2), and *prove all things* that are being taught in their organizations (1 Thess. 5:21). Instead of making a stand for God and a stand for that which is right, most seem to prefer to go along with the prevailing current they find themselves in, presumably because it is easier or more convenient to do so but also because the leadership has seduced them with craftiness and cunning words (Eph. 4:14; 2 Cor. 11:13-14). Lulling God's people into this sort of complacency is possibly the number one trap which Satan uses in his effort

to destroy God's Family and His Work today! It is Satan's tactic to shift people's faith in God to faith in a man! In doing so, most of God's people are shamefully refuting vital admonition given throughout the pages of the Bible. Most have carelessly brushed aside the oft repeated biblical warning to "Let *no man* deceive you"! (1 John 3:7; Eph 4:14; Eph 5:6; Mark 13:5 etc). Satan is a master at his

job, and he won't give up!

Learning Lessons From Church History

What is equally alarming is that many begotten children of God have forgotten a crucial lesson from Church history. Scriptures confirm that Church leaders in Ephesus, the first of God's seven Churches, claimed to be apostles when they were not (Rev. 2:2)! Vanity demanded that these leaders in Ephesus propelled themselves to preeminence among the people of God. These rebellious leaders administered false teachings and took it upon themselves to suspend brethren from the fellowship of God's people for not adhering to their unbiblical teachings! Note the following scriptures, outlining this problem faced by those in the Ephesus Church:

“ I wrote unto the Church, but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the Church. (3 Jn. 1:9-10).

Many in the Church in Ephesus went right along with the teachings of their misguided leaders. Human nature teaches us that brethren who did this wanted to hang onto their leaders coattails and be in their 'good books' for personal

physical gain – albeit temporary and irrelevant in the grand scheme of things and in God's eyes. They trusted these leaders 'in faith' – *blind faith!* Clearly, there were those in Ephesus who were not spiri-

...many begotten children of God have forgotten a crucial lesson from Church history.

tually alert or perceptive enough to see what was going on in God's Church at the time! They submitted to their leaders without question or hesitation even though their leaders were evidently not following Christ but their own selfish desires and agendas. God tells us to follow a human leader *only as that leader follows Christ* (1 Cor. 11:1). *That* is God's government in action! God doesn't tell us to follow a man irrespective of what he says and does. That would be foolish (Prov. 14:7)! A true leader of God must follow Him closely and hear His voice! It is our individual responsibility to ascertain this by always keeping God in the forefront of our minds – proving all things and testing what our physical leaders teach to ensure they are following God and accepting New Truth! Few in Ephesus remembered this vital lesson – to watch, pray, prove, test and place their faith in God and not in a man. Notice how God praised the faithful in Ephesus who looked to Him, and not to men:

“ I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them

which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted...to him who overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life (Rev. 2:2-3, 7).

Test your leaders

The faithful in Ephesus 'tried' their leaders! Strong's indicates that this means they 'tested, scrutinized, examined and proved' their leaders! This lesson in testing and examining the leadership should be learnt by all! We should all be diligently doing this today and always,

There are many that claim to be used by God and are not (1 John 4:1)

ensuring we do not fall into one of Satan's more successful traps which we are here discussing. This problem we read about during the Ephesus Church is history – *our history* – and we must know it lest it repeat itself! We should all know, remember and learn from Church history so that the negative does not repeat itself in our lives! None of God's people should have any excuse!

All of God's begotten children need to be cognizant of the fact that most of the seven Church's of God throughout history went off track. Their leaders started off well, but many veered off their spiritual course (Rev. 2 & 3). Why? Because these leaders and God's people did not learn the lessons from history! To stick with God, begotten members throughout history had to constantly and continually test their leaders and prove all things to ensure that they remained with the Trunk. God pleads with us to take heed of this vital lesson and

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Trust in God

Not Man *by John Durrad*

As the end of the 20th century closed and the 21st century commenced, the whole world hoped for better things. Instead, the decline of the American and English speaking world continued. Our nations looked forward to A new millennium, but not *THE* Millennium.

Our world does not know God and certainly does not trust Him. Our nations have enjoyed many great blessings because one man did trust God. God promised Abraham that He would bless him and make of him a great nation. Why? Because of obedience! Abraham trusted God. God gave him a two-fold promise: a promise of race, (a great nation), and a promise of grace, through Jesus Christ.

That promise was confirmed to Isaac and then to Jacob, and our nations have benefitted from one man's trust in

God - but not for much longer! God is withdrawing His Blessing because our nations are in rebellion against Him.

Where do *we* put *our* trust? Ultimately, our trust must be in God, and not in man. What exactly do we mean by that?

“ Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord...Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is (Jer. 17:5, 7).

Verse 5 does not

IGNORANCE
Lies
Deceit
Falseness

say we should never trust a man. The problem arises if we trust in men and turn our backs on God and His Law - then we are under a curse (Jer. 10:23).

Yet we can trust in men whom we have proved have the faith of God and keep His Law. Here is what Mr Armstrong wrote in a member's hotline, August 6, 1979:

“ Forty-six years ago, God raised up Herbert W Armstrong, opening his mind to God's TRUTH, using him as Christ's instrument in raising up the present era of the CHURCH OF GOD. Through Mr Armstrong, Jesus Christ RESTORED THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD – not, of course, yet over the word, but over the Church - as the ONLY PLACE ON EARTH where the Govern-

ment OF GOD is administered, preparing for the soon-coming OF CHRIST IN SUPREME POWER AND GLORY TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD OVER ALL THE EARTH!

In Mr Flurry's book, *God's Family Government*, he quotes the above extract from Mr Armstrong's

Hotline and follows it with his own comment:

“The Philadelphia Church is the ONLY PLACE ON EARTH where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is administered.”

Interestingly enough, that was written in the 1993 edition of the “God’s Family Government” booklet. In the reprint of 2001 both Mr Armstrong’s quote and Mr Flurry’s quote are missing! This is interesting because in 1993 the PCG was the only place on earth where the Government of God was administered, but by 2001 Christ had left and was working with Mr Robert Ardis and the Church of God’s Faithful (CGF)!

It is difficult to trust in men, but God has given us men to trust (Eph 4:11-13).

Do You Believe What God Says?

Today, we live in a society where anything goes. This is because people don’t believe or trust in God! If you don’t believe in God you cannot trust in Him. People today don’t really believe what He says, and there is no wonder when many religious leaders show a distinct lack of faith and understanding. Notice what the Bible says about these so-called intelligent men: “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim 3:7).

We simply cannot afford to trust men who do not have the Truth. What about those who have some truth, are holding fast to that truth,

but will not accept New Truth, and will not allow themselves to grow? The Bible exhorts us to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Would you want to trust in a man who refuses to accept proven New Truth from the Bible?

Jesus Christ is our Faithful Witness. We do have a Mediator with God the Father who we can trust. If we trust Christ we should then desire to follow Him. How did Christ succeed? This is the key to eternal life, and the answer can be found in the Word of God:

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).”

Christ overcame the world, but how did He do that? We need to examine three parts of this verse:

1. In me ye might have peace

We cannot know peace if we are disobedient to God. Man’s main problem is disobedience and outright rebellion against Him. This rebellion is not confined to this world. Even the Church of God today is split – there is division, strife, contention, and confusion between all the splinter groups! We cannot have peace, in our own mind and with others, if we are in disagreement with God’s Word by not accepting new understanding or New Truth. Only obedient people who are growing can truly obtain the peace that Christ has.

2. Be of good cheer

In other words, don’t be easily discouraged. The man sick of the palsy was told to cheer up not just because he was to be healed, but because his sins were forgiven (Matt 9:2). Obedient people will repent and will have their sins forgiven. This is a wonderful reason to be cheerful. Peter spelt it out for us:

“But and if you suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled (1 Pet 3:14).”

Peter was saying that even if we suffer for being righteous, we can still be happy. Being cheerful or joyous is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

3. I have overcome the world

This is Satan’s world. Unless we understand what Christ meant by this statement – the world will overcome us! What must we overcome? Seven Church eras were admonished to overcome yet many failed to deeply put their trust in Christ. They lost their first love, held on to false doctrines, turned to idols, became lukewarm and even spiritually dead.

Let No Man Deceive You

Are you concerned about God’s people, about yourself, about what has happened historically to God’s Church and what the future holds? Are you taking heed that no man deceives you? Are you growing in the grace and knowledge (Truth) of Jesus Christ? Are you sure you are set apart by the truth of God (John 17:17)?

Christ overcame! He had to fight his own human nature, society and the world just as we do. We can overcome these things just as Christ did but to do that success-

We simply cannot afford to trust men who do not have the Truth.

fully we need to trust in God, and not in ourselves or another man's devices.

It can be so easy and natural to put our trust in this society, yet we are told to love not the world (1 John 2:15). God so accurately prophesied the kind of society we are struggling against today:

“ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away (2 Tim 3:1-5).

Not one of the 19 characteristics outlined in these verses reflect the attitude of an overcomer. We need to constantly check our own attitudes against this list to see how we measure. Our society is sick: we see families in domestic chaos, nations facing anarchy, true leadership disappearing, and punishment rarely fitting the crime. Would anyone bet on us surviving even one more decade in this environment?

Some say people get the government they deserve. But who is responsible for the world as it is today? Many had a part in producing this society; we shouldn't be too quick to point a finger. Who has caused our society to be the way it is? Who is to blame? Parents? Teachers? The Media? Liberal Clergy? Politicians? The ordinary man? To one degree or another, all are re-

sponsible because the carnal mind won't trust God: and if man won't trust God, he relies on himself and is directed and subtly guided by Satan. This has produced the degenerate society we now live in. Notice:

“ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom 8:7-8).

These verses tell us that not only can we not trust other men, but we cannot even trust ourselves! God is very concerned about the world's effect on His people and calls us to come out of it (Rev 18:4).

It is hard to believe that all the long-time dedicated servants under Mr Armstrong have turned away from basic truth they once knew and gone on to establish 300 + groups claiming to be God's True Church.

Many followed them while disregarding the True Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and trusting in some man who appealed to them in some way. God calls these 'leaders' deceitful workers:

“ For such are false prophets, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (2 Cor 11:13-15).

Where Do You Stand?

What about you? Are you a member of one of the many split-off groups that believe Jesus Christ is the Head of your group, or are you merely following a man who is perhaps a 'good speaker'? If you are a member of the P.C.G., are you sure that you are not in the Laodicean Church? If not, which group do you believe forms the Laodicean Church?

Jesus Christ said he would never leave or forsake us. The question is, have you left Jesus Christ to follow a man? Only those exercising God's Holy Spirit can really trust in Him. It is these people that He will never leave nor forsake!

The Apostle Paul's integrity was not in question and he could be relied upon to always respect and teach God's Truth. Using God's Holy Spirit, we should be able to discern who are the keepers of God's Law and who are not. We must always

Our world does not know God and certainly does not trust Him.

be careful when trusting a man, but with God's Spirit we will be able to discern where Christ is working. Here is a quote from

page 70 of Mr Robert Ardis's book entitled, "Set Apart By Truth":

“ God's True Church IS Set Apart By Truth! God will POWERFULLY place His endorsement upon us for EVERYONE to recognise us as the TRUE CHURCH when the time is ready! Miracles, signs, and wonders will attract great attention. However, unless NEW TRUTH accompanies the signs, miracles and wonders – it will NOT be of God

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THE MIDNIGHT CRY HAS BEGUN

Come to Where the Bridegroom Is!

by Daniel Frendo

“ Never in the history of God’s great plan has there been a more dangerous time for those who have been called and chosen as firstfruits, as it is today. God’s end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong, died in 1986 after having completed his commission of proclaiming the true gospel to the world as a witness to all nations. Each of us was called through the ministry of that servant of Christ – either directly or indirectly! As that monumental task was completed, *the Spiritual Temple* was finished – all of the *lively stones* had been called and set in the position designed for them (*The Midnight Cry*, pg. 9).

Today God is concerned about His Spiritual Temple; and *we must be concerned with that which HE is concerned about!*

The Spiritual Temple is made up of building blocks, pillars and lively stones. Who are these building blocks? Who are these lively stones?

Throughout history, beginning

with righteous Abel, God called out righteous men and women who have died in faith (Heb 11). These individuals are permanently attached to the foundation of the Temple – the building blocks.

“ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone (Eph 2:19-20).

Next, throughout the Church age, beginning with Ephesus, God called and chose the lively stones whom He has now set in the body, as it has pleased Him (1 Cor. 12:18). When Jesus Christ was restoring the truth of the gospel whilst it was also being proclaimed as a witness to all nations, the lively stones were called through the ministry of Herbert W. Armstrong, who also fulfilled the role of a *second Zerubbabel*. These firstfruits have a fantastic future just ahead of them:

“ And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God (Rev 14:1-5).

Together, these 144,000 called to be Firstfruits, form the Temple of God:

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are (1 Cor. 3:16-17, emphasis mine).

Through Zech 4:9 we understand that what the hands of Zerubbabel lay, he also finishes. By the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death in January 1986, the lively stones had been called and the Temple was completed with all the 144,000 component parts set in position as the firstfruits. However, as we read in Rev. 12:12-13, Satan attacked the Church. As Mr. Robert Ardis states in his booklet *The Midnight Cry*,

“God’s Church, the called and chosen of the Spiritual Temple, also symbolically pictured as *the woman*, have been viciously attacked since 1986 by the master of deceit... Satan has deceived the world – and God’s Church!

Hopefully, you can understand this and see why God’s Church has today been split and splintered into over 300 different churches and groups; and that these disagreeing churches cannot be God’s Churches. GOD HAS ONLY ONE TRUE CHURCH. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE BODY OF CHRIST. CHRIST CAN BE THE HEAD OF ONLY ONE BODY – hence the BODY (not bodies) of CHRIST.

What we have today is Satan’s modern version of the mother church and its protestant daughters. This is why we read about “the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie” (Rev. 3:9). Immediately prior to the hour of Great Tribulation which shall come upon all the world, Jesus

Christ Himself states...“I”... will make those of the synagogue of Satan to come to the faithful of the Philadelphia Candlestick, who have continued to follow the Head, Jesus Christ, so that they too will be taught the truth that Jesus Christ has been rapidly restoring since the beginning of the Day of the Lord. They will also be reminded of the Gospel message that Jesus Christ had restored through Herbert W. Armstrong, that we are destined to be born again as fully-fledged members of the God Family – sons of God in the Kingdom of God!

Mal 3:1 has been fulfilled following the end of 6,000 years since Man’s creation, and since the Feast of Trumpets 1997, Acts 3:19-21 has been a very up-to-the-minute scripture. After Jesus Christ, (“the Mighty Angel” of Rev. 10), opened “the little book” we entered a time of “no more delay”. Jesus Christ came to His Temple ‘as a thief in the night’ in the Day of the Lord!

Just as was prophesied through the apostle Paul in 2 Thess. 2:1-3, “that day” came following the great falling away from truth. “The day of Christ” came after “that man of sin... the son of perdition” had been revealed.

When “that day” began, Jesus Christ ripped open the first four of the seven seals which were recorded by the apostle John as he projected himself “in the Spirit on the Day of the Lord” (Rev. 1:2,10).

In Mal. 3:7, Jesus Christ pleads with His people to return unto Him so

that He may return unto them. God’s Laodicean leaders began robbing Him as they went about performing their OWN futile work. Instead of faithfully performing Christ’s Work, these shepherds went back to a work that had already been successfully completed; “the end” of the work of preaching the gospel as a witness to all nations had come (Matt. 24:14).

Three Groups today

Today there are three groups which are extant: the Philadelphia Candlestick, the Laodicea Candlestick and the Synagogue of Satan, which as we shall see comprises two factions.

The history of God’s Church since Herbert W. Armstrong was “taken out of the way” (2 Thess. 2:7) clearly demonstrates that soon after Satan attacked, he began to use “the shepherds” to scatter “the sheep” and thus shatter the Church (Jer. 50:6).

God affirms that His people are lost sheep and *THE SHEPHERDS* have caused them to go astray. God says *the sheep* are scattered “from the mountains to the hills” (large groups to very tiny ones). God also says that *THE SHEEP DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEIR RESTING PLACE IS*. Jesus Christ tells us that “if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25).

You may be amongst those who have missed out on some most important milestones of prophetic history since 1986. You may not

Never in the history of God’s great plan has there been a more dangerous time for those who have been called and chosen as firstfruits, as it is today.

yet understand that the “man of sin... son of perdition” has been revealed since 1990 by Mr. Gerald Flurry, leader of the Laodicea Candlestick. If you cannot yet see that the great falling away from truth is also history (2 Thess. 2:1-3), then maybe you cannot quite understand how it’s possible that the day of the Lord has also come as a thief in the night.

Following Mr. Armstrong’s death... God had allowed FOUR YEARS for the (WCG) leadership to prove by their fruit their loyalty... to to the truth of the gospel of the Kingdom of God that had been restored... See Matt. 7:16-20

It should not be difficult to accept the fact that, slowly but insidiously, the man who Herbert W. Armstrong had selected as his successor, had systematically changed the God-given doctrines of the Church. The understanding that he “whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” was sitting in “the temple of God” – the Church (2 Thess. 2:9, 4), had not been given to Mr. Armstrong. As he had clearly stated in a sermon message, however, “95% of you don’t get it” and v.10 shows us that this was “because they received not *the love* of the truth.”

Following Mr. Armstrong’s death on 16th January 1986, God had allowed FOUR YEARS – *three years plus one* – for the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) leadership to prove *by their fruit* their loyalty to Jesus Christ the Head, and to the truth of the gospel of the Kingdom of God that had been restored. Following precisely *four years* of testing for the new WCG leadership,

after they failed to repent, He then disqualified them. See Matt. 7:16-20 and note especially v. 19:

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire...”

“A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit

thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, *these three years* I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone *this year also*, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then *after that thou shalt cut it down* (Luke 13:6-9).

God had appointed another man who was to begin the dynamic Laodicean Work of Christ in warning the betrayed brethren of the apostasy occurring in the WCG. You may read about this important history at the beginning of Chapter 3 of *The Midnight Cry*:

“During the early 1990’s, under Gerald Flurry’s leadership, the *Philadelphia Church of God* (PCG) gradually became a well organized Work, actively warning of what was happening in the Worldwide Church of God. Yet

some of the high-ranking ministers of the WCG, who may have agreed in part with him, ridiculed Mr. Flurry’s warning efforts, claiming he was a “nobody”, and refused to join with him in the Work that Christ was actually conducting. They would not work under someone who had been “their student” or had been beneath them in ministerial rank. He was just an insignificant *preaching elder!* But it was also a matter of their “pocketbooks”!

Gerald Flurry and his associate-pastor, John Amos, had been terminated from the ministry and were disfellowshipped from the WCG in late 1989. Mr. Flurry had written the first, rough manuscript of what would become the eye-opening book, *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today* (MM). He had quietly discussed some of its contents with “trusted friends” in his congregation in Edmond, Oklahoma. Jesus Christ had revealed vital New Truth to Mr. Flurry! *Malachi’s Message* was the message of the Book of Malachi about a ministry gone rotten, and it included the astonishing, crystal-clear truth of II Thessalonians 2. ...

How much of MM was discussed with his “friends” I am not sure, but it was enough to have Mr. Flurry reported to WCG headquarters, resulting in him and Mr. Amos being commanded to come out to Pasadena, where they were subsequently fired by Joseph Tkach, Jr. In retrospect, it surely appears that, as these two men stood there before Joseph Tkach Jr., a tremendous change in Church leadership took place. After four years, the Tkaches and the

WCG ministry (kowtowing to that corrupted administration) had disqualified themselves in the eyes of God (see Luke 13: 6-9). So what was God to do?

Through hindsight it is apparent to me that, at that precise moment, the candlestick of Philadelphia was removed from the disqualified WCG in Pasadena! The candlestick was not extinguished, as scripture clearly shows in Revelation 11:3-4. The Two Witnesses will represent Philadelphia and Laodicea, the last two candlesticks, to the end of their ministry 3-½ days before the visible return of Jesus Christ at the First Resurrection (Rev. 11:9-12).

To whom did God give the sixth candlestick? In my opinion, it was given to John Amos! Also, amazingly, the seventh era of the Church began as the Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry. These two men were types of the Two Witnesses! Putting together this series of rapid changes brings me to the conclusion that these two men suddenly represented the last two of the seven churches. Who else could have assumed these roles?

Upon leaving Mr. Tkach, Jr.'s office, Mr. Flurry prophetically and sternly warned him, "You have just taken the first sip of a very bitter drink!" The *Philadelphia Church of God* (PCG) was quickly formed after the two men returned to Edmond. The first official Sabbath service of the PCG was held on December 16, 1989. *Malachi's Message*, in manuscript form, was mailed out on the fourth anniversary of the death of Herbert W. Armstrong to a large number

of the WCG!

The PCG became an urgent voice crying aloud, warning of the destruction of God's Church that was happening right before our unbelieving eyes. The PCG was raised up by Christ with Gerald Flurry as the very zealous physical leader of the seventh candlestick/ church, Laodicea (Rev.1:20).

In retrospect, we know that, for seven years, God blessed His Work. Then Mr. Flurry changed the direction of the PCG. Compare the following two quotes from Gerald Flurry. The first is from his 1995 booklet entitled *The Little Book*, (p.11):

“He (Mr Armstrong) also preached the Gospel around the world. He said in *Mystery of the Ages* that this work had been accomplished. If we know what the true Gos-

pel is, we also know that Mr. Armstrong did that job. And there is nobody else coming on the scene to do that before Christ returns! The PCG preaches the Gospel, but our main commission is to PROPHECY AGAIN. THIS VERY COMMISSION TELLS US THE GOSPEL HAS ALREADY BEEN PREACHED AROUND THE WORLD!

...and now, look at what Mr. Flurry wrote in his Personal article in the February 1997 *Trumpet* magazine:

“We will freely give *Mystery of the Ages* to anyone who requests it.

That means we have, what I believe time will prove to be THE MOST POWERFUL BOOK EVER WRITTEN ABOUT THE BIBLE! And *anybody in the world can easily understand the message*. We can now reach *any person on earth and bring him or her to conversion*. We can make *disciples in all the world with one book*. (My emphasis)

All of this ended in a court case, which Mr. Flurry's PCG lost!

Mr. Flurry went on to take the title of "That Prophet", a title that belongs only to Jesus Christ, the

Son of God. As Mr Ardis states in *The Midnight Cry*:

“... to arrogate this great title to himself makes Gerald Flurry a false prophet and a false Christ! It also reduces him to an abomination

in the sight of God (see Proverbs 3:32 and 16:5)

As we study this reality, we must not forget that the Seventh Candlestick – the Laodicean Church – which Gerald Flurry represents, still flickers within the outer area of the Inner Court of the Temple.

“...Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were ABOUT FIVE

AND TWENTY MEN, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose (Ezek. 8:15-17).

Ezekiel 9 indicates that this prophecy occurs immediately before the Great Tribulation.

In light of all this, God's faithful remnant has the very grave responsibility to warn and encourage God's begotten children who are *blindly* following a man in the Church of the Laodiceans to follow Jesus Christ's admonition in Matt 24:15 –

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.

For further information about *the abomination of desolation standing in*

the holy place, please request our free booklet *Whoso Reads, Let him Understand*.

This publication is the initial wee voice that will soon culminate in the Midnight Cry that we read about in Matt. 25:6. Jesus Christ's parable of the ten virgins demonstrates that there are presently four major groups that comprise God's Church today.

First of all, there are ten virgins who are ALL ASLEEP, half of whom are wise and the other half foolish. A third group symbolizes the stubborn Laodiceans who are unresponsive to the midnight cry yet have oil to sell to the foolish virgins. Then of course there are those who issue forth the Midnight Cry that the Bridegroom has come.

The parable indicates that although the ten virgins are all asleep, they all wake up but find themselves in a 1986 time warp – they have not grown “in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).

Through this article, my appeal to you if you are in the Laodicean PCG is to ANOINT YOUR EYES with eyesalve, and if you are in the outer court is to BE A WISE VIRGIN. Remember and accept the fact that Matt 24:14 was fulfilled by Herbert

W. Armstrong. See and accept the fact that Matt. 24:15 has been fulfilled spiritually by Gerald Flurry as he “stands in the Holy Place” making the abominable claim of being “That Prophet”. Then, be amongst those who fulfil Matt. 24:16 by fleeing into *the mountain* – God's one and true *resting place* today.

Return to the Body of Christ – the Church of Jesus Christ that is sanctified (set apart) by truth (John 17:17). Bear in mind that *revealed truth* given to Herbert Armstrong by Jesus Christ is the only lasting fruit of his ministry.

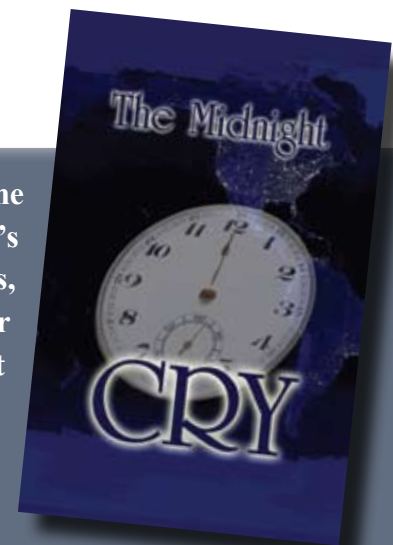
Take the admonition of 2 Pet. 3:18 to heart and continue to grow spiritually and in *revealed truth* that Jesus Christ continues to restore during the Day of the Lord (Acts 3:19-21).

Remember and rejoice in the sure knowledge of the gospel of the Kingdom of God, together with new truth revealed by Jesus Christ and disseminated by the Church of God's Faithful – the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom of God is at hand! The Midnight Cry has begun to sound... *the Bridegroom has come and you must come to where He is.* ❖

It is imposible to fully cover, in the pages of this magazine, all the wonderful new Truth Christ our Lord is giving to the Church of God's Faithful in these spiritually trying days. We have many booklets, articles, and sermons that will help you understand the messages our God is giving to His one true Church. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (1 Thes. 5:21)

To better understand the article, “The Midnight Cry Has Begun to Sound,” write, call, or download our booklet: *The Midnight Cry*. Our contact information can be found on page 16 of this magazine.



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Living In Bible Times

events that have occurred in these Bible times. Are you aware that these events have happened—or are the fulfillment of those prophecies all new to you? If they have already happened what comes next? Are you “watching” closely enough? Are you “proving all things”—or are you afraid of truth?

Truth is the fruit of God’s True Church and the Church of God’s Faithful invites you to check us out. Let us explain the ten points listed above from the Word of God. No other church can do this! Thus if we can prove these points to you, that will also prove where Christ is and where His One True Church is. Don’t you want to be a part of the Church that Jesus Christ built?

Watch! Read our literature. Examine our website setapartbytruth.org—and continue to read The Midnight Cry magazine. Let us help you “watch” in these very urgent and dangerous Bible times in which we are living.

Your brother in Christ,



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A Date Which Will Live In Infamy!

1935 AD—Hitler enacted a law that propelled the nation toward the infamous Nuremberg Laws of the Holocaust.

1943 AD—the beginnings of the deportation of the Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka.

Heavenly Signs

There have been other evil events and also important events that

have happened on these fateful days of Av 9-10 And some of these have been accompanied by “heavenly signs”! The “heavenly signs” sometimes seen on Av 9 were what is known as “blood moons”, which are full lunar eclipses that causes the moon to appear as red as blood (Joel 2:31; Acts 2:20).

As stated earlier, this year Av 9-10 falls on July 30-31. With the world in the state of turmoil that is evident today, we expect anything to happen anytime. Therefore let’s be aware that this DAY OF INFAMY, Av 9/July 30 that has heralded many tragic and evil events could portend another tragic occurrence in today’s world. We are told by Jesus Christ to “Watch” and that is what we will do. July 30th is not a time of the full moon, so there will be no “blood moon” or eclipse. But we will still “watch” and be reminded to be thankful for the sure promises of God; never doubting and sharing in His excitement! It is His “**good pleasure to give us the Kingdom**” (Luke 12:32). The Eternal wanted to give Israel the Promised Land, but they died in faithlessness. Not only does the Eternal desire to give us the Kingdom, we are promised entrance into the Kingdom of God as His born children and part of the Firstfruits and even the Pillars in the Temple of God.

Israel of old brought misery and death upon themselves through their unbelief. They did not have God’s Spirit and would not believe although they lived in the presence of God. We today are blessed with our calling and have been given the gift of eternal life through the Spirit of God. Let’s be sure to stay in His presence as much as possible through prayer, Bible study and meditation and not disappoint the Living God.

There is a Day of Infamy coming that will be longer than one or two days, it will last an entire year and is called the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6;16-17) and will be the last year of 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation.

Let’s re-double our efforts to “watch and pray” as Christ admonishes us in Luke 21:36:

“**Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**”

Let’s bring pleasure to our Father as we enter the Kingdom of God. ❖

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Let No Man Take Your Crown

ensure that we ‘try the spirits’ whether they are of God or not. There are many that claim to be used by God and are not (1 John 4:1) so we should beware of this number one trap used by Satan!

Don’t ALLOW Yourself To be Deceived

The Bible is replete with scriptures admonishing us not to allow any man to deceive us. Let us take a look at only a few of these examples:

“**Little children, let no man deceive you** (1 John 3:7).

“**That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [fraud] of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive** (Eph 4:14)



Let no man deceive you with vain words (Eph. 5:6).



Take heed lest any man deceive you (Mark 13:5).



Take heed that no man deceive you (Matt. 24:4).

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). If Christ isn’t leading a Church, (read our article entitled “**Where is God’s Church**” in the February 2009 issue of the *Midnight Cry* magazine, or listen to the CGF sermon entitled *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong’s Dual Test* available for download on the Church website), we should be weary: “Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceive not in him the lips of knowledge” (Prov. 14:7). God calls a leader ‘foolish’ if he refuses Biblical Truth which is brought to him! Wouldn’t it follow that those who follow this type of man are also foolish?

Remember that God’s Church is not stagnant, but continually grows in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). His one Church is set apart by Truth (John 17:17). The onus is on each individual to test their respective physical leaders and prove whether what they teach is Truth! We are living in serious, dangerous and urgent times. Prove where Christ is working by searching for His Truth. In an effort to prove all things and to see whether your physical leader is teaching Truth, please visit our website and download or ask for the Church of God’s Faithful booklet entitled *Set Apart by Truth*. In this book you will find many New Truth’s given to the Church by Christ since 1997. Above all, prove everything with the Word of God! You have nothing to lose but much to gain by testing your leaders and proving

ALL things! Scripture warns all of God’s begotten children to, “let no man take your crown” (Rev. 3:11). What are you doing to ensure that you do not fall victim to this? Remember that one of Satan’s more successful traps is to deceive the leadership – that way he can easily get to you! ❖

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Trust in God Not Man

(Matt 7:21-23). Many of Satan’s counterfeit “churches” will perform “false miracles” in an attempt to confuse and deceive those seeking the True Church. **GOD’S TRUE CHURCH WILL ALWAYS BE set apart by truth!**

We are all human, each of us working under a human administration. But God’s Church has God’s Government and any fault in the human element of God’s Government will be revealed in God’s time.

In the meantime we must trust those whom God has placed in authority in His Church. We must look beyond the man, to the authority that is backing his office. That is where our ultimate trust must be – in the authority of God Almighty. This is the way in which we place our trust in God and not in man! ❖

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