



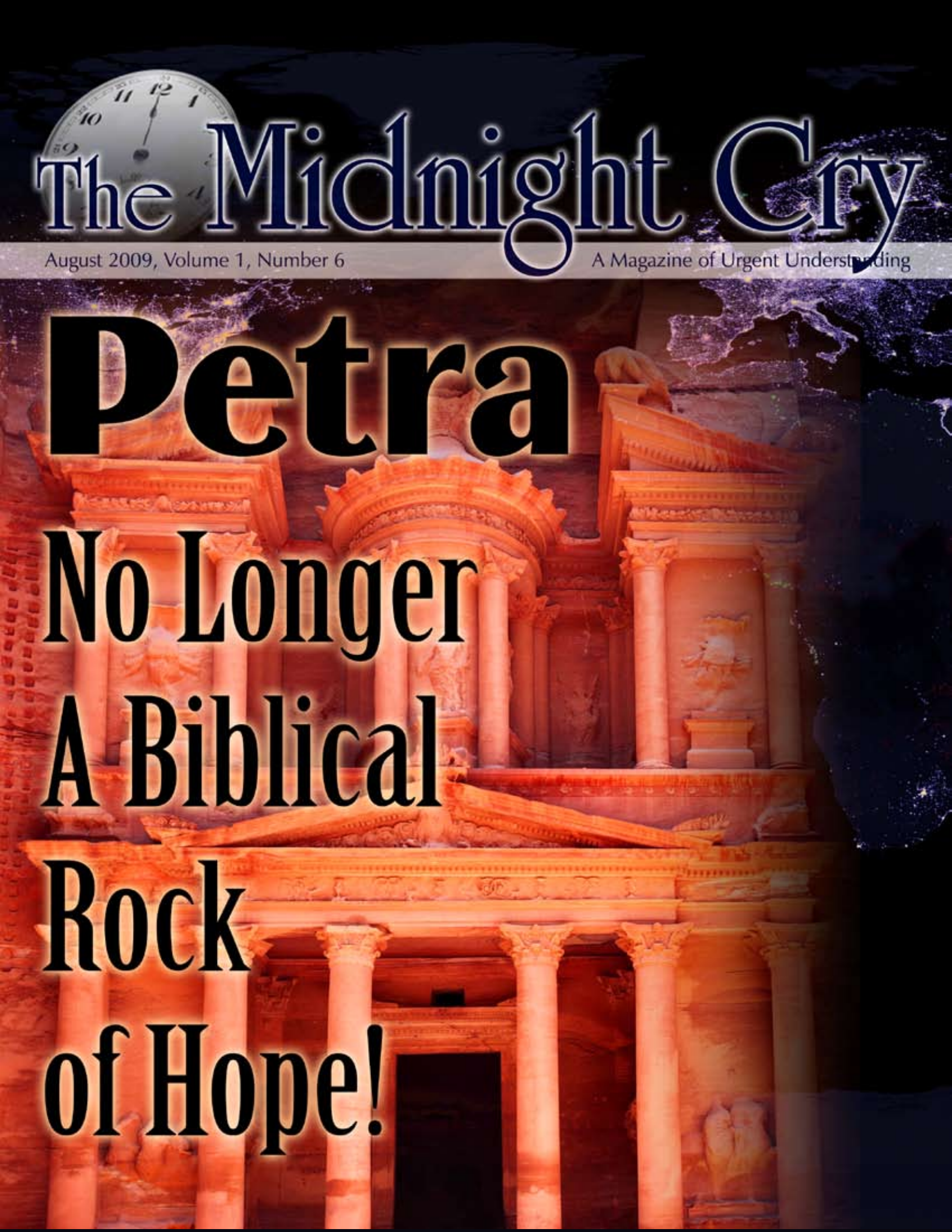
The Midnight Cry

August 2009, Volume 1, Number 6

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

Petra

No Longer
A Biblical
Rock
of Hope!





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A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

August 2009 • Volume 1, Number 6

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Where Is the Place of Safety?



Dear Brethren,

Back in the mid 1950's and early 1960's *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast featured the powerful voices of Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong. Their messages could be heard several times a day over many far reaching radio stations.

One very pertinent *World Tomorrow* message by Mr. Ted Armstrong comes to my memory as we present this sixth issue of the *Midnight Cry*. In this issue we

are featuring a few articles about the *place of safety* or the *place prepared of God* (Rev. 12:6). In Mr. Ted Armstrong's message so long ago, he was describing in his inimitable manner the plight of the European Jews in the late 30's and early 40's as they were first subjected to Adolf Hitler's and Heinrich Himmler's *final solution*.

Mr. Armstrong stated that if a forceful warning message and vivid mental pictures could have been given them of the atrocities that lay directly ahead for the Jewish people in the Warsaw ghetto and the death camps of Dachau, Buchenwald, and Auschwitz et al—and **if they had heeded that warning**—they could have escaped that most horrible time where SIX MILLION Jews, men women, and children perished in the gas chambers and ovens and other evil means of mass-murder by which they died! Mr. Armstrong very passionately exclaimed; "they would have come and 'kissed the feet' of those who delivered the warning message"!

That time was nearly 70 years ago and was only a type of that which is looming on the prophetic horizon today in August of 2009. All of us former WCG members and those of you who have come since the death of Herbert Armstrong and the splitting and splintering of the Church caused by the "falling away from truth in the WCG"—the apostasy— we know the evils of WWII was only a prelude to the most dreadful time in ALL of man's history—the GREAT TRIBULATION that will shortly come upon all the earth.

Matthew 24:21-22 states:



For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Revelation 3:10 adds this:



Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that

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The Bible is the Word of God and is Spiritual knowledge that can be understood only by those called of God to do His Will. Therefore, the world as a whole, cannot understand the Bible. Jesus Christ, declares this in Matthew 13:15:

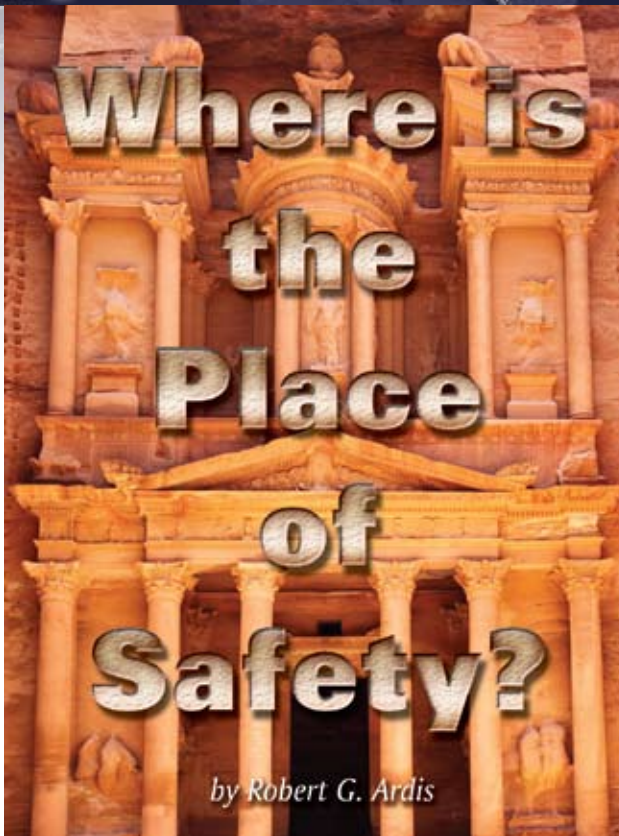
“For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

However, the called-out ones of the Church of God, should understand the Bible and the revealed Will of God. When plain statements in the Bible are misunderstood there are usually three reasons for the misunderstanding:

First, it is very possible to have a misconception or a pre-conceived idea about certain scriptures that blinds our minds to the PLAIN TRUTH of what is being stated. We think we understand, but deceive ourselves through our misconception.

Secondly, God can use the misconception or pre-conceived idea to HIDE a particular TRUTH until the specific time when he wants the scripture to be thoroughly understood.

And the third reason was often emphasized by God’s servant Herbert W. Armstrong as he thundered aloud to the Church many times: “Don’t believe me or any man; believe your Bible!” Nevertheless, history proves people will believe the ideas of a man more readily than



they will believe the Bible. Preconceived ideas can easily cloud Mr. Armstrong’s succinct warning.

Misconceptions... Preconceived Ideas!

The location of the Place of Safety is an example of the three reasons just stated. The Church of God has had preconceived ideas about the geographical location of the Place of Safety! Where did our belief of Petra being the Place of Safety originate? Have you ever looked into this belief? What does the Bible really say about the area where Petra is located? Could you believe that God has used our misconception of Petra being the Place of Safety to HIDE the true location of the Place He has prepared?

The location of the Place of Safety has been a secret place until immediately prior to the vital NEED for protection from the Great Tribulation! Therefore, we must prayer-

fully look to the Word of God for guidance!

As you study this article, please understand that this is another point of truth that proves the CHURCH OF GOD’S FAITHFUL (CGF) is the Church of Jesus Christ and is SET APART BY TRUTH!

Please understand that the pagan, rose-red city of Petra, located in the modern Nation of Jordan (ancient Edom or Idumea of the Bible) will not be the Place of Safety! The idea of Petra being the Place of Safety is a total misconception. For the biblical explanation of this call or write for our free booklet, *Petra, Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter*. The Word of God is PLAIN in its description of Petra becoming an utter devastation, even similar to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Just two short portions of scripture should prompt a sincere study into this important subject. Look at Jeremiah 49:17-18:

Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

Also, Isaiah vividly writes in chapter 34: 5-6:

For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is

filled with blood, it is

made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

Believe the Bible

Due to our misconceptions and pre-conceived ideas, we have paid no attention to PLAIN scriptures that strongly indicate WHERE the Place of Safety is located! This leads me to believe God has kept this SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE a closely guarded secret until this very time.

And we must believe the Bible!

To prove the point that we have paid little attention to other vital scriptures, let me ask a few questions---and then give the answers from the Word of God.

1. Into which country did Moses FLEE to escape from the Pharaoh of Egypt?

Answer: Exodus 2:15:

“...But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the Land of Midian...

2. The man who would become Moses' father-in-law was Jethro. What was his title?

Answer: Exodus 2:16 and 3:1:

“Now the Priest of Midian had seven daughters...Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the Priest of Midian...

3. What was the name of the mountain on which Moses spied the “burning bush”?

Answer: Exodus 3:1-2:

“...and came to the mountain of God, even Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of the bush...

And God instructed Moses to bring Israel to that specific mountain:



Lands of the Bible During the Exodus
Images courtesy of the Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center. <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>

“And He said, certainly I will be with you; and this shall be a token unto you, that I have sent you, When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain, (verse 12).

4. What is another more common name for that mountain instead of Horeb?

Answer: Exodus 19:1,18:

“In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the

same day they came into the wilderness of Sinai... And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire...

The more familiar name for Horeb, the Mountain of God, is SINAI!

5. Where is SINAI / HOREB located? Where is Mt. Sinai?

This question requires a more comprehensive historical and biblical answer: WHERE is SINAI? Notice carefully that these biblical and historical facts are a perfect example of a misconception due to a pre-conceived idea. Haven't you always believed that Mt. Sinai is on the Sinai Peninsula? Of course, you have! But that is a misconception! It is not true! Mt. Sinai is NOT on the Sinai Peninsula, and the Bible unmistakably declares that it is not! The scripture is very PLAINLY stated, but we have NOT paid attention to the TRUTH of the Word of God! So often we believe men rather than God's Word!

Carefully observe the following very important account in the New Testament! Saul, prior to being renamed and commissioned as the Apostle Paul, had to FLEE for his life! He had to flee for his life shortly after the risen Jesus Christ had struck him blind and brought him to repentance and conversion. Then, Paul became a powerful instrument for Christ. Acts 9:22-25 reads:

“But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus,

proving that this is very Christ. And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: but their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

Paul continues his story in chronological order in Galatians 1:16-18 after he fled for his life:

“...immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood (see vv. 11-12 and II Cor. 12:1-7): ...Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into ARABIA, (Saudi Arabia, anciently known as Midian) and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem...”

Paul is then inspired to write in Galatians 4:24-25:

“Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Read it again in your Bible: Mount Sinai is in ARABIA!

The Bible says ARABIA is the location of Mt. Sinai---not the Sinai Peninsula. But WHERE IS ARABIA? Please, carefully study these maps. This is the answer to question #5!

Notice carefully that the ancient Land of Midian is the modern nation of SAUDI ARABIA! Also, please note that the “Sinai Peninsula,” at the time of the Exodus, was a part of the land of EGYPT! It was not called the Sinai Peninsula until centuries later.

Helena, the mother of Roman Emperor Constantine, in the fourth century A.D., evidently believed the local tradition that the mountain in the southern part of the



Lands of the Bible in Modern Times
Images courtesy of the Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center. <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>

peninsula, erroneously named Jebel Musa, was the “mountain of Moses.” Exactly when this tradition began is unclear, but Helena built a chapel and a tower there to commemorate the place where Moses, supposedly, had seen the “burning bush.” Emperor Justinian, in the sixth century, recognized Jebel Musa as a holy place by building a fortress-monastery to protect the monks of his new church dedicated to the “Virgin Mary.” Later, it was rededicated to the Roman Catholic, “Saint Catherine,” and is still located at this site. This mountain has become the “traditional” Mt Sinai and the entire peninsula

from ancient times has been incorrectly named the Sinai Peninsula, but definitely it is not the true biblical Mount Sinai. The biblical Mt. SINAI is in the Land of Midian... SAUDI ARABIA of today!

The Bible says so!

6. Where is the geographical location of the area into which God had Moses bring the Nation of Israel?

Answer: Moses fled from Pharaoh into Midian (Ex 2:15). Forty years later, Moses and the slave Nation of Israel fled from Pharaoh (Ex. 14:5). God led them by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day (Ex. 13:21-22). God brought them completely OUT of EGYPT on the last Day of Unleavened Bread. The huge multitude of Israelites, men, women, and children, their flocks and herds were miraculously brought to SAFETY by the Eternal God. They crossed the Red Sea at the Gulf of Aquaba---and entered the Land of Midian---Saudi Arabia of today! Completely out of Egypt. Exodus 19:4 allegorically illustrates how God performed this mighty miracle: “... and bare them on eagle’s wings and brought you unto myself.” Verse one tells us the location to which they were brought.

“In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the Land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

We have seen from the Bible that Moses and ancient Israel FLED to

Sinai-Horeb, the Mountain of God. The Apostle Paul FLED to ARABIA where the Mountain of God is located. There was another great man of God that FLED for his life to this same location. This man was the great prophet, ELIJAH!

7. To what location did Elijah FLEE to hide from Jezebel?

Answer: Read about him FLEEING for his life in I Kings 19:1,2,3 & 8-9:

“And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life [he FLED], and came to Beersheba...And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto HOREB, THE MOUNT OF GOD.

Isn't it very interesting that THREE of the GREATEST SERVANTS of GOD, EACH FLED TO ARABIA! Isn't it very likely that God's Spirit led Paul to the same identical area of ARABIA to which Moses and Elijah were led---to the Mountain of God, HOREB / SINAI?

IS GOD TELLING US SOMETHING?

God Is Instructing Us...But Are We Listening?

The expression “on eagles wings” in Exodus 19 is also mentioned in the Book of Revelation, chapter 12, verse 14:

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

At the determined time God will have His Church to FLEE “into her place” from the persecution caused by the devil (Rev. 12:13-14). This place is “into the wilderness” according to verses 6 and 14. In this place she is protected from Satan for “a time, times, and a half a time”---3 ½ years!

Where is this Place of Safety, described as a “wilderness” in which God's people, men, women, and children, will be protected for 3 ½ years? Exodus 19:1 quoted above states that Israel came “...into the wilderness of Sinai.” Israel FLED Egypt and God brought them to the “wilderness of Sinai.” There they were safe! There, Moses presented them to God, dressed in their very best, clean clothes. And as all of us learned from The Ambassador College Correspondence Course and other reliable sources, Israel appeared before God on the Day of Firstfruits, or Pentecost.

“And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes...And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp TO MEET WITH GOD...” (Ex. 19:14,17).

In a fantastic display of POWER on that Day of Pentecost 1487 BC, the Eternal God descended to the top of Mt. Horeb/Sinai. There HE thundered forth the Ten Command-

ments. Exodus 20:18-19 records this amazing event:

“And all the people saw the thunders and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it they removed and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, speak you with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

God gave Moses many instructions on how the Israelites were to live as His model nation. Great blessings would come upon them if they were obedient. This was a COVENANT between God and Israel---a MARRIAGE COVENANT!

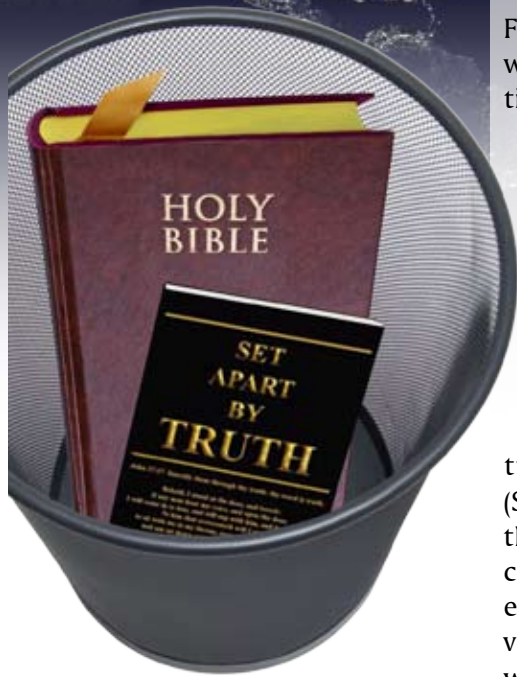
“And he [Moses] took the Book of the Covenant and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord has said will we do, and be obedient. (Ex.24:7).

Of course, they were not obedient for long, as we know. Our Lord laments for His wife later as Jeremiah records in chapter 3, verse 14: “Turn O backsliding children says the Lord; for I am MARRIED unto you...”

Please, consider what we have learned so far:

- Moses FLED to Midian.
- Horeb/Sinai, the Mountain of God, is in Midian.
- Midian is the ancient name for the modern nation of SAUDI-ARABIA.
- Israel had FLED Egypt and was brought to Mt. Horeb/Sinai as God states, “on the wings of an eagle.”
- Moses presented ancient

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“Thou Hast Rejected Knowledge, I Will Also Reject Thee!”

by Frank Borg

New Truth given to God’s Church comes from a Being that is higher than Jesus Christ! Deeper understanding comes from the supreme God of the Universe – God the

Father. He gives it to Jesus Christ who in turn passes it on to us. Notice what scripture states: “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass...” (Rev. 1:1).

Truth and deeper understanding of scripture is given to light up our spiritual path ahead. We need light to see clearly. Scripture tells us that “He that gains (Strong’s 4160) truth comes to the light” (John 3:21; Ps. 43:3). Of course, Truth gives us light which enables us to see spiritually. Conversely, without that Truth we would be in darkness which is tantamount to being blind (John 12:35).

John 8:12, John 12:46 and other scriptures tell us that *Christ is light*. John 14:6 tells us that *Christ is Truth!* Therefore, we must follow Christ to walk in the light of life – that is what will ensure our future with Him.

Keep the Word of My Patience

In this context, Rev. 3:10 tells God’s Philadelphians something interesting:

“Because thou hast kept^{G5083} the word of my patience^{G5281}, I also will keep^{G5083} thee from the hour of temptation”.

God’s Philadelphians “keep the word of His patience” and as a result are taken to a Place of Safety to be spared from the Great Tribulation.

Keeping the ‘Word of His patience’ evidently means that we need to be steadfast and are to endure patiently. Is that all that we have to do, to be taken to a Place of Safety? There is depth to Rev. 3:10 which we need to grasp and understand if we are to be truly accounted worthy of being taken to a Place of Safety! Carefully note what Strong’s tells us about the biblical phrase “*kept the Word of my patience*” in Rev. 3:10. Notice:

1. “Kept” is 5083 in Strong’s and could be translated as, “to keep an eye upon”. Clearly, we are “to keep an eye upon” the Word of His patience.
2. “Word” in Revelation 3:10 is 3056 in Strong’s and could be translated as: “something said... *specifically the Divine Expression* (that is, *Christ*)”.

This scripture is telling us that we *specifically* need to “keep our eyes on Christ” and the Truth which He gives us! Christ is the God of Patience (Rom. 5:15) and He is Truth (John 14:6), therefore we must keep our eyes on Christ and His New Truth which is handed down by God the Father!

Rev. 3:10 tells us that we must keep focused on Him - *the Word of His Patience*. This dictates that Philadelphians will be *very carefully* watching, proving and following Christ; they will follow Truth and walk in that Light. This is what will keep them from the hour of temptation (Rev. 3:10). It is what will qualify the Philadelphians to be taken to a Place of Safety and spared the Great Tribulation. Keeping our eyes on the Word of His patience means *recognizing* and *listening* to God’s Voice and not rejecting it when He tries to give deeper understanding of scripture. It is evident that the

CGF has much scripturally supported New Truth. To date, the CGF has new knowledge that no other group embraces. This knowledge is often blatantly rejected. Notice God's stern warning to those who insist on discrediting or resisting God's knowledge:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee... (Hos. 4:6).

These are strong uncompromising words from God the Father! If we reject any of His knowledge, we will not be 'kept from the hour of temptation'. It's as simple as that!

Receiving vs Rejecting

Let us take a look at another scripture. In this end time there is a group that listens to Christ and another that does not. Notice:

“I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken and the other left (Luke 17:34-36).

The phrase “The one shall be taken and the other left” is repeated three times in the space of three consecutive verses! It is again mentioned twice in Matt. 24:40-41. What is God trying to tell us? He certainly wants us to understand!

Remember that we have already seen that the Philadelphians keep their eyes focused on Christ and His Truth (Rev. 3:10). The Philadelphians are the ones that continuously receive truth, accept it and learn.

Back to Luke 17:34-36 and the phrase: “The one shall be taken G3880 ...the other left G863”. The phrase “shall be taken” is 3880 in Strong's and could be translated as: “to receive, to learn, or to take unto”. The indication is that this group 'receives' and 'learns' from New Truth! Now notice the word

“left”. “Left” is 863 in Strong's and could also be translated as: “to forsake, to lay aside, to leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, yield up.” The impression is that this group “takes no notice” or “lays aside” New Truth! “Two women shall be grinding together, the one shall RECEIVE G3880 and the other will LAY ASIDE G863”. Evidently, those that allow God to give them deeper understanding and New Truth are the ones who are “taken” because they follow Christ (Rev. 3:10), while the group that lays aside His New Truth and doesn't accept it are the ones that reject Christ and are left G863! The ones that reject Truth are not Philadelphians!

God's Philadelphians “keep the word of His patience” and as a result are taken to a Place of Safety (Rev. 3:10).

Those that receive God's Truth...are those that follow and are responsive to Christ – the God of His Patience. They are the ones that “have kept the word of His patience.

Luke 17:37 continues:

“And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Whersoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Where shall they be taken? Where shall they receive Truth? Allow me to quote from an article entitled “Whersoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together”, written by the Pastor General of the Church of God's Faithful, Mr. Robert Ardis. He states:

Consider; if anyone observed vultures circling overhead it should be obvious that there was a body lying there attracting these carnivorous scavengers. The word for *body* here is that of a *whole live body*, see #4983. He is saying **the selected group, those chosen, would be taken**—to where the BODY is—the BODY of Christ—the true Church of Jesus Christ (see Eph. 1:20-23).

Those that receive God's Truth, listen to His voice, and accept what

He says, are those that follow and are responsive to Christ – the God of His Patience. *They are the ones that “have kept the word of His patience”, or have “kept their eyes focused on Christ” as pointed out in Rev. 3:10! Those who refuse to understand the deeper things, and lay*

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Where Is the Place of Safety?

dwelt upon the earth.

We of the CGF teach that the Day of the Lord began nearly 12 years ago on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997. This is when 6000 years of man's allotted time of going his own way under the influence of the god of this world, Satan the devil, ended - and God's Time that lasts for all eternity, the LORD'S DAY, began.

The Lord's Day came as a "thief in the night"! Christ's came suddenly to His Temple that had been attacked and nearly destroyed by Satan and his demons. The First Four Seals of the Book of Revelation were ripped open by the mighty Christ and the Four Horsemen have galloped forth to do their WORK of preparing this earth for the opening of the Fifth Seal with the introduction of the BEAST POWER that will cause the GREAT TRIBULATION to bring death and destruction upon the entirety of Planet Earth!

Very soon the world will desperately need a *place of safety, a place prepared of God.*

Luke 21:36 warns true Christians:

“**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.**”

This is what this magazine is all about—WATCHING—and helping you understand what is happening in the world and in the scattered churches.

Are you crying out to God in fervent prayer that you may be worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass? Make no mistake these things are coming to pass just as surely as the “death camps of Europe” came to pass as a small type of what looms ahead.

This warning message is going out at this time as you are reading. This tiny Church will grow into the WOMAN of Rev. 12:14-16! The *MIDNIGHT CRY* eventually will boom out and awaken ALL of the sleeping churches—the wise and the foolish (Matt. 25). Many of the wise will come and *worship God before our feet* (Rev. 3:9). Think of the parallels of Mr. Ted Armstrong's message of so long ago!

And it makes no difference if you are “holding fast” by yourself or a member of Laodicea or one of the split and splintered *churches of god* and are *keeping the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*:—if you are not in His ONE TRUE CHURCH you will experience the GREAT TRIBULATION and the wrath of Satan the devil! These are not my words—these are the Words of Jesus Christ from Rev. 12:17:

“**And the dragon was wroth with the woman [Who is protected in the Place Prepared], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**”

Most likely you have thought through the years that the rose-red city of Petra located in the nation of Jordan, that is “half as old as time”, is the *place of safety.*

This is still believed by the Laodicean PCG and many of the scattered churches—but it is not the *place prepared of God* according to the Word of God. Petra is to be a place of slaughter as Isaiah 34, especially vv. 5-6 describe. *Idumea* is the ancient name for Edom that is Jordan of today and *Bozrah* was the ancient capital. Jer. 49 17-18 plainly tells **those who will heed** that Edom, where Petra is located, will be destroyed to the extent of Sodom and Gomorrah! That describes total slaughter—not safety! The lead article in this issue of the *Midnight Cry* will show you where the Bible strongly indicates the Place of safety will be. Our booklet *Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter... Which?* and our 160 page book; *Set Apart by Truth* will help you understand that you may WATCH and HEED with us as we struggle “to be accounted WORTHY to escape all these things that shall surely come to pass and STAND before the Son of Man” in these dangerous days before the GREAT TRIBULATION is unleashed upon the entire earth.

ALL true Christians in Christ's One True Church will need the *Place God has Prepared* for our safety! We will need this even more so than the Jews who perished in the terrible days of WWII as we wait for our change from flesh to immortal Spirit and the joys of our Lord.

Please read, study, and heed the scriptures and remember we are here to help.

Your brother in Christ,



Robert G. Ardis

A Place of SAFETY

by Daniel Frendo

God's people – His begotten children – need to get into a frame of mind which expects the fulfillment of prophecies. The Laodiceans and the scattered sheep must grow in spiritual maturity and alertness to the point where Jesus Christ will be able to consider them as faithful Philadelphian Christians, who are *continuing* to grow in His grace and knowledge (II Pet. 3:18).

Soon after He began His three and a half year ministry, Jesus Christ began to preach that the Kingdom of God was at hand. He did this as He went about all Galilee healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. This had attracted many people to Him. We must be aware of Jesus Christ's promise that this scenario will repeat itself when He gives power to two prophets – the two witnesses – who shall also conduct a 1260-day ministry.

The two witnesses will represent the "two Olive Trees" – God the Father and Jesus Christ. They will also represent the two Candlesticks – Philadelphia and Laodicea, as they use God's power to perform miracles, signs and wonders during the days of their prophesying (Rev. 11:4).

When He walked this earth, Christ gave power to His disciples to perform miracles, signs and wonders as they went to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The time is coming when the One Who is the same yesterday, today and forever will also give power to His *faithful*

disciples to perform even greater works (John 14:12). In the greatest Work ever about to be performed by His *Philadelphia* Church, Jesus Christ will bring many of the scattered sheep of the house of *spiritual* Israel to learn at the feet of His faithful disciples.

Those who are presently blind or asleep will be brought to them to be reminded about the glory of God and their incredible human potential – the gospel message! They will also learn that truth restored by Jesus Christ since He came unexpectedly to His Temple at the onset of the Day of the Lord. Those of us who will need to see signs and wonders in order to believe (John 4:48), will be re-awakened and become part of the "woman" that will "fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time ("partition... particle" – see Strong's 2250, 260), from the face of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14).

In Old Testament times, through Moses and Aaron, God had instructed the ancient Israelites to set apart lambs. On the same day, in the very near future, those accounted worthy to escape the Great Tribulation then about to begin, will enter a place of safety ("the wilderness") for 1150 days ("a time, and times, and half"). At the end of these days "the sanctuary shall be cleansed

(margin: Heb. *justified*)" (Dan. 8:14). This most exciting event will occur at the sounding of the last trump on a future Day of Pentecost. Then, the 144,000 firstfruits will be *resurrected*, as they are *born again of God* (I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 14:1-5).

The place of safety is a location where Satan will be barred (Rev. 12:15-17). Hence, the time is coming when God's elect won't be *deceived*. Other articles in this publication are more specific about the *physical* place of safety. What about the present? Can we find safety *TODAY*?

“ He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand... And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set

To ensure our safety we must live by, and do, the Work of a Philadelphian Christian.

a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof (Ezek.9:1-4).

To ensure our safety we must live by, and do, the Work of a *Philadelphian* Christian. This will allow God to polish us as “pillars”. As we determine to fear and reverence the Great spiritual Rock, Jesus Christ, we will be in a state of humble submission to the will of God. That is how Christ may dwell in us and how the Father will make His abode with us. We will then be deep in the Inner Court of the spir-

itual Temple wherein Christ dwells. Psalms 31:19-20 offers much encouragement:

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the

pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Christ provides a place of safety for us - even now! Our implicit trust in Him gives us the necessary confidence to know that He will always take care of us. We will then know that He will take us to a *physical* place of safety that *He* is preparing, whenever it becomes necessary to flee. ❖

Continued from page 6

Where Is the Place of Safety?

Israel to God, dressed in their clean clothes, on Pentecost.

- Israel agreed to all of the terms of the COVENANT as offered to them by God.
- They were MARRIED to God.
- Elijah FLED to Horeb/Sinai.
- Paul FLED to Arabia: possibly to the Mountain of God.
- The Church today is the Israel of God and the Bride of Jesus Christ, which will marry Christ.
- The Resurrection according to the pattern of the Holy Days will occur on the Feast of Firstfruits, Pentecost.

Types and Comparisons

How exciting! Those Followers of Christ who have watched and prayed and have been “...accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man...” will soon FLEE into the Place in the wilderness that God has prepared (see Luke 21:36 and Rev. 12:14).

Consider the types and parallels we can see when comparing ancient Israel with the New Testament Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).

Israel was enslaved to Pharaoh of Egypt. The great majority of Spiritual Israelites today are captives in the synagogue of Satan.

God rescued ancient Israel by directing TWO MEN in the use of awesome miracles, signs, and wonders to back up the WORDS they spoke. The Two Witnesses are to be brought on the scene for their “training period” in miracles, signs, and wonders. The New Truths you are reading are part of the WORDS they will speak, supported by the same great power of God. This “training period” lasting 113- ½ days before the Fifth Seal is opened, will afford opportunity to our Spiritual Israelite brethren lost in the Synagogue of Satan to seek us out.

God took physical Israel “on the wings of an eagle” to the “wilderness of Sinai.” Revelation 12:14 emphatically declares that God will take the Woman [Spiritual Israel] “... on two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place...”

Moses presented Israel to God in their clean clothes. Christ, our Lord, will present us, the Israel of God “... faultless before the presence of His Glory...” (Jude 24). He will present us to God the Father without “... spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph.5: 27).

Old Israel was gathered together facing Mt. HOREB / SINAI and had made themselves ready to become God’s Wife as HE descended to the top of the Mountain. Spiritual Israel shall be gathered together in the Place of Safety and shall “... have made herself ready” as the Wife of Christ (Rev. 19:7).

Ancient Israel was presented to God with the sound of a trumpet on the Day of Pentecost. Spiritual Israel will be presented to God at the sound of the Last Trumpet. That GREAT TRUMPET will sound and “...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed” (I Cor. 15:52). This will also happen on the DAY of PENTECOST---the Day of FIRST-FRUITS.

We do not definitely know if the Place of Safety is in the area of Mt. Horeb/Sinai, or as the Arabs call it today, JABAL AL LAWZ. Jesus Christ is the HEAD of this Church and knows exactly WHERE the Place of Safety is located, because he has prepared it. The Church of God’s Faithful is SET APART BY TRUTH! Christ will give us this TRUTH, also. He will let us KNOW definitely as the time to FLEE draws nearer.

As of this moment, we definitely have a “good indication” of where God’s Place of Safety is located! ❖

If the Lord be God, Follow Him!

by John Durrad

The Church of God's Faithful (C.G.F) has been petitioning God's Philadelphia era remnant since 1997 and will continue to do so. Our petition to ALL of God's people is simply a request to examine truth. Old truth may be established in your mind, but what about new truth? Truth is reality and conformity to fact; truth is revealed by God!

All long-standing members will remember that Pentecost was kept on a Monday. At the time, we believed this to be true. Our motive was right and our conscience was clear, however when "new" truth was revealed to Mr Armstrong on this subject he changed the Church teaching to keep Pentecost on a Sunday - as we keep it today. As a Church and as individuals we recognised and proved this new understanding and quit the "old" false way and incorporated the "new" right way into our lives. This is only one example where we grew in grace and knowledge and accepted the truth of God's sure

Word as it was revealed.

Grow In Grace and Knowledge

What about you today? Are you still growing in grace and knowledge as you used to, or are you rendered motionless, transfixed by established values yet not receptive to new revealed truth that is placed before you?

As an example, my Bible has a mention of a third resurrection in its pages. The note has been placed there by me in my "inspired" margin. Yes, I believed there were three resurrections, but in no part of canonised scripture can you find a third resurrection. The first resurrection is mentioned in Revelation 20:5 which is the resurrection of the Firstfruits. The same verse mentions the rest of the dead which are those people who have died once, not understanding God's Plan. Verse 6 reveals a second death for those resurrected after a thousand years who do not

respond to God's calling. This is the second resurrection. Nowhere though do we find a third resurrection in the entire Bible. Notice this scripture in the book of Acts:

“ And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust (Acts 24:15).

Paul is not referring to the first resurrection of the Firstfruits. He is referring to the second resurrection when *all* of the rest of the dead, the good and the bad, will be raised in a single resurrection!

“ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear my voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, into the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).

There is an *hour* coming when *all*

those in the graves will be resurrected together, some to eternal life and some to eternal death! Please request our booklet entitled 'The Deep Things of God' for full details of this and other wonderful new truths.

Some have criticised the C.G.F. for, as they put it, attacking God's people in other groups. We feel quite hurt by that as our motives are clear in that we simply wish to disseminate the knowledge we have been given to our brother's and sisters in Christ who have been led astray by false shepherds:

“My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray; they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place (Jer 50:6).

We do call a spade a spade though, so perhaps the term we use for the daughter churches of the W.C.G is too harsh for them. Certainly the label Synagogue of Satan rests hard on the ears but it is a Biblical title and not one we have made up.

Love Toward Our Brethren

We can state plainly here that we love our Laodicean (Philadelphia Church of God) brethren and those in the scattered daughter churches from the W.C.G.

We wish no harm, but beseech to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good and truthful

(2 Thess 5:21). If you are sure you are right and in the correct church headed by Jesus Christ, then what we say should not cause you a problem. You can simply dismiss what

... if you do not feel that you are set apart by truth, then you need to ask yourself a serious question. Am I in the right church?

we say and get on with obeying God.

If however you are not sure that what your minister and church are saying is correct, if you are not sure you are growing as you should, if you do not feel that you are set apart by truth, then you need to ask yourself a serious question. Am I in the right church? Do I belong to God's True Church? You have four options to consider:

1. You are in a mainstream church (not very likely as you are reading this magazine, but possible)
2. You belong to the Laodicean Church of God (P.C.G)
3. You belong to one of the many W . C . G . split-off groups, the synagogue of Satan
4. You belong to the C.G.F, the only Church led by Jesus Christ which has increased knowledge and truth and is knocking on the door of Laodicea waiting for them to let you in

Many of you out there are not too

Are you 100% sure you are in the right church. Some even flit from church group to church group being blown about by every wind of doctrine.... "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).

sure. Be honest: Are you 100% sure you are in the right church. Some even flit from church group to church group being blown about by every wind of doctrine. We are not attacking you when we say you need to know the truth "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded (James 4:8).

Confusion exists in the churches of God today. God is not the author of confusion, but Satan is! We as an individual need not be confused if you are seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness. Christ said He would never leave or forsake us. But we cannot

sit back and refuse to study new truth when it is presented to us. We have to follow either God or Satan, truth or error!

Do you think the C.G.F is troubling God's people by trying to give them the truth, or is the problem with the shepherds who care only for their wages or prestige

and not for God's sheep? When King Ahab met Elijah, the original one, he rudely shouted at him without the courtesy of a proper greeting and said, "...Are you the one that troubles Israel?" Notice Elijah's reply:

“And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy Father's

house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim (1Kings 18:17-18).

Elijah, although a true prophet of God, was accused of causing trouble in Israel, just as the C.G.F is accused by many of attacking God's people. Elijah had a simple answer for the Israelites:

“ And Elijah came unto all the people and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word (1 Kings 18:21).

The people didn't have an answer because of their guilty consciences. They had been living like the heathen, but still wanted to call themselves God's people. They were trying to mix God's Laws with a pagan religion, trying to worship both God and Baal.

Today there are over 300 split-off groups each believing they are the true church of God. Is Christ the head of all theses groups? Of course not! Christ is not divided (1 Cor 1:13). All of these groups mix truth with error, just like the ancient Israelites did.

If you belong to one of these churches of god or even the Laodicean Church (P.C.G.) then ask yourself this question: Do I truly believe that Christ is the Head of this church? If the answer is an unequivocal "yes", then there is no more that can be said to you. If you are not really sure, then do not

halt or hesitate between two opinions, but immediately seek out the truth!

Do not be concerned about any position you may have in "your" church, or even friends or relatives that may be holding you back. If Christ is not there then you don't want to be there either! If you have

a position that is not of Christ it will come to nought, it is just a corruptible crown.

God Backs Those Doing His Work

Elijah carried out a demonstration to prove which deity had the greater power, God or Baal. It appeared to be one-sided with 450 prophets of Baal against one man, Elijah. You know the story: the priests of Baal called on their God to set the wood on their altar on fire. They failed, but God backed up Elijah with a tremendous display of power that consumed Elijah's sacrifice in full view of the people.

“ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God (1 Kings 18:39).

The people believed because they saw. They walked by sight. We must believe in faith, and walk in that faith that Christ would never leave us or forsake us if we contin-

God backed up Elijah with a tremendous display of power that consumed Elijah's sacrifice in full view of the people... The people believed because they saw... We must believe in faith...

ue to seek His Truth.

God's remnant Philadelphians, the Church of God's Faithful, will continue the work of knocking on the door of Laodicea. We are not attacking anyone; we simply wait for the door to open so we can sup with our beloved brethren.

There is coming a time when God will give us miracle powers to complete His Work:

“ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues: They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Luke 16:17-18).

How about you? Do you have the faith to check out and prove what Christ is saying through the Church of God's Faithful at this present time? Or will you wait until the signs and wonders prove where Christ is working?

“ Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe (John 4:48).

If God's Holy Spirit has not been quenched, you will have the faith

...will you wait until the signs and wonders prove where Christ is working?

now to determine where Christ is working. We walk by faith; we do not need signs and wonders to know where Christ is. The

C.G.F is knocking on your door with booklets and magazines filled with the Truth of God. This is not an attack. It is a request to open your door and let Christ in. Why halt you between two opinions, if the Lord be God, follow him! ❖

Why does Christ “stand at the door and knock”?

Could it be that the end time, Laodicean ministry has the door locked up tighter than a fortress?

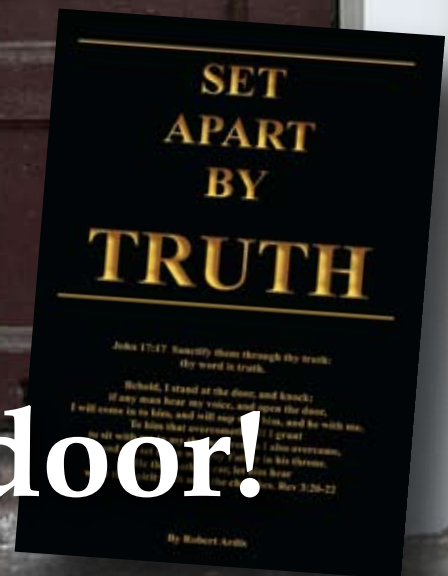
Do your leaders *forbid* you to read and test them by “dissident” literature?

Is Christ trying to remove you from that *final* Church era and place you *back* with those of the faithful Philadelphian remnant before it's too late?

Christ said, “...and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice”

John 10:4.

Open the door!



Continued from page 8

**“Thou Hast Rejected Knowledge,
I Will Also Reject Thee!”**

aside New Truth, don't understand Jesus Christ! These people are not following Him but a man! And because they reject God's light, they are causing their own punishing tribulation.

Remember, New Truth given to

God's Church comes from a Being that is higher than Jesus Christ! Deeper understanding comes from the supreme God of the Universe – God the Father. He gives it to Jesus Christ who in turn passes it on to us. I implore every reader not to reject it or lay it aside, but to receive it and embrace it!

Keep your eyes upon the Word of His Patience! The ones that reject Truth are not Philadelphians! ❖

If You “Believe Your Bible” Petra CAN NOT Be The Place of Safety!

As a former member of the World Wide Church of God (WCG), where do you think the Place of Safety might be?

For many years, Mr. Armstrong and the WCG ministry, as well as Mr. Gerald Flurry's Laodicean, Philadelphia Church of God, have strongly suggested that Petra would be that special gathering place that would protect God's elect from the coming Great Tribulation. But is that what God says about Petra?

Absolutely not! God says this area of the world will suffer destruction so complete that it will be utter devastation! Just like Sodom and Gomorrah!

We urge you to study our FREE booklet, *Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?* and decide for yourself. God's elect will understand His Word!

Call and request or download all of our literature Free of charge.

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