



The Midnight Cry

Sept/Oct 2012, Volume 4, Number 4

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

**Have You
Ever
Asked**

WHY?





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From the Editor ...



Have You Ever Asked WHY...?

by Robert Ardis

In the past 25 years the former Worldwide Church of God (WCG) has, unbelievably, split and splintered into an estimated 300 or more churches and groups! During these years, an awful situation has developed due to the fragmenting of the church. Many entire families have been rent asunder by attending different splits of the former WCG.

Loving families, who at one time all worshipped together on the weekly Sabbath and on God's Holy Days, now cannot even discuss the Word of God, much less worship together for fear of offending one another!

The Feast of Tabernacles was instituted by the eternal God to be a time of rejoicing for families as they assembled in honor and respect for God (Deut. 14:26). The Feast used to be a time of great rejoicing, a wonderful "family reunion." But now many must leave their family and go their own way in following their church to a different Feast site.

WHY?

Can this *division* be pleasing to God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior? Absolutely NOT! It is a shame—it is confusion—and it is SIN!

How has the disintegration of the WCG affected you?

Have you ever asked yourself WHY you are a member of the splintered church or group you associate with? How did you wind up in your church? Is your answer, "Well, I just like my church and its activities, and the people"? That is not really an answer to the question. And doesn't that statement reflect a spiritually dangerous "lukewarm attitude" of self-satisfaction (See Rev. 3:15)? Thus, ask yourself again, "Why am I a member of the church I attend?"

Do you ever think of your family members or long-time friends who are now separated from you in another church? If YOU are in the TRUE CHURCH, aren't these loved ones in danger of the Great Tribulation or worse? Suppose they die and are not in your church! What is their fate? Have you ever thought about their ultimate destiny?

Do you try to discuss your differences with those loved ones or are you afraid of not having the right answers to their questions? Are you guilty

of being unprepared to answer *the hope that lies within you?*

I Peter 3:15 tells us plainly:

“**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.**

Are you willing to sit down and calmly seek the answers to WHY the *division* exists between you and your family members, and many of your old friends—for the glory of God? Or are you afraid of what you THINK those loved ones might believe? Do you hide behind your own minister’s admonition of “Don’t talk to DISSIDENTS or read their literature”? But what if the dissident material is TRUTH directly from the Word of God?

Have you ever thought of the very important NEW TRUTH that was rejected as dissident material by the Sardis era church? When Herbert W. Armstrong brought the marvelous “DISSIDENT MATERIAL” of *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* to them, their leaders rejected it.

And it was the same situation when many of us “old-timers” were first introduced to God’s Holy Sabbath Day through the *World Tomorrow* radio program and the *Plain Truth* magazine. The minister of the church I attended at that time over 55 years ago warned that observance of the Sabbath was part of a DISSIDENT MESSAGE by a rebellious fanatic. Of course, the “rebellious fanatic” was Mr. Armstrong! Where would I be today if I had heeded the false teachings of the world’s ministry?

Now, YOU are facing the same situation today!

If you are well grounded in biblical truth you should NOT fear to read and study literature from another church or group that your minister might label as *dissident!* In fact, the scriptures demand that you:

1. Study to show yourself approved (II Tim. 2:15);
2. Prove all things and hold fast that which is good (I Thess. 5:21);
3. Be ready at all times to give an answer for the hope that lies within you (I Pet. 3:15).

Certainly, you must be careful to apply the warnings in Romans 16:17 and II John 1:10-11.

“**Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them** (Rom. 16:17).

“**If there come any unto you, and bring not *this doctrine*, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed** (II John 1:10).

In both of these verses you would “know them by their fruit” and not even allow them in your house. But if a person, especially a family member or an old friend who is in another of the split-off churches and who still observes the doctrine of the true Gospel, can show you NEW TRUTH from the pages of God’s Word—shouldn’t he be welcomed, not avoided?

What could bring more happiness or be more rewarding than to PROVE to your separated loved ones why you believe your church is the true church of Jesus Christ? But what PROOF do you have? Have you ever thought about that?

Would you be willing to listen to

an old-time former member of the WCG, who is now in a different church than yours, explain to you a new truth straight from the Bible? I mean a truth that you or your church had not known before. Or would you get upset and refuse to discuss anything NEW? Would you just tell the person you are not supposed to read *dissident literature*, and you are happy in your church?

Shouldn’t you be concerned about the sincere person that is showing concern for you by bringing you new understanding? Be honest and ask yourself: Have you carefully *PROVEN* by the Holy Bible that your church or “splinter group,” whether large or small, is the ONE true Church of Jesus Christ? That question should be uppermost in every Christian’s mind, especially today with over 300 churches and groups split off from the former WCG—each claiming to be churches of God!

Only through the Word of God can the true Church be singled out and be positively identified! Do you know HOW to do that?

Our Lord and Savior prayed to the Father on that fateful Passover evening in 31 AD stating that His disciples had been trained as the nucleus of His Church that would take the Gospel to the world. He said, “As thou hast sent me into the world, ***even so have I also sent them into the world***” (John 17:18). And in God’s plan, the apostles were to receive the Spirit of God, on the approaching Day of Pentecost, to be able to accomplish their task.

Also in His prayer to God the Father, Jesus asked Him: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (verse 17). Thus, God’s true Church has always been

set apart by TRUTH! The one true Church will always be recognized by TRUTH! And truth must be revealed from God in the pages of the Word of God!

The true *Gospel of the Kingdom of God* was originally brought by Jesus Christ. But within 100 years it was lost to the world and replaced by a counterfeit “Christianity.” As the *time of the end* approached, the Living Christ raised up Herbert Armstrong as an apostle to restore the true Gospel as a *witness to all nations*. The WCG under Herbert W. Armstrong was easily PROVEN to be *set apart by truth!*

The true Gospel was despised and rejected as *dissident material* by the religious leaders of the world’s churches, and Mr. Armstrong was ridiculed as a fanatic and a heretic! Nevertheless, Jesus Christ continued to reveal new truth to Mr. Armstrong, and through 55 years he successfully fulfilled his commission of taking the Gospel to the world!

Shortly after Mr. Armstrong’s death, the *great falling away* occurred in God’s Church and produced the split and splintered churches seen today! So, the question that should be asked is: “How do you now determine which of the 300 different groups and churches is the ONE TRUE CHURCH?”

Do you believe Christ built ONLY one Church—or did He build many churches?

The apostle Paul was inspired to write I Corinthians 1:10-11:

“ Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and THAT THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; but

that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that THERE ARE CONTENTIONS AMONG YOU. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Then verse 13 asks, “*Is Christ divided?*” And, of course, the answer is a resounding NO!

“Let there be NO DIVISIONS among you” is a plain directive from the Word of God! So why is there division among the churches? Could it be that the division stems from *envying and strife* among the leading ministers? Think about that, because that is what the Bible identifies as the problem, as will be explained. Doesn’t *envying and strife* cause *confusion* and *doubt* as to which church is the true Church of Jesus Christ?

A sincere person seeking truth would certainly be *confused* on any Sunday morning by turning on his television set and viewing the back-to-back messages of The United Church of God, The Living Church of God, and The Philadelphia Church of God.

These three churches are major splits from the former WCG. Each week they can be seen as competing churches on super station WGN and many of the local area channels around the USA and many other nations. On Sunday mornings and throughout each week, each of these three churches proclaims to the world that its church is THE work of Jesus Christ—thereby causing doubt and confusion as to who is right and who is wrong.

These are only three churches. But

there are many other remnants of the former Worldwide Church of God, each one believing that its “brand” of church is the one true church. Then there are others with a Protestant viewpoint claiming ALL of the “Churches of God” are loyal followers of Christ and are serving Him in their own individual way.

Why are the churches DIVIDED? Can’t the ministers read the scriptures?

If *Chloe* were alive today, wouldn’t he still be declaring, “*THERE ARE CONTENTIONS AMONG THE CHURCHES!*” And if contentions were a problem in *Chloe’s* day—aren’t they an even more severe problem today?

Shouldn’t YOU be opening your Bible to “prove all things”? “Proving ALL things” means, among other things, determining absolutely whether your church is the true Church of Jesus Christ! Can you prove that your church is not a *lukewarm* group sleepily following a man who is seeking the *preeminence* among all the other *hirelings*?

Are you like those in ancient Corinth who were following a man—Apollos, Cephas or Paul? Are you blindly following Dennis Luker, Roderick Meredith, Gerald Flurry or David Pack—or on and on and on?

Ask yourself again, “Why are you a member of your church?”

Have you ever read Jeremiah 50:6?

“ 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 [large group] to hill [small group], they have forgotten their restingplace.

Note that God states that they are HIS SHEEP! God is NOT referring to the people of the worldly churches or their ministers. Absolutely not! He is referring to His FLOCK—His begotten sons and daughters—who have been CAUSED TO GO ASTRAY by the SHEPHERDS of the split and splintered, divided churches and groups that came forth from the former WCG.

Have you considered the warning in Acts 20:28-30?

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you OVERSEERS, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also OF YOUR OWN SELVES shall men arise, speaking perverse things, TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM.

The verses above perfectly describe what happened after the death (the departing) of Herbert W. Armstrong. Trusted men who were supposed to be *true shepherds* separated the flock to *draw away disciples after themselves!* The Church split and splintered, with each division led by a *Diotrophes-type shepherd* (See III Jn. 1:9-10) who lusted for the preeminence instead of striving for UNITY.

Division in the churches is no small problem—it is a biblical fact that division is a SIN! Notice the next two scriptures:

I Corinthians 14:33: “For God is NOT the author of CONFUSION...”

James 3:16 warns: “For where *envying and strife* is, there is CONFUSION and *every evil work*.”

Therefore, to avoid confusion and the distinct possibility of being in a false church, a sincere person must prayerfully open his spiritual eyes and seek out the one true Church of Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ said, “I will build MY CHURCH,” — not churches. So I ask again, HOW do you find the true Church? The very obvious answer is—you open your Bible and study!

Notice Matthew 16:16-18:

“And Simon Peter answered and said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*. And Jesus answered and said unto him, *Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven*. [Peter was given revealed knowledge from God the Father!] *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter^{G4074}, and upon this ROCK^{G4073} I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Satan has deceived the “Christian world” into believing Jesus built His church upon the apostle Peter (His name, *Peter*, is Strong’s #4074 *petros*; defined as “*a piece of rock*”). However, all who were former WCG members were taught that Jesus is the ROCK (The word *Rock* is Strong’s #4073; *petra* defined as “*a mass of rock*”). Jesus Christ is *the stone the builders rejected* (I Pet. 2:7). He is the *chief cornerstone of the spiritual Temple* (Eph 2:20-22). He is the ROCK that led ancient Israel for 40 years in the wilderness (I Cor. 10:4)! Therefore our Lord has built His CHURCH upon HIMSELF as the WORD OF GOD—the ROCK SOLID FOUNDATION.

And this is the important key to understanding HOW to identify the

TRUE CHURCH!

Jesus Christ is the LIVING WORD OF GOD (John 1:1-3 and Rev. 19:13), and the Holy Bible is the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD (John 17:17). Therefore, when II Peter 3:18 admonishes all Christians to “...grow in grace, and in the *knowledge* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...”, it is telling us to grow, by Christ’s grace, in the *knowledge* of the WORD OF GOD—the HOLY BIBLE! And growth in knowledge of the Holy Bible is NEW TRUTH revealed by God’s Spirit (see Matt. 11:25 and I Cor. 2:9-10).

The true Church of Jesus Christ will be constantly *growing in exciting new truth* as an identifying SIGN! The true Church of Jesus Christ will be SET APART BY TRUTH! John 17:17 states that very clearly: “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

Ask yourself: “Is my church growing in NEW TRUTH?” What is one new truth that your church or group teaches that was not known and taught by Mr. Armstrong 26 years ago? Does your church even realize and teach that the “man of sin” has already come and caused the *great falling away*—the APOSTASY? That happened over 20 years ago and is the reason for the divided churches!

Is your church like many of the other splits and splinters out there that have NO NEW TRUTH! The true Church of God will be filled with NEW exciting truth directly from the Word of God—it will definitely be *set apart by TRUTH*—old truth and NEW truth.

The divided churches are all alike with the exception of each having their own hireling minister(s) who desire the preeminence among all the others. But have they had ANY

new truth since being established? No! They have none that I am aware of!

The Church of God's Faithful has over ONE HUNDRED NEW TRUTHS *revealed* to it in a little over 14 years. This claim is one of the things you can *PROVE* conclusively! Why would you NOT want to know new truth from the WORD OF GOD—from JESUS CHRIST? You certainly do not want to reject new truth (Hos. 4:6). No! You want to GROW in KNOWLEDGE of the Word of God and then *hold fast to* that wonderful and exciting new truth and be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ!

Come now, let's reason together (Isa.1:18). Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of the split and splintered churches could be UNITED and be in total accord with one another? And it could be done IF the churches would follow Jesus Christ instead of men.

I repeat: the CGF has over 100 new truths that have been *revealed* to us from the pages of the Word of God. Thus we invite any and all to check us out. Open your Bibles! Read our literature! Prove us right—or prove us wrong! But let's be concerned for one another. If I am in error on any new truth, I want to be corrected! Bring out your big guns—your top minister. Show them the brief list of new truths copied below and ask them to give you their opinions of them—using the Bible. But let me caution you—you might be surprised by their reactions.

The Great Tribulation cannot be far away and God will NOT have CONTENTIOUS churches and groups in His place of safety!

Here is another thought to seriously consider!

Many authorities date the creation

of Adam as 4004 BC. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong also believed that date could be correct. He stated that beginning from 4004 BC, the 6000 years of God allowing man to go his own way could end in 1997 AD. Then God would begin intervening in man's affairs.

On the sacred (Hebrew) calendar, it is interesting that a NEW 19-YEAR TIME CYCLE began on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997. This year, 2012, is the 15th year in the cycle. Unprecedented upsets in the weather, powerful earthquakes occurring at an alarming rate, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, floods, the threat of worldwide economic collapse, disease epidemics, famine, war and MANY prophecies are being fulfilled at a very rapid rate—so, are these SIGNS that God IS INTERVENING in the affairs of man today?

Has God given His Church this one 19-year time cycle to be accounted worthy to escape the Great Tribulation and to be ready as the Bride of Jesus Christ? Do we have LESS than FOUR years to be *gathered* (II Thess. 2:1) and MADE READY? We do NOT know for sure. But UNITY in Christ's ONE TRUE CHURCH must be attained! Remember, too, that the Great Tribulation lasts for 3½ years, so do we have less than a year to be *proven worthy to escape all these things* (Luke 21:36)?

The CGF has just completed a CD that explains the *gathering* of God's Church, its recent history, and prophecy for the near future. I would like to send you a copy.

I hope and pray that we can ALL submit to Jesus Christ and work together to UNIFY the people of God—to create that one happy Church family as it used to be. Wouldn't it be so good for all of us to be together again in the ONE

TRUE CHURCH?

We should ALL definitely know the answer to that question!

Listed below are twelve subjects about which new truth has been revealed:

- The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are TWO different events.
- Petra is NOT the place of safety!
- The plain truth about God's healing!
- The First Resurrection occurs on a future Feast of Firstfruits, NOT on the Feast of Trumpets.
- There are 144,000 firstfruits.
- Can spirits die? Jesus did!
- Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled by Herbert W. Armstrong!
- Satan will be consumed by fire!
- There are only TWO general resurrections—not THREE!
- Only Israel will be given God's Spirit during the Millennium.
- The seven visions of Revelation 14.
- The identity of the innumerable multitude!

Happy studies!

Your brother in Christ,



FREE LITERATURE

Our contact information is on page 16 of this publication or www.setapartbytruth.org.

The Feast of Trumpets

Seven mighty trumpets blow in the year of God's vengeance during the "greatest time of trouble" ever to come upon the earth.

For years The Church of God has taught that the immanent return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the Saints will take place "at the last trump" on the Feast of Trumpets. Is this correct?

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

It is certainly obvious that Christ does return at the last trump, but is it The Feast of Trumpets?

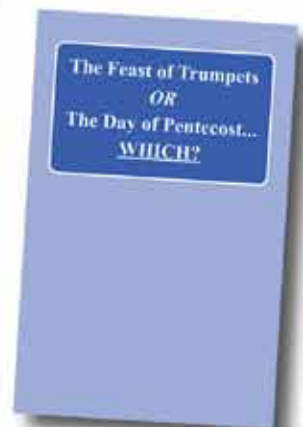
It is possible that the first trump of that most terrible and frightening year, is on The Feast of Trumpets, and the last trump is on **The Feast of FIRSTFRUITS...**

Or The Day of Pentecost

Yes!

You must understand that this is a possibility and that you must "prove all things, hold that fast WHICH is good!"

WHICH?



See page 16 for information on how to obtain your FREE copy today. Or download from our website at www.setapartbytruth.org

Did Christ Establish Your Church Ministry?

Part II

by Andres Yparraquirre, Jr.

In Part I of this article it was shown that God has set apart His true Church by the indentifying sign of TRUTH. The Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the apostle of Jesus Christ, Herbert W. Armstrong, was undoubtedly the true Church until Mr. Armstrong's death. It was set apart from all other churches by the God-inspired truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. The true Gospel contains the Commandments of God, His laws, statutes, ordinances and judgments, as well as over one hundred amazing truths that had been lost to the world. The Gospel was restored by the end-time Elijah, Herbert Armstrong.

However, since his death in 1986, the WCG has thrown away the truth of God, and consequently is fragmented into over 300 competing churches and groups claiming to be the churches of God. The situation today is a replica of the old mother church, i.e., the Roman Catholic Church, and her Protestant daughter churches.

The divided churches of God cannot come together in UNITY due to the desire of each of the leaders of the churches to be number one—to have the pre-eminence. And they teach their congregations that they

should follow them as they follow Mr. Armstrong. But is that the correct thing to do?

To say that one's ministry today has been established by Christ because it has *held fast* to the truths given to Mr. Armstrong does not have any value because each competing church group that has arisen from the ruins of the WCG can claim likewise.

That claim does NOT set them apart as the true ministry established by Jesus Christ! What sets apart Christ's true ministry today is new truth not given to any other group. God's people are admonished to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:18).

Therefore, any group today who claims to be God's church or ministry but has not increased in new knowledge and understanding of scriptures is actually a deceived group following a false teacher. God's ordained ministry will be evident in the NEW TRUTH that sets them apart. By NEW TRUTH you shall know them.

God's Church Figures in and Fulfills Prophecy

It is a fact that one third of the Bible is prophecy and many of those

prophecies involve God's Church in the end-time. For example: the prophecies concerning the APOSTASY (the falling away from truth) and the *man of sin* were signs of the coming of the Day of Christ (II Thess. 2:2-4). These are now fulfilled prophecies involving God's Church. We have lived through these momentous times! There should be no doubt about this. The WCG was SET APART as God's true Church until the prophecies of II Thessalonians 2 were fulfilled.

Today the WCG has dropped all of its Church of God trappings including its *name* and is nothing more than another mainstream Protestant church of this world.

The appearance of Laodicea, the 7th Candlestick/Church of Revelation 3:14, is now a fulfilled prophecy that also greatly involved God's Church. Four years after Mr. Armstrong died, Mr. Gerald Flurry and the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) were raised up to warn the faithful of the WCG about the apostasy that was happening right before our bewildered eyes.

Mr. Flurry boldly revealed the *man of sin* and the falling away from truth, but few heeded his warning as he preached that II Thessalonians 2 was being fulfilled. For seven years Mr. Flurry loyally served

Christ!

The Laodicean Church began to grow. However, Gerald Flurry began to make some very unwise decisions: He unlawfully printed and distributed thousands of Herbert Armstrong's final book, *Mystery of the Ages*. That action precipitated an all-out legal war with the WCG who held the copyright of all of Mr. Armstrong's and Ambassador College's writings. That legal wrangling lasted for six long years, but ended with the PCG losing both the court battle and about \$4 million in court costs and lawyer fees. Then in a surprise move, the WCG offered Mr. Flurry *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 other WCG/AC publications for the price of \$2 million.

Now, armed with Mr. Armstrong's literature, Gerald Flurry made another colossal blunder—he decided to go to the world with *Mystery of the Ages*; a repeat of taking the Gospel to the world. Mr. Flurry knew Mr. Armstrong had completed that task already and had previously ridiculed some of the other daughter churches that were splitting off from the WCG for taking the Gospel to the world again!

At that time Mr. Flurry also began deviating from the Word of God by making strange verbal and written comments. Unbelievably, he took to himself the title of *That Prophet*, which belongs ONLY to Jesus Christ. Then he issued the divisive ruling that PCG members cannot associate with family members if they are members of any of the splits and splinters of the former WCG.

These rulings by the leader of Laodicea are abominations in God's sight! The man God used to reveal the *man of sin* sitting in the Temple of God (the CHURCH) had, himself, now become *the abomination stand-*

ing in the Holy Place (the CHURCH)!

Matthew 24:15 became fulfilled on a spiritual basis:

“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:)

There will soon also be a PHYSICAL type of abomination surrounding Jerusalem (Luke 21:20), although Jerusalem is not a “holy place” today (see Rev. 11:8).

The spiritual fulfillment of the *abomination of desolation standing in the holy place* is another fulfilled prophecy involving God's Church that should instill an urgency to prepare to do the work of God.

If the Church of God figures into so many prophecies, what prophecy or prophecies have been or are being fulfilled today *involving the Church of God's Faithful* (CGF)?

First ask yourself: How did you learn about the Day of the Lord and the other astounding new truths taught by the CGF?

Amos 3:7 states:

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

The Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night—in the NIGHT—as Jesus Christ Himself prophesied. Had that nighttime period not yet come, we would still be waiting for the Day of the Lord to come. That night came in the form of spiritual darkness that descended into the WCG and caused the APOSTASY.

Again let's read II Thessalonians 2:1-4:

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our coming together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ [the Day of the Lord] is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This prophecy is now recent history involving God's Church. A *man of sin* did sit in the Temple of God, the WCG, and *the falling away* did occur. Then the Day of the Lord came as prophesied.

And there are prophecies being fulfilled at this very time in which we are now living. These prophecies are unmistakable proof of the only ministry that Jesus Christ has ordained after the Laodicean work went off track. These prophecies can be listed under three major headings:

1. The unfinished work of the apostle John must be performed!
2. It must be proclaimed in great power that the Day of the Lord has come and the Kingdom of God is at hand (Rev. 1:10; Rev. 10:1-5; Matt. 10:6-7);
3. Preparations must be in place to receive the *awakened virgins* as they respond to the *midnight cry* (Matt. 25:1-13; Rev. 3:9).

#1 - The Unfinished Work of the Apostle John

The book of Revelation begins with the following introduction:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which *must shortly come to pass*, and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: *for the time is at hand* (Rev. 1:1-3).

At the time the Revelation was written, only the Ephesus era of the Church was in existence. However, the apostle John was instructed in verse 11:

“What thou seest, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Then in verses 10 and 11 it is stated that John,

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.

Put together, these verses show that John was projected forward to this present time, when the Day of the Lord “came as a thief in the night”! The TIME IS AT HAND!

John’s primary commission was to write “the things which thou hast seen” (past), “the things which are” (present), and “the things which shall be hereafter” (future), from the point of view of after the Day of the Lord had begun (Rev. 1:19).

But in Revelation 10:11 and Revelation 11:1 John was given two commissions which he was unable to do. These two commissions are:

1. Prophecy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings;
2. Measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Therefore, someone else at this time has been preparing for the fulfilling of those extremely important commissions. That man is fulfilling the role of an end-time John and is the physical leader of the only ministry that Christ has ordained for today.

#2 - The Proclaiming that the Day of the Lord HAS come, the Kingdom of God is at Hand!

Soon people will understand that the *man of sin* has come and gone, that the *falling away* from TRUTH has already occurred, that the Day of the Lord HAS come, and that the abomination of desolation is standing in the Holy Place.

The Day of the Lord came unnoticed. Why? Because that Day came as *a thief in the night*. And most of God’s people have fallen asleep in the darkness of spiritual night, which the man of sin brought upon the Church! But on the eve of the Feast of Trumpets 1997, Jesus Christ revealed (to Robert Ardis) the amazing TRUTH that the Day of

the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are NOT the same, but two different events. Jesus Christ had returned to His Temple secretly and suddenly. The truths of the book of Revelation and other Bible prophecies were opened to the TRUE CHURCH! *Now the Kingdom of God is once again at hand!*

The Kingdom of God was at hand (Matt. 10:7) when Jesus Christ walked in the flesh during His earthly ministry. Now the Kingdom is once again is AT HAND (Rev.1:3)—ALL THINGS ARE AT HAND!

And there is only one ministry today that is preaching that “The Day of the Lord has come and the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

#3 - Preparations Must Be in Place to Receive the Awakened Virgins When the Midnight Cry Goes Forth in Power!

Jesus Christ has likened the Kingdom of God unto ten virgins who took their lamps to meet the Bridegroom (Matt. 25:1). Five of these virgins are wise and five are foolish. The foolish took no oil for their lamps, but the wise took their lamps with the oil. While waiting for the bridegroom, the ten virgins slumbered and slept (verses 2-5).

Matthew 25:1-13 is a parable and a prophecy! And it is already a reality involving God’s people today. The great majority of God’s people are in a state of slumber or deep sleep!

Now in light of this situation, let’s read the apostle Paul’s writing to us today in I Thessalonians 5:1-3:

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I

write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a *thief in the night*. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that Day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Within the Day of the Lord there will be much destruction, so sudden that even some of God's people will not be able to escape. When the Day of the Lord was revealed, only a very few of God's people knew, understood and believed that fantastic revelation. And those who understood are NOT in darkness and have not fallen asleep.

In verse 6 we read, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Those who have fallen asleep--the majority-

-are referred to by Paul as "others."

Those "others" are the *virgins* who are still sleeping. Matthew 25:7-12 clearly indicates that only half of them will escape the coming "swift destruction" that includes the Great Tribulation. What a terrible fate. The *sleeping virgins* must be awakened from their "sleeping in the night." We are God's true Church! We are God's true ministry! We alone have the message to awaken them: "Behold the Bridegroom HAS come, Go you out to meet Him!" This is our COMMISSION—to awaken the sleeping churches.

Our COMMISSION fulfills prophecy (Rev. 3:9) and will become a reality shortly! This mighty work that Christ will have the CGF complete will be read and talked about in the World Tomorrow. The Church of God's Faithful will be given the POWER of miracles, signs and wonders along with the message of: *the Bridegroom Has come; the Day of the Lord Has come; the Kingdom of God*

IS at Hand!

In 2009, exactly 20 years from the beginning of spiritual darkness descending upon God's Church, the CGF began publishing "*The Midnight Cry* magazine – a magazine of urgent understanding!" The purpose is primarily to awaken the sleeping virgins. They WILL hear the MIDNIGHT CRY and awaken!

God is now setting His hand to give His true Church the power of miracles, signs, and wonders that will surely attract the attention of the awakening virgins!

A sincere person can seek out and identify God's true Church and His true ministry today by determining which Church is being given NEW TRUTH.

If you sincerely study the recent *history*, the *fulfilled prophecies*, and the *NEW TRUTHS* given to the Church of God's Faithful, you will enthusiastically say: "Here is the true Church and true ministry ordained by God!"



You are "Ripe" for reaping

Bible prophecy is exploding in the world news today! The Bible warns that when certain prophecies begin to happen two "REAPINGS" will occur. Read the scriptures below that describe these two "HARVESTS"!

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. (Rev. 14:14-16)

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was

trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. (Rev. 14:17-20)

WILL ONE OF THESE HARVESTS INCLUDE YOU? Download or request *Seven Visions of Revelation 14* to find the answer. Our contact information is on page 16 of this magazine.

And At Midnight There Was A Cry Made...

Will You Be Wise?

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Rev. 3: 7-12 &
Matt. 25: 1-13

The Midnight



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This Month's Top Articles from

The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at setapartbytruth.org.

Nobody Like Ahmadinejad Since Hitler, Says Peres

No one since Hitler – except for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad – has publicly declared a desire to destroy an entire people and eliminate a country, President Shimon Peres told visiting Italian Foreign Minister Dr. Giulio Terzi Wednesday.

The world is in a unique era in history, the elderly President said. “Since Hitler, no head of state has expressed a desire to destroy a people and to eliminate an entire country.”

Ahmadinejad frequently has stated that Israel is a “cancer” and that it needs to be “wiped off the map.”

Referring to last week's Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference in Tehran, President Peres stated, “Iran uses the conference as a cover for advancing nuclear development for mass destruction, and it is making fun of the entire world while it finances terror to murder innocent people.

“We know very well Iran has signed technological agreements with North Korea, which is providing it with weapons of mass destruction,”

He told the visiting minister, “Iran desires to control the Middle East with hegemony of terror and religion. It has emissaries and bases through Hizbullah and Hamas. It is involved in Syria and Iraq, and it aims to draw the Middle East into instability.”

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/...>

Comment: It seems beyond belief that the world appears to do nothing about the real threat Iran is to world peace, especially the peace in Israel. President Peres takes condemnation of Iran to another level with his comparison to the regime of Hitler! Also his comments about the technological agreements with North Korea should make anyone familiar with Presi-

dent Ahmadinejad's attitude to other nations very concerned indeed.

If Iran is allowed to continue along its nuclear path then the world is going to suddenly realise it has a huge problem on its hands.

“Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.” Isa 30:13

However if Iran is the prophesied king of the South, (Daniel 11) then perhaps God is holding off intervention until Iran is ready to come up against the king of the North. Exciting times, but getting more dangerous by the minute!

\$16,015,769,788,215.80

The United States Treasury reports that the total public outstanding debt is: \$16,015,769,788,215.80. This is the first time in American history debt has eclipsed the \$16 trillion mark.

The debt has increased approximately \$5.4 trillion since President Obama took office on January 20, 2009.

“Federal debt at the end of the current fiscal year will stand at \$16.2 trillion—\$6.2 trillion above where it was 4 years earlier,” the Republican side of the Senate Budget Committee notes. “In the last 4 years, the debt increased by more than it did in the previous 17 years.”

The committee warns that under President Obama's proposed budget, the debt will surge to \$25.4 trillion in 2012.

“This is a grim landmark for the United States. The gross debt of our federal government will, for the first time, surpass \$16 trillion. That's more government debt per person than Portugal, Italy, Spain, or Greece. Yet the President seems strangely uncon-

cerned. His budget, which received zero votes in the House or Senate, would add another \$66,000 in debt for every American household. And the President's majority in the Senate, which is required by law to produce a budget plan every single year, has refused to do so for more than 1,200 days.

"We are on a dramatically unsustainable path. Forty cents of every dollar we spend is borrowed. Systemic factors, such as our aging population, make this the most serious financial challenge our nation has ever faced. This year will mark the fourth straight deficit in excess of a trillion dollars. In the last 3 months, more people have been permanently added to the disability rolls than have found jobs. The IRS is mailing billions of dollars in tax credits to illegal aliens, and the USDA is partnering with Mexico to boost enrollment in food stamps. Washington is disconnected from reality.

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/...](http://www.weeklystandard.com/)

Comment: It's unbelievable how precise this figure is, even down to the 80 cents! Yet by the time you read this that figure will be old news. With 40 cents of every dollar borrowed the United States is on a path that must be unsustainable. How we love money. People are not content with sufficiency but want it all whatever the cost. But now the cost has become too much for many people. They are reaping what they have sown in loss of jobs and bankruptcy.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain: For we bought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be there with content.

But they that will be rich(that put money before God) fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is (a) root of all evil which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
1 Tim 6:6-10

Isaac, now a hurricane, heads for New Orleans

The slow-moving storm, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph, achieved hurricane status at approximately 12:20 p.m. ET on Tuesday, the National Hurricane Center said:

...RECONNAISSANCE DATA INDICATE ISAAC FI-

NALLY ACHIEVES HURRICANE STATUS...REPORTS FROM AN AIR FORCE RESERVE HURRICANE HUNTER AIRCRAFT INDICATE THAT MAXIMUM WINDS ASSOCIATED WITH ISAAC HAVE INCREASED TO 75 MPH...120 KM/H. ON THIS BASIS...ISAAC IS BEING UPGRADED TO A HURRICANE.

The Category 1 hurricane, positioned about 160 miles southeast of New Orleans, is moving northwest at 10 mph. Isaac is expected to make landfall late Tuesday or early Wednesday on Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

Wednesday marks the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in late August 2005.

[http://news.yahoo.com/...](http://news.yahoo.com/)

Comment: It is interesting that they should call this potentially disastrous hurricane by the name of Isaac. As the son of Abraham, Isaac was greatly blessed by the continuation of God's promise to Abraham that would extend down the generations to Manasseh and the American nation.

"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Gen 26:3-5

Unfortunately Israel never kept God's laws for very long throughout the generations. America is a part of the modern day Israel and continues to draw ever further from the ways of Almighty God.

Whether hurricane Isaac will be as devastating as hurricane Katrina of August 2005 remains to be seen. At the moment New Orleans holds its breath!

Forsaken And Forgotten

America is becoming a very cold place. If you don't have money, you don't really matter much in our society. The ads on television aren't for you - they are directed at people that actually have good jobs and that can afford to buy the nice little "extras" in life.

The politicians aren't really interested in you either - they figure that they can buy your vote with all of the money that they are getting from the wealthy

people. When you don't have money, even friends and relatives start to distance themselves from you. Perhaps they are afraid that you will ask them for money or perhaps they are afraid that your "failure" will start to rub off on them.

When people know that you are struggling for money, the barriers immediately go up. In the United States today, there are tens of millions of people that have been forsaken and forgotten. They mostly stay at home (if they still have a home), and for most of them quiet desperation has become a way of life.

You won't ever read much about them or see them appear much on television because nobody really cares too much about them. As far as society is concerned, there are just way too many of them and they are a problem that "the government" should be able to handle anyway.

Sadly, the truth is that many communities all across America want absolutely nothing to do with those that can't take care of themselves. All over the country cities are passing laws making it illegal to feed the homeless, and in other instances cities are actually making it illegal to be homeless. Unfortunately, this problem is not going away. In fact, the number of Americans living in poverty increases with each passing day. So where do we go from here?

[http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/...](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/)

Comment: If you are well off with a good disposable income then America loves you. If you are poor or struggling to make ends meet, which increasingly more people are becoming to be, then nobody, especially the government want to know you. It is incredible that all over America, cities are passing laws that actually make it illegal to feed the homeless and even making it illegal to be homeless. What are they going to do in the land of the free, put them all in jail? Talk about treating the effect rather than getting down to solving the cause of the problem.

God has given Americans a wonderful land of opportunity and it is not right to treat the poorer population in this way.

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brethren:" Deut 15:7

As the number of Americans living in poverty increases with each passing day the question was asked, "so where do we go from here?"

The answer is that all Americans, rich and poor need

to get back to the God in which they claim to trust. As stated on every Federal Reserve Note "In God we trust;" but is it really God they trust in or the power of the dollar note itself?

Poll shows atheism on the rise in the U.S.

Religiosity is on the decline in the U.S. and atheism is on the rise, according to a new worldwide poll.

The poll, called "The Global Index of Religiosity and Atheism," found that the number of Americans who say they are "religious" dropped from 73 percent in 2005 (the last time the poll was conducted) to 60 percent.

At the same time, the number of Americans who say they are atheists rose, from 1 percent to 5 percent.

The poll was conducted by WIN-Gallup International and is based on interviews with 50,000 people from 57 countries and five continents. Participants were asked, "Irrespective of whether you attend a place of worship or not, would you say you are a religious person, not a religious person, or a convinced atheist?"

The current poll confirms a declining religiosity — both at home and abroad — that's been detected in other polls. The 2008 American Religious Identification Survey found that 15 percent of Americans said they have no religion — different from being a "confirmed atheist," but nonetheless up from 8 percent in 1990.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/)

Comment: An agnostic is one who believes that the existence of God can neither be proved nor disproved. An atheist is one who denies the existence of God. Either way you would think that a link could be seen between the rise in atheism and the decline in moral standards.

"Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me;

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." Prov 30:9

Many years ago the leader of Egypt said, "Who is God?" And because of that his country suffered terrible plagues that affected all his people.

"And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" Ex 5:2

The cause and effect should be obvious. Our leaders should be encouraging us to get back to God and not allow us to place God in a back seat to be forgotten. It really is the only way our nations and peoples will prosper!

Decision by Netanyahu, Barak to strike Iran is almost final — Israel TV

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak have “almost finally” decided on an Israeli strike at Iran’s nuclear facilities this fall, and a final decision will be taken “soon,” Israel’s main TV news broadcast reported on Friday evening.

Channel 2 News, the country’s leading news program, devoted much of its Friday night broadcast to the issue, detailing the pros and cons that, it said, have taken Netanyahu and Barak to the brink of approving an Israeli military attack despite opposition from the Obama administration and from many Israeli security chiefs.

Critically, the station’s diplomatic correspondent Udi Segal said, Israel does not believe that the US will take military action as Iran closes in on the bomb.

The US, the TV report said, has not provided Israel with details of an attack plan. President Obama has not promised to attack Iran if all else fails. Conditions cited by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta for an American attack do not calm Israeli concerns.

And Obama has a record of seeking UN and Arab League approval before action. All these factors, in Jerusalem’s mind, underline the growing conviction of Netanyahu and Barak that Israel will have to tackle Iran alone, the TV report said.

Israel’s leaders have also noted that president George W. Bush vowed repeatedly that North Korea would not be allowed to attain a nuclear weapons capability — a vow that proved empty.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/..>

Comment: If, as we believe Iran is the prophesied king of the South the “push” could be closer than we might think! America, the most powerful nation on earth has lost its pride in that power and it seems is reluctant to act against Iran.

*“And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:”
Lev 26:19*

Israel may attack Iran’s nuclear facility as soon as the autumn, and if successful could slow their development down. However, that is all it will do as the end result is inevitable as the book of Daniel predicts.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” Dan 11:40

If Israel sits back and does nothing then we better be ready because the time is urgent and the end (of this civilisation) is a lot closer than we think!

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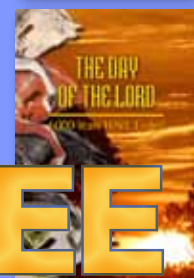
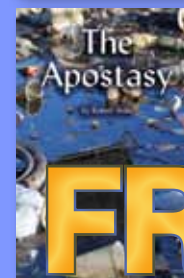
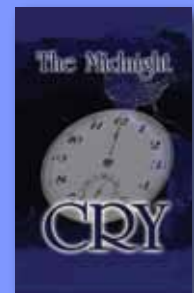
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