



The Midnight Cry

Nov./Dec. 2012, Volume 4, Number 5

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

A Recent History
of the
Church of God
and the
Midnight Cry





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From the Editor ...



Greetings, Brethren!

The Church of God's Faithful is set apart from all other churches by a continual flow of NEW TRUTH! We have grown in the *knowledge of Jesus Christ* (II Pet. 3:18) by receiving over 100 NEW TRUTHS from the *Word of God* since October 1, 1997. The Day of the Lord—not the Day of His Wrath—came suddenly as a *thief in the night*, and Christ returned to His Temple—His true Church—also as a *thief* (Rev. 16:15) on that evening, and began giving NEW TRUTH to His Church as an identifying sign.

Our Lord tells us in Matthew 24:15:



When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

An *abomination* is standing in the *Holy Place* at this very time, thus we are told to understand. Our booklet titled *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand* thoroughly explains the *abomination*.

To understand, we are to study prophecy, including the numbered days given in Daniel and Revelation, as well as other end-time prophecies. We diligently do this in the CGF. We have issued time lines that were clearly labeled as possibilities, but proved by time to be incorrect. But our hands are clean because we saw the possibilities and reported them (see Ezek. 3:17-21 and 33:1-10)—whoso reads, let him understand!

In this issue of *The Midnight Cry*, two articles, "Is God's Church About to Be Healed?" and "A Recent History of the Church of God" each show a possibility of God having the Bride prepared for Christ within the 19-year time cycle that began on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997 and ends on the Feast of Trumpets of 2016.

As you carefully read these two articles you will notice two possible conclusions! Which is right? Or are they both wrong? Regardless, they are possibilities that we must report—because one of them could be "spot-on"!

We also encourage you to view the video listed on our homepage titled *Clean Hands*.

Read the articles carefully, check the Scriptures, and meditate on the possibilities!

Your brother in Christ,



Is God's Church About To Be HEALED?

by Robert Ardis

The prophet Isaiah was inspired to record the following declaration concerning an amazing ability of our great Eternal God:

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure (Isa. 46:10).

Only God can do that! And, from this and other Scriptures, we understand that our Almighty God does things right on time just as He has purposed. The re-creation of the earth in Genesis 1 is a major example of this. Verse 2 states:

“And the earth was without *form* [tohu], and *void* [bohu]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep...

How long the earth lay in the state of *tohu* and *bohu* we do not know—but in God's mind, He knew exactly

when He would begin the re-creation!

Through our studies in the Church of God's Faithful (CGF), we believe the time God determined for the re-creation of the heavens and the earth described in Genesis 1 was on a Sunday (the first day of the week), the 24th day of the sixth month of the sacred (Hebrew) calendar in the year 4004 BC. And according to the sacred calendar, the creation of our forefather Adam was performed on Friday, the 29th day of the sixth month. The next day would be the holy weekly Sabbath on which God rested, and the beginning of the seventh month, Tishri 1—the Feast of Trumpets. Of course, at that time names had not been given to the weeks or months.

It is interesting to note that approximately 3500 years later the re-building of the physical temple in Zerubbabel's day also occurred on the 24th day of the 6th month (Hag. 1:14-15).

Four thousand years after the re-creation of the heavens and the earth, in 4 BC, this same pattern of

days brings us to the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It can be proven through prophecy and authentic history that Jesus' 3½ year ministry began in the Fall of 27 AD and continued to His death on Passover of 31AD. Luke 3:23 informs us that Jesus was 30 years old when He began His ministry; thus, as the material re-creation week began on the 24th day of the 6th month, most likely the *spiritual creation* began on that same day 4000 years later when the Lamb of God was born!

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh and the Worldwide Church of God concluded many years ago that 4004 BC was most likely the correct date for the re-creation. Therefore, it was taught that after Adam sinned and was expelled from the Garden of Eden, he and his descendants were allotted 6000 years to go their own rebellious way, but at the conclusion of that 6000 years God would begin intervening in the affairs of mankind.

Here are quotes from Mr. Armstrong, pages 120-122 of *Mystery of*

the Ages:

“When God “drove out the man” from the Garden of Eden, and barred reentrance—lest he go back and receive eternal life *in sin* (Gen. 3:22-24) – God PRO-
NOUNCED SENTENCE!

God said, in effect: “You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge—you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way—you have rebelled against my command and my government—you have chosen the ‘GETTING’, ‘TAKING’ way of Satan. Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 YEARS of being *cut off* from access to me and my Spirit—except for the exceedingly FEW I shall specially call...

After the world of your descendants has written the lesson in 6000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death—after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen—I will supernaturally intervene...

God thereupon, at the very foundation of this world, laid out a 7,000-year master plan for accomplishing His purpose.

Mr. Armstrong 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.

As the 6000 years of man’s time came to an end, the sacred (Hebrew) calendar shows a NEW 19-

YEAR TIME CYCLE beginning at the same time on the *Feast of Trumpets 1997!* At the *Feast of Trumpets* this year, 2012, we have completed 15 years of this time cycle.

Now unprecedented upsets in the weather, causing major drought, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and wildfires are happening regularly! Powerful earthquakes are occurring at an alarming rate! The threat of worldwide economic collapse, disease epidemics, famine, war and MANY other prophesied events are becoming realities!

Are all of these terrible events 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 READY? And HOW can the Church be made ready as the Bride of Christ when there is so much confusion among the 300 splits and splinters of the DIVIDED churches of God?

How can the DIVISION of the churches be ended and godly UNITY be established as the one, true, faithful Church of Jesus Christ—the WOMAN of Revelation 12:13-17?

The answer is again according to God’s TIME and purpose!

The Scriptures are very plain that all of the sleeping divided churches snared in the synagogues of Satan will be awakened by the shout of the *midnight cry* that the BRIDE-GROOM HAS COME (Matt. 25:6). They will be awakened, and the *wise* shall hurriedly COME to the true Church where Christ is (Rev. 3:9).

But can we know when this might happen?

Yes! Let’s study Luke 13:10-17:

“And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. [This indicates to me that the Sabbath sets the TIME for this miracle and is symbolic of the Lord’s Day or Day of the Lord that began October 1, 1997; thus, it is referring to our time—NOW!]

“And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. [This poor woman can be symbolic of the churches ensnared in the synagogues of Satan (Rev. 3:9)—bound these years since the Day of the Lord began—completely collapsed instead of an upright PILLAR (Rev. 3:12).]

“And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. [It was the TIME determined for this miracle—and a sign to us today!]

“And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

“And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

“The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass

from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”

“And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.”

Is this account of the releasing of the woman from Satan’s power a lesson for us today? Will God awaken the sleeping virgins and free the

ensnared churches after 18 years of being bound in the synagogues of Satan? We have just completed the 15th year on this past Feast of Trumpets, thus year 18 will commence on Trumpets of 2015—September 14, three years hence!

Then they will have one year to “trim their lamps” and hurry to the wedding festivities—in the place of safety!

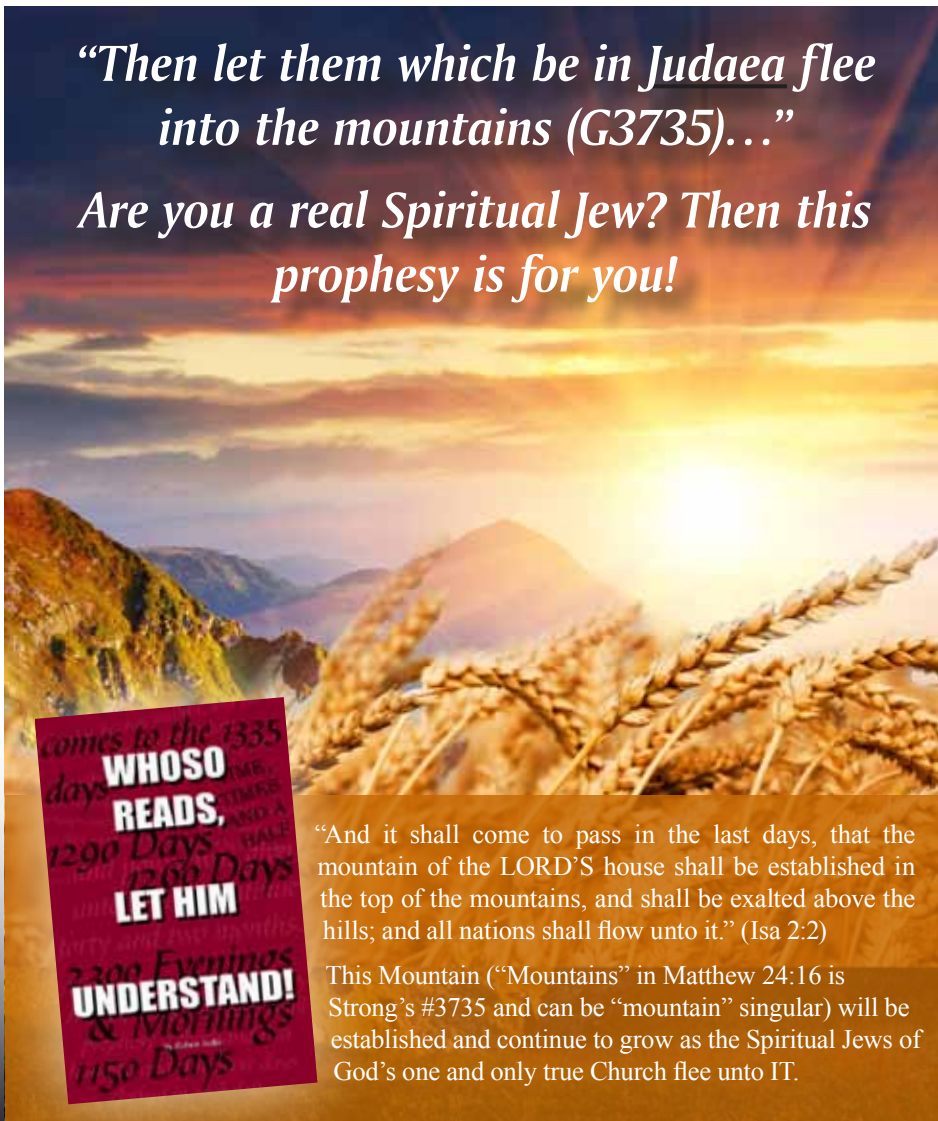
God does things right on TIME. We must be waiting, watching and praying that we will be worthy to escape all the things that shall surely come to pass—and to STAND as stalwart PILLARS before our Lord and Savior! ❖

A Possible Scenario, Based On The 19-Year Time Cycle, Each Year Measured From Feast Of Trumpets To Feast Of Trumpets:

- 1997-1998 = year 1
- 1998-1999 = year 2
- 1999-2000 = year 3
- 2000-2001 = year 4
- 2001-2002 = year 5
- 2002-2003 = year 6
- 2003-2004 = year 7
- 2004-2005 = year 8
- 2005-2006 = year 9
- 2006-2007 = year 10
- 2007-2008 = year 11
- 2008-2009 = year 12
- 2009-2010 = year 13
- 2010-2011 = year 14
- 2011-2012 = year 15
- 2012-2013 = year 16
- 2013-2014 = year 17
- 2014-2015 = year 18 = The symbolic woman of Luke 13 is released from bondage and has one year to come to the true Church—Matthew 25:1-13; 7:22-23 and Revelation 3:9 fulfilled.
- 2015-2016 = year 19 = The end of one complete time cycle since Trumpets 1997.
- 2016-2017 = The second TIME CYCLE in the Day of the Lord begins! The beast power and the Great Tribulation begin after Passover in Spring of 2017; the true Church enters the Place of Safety in or around the 10th day of the first month.
- There are 1335 days (Dan. 12:12) from the 24th day of the sixth month in 2016 to Pentecost 2020—and the POSSIBLE FIRST RESURRECTION!

“Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains (G3735)...”

Are you a real Spiritual Jew? Then this prophesy is for you!



comes to the 1335 days
WHOSO READS,
 1290 Days
 1260 Days
LET HIM
 2300 Evenings
UNDERSTAND!
 & Mornings
 1150 Days

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.” (Isa 2:2)

This Mountain (“Mountains” in Matthew 24:16 is Strong’s #3735 and can be “mountain” singular) will be established and continue to grow as the Spiritual Jews of God’s one and only true Church flee unto IT.



A Recent History of the Church of God and the Midnight Cry

by Robert Ardis

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ issued a serious warning that involves all of us alive on earth today! In Matthew 24:4 Jesus Christ says: “Take heed that NO man deceive you!” But, brethren, I can tell you by the authority of the Word of God, that most of God’s people have not taken HEED and have been DECEIVED—whether they want to admit it or not. And if you will hear me out, I will show you HOW you, too, most likely, have been DECEIVED!

Christ gave specific SIGNS that we should be WATCHING for—but for the most part, those SIGNS have gone unheeded! He told us of situations and circumstances that we would plainly see that would be WARNINGS of the imminence of the greatest time of trouble ever to come on Planet Earth.

Brethren, this is so very serious! We are living in the most dangerous time ever in history!

I repeat: Christ has given us mighty

SIGNS to show us where we are in prophecy and just how close we are to the Great Tribulation. But, sadly, most people are not interested. They have read and heard SO MUCH STUFF already that they have become skeptical and have gone to sleep spiritually.

How about you? Have you closed your mind to the warnings from God that Christ and the prophets have brought to this world? The prophecies most assuredly WILL be fulfilled in every tiny detail. His Word is TRUTH! God has NOT changed. But it is a fact that His people have!

Signs Along the Way

Notice Matthew 24:14:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

This powerful SIGN to all of God’s people was fulfilled in January

1986 (over a quarter of a century ago) by God’s servant, Herbert W. Armstrong. By the time of his death in January 1986 he had successfully taken the Gospel to the world *as a witness*. The proclamation came to a conclusion and the spiritual Temple was completed. Yet very, very few of the begotten brethren of God remember this today. The Gospel was proclaimed to the entire world as a witness to all nations. The end of that proclamation was successfully accomplished and the spiritual Temple was completed by the time Herbert Armstrong died! These facts are very important SIGNS for you to understand!

(Please request our article “FIVE PROOFS that Herbert W. Armstrong Fulfilled Matthew 24:14” It is also available in video on our website.)

Matthew 24:15 is another sign that has NOT been HEADED:

“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:)

Jesus Christ informs us that we should understand! The prophet Daniel wanted to know the meaning of the scriptures that he had written concerning the ABOMINATION of desolation. He wanted to know the meaning of the numbered days he had written about: the 1260 days, the 1290 days and the 1335 days. What did they mean? Daniel was told to “go his own way” (Dan. 12:8). He was told that the scriptures were closed and sealed until ***the time of the end!*** Nevertheless, we, today, are told to UNDERSTAND! Therefore, for us to be able to UNDERSTAND today, we must be in *the time of the end*.

We will look at this a little later and also discuss an ABOMINATION that is standing in the Holy Place now. This is another important SIGN that has already occurred in type! Times are much more serious than many realize!

Matthew 24:16 gets really personal! Christ is telling YOU that when you understand the truth of verse 15, you had better FLEE with all urgency! “Then let them which be in

Judaea flee into the mountains...”

Those that are symbolically described as being in Judea are *spiritual Jews*—Christians, like you. When you UNDERSTAND these verses, you are to FLEE as quickly as possible! You are to HURRY to the MOUNTAINS!

But WHICH mountains?

“Mountains” in Matthew 24:16 is Strong’s #3735 and can be “mountain” singular, or “mountains” plural.

Isaiah 2:2-3 explains the symbolism of “mountain”:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house [His Kingdom, Temple or Church] shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob [to the Church of God]; and he will teach us of his ways, and

we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

When you understand verse 15, Christ says you had better HURRY to the true Church of God!

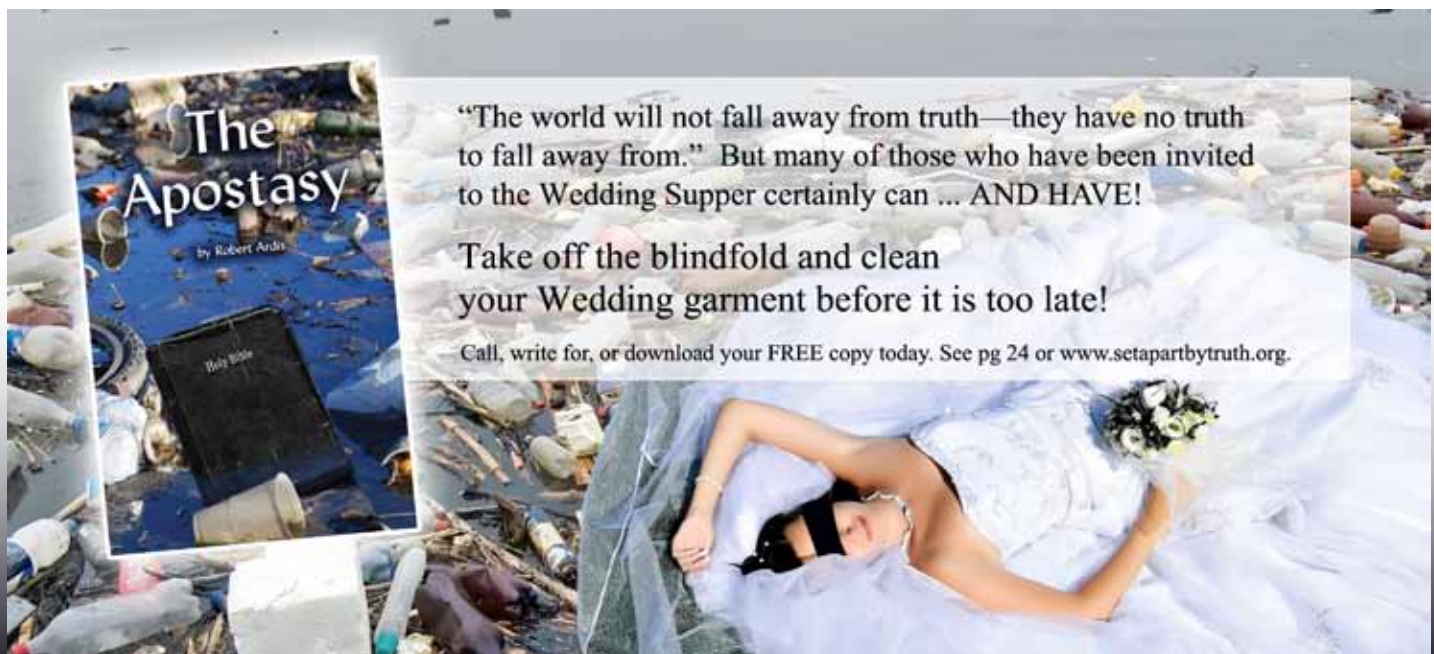
Matthew 24:17-20 emphasizes the extreme urgency of these days we are living in! Christ is warning of the danger lying directly ahead.

Whatever you are doing, you NEED to take HEED and follow the instructions that have been given. The Great Tribulation is not far off!

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be (Matt. 24:21).

Shall Be Finished

This is the reason I am bringing this message! This is vitally urgent information! Most of God’s people have not heeded the warnings and signs given by the Son of God—and the Great Tribulation is looming on the horizon.



“The world will not fall away from truth—they have no truth to fall away from.” But many of those who have been invited to the Wedding Supper certainly can ... AND HAVE!

Take off the blindfold and clean your Wedding garment before it is too late!

Call, write for, or download your FREE copy today. See pg 24 or www.setapartbytruth.org.

Let's look at another VERY VISIBLE SIGN that shows just how close things really are.

Come to the last phrase in Daniel 12:7, a major SIGN that will happen right before the Great Tribulation occurs:

“... and when he shall have accomplished to SCATTER [or SHATTER] the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

When this is a reality, ALL these things will be finished!

Today you and I are members of different churches, although if you were a former member of the Worldwide Church of God, we were both taught the true Gospel by Mr. Armstrong. However, as you know, Herbert Armstrong died over 26 years ago and the WCG is no more—it's gone—it no longer exists!

In its place are over 300 divided and competing churches and groups—SCATTERED and SHATTERED with a smaller combined number of members than the WCG had in 1986! The POWER of the holy people has most certainly been scattered and shattered!

Daniel 12:7 has been fulfilled, and **all these things shall be finished!**

So, taking careful consideration of the URGENCY of the times and the warning SIGNS that our Lord has plainly given us, I want to ask the questions:

1. What has happened to God's true Church today?
2. How did God's true Church become scattered, shattered, divided and contentious?
3. How long do we have to get the bride ready?

I will attempt to answer these questions by presenting a factual recent HISTORY of the TRUE CHURCH! This history will emphasize other WARNING SIGNS that have been ignored. And we will look at the Bible's explanation of HOW the CHURCH will be gathered together once again!

But before we look at the recent history, let me show you something that I think is very interesting and stresses the *urgency of the times* in which we live.

4004 BC

I have several Bibles that have written in the margin the date that has been given for Genesis chapter one. That date is 4004 BC! You have probably seen this in your own Bible. Many scholarly authorities believe 4004 BC marks the time of the creation of our forefather Adam.

And you might remember that Mr. Armstrong believed 4004 BC was probably the year of the re-creation of the earth and stated that he could not see time going beyond 1997 AD without God intervening.

Mr. Armstrong explained that God used the seven-day week as a pattern of His plan of salvation for mankind. There would be six 1000-year days for man to do his own labors, but the seventh 1000-year day would be the Lord's Day—the Millennium. He stated in his last book, *Mystery of the Ages (MOA)*, that after Adam sinned, God gave him and his descendants 6000 years to go their own rebellious way.

On page 120 of *MOA*, Mr. Armstrong wrote:

“God said in effect (to Adam): ‘You have made the decision for yourself

and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the source of knowledge... You have chosen the GETTING, TAKING way of Satan. Therefore, I sentence you and the world that you shall beget to 6000 years of being cut off from access to me and my Spirit—except for the exceedingly few I shall specially call.’”

Therefore, on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997, that 6000 years of man's time came to an end, and God's time—the Day of the Lord—began once again. Simple arithmetic shows that 4004 BC + 1997 AD = 6001 years. However, one year must be subtracted since there is no year zero; thus 6000 years would be complete on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997!

Now, we must ask, did God begin intervening in the affairs of man on Trumpets, 1997?

The Four Horsemen

If it is true, we should be seeing deep troubles and sorrows happening all over the earth, shouldn't we? All scripture concerning *the end time* will have to be *finished* as prophesied. Therefore, as God intervenes, He has Jesus Christ begin opening the seven seals of the book of Revelation. The first four seals depict the ride of the Four Horsemen that bring the deadly systems and circumstances of false religion, wars and rumors of wars, famine, pestilence, and annihilation of one quarter of the population of the earth, immediately prior to the Great Tribulation.

Are we seeing the effects of the Four Horsemen's ride today? There certainly is religious confusion all over the earth. Two major religions are preparing the nations for “holy

war." The SIGN of the white horse is seen in full gallop.

Wars and rumors of wars--even nuclear, bacteriological and chemical wars--are real threats. The red horse is also running at full speed! The SIGN of the death of multiple millions is a distinct possibility at this very moment.

The SIGN of the black horse of famine hangs over the earth as upset weather destroys crops through drought, flooding and natural calamities occurring at an unprecedented pace. Society is unraveling, and the entire world's economy is poised to collapse.

And the pale horse of pestilence, destruction and death is in full pursuit of the other horsemen.

There have been more major earthquakes, more upset weather conditions, and more natural disasters recorded since 1997 than ever before! Check it out! And the Fukushima disaster is not over yet! More clear SIGNS!

So, are these events—these SIGNS—a prelude to the Great Tribulation? Is GOD really intervening in the affairs of man?

With that question, let me bring out another interesting fact.

As 6000 years of man's time came to an end on the Feast of Trumpets 1997, a new 19-year time cycle began on the Hebrew Calendar—God's calendar! If you look at God's Calendar for the Roman year 2012 you will find we are in the 15th year of this 19-year time cycle.

Now I wonder, if the scholars and Mr. Armstrong are correct in assuming that 6000 years did truly end in 1997—did God give His Church one 19-year time cycle to become prepared as the bride of

Jesus Christ?

Will Christ crush all resistance and take rule of Planet Earth at the end of this 19-year time cycle on the Feast of Trumpets 2016? Remember, Daniel 12:7 declares that when the *holy people*, the Church of God, is scattered and shattered, ALL of these things shall be FINISHED!

If it is true that the Church has been given 19 years to prepare to be the bride, then there are only FOUR years remaining to complete this task. The coming beast power will bring great tribulation to the earth for 3½ of those 4 years. The people of God who awaken and HEED the SIGNS will be accounted worthy to escape to the place of safety that Christ prepares for them.

Do we have LESS than ONE YEAR to get ready? This is WHY I am so concerned! I certainly do not know for sure, but ALL the warning SIGNS point to that being a possibility—understand—a possibility!

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ declared in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it"! Notice, Christ said He would build His church—not churches.

Thus, if the WCG was the true Church but now no longer exists, which of the 300+ groups that came out of the former WCG is the ONE TRUE CHURCH? That IS the question! Or do you believe that the split, splintered and divided churches are ALL churches of God?

Aren't the shattered and scattered churches of God a MAJOR SIGN that the Tribulation is near and that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand?

From the Past

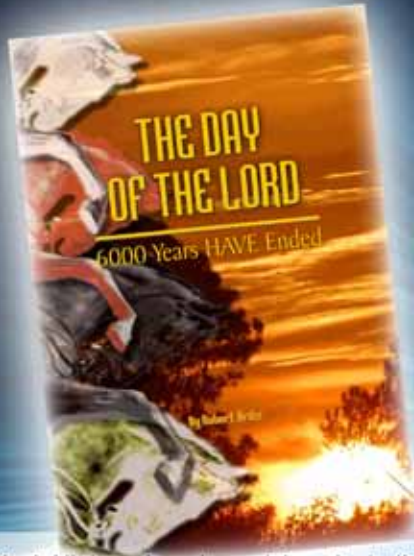
Let me give you an example from my boyhood that illustrates the

CONFUSION of the split and splintered churches of God.

When I was a young teenager, my parents were loyal members of the Disciples of Christ Church. Our church had close to 100 members and was located in the second block of West Calhoun Street in Sumter, South Carolina. Across the street and one lot down, bordering Washington Street, was the Grace Baptist Church, which had a huge membership. At the northwest corner of Main and Calhoun, a block and a half away, was the beautiful and stately Presbyterian Church. Diagonally across Main Street, with a spacious courtyard, sat the vine-covered Lutheran Church. And within walking distance, there was an Episcopal Church and a Methodist Church. A little farther away were the First Baptist Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

In high school, I had classmates and friends in each of these churches, and on occasion I would visit the different churches with them and they would also visit my church. But, as know-it-all kids, we would argue about which church was the true church. We even questioned our parents and ministers about WHY there were all these different churches. The usual answer was, "They are all Jesus' churches, but with different paths to heaven!"

I never liked that explanation and did not know the TRUE answer until 1961 when I was 30 years old. God had mercy on me and brought me into His one true Church—the Radio Church of God, which in 1968 changed its name to the Worldwide Church of God. Through the WCG, God opened my eyes to the fact that NONE of those churches of my boyhood were God's churches! They were churches of this world, and Satan is the god of this world



“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day...” (Rev. 1:10)

Who's day?

The day belonging to Who?

John was obviously taken in Spirit to behold
an incredible vision.

But when does the vision take place?

IN THE DAY OF THE LORD!

Yes! All the miraculous visions including: the ride of the four horsemen, the heavenly signs, the greatest time of trouble ever to befall mankind, the resurrection, the thousand year rule of Christ and the Saints, the last great day, the coming of God the Father to set up Earth as the headquarters of the universe, and beyond all occur within The Day of the Lord!

Write for or download our booklet *THE DAY OF THE LORD, 6000 years HAVE ended* to find out more, but don't delay. We are already fifteen years into The Day of the Lord and the end of the first 19 year time cycle! It's time to hear His voice!

(II Cor. 4:4).

In the WCG, prophecy came alive to me as I learned of the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church, and her Protestant daughter churches described in Revelation 17:5:

“ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Full Circle

Today things have come full circle! Once again we see an old mother church in the corrupted WCG and her protesting divided daughter churches! Are these DIVIDED and CONTENTIOUS churches the churches of God?

We will see what they really are as we proceed; however, one thing we know for sure is that they ful-

fill scriptures warning of the imminence of the Great Tribulation!

During the last few days of his life, Mr. Armstrong told the man who would become his successor, “I have gone to the world leaders; now your job is to get the Church ready.”

Nearly five years earlier, Mr. Armstrong had written a letter to the Church, in which he clearly implied that he fulfilled the scriptural roles of (1) the end-time Elijah (see Mal. 4:5-6 and Matt. 17:10), and (2) the prophetic Zerubbabel whose *hands would finish the spiritual Temple* (Zech. 4:9). That letter, dated March 19, 1981, is available if you would like a copy.

Yes! Mr. Armstrong preached that, through the blessings of Christ, he had taken the Gospel to the world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14). This was his commission, he successfully accomplished it, and it was a mighty prophetic SIGN. Mr.

Armstrong truly believed he completed his commission and had *restored all things* to the Church (Matt. 17:10). And he proclaimed that he had completed the spiritual Temple (Zech. 4:9)—another great sign that the DIVIDED churches have forgotten!

And it's a fact that most of the WCG ministry believed and preached all that Mr. Armstrong taught—until he died! Then under the new leadership in the WCG, things drastically changed!

However, TRUTH does NOT change!

So, look around, brethren--what has happened to the Church of God, the one true Church that Jesus Christ built? Our Lord said the gates of hell would not prevail against it. But are the DIVIDED and CONTENTIOUS churches of God that we see today the ONE TRUE CHURCH of Jesus Christ? And in this DIVIDED condition, is it READY as the bride of Christ?

Where is the Proof?

You may be very happy and satisfied with the church you are currently in; but really, most Baptists or Methodists are probably happy and satisfied with their churches, too. So just being happy in your church is not proof of it being the true Church!

Have you really proved your church is the true church?

To answer the question, "WHERE IS THE TRUE CHURCH?" let's look at a brief history of the events that have occurred in the Church since the death of Herbert Armstrong and then bring EVERYTHING up to date with the prophecies about the true Church, the bride of Jesus Christ, immediately before the Great Tribulation.

Let's begin by understanding how Satan accomplished the amazing feat of scattering and shattering the Church of God into the "churches of god" and lulling them to spiritual slumber?

First, ask yourself: why are you a member of the particular splinter church you are in? Also ask, how are the DIVIDED CHURCHES different from one another? For example, how is the Restored Church of God different from the Living Church of God? And how do these two churches differ from the United Church of God, the Philadelphia Church of God, the Eternal Church of God, the Sabbath Church of God, or the Church of the Great God, or on and on and on?

Why must they be separate?

Why are these churches divided? I Thessalonians 5:21 demands that a Christian "prove all things." Have you proved all things (about those churches) and held fast to

that which is good? Doesn't this confused division appear to be the same situation I experienced as a teen in the churches of the world? What has caused all the DIVISION and CONFUSION?

Jeremiah 50:6 is the plainly stated answer:

“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.”

God says HIS PEOPLE are LOST SHEEP! God says the SHEPHERDS have caused them to go astray! God says the SHEEP are scattered from the mountains to the hills--from large groups to very tiny groups. The flock has been scattered, split and splintered because of the shepherds.

God's Word declares: "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). And the house, i.e. the Church of God, IS DIVIDED and WILL NOT STAND in that condition! The SHEEP do not know where their resting place, the true Church, really is!

I don't mean to offend anyone, but I do mean to write the TRUTH. Most of the Ambassador-trained ministers are "nice" men; but the Word of God (not I) shows that those men, trained at the feet of Mr. Armstrong, have become hirelings and have led God's people astray!

There are scores of scriptures, even entire chapters, which tell of the UNFAITHFUL ministers of the WCG and of the daughter churches that sprang up after Mr. Armstrong died. These ministers have built their own churches which make up

the 300+ "churches of god" seen today.

Living in Bible Times

It is astonishing and very sobering to realize we have lived through such important milestones of prophetic history during the past 26 years! Milestones such as (1) the man of sin being revealed, (2) the great falling away actually happening, (3) the amazing SIGN of the Day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night, after 6000 years of man's time had ended (That happened right on time nearly 15 years ago!).

ALL of these SIGNS that should have been HEEDED have happened since the death of God's Elijah. Can you begin to understand WHY I am so concerned? Observe how thoroughly the prophecy of II Thessalonians 2:1-3 has been fulfilled:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him [There WILL be a GATHERING BACK TOGETHER as a final SIGN], 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 is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the Day of the Lord] shall not come, EXCEPT [notice EXCEPT] there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

Can anyone doubt that the falling away has taken place? Just look around! Where is the Worldwide Church of God today? THESE SIGNS have been fulfilled! The SCATTERING of God's holy people has happened!

Consider all of the confusion in the 300 or more splits and splinters of the former magnificent WCG! The

powerful voice of the WCG through the *World Tomorrow* television and radio-broadcasts has been silenced. *The Plain Truth* magazine, as we knew it with 8 million monthly subscribers, has vanished from the scene.

The Worldwide Church of God headquarters and Ambassador College, formally located in Pasadena, California, are no more. The beautiful campus and the splendor of the Ambassador Auditorium, dedicated to the Eternal God, has been ravaged and contemptuously sold.

II Thessalonians 2:4 clearly describes what has HAPPENED to the WCG:

“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Slowly and slyly, the man who Herbert Armstrong selected as his successor began to exchange the God-given doctrines of the Church for doctrines of this world. He systematically began dismantling and removing all precious truth that Christ had given to Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong believed that the warning about the *man of sin* in II Thessalonians 2 meant a future great *false prophet* who would perform mighty demonic miracles in support of a world-ruling, super dictator, prophetically called *the beast* (see Rev. 13).

Herbert Armstrong could never have imagined that the man he handpicked as his successor would fulfill the prophecies of II Thessalonians 2! Understand this: the *beast* and the *false prophet* will surely come upon the world scene, *but the*

man of sin and the great falling away from truth has already occurred!

No one really suspected that the *man of sin* would be the one chosen by Mr. Armstrong to ascend to the leadership position in the Church of God. Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. became Pastor-General of the Worldwide Church of God, and the apostasy began. The changes came. A few recognized these SIGNS but did not know what to do.

Under Mr. Tkach, *Mystery of the Ages* was first edited and then finally removed from publication. Mr. Armstrong's other major books, *The Incredible Human Potential* and *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong* were discontinued. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the most requested of all WCG literature was removed from print, as was *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*.

All of the wonderful truth contained in that literature was changed for worldly lies! The commission of the church was changed. The biblical time for the Sabbath to begin was changed from sunset to darkness. Being actually BORN into the family of God was changed to the Protestant *born again* doctrine, leading to the demonic *trinity* belief. Each Sabbath, other false doctrines were taught from Pasadena headquarters and adopted by the compromising WCG ministry as they clung to their paychecks and led God's Flock astray.

Changes, Changes

How was it possible for thousands of people who possessed the Spirit of God to turn away from what they had been taught? How could they become so completely deceived? They did NOT HEED Christ's warnings!

II Thessalonians 2:9-11 warns:

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders [and it really was powerful LYING wonders coming from Pasadena nearly every Sabbath], And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish [are perishing]; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved [Many did NOT have the LOVE of the truth]. And for this cause [NOT loving the TRUTH] God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.

“Changes, changes; what changes?” they would say! “We are not changing anything; we are making clarifications,” is the way it all started! But as the scripture above says, those were *lying wonders* by the deceiving power of Satan the devil. And, apparently many did not have enough *love of the truth* to be saved from the strong delusion that God would allow.

God was conducting a powerful test to determine who would HEED Jesus Christ and follow Him, and who would follow deceived men.

Laodicea Begins

You have probably heard of Gerald Flurry. He has been a prominent personality in the recent history of the Church of God.

During the early 1990's, under Gerald Flurry's leadership, the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) located in Edmond, OK gradually became a well-organized work! Mr. Flurry was the first really structured work actively warning of what was happening in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). Yet, many of the high-

ranking ministers of the WCG, who may have agreed in part with him, ridiculed Mr. Flurry's warning efforts, claiming he was a "nobody." They refused to join with him in the work that Jesus Christ was actually conducting.

The proud evangelists and pastor-ranked ministers would not work under someone who had been "their student" or had been beneath them in ministerial rank. Gerald Flurry was only an insignificant "preaching elder." But their refusal to work with him was also a matter of their "pocketbooks"!

Gerald Flurry and his associate pastor, John Amos, were terminated from the WCG ministry and then disfellowshipped in December of 1989. Mr. Flurry had written the first, rough manuscript of what would become the eye-opening book, *Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today (MM)*. He had quietly discussed some of its contents with Mr. Amos and other "trusted friends" in his congregation in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Christ had revealed vital new truth to Mr. Flurry! *Malachi's Message* is the message of the book of Malachi. It's about a ministry gone rotten, and it includes the astonishing, crystal-clear truth of II Thessalonians 2 and the "man of sin."

Mr. Flurry remembered Christ's warning and the SIGNS He had given! It was Gerald Flurry who first revealed that the *man of sin* was not a future pope of the Roman Catholic Church sitting in a temple in Jerusalem, but the handpicked successor of Herbert W. Armstrong sitting in the ruling position in the Church of God!

He used I Corinthians 3:16-17 as one of the many scriptures that explain what and where the Temple

of God is:

“ Know ye not that YOU are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple YOU are. ”

Malachi's Message opened our eyes to the *man of sin sitting in the Church of God!* It revealed the apostasy! The called and chosen begotten children of God collectively make up the spiritual Temple of God! And *Malachi's Message* amazingly revealed the *man of sin, the son of perdition* sitting in the controlling position of the Worldwide Church of God, the spiritual Temple! The great *falling away from truth* was very rapidly taking place in the WCG.

Philadelphia AND Laodicea

How much of *MM* was discussed with his "friends" I am not sure, but it was enough to have Mr. Flurry reported to WCG headquarters, resulting in him and Mr. Amos being commanded to come out to Pasadena, where they were subsequently fired by Joseph Tkach, Jr.

In retrospect, looking back at this recent HISTORY that we have lived through, it surely appears that, as these two men stood there before Joseph Tkach, Jr., a tremendous change in Church leadership took place. After four years, the corrupted WCG administration and the hireling shepherds, having yielded to that wicked leadership—and their pocketbooks—had disqualified themselves in the eyes of God.

No good fruit had been found in the WCG! (See Luke 13: 6-9.)

So what was God to do?

Through hindsight it is apparent to me that at that precise moment in history the candlestick of Philadelphia was removed from the disqualified WCG in Pasadena! The candlestick was not extinguished, as scripture clearly shows. The two witnesses will *represent* the Father and Christ as the Philadelphia and Laodicean candlesticks/churches until the time of their death 3½ days before the First Resurrection.

These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth (Rev. 11:4). (See also verses 8-12.)

As God removed the candlestick from Pasadena, to whom did He give that sixth candlestick? In my opinion (I repeat, in my opinion—and I have a reason for this opinion), the Philadelphia candlestick was given to John Amos!

Also, amazingly, at that moment, the seventh era of the Church began as the Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry. Putting together this series of rapid changes brings me to the conclusion that these two men suddenly represented the last two of the seven churches. There were no ministers prepared to do an organized WARNING WORK other than John Amos and Gerald Flurry after the WCG had disqualified itself. They had the *message of Malachi* and the astounding TRUTH of II Thessalonians 2.

As he was leaving Mr. Tkach, Jr.'s office, Mr. Flurry prophetically and sternly warned him, "You have just taken the first sip of a very bitter drink!" The Philadelphia Church of God was quickly formed after the two men returned to Edmond, Oklahoma. The first official Sabbath service of the PCG was held

on December 16, 1989. *Malachi's Message* in manuscript form was mailed out to a large number of WCG members on the fourth anniversary of the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, January 16, 1990!

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

This is my understanding of the recent HISTORY! God allowed four years for the WCG leadership to totally disqualify themselves! No righteous fruit was found—the tree was barren! (See the parable of the *barren fig tree* in Luke 13:6-9).

Four years after Herbert Armstrong died, Christ appointed Gerald Flurry to begin the dynamic Laodicean work of warning the betrayed brethren of the apostasy occurring within the WCG. Here was another powerful SIGN! The final era of the Church of God had begun!

Mr. Flurry was scoffed at and despised by the leaders of the WCG. He was labeled a demonic dissident! However, prophecy was being fulfilled and the Laodicean work grew slowly in numbers and strength. We understand today that Mr. Flurry should have chosen the name Laodicean Church of God, but the title, *Laodicea*, carries a very unpopular stigma; therefore, he chose the name Philadelphia Church of God, with its headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma.

John Amos was a man of love and served the brethren well. He was also a stabilizing force for Mr. Flurry's tremendous zeal. But Mr. Amos

died in 1993 and the Philadelphia candlestick was passed on to another man who was completely unaware of the plans God had in store for him.

The Worldwide Church of God had been violently attacked by Satan, the devil and the *shattering* of that magnificent Church had begun. The WCG had existed as the sixth candlestick, Philadelphia—the true Church of God under the end-time apostle Herbert W. Armstrong—but no more! The sixth candlestick was removed from the WCG and glowed brightly along with the seventh candlestick in the PCG!

Some faithful of the sixth candlestick followed Gerald Flurry—because he followed Christ! Others joined him, but soon forgot to “test their leaders” and followed the man, Mr. Flurry, instead of Christ. Nevertheless, as the two candlesticks worked together, Matthew 24:41 was fulfilled—*two women (Philadelphia and Laodicea) were grinding together at the mill.* Meditate on this and be sure you understand HOW Matthew 24:41 was fulfilled!

For over six long years, the WCG systematically dismantled most of what Mr. Armstrong had used to proclaim the true Gospel to the world. The *man of sin* continued his casting aside the truth of God for the doctrines of this world. Several hundreds of brethren followed Mr. Flurry and become members of the PCG, but most of the thousands of God's flock were still in the WCG, confused and discouraged.

Many very sincere people heard the warning message of the PCG, but were afraid to “leave the Church.” To them, “leaving the Worldwide Church” was the same as “leaving the truth.” It took a while for some

to realize that *Jesus Christ* is synonymous with “truth” and truth was being cast out of the WCG. Nonetheless, the *gates of hell will not prevail against the true Church of Christ*, thus the living Christ removed the candlestick from the WCG and allowed Philadelphia and Laodicea to labor together in the PCG (Rev. 2:5)!

Finally, in late 1992, several of the high-ranking WCG ministers who had “sat at the feet of Mr. Armstrong” rebelled against the WCG leadership. From 1986 through 1992 they had begrudgingly cooperated with the WCG as the apostasy gained momentum. And, incredibly, these *hirelings* taught much of the false doctrine oozing out of the corrupted WCG to their befuddled flocks!

Drawing Away Disciples

But during 1992 these ministers became confident that they could secure a following—and maintain a salary. Thus the Global Church of God was launched. But the Global would not cooperate with Gerald Flurry, although he had been crying aloud since 1990.

In the book of Acts, the apostle Paul's inspired words are recorded describing a situation in his day similar to what developed in the WCG after Mr. Armstrong's “departure.” Paul very bluntly told the elders of the city of Ephesus what would happen after his departure:

“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the Church [the ministry] ... Take HEED therefore unto yourselves, and to all the FLOCK, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [shepherds], to feed the Church of God, which he purchased

with his own blood. For I know this that after my departure 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 (Acts 20:17, 28-30).

Isn't this precisely what happened after Mr. Armstrong's departure? Think back! Isn't this exactly what Christ WARNED of? And haven't we lived through this! Do you recall this? Haven't we seen the ministers of God become "hirelings"?

You should remember this! This is RECENT history and demonstrates that we are living in Bible times!

This is history! Those so-called leaders just sitting there in 1992, doing nothing for six long years, caused God's people much confusion that is still apparent today! Didn't the hireling ministry, in fear of having their paychecks cut off, support the corrupted teachings of the WCG—if only by their continued presence there—until they could *draw away disciples unto themselves*?

Absolutely!

In the local congregations, haven't we experienced the compromising pastor-ranked ministers requiring their assistants to preach the garbage coming out from headquarters? Although they knew the doctrines (such as *born again*) were corrupt, they still allowed them to be preached so they could maintain their salary and their status in the WCG?

Yes, we have certainly lived through that mess!

There were a few ministers who refused to teach the false doctrines and left the WCG to begin their

own "work" even before the Global was formed. However, they also refused to cooperate with Gerald Flurry, so through these 26 years they have seen very little fruit in their struggling ministries.

By the time the "hirelings" decided to "*draw away disciples*" and leave, Mr. Flurry had been fearlessly warning the nearly 100,000 members of the WCG of the "WOLVES" who had taken control of WCG headquarters. Although Gerald Flurry's writings were impugned as "dissident literature" by the WCG, a few brethren listened and heeded. And Mr. Flurry and the PCG continued to do the dynamic warning work of the Laodicean candlestick, which was the work of Jesus Christ!

In 1992, two evangelists and some other high-ranking ministers left the WCG to form the Global Church of God. They refused to work with Mr. Flurry, thereby refusing to work with Christ. The Global attracted several thousand WCG members, but their efforts were doomed to failure from the beginning—and fail they did!

There were division and contentions among these men from the start of the Global, with little true leadership. They practiced a collegial government, of all things! The leading ministers who had *sat at the feet of* Mr. Armstrong had not learned one of the most important doctrines he taught—God's government. Neither were they in agreement that Herbert Armstrong was the *Elijah to come* or the prophetic Zerubbabel whose *hands would finish the Temple*, although when Mr. Armstrong was alive, most of them had taught that he fulfilled these important roles.

And none of them, that I am aware of, teach that Herbert Armstrong

completed the task of preaching and publishing the Gospel of the Kingdom to the world as a witness to all nations. Thus they futilely seek to do the job Christ has already successfully completed.

(Our eye-opening article and video titled "Five Proofs that Herbert W. Armstrong Fulfilled Matthew 24:14" explains the futility of going to the world with the Gospel while ignoring the DIVISION in the Church of God today.)

The leading evangelist was booted out of the Global Church in November 1998 after years of bickering and mismanagement. He then established the Living Church of God.

This man admitted that the collegial government of the Global Church was not God's type of government! Thereby, in essence, the chief evangelist admits that the Global had not been God's Church for those six years.

Thus, if the Global was not God's Church during those six years, I wonder if any of those who followed that same evangelist into the Living Church have ever asked where the true Church was during those confused years of the Global Church.

But, come back to May of 1994! The ministry and members of the Global Church were appalled to learn that another huge group was leaving the WCG—not to unite with the Global, but to form their own church, the United Church of God!

That large split added to the confusion of God's flock. Satan was having a field day!

The United Church of God, the largest of the many splits, certainly chose an inappropriate name. They have been anything but united, already having several splits and

splinters, with most using a Presbyterian/congregational form of government.

And considering church names, is the Living Church of God really what the name implies? Is it a living church or is it actually a *dead church* as seen by its fruits? What fruit must be evident to identify a Church as a *living church*?

II Peter 3:18 states a very vital trait that identifies whether an individual or an organized Church is ALIVE or DEAD! **“But grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...”**

But, WHAT is the KNOWLEDGE of Christ? The answer is very important! So carefully consider the following:

- Jesus Christ is the LIVING WORD of GOD.
- The HOLY BIBLE is the WRITTEN WORD of GOD.
- GROWTH in the KNOWLEDGE of JESUS CHRIST is GROWTH in the KNOWLEDGE of the HOLY BIBLE!
- NEW KNOWLEDGE from the HOLY BIBLE is NEW TRUTH from the WORD of GOD. Plain and simple!

Thus, to be a living church it must be continually GROWING IN NEW TRUTH—right?

Honestly, do you know of any new truth that has come from The Living Church since it was formed? How about any NEW TRUTH from any of the other groups that came out of the defunct Global Church? Do you know of any new truth from the United Church or ANY of the other “daughter” churches? Do you know of any NEW TRUTH that has been taught since 1986?

God’s true Church must and will be

continually growing in new truth because Christ is there as the head. And *growth in new truth* is an identifying SIGN—a definite FRUIT—of the true Church of Jesus Christ. You will KNOW them by their FRUIT (Matt. 7:5).

The fruit of the true Church will be investigated in more depth a little later, but let’s add a bit more history at this point.

In May 1999 one disgruntled pastor-ranked minister left the crumbling Global Church and established his own church, the Restored Church of God. He also began preaching against the apostasy of the WCG—as Gerald Flurry had been doing for over nine years.

Another of the leading men of the Global, the last we heard, is in one of the splits of the United Church. One of the original evangelists of the Global was disfellowshipped by his former brother-in-law, and a short while later founded the Twenty-first Century Church of God. He has recently died.

Two other high-ranking ministers who were formerly in the Global also joined with the Living Church, but recently left that church in disagreement. One of them has begun his own church.

Each of the contentious ministers, including those of the splits and splinters of the United Church, and dozens of others, are NOT teaching NEW TRUTH from the Word of God, but are taking their “brand” of the Gospel to the world, disregarding the fact that Christ accomplished that through Herbert Armstrong.

One person has described the pointless efforts of these confused, contentious, and competing church leaders to proclaim the Gospel to the world in the following man-

ner: “All of them dipping out of the same pot of soup, with one adding a little salt, another a dash of pepper, maybe a spoonful of sugar, etc.—but the same soup!” Nothing NEW—the same SOUP!

Divided and contentious! You will know them by their fruits!

Can’t these men read?

I Corinthians 1:10 and 13 can easily be understood by most fifth graders:

“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 ... Is Christ divided?”

No! Christ is not divided! He has one true Church. These contentious “churches of god” are divided; they are not in the same mind and judgment; and they are causing CONFUSION!

I Corinthians 14:33 tells us that God is NOT the author of CONFUSION! God’s Word tells us that Satan the devil is the author of confusion and all other evil!

James 3:14-16 gives a specific warning to all of the DIVIDED churches and especially the hireling shepherds:

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts [Their DIVISION demonstrates that they DO have bitter envying and strife in their hearts or they would be together in UNITY], glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish [It is of the devil].”

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

[Again,] For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. [Confusion is of Satan, thus these DIVIDED Churches are not of Christ!]

And although Mr. Flurry started out with a bang, he was destined to fulfill the scriptures describing Laodicea.

Certainly, Christ initially blessed Mr. Flurry and the Laodicean work. The growth of the PCG and its valuable acquisitions and properties are quite impressive—as Revelation 3:17 declares: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing...”

However, after seven years of faithfully laboring for Christ, two strange actions changed the direction of the PCG.

Tithes, offerings, and membership began to decrease in the PCG. One major cause of the decline was Mr. Flurry’s top lieutenants applying abusive governmental control over the PCG membership. His top men were lacking in ministerial experience and Bible knowledge. Apparently, unable to Biblically answer questions about PCG doctrine, these men reverted to fear tactics when someone sincerely asked questions.

Thus, people were cast out of the PCG right and left, with Mr. Flurry consistently backing the minister and not even hearing the member’s case. Unless you have been a part of the PCG, it will be difficult for you to realize just how bad the abuse was—and it has apparently become even worse today.

So, as tithes, offerings and mem-

bership decreased, Gerald Flurry came up with a very unwise course of action. He needed a gimmick to excite the membership and rally them behind him. Therefore, he allowed Satan to deceive him into ignoring the copyright laws and seized *Mystery of the Ages*! He printed and distributed several thousands of copies—and started a legal WAR with the WCG!

Gerald Flurry turned from his commission of warning the Church of the *falling away from truth*. He became obsessed with the court battle over *Mystery of the Ages*. Early on, he had correctly taught that Herbert Armstrong had successfully taken the Gospel to the world and had ridiculed the efforts of the leaders of the Global Church in their attempted duplication of Mr. Armstrong’s work. Let me state again: the world is not being called at this time—therefore, it is a futile effort to take the Gospel to the world.

But, in early 1997, Mr. Flurry, in competition for new members, followed the lead of those he had ridiculed and went to the world with the spiritual knowledge of *Mystery of the Ages* and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

This unwise action thrust the WCG and the PCG into an all-out legal WAR! Neither church regarded the warning of the Holy Scriptures about such actions. The admonition in I Corinthians 6:1, 7-8 is not hard to understand:

“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? ... Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do

ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

Gerald Flurry and the PCG were soundly defeated in their shameful court battle with the WCG. The PCG lost the case, but in a surprise move, the WCG offered to sell the copyrights of the literature Mr. Flurry so desired. Therefore, they calmly negotiated a price. They could have done this at the beginning!

Nevertheless, Gerald Flurry then boastfully exulted that they had WON the court battle. What they really “won” was the right to purchase MOA and 18 other WCG publications for 2 million dollars! This was after wasting another 3 to 4 million dollars on court expenses over a six-year period.

Let me repeat I Corinthians 6:1: “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? (I Cor. 6:1)

I ask again, “Can’t these shepherds read?”

The court case was a major mistake by Gerald Flurry—but another bizarre and unwise blunder quickly followed. In unbelievable vanity, Gerald Flurry claimed that he fulfilled the scriptures of *THAT PROPHET*! And more unbelievable than that—his PCG followers believed him!

This vain boast was from the same mind-set that Lucifer, the archangel, had as he became Satan the devil! That evil being coveted God Almighty’s supreme position, as Isaiah 14:13-14 reveals:

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I

will exalt my throne above the stars of God [the angels]; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Satan wanted the title—"THE MOST HIGH"! Gerald Flurry wants the title of "THAT PROPHET"!

The scriptures plainly show that the title, *THAT PROPHET*, belongs ONLY to Jesus Christ! It is so easily proven—how could anyone believe such an outlandish boast?

And consider this: any person taking that title unto himself, other than Jesus Christ, makes himself a FALSE CHRIST and an ABOMINATION unto God!

It is astonishing and incredible that the dynamic individual who led the charge in exposing the *man of sin sitting in the Temple of God* has, himself, become *the abomination standing in the Holy Place!*

So, 26 years after Herbert Armstrong's death, where is the one true Church of Jesus Christ that the *gates of hell would not prevail against?*

That is the ALL-IMPORTANT QUESTION! Let's see if we can answer that from the Word of God!

Part of the answer is presented by Christ in His parable of the Ten Virgins of Matthew 25:1-13!

So, let's look at seven important points that are emphasized in the wonderful, and very urgent, parable of the *Ten Virgins*. The parable is covered in detail in our free booklet, *The Midnight Cry*.

- First, ALL of the called and chosen brethren of the divided, scattered, and shattered churches, who are alive today, are represented

in this parable. That includes you and me! Also included are those who are NOT affiliated with the organized "churches of god," but are a "church" unto themselves, just sitting out there all alone. This important parable pictures all of the begotten of God ALIVE today!

- Second, the *Ten Virgins* are separated into two groups: one considered by God as wise—the other as foolish.
- Both groups, wise and foolish, are waiting for the return of Christ. But as the parable shows, they all went to sleep spiritually. They did not HEED the warning SIGNS! Then at the appointed time, the *Midnight Cry* awakens all of them, the wise and the foolish.
- A THIRD group is proclaiming the *Midnight Cry* that "The Lord (the Bridegroom) has come as a *thief in the night* at the end of the 6000 years." And they are urging the virgins to come out to meet Him (verse 10).
- A FOURTH group has "oil" to sell, but refuses to answer the *Midnight Cry*.

Meditate on these points and ask yourself: "Where do I fit into these four groups?" Even if you are out there "all by yourself," you are still a part of one of these groups—but which one?

The ten virgins of Matthew 25 are symbolic of the thousands of our brethren who in the DIVIDED churches—sound asleep in a 1986 time mode.

The wise are deeply sincere brethren, but are snared in the competing churches along with their foolish brethren. There has been NO new truth in those divided church-

es where the shepherds covet the preeminent leadership position. We have the wretched example of Diotrophes in III John 9-10 happening all over again today.

They ALL will be awakened, and the wise will be compelled to come to the third group, the Church that is issuing the *Midnight Cry*. The foolish will waste too much time seeking "oil" from the fourth group, the Laodicean PCG, and will be locked out of the PLACE OF SAFETY—along with the stubborn PCG! See Matthew 7:21-23.

The wise virgins will be made to HURRY to the ONE TRUE CHURCH, which ALONE is proclaiming the *Midnight Cry* that "The Bridegroom has come."

Our Lord says in Revelation 3:9:

“Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews [churches of god], and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.”

I certainly believe this message you have just read is a portion of the *Midnight Cry!* I hope you have awakened and understand. This message is extremely urgent because TIME is so short.

Jesus Christ also came secretly and suddenly to His Temple—His Church—on that very day at the end of 6000 years, which was the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997 (Mal. 3:1). He then began pouring NEW TRUTH into His Church—the Philadelphia sixth candlestick—the Church of God's Faithful (CGF). Christ's one true Church is identified by CONTINUAL GROWTH in NEW TRUTH according to II Peter 3:18!

The CGF has been given over 100 new truths since Trumpets of 1997 to identify it as the one true Church—BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Matthew 24: 37 tells us:

“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man!

Honestly, brethren, I have worked hard to bring this message to you! I deeply feel the urgency of the times, and I hope you will prove all that I have presented here. But I can truthfully say, in this message we have only scratched the surface. As I stated, Jesus Christ has given the CGF over 100 NEW TRUTHS that you CAN study and prove! Time is very short!

Conditions in the world and in the Church are such that all God has to do is “snap His fingers” and every prophecy involving the completion of His WORK can be done. The Great Tribulation, which is on the horizon, the Day of the Lord’s Wrath, and the visible return of our Lord and Savior could be completed within the 19-year time cycle that will end on the Feast of Trumpets, 2016.

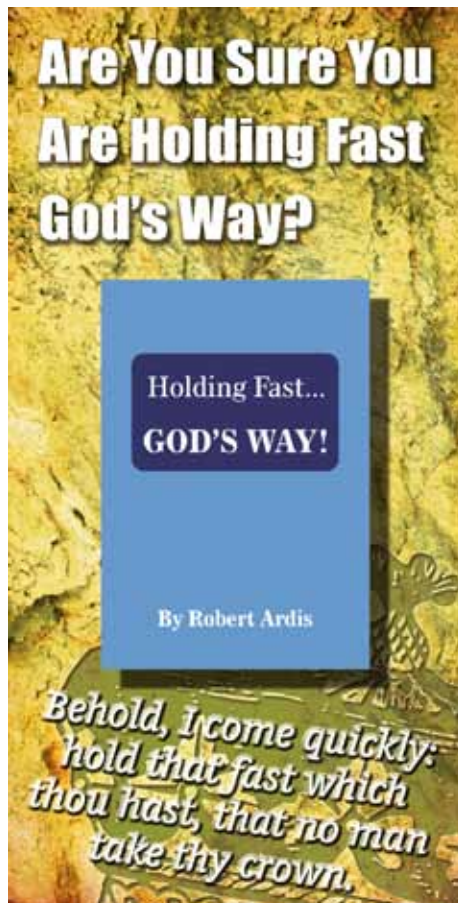
The bride must be made ready! The GATHERING might be starting with this very message! If we have longer than the 19-year time cycle indicates, God’s Word still cries aloud that *all things will shortly come to pass* (Rev. 1:1); *that the time is at hand* (Rev. 1:3); and *all things will be FINISHED, since the holy people have been scattered* (Dan. 12:7).

Galatians 4:16 expresses my feelings as I end this message—this *Midnight Cry*—to you: “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” Please don’t be upset with me for bringing you this

recent history AND the possibilities of the time cycle we are in.

Christ tells us to WATCH! He also says to TAKE HEED! Thus, I hope you will heed this message and realize that Christ is preparing to GATHER the WISE that are snared in the divided churches!

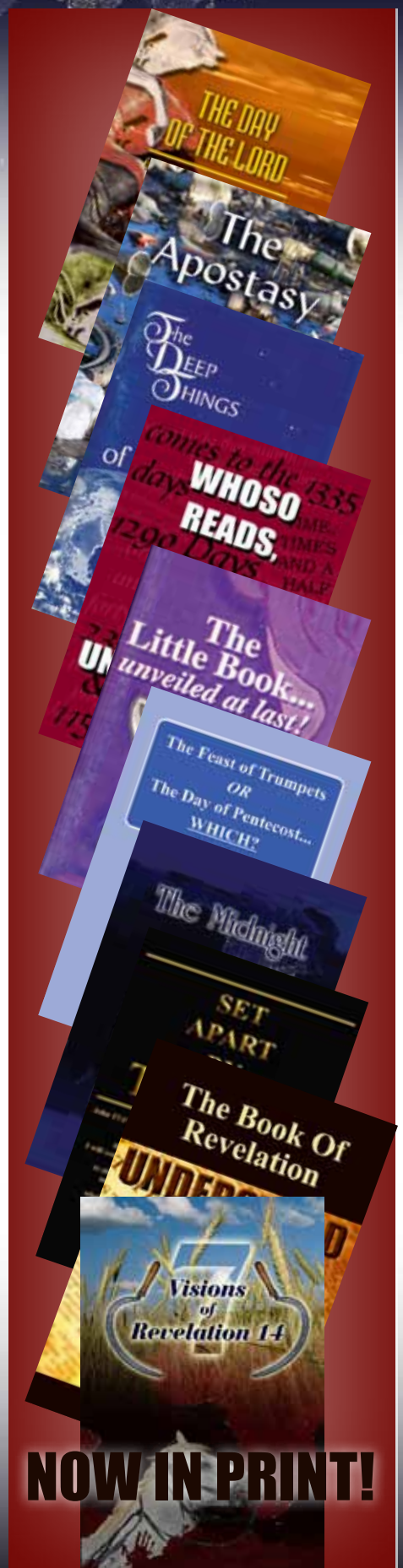
Please, contact us for literature, audio and video messages or personal counsel. I look forward to hearing from you! ❖



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Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



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Is Egypt's president fulfilling biblical prophecy?

On Feb. 11, 2011, addressing the success of Egypt's revolution, which he himself enthusiastically supported, President Barack Obama stood in the Grand Foyer of the White House and triumphantly declared, "The people of Egypt have spoken, their voices have been heard, and Egypt will never be the same."

But the fruit of this change quickly became bitter to the Egyptian people. It is now becoming clear that the Egyptian people have traded a more secular autocrat for an Islamist dictator.

As Americans everywhere stopped to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, Egyptian President Morsi appeared on Egyptian television and shocked the nation, issuing a presidential decree effectively banning all challenges to his decrees, laws and decisions. The decree stated:

"The president can issue any decision or measure to protect the revolution. ... The constitutional declarations, decisions and laws issued by the president are final and not subject to appeal."

The decree also stated that the courts have no authority to dissolve the country's Constituent Assembly, which is now rewriting the constitution.

Disparate groups within and outside of Egypt have expressed their alarm.

Within Egypt's Constituent Assembly, various secularist opponents to Morsi have quit, including Coptic Christians and representatives of the April 6 Youth Movement, the very group that initiated the revolution in Egypt.

Mohamed El Baradei, another opponent of Morsi, accused the president of establishing himself as "a new pharaoh."

In a typically toothless statement released Friday, the European Union "urged" Morsi to "respect the democratic process."

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

Comment: "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..." Dan 11:40

This prophecy in the Book of Daniel tells of the king of the north, a German led confederacy, overcoming the king of the south, led by Iran, but notice verse 42

"He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape"

In August of this year, a dramatic alliance occurred in the Middle East. President Morsi of Egypt and President Ahmadinejad of Iran united their nations together. Egypt, the largest Arab nation in the Middle East, with many military assets, is now allied with the major state sponsor of terrorism in the world!

President Mohammed Morsi is a Muslim. The radical Muslim Brotherhood is now in control of Egypt. In prophetic terms, this alliance has pushed the region and the world one major step closer to World War III. So to answer the question heading this article, the answer is a resounding YES!

Rain-battered Britain braces for floods

Swathes of Britain were hit by heavy rains and strong winds for a second day on Thursday, with authorities warning of worse flooding to come at the weekend.

More than 80 flood warnings were in place, mainly in southwest and central England, and more 100 homes evacuated after torrential rains swept in on Wednesday with winds of up to 70 miles (110 kilo-

metres) per hour.

Roads across much of Britain were deluged, leaving hundreds of drivers stranded.

The Met Office weather agency said some areas saw up to 60 millimetres (5 inches) of rain falling on already saturated ground, and forecast more downpours across the country on Saturday and Sunday.

“Another deep depression developing off Iberia will head towards us for the weekend,” said the Met Office’s deputy chief forecaster Paul Gundersen.

“This is expected to bring more heavy rain and strong to gale force winds to many parts of the country.”

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

Comment: For those unfortunate enough to have their homes ruined by flood water, some not for the first time, the promise from God never to flood the earth again must ring a bit hollow! The promise was made to Noah and all generations after him and the rainbow was appointed as a sign that God would keep His promise forever.

“And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

And I, behold I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;...neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by waters of a flood; neither shall there be any more be a flood to destroy the earth...I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.” Gen 9:8-13

Here is the reference of the Rainbow Covenant, whereby God promised to the world that never again would the kind of flood of Noah’s day ever occur again.

This is absolute proof that the deluge of Noah’s day was global in extent and supernatural in origin and covered the entire earth, because if it was just a local flood, then God has broken His Rainbow Covenant every time there has been a local flood since then.

It may be small compensation for those suffering extensive flood damage to their properties, but the fact remains that Noah’s flood was global, and God’s promises remains intact!

Iran VP: We will break Obama’s

‘grasping hands’

Iran’s vice president said Monday that Tehran will break the ‘grasping hands’ of newly re-elected President Barack Obama, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Mohammad Reza Rahimi also said Iran will overcome U.S.-led sanctions against the country.

“We will break grasping hands of Obama and we will be successful in bypassing the sanctions,” Rahimi was quoted as saying during a research and scientific exhibition at Tehran University.

Iranian officials dismiss the impact of last week’s U.S. elections, suggesting it will have little impact on Washington’s Iran policy. On Thursday President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad mocked the cost of campaigning, dubbing the vote a “battleground for capitalists”

Rahimi is known for hardline anti-Western statements. In June, he blamed global drug use on the teachings of Jewish holy texts.

[http://hosted.ap.org/...](http://hosted.ap.org/)

Comment: The West is right to believe that Iran, possibly the leader of the “king of the South” nations is seeking to build an atomic bomb capability. Iran admits to having a nuclear programme, of course they say, for peaceful purposes. However the book of Daniel reports that at the time of the end – we know that means our time right now- the king of the south will push at the king of the north, and the king of the North, the German led EU, will go against him. (Dan 11:40) The word “push” in this verse means to make war. There can be no doubt of the intentions of this king of the South.

The sanction by America against Iran will have little effect. This is a nation that has declared openly to death of the infidel, which is anyone who does not believe in Islam. World leaders in the West do not appear to have a grasp on reality, relying on appeasement instead of strong measures against a known enemy. God has revealed certain end-time prophecies in His Word that Christ led students understand. The words are there for all to see. Unfortunately our society and especially our world leaders have been blinded by the god of this world and so are unable to comprehend the plain scriptures.

America’s sanctions against Iran will not work, not just because of the prophecy in Daniel chapter 11, but because society has allowed itself to follow satanic persuasion just as Adam and Eve did those 6,000

Greek government defies protests to approve more austerity

(Reuters) - Greece's government voted by a razor thin margin on Thursday to approve an austerity package needed to unlock vital aid and avert bankruptcy, despite an internal rift and violent protests at the gates of parliament.

Lawmakers approved the spending cuts, tax hikes and measures making it easier to hire and fire workers after nearly 100,000 Greeks waving flags and chanting "Fight! They're drinking our blood!" descended on Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Despite the abstention of their junior ruling partner the Democratic Left, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras's New Democracy Party and its Socialist PASOK allies passed the 500-odd page bill shortly after midnight.

They mustered 153 of parliament's 300 seats, with New Democracy and PASOK expelling seven deputies from their ranks for not backing the measures.

Earlier in the evening, clashes erupted when a handful of protesters tried to break through a barricade to enter the assembly. Riot police responded with teargas, stun grenades and, for the first time in an anti-austerity protest here, water cannon.

There was also chaos inside the assembly, where parliamentary workers briefly stopped the session by walking out when they discovered their salaries would be cut.

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

Comment: The people protest against the government because they blame the government for all their financial ills. But is the government TOTALLY to blame? Greece's former deputy Prime Minister, Theodoros Pangalos says he wants to end the myth that thieving politicians were the main cause of Greece's financial problems. He has published an e-book on the subject entitled "We All Binged Together" He has said that everybody recognised the others' responsibility but not their own. How very true of human nature!

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considered not the beam that is in thine own eye?...Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brothers eye." Matt 7:3, 5

One story going around tells of a public-sector worker who took maternity leave and went on getting paid for six years before returning. Then when she went back to work she was promoted to director because

of long service. Another refers to a shopkeeper who slashed his tax bill to a fraction of what it should have been by bribing a tax inspector.

People need to take individual responsibility before all this can be sorted out. After that the only solution would be to tear down the whole tax system and re-build it from scratch. Perhaps 10% across the board would be a good start! years ago!

Europe Welcomes Obama's Win

Europe was quick to congratulate US President Barack Obama on Wednesday morning as he won his re-election battle against Republican challenger Mitt Romney. Markets in European capitals appeared poised for a rally, but dark clouds loom ahead.

In the end, it wasn't even that close. US President Barack Obama easily surpassed the 270 electoral votes he needed to defeat Republican challenger Mitt Romney on Tuesday evening as swing state after swing state fell into the incumbent's column. At just after 1 a.m. on the East Coast, with his deficit insurmountable, Romney conceded defeat.

"This is a time of great challenges for America and I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation," Romney said in remarks before supporters in Boston. "I so wish that I had been able to fulfill your hopes to lead the country in a different direction, but the nation chose another leader." Just prior to his concession speech, Romney had called Obama to congratulate him.

European stock futures signalled a strong opening on Wednesday morning on the news as the uncertainty hanging over the leadership of the US economy was removed. Analysts, however, fear that the bump will be short-lived as the first challenge of Obama's second term approaches, that of coming to agreement with Republicans on a deficit reduction deal to dodge the \$600 billion in spending cuts and tax increases that will automatically go into effect on Jan. 2, 2013 in the absence of such a deal.

<http://www.spiegel.de/...>

Comment: In a world destitute of moral values we might have known a man who backed same-sex marriages would continue to lead the American people for the next four years. These next four years for America look bleak. President Obama was re-elected despite most voters thinking the economy is on the wrong track. The tax rises that are due on January 1st have caused experts to fear a recession in 2013.

The problem is that America is deeply divided. Presi-

dent Obama returns to Washington, his hands tied by a republican-controlled House of Representatives, and a house divided cannot stand for long.

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:” Matt 12:25

The division will continue because it is interesting to note that while Mr Mitt Romney’s votes came mostly from older white voters, whose share of the electorate is getting smaller, President Obama’s support came from women, minorities, the young and incredibly 10% of all votes came from the Hispanics who backed President Obama in huge numbers.

The US is fast approaching the time when the majority of babies born are to families from an ethnic minority background. The democratic shift is being felt at polling stations and will cause more division and not harmony. Europe may well welcome President Obama’s second term in office, but that welcome may be short-lived!

‘Iran’s Gestapo’ Rounds Up Christians

Iranian police, termed “Iran’s Gestapo” by a Christian news site, has arrested between 100 and 400 Christians and thrown them into prisons.

Firouz Khandjani, a council member of the ‘Church of Iran’ house church movement, told the Christian BosNewsLife website, “We have learned that at least 100, but perhaps as many as 400 people, have been detained over the last 10 days.”

He said massive arrests of men and women included the break-up of church services held by evan-

gelical Christians in three cities, including Tehran. “We know that many have been forced to say they will no longer attend church services in exchange for freedom,” he said.

“They are of several movements. But it has become clear that Protestant Christians are now viewed as enemy number one of the state,” according to Khandjani. “We need urgent prayers.”

Khandjani confirmed reports that seven Christians received suspended five-year sentences last week for “action against the national security,” after they were already jailed for up to three weeks in Rasht, some six years ago.

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

Comment: Christianity is having it tough today and many are giving up on the Christian way of life. And no wonder when campaigns like this are going on. This is not the first time Christians have been targeted in this way and it certainly won’t be the last.

Saul of Tarsus was a man who greatly persecuted the first century Church of God causing many to be cast into prison simply because of their beliefs. “And Saul was consenting unto his death. (Stephen’s death Acts 7:59-60). And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad...As for Saul, he made havock (dragging forcibly) men and women committing them to prison.” Acts 8:1, 3

Later Saul was converted and became the Apostle Paul doing a great work for the Christian Church, God’s True Church, and not against it. Can we hope that “Iran’s Gestapo” will also have a change of heart and be converted to Christianity at this time? - I don’t think so!

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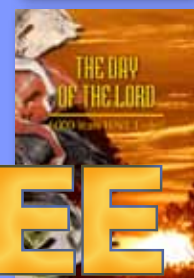
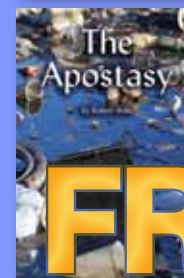
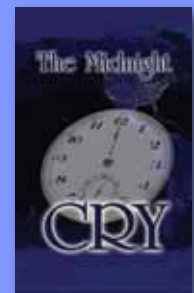
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