



# The Midnight Cry

JULY/AUG 2014, Volume 6, Number 3

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

## The First Resurrection And the Feast of Firstfruits



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## From the Editor ...



It is very difficult to remove a long held mistaken belief from one's mind—especially when the belief is a religious conviction. Yet, it is a fact that these long held mistaken ideas will crumble when exposed to the LIGHT of God's TRUTH by the SPIRIT of TRUTH. Through sincere study and honest effort, the erroneous beliefs we have had in the past are often proven to be wrong—then it is imperative for an honest person to be willing to accept that NEW REVEALED TRUTH!

Notice the following scriptures:



In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God...And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld **his glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth** (John 1:1,14).

“Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth** (John. 17:17).

“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God** (Rev. 19:13).

These verses make it apparent that OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD. And when we add II Peter 3:18 to this list, we are informed that growing in knowledge of our Lord and Savior is growing in **new truth from the Word of God:**



But GROW in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

II Peter 3:18, Mark 7:9&13, John 10:35 and other scriptures show that Christ is the living Word of God and THE HOLY BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

In the Church of God's Faithful, we have proven that a few of the doctrines established by God's end-time apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, were incorrect—they were absolutely WRONG! And when a sincere Christian is challenged regarding a long held religious belief, we must follow CHRIST, not a man. Mr. Armstrong taught this godly principle all through his long ministry. Many times he thundered, “Don't believe me or ANY MAN! Believe your BIBLE—believe Christ!”

Although Mr. Armstrong was in error on several topics, Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, did reveal MANY extremely important TRUE DOCTRINES to him—when it was the TIME for them to be REVEALED!

On the very important day of Pentecost in 31 AD, 1983 years ago, the Spirit of truth came upon the 120 faithful disciples gathered together in the city

of Jerusalem.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come (John 16:13).

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. **But ye shall receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost [Spirit, #4151] is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight (Acts 1:6-9).

From that point on, instead of being overcome with timidity and a lack of courage, the disciples of Jesus were filled with the HOLY SPIRIT! Thereby they boldly proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God and the MESSIAH!

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent,**

**and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:36-41).

What a message and what fantastic results—three thousand added to their numbers in one day!

But the people believed what they wanted to believe, and the religious leaders were jealous and resentful of Jesus and were responsible for His death sentence. There was much confusion! The people, as a whole, wanted Jesus Christ to be their Messiah, their King, and to throw off the Roman yoke of bondage. The Word of God plainly prophesied in Daniel 9:24-27 that the time was right for the Messiah to appear. And Isaiah’s writings showed that the Messiah was to die for the sins of all mankind.

People and their leaders were deceived in those days, just as they are today. The New Testament cautions us to **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”** (1Thes. 5:21).

There is a teaching that comes up during Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread that needs to be proven and held fast to—IF it is correct. This is a doctrine that was long taught in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). The teaching states that God Almighty, in all

of His goodness and purity, is unable to look upon evil.

This doctrine comes from Psalm 22:1 where those fateful words, as a prophecy, were first announced, and from Matthew 27:46, a thousand years later, when our Savior, in fulfillment of the prophecy, uttered the same words from the stake: “My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?”

So—what is the truth? Does God’s Word explain this situation? Can God look on evil? Did He turn His back on His Son when Jesus greatly needed Him? Does the Bible explain this? Yes! It really does—if we honestly look for the Bible’s answer.

In Mark 10:27, Jesus Christ makes a declaration that should perfectly clarify the misunderstanding:

“And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**”

A version of Mark’s statement is also given in Matthew 19:26 and Luke 18:27. “With God ALL THINGS are POSSIBLE”! That should be enough—God can do ANYTHING!

In the many commentaries I have, I have sought ideas about Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46, and do not find the mistaken thought that God CANNOT look on evil. The commentaries present a mass of ideas on various subjects, but a statement of the Father forsaking Jesus because of His inability to look on evil, I did not find. And how this came into the WCG—I do not know!

In the Passover edition of *The Midnight Cry* magazine, our article, “The Rest of the Story,” ties up all of the loose ends of the amazing sacrifice by the Son of God, and

the Father's giving Him as a sacrifice. In my opinion, this article is greatly inspired by the Head of the Church and deserves special attention. It places these important events in plain chronological order, which is necessary for proper understanding. Mr. Armstrong and the writers of the old Ambassador College Correspondence Course gave us the only correct explanation of how the events must have taken place. The article also brought to light the confusion of the Roman soldiers when they thought Jesus was calling for Elijah the prophet to come and take Jesus down from the "cross." His cry from Psalm 22:1 was a **pre-determined signal** for the spear to be thrust into His side. See John 13:3; 18:4; and 19:28. JESUS KNEW ALL THINGS relative to His crucifixion and death! Please, go back and read this article and the other Passover-related articles in the March/April 2014 issue of *The Midnight Cry*.

God can and most certainly does look upon sin. A recorded event from the ancient book of Job shows that Satan, the epitome of EVIL and SIN, was commanded by God, on certain occasions, to appear before Him.

“ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then

Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. [Notice—Satan could do only what God allowed him to do!] So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD” (Job 1:6-12).

In the New Testament, Jesus expounds to the Jews who were there to listen, how wretchedly EVIL Satan is:

“ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because **there is no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it**. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? (John 8:44-46).

In Isaiah 53:11, the horrendous suffering of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was described hundreds of years before it became a reality—and verse 11 shows that God the Father had to ascertain that all phases of the sacrifice were proceeding as planned:

“ He [the Father] shall SEE of the travail of his [Christ's] soul, and shall

be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

The Father observed every detail. He witnessed the sins of the world laid upon His Son! God KNEW that the sacrifice was perfect in EVERY aspect. Doesn't this show that the Father CAN look upon sin?

The multitude of our SINS was heaped upon Jesus, and He carried them to the "tree." Jesus represented ALL SIN, and the Father was compelled by Scripture (which He had inspired to be written) to WATCH the entire sacrifice.

I Peter 2:21-24 explains very explicitly that, AFTER the terrible scourging and abuse that our Lord suffered, our SINS had NOT been forgiven. They were transferred over to Christ to bear to the tree:

“ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously [Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing, Luke 23:34.]: Who his own self **bare our sins in his own body on the tree**, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

The suffering Jesus endured in His body included:

- the sweating of blood in the garden before He was taken captive;

*Continued on page 12.*

# The First Resurrection And The Feast of Firstfruits

by Robert Ardis

Sometimes it is very difficult to believe a plain Bible statement. This is because we have preconceived ideas in our minds that cloud the meaning of the scripture! For example, Revelation 14:3-4 declares that there will be only 144,000 firstfruits at the first resurrection! Do you believe that?

“And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

How many brethren of the splits and splinters of the former Worldwide Church of God believe the statements made in these two verses? How many ministers of those churches teach these two verses? I don't know of any who believe or teach the plainly stated fact that there will be only 144,000 firstfruits at the First Resurrection!

Let us also ask this related question: Why do the “churches of god” teach that the First Resurrection occurs on the Feast of Trumpets instead of on the Feast of Firstfruits?

## Only 144,000 Firstfruits... Really?

At this point I will present a section of our book, *Set Apart by Truth*, which answers these questions:

These two verses PLAINLY state that there will be 144,000 firstfruits! It does NOT say they are a few of the firstfruits, nor does it say they are some of the firstfruits. These verses tell us the 144,000 are ALL of the firstfruits! The statement is made so openly; however, the Church of God in the past has NOT believed this. Prior to 1986, none of us, including Mr. Armstrong, could imagine what was to take place in the Church of God within the next 24 years!

Before 1986, this PLAIN statement in the Bible seemed so improbable. “How could this be?” we thought. “Only 144,000 firstfruits from all of the BILLIONS of people who have ever lived?” And immediately prior to Mr. Armstrong's death, the gospel was going into ALL nations! Millions were reading *The*

*Plain Truth* magazine and viewing *The World Tomorrow* telecast. Nevertheless, when we consider the evidence we have from the Bible, 144,000 makes a lot of sense. The Bible always makes sense once we get our own pre-conceived ideas out of the way.

The Word of God reveals that from Adam through Noah, spanning a time period of 1650 years, only Abel, Enoch, and Noah were considered righteous men. From Noah to the time Israel entered the Promised Land, another 900 years elapsed. Those who walked with God during those 900 years of history can be counted on our fingers and toes.

Throughout the period of the judges, the kings, and the prophets of the Old Testament, how many are counted as righteous individuals possessing the Spirit of God? Seven thousand had not “bowed their knees to Baal” during this time (Rom. 11:4), but did they possess God's Spirit? This question will be addressed later.

Only a very few had the Spirit of God during Christ's 33½ years in the flesh. Those included were Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, Anna,

Simeon, John the Baptist, and very FEW others of whom we are aware. Thousands followed Jesus and claimed to believe in Him, but where were they on the Day of Pentecost as the New Testament Church began? Even His twelve apostles were not given God's Spirit until Pentecost of 31AD. Acts 2:41 tells us that after Peter's stirring sermon on Pentecost, 3000 people "...gladly received his word and were baptized." In the last phrase of Acts 2:47, the Bible states: "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Verse 14 of chapter 5 shows continued growth: "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." After Stephen's death, persecution set in and the Church became scattered, and spread abroad. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

Paul was inspired to write II Timothy 4:3-4 as a warning of what was to come: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." This has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it? Verse 10 shows how the ministry can fall away, with the tragic results it brings upon the flock: "For Demus has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. ONLY Luke is with me..." The time was approaching 65 or 66 AD. There was much persecution being

thrust upon God's people. Satan and his demons were bringing persecution from the world OUTSIDE, and infiltrating the Church, INSIDE, with false ministers (see II Pet. 2:1-2; Jude 3-4).

II Timothy 4:16 declares: "At my first answer no man stood with me, but ALL men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." Many did NOT "endure to the end," as Paul sadly states in II Timothy 1:15: "This you know, that ALL they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."

These scriptures describe the history of the early Church of God. How many of the THOUSANDS that were baptized on that Day of Pentecost in 31 AD and immediately afterward, remained FAITHFUL to the end? Thankfully, some did, but many did not! How many remained FAITHFUL in the EPHESIAN era? How many in the SMYRNA, PERGAMOS, THYATIRA, and SARDIS eras? Sardis is depicted as being dead! How many have remained FAITHFUL PHILADELPHIANS since the death of Mr. Armstrong? Think about that! When all of this is taken into consideration, 144,000 is a reasonable sounding number of firstfruits! And it is a PLAIN statement in the Bible. (*Set Apart by Truth*, 2008, pp. 117-119.)

## When Does the Resurrection of the 144,000 Occur?

Understanding the truth of the 144,000 firstfruits should then bring this question to a person's mind: Does the resurrection of

the firstfruits occur on the Feast of Trumpets, as we have long believed—or does it happen on the Feast of Firstfruits as the name implies?

In Leviticus 23:10-14, the instructions were given to Israel for the wave offering. Jesus Christ fulfilled this ceremony perfectly! He became the Firstborn from the dead and the First of the firstfruits--the wave offering--on the exact day the wave offering had been offered for nearly 15 centuries.

Now in verses 15-16, we come to fifty days after the wave offering, bringing the 144,000 firstfruits into the picture. And I quote again from *Set Apart by Truth*...

Fifty days from the "... **morrow after the Sabbath**" brings us to the third holy day of the sacred calendar, the Feast of Firstfruits—PENTECOST. Let's read God's instructions to the nation of Israel concerning this third holy day of the year:

**"And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the SHEAF of the WAVE OFFERING: seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even to the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number FIFTY DAYS..."** (Lev. 23:15-16).

This is plainly stated! Counting from the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, seven more weekly Sabbaths are counted, and then the next day—day fifty—is Pentecost. "Pentecost" is Greek for "fiftieth."

Verse 17 continues the instructions:

"You shall bring out of your habitations TWO WAVE LOAVES of

two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they ARE THE FIRST-FRUITS UNTO THE LORD."

Christ is the FIRSTFRUIT as pictured by the wave sheaf. The comparative few throughout history that have been called by God to qualify for the First Resurrection will be the first-fruits of the small early harvest as pictured by the WAVE LOAVES! James 1:18 reads: "**Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**"

Now, verse 20 of Leviticus 23: "**And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the Lord...**" On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the WAVE SHEAF was offered, the WAVE LOAVES are offered to God. God's Word states that the wave loaves are the firstfruits.

God's plan is practical, and works step-by-step, as we see in I Corinthians 15:23: "**But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**" His COMING is at the First Resurrection when "... all eyes shall see him" (Rev. 1:7).

Pentecost is the Feast of Firstfruits! The firstfruits will be raised from the dead, or if still living will be changed from flesh to spirit, in an instant at the First Resurrection. Christ fulfilled the true meaning of the Passover and the wave sheaf. He fulfilled these two important steps in God's plan on the exact days they had been ceremonially kept for nearly 15 centuries. God accepted Him as the WAVE SHEAF FIRSTFRUIT

on the WAVE SHEAF DAY! In the near future, we will be symbolically waved before God by our High Priest, Jesus Christ, on the Day of Firstfruits—Pentecost.

Doesn't it seem consistent with the plan of God that the First Resurrection would occur on Pentecost, the Day of Firstfruits—instead of the Feast of Trumpets?

I Corinthians 10:11 informs us that the things that happened to ancient Israel are examples and types that we need to always consider. Romans 15:4 states it this way: "**For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**" Consider the gracious HOPE we have as spiritual Israel, as compared with ancient Israel as Moses presented them to God.

We must overcome misconceptions and pre-conceived ideas, and thankfully drink in new truth as it is revealed to us. Remember, God is consistent! Our Lord fulfilled the Passover and the wave sheaf on those exact days. We are the FIRSTFRUITS! He will present us to the Father on the Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost! Please request our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost...Which?* (Set Apart by Truth, 2008, pp. 115-116.)

## One Other Question!

If the First Resurrection is on Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruits, what does the Feast of Trumpets picture? The Feast of Trumpets represents the one-year period

of the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:17), composed of the opening of the seventh seal, the sounding of the seven trumpet angels, their plagues, and the seven last plagues.

The seventh seal will be opened in the future at the beginning of the seventh month, which is the Feast of Trumpets. If the first trumpet angel sounds on the Feast of Trumpets, when does the LAST TRUMPET sound? Here I will insert a quote from our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost...Which?*, that presents a pattern of when each trumpet might be blown, with their resulting plagues. Remember, the visible return of Jesus Christ and the First Resurrection happen as the LAST TRUMPET sounds (I Cor. 15:50).

Now proceed with Revelation 8:7:

“ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

In verse 8, the second angel sounds his trumpet with more plagues falling upon the sea. Verses 10 and 11 describe the third angel's plague as he begins to sound. Then in verse 12, the fourth angel sounds with the resultant scourge. Are these angels sounding their trumpets all at one time, or is there an interval of time between each of their blasts? Just as it was when God used Moses and Aaron to bring the plagues upon Egypt, these trumpet plagues will happen in a similar fashion. The two witnesses, as servants of God Almighty, will be used to call down six of the trumpet plagues, one at a time, as God instructs them. And it is highly probable that the trumpet plagues are called down on each of

the ensuing annual holy days.

Observe how this pattern of trumpet blasts and holy days correspond:

1. The first angel sounds on the Feast of Trumpets.
2. The second angel sounds on the Day of Atonement.
3. The third angel sounds on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
4. The fourth angel sounds on the Last Great Day.

These four holy days occur in the seventh month of the sacred calendar, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> days. The first four angels each appear to sound their trumpets on the holy days within this three-week period of time, and then there is a delay to prepare for the severity of the next three trumpet plagues (see verse 13).

In Revelation 9:1, the fifth angel sounds. Here, frighteningly symbolized is the beast power hurling all-out war against the eastern forces. This appears to be atomic, bacteriological, and chemical warfare. It is called the first woe. Verses 5 and 10 indicate five months are involved in the sufferings caused by this plague.

The fifth holy day of the year is the First Day of Unleavened Bread. There is space for **five months** between the First Day of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Trumpets! From Trumpets to Trumpets is one full year—the one year of the Wrath of the Lamb.

Verse 6 states: "...and in those days shall men seek death..." So this indicates that the fifth angel sounds on the First Day of Unleavened Bread, and this plague last for *five months*. However the combined forces of the eastern nations retaliate quickly, as the sixth angel sounds on the

Last Day of Unleavened Bread—the sixth holy day. This is the second woe. This will be the most massive army ever assembled, 200 million men. By them one third of the remaining populace of the earth are killed during the *six and one half* months before the end of the day of the Wrath of the Lamb. The conflict between these two POWERS will cause many of the areas of the earth to appear as Sodom and Gomorrah. Stubborn rebellious man does not learn easily. "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands..." verse 20.

## Before the Last Trumpet Sounds

God is consistent! His holy days are signs unto us! And we can see His

consistency as the angels sound their trumpets on each of the holy days beginning with the Feast of Trumpets.

The first trumpet begins to blow on the Feast of Trumpets. As we follow the consistent pattern God is revealing to us, it becomes obvious that the seventh and last trumpet sounds on the **seventh consecutive holy day**—PENTECOST! (*The Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost... Which?* 2002, pp. 18-20.)

There is so much more to relate about this wonderful holy day, the Feast of Firstfruits, that we do not have space for in this article. But it is ALL available for your reading and proving in our booklets, which you may download, or send us a request for your own personal copy. ❖

**The Book Of Revelation UNDERSTOOD AT LAST!**

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. 1:3)

Conditions nationally and worldwide become more and more severe. The world is teetering on the rim of the greatest time of trouble ever in man's history. But God has a WORK that will be done – the greatest WORK of GOD in New Testament times.

If God has opened your spiritual eyes, you will now be able to UNDERSTAND the BOOK of REVELATION – and God's Plan for you!





by Robert Ardis

**The Church of God's Faithful is sanctified by truth. The first of the amazing truths given to the true Church of Jesus Christ is the fact that The Day of the Lord and The Day of the Lord's Wrath are two entirely different events! We have taught this truth since 1997. Today, some who were Church members with us now teach a version of this truth which is different from what the Bible reveals.**

**This article, "The Time of the End," initially published in 2011, reveals the deep error these misguided former brethren are now expounding, and explains WHY they cannot understand the simple truth.**

**Please read and take heed...**

Much has been written and spoken about the mysterious book of Revelation. The last book in the Holy Bible has piqued the curiosity and imagination of many scholars and

laymen alike. And the conclusions drawn by those who have written and spoken about this book are so varied that confusion is their final product. However, there is a simple reason why there is so much variation and confusion about interpreting the book of Revelation.

An amazing fact that has eluded those who have devoted hours, or perhaps years, of study to this revelation from God is that it COULD NOT be understood UNTIL a certain period in time!

The book of Revelation, from chapters 6 through 22, has been sealed with seven seals! The seven seals are each identified in chapter 6, which describes God's intervention in the affairs of the world. The seventh seal is opened in chapter 8, and is identified as the one-year Day of the Lord's Wrath. The fulfillment or reality of the events displayed by the seven seals could not happen until a certain time in the plan of God—nor could the correct understanding of the book of Revelation be known until that special time arrived.

The book of Revelation and the book of the prophet Daniel are each a part of the Word of God. History and prophecy are presented and interlinked in these two books. They verify and factually compliment each other.

Like so many men who have deeply studied the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, Daniel himself was unable to grasp the truth contained in them. Daniel desired very much to understand how the very detailed prophecies of the "end time" were all going to come about. Nevertheless, he was told that understanding was *closed and sealed*.

These words were spoken to Daniel by "the man standing on the waters of the river," who was, apparently, Christ Himself:

“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end (Dan. 12:8-9).

The book of Revelation was also sealed and closed to correct misunderstanding UNTIL the time of the end. What the "time of the end" actually means is defined in the book of Revelation, but even that explanation was hidden until the time of the end!

Here is an astounding biblical fact that has been veiled for nearly 1900 years and is closely related to the *greatest secret* contained in the entire Bible! This greatest of all secrets was also spoken of by Jesus Christ. In Matthew 24:36-

37, Jesus says:

“ But of that **day and hour** knoweth no man [it was closed and sealed], no, not the angels of heaven [nor **the Son**, as Mark 13:32 adds], but my Father only [it was truly a Great Secret]. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be [the time of the coming of Christ was God’s great secret].

(Please download or request our booklets, *The Day of the Lord* and *The Little Book Unveiled at Last*, which explain in detail the Father’s great secret and its momentous meaning for us today.)

Thus, at the precise time that God would reveal the *great secret of His Son’s coming*, the **closed and sealed** prophecies of the **time of the end** would be OPENED.

And the amazing truth is: IT HAS HAPPENED! Man’s 6000 years of allotted time to go his own rebellious way has come to an abrupt END. It came right on time, as God intended. The “**time of the end**” came, and understanding of the closed and sealed prophecies of Daniel, Revelation and other end-time prophecies, was opened to God’s true Church!

Revelation 10 and the message of the “little book” is the vital key to understanding all the **time of the end** prophecies! Observe verses 6-7:

“ And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **THAT THERE SHOULD BE TIME NO LONGER.**

Man’s time came to an END—the **time of the end** began!

Man’s 6000 years of going his own Satan-inspired way is over—the **TIME of the end has COME!** Now GOD’S TIME has begun again—the **Day of the Lord** began and Christ returned to His Temple. The time of the end is here, and the closed and sealed scriptures are being OPENED!

That fantastic announcement (that “**there should be TIME no longer**”) was fulfilled on the evening of October 1, 1997, on the Feast of Trumpets! Now the books of Daniel and Revelation can be understood by the true Church of Jesus Christ.

The *great secret*, which ONLY the Father knew, was fulfilled and became a reality that evening, when Jesus Christ and the Day of the Lord **came “as a thief in the night”** (Rev. 16:15, I Thes. 5:2 and II Pet. 3:10).

The amazing revelation that the **Day of the Lord** and the **Day of the Lord’s Wrath** are TWO different occurrences was given to the CGF on the very evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997. The Day of the Lord came **as a thief in the night**, and Christ came **as a thief** to His Temple. God’s *great secret* was revealed, and the hidden TRUTHS of the **time of the end** began to be revealed to His true Church!

Our booklet, *The Little Book Unveiled at Last*, explains in detail how the **closed and sealed** prophecies of the **time of the end** were revealed as Revelation 10:8-11 became a reality:

“ And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take **the little book which is open** in the hand of the angel which stan-

deth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, **Give me the little book.** And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And **I took the little book out of the angel’s hand**, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, **Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**

The apostle John was writing, *in spirit*, in the **Day of the Lord**, as plainly stated in Revelation 1:10:

“ *I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.*

John is projected into the Day of the Lord as the book of Revelation begins in chapter 1. The seven seals and their true meanings were NOT revealed until the **Day of the Lord** began, when the **time of the end** came and the **closed and sealed** prophecies were OPENED. The physical REALITY of the seven seals happens as Christ rips off each seal, but the UNDERSTANDING of the entire book of Revelation has been made available to the true Church of Jesus Christ, now that the Day of the Lord has come.

Please understand! The book of Revelation COULD NOT be understood UNTIL the Day of the Lord began.

The former members stating that the Day of the Lord has NOT come yet are in reality saying they CANNOT understand the book of Revelation or the book of Daniel! Please study this carefully and do NOT

wait until it is too late!

This is extremely important information!

The arrival of the Day of the Lord happened FIRST! Then the first four seals were opened and the four horsemen were released. After their ride, the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation, will become a reality for 3½ years. When 2½ years of the Tribulation have passed, the heavenly signs of the sixth seal will usher in more horror and fright, and the seventh seal—the final one-year period of the 3½-year Great Tribulation—begins. That one-year period is the *Day of the Lord's Wrath—the seven trumpet plagues*.

Please note that understanding of ALL the seven seals is OPENED during the **Day of the Lord!** And the Day of the Lord—the return to God's TIME—came as man's "time [was] no longer." The time of the end arrived, and all that had been **sealed and closed** to understanding was now OPENED!

The very important understanding that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are TWO entirely different occurrences was given to the CGF on the evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 2, 1997! From that point in time, over EIGHTY NEW TRUTHS have been revealed to the CGF—right from the pages of the Holy Bible.

The time of the end has come. It is the **end of man's time** (Rev. 10:6) of stubbornly going his own way. We have returned to GOD'S time, and the Day of the Lord has come **as a thief in the night!** The *great secret* of Almighty God was revealed, as the living Jesus Christ CAME SECRETLY and suddenly to His Temple (Mal. 3:1). In coming to His Temple (His Church), He has opened our eyes to the meaning of scriptures

that lay closed and sealed to our understanding for centuries. He came to His Church and set it apart by truth!

Here is a brief listing of new truths given to the CGF to identify it as the Church of Jesus Christ, set apart from all the rest by TRUTH:

- The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are TWO different major events.
- The 144,000 firstfruits are identified (Rev. 14:1-4).
- The role of the 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7:4 is revealed.
- The First Resurrection occurs on a future Feast of Firstfruits.
- The synagogue of Satan is identified (Rev. 3:9).
- The rescue of the sleeping virgins of Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 3:9 is understood.
- There are strong biblical indications of the location of the place of safety.
- Only Israel is given God's Spirit during the Millennium.
- There are only TWO general resurrections, not three.
- The duration of the Last Great Day is revealed.
- Satan's fate is revealed.
- The "innumerable multitude" is identified (Rev. 7:9).

These are only a few of the new truths that have been given to the CGF since the Day of the Lord has come. Many are explained and proved in our book, *Set Apart by Truth*. We would be happy to send you a copy, or you may download it from our website, [setapartbytruth.org](http://setapartbytruth.org). ❖



- the beatings, punches, slaps, pounding His head with rods and sticks, and spitting on Him;
- the painful crown of thorns on His head;
- and the scourging that violently ripped and tore the skin from His face and body.

Isaiah 52:14-15 sums it up:

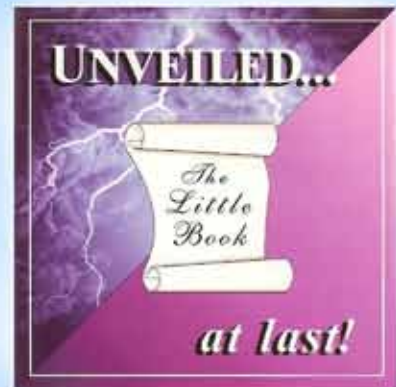
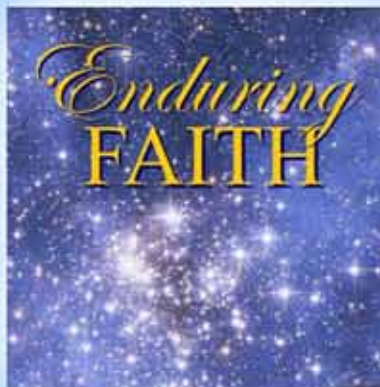
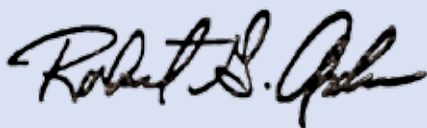
“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men...So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

The masses of people during Jesus' day did not realize that the Messiah was to DIE for their SINS! They wanted their Messiah to throw off the Roman rule. One of these days they will understand that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, shed His blood that they might have eternal life.

The Father—God—WATCHED ALL of these earthshaking events! He SAW ALL of the brutality, the violence, the evil, the SIN, poured upon His Son! He did not leave nor forsake His Son in that time of great need!

As we count down to Pentecost, we must remember the loving promises offered to all who have been called and chosen as firstfruits: He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5), "... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:20).

Your brother in Christ,



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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](http://setapartbytruth.org).

### Church Of England Votes 'Yes' To Women Bishops

LONDON (Reuters) - The Church of England voted on Monday to allow women to become bishops, a historic decision which overturns centuries of tradition in a Church that has been deeply divided over the issue.

Two years ago, a similar proposal failed narrowly due to opposition from traditionalist lay members, to the dismay of modernisers, the Church hierarchy and politicians.

But after a five-hour debate on Monday, the General Synod, the governing body of the Church of England, voted overwhelmingly in favour of an amended plan at its meeting in the northern English city of York.

"Today is the completion of what was begun over 20 years ago with the ordination of women as priests. I am delighted with today's result," said Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, spiritual leader of the world's 80 million Anglicans.

"Today marks the start of a great adventure of seeking mutual flourishing while still, in some cases, disagreeing."

The issue over women bishops has caused internal division since the Synod approved female priests in 1992.

It has pitted reformers, keen to project a more modern image of the Church as it struggles with falling congregations in many increasingly secular countries, against a conservative minority which says the change contradicts the Bible.

<http://news.msn.com/...>

*Comment: I suppose it had to come, women have been ordained as priests in the Church of England for 20*

*years. Now the vote has been "yes" for women bishops. With falling congregations the Church needs something to bring the people in, but not it seems the Word of God!*

*A conservative minority says the change contradicts the Bible, however the Archbishop of Canterbury is said to be delighted with the result. Well the Church of England's handbook is the Bible, so are the conservative minority, or the majority including the Archbishop Justin Welby right?*

*The Bible clearly tells us that women are not permitted to speak in church (1 Cor 14:34-35) also that the office of a bishop is the office for a man.*

*"This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*

*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;" 1 Tim 3:1-2*

*A female priest in a non-Christian religion is called a priestess. I don't think there is a word (yet) for a female bishop.*

### The Deteriorating Economic Outlook

The third and final estimate (until the annual GDP revisions) of first quarter 2014 real GDP growth released June 25 by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis was a 2.9% contraction in GDP growth, a 5.5 percentage point difference from the January forecast of 2.6% growth. Apparently, the first quarter contraction was dismissed by those speculating in equities as weather related, as stock averages rose with the bad news.

Stock market participants might be in for a second quarter surprise. The result of many years of changes made to the official inflation measures is a

substantially understated inflation rate. John Williams (www.shadowstats.com) provides inflation estimates based on previous official methodology when the Consumer Price Index still represented the cost of a constant standard of living. The 1.26% inflation measure used to deflate first quarter nominal GDP is unrealistic, as Americans who make purchases are aware.

A reasonable correction to the understated deflator gives a much higher first quarter contraction. The two main causes of inflation's understatement are the substitution principle introduced during the Clinton regime and the hedonic adjustments ongoing since the 1980s that redefine price rises as quality improvements. Correcting for excessive hedonic adjustments gives a first quarter real GDP contraction of 5%. Correcting for hedonic and substitution adjustments gives a first quarter real GDP contraction of 8.5%.

Realistic economic analysis is a rarity. The financial press echoes Wall Street, and Wall Street economists are paid to help sell financial instruments. Gloomy analysis is frowned upon. Even negative quarters are given a positive spin.

Years of understatement of inflation has resulted in years of overstatement of GDP growth. Thinking about the many years of misstatement, we realized that the typical computation in nominal terms of the ratio of debt to GDP is seriously misleading.

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

*Comment: The American people know that when they go to the shops it will cost them more and more, and that their income is being eroded by higher costs and taxation. The job market is also in a perilous state. Why aren't the public being given the true picture? Here is why.*

*Realistic economic analysis is a rarity. The financial press echoes Wall Street, and Wall Street economists are paid to help sell financial instruments. Gloomy analysis is frowned upon. Even negative quarters are given a positive spin.*

*In other words don't tell the people the truth but feed them error to try and make them feel better. But that doesn't work because the truth will set you free and error will lead to disaster eventually.*

*"Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying (disobedience) of Core (Korah- Num 16) Jude 11*

*The soon coming Government of God will be based on*

*Love and Truth. People will not be educated in error but in the Word of God which is Truth. People then will certainly come under the Government of God, but the truth will set them free.*

## 'A Third Intifada Would Be A Lot Worse'

"This is worse than the first and second Intifada. I just want the hatred, the bloodshed to stop."

Forty-six-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir is a close relative of the East Jerusalem couple whose 17-year-old son, also called Mohammed, was murdered in the early hours of Wednesday.

The tension between Palestinians and Jews since three Israeli teenagers, Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaar and Eyal Yifrah were abducted on June 12 had been reaching boiling point, until it spilled over on Wednesday into the streets of Shuafat, during violent clashes between Israeli security forces and young Palestinians.

Skip bins were overturned, tram stops and buildings were damaged and set alight and traffic lights smashed up.

By Thursday, things had calmed in Shuafat but the devastation from the day before remained.

Mohammed thinks the current tension and violence between Jews and Palestinians is worse than the first and second Intifadas.

Revenge, he says, is palpable. "Everyone wants revenge. I read the newspaper yesterday about thousands of Israeli soldiers wanting to take revenge. You can't believe the discriminatory declarations, it's crazy. I haven't seen this even in the first Intifada and second Intifada. I haven't heard this hatred, animosity and the changing of mentality before."

And what about the possibility of a third Intifada? He said most people don't ever want to see a third, as they're still scarred from the second, which ended in 2005.

However if there was third, he believes it would be a lot worse and everyone would get involved "even the moderates, people who've never been involved in such actions, on both sides. There's a lot of tension - the situation has changed, for the worse, not the better. People feel oppressed. Now all the spotlights are on the Israeli government."

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

*Comment: It is difficult to let your mind accept that*

*the terror and violence of this world can, and will, get worse. The Bible through is very clear in stating that the human heart is evil and desperately wicked, so perhaps we can understand that only revenge is in the hearts of those that have suffered through the violence of others.*

*A close relative of a 17 year old who had been murdered said, "Revenge is palpable, everyone wants revenge." The sad fact is that he was right. Revenge is certain to happen, it is obvious that it will be carried out. He went on to say, "I haven't seen this even in the first Intifada and second Intifada. I haven't heard this hatred, animosity and the changing of mentality before."*

*Intifada means an uprising, or literally a tremor, a shaking. It is a campaign which began in 1987 by Palestinian Arabs, to assert their national identity and resist the Israeli occupation of their territories.*

*Because of revengeful hearts a third Intifada would be worse, much worst to what has gone before. God's Word informs us that it doesn't have to be like this.*

*"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the LORD." Rom 12:17-19*

## Palestinian Jihadists Seek Unity With Isis

JERUSALEM – There is an attempt by jihadist organizations in the Gaza Strip to unite under the common banner of the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, according to informed Middle Eastern security officials.

Contacted by WND, Abu Saqer, one of the top leaders of Jihadiya Salafiya, which represents al-Qaida ideology in the Gaza Strip, confirmed the attempt to organize various jihad groups to fight Israel under the ISIS umbrella.

Saqer claimed there is also an effort to recruit jihadists to ISIS from inside the West Bank, particularly in the Hebron region.

While the exact nature of the ISIS presence in Gaza remains unclear, the group's flags were seen flying at a funeral this past Sunday for two terrorists eliminated in an Israel Air Force strike last Friday, Israel's daily Maariv newspaper reported. The ter-

rorists' coffins were reportedly also draped in ISIS flags.

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

*Comment: The Islamic state in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is plagued by internal divisions, and the jihadist are hardly united. The association would not make for good bedfellows!*

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3*

*How can groups that advocate terrorism and death to their perceived enemies ever be untied? Their reasoning is twisted and perverted, and not as God would have it to love your enemies.*

*Herbert W Armstrong likened this type of attitude to that of Satan and his demons.*

*"When Lucifer allowed thoughts of vanity, jealousy, envy, lust and greed, then resentment and rebellion, to enter and occupy his mind, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIS MIND! His mind became perverted, distorted, twisted!... Some demons are silly, like spoiled children. Some demons are crafty, sharp, shrewd, subtle. Some are belligerent, some are sassy, some are sullen and morose. But all are perverted, warped, twisted." (Mystery of the Ages. Page 93 Hardback)*

*Unity between terrorists groups may prevail for a while, but it will not last. Like the soon coming Beast Power the union will be as iron mixed with miry clay, short, but certainly not sweet. As one journalists pointed out, the savagery of Isis makes al-Qaida look tame.*

## The Global Economic Crisis: Causes and Devastating Consequences

In all major regions of the world, the economic recession is deep-seated, resulting in mass unemployment, the collapse of state social programs and the impoverishment of millions of people. The economic crisis is accompanied by a worldwide process of militarization, a "war without borders" led by the United States of America and its NATO allies. The conduct of the Pentagon's "long war" is intimately related to the restructuring of the global economy.

The meltdown of financial markets in 2008-2009 was the result of institutionalized fraud and financial manipulation. The "bank bailouts" were implemented on the instructions of Wall Street, leading to the largest transfer of money wealth in recorded history, while simultaneously creating an insur-

mountable public debt.

With the worldwide deterioration of living standards and plummeting consumer spending, the entire structure of international commodity trade is potentially in jeopardy. The payments system of money transactions is in disarray. Following the collapse of employment, the payment of wages is disrupted, which in turn triggers a downfall in expenditures on necessary consumer goods and services. This dramatic plunge in purchasing power backfires on the productive system, resulting in a string of layoffs, plant closures and bankruptcies. Exacerbated by the freeze on credit, the decline in consumer demand contributes to the demobilization of human and material resources.

This process of economic decline is cumulative. All categories of the labor force are affected. Payments of wages are no longer implemented, credit is disrupted and capital investments are at a standstill. Meanwhile, in Western countries, the "social safety net" inherited from the welfare state, which protects the unemployed during an economic downturn, is also in jeopardy.

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

*Comment: This report makes very depressing reading. It implies that the whole world is in financial trouble and that there is no way out! The world's financial troubles are moral in nature and the only way out is*

*for us to become more discriminating between right and wrong.*

*The report states quite clearly that the meltdown of financial markets in 2008-2009 was the result of institutionalised fraud and financial manipulation. Very little has changed since then, in fact things today are worse.*

*Knowing right from wrong and then doing what is right would put us on the right track. As far as our finances are concerned God tells us what we have done wrong and what we can do about it.*

*"Will a man rob God? Yet have ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. (WORLD)*

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal 3:8-10*

*The instruction is simple to understand but man is not a willing subject and likes to hang on to his money. Until we obey God's instruction the world's financial system will continue to meltdown.*

## The Midnight Cry Has Begun!

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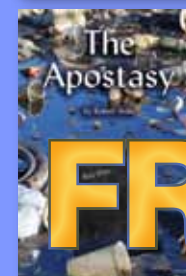
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