

# Elijah's Message

to the  
Philadelphia Church  
of God

Robert Ardis

# **Elijah's Message**

**to the  
Philadelphia Church of God**

**By  
Robert G. Ardis**



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It is published as an educational service

In the public interest by the

Church of God's Faithful

PO Box 279

Eutawville, SC 29048

First edition 1997

Second edition 1998

Revised third edition 2006

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# **Do you remember when you first received** ***Malachi's Message?***

**How many times did you toss it into the trashcan before you finally read it? Or did you take it to your minister to allow him to toss it into the trash?**

**Do you remember how happy you were when you did get around to reading it? Do you remember how thankful you were to receive new understanding and have many of your prayers answered? Do you remember how astounded you were when you read the truth about the “man of sin” ruling in the Church of God?**

**You will be equally astounded as you read the words in this presentation!**

**You are part of God's Elect. You are the Elect because you faithfully follow Jesus Christ, not just a man – and you prove all things and hold fast that which is good – as the ELIJAH taught us. Therefore, through yielding to God's Spirit and proving all things by the Word of God, you will not be deceived. So, I hope you do not just “trash” this message, but read, study, and prove it carefully. We may not have time to send you another copy!**

**There is another separation taking place, at this very time, in preparation for those Faithful Elect who will take part in the Greatest Work of God---ever! This is an updated type of *Malachi's Message* all over again!**

# Author's Statement:

*Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* (EM) was first mailed out in manuscript form in September of 1997, and then in January of 1998 it was published in booklet form. In both editions, I quoted the following statement by Gerald Flurry from page 2 of his booklet, *The Little Book*: "...the angel over the Laodicean era had the little book in his hand. One of his major responsibilities was to get the little book delivered." I made that quote on page 13 of EM and then exclaimed, "AND HE DID!"

But was I ever so wrong! What a mistake---and in our first booklet! I was completely in error with my exclamation. It was error because I had believed Mr. Flurry's confused explanation of Revelation 10.

The Angel of the Church of Laodicea, not the Mighty Angel of Revelation 10, "delivered" the message of the biblical BOOK OF MALACHI to Mr. Flurry. The vital message of Malachi concerned a corrupt ministry leading God's people astray--not the message of the real Little Book of Revelation 10. The message of Malachi was "delivered" to Mr. Flurry in late 1989. He wrote the message in his book titled *Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today* (MM). That message of Malachi has NOTHING to do with the Little Book of Revelation 10. Please request our free booklet *The Little Book...Unveiled At Last* for a complete explanation.

I needed to correct this obvious error as I begin this revision of Elijah's Message for the simple reason that I had unwittingly supported a totally wrong concept in our earlier editions---and it must be corrected. And, very importantly, in this revision we will give further details about Laodicea, Philadelphia, the Inner and Outer Courts, Candlesticks, and Churches---and it must be from an accurate perspective. I have left some of the original text untouched, although, it may be completely out of date. Other portions have been entirely re-written, and in some cases I use an "authors note" to bring in recent facts. Much more could have been added to this updated presentation, for example: Gerald Flurry's claim of being "That Prophet", which actually fulfills scriptures about "The Abomination Standing in the Holy Place", but that subject is covered in our booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*.

Thus, with the corrections and comments stated, here is the latest revised version of *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*.

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# **Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God**

## **Introduction:**

Herbert W. Armstrong fulfilled the office of the end time Elijah. If you do not believe or understand this fact, it will be very difficult for you to understand the material presented here. However, to a member or former member of the Philadelphia Church of God headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma, this presentation should be easily understood--though it will also be quite a shock!

Do you really understand the meaning of the Seven Golden Candlesticks presented in the books of Revelation and Zechariah? Do you really know what the "HOUSE" was that "Zerubbabel's hands finished"? Do you know where the headquarters of the Laodicean Church is located? Do you know who the Leader of the Laodicean church is? The answers to these vital questions will be made crystal clear as we proceed. Please realize the proper understanding of these questions may possibly affect your life or death, physically and spiritually!

Please notice as you read; the conclusions drawn here are from Bible interpretations and explanations by Mr. Armstrong, the Elijah.

## Chapter One:

# Church “Eras”

Gerald Flurry writes in his book, *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today* (MM), on page 54:

There is a significant key to understanding Zechariah chapters 3 and 4. **‘For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes...(Zech. 3:9)...They shall rejoice and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth (Zech. 4:10)’.** At the Ministerial Refreshing Program in September 1988, Dr. (Don) Ward taught that the “seven eyes” refer to the seven church eras. That is the *only* interpretation I ever heard at Ambassador College. I think most of God’s ministers agree on that subject.

Notice Mr. Flurry is accepting Dr. Ward’s interpretation of this. Is this a true interpretation? We will see as we go along. Mr. Flurry continues in MM by quoting Rev. 1:20.

**The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches”** (Rev. 1:20). The seven candlesticks (or lamps) are also the seven Church eras (see Rev. 2 and 3).

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, tells us plainly the SEVEN CANDLESTICKS **ARE** THE SEVEN CHURCHES. Mr. Flurry says they are ALSO the SEVEN CHURCH ERAS. He states on page 55 of MM:

The seven eras start at Christ’s first coming and end at his Second coming. God wants us to think in terms of CHURCH ERAS.

That last statement is Mr. Flurry’s opinion only and is not completely accurate. The word “era” does not appear in the Bible. But Mr. Armstrong frequently used that word to help us understand the historic progression of the Seven Churches from Pentecost 31AD to the present. It makes good sense to think this way when considering the historic and prophetic time of existence of each CHURCH phase or era. However since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, the end-time Elijah, THINKING IN TERMS OF CHURCH ERAS has caused problems in the understanding of PROPHECY. Remember Christ said the SEVEN CANDLESTICKS are the SEVEN CHURCHES, not necessarily CHURCH ERAS.

What is a CHURCH? The Elijah defines the meaning of “the Church” on page 207 of his final book *Mystery of the Ages* (MOA):

In the New Testament Greek, the Church is called the *ekklesia*, a Greek word meaning called-out-ones, an assembly, a congregation, a gathering, a group...

The SEVEN CANDLESTICKS ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES, that represents the CALLED-OUT- ONES from Pentecost 31 AD until the present! God called the end time Elijah to raise up the Philadelphia Candlestick/Church. Revelation 3:7 is addressing: “...unto the angel of the CHURCH in Philadelphia write...” (Rev. 3:7). When Mr. Armstrong died in January 1986, the Church did not die too! Nevertheless, Mr. Flurry states on pages 56 and 59 of MM:

Mr. Armstrong started and finished an ERA that “restored all things”. He started it and finished it before he died, with the power of God’s Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:6). His hands laid the foundation and his hands finished the house...the Philadelphia ERA... When he died the Philadelphia ERA was completed.

Now if you think on Mr. Flurry’s conclusion, there is something critically wrong! The SEVEN CANDLESTICKS ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES---NOT CHURCH ERAS. If the Philadelphia ERA ended at the death of Mr. Armstrong, did all of the CALLED-OUT-ONES of the Philadelphia CANDLESTICK (CHURCH) die too? Of course not! CANDLESTICKS do not always symbolize solitary ERAS. “Eras” can even overlap as history plainly reveals. Certainly it was a fact that Sardis and Philadelphia existed together in Mr. Armstrong’s early ministry---and possibly still do!

It will be explained a little later how preposterous Mr. Flurry’s claim is that the Philadelphia era ended when Mr. Armstrong died. There are plainly stated scriptures concerning the Philadelphia Candlestick/Church that were not completed during Herbert Armstrong’s ministry, therefore, they must yet be fulfilled.

Mr. Armstrong fulfilled his commission as the ELIJAH (Mal. 4:5-6) and “restored all things” related to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Matt.17:10). “The times of the restitution of all things” will be totally fulfilled by the One who bares the title of “That Prophet”---the Living Jesus Christ (see Acts 3:20-23)! The NEW TRUTH being given to the Church of God’s Faithful is a partial fulfillment of that prophecy! Request our booklet, ***Holding Fast...God’s Way!***

Herbert Armstrong preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to the entire world for a **witness** to all nations (Matt. 24:14). He “prepared the way” for Christ’s second coming (Mal.3:1). He “made ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17), and he “finished the house” (Zech. 4:9). Herbert Armstrong accomplished all of this as the servant of Jesus Christ through the Spirit of God---then he died. And, even though he died, the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK continued to burn brightly.

### **What is the “House”?**

Gerald Flurry says the “HOUSE” that Herbert W. Armstrong finished was the Philadelphia ERA. THAT IS NOT WHAT THE WORD OF GOD OR THE ELIJAH SAYS! Here is a MESSAGE from THE ELIJAH that is completely different from that taught by Gerald Flurry.

Again from MM on page 56:

Mr. Armstrong wrote a letter to the Church on March 19, 1981. Here is an excerpt from that letter (emphasis his):

Zerubbabel built the second temple to which Jesus came the first time. John, the Baptist, prepared the way before the FIRST coming. But WHO was to build the



SPIRITUAL temple to which Christ shall soon come the second time? Who was to prepare for His second Coming? Remember God does things in DUAL stages. As Zerubbabel built the first temple of MATERIAL stone, wood, and other materials, he was a forerunner or type of one through whom Christ would raise up or build the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE – His Church of our time, prior to the day of the Lord and Christ’s Second Coming. As John, The Baptist prepared the way, in the PHYSICAL wilderness of the Jordan River for the first coming of the HUMAN Jesus (both man and God), then coming to His MATERIAL temple, and to His PHYSICAL people Judah, ANNOUNCING the Kingdom of God to be set up more than 1900 years later, SO God would use a human messenger in the SPIRITUAL wilderness of 20<sup>th</sup> century religious confusion, to be a voice CRYING OUT the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, about the SPIRITUAL Christ, coming in SUPREME POWER and GLORY to his SPIRITUAL TEMPLE, to actually ESTABLISH that spiritual KINGDOM OF GOD...

Mr. Flurry wants us to believe Mr. Armstrong’s task, as the modern Zerubbabel, of “finishing the House” meant “finishing the Philadelphia ERA”. THE ELIJAH’S MESSAGE to the Leader of Laodicea is plain and clear---that which was completed was the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE---THE CHURCH---not an ERA.

This is VITALLY IMPORTANT to understand! Gerald Flurry wants you to believe the PHILADELPHIA ERA ended at Mr. Armstrong’s death---and the LAODICEAN ERA began. But realize this, THE PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK continued to BURN BRIGHTLY as the SPIRITUAL HOUSE---THE CHURCH OF GOD---even after Mr. Armstrong’s death. Revelation 11:3- 4 describes the TWO WITNESSES as the TWO OLIVE TREES and the TWO CANDLESTICKS. They symbolize the last TWO of the SEVEN CHURCHES! They represent PHILADELPHIA AND LAODICEA. These Two Candlesticks, these TWO CHURCHES, will be in existence until the last 3½ days before the First Resurrection and the Visible Return of the Mighty Christ.

The Philadelphia Candlestick continued “burning” after Mr. Armstrong died! It was the magnificent Worldwide Church of God, the SPIRITUAL HOUSE---THE CHURCH OF GOD. The LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK had not been “lit” yet!

When---at what time did the “lighting” of the LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK TAKE PLACE? We will explain this conclusively later.

But at this point, please remember, Mr. Flurry wants you to believe the “HOUSE” that was finished by Zerubbabel’s hands was the Philadelphia ERA, NOT the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE as Mr. Armstrong explained. Gerald Flurry struggles with his misinterpretation in an attempt to convince those who read MM that the “HOUSE” that was built was the Philadelphia ERA. He ignores the fact of the message from ELIJAH that the “HOUSE” IS the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE!

From page 59 of MM, here quoted are Mr. Flurry’s words:

The word “house” can mean an “inner part” – or only a part of something greater. It’s a name given to human bodies as being frail and transitory (Job 4:19). The word is used as the “house of the spider” (Job 8:14). It’s applied to wealth, property and all that belongs to a family. All uses of the word are very temporary (like a Church era). The word *temple* is used in a more

permanent way or to indicate a very long period of time. For example, the word “temple” often applies to all seven church eras. It also applies to ETERNAL LIFE.

Mr. Flurry is desperately trying to change the plain truth of the meaning of “house” (Strong’s #1004) in Zech. 4:9 from “SPIRITUAL TEMPLE”, as the Elijah uses, to “CHURCH ERA”.

The actual meaning of “house” is clearly understood from God’s Word exactly as Mr. Armstrong explained, in the following scriptures, some paraphrased.

I Chronicles 29:1–3: Three times here King David tells how he prepared for the construction of the first temple to be built by his son, Solomon. David calls it the HOUSE (#1004) of God.

II Chronicles Chapters 1–7 describes in more than 40 places the building of the Temple; calling it the HOUSE (#1004) of God.

Haggai 2:3 asks: **“Who is left among you that saw this HOUSE (#1004) in her first glory, (plainly discussing the first Temple) and how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?”** Zerubbabel’s Temple was so much smaller and less ornate than Solomon’s Temple that some became discouraged at seeing it. Verse 9 brings out the SPIRITUAL application, as Mr. Armstrong fully understood: **“The glory of this latter HOUSE (#1004) shall be greater than the first...”**

Psalms 69:9: **“For the zeal of thine HOUSE (#1004) has eaten me up.”**

Observe how God preserves the inspired meaning of “House” as this scripture also is written in the New Testament translated into the Greek language.

John 2:16-17: **“And (Jesus) said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not my Father’s HOUSE a house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it is written, The zeal of thine HOUSE (Strong’s #3624 in the New Testament, same as #1004 in the Old Testament) has eaten me up.”**

I Peter 2:5: **“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual HOUSE (#3624), an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”** Compare Matthew 23:35 and Luke 11:51 where “temple” (#3485) and “house” (#3624) mean the same.

Ephesians 2:20: **“And are built upon the foundation of the Apostles (Mr. Armstrong was an apostle) and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy temple (Strong’s #3485) in the Lord. In whom you are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.”**

Notice in the scriptures above that Jesus, Peter, Luke, and Paul use either “house” or “temple” to mean the same thing; exactly as Herbert Armstrong did.

I Corinthians 6:19: “**What, know you not that your body is the temple (#3485) of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?”**

Revelation 11:1: “**And there was given me a reed like unto a rod and the angel stood, saying, Rise and measure the temple (#3485) of God and the altar and them that worship therein.**”

I think it should be obvious that “house” and “temple” in the above scriptures refer to the Spiritual Temple not a Church era. But to get even more specific, the definitions of two Greek words that are rendered “temple” in the New Testament should be interjected here. As you can see above in Ephesians 2:20, I Corinthians 6:19, and Revelation 11:1, “**temple**” is the Greek word *naos* defined from Strong’s as:

**G3485, ναός, naos,**

*nah-os'*

From a primary word **ναίω** naio<sup>-</sup> (to  *dwell*); a *fane, shrine, temple*: - shrine, temple. Compare G2411.

**G2411, ἱερόν, hieron,**

*hee-er-on'*

Neuter of G2413; a *sacred* place, that is, the entire precincts (**whereas G3485 denotes the central sanctuary itself**) of the *Temple* (at Jerusalem or elsewhere): - temple.

It is not recorded that Jesus, Himself, ever entered into the *naos*, the Inner Court, the central sanctuary of Herod’s Temple. All of His activities concerning the “temple” were in the *heiron*, the Outer Court, the entire precincts of the sprawling temple complex.

There are 40 verses in the New Testament where “temple” is translated from #3485 concerning the Inner Court and 67 places where #2411 pictures the overall Outer Court. Observe the following scriptures and how the word “temple” is used in the embedded Strong’s numbers from the Rick Meyer *e-Sword* Bible program:

First look at #3485.

- 1) Matthew 23:35: That<sup>3704</sup> upon<sup>1909</sup> you<sup>5209</sup> may come<sup>2064</sup> all<sup>3956</sup> the righteous<sup>1342</sup> blood<sup>129</sup> shed<sup>1632</sup> upon<sup>1909</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> earth,<sup>1093</sup> from<sup>575</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> blood<sup>129</sup> of righteous<sup>1342</sup> Abel<sup>6</sup> unto<sup>2193</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> blood<sup>129</sup> of Zechariah<sup>2197</sup> son<sup>5207</sup> of Barachias,<sup>914</sup> whom<sup>3739</sup> ye slew<sup>5407</sup> between<sup>3342</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**<sup>3485</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> altar.<sup>2379</sup>
- 2) Matthew 27:5: And<sup>2532</sup> he cast down<sup>4496</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> pieces of silver<sup>694</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**<sup>3485</sup> and departed,<sup>402</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> went<sup>565</sup> and hanged<sup>519</sup> himself.
- 3) Mark 15:38: And<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> veil<sup>2665</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**<sup>3485</sup> was rent<sup>4977</sup> in<sup>1519</sup> twain<sup>1417</sup> from<sup>575</sup> the top<sup>509</sup> to<sup>2193</sup> the bottom.<sup>2736</sup>

- 4) Luke 1:9: According<sup>2596</sup> to the<sup>3588</sup> custom<sup>1485</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> priest's office,<sup>2405</sup> his lot was<sup>2975</sup> to burn incense<sup>2370</sup> when he went<sup>1525</sup> into<sup>1519</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**<sup>3485</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> Lord.<sup>2962</sup>
- 5) Luke 1:21: And<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> people<sup>2992</sup> waited for<sup>2258, 4328</sup> Zacharias,<sup>2197</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> marveled<sup>2296</sup> that he<sup>846</sup> tarried so long<sup>5549</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**.<sup>3485</sup>

Now, observe how #2411 is used.

- 6) Matthew 21:12: And<sup>2532</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> went<sup>1525</sup> into<sup>1519</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**<sup>2411</sup> of God,<sup>2316</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> cast out<sup>1544</sup> all<sup>3956</sup> them that sold<sup>4453</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> bought<sup>59</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**,<sup>2411</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> overthrew<sup>2690</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> tables<sup>5132</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> moneychangers,<sup>2855</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> seats<sup>2515</sup> of them that sold<sup>4453</sup> doves,<sup>4058</sup>
- 7) Matthew 21:14: And<sup>2532</sup> the blind<sup>5185</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the lame<sup>5560</sup> came<sup>4334</sup> to him<sup>846</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**;<sup>2411</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> he healed<sup>2323</sup> them.<sup>846</sup>
- 8) Matthew 24:1: And<sup>2532</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> went out,<sup>1831</sup> and departed<sup>4198</sup> from<sup>575</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**.<sup>2411</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> his<sup>846</sup> disciples<sup>3101</sup> came<sup>4334</sup> to him for to show<sup>1925</sup> him<sup>846</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> buildings<sup>3619</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**.<sup>2411</sup>
- 9) John 18:20: Jesus<sup>2424</sup> answered<sup>611</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> I<sup>1473</sup> spake<sup>2980</sup> openly<sup>3954</sup> to the<sup>3588</sup> world,<sup>2889</sup> I<sup>1473</sup> ever<sup>3842</sup> taught<sup>1321</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> synagogue,<sup>4864</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> **temple**,<sup>2411</sup> whither<sup>3699</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Jews<sup>2453</sup> always<sup>3842</sup> resort,<sup>4905</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> secret<sup>2927</sup> have I said<sup>2980</sup> nothing.<sup>3752</sup>

Notice Matthew 23:35: number (1) in the scriptures listed above. Plainly it is seen that the “temple” and the “altar” are two different areas of the Inner Court. Zechariah was killed between the *temple and the altar*.

The instructions are to MEASURE the INNER COURT but not to measure the OUTER COURT. Luke 1:9 and 21, listed above as scriptures (4) and (5), show Zecharias, the husband of Elizabeth, serving inside the **temple** (#3485) and the people on the outside where the **altar** was located, yet still within the Inner Court.

Revelation 3:12 states this wonderful Truth: “**Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple (#3485) of my God...**”

## The Spiritual Temple

The message from Elijah, through the understanding of the above scriptures, and many more, is that Herbert W. Armstrong was used to FINISH the building of the **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE**! That is what he said, and that is what the Word of God means! Please meditate upon the fact, which is plainly obvious, that ALL of the Spiritual Building Blocks---*the Lively Stones*---of the Temple had been called and chosen to be able to FINISH the Temple!

When Herbert Armstrong died **NO ONE ELSE** would be called by God in this Church age **EXCEPT** those of the “**streets and lanes of the city**” and those in the “**highways and the hedges**”. They are to **replace** those who received their calling as a part of the **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE** but have contemptuously thrown away their crowns! Please read this paragraph again. Be certain you understand what is being stated!

Read the entire frightening statement by our Lord dealing with the Replacements in Luke 14:14-24 copied here:

**So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

Revelation 3:11 is also a warning to “hold fast that we do not lose our precious crown”: **“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”**

Verse 17 of Luke 14 says, **“All things are now ready...”** The Gospel has been preached around the world for a witness unto all nations (Matthew 24:14)! And also the Day of the Lord has come, believe it or not! Write for our free booklet: ***The Day of the Lord.***

Picture the magnificence of the PHYSICAL buildings and grounds, the publishing, printing, and educational facilities of the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD immediately before the death of the end-time Elijah. Remember, all of us were called either directly or indirectly through the ministry of Herbert W. Armstrong! Now consider all of us as the "lively stones", along with those Saints of the Old Testament and New Testament times--there you have the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE!

And God says the TEMPLE must be measured!

God called and drew a PEOPLE for His SPIRITUAL TEMPLE. Our Father called and drew US into the Body of Jesus Christ, the Church of God. We have all been BEGOTTEN BY THE FATHER. The SPIRITUAL TEMPLE had been finished and READY TO BE MEASURED AT THIS TIME--OR IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION (see Rev.11:1 again). The House of God, composed of those who have been made ready; a people prepared for the Lord, the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE could now be MEASURED!

Consider carefully---THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE COULD NOT BE MEASURED UNTIL IT WAS FINISHED WITH ALL OF THE LIVING STONES CALLED AND FITLY PUT TOGETHER! Doesn't that make sense?

Read Ephesians 2:20-22 again:

**And are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy TEMPLE (Strong's #3485) in the Lord. In whom you are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.**

Therefore, please understand: the called-out-ones are the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE and ARE BEING MEASURED---and **REPLACEMENTS**, of necessity, are being added in!

Through his mistaken belief that the Philadelphia era ended and the Laodicean era began at the death of Mr. Armstrong, Gerald Flurry teaches a very confused meaning of the “house” or “temple” of Zech 4:9. The Laodicean Candlestick was not lit UNTIL FOUR YEARS AFTER Mr. Armstrong's death!

## The Synagogue of Satan

At the death of Herbert Armstrong, the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD made up the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE represented by the Philadelphia Candlestick. The faithful Church Members were right there with Jesus Christ within the TEMPLE! The Mighty Christ began conducting a tremendously important test. There were some that were not faithful but were “men-followers”! These caused Mr. Armstrong much concern. He had said on numerous occasions, “Some of you just don’t get it”. Those who didn’t “get it” were the part of the Church he worried about because of their laid-back, liberal attitude toward the Truth of God’s Word. They were already leaving the Inner Court and drifting towards the Outer Court.

Also, in the Outer Court, as far away from Christ as they could get, was the Synagogue of Satan! Revelation 3:9 declares: **“Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, 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.”**

Down through history there have been those who were called of God but would not faithfully follow Jesus Christ. They claimed to be “Christians”, yet by their actions were deceived followers of Satan. Christ has only one True Church, but even in the first and second centuries AD, false ministers, such as Diotrephes (see III John: 9-10 and II Peter 1:2, etc.) began to establish their own churches. Christ sent a warning to the Smyrna Church in Revelation 2:8-9: **“And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”**

The Synagogue of Satan is also referred to in II Thess. 2:7 as the “Mystery of Iniquity”. When Mr. Armstrong was taken away by his death, the leader of the “Mystery of Iniquity”, the “man of sin” began to rule in the Church of God causing the “falling away from Truth”. Those who accepted the false doctrines forced upon them by the “man of sin”, left the Inner Court and plunged into the Outer Court.

Gerald Flurry wrote this concerning the “Synagogue of Satan”:

God inspired the word synagogue to be used in Revelation 3:9 because they are spiritual Jews, but they have been led astray by Satan. There is still hope for them (Rev.3:9). They have turned away from God and their only hope is for God to severely correct them. They are going into the Great Tribulation unless they repent soon. The word *synagogue* implies they are God’s people. Even Lange’s Commentary says Revelation 3:9 is discussing God’s Church. The good news is, Satan hasn’t completely conquered them, as he has the religions of this world. The context tells us there are two synagogues, or two of God’s Churches. One is led by God, the other by Satan. Just because we belong to a group of people doesn’t mean we are in God’s true Church. God sees the situation as it is and labels it accordingly.” (Philadelphia Trumpet, Feb. 1993.)

The "Synagogue of Satan" or the "Mystery of Iniquity" was in existence and under Satan’s influence at the death of Herbert Armstrong. This is where those whom Mr. Armstrong described as “vultures waiting on him to die” were secretly located. It appears

that Satan was cast out of heaven at the time of Mr. Armstrong's death (Rev. 12:10) as seen in the violent attack that quickly came upon the Church. Still the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK BURNED in the INNER COURT. Unfortunately, at an accelerated rate, Philadelphians were leaving Jesus Christ and following that group of terribly misguided men in the LEADERSHIP positions of the WCG.

The Synagogue of Satan was active then and is still very active as of late 2006. Today it is more polite to say "Churches of God", but to be correct in that term it should be stated "churches of god", little "c" and little "g"! There is only one True Church of God! It is not made up of hundreds of split and splintered, disagreeing and contentious churches as is seen today. Satan is back to his old tactics that have worked in the past to deceive! Once again, to deceive and confuse, he has an old Mother Church and her Protestant Daughters---described in the Bible as the "synagogue of Satan"!

Therefore AN IMPORTANT TEST WAS TO BEGIN!

The Laodicean Candlestick was lit, and Gerald Flurry was chosen as its Leader. Jesus Christ used him in warning the Church of what was occurring right before our eyes!

There still remained a number of FAITHFUL Philadelphians who were very close to Christ in the Temple. JESUS CHRIST was THEIR LEADER, and they waited in faith for Christ to reveal to them what they should do!

For FOUR YEARS, from 1986 to 1990, as precious doctrines restored by God's Elijah were being cast aside for doctrines of the world, God's INNER COURT cried aloud. They were beseeching God to do something. Many even in the OUTER COURT could perceive things were going horribly wrong. They were praying also, but they welcomed many of the CHANGES, which were coming fast and furious. Satan was doing a powerful work--- God was allowing it.

### **The Two Golden Candlesticks**

The Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9) shows that God allowed FOUR YEARS to pass before a great step was taken in His overall PLAN. The SEVENTH CANDLESTICK, LAODICEA, WAS READY TO BE LIT.

Here are Gerald Flurry's own words, from his, *The Little Book* booklet, explaining how this took place. (Emphasis mine.)

**(Note: This is the quote I made reference to in the Author's Statement at the beginning of this booklet.)**

Lange's Commentary states that Revelation 10 and 11 are one vision. A close study reveals that to be true. The entire vision revolves around the little book. It is a time when there is "no more delay" (Rev. 10:6, Revised Standard Version). The little book is sweet as honey, but bitter in the belly. It has to do with prophecy (vv. 10-11). There should be no break between chapters 10 and 11. Revelation 11:1-2 discusses a split in God's own end-time Church. Verse 2 and 3 discuss the Great Tribulation (more about this later) and the two witnesses (TWO CANDLESTICKS) who prophesy at that time. And in verse 15, we see Christ reigning on the earth forever and ever. The vision continues through verse 19. This is all one vision to be fulfilled in the very END of the END TIME. The source of the Revelation was not John. It was not even Jesus Christ. It came from God the Father...The Father gave it to Christ. So it

comes from the very highest level. There was an angel assigned to each of the seven church eras. 'The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches' (Rev. 1:20). THE ANGEL OVER THE LAODICEAN ERA HAD THE LITTLE BOOK IN HIS HAND. ONE OF HIS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES WAS TO GET THE LITTLE BOOK DELIVERED."

In our original booklet I then exclaimed, "**AND HE DID!**" But was I ever so wrong! What a mistake! And in our first publication. I was completely in error with my exclamation. It was wrong because I had believed Mr. Flurry's confused explanation of Revelation 10.

Now, it is very obvious that there are TWO ANGELS involved in Revelation 10! The Mighty Angel has the Little Book open in His hand. Observe this in verses 5-7:

**And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware 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: (the Mighty Angel continues by revealing the Work of the Laodicean Angel) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

The Seventh Church Angel is the Laodicean Angel who gave the Message of Malachi to the Leader (high priest) of Laodicea, Gerald Flurry---not the message of the Little Book! Mr. Flurry does not understand who the Mighty Angel of Revelation 10 symbolizes nor what the Little Book represents. Revelation 10 and 11 are completely misinterpreted by Gerald Flurry. Our booklet, *The Little Book Unveiled at Last* and our new article entitled, *The Seventh Trumpet Angel or the Seventh Church Angel...Which?* thoroughly explains Revelation 10 and 11.

THE LAODICEAN ANGEL DELIVERED THE MESSAGE OF MALACHI TO GERALD FLURRY. THE LAODICEAN LAMP WAS LIT AND GERALD FLURRY WAS CHOSEN THE LEADER OF THE SEVENTH CANDLESTICK---LAODICEA!

The fundamental TRUTH of *Malachi's Message* was the revealing of the "man of sin" and a stern WARNING to the WCG and the daughter churches of their wholesale turning from the Law of God. The INNER COURT was to be MEASURED although, some had already proven to God that Jesus Christ was their LEADER---they would become **Pillars** in the Temple.

The LIGHT OF THE SEVENTH CANDLESTICK attracted other faithful of the Philadelphian Candlestick who gratefully recognized the Truth of II Thessalonians 2 and the revealing of the "man of sin". An increasing number heeded the warning and wanted to help. Soon the Two Candlesticks were working together under the corporate name PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD. Luke 17:35 states, "**Two women (CHURCHES) will be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**" Working together, these two "women" as the PCG, began to influence some of those who as "humble sheep" had



meekly accepted some of the false doctrine of the WCG, to repent and come back into the INNER COURT.

In seven years, from January of 1990 to January of 1997, those of the OUTER COURT who had the spiritual “ears to hear” had been warned EXCEPT FOR THE TRUTH YOU ARE READING NOW. The great majority of those remaining in the Outer Court, as the split and splintered daughter “churches of god” or synagogue of Satan, as well as the WCG mother-church and the “man of sin”, had been labeled as LAODICEANS by Gerald Flurry and the PCG.

However, by mid 1997 the truth about Laodicea began to be understood! The headquarters of **Laodicea** is Edmond, Oklahoma and its physical leader and high priest is Gerald Flurry! He is perfectly described in Rev. 3:14-19 by the “...**faithful and true witness**”. Verses 15-17 read, “**I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would you were cold or hot** [Mr. Flurry became cold to the Work of God, but hot for his own vain work]; **so because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot** (compromising with God’s Word), **I will spew you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich and increased with goods** [from \$80.00 in the beginning to over \$6 million annual income with valuable properties in just seven years], **and have need of nothing** [Mr. Flurry refuses to listen to warnings, assuming all he does is right and good. He exulted at the 2006 ministers’ conference, “We have it all, we have it all!], **and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**”

Mr. Flurry has taken his sputtering candlestick and turned his back on the **Temple** (see Ezekiel 8:16). Most of the PCG has blindly and fearfully followed him instead of staying with the TRUE HEAD OF THE CHURCH---JESUS CHRIST. The PCG was the Laodicean Work of Jesus Christ! What a tremendous honor to be THE representative of a CHURCH (ERA). However, because Mr. Flurry refuses to recognize who he is, the message of the Laodicean Angel has become twisted and distorted. For seven years he had striven for most of the Elijah’s God-given doctrines and the Philadelphia standards.

Nevertheless, by early 1997 Gerald Flurry left his commission to do his own futile work! His “new commission” was to take *Mystery of the Ages* to the “largest audience possible”---or in other words take the “Gospel to the World”. He was well aware that Herbert W. Armstrong had successfully accomplished that task already. As he roared off-track, things became worse. He succumbed to his own vanity and pride through the deceitfulness of Satan and took to himself a title belonging only to Jesus Christ! Gerald Flurry began boastfully claiming he is “THAT PROPHET”! He who revealed to us “**the man of sin sitting in the Temple of God**”, has, himself, turned his back upon the Temple of God---and has become the “**abomination standing in the Holy Place**”! (Request our free booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*.)

### **Abomination in the Inner Court**

Beginning in the Book of Ezekiel chapter 8, the prophet is given a vision of events in the **Inner Court** immediately before the Great Tribulation. Notice carefully, this is in the **Inner Court**! Verses 16-17 describes Gerald Flurry’s departure from the Holy Place in the Temple:

**And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.**

**Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations, which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.**

Again, read Revelation 11:1-2 **“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod and the angel stood, saying, Rise and measure the temple (#3485) of God and the altar and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles...”** The instructions are to MEASURE the INNER COURT but not to measure the OUTER COURT. The command is to measure 1) the temple, 2) the altar, and 3) the people that worship therein, all being a part of the **Inner Court**. These three vital parts of the Inner Court must be measured---NOW! Who these three parts of the Inner Court represent and how they will be measured will be thoroughly explained a little later in this presentation.

## Chapter Two:

# TEST YOUR LEADERS

In December of 1989, Gerald Flurry was commissioned by Jesus Christ as The Leader of the Laodicean CHURCH and as His PROPHET to bring a stern warning to the Church of God. **“Surely, the Lord God will do nothing but he reveals his secrets unto his servants the prophets”** (Amos 3:7). Christ revealed to Mr. Flurry how God’s own Church, the Worldwide Church of God, was departing from the restored truths it had been taught by the END-TIME ELIJAH, HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG. The ministry and most of the membership of the WCG had wandered off into the OUTER COURT. They were to be admonished to HOLD FAST to the PHILADELPHIA standard, in which they had been instructed, and to follow Jesus Christ instead of an organization of misguided men. This organization was labeled in the Bible as the “Synagogue of Satan” and had gained control of the Church. This WARNING was initially given in the pages of Mr. Flurry’s book, *Malachi’s Message to God’s Church Today*.

Those who LOVED GOD’S TRUTH were desperately HOLDING FAST deep within the INNER COURT of the Spiritual Temple. They were prayerfully beseeching God to get the CHURCH back on track as the WCG began to change more and more of the basic doctrines upon which it had been founded. Prophecy began to be ridiculed. Mr. Armstrong’s major books were discontinued. Physical sin and anointing for healing was disdained. Then the adoption of the “born-again” doctrine and the initial teaching of the “trinity” doctrine caused great concern. These changes were very subtle at first, recognizable to only those FAITHFUL ELECT who could NOT be deceived---because they loved the truth and trembled at God’s word (II Thess. 2:10 and Isa. 66:2). *Malachi’s Message* was the answer to those prayers. It was first sent out on the fourth anniversary of the death of Mr. Armstrong, January 1990. As that mailing went out, responses began to come from brethren who were followers of JESUS CHRIST. The PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK STILL BURNED BRIGHTLY IN THE INNER COURT.

The SEVENTH CANDLESTICK, LAODICEA, was “ignited” and also began to burn in the INNER COURT along with the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK under the incorporated name, PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD (PCG). Gerald Flurry and John Amos had been recently disfellowshipped and fired by Joseph Tkach Jr. Mr. Tkach had been informed that *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God* had been privately taught to a few members of Mr. Flurry’s congregation, thus he and Mr. Amos were ordered to come to Pasadena where they were summarily questioned and fired from the WCG ministry. At that precise moment, it appears, the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was removed from the leadership in Pasadena and given to John Amos and the LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry. The PCG was established and became incorporated in December of 1989 John Amos was a kind and loving minister to those who knew him. He was also a stabilizing influence to Gerald Flurry. These two “Candlesticks” worked together for 3 ½ years as the PCG until John Amos died in 1993. I never met John Amos. He was too ill to attend the PCG ministerial conference in 1993 when I was in attendance. He died shortly afterwards. The PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was passed on to another who was completely unaware of that which Christ had in mind.

For the first seven years, Mr. Flurry and the PCG did a powerful work under the direction of God's Spirit (Zech. 4:6) The Worldwide Church and its daughter branches of the Outer Court have been warned, whether they recognize it or not. Gerald Flurry, the physical head of the PCG, as God's Prophet and the WATCHMAN of Israel, had cried aloud through *The Trumpet Magazine* and *Key of David* telecast. He had mightily proclaimed the WARNING to get back to "the truth once delivered" (Jude 3). He had, for seven years, adhered diligently to the teachings of HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG. He made plain that Mr. Armstrong was God's Apostle who fulfilled the office of the end-time ELIJAH. The Philadelphia Church of God teaches that Mr. Armstrong was the Elijah. Most of the other major churches that have come out of the WCG do not teach that important fact, though a few of the smaller groups do.

The fourth chapter of *Malachi's Message* is entitled "Following Elijah". On pages 52 and 53 Mr. Flurry writes:

The one predominant issue of God's people in the end time revolves around a modern-day Elijah. He restored all things (Matt. 17:10-11). If we know God, the Bible, and where God's Church is, then it is easy to find this Elijah.

He was prophesied to appear just before Christ's Second Coming. God would use him to build the physical and spiritual family (Mal. 4:5-6).

In this same chapter, Mr. Flurry shows that Mr. Armstrong, as the Elijah, would also fulfill the spiritual role of Zerubbabel who was assigned the building of the second Temple (Zech. 4:9). Zerubbabel built *physically*, but Mr. Armstrong was to build *spiritually*. I am REPEATING some of this to make another point.

Mr. Flurry concludes chapter four with this paragraph:

Zerubbabel had the "plummet" or "plumb-bob" – a measuring device which is used to test any vertical structure for deviation of a true line. This symbolized Zerubbabel testing the accuracy of truth or departure from previously revealed truth. If we aren't testing our truth very precisely and carefully, we can easily depart into a *Laodicean* attitude. If we don't look to HWA's method of building, we face disaster in the future.

REMEMBER THAT STATEMENT! Gerald Flurry HAS departed from the method of building as taught by Herbert Armstrong, and he and the PCG ARE facing disaster. This is the POINT that will be made as we continue.

Mr. Flurry followed this advice for nearly seven years. Now, as Laodicea was prophesied to do, he has left that sage advice and is deviating from the straight line of the spiritual "plumb-bob" as he has been instructed to build. These course changes, so evidently off line, seemed unimportant. That is Satan's deceptive way. Once again, only the very FAITHFUL ELECT will understand and not be deceived. If YOU are one of the FAITHFUL you will continue reading and "PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD" (I Thess. 5:21) and stay close to Christ in the Inner Court.

### **Remember**

The greatest gifts God gives man are his calling, repentance, forgiveness of his sins through Christ's sacrifice, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit. We receive the begetal of God-Life and the mind of Jesus Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). We

then become the called and chosen and must endure to be the FAITHFUL OF GOD. What magnificent blessings! Along with these blessings, however, comes a tremendous responsibility. Revelation 17:14 informs us that we are not only *called* and *chosen*, but we must also be FAITHFUL. We must cling to the truth that has been revealed to us through God's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong. We must not just look to a man or to an organization---a true Christian is one who ultimately follows Christ, NOT just a MAN. Mr. Armstrong cried aloud, "Don't believe me or any man, believe the Bible!"

God tells us that we must continually test our leaders, or we can be easily deceived. **"For there shall arise FALSE CHRIST'S and FALSE PROPHETS, and shall shew great signs and wonders; in so much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"** Matthew 24:24.

In MM, Gerald Flurry makes the following statements on pages 8-10 (this is a lengthy quote) under the heading of **GOD COMMANDS – TEST YOUR LEADERS:**

**Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and THOU HAST TRIED THEM WHICH SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES, AND ARE NOT, AND HAST FOUND THEM LIARS' (Rev. 2:1-2). SOME MEN WERE SAYING THEY WERE APOSTLES AND THEY WERE NOT. GOD THEN PRAISED THE EPHESUS CHURCH FOR DETECTING THIS ERROR.** Those men were not apostles in a worldly church. God wouldn't have praised them for detecting false apostles of the world. These false apostles were IN God's church – or somehow affiliated with it!

God said, **'you have tried them.'** *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* defines the word *tried* this way: 'to try, make trial of, test: for the purpose of ascertaining his quality.' Does that sound like we should just go along with the church leadership? God says you either put them to the test or you can easily be deceived. Our focus must NOT be on an organization or an era, but on the great Christ who is in the midst of those eras. **'And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle' (Rev. 1:12-13).** The emphasis is not on the seven candlesticks or eras – the emphasis is on Christ who is in the midst of all the seven eras – Christ is right in the middle. But He will allow His followers to go astray. Then, He usually has to start a new era – or work with those who remain loyal to Him.

Let's continue the description of Christ: **'His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength' (Rev. 1:14-16).** This great Being is described to INTRODUCE the seven eras of Revelation 2 and 3. If we let Christ and His Work slide from the middle of the picture, all we have left are

DECEIVED Churches. SO THE EMPHASIS IS NOT ON BEING 'IN THE CHURCH,' BUT FOLLOWING THIS GREAT GOD! When John saw Christ in this vision, he '**fell at his feet as dead**' (v.17). Unless this same God leads the Church, we are in serious trouble, and if Christ isn't leading the Church, WE SHOULD NOT FOLLOW!

If the Ephesus Church members, in a right attitude, tried those who said they were apostles, shouldn't you? This was the same Ephesus Church, which was discussed in III John 9-10. Was Diotrephes one of those false apostles? How did he get all those people to follow him and cast John's followers out of the Church? How much authority did he have? It's difficult to say--John's followers, who stood by John and Christ, were 'cast out'. The point is, John discerned Diotrephes' evil motives and rebuked him.

I WOULD NEVER SUGGEST ANYONE TRY TO OVERTHROW MR. TKACH. As David said, we can't lift our hand against the Lord's anointed. I wouldn't DARE try to do that. BUT NEITHER WOULD I FOLLOW MR. TKACH OR ANY OTHER LEADER INTO THE TRIBULATION OR THE LAKE OF FIRE!

Paul said, '**be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ**' (I Cor. 11:1). Paul said THE LEADER is to follow Christ. Follow a man ONLY as he follows Christ. We can't do that unless we are testing and proving all things. It's very biblical to do so. '**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD: because many false prophets are gone out into the world**' (I John 4:1). John pleaded with God's '**beloved**' people to '**try the spirits.**' Why? Because there are many false prophets and false leaders. Often these deceivers were in God's Church. We must always test our leaders with God's word. That certainly includes me. You MUST PROVE what I say in this book!

Individuals go astray. Churches go astray. CHRIST NEVER GOES ASTRAY!

A man is not the trunk of the tree. An organization is not the trunk of the tree. God's word is the trunk of the tree. And what Christ established through Mr. Armstrong for over 50 years is a big part of the tree trunk.

(End of quotation.)

TREMENDOUS ADVICE Mr. Flurry just as the Elijah always taught. Yet, does Gerald Flurry follow his own advice and the Elijah's God-inspired guidance? Under Mr. Flurry's leadership, the Philadelphia Church of God has GONE WOEFULLY ASTRAY---as will be revealed as we continue.

## Chapter Three:

# God's Government Abused

God's Elijah states in *Mystery of the Ages* on pages 48-50 under the heading: GOD-AUTHOR OF GOVERNMENT:

THE VERY FACT OF LAW PRESUPPOSES GOVERNMENT...GOD'S LAW IS SPIRITUAL AND CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE SIMPLE BUT ALL INCLUSIVE WORD--LOVE. HIS LAW FOR THE GUIDANCE OF HUMAN CONDUCT IS SUBDIVIDED INTO THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS, LOVE TOWARD GOD AND LOVE TOWARD NEIGHBOR. THESE IN TURN ARE SUBDIVIDED INTO THE 10 COMMANDMENTS...

BEAR IN MIND THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD IS BASED ON THE LAW OF GOD, WHICH IS THE WAY OF LIFE OF OUT FLOWING LOVE, COOPERATION, CONCERN FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED, AND THIS LAW OF GOD PRODUCES PEACE, HAPPINESS, COOPERATION THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

This is one of many statements concerning the GOVERNMENT OF GOD by Mr. Armstrong. "God's Government is everything," the Elijah emphasizes. But, if it is misused or misapplied, it becomes just another oppressive government of men over men. Those in leadership positions must demonstrate true CONCERN FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED.

Many of God's ELECT have been greatly abused by some directly under Mr. Flurry. Many have been DISFELLOWSHIPED based on false accusations or lies. Again, I John 4:1 states we are to "try the spirits". We know Satan is the "ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN" (Rev.12:10). He is also "THE FATHER OF LIES" (John 8:44). As we "try the spirits", what spirit would lead a man in a Regional Director's capacity to falsely accuse God's people to Mr. Flurry?

ONE REGIONAL DIRECTOR AT THE 1996 PCG MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BOASTED THAT HE HAD DISFELLOWSHIPED OR SUSPENDED 173 MEMBERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD [in less than a four year period]! Elaborating further this modern-day Diotrephes exclaimed, "Now we have it like God wants it!" IS THAT WHAT OUR FATHER, THE GOD OF LOVE, REALLY WANTS? Is that CONCERN FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED AS THE ELIJAH INSTRUCTS?

This has not happened in just one region, but in other areas throughout the PCG. Mr. Flurry says he is aware of every one of the disfellowshipment cases. He says he backs his ministers all the way! But how can he do this if the minister has gone sour and has succumbed to Satan's influence. I know several cases of brethren, who have been violently abused and have reported it to Mr. Flurry, but he seldom listens to the local Church elders with the true facts. When making a judgment involving disfellowshipment he apparently depends entirely on the Regional Director's reports to him.

Imagine what would have happened if the Apostle John had sided with evil Diotrephes? Proverbs 18:13 states; **"He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him."** Mr. Flurry falls into this category, and it is a shame and a folly unto him for not hearing all sides of a case. God's people are suffering because of this. Mr. Flurry is a very busy man, as is most of the PCG ministry. But the care of the Flock is one of his MAJOR responsibilities.

I have informed and WARNED Mr. Flurry of abuses I know are true facts; yet he will not listen or heed. WHY IS THIS? Why does Mr. Flurry believe the accusers of the brethren and not God's people?

The Eternal God thunders to the leaders of His people; **"You shall do no unrighteousness in JUDGMENT: you shall not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: BUT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL YOU JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR"** (Lev.19:15). **"You shall not respect persons in Judgment; but you shall hear the SMALL as well as the GREAT; you shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the Judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you bring it to me, and I will hear it"** (Deut. 1:17).

Proverbs 24:23 states: **"These things also belong unto the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in Judgment."** James 2:9 thunders the extreme seriousness of unrighteous judgment: **"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."**

Mr. Flurry will hear nothing against his handpicked lieutenants. That is "RESPECT OF PERSONS"! It is unwise and it is a sin! This is not the example shown by the Apostle John concerning Diotrephes. There are many scriptures that emphasize the sinfulness of a ministry gone astray!

In Jeremiah 23 God warns: **"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of MY pasture. Ye have scattered MY flock, and driven them away and have not visited them...[MANY, MANY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN AWAY] Behold, I will visit upon you THE EVIL OF YOUR DOINGS..."**

Ezekiel 34 gives a similar warning. In the first verses of the chapter, God says HIS shepherds have not cared for HIS flock: **"But with force and cruelty have you ruled them"** (v.4). This is speaking of the PCG ministry, GOD'S SHEPHERDS ABUSING GOD'S PCG FLOCK! God's Loving Family Government is not being applied. This is a clear picture of the evil treatment being done to God's people today in the PCG. There is a severe lack of loving concern for the good of the governed by some in high positions in the PCG!

(Author's note: most of the above statements concerning the mistreatment of the membership of the PCG were originally written in 1997. Today, in 2006, the abuse of God's people "snared" in the PCG has intensified to the point of creating deep fear and confusion within them. The PCG today is held hostage by the "unrighteous judgments" of the leader of Laodicea that permits no fellowship with anyone who has been a former PCG member---or a former WCG member---and that includes mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter (see Matthew 10:35-38)! Gerald Flurry is **ruling with force and cruelty** as the scriptures prophesy---and **the evil of his doing shall be visited!**)

God is very angry with the shepherds for the harsh treatment of HIS people. Ezekiel 34: 4 and 6 plainly say God's Shepherds have NOT *sought after* God's FLOCK:

**The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them...My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my**



**flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.**

This is referring to the PCG SHEPHERDS not seeking out the CAST OUT ONES of the PCG. Mr. Flurry and the PCG ministry have certainly “sought out” the LOST FLOCK of the OUTER COURT. He powerfully warned them through MM. Nevertheless, most of them did not heed, but still they were “**sought after**”. THAT WAS THE WARNING MESSAGE OF THE PCG! The evil SHEPHERDS in the above verses are leading PCG ministers that “have not sought after that which was lost” from the PCG!

In verse 10 we read: **"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds and I will require MY FLOCK [THE CAST OUT ONES] at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding themselves neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore; for I will deliver MY FLOCK from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."**

God is never pleased when HIS FLOCK is mistreated! Isaiah 66:5 adds this: **"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."** The modern-day Diotrefes can say, “Now we have it like God wants it”, if they dare, but God thunders to them, **“...they shall be ashamed”**.

God’s Elijah has loudly declared from the God of Love: THERE MUST BE CONCERN FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED. That is an extremely important message from Mr. Armstrong to the Philadelphia Church today!

“Government is everything”, the Elijah has declared, but it must be God's Government or the conditions described in Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 34 will exist as plainly seen in the PCG today. God's Government is from the top down. So is a military government. The same is true of the Roman Catholic Church government. The Pope is supreme in his rule, with his cardinals under him. He is in the IMAGE of the Roman Emperors or, as commonly stated in the Church of God, THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST. If the Government in the Church of God does not have the deep concern for the governed, with the Holy Spirit flowing from the top down and from the bottom up, it will become, as it is obvious in the PCG today. Instead of the Government of God, the "image of the Beast" will rule. Satan counterfeits everything God does. Of course, he would strive to blind, deceive, and confuse the precious Flock of God concerning the most important restored doctrine in the Church. He would replace the *love and concern* for the brethren with an oppressive fear so that God's sheep would be afraid to question anything that comes from the PCG Laodicean Church Headquarters.

**REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD AFTER MR. ARMSTRONG DIED! DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THAT CORRUPT MINISTRY THREATENED YOU---TELLING YOU THAT YOU WERE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR ETERNAL LIFE IF YOU WENT AGAINST CHURCH GOVERNMENT IN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THEIR TWISTED DOCTRINES!**

**NOW ASK YOURSELF: “AREN’T THE THREATS BY THE PCG MINISTRY EVEN WORSE THAN WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED IN THE WCG”?**

It is a fact that some “members” must be disfellowshipped at times to protect “the Body of Christ. God's Elijah states on page 271 of *Mystery of the Ages*:

What about one who has been in Christ's "spiritual body"--the Church--and is put out for cause (causing division or rebellion or opposition to Church government)?

The Apostle Paul answers this question for us very plainly in Romans 16:17 and in II Thessalonians 3:6:

**Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them... Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which you have received of us.**

Disfellowshipping must be done when there is *CAUSE* as instructed by both apostles Paul and Armstrong, but it is a very serious matter! The minister must garner all facts and be sure he has both the "poor" and the "mighty" sides of any dispute. Again, **"He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him"** (Proverbs 18:13). Mr. Flurry has been given strong warning concerning mistreatment of the brethren, but he has chosen to ignore it.

His only response was a mild rebuke to his ministers in the July 1997 issue of *The Philadelphia Ministers' Report*, which was subsequently reprinted after a subtle editing in the *Philadelphia News*. In his article, "What is a Minister's Main Responsibility?" Mr. Flurry takes from the article and emphasizes in a box in bold letters:

The greatest sin our ministers commit is to abuse and destroy the members joy by wrongly using God's Government!

Earlier in the same article he quoted from II Corinthians 1:24: **"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith you stand."**

He then expounds on that scripture:

We must be working feverishly to increase the members joy not detract from it. Unless the minister works to build their faith and joy, he won't work for God very long!

Then he emphasized: "And that certainly includes myself."

Hundreds of God's own people are being "cast out" of the PCG by modern-day types of Diotrophes! What is Mr. Flurry feverishly doing to increase their joy? In over 36 years (now 45 years) in God's church, I have never seen such harsh treatment of God's Flock as is commonly reported in the PCG.

THE MINISTRY OF LAODICEA [the PCG] HAS DEPARTED FROM THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT OF THE 18 RESTORED TRUTHS BY THE ELIJAH!

Look around! Think! Where is everybody? How many do you know that have been cast out of the PCG? Even the News Media of the world is looking at the abuse of God's

people with cynical interest. Is Christ pleased with the treatment of his BRIDE? You had better TEST YOUR LEADERS as Gerald Flurry has said---and I repeat his words here from MM: **"We must always test our leaders with God's word. That certainly includes me."**

### **A Supreme Test**

What is God's Government? Mr. Armstrong has declared: **"The Government of God is based on the Law of God, which is the way of life of out flowing love, cooperation, concern for the good of the governed."** "God is love" (I John 4:8 and 16). Jesus Christ said: **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself"** (Matthew 22:37-39).

The greatest expression of love a man can demonstrate is stated in John 15:13: **"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."**

Christ gave the perfect example of a true loving shepherd in John 10:11 & 15: **"I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd gives his life for his sheep.. and I lay down my life for the sheep."**

This should be easily understood. If you are a shepherd over God's flock, you will lay down your life for them. This is the nature and character of the Father and Christ. God IS love! His LAW is based on LOVE. His Government IS the LAW of LOVE! A true minister of Christ and shepherd of a flock must follow Christ's example. This is why I was disfellowshipped. I knew some of God's flock that had been disfellowshipped without CAUSE. They were not causing division and offenses, they were only asking legitimate questions. The Regional Director evidently felt threatened and was embarrassed due to his lack of Bible knowledge; therefore, he resorted to threats to any who would ask questions. That is what produced division and offenses in the situations in which I became involved, legitimate questions from Christian brethren who loved to discuss God's Word! I laid down my life for them. As one following Christ's example, I could do nothing else!

Proverbs 24:11-12 paraphrased in the Living Bible reads: **"Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows you and knows you knew! And He will reward everyone according to his deeds."** I knew AND God knew the cases of these brethren who were "cast out" (driven away) without CAUSE. They were abused by a minister who enforced his own personal government upon them and cast them out just as Diotrephes did in his day. The Apostle John anticipated dealing with Diotrephes and his malicious words when the opportunity came. Gerald Flurry took sides with a modern Diotrephes, and the brethren and I both were "cast out". I was, and still am, holding fast to God's Loving Family Government.

Laying down your life for those who have been falsely accused and disfellowshipped IS God's Government in action. A true shepherd of God's flock will stand up for the sheep when they are falsely accused. A minister who prefers to "play politics" to being a faithful shepherd will be found out very quickly. Those who try to hide behind statements such as: "Well, the minister over me required that I do a harsh and harmful act to one of the flock. I knew the person was completely innocent, but I did it anyway because of

government." It was because of government, that's true---BUT NOT GOD'S GOVERNMENT! That is the same excuse the Nazi soldiers of WWII used when charged with the atrocities of which they were guilty. They blamed their officers or even Hitler for those whom they had slaughtered. This is an old worn out excuse that God is well aware of. If you know of something wrong or someone being mistreated and try to hide from it, you are being judged at that very moment.

Gerald Flurry and his Laodicean ministers are causing much suffering among God's people because of their misuse of government. They will be brought down very quickly. God is angry! What are you going to do? If you are in the PCG you are in the same predicament as you were before you came out of the WCG. How many doctrines given through the Elijah are going to be changed before you wake up---THIS TIME?

There are yet other doctrines involving government that the PCG leadership is trampling all over---just continue reading!

### **Be Subject Unto The Higher Powers**

Mr. Flurry and the PCG are violating God's word in Romans 13 by a total disregard of the command to ***"be subject to the higher powers"***--- the laws of the land. The Revised Standard Version states verses 1-2 this way: **"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur Judgment."**

(Note: Remember, *Elijah's Message* was originally written in 1997. The text is unchanged in some places while other parts are updated to 2006.)

The Copyright Law may seem the most insignificant of laws (Matt. 5:19), but it is still LAW. The PCG is violating that law in the publishing and distribution of *Mystery of the Ages*. Mr. Flurry has also alluded to the possibility of continuing to publish *Mystery of the Ages* even if ordered not to. The underlying premise is to make the book available to the widest audience possible. But it currently IS available to the widest audience possible. It is available on the INTERNET to multiple billions around the world, and there was no objection UNTIL the lawsuit.

Truth must not be allowed to die. As called-out-ones, we must be teaching and living by the truth of God's Word, the Holy Bible. We called-out Church members can understand God's Word even more clearly through reading MOA. *Mystery of the Ages* is a synopsis of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is spiritual knowledge that the world cannot understand.

The WCG did not initially prevent the PCG from teaching out of MOA. This was allowed even to the point of quoting extensively from Mr. Armstrong's words. There might have been no objection if the PCG had published the book **SERIALLY** in the *Trumpet Magazine*. Always, care should be taken to ABIDE BY THE LAW (Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4). The emphasis of the PCG should still be a constant warning (now more than ever before) to both Israel and the Church of the imminence of the Great Tribulation and the visible Return of Jesus Christ. With such flexibility and freedoms in teaching, preaching and publishing excerpts from MOA, breaking the law in the manner

Mr. Flurry has done was completely unnecessary. Mr. Armstrong would never have approved such a move.

Notice the quote from Mr. Armstrong in the January 1979 *Plain Truth* article This is the Worldwide Church of God:

**Nonproselyting, Nonpolitical, Nonmilitant...**

**As stated above, the Church of God from A.D. 31 has been nonproselyting and entirely noncompetitive, in accordance with biblical principles. In no sense is it militant, nor has it participated in any agitating movement to bring about any objectives by action. It participates in no group or mass action, political or otherwise. The Church of God in all its history has had only an attitude of love for all races and peoples, regardless of color creed or nationality. Always its teaching has been submissive to whatever AUTHORITY is over one - whether human government or the authority of God.**

Some refer to the example of Mr. Armstrong in his legal defense of the WCG against the attack by the State of California in 1979 as justification for the current situation. But, notice Mr. Armstrong's comments in the *Good News*, March 1980, *Personal* section entitled "Romans 13:1 and the State of California Attack":

...in chapter 13 he (Paul) speaks of each individual being responsible to the higher powers. If the government sets a speed limit of 55 mph, I as an individual do not exceed it. As an individual, I am subject to government, and no government has ever had occasion to find me guilty of not obeying its laws.

Mr. Armstrong then condemns the State of California's lawsuit as an illegal operation and unconstitutional. He continues with the following:

...now notice what a "scholarly" commentary (Adam Clarke's Commentary) says in expounding Romans 13: speaking of government rulers: 'If he rule according to the Constitution nothing can justify (the individual) rebelling against his authority...When a ruler acts thus (contrary to law or the Constitution) he dissolves the compact between him and his people; his authority is no longer binding, but illegal; and it is illegal because it is contrary to the laws of the Constitution, according to which, on being raised to the supreme power he promised to govern. This conduct justifies opposition to his government.' ---and the commentary means in God's sight! (Mr. Armstrong adds).

The State has NOT violated its constitutional rights in the case of the PCG's action--- and the PCG should have pursued its objective in a peaceful manner. It is a case of participating in a movement to bring about an objective BY ACTION! It is, clearly, against

the Word of God and the teachings of the Elijah. (See the above quote from the 1980 *Plain Truth*.)

The PCG is told to measure the "INNER COURT" of the temple (Rev.11:1). Publishing MOA is an attempt to measure the "OUTER COURT" and go to the world, which the PCG is commanded not to do (verse 2). Mr. Armstrong successfully accomplished his commission of taking the Gospel to all nations as a witness. That was Mr. Armstrong's duty and through his ministry each of us received our calling.

But today God is not calling anyone **except** a few from the *streets and lanes of the city* and those from *the highways and the hedges* as **replacements** for those who have scornfully thrown away their "crowns"! Therefore, sending *Mystery of the Ages out by the shipload to the entire World will not convert a single individual*.

Even if it was right for the PCG to PRINT MOA, the first step Mr. Flurry should have taken would have been to humbly request permission from the copyright holder, the WCG. The second step, if the first failed, would have been to petition the legal authorities for a ruling in the matter. If the final answer was NO, there are broad freedoms as shown above for teaching, preaching and publishing all that is contained in MOA and the matter need not be pursued further. Certainly, the concept of publishing the book even if ordered not to is deliberate disrespect of man's authority. Again, Romans 13:2 (Moffatt): **"Hence anyone who resists authority is opposing the divine order and the opposition will bring judgment on themselves."**

In effect, the PCG leadership is saying: "If you rule in our favor, thank you; if you rule in favor of established laws we'll violate your authority and the established laws on which we also depend to protect our literature." Or--- "We will respect your authority only if you rule in our favor." The PCG is seeking a legal ruling but will respect it only if it is done their way. Also, consider that the leader of the PCG, for protection of his own literature, depends on the same copyright laws they are fighting.

Look at any booklet by the PCG, and it reveals the importance of copyright protection. There is clearly a double standard here.

This is a subtle attempt by Satan to get the PCG's focus off the job of delivering the warning message. It may also be the tool he uses to stop what the PCG is doing. The *Isaiah* booklet, by Mr. Flurry states, "We must become experts on God's law". This is not a case of obeying God rather than man when you consider all the facts, as well as the flexibility and freedoms we had in teaching revealed truth contained in MOA. It seemed so good to publish that book we dearly love, but remember Proverbs 14:12 states: **"There is a way that seems right to a man (and that man may even be a prophet) but the end thereof is the way of death."**

If it is against the Word of God, it WILL end in death. Are you going to be a part of this? The leadership of the PCG is not following Christ by this violation of what may seem to be such an insignificant law. **"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 5:19). Are you condoning the breaking of the **first** and the **eighth Commandments**? That is the depth of this, seemingly so unimportant, departure from the Word of God and the instruction (message) of Elijah here at this end time.

The last part of Isaiah 66:2 reads, **"But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."** Are Mr. Flurry and his top men exhibiting a "CONTRITE SPIRIT" and "TREMBLING at GOD'S WORD" in the court case?

The attitude seen in this situation is exactly opposite to the attitude shown at the reprinting of the *United States and Britain in Prophecy*. In the "Forward" of that booklet, Mr. Flurry explains the difficulty of reprinting Mr. Armstrong's literature because of the copyright laws. He states, *"Therefore we have chosen to reprint an earlier version of the book printed in 1945. There was no copyright on that booklet and therefore it is public domain."* At that time the PCG remained subject to the law of the land. They were in obedience to Romans 13:1-2. WHAT HAS CHANGED? Does the leadership of the PCG continue to tremble at God's word?

### **Following the Ways of King Saul**

In the story of King Saul's reign as told in I Samuel, God shows us what happens to a leader who loses his humility. When Samuel prepared to anoint him king, Saul said, **"Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin, wherefore then speakest thou to me"** (I Samuel 9:21). His attitude was one of humility at that time. Likewise, Mr. Flurry was completely humble in the early days of the PCG. Because he **"trembled at his Word"**, God was able to use him in a powerful way.

After reigning for two years, Saul began to lose some of his humility. In chapter 13 of I Samuel, we are told that Saul, himself, made a burnt offering to God rather than wait for Samuel as he had been instructed. Because he needed a "gimmick" to prevent his followers from turning away from him, he offered the sacrifice himself, totally unauthorized. It seemed so right and good (see Proverbs 14:12 again). As a result of this disobedience, God told Saul that he would lose his kingdom. In chapter 15 Saul disobeyed yet again by not killing Ahab the evil king of the Amalekites and destroying all of their flocks. When questioned by Samuel, Saul said that the people had saved the best of the flocks for a sacrifice.

**And Samuel said, Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king (vv. 22-23).**

We are also told in verse 33: **"And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal."** Because Saul did not obey the word of the Lord, Samuel the Prophet was forced to kill wicked Agag---by chopping him into pieces!

Gerald Flurry should have been more forceful in his rebuke to the Diotrephes-type ministers of the PCG who have misused government and are guilty of slaughtering and scattering God's flock. Shouldn't he have figuratively chopped those ministers to pieces with the SWORD of GOD? Evidently, he does not tremble at God's Word and does not seek to obey it as completely as he once did. That was King Saul's problem. God tells us that he prefers obedience to sacrifices. Isn't the publishing of MOA Mr. Flurry's unauthorized and presumptuous "sacrifice" instead of the obedience he should have had to the Word of God? Didn't he need a "gimmick" to rally the people around him?

In Isaiah 66:1 God asks: **"...where is the house that ye built unto me? And where is the place of my rest?"** What has happened to my Church? What has happened to the PCG? When a man tries to "sacrifice" something that he thinks would be really wonderful,

but it is against the plain teaching of the Bible---and against clear statements from The Elijah---he might as well sacrifice a man, a pig, or a dog. Verse 3 is very plain: **"He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol..."** Illegally printing and distributing MOA is not following in God's ways. **"Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations."**

In his efforts to print and distribute MOA was Mr. Flurry seeking to do God's Will or **"the way that seems right to a man"**? In verse 4, God describes what will happen to him and those who blindly follow: **"I also will choose their delusions and will bring their fears upon them, because when I called, none did answer, when I spake they did not hear; [HE HAS BEEN WARNED AND HAS NO EXCUSE] but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."** Jesus Christ would never mistreat or lead His Bride away from the WORD of GOD!

**CAN YOU AS A PCG MEMBER REALIZE YOU ARE FOLLOWING A MAN WHO IS NOT FOLLOWING CHRIST? YOU MUST TEST YOUR LEADER WITH THE SAME "PLUMMET" THAT THE ELIJAH USED!**

### **Failing as a Watchman**

As the Watchman of Ezekiel 33, Mr. Flurry and the PCG have had an enormous responsibility. In a recent staff meeting at PCG headquarters, Mr. Flurry covered Hosea 9 in the context of the "WATCHMAN". Read this carefully, for it is revealed truth to the PCG. We have never understood Hosea 9 as Mr. Flurry brings out so clearly here. This may possibly be the last bit of truth revealed unto Mr. Flurry if he does not repent of the serious sins he is allowing to continue in the Philadelphia Church of God.

The expounding on Hosea 9 by Gerald Flurry is recorded by Joel Hilliker entitled "SUPPORT THE WATCHMAN" and appeared in the July 1997 issues of *The Philadelphia Minister's Report* and *The Philadelphia News*.

The Philadelphia Church of God is the watchman work. Mr. Flurry, as God's watchman, must have an excellent support staff. God's ministers have a special opportunity to help Mr. Flurry watch world events.

Mr. Hilliker continues his report from Mr. Flurry's lecture under the heading, "Technology is our Watchtower". He discussed several biblical examples of watchmen including the watchman in Hosea 9 under the heading of "Failing as a Watchman".

The next biblical watchman Mr. Flurry pointed us to is in Hosea 9. The context is in verse 1, which shows how God's Church and Israel have *'gone a whoring from thy God'*. Because these people are failing God, verse 6 says that, *'Egypt shall gather them up'*--the Companion Bible says *'like manure--for burning, for death'*. *'The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad'* (v.7). This is talking about God's own ministers, who, as verse 8 in the Companion Bible tells us, have become a snare--they entangle and snare people! That same verse refers to this group as *'the watchman'* who *'was with my God,'* but is no longer. God's ministers are supposed to WATCH and WARN for God, but instead, they are SNARING PEOPLE FOR SATAN. These



ministers are going to be gathered up for manure or burning – BECAUSE THEY FAILED AS GOD’S WATCHMAN! Verse 12, 14, and 15 give equally graphic descriptions of what awaits them. That is a very strong warning to anyone who has been given this job today: failing as a watchman has serious consequences...

In the next section of the article, under the heading, “The Ezekiel Watchman”, Mr. Hilliker continues quoting Mr. Flurry’s words:

In the familiar verses of the Ezekiel 33 prophecy, the focus is on the sword. To be an effective Watchman for God, Mr. Flurry must keep the focus of his watch on the SWORD rising in Europe.”

He (Mr. Flurry) brought out that at the conclusion of this chapter, in verse 33 we see that “prophet” and “watchman” are used interchangeably. The same is true in the Hosea 9 passage. This is talking about one man -- one watchman--- one prophet—to whom God has given His message...

(End of quotations from the article.)

This is indeed a very strong warning. God is angry with these leaders who are leading his people astray and even mistreating and “snaring” many of them. Please go back and read these words from Mr. Flurry again. Isn’t he saying HE is God’s PROPHET and WATCHMAN—ONE MAN? Doesn’t he say continually that God is giving HIM, alone, revealed truth, or messages, and no other church can receive revealed truth but the PCG? Isn’t he saying from these scriptures that HE, GERALD FLURRY, was the WATCHMAN who was with God, but is no longer? Mr. Flurry says “THEY” have failed as God’s Watchman, BUT ISN’T HE TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF?

He had done a remarkable work of warning the Outer Court; but has now gone astray and is “snaring” his own people as they blindly follow him. This appears to be a direct warning from God out of Gerald Flurry’s own mouth that he, himself, is failing as the WATCHMAN, and it does have very serious consequences. Certainly, verse 7 is shocking when we read the description God gives: ***“the Prophet is a fool, the Spiritual man is mad.”***

## Chapter Four:

# GOD'S ROYAL ELECT

Herbert W. Armstrong, as the end time Elijah, restored all things concerning the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He also preached that Good News to the entire world as a witness to all nations. As part of the Gospel, he brought a WARNING TO THE WORLD, and specifically to the nations of Israel, that mankind had reached the time of the End. He powerfully warned that the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord's Wrath, and the Return of Jesus Christ would occur in that generation!

But, Mr. Armstrong did not live to see these mighty prophecies fulfilled. He died in 1986 and Gerald Flurry was raised up to head the Laodicean Work of Jesus Christ. His commission was to WARN THE CHURCH, those called to be PHILADELPHIANS that were being deceived into leaving the teachings of the Elijah. Mr. Flurry and the PCG worked diligently at the Warning Work for seven years. However, as members were being abused and many cast-out of the PCG, tithes and offerings began to decline, thus Gerald Flurry unwisely turned from his God-given commission to do his own work---to go to the world with *Mystery of the Ages*.

Now, at this time, we, as FAITHFUL PHILADELPHIANS, are WARNING Mr. Flurry and the PCG because they have strayed from the "straight line of the spiritual plumb-bob", as Herbert Armstrong had defined, and are rushing toward disaster.

This should raise a question in the minds of God's ELECT. Time is fast running out. What do you do now? If the PCG was the true Work of Christ, but has gone off course, what do you do? One important thing to do is TEST YOUR LEADERS as Mr. Flurry has admonished in *Malachi's Message*! If the leaders are proven WRONG---they are not following Christ, and you must not follow them! You must follow Christ! So, what do you do? HOW do you find where Christ is working?

Of course you know the answer! First you humbly cry out to God to direct you in the same manner as He brought you out of the world and into the WCG. God is in charge! He has a Plan, and you have been called and chosen as part of His Plan. John 6:44 states emphatically: **"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."** He "changes not" and will direct you to Christ. Remember how you heard TRUTH proclaimed by the servant of Jesus Christ, and you were drawn to the TRUE CHURCH. When the leaders of the WCG went off-track, you cried out again and were again directed to TRUTH. Gerald Flurry was following Christ, crying aloud concerning the prophecies about the "*man of sin*" and the great "*falling away*" from TRUTH. So, what do you do when you TEST YOUR LEADERS and they have gone astray again? You ask our loving God to lead you to where Christ is continuing to bring NEW TRUTH! Then, be willing to thankfully follow Christ---again.

A great number of the members of the Laodicean Candlestick/Church will proceed on into the Great Tribulation. However, the Philadelphian Candlestick/Church will soon perform a great rescue Work and proceed to the PLACE OF SAFETY? Let's look at this from an Old Testament type that will be repeated in the near future.

## Examples and Types

Mr. Armstrong was the end time TYPE of Elijah. He was also a TYPE of Zerubbabel. The material TEMPLE Zerubbabel built was a TYPE of the spiritual TEMPLE an end time Zerubbabel would build. There are many prophetic TYPES in the Bible.

Another important prophetic TYPE, previously overlooked, is the parallel between the split in God's end time Church and the dividing of Israel into two nations. Anciently, Israel was the Church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38), a type of the New Testament Church of God (Galatians 6:16). This is common knowledge to God's people. Many scriptures and prophecies, as well as the writings of Mr. Armstrong, confirm this. The dividing of Israel into two nations created the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. (It might be helpful to go back and read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* once again.)

In the dividing of Israel into the two nations, God especially preserved the southern kingdom to fulfill the promises He made to King David. God did the same in this end time. When the WCG (spiritual Israel) went astray, God raised up Gerald Flurry and the Laodicean Church, (which Mr. Flurry incorporated under the name Philadelphia Church of God, located in Edmond, Oklahoma) to preserve the Key of David vision.

Anciently, Israel was the Northern Kingdom and Judah was the Southern Kingdom referred to prophetically as the "south" in Obadiah 19: **"...and the south shall possess the mount of Esau."** This is a reference to the spiritual kingly line through spiritual Judah, which will inherit the Kingdom of God while the Esau-type Christian will be rejected forever according to Mr. Flurry's teachings in his booklet *Obadiah*.

It's important to note that Israel was not the only one of the two nations to go into captivity. Later, Judah went astray and ended up in captivity also. Israel did, however, go into captivity first. This is a parallel with today. Spiritual Israel (WCG) went into spiritual captivity first to the *man of sin*. Spiritual Judah (PCG) is now well off-track and deeply deceived also.

This raises a very logical question: if these "spiritual nations" are to end up in the Great Tribulation, who goes to *the place of safety*? The answer is possibly found in the commission of Jeremiah (see *US & Britain in Prophecy*) who was used by God to take the royal family, the king's daughters that remained, and a small remnant to a new land where God would use them to fulfill the physical promises to Abraham. Similarly today, there is a small remnant of Laodiceans who are being sifted out as they wake up to the awful abuse and misuse of government in the PCG--and the law defying court case. Not willing to follow a man into the Tribulation, they also become OUTCASTS (Isaiah 66:5). God will make them aware of where the True Work of Jesus Christ is located. They will once again become Faithful Philadelphians! It is this group of "outcasts" that gratefully leaves the PCG and participates in the rescue of the "Lost Sheep", which Christ will perform through the Church of God's Faithful. As they leave the PCG to become FAITHFUL PHILADELPHIANS, they shall also become Pillars in the Temple (Rev.3:12). They become part of God's Faithful and are **"...proven worthy to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man"** (Luke 21:36). Christ will take those proven worthy to *the place of safety*. This does NOT mean ALL of the PCG will awaken. Other scriptures strongly indicate that many PCG members will wake up too late and then prove themselves in the fires of the Great Tribulation.

Even though God preserved the "southern kingdom" anciently, there was no way they could escape their eventual captivity. Because they didn't have God's Spirit, they would

eventually slide into the condition demanding such punishment. We in God's Church today are different because we have God's Holy Spirit and because of the big "if". "If" we will humbly submit to God's rule in our lives and tremble at His Word, He can work with each of us as stalwart "Pillars" or "lively stones" to build us into His Holy Temple in the LORD (Ephesians 2:20 and I Peter 2:5).

However, many in the PCG will continue to blindly FOLLOW A DECEIVED MAN, deluded to the point they believe he is "THAT PROPHET"! They have ceased in their diligent Bible Study, refusing to allow GOD to have complete rule in their lives. What will they do if Gerald Flurry realizes he might be Joshua, the High Priest of the Laodicean Church and repents of the "filthy garments" he is clothed in (Zechariah 3)?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

## Review

Summarizing this end time, prophetic TYPE, we see that "spiritual Israel" is the WCG and her "daughters" after Mr. Armstrong has died. "Spiritual Judah" or the PCG, which had been in the "Inner Court" for the seven-year period from 1990-1997, has fallen into the deceptive hands of Satan as he leads them to turn their backs to the "Inner Court" away from following Christ. Read Ezekiel 8:16 **"And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."**

Remember Gerald Flurry's comments in sermons and articles that the PCG is the only Church in the "Inner Court". Of course, he is wrong in that supposition. The Faithful Philadelphians (CGF) are deep within the "Inner Court", but the scripture describes the full-time hired PCG ministry as having turned their backs to the Temple and involved in ABOMINABLE ACTS (see also Ezekiel 11:1-2).

The existence of the *synagogue of Satan*, the Outer Court, and the PCG Laodiceans who are poised to leave the Inner Court, involve extremely significant prophecies that signal the imminent fall and captivity of PHYSICAL Israel and Judah. Study Jeremiah 22 where the King of Judah is given clear options and a very stern warning as to the will of God. Compare this chapter as speaking to spiritual Judah (PCG) and Mr. Flurry as the "king" Other prophecies confirm both "nations" will go into captivity together (Hos.5:5). Some of the Outer Court and many PCG members will be caught up in this greatest time of trouble ever. If you are one of God's Faithful you will not be deceived, but will prove that which is written in this paper is TRUTH and quickly "come out" of the PCG as you did when you fled the WCG. God will raise up a TYPE of JEREMIAH and BARUCH as the TWO WITNESSES. Then shortly after, GOD'S ROYALTY will be taken to the PLACE OF SAFETY.

IF YOU HOLD TO THE MESSAGE THE END-TIME ELIJAH TAUGHT AND CONTINUE TO GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST, YOU WILL BE THERE AS ONE OF THE FAITHFUL OF THE PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK TO RECEIVE THE FINAL TRAINING BEFORE OUR TRANSFORMATION INTO THE GOD FAMILY.

## Revelation 11

We, the scattered Philadelphians of the Church of God's Faithful, are striving to hold fast to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God taught by Mr. Armstrong. Through Mr. Flurry we were warned that the true Gospel was corrupted and perverted by the "*man of sin*"

*sitting in the temple* of God". Thus, we want to be very cautious when introducing something "new", but if it is New Truth revealed in the pages of the Holy Bible---it comes directly from Christ---and we must continue to **"grow in grace and in the knowledge of our lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"** (II Peter 3:18). Growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ IS New Truth---by the grace of God! [That statement is New Truth in itself!] God will reveal necessary new truth to us at the proper time as we continue to yield to Him.

(Author's note: When that last sentence was written in early 1998, I had no idea of the "flood of truth" that would be given the CGF in these nine years; over 50 NEW TRUTHS---right out of the Word of God---and obvious proof of where Christ's Church is!)

In the next few paragraphs you will read NEW material. This concept seems completely believable and probably is, but this is the kind of material that we need to "WATCH" and not get "bug-eyed" about. It is interesting, and I think necessary, to bring out at this time for God's Faithful to be aware of and to "handle with caution" because TIME IS SO SHORT.

Revelation 11:2 states: **"But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."** The HOLY CITY IS GOD'S CHURCH described here at the end time as opposed to physical Jerusalem. The actual city of Jerusalem is referred to, spiritually, in verse 8: **"And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."** The *Gentiles* who tread down the Holy City are *spiritual* also. Consequently, they TREAD DOWN THE CHURCH SPIRITUALLY during a *three and one half year period, possibly, BEFORE* the physical Tribulation described in verse 3 when the Two Witnesses prophesy. What has not been realized in the past is that the 42 months of Rev.11:2 and the 1260 days of Rev.11:3 may be two DIFFERENT time periods with one following the other. The spiritual tribulation period could have begun at the death of Mr. Tkach, Sr. in September 1995 when the "*man of sin*" finally obtained full control of the WCG.

(Note: Remember, all unedited parts of this paper were originally written in 1997)

It is also evident from Revelation 11:2-3 that a terrible mistake is currently being made by the PCG in its lawsuit with the WCG. God says to measure the "Inner Court" in Revelation 1:1 **"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod, and the angel stood saying, Rise and measure the temple (#3485; the Inner Court) of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein."** God is very clear when he says in verse 2; **"but the court which is without the temple leave out and measure it not."** They are to be trodden down of the spiritual Gentiles and later the physical Gentiles in the Tribulation. (Mr. Flurry recently in a sermon alluded to the possibility of a mini tribulation before the Great Tribulation). As the PCG leaves the Inner Court to go out to "measure" the "WCG Outer Court" in the legal battle they will be affected and effectively TRODDEN DOWN as well.

The CONFRONTATION with the "Outer Court" is an attempt to MEASURE the "Outer Court". Witness the recent success in arousing interest in some members and ministers in

the Global and the United Churches of God. Also, notice the attempts to show what the WCG is really like in their dealings with the lawsuit through the VERY STRONG newspaper ads. Some in other splinter groups may be attracted and possibly join the PCG because of all this. The "Inner Court" is in desperate need of MEASURING and REFINING. Instead, the PCG leadership through this approach is "measuring" the "Outer Court", attempting to attract more members from other groups, while neglecting the PCG members.

The present court case may be the beginning of the PCG being *trodden down of the Gentiles*, and possibly, the start of the "*begin at my sanctuary*" prophesy of Ezekiel 9. It may result in the "*famine of the word*", but not as expected. The PCG will probably lose the court case, but possibly not.

(Author's Note: The PCG did lose the shameful court case, but after their embarrassing loss, they were allowed by the WCG leadership to purchase, "through the nose", *Mystery of the Ages* and other WCG literature. By a simple negotiated deal, the WCG allowed the PCG to purchase for \$2 million the copyrights of the desired literature. Over the course of six long years of brother battling brother (see I Corinthians 6:1-8), the PCG wasted between 5 and 6 million dollars in all! Just think, all of this could have been accomplished God's way. They could have negotiated for the material in the beginning for, probably, a fraction of the final settlement, however Mr. Flurry had screamed aloud; he would "never negotiate with a demon"! But negotiate they did---**two million dollars** worth---plus **\$3 million to \$4 million in "legal" expenses.**)

Yet, Gerald Flurry, in overwhelming confusion and vanity claimed the PCG won the legal victory. He has later written and preached that Jesus, Himself, in Person, came and intervened in the court-case. That statement has become the basis of a standing joke among many in the PCG who are aware of the crushing defeat the PCG suffered. They, tongue-in-cheek, say--- "Yes, Jesus intervened --- **and the PCG LOST.**"

(Now back to the 1998 text in the next few paragraphs.)

Satan has already infiltrated the PCG and deceived many (if not most) of the members and ministry. Mr. Flurry and the misguided and deceived men advising and following him are subtly leading the PCG further off track. Some, who know Mr. Flurry's wishes, have advised him to become involved with the printing of *Mystery of the Ages*, which is against the Laws of the Land and compromises God's Word. However small the compromise may be, God is not pleased since he is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He does not want his people to abuse the privileges provided by man's authority. God wants his called, chosen, and faithful to be sensitive to authority and treat it with respect. We must be experts on authority and respect it, especially authority that has been sanctioned by God himself.

### **Where to from Here**

Unless Gerald Flurry repents and brings about a complete change in the attitude of the government of the PCG; unless he stops violating the copyright law, and applies his effort to measuring the "Inner Court" instead of the "Outer Court", he and the PCG are going to be trampled underfoot by the "spiritual Gentiles" and then cast into the Great Tribulation.

WATCH and PRAY FERVENTLY that he can get back to his own good advice in the pages of *Malachi's Message*. Pray that he will follow the Elijah's example of sticking to the trunk of the tree; that he will show great concern for the good of the governed, not showing partiality; and that he will never again compromise with any of the least of laws.

If this repentance does not come right away, however, you will need to make a big decision, quickly. You must draw your support away from him and the PCG as you did with the WCG. You must FOLLOW CHRIST not a man. We are the "Church of God's Faithful"---the Church of Jesus Christ---the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK. Most of us are the Faithful of God's Flock that were cast out of the PCG (or left on their own) because of the situations discussed in this paper. Study God's Word! When you read the strong prophecies that ALL of the hireling Shepherds, even THE WATCHMAN, have turned away, as you have read in this paper, then realize that we must, MORE THAN EVER, HOLD FAST and look to our Father and Jesus Christ to lead us.

We are not sure of what God would have us do at this time other than get this WARNING MESSAGE INTO THE HANDS OF ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF GERALD FLURRY'S PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD.

(Note: The CGF has come a long way since that last paragraph was written. Now we do know what God will have us to do! Please request [or download] our booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand!* that will thoroughly explain the great Work God will have us to do in His Great Plan.)

God will continue to reveal His truth to all who are submissive and tremble at His WORD. These are dangerous days in which we live! But God is still in charge. His revelation of New Truth will flow through His Spirit even during the "spiritual famine" that is fast approaching. It is through this means that God will reveal to us, precisely, what He would have us do as His Faithful Church and the necessary details about the Place of Safety. His revealing is currently in progress

As one of the CALLED and CHOSEN of God, you should not be deceived any longer. Please contact us. Write to me, Robert Ardis, PO Box 279, Eutawville, SC 29048 or call 803-492-9061. We will be very happy to confidentially provide you with information to help you HOLD FAST and to follow Jesus Christ in His exciting plans for the immediate future.