
SET APART BY TRUTH

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

**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
To him that overcometh will I grant
to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame,
and am set down with my Father in his throne.
He that hath an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Rev 3:20-22**

By Robert Ardis



Set Apart by **TRUTH**

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Does the Two Witnesses ministry spoken of in Revelation 11 start before the Tribulation?

Can spirits die? Christ did.

Will God continue to reveal new Truth to his end time Church?

God's word is Truth and careful study will prove it to those who have an ear to hear.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock...

Set Apart By **TRUTH**

By
Robert G. Ardis



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How Can a Person Identify

God's One True Church Today?

Is there really such a thing as One True Church? If there is, how can a sincere person determine the location of that Church?

Can One True Church exist apart from the confusion of the split and splintered churches that are made up of the nearly 100,000 former members of the Worldwide Church of God—as it was at the death of Herbert W. Armstrong?

Or, are all of those 300+ split and splintered churches and groups the “Churches of God”? If that is true, wouldn’t this be a type of the old “Mother Church” and her “Protestant daughters” all over again! But isn’t that CONFUSION? Doesn’t the Holy Bible tell us that God is NOT the author of CONFUSION? Yes, absolutely! Satan IS the author of CONFUSION! Deceiving, dividing and conquering have worked for him in the past—is this what we see working today?

Is it proper to say—“Churches of God”—or would it be more correct to say— “churches of god”? Would “churches of god” be the same as “synagogue of Satan”?

And WHY don’t the Ambassador trained and ordained ministers get together to form ONE united church? Or are they, themselves, so deceived by the “author of confusion,” that they are the CAUSE of the split and splintered BEWILDERMENT that exists at this time? Many prophecies of the Bible state this as a fact. For example Jeremiah 50:6 declares: “My people have been lost sheep, their shepherds have caused them to go astray...”

Is this TRUE today? Have these “shepherds” followed Jesus

Christ—or has Satan deceived them into following his rebellious and proud ways?

Our Lord said He would “build [His] Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). If His True Church exists, where is it? And is it possible to identify it as His True Church?

This is a question that should be upper-most in the mind of every former member of the Worldwide Church of God!

What about the *ten virgins* of Matthew 25:1-13? Shouldn’t there be a warning *midnight cry* going out to them at this late date? Surely the *virgins* represent a great portion of the True Church! Who are the *wise virgins*? Who are the *foolish virgins*? Who are those who have *oil* to sell? And who is sending forth the *midnight cry* that the “*Bridegroom has come*”?

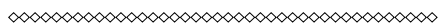
Prophecies recorded in the Holy Bible will answer these vitally important questions—and other related questions, which you have probably wondered about for a long time. The answers are presented in the pages of this book!

And the ANSWERS to these questions are wonderful good news!

Jesus Christ is in charge! His church does exist! The *midnight cry* is issuing forth even as you read—the process of gathering His scattered sheep has begun! They are being gathered and set apart by Truth in His One True Church!

Please read on and rejoice in this New Truth!

INTRODUCTION:



In the year 1931, during the dark, dismal days of the Great Depression, the time came when God determined that the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom should go to the entire world! The True Gospel, originally brought by Jesus Christ 1900 years earlier, would again make its debut as a very tiny and seemingly insignificant work. Herbert W. Armstrong had been humbled and brought to repentance by God. He became the faithful servant of Jesus Christ. The Sixth Candlestick was ignited and the Philadelphia era of the Church of God began (see Rev. 1:20 and 3:7-13)! From that time in 1931, the *plain truth* of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, once again began to be preached and published to the world. Each one of us, of the over 100,000 baptized members, was called by God and brought into the Church through the TRUTH taught us by Mr. Armstrong.

How did this servant of God receive ALL of the wonderful TRUTH he was given to teach us? Did Jesus Christ appear to him and explain every vital point of TRUTH? Or did Mr. Armstrong have the TRUTH revealed to him by a mighty angel in his dreams? How did he learn ALL of the NEW TRUTH that he then taught us? And how did we PROVE that he was teaching TRUTH?

One plain scripture can answer each of these questions. John 17:17 states: ***“Sanctify them through your TRUTH: your WORD IS TRUTH”*** [emphasis mine]. This clearly informs us that TRUTH comes from the WORD of GOD. The written WORD of GOD is the Holy Bible! The Living WORD of GOD is JESUS CHRIST (John 1:1-4 & 14 and Rev. 19:13). The TRUTH Mr. Armstrong taught us came from the Word of God and we PROVED it by the Word of God! How did Christ lead Herbert Armstrong into the awareness of each point of NEW TRUTH? Mr. Armstrong simply followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1), willingly and thankfully accepting NEW TRUTH!

In many cases NEW TRUTH came through God’s Spirit directing him in diligent night and day studies of the Bible. Mr. Armstrong was not afraid of NEW TRUTH, as some appear to be today. Herbert Armstrong was very much aware of the scripture that admonishes ALL Christians to ***“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”*** (II Pet. 3:18). NEW TRUTH is the fulfillment of that scripture! **New Truth is growth in the knowledge of the Word of God.** Think about that!

Also, in quite a few cases, other WCG ministers and members were inspired

in their studies, through God's Spirit, to understand NEW TRUTH from the WORD of GOD. NEW TRUTH brought to Mr. Armstrong's attention by anyone, members or ministers, was closely examined to determine that it absolutely conformed to the Word of God. If PROVEN to be NEW TRUTH, Mr. Armstrong would present this to the Church as official doctrine.

Here are a few examples of this fact:

1. The High Holy Day of Pentecost was kept on Monday for years until it was proven to Mr. Armstrong, by a headquarters minister that the "counting of weeks" reckoning was in error. Mr. Armstrong, upon proving him to be correct, adopted the proper manner for "counting the weeks." From that time, the WCG began keeping Pentecost on Sunday instead of Monday. Sadly, the man to whom this NEW TRUTH was given, later left the Worldwide Church of God.
2. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong was given the NEW TRUTH on marriage and divorce, which was subsequently adopted by God's apostle as official Church doctrine and corrected in the *Marriage and Divorce* booklet.
3. The fantastic knowledge of the organization of the Government of God and many other details of God's future kingdom, written about in *The Wonderful World Tomorrow – What will it be like?*, were brought to Mr. Armstrong by evangelist Gerald Waterhouse. After Mr. Armstrong's death, Mr. Waterhouse later became a part of the "United Church of God" as it was organized. Strangely, "The United Church" boasts that it does not believe or teach government from the top down as Mr. Waterhouse had previously believed and taught.
4. Mr. Armstrong's very important book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, was not original thought by him alone. The British/Israel hypothesis has been taught for several hundreds of years. However, Mr. Armstrong's mind was prompted by a study of this historical teaching and, through the guidance of God's Spirit, he fully grasped the amazing TRUTH as contained in his book.

These are only four examples of the method by which God's Spirit directed several doctrinal points of TRUTH into Herbert Armstrong's mind. The important thing to remember is that TRUTH comes from the BIBLE. Any NEW TRUTH revealed by Christ has been recorded in the WORD of God since it was originally written. Notice carefully Colossians 2:1-3 [RV]:

For I would have you know how greatly I strive for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,

that they may know the mystery of God, even Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden.

Christ reveals the treasures of NEW TRUTH when it is the proper TIME to do so and to whomever He chooses to reveal it. Receiving revelation of New Truth through the study of the Word of God is NOT exclusive to the ministry, according to I Corinthians 14:26: “**How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation⁶⁰², hath an interpretation.** Let all things be done unto edifying.” See also I Corinthians 12:1-12.

Mr. Armstrong was willing to view any NEW BIBLE KNOWLEDGE brought to him by the membership as long as it was presented through the proper channels. See the article, “A Correction”, by HWA in the June/July 1979 *Good News* magazine.

There are quite a few former WCG members who sincerely believe that, since the death of Mr. Armstrong, no more NEW TRUTH will be given. They cling to Matthew 17:11 and Revelation 3:10, insisting these scriptures mean that no NEW TRUTH will be given to the Church other than what was revealed to Mr. Armstrong. These well-meaning, yet very deceived, people are stuck in “a 1986 mode,” refusing to recognize any NEW TRUTH. Later in this booklet, their error will be thoroughly exposed. A loyal Christian MUST continue to “**grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**”

Also, there are cases recorded in the Bible of people who are inspired to foretell a future occurrence, as in Acts 11:27-28 & 21:10-11, but this is not what we are discussing in this writing. We are discussing TRUTH that is recorded in the WORD of God!

When a NEW point of Biblical knowledge is REVEALED to whomever through the Holy Spirit, this is NEW TRUTH given by Jesus Christ! To whomsoever NEW TRUTH is revealed, it will eventually become a part of the doctrine of the TRUE CHURCH—because Jesus Christ is the HEAD of HIS ONE TRUE CHURCH! Christ says: “**Sanctify them by your Truth.**” The ONE TRUE CHURCH will be **SET APART BY TRUTH—OLD, ESTABLISHED TRUTH—AND NEW TRUTH!** God’s ONE TRUE CHURCH will continue to FOLLOW CHRIST, GROWING IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH!

Those who possess God’s Spirit, if they are willing to look, can recognize Truth and thereby find the Church of Jesus Christ.

Author's Statement

NEW TRUTHS THAT SET THE CGF APART

Compiled here are 75 New Truths that apparently were not understood by Mr. Armstrong, yet are PROVEN as NEW TRUTH as revealed in the WORD of GOD. God Almighty, through Jesus Christ, gave these New Truths to the Church of God's Faithful (Rev. 1:1). These Truths have been recorded in the Word of God all the time, but have only recently been revealed.

I have tried to compile these TRUTHS as thoroughly and concisely as possible. By necessity, some subjects must be more detailed than others and require supplemental information that is not yet in our booklets. The NEW TRUTHS are the subjects of our twelve booklets and several articles that are free upon request—or they may be downloaded from our website. However, when additional information has been revealed since the publishing of the booklets or articles, the extra details are added in this writing.

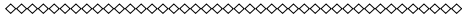
These NEW TRUTHS given to the Church of God's Faithful (CGF) are not listed in the order that they were revealed. They were given “*...here a little, and there a little...*” (Isa. 28:13). In this presentation these TRUTHS will be introduced in an order that will be easier to follow and understand. The TRUTHS will be numbered and included under a subject heading that can most concisely present them as New Truth. This NEW KNOWLEDGE is easily PROVEN through the Word of God, and is accepted and taught by the Church of God's Faithful as official doctrine. We believe and teach what the Bible says! Please see the list of booklets and articles in the back pages of this booklet and feel free to request each of them.



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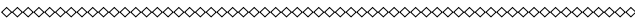
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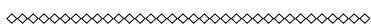
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PART ONE:

New Truth Revealed



During the dark days of the great depression, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was selected by God to begin the restoration of the Truth about the Kingdom of God and to preach the gospel as a witness to all nations. Over a period of 55 years, from the time of his ordination as a minister of God until the day of his death in 1986, Herbert W. Armstrong reestablished 18 new Truths revealed straight from the word of God.

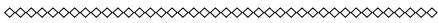
These Truths were easily proven in the word of God, and, throughout his ministry, members of the Church of God were continually admonished not to take Mr. Armstrong's word as the deciding factor in their belief of what was being stated. They were instructed to "Believe your Bible!" In this way it was established that Christ, only, was the head of the Church of God and not the human disciples he had chosen to reveal the Truth through.

God's Church will always continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18). Part One of this book will again bring brand new Truth revealed to the Church of God.

I beseech you again to "Believe your Bible!" Believe Christ and allow him to protect you from the greatest time of trouble man has ever witnessed on the face of this earth!

Chapter One:

The Identity of the TWO Candlesticks



1. The Philadelphia Candlestick (Church) did not end at the death of HWA
2. Leader of the Laodicean Church commissioned
3. Gerald Flurry assumes the role of *Joshua*, the high priest of Laodicea
4. Two “candlesticks” labored together for seven years
5. The problem with thinking in terms of “eras” instead of “churches”

Gerald Flurry, the Pastor-General of the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG), headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma, claims that, at the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, the “*Philadelphia era*” ended and the “*Laodicean era*” began. He mistakenly believes the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) became the Laodicean Church at that precise time. He labels the WCG and ALL the daughter churches as LAODICEAN. On page 55 of Mr. Flurry’s book *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today (MM)*, he writes, “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.” Contrary to plain scriptures, he claims the Laodicean “*Lamp*” is the only “*Lamp*” burning at this time (see Rev. 11:4).

In his July/August 1998 *Royal Vision* magazine, page 5, Mr. Flurry declares,

It is primarily through delivering *Mystery of the Ages* that we keep the Lamp of the Laodicean ERA BURNING! That is our job. If the lamp goes out, this world would be in total darkness. Only the Philadelphia Church gives light to this world. And *Mystery of the Ages* is the major oil supply for the lamp.

That is a weird and confused statement!

Mr. Flurry has befuddled himself by “thinking in terms of Church Eras.” Revelation 1:20 states:

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand,

and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."

Notice that the scripture says **the seven candlesticks are the seven churches—not eras.**

Revelation 11:4 speaks of *two candlesticks* as it gives a description of the Two Witnesses: **"These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."** The Word of God clearly states that the Two Witnesses are representative of *two candlesticks*, or *two churches*—not eras! The Church of God has always used the word "era" to describe the different historical phases of the True Church. There has been no problem with using "era" until now! At this time, two churches exist—Philadelphia and Laodicea! Christ has only one Work and one faithful Church. The Philadelphia WORK has NOT ended, although we have entered the Laodicean phase (or era) of the seven churches, depicted by the seven candlesticks.

These two churches/candlesticks are portrayed immediately before the visible return of Jesus Christ and the First Resurrection. The Philadelphia candlestick did not stop burning at the death of Mr. Armstrong as Mr. Flurry claims. It is burning brightly today in the Church of God's Faithful. The Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry four years after Mr. Armstrong died (Luke 13:6-9). Mr. Flurry took the corporate name of *The Philadelphia Church of God*, but the fact is that Christ raised up Gerald Flurry as the representative of the LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK—the high priest of Laodicea! He was commissioned to warn the "unfaithful" of the Philadelphia Candlestick about their turning from TRUTH and drifting into the "Outer Court" of the Spiritual Temple (Rev. 11:1-2). "Measuring" the "Inner Court" was the main WORK Jesus Christ commissioned Laodicea to do!

Some "faithful" of the Philadelphia Candlestick also worked alongside the Laodiceans for seven years—two *women* laboring together. **"Two women shall be grinding together; the one³³⁹¹ shall be taken, and the other left"** (Luke 17:35). In this scripture the word *women* is not in the original but is used because the word *one* is in the feminine gender. Compare verses 34 and 36 where *one* is implied to mean *men* in using the neuter gender.

The Churches worked together until Mr. Flurry veered off track, became lukewarm to the Law of God, and ceased following Christ. Now the PCG under Gerald Flurry definitely fits the description of the Laodicean Church in Revelation 3:14-22, and he has assumed the role of Joshua, the high priest, of Zechariah 3.

The "faithful" of the Philadelphia Candlestick were organized as the Church of God's Faithful (CGF) in 1997. This point is thoroughly explained in our booklet, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*.

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The word **end** in verse 14 is #5056, *telos*, and is defined as:

From a primary word τέλλω *tellō* (to *set out* for a definite point or *goal*); properly the point aimed at as a *limit*, that is, (by implication) the *conclusion* of an act or state (*termination* [literally, figuratively or indefinitely], *result* [immediate, ultimate or prophetic], *purpose*); specifically an *impost* or *levy* (as *paid*): - + continual, custom, end (-ing), finally, uttermost. Compare 5411.

Number 5056 is used in Matthew 24:14 to clearly show that the goal of proclaiming the Gospel to the world was successfully concluded: the point aimed at was reached. Then our Lord begins His prophecy concerning the question asked in the beginning verses.

The disciples were greatly impressed with the elaborate construction of King Herod's renovations to the Temple of God that Zerubbabel had originally built, so Jesus used this as a sign of what would occur in the far distant future. The Temple was destroyed in 70 AD; however, not ALL of the stones were "thrown down" physically, but since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong the *lively stones* of the Spiritual Temple have been *thrown down*. Only a few Pillars remain standing!

So, let's ask the following:

- a. How is THE TEMPLE applied SPIRITUALLY?
- b. What does it mean, and the END shall come?

At this point we need to add three other passages of scripture and a quote from Mr. Armstrong to link the physical application of the Temple to the spiritual. Zechariah 4:9 states: **"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house [the temple]; his hands shall also finish it..."** Mr. Herbert Armstrong certainly believed that this prophecy referred to him as a type of Zerubbabel—and to the Church as the Temple.

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by him and sent to the Church on March 19, 1981:

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 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 20th 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.

By the time of his death, this second Zerubbabel had finished the Spiritual Temple. Next, read Ephesians 2:20-22:

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Our Lord is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE of the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE. The apostle Peter continues this subject in I Peter 2:4-5:

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

After 1900 long years, God built the end-time SPIRITUAL TEMPLE with Jesus Christ as the CHIEF CORNERSTONE of the FOUNDATION. The *living stones* for the rest of the Temple would be comprised of everyone God personally called throughout every age and through the end-time ministry of Herbert Armstrong. They would be *builded together* upon the *foundation* as the *pillars* and the *lively stones*, comprising the ENTIRE end-time TEMPLE, (Rev. 3:12). Let me state again, at the death of the second Zerubbabel, the Spiritual Temple was finished! This clearly answers the question of HOW the physical TEMPLE applied SPIRITUALLY.

How did God CALL each one of us to be parts of the Spiritual Temple (John 6:44)? Through the ministry of Mr. Armstrong God, called each one of us, either directly or indirectly, as he proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world!

The Temple was completed, but after Mr. Armstrong's death, Satan attacked the Church in great fury, scattering the *lively stones* far and wide.

To understand this very important TRUTH, let's come back again to our original question about Matthew 24:14: "What does it mean, '*and then the END shall come*'?" We saw above that the word *end* in verse 3 is from the Greek word *sunteleia*, Strong's #4930, and is defined as: "*entire completion, consum-*

mation (of a dispensation), end.” Jesus was informing His disciples that Herod’s Temple would be totally destroyed, without a stone standing, at the end of the world (age #165 *aion*), at the end of this *dispensation*. By the time the Mighty Christ takes rule of this earth, Jerusalem will have suffered *utter destruction* (see Zech. 14:1-11)—then a new world—a new age will begin.

Matthew 24:14 mentions the word “end”, as we have previously shown: **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end⁵⁰⁵⁶ come.”**

Notice again that the Greek word *telos* (#5056) is used in verse 14 as “end” and plainly means: “*completion, termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be, the goal reached or accomplished.*” When Herbert Armstrong died, the GOAL of preaching and publishing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness to all nations was accomplished! The TEMPLE was completed! No one else would be called by God **except** a very few from the “**streets and lanes of the city**” and the “**highways and the hedges**” to replace those who have thrown away their crowns (Luke 14:21-23). All of the *lively stones* have been called! Those who reject their calling and *crown* will be replaced. For a sobering example of being replaced, consider Judas’ name being replaced by Matthias on the great foundational stones of New Jerusalem. Compare Revelation 21:14 and Acts 1:26:

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb”... “And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The ministries of the divided and contentious daughter churches of the WCG that are attempting to “*preach the Gospel to the world*” and endeavoring to bring others into the Church are involved in their own futile work. The WORK of proclaiming the Gospel to the world has been done! Mr. Armstrong successfully completed his commission! The Gospel has been preached to the world, and the TEMPLE had been completed. Now the TEMPLE can be “*measured*” before the Two Witnesses’ ministry and the Great Tribulation begins (Rev. 11:1-4). Since the Temple has been completed, Christ could “*come suddenly*” to it (Mal. 3:1). This point of revealed TRUTH will be covered later in this booklet along with the fact of a third Zerubbabel prophesied to come on the scene.

Before leaving the subject of the completed Temple, we need to consider again Jesus’ statement in Matthew 24:2: “**...There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**” All of the stones of the physical Temple have not been thrown down yet! But, all of the *lively stones* of the Spiritual Temple, called through the ministry of Herbert Armstrong, have been *thrown down* and scattered by Satan the devil (Rev. 12:13). There are a comparatively few “*stones*” who were called, overcame and died during previous

ages of time. They are not “*living stones*,” but are permanently attached to the “Foundation.” Now, ONLY a few *pillars* of those called through Mr. Armstrong’s work are still standing in the Spiritual Temple on the “Foundation.” This was the condition of the Spiritual Temple at Christ’s *sudden return* to it (Mal. 3:1), in the Day of the Lord!

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The GREAT MYSTERY, or secret, known ONLY to the Father, was the TIME of the coming of Christ—when He would return *suddenly as a thief*, and the Day of the Lord would come as *a thief in the night* (see Rev. 3:3 and I Thess. 5:2). The TIME of His coming, described in verses 38-44, is a TIME when everything would be going along very normally—eating, drinking, marrying, etc. Then, UNEXPECTEDLY, Christ would COME SUDDENLY TO HIS TEMPLE (Mal.3:1)—like a *thief in the night*—everyone being completely unaware.

This is the reason why no one other than God, Himself, knew when he would come!

Notice that I am stating that in the past tense. No one that I know of who was a Church of God member under the teachings of Mr. Armstrong was EXPECTING Jesus to return NOW—at this TIME—before the Great Tribulation! All those of the former WCG believe these scriptures quoted above are speaking of Jesus' VISIBLE return that comes AFTER the Great Tribulation, the Heavenly Signs, and the Day of the Lord's Wrath! In the past, we have tried to apply these scriptures to the time AFTER those terrible events occur, but that is NOT the TIME being described.

A time of normal activities is pictured in Matthew 24:36-39, just as it is today, not a time when most of the earth and much of mankind will have been destroyed, as it will be AFTER the Tribulation. Let me emphasize Matthew 24:44: **“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”** Please understand! The VISIBLE return of Christ (Rev. 1:7) will not be an unexpected event. The TWO WITNESSES will announce the VISIBLE coming of Jesus Christ, in ADVANCE, to the whole world!

The Two Witnesses will be fully aware that their ministry will last for 1260 days (Rev. 11:3,7). During their ministry, they will call down the *Trumpet Plagues of God* in the manner that Moses and Aaron did anciently. And they will inform the entire world of the exact time of the visible return of Jesus Christ. Read this in Revelation 11:3-15. Verse 6 states: **“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have POWER over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”**

These Two Prophets will be killed at the conclusion of their 1260-day ministry. This occurs 3½ days before the last trumpet sounds, heralding the

VISIBLE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST (Rev. 1:7; Mark 13:24-27) and the Resurrection of the Saints! Proceed with Revelation 11:9-12:

And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelled on the earth. And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them (See also Rev. 11:15; I Corinthians 15:51-52; and I Thessalonians 4:16).

Revelation 1:7 proclaims: “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds⁵⁴⁴³ of the earth shall wail²⁸⁷⁵ because of him. Even so, Amen.”

His COMING this time will not be “as a thief,” unexpected and sudden, but will be proclaimed to the entire earth in advance! Think about the earth-shaking events of these mighty and fantastic sights and sounds of the Sixth and Seventh Seals, which will greatly increase the tribulation of the entire world! Matthew 24:29-31 defines the series of fantastic events leading to His visible coming!

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes⁵⁴⁴³ of the earth mourn²⁸⁷⁵, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelation 11:15 plainly informs us that these great events happen as the **LAST TRUMPET** is blown—and the *Seven Last Plagues* are yet to be poured out!

All of the inhabitants of the earth that are still alive at the time will have been WARNED. Even as they rejoice over the Two Witnesses’ death, you can confidently believe they will be counting the days, hours, and minutes and will be fearfully EXPECTING that which will occur at the end of 3½ days! The **WORLD** will have been **WARNED**! The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses and the **VISIBLE APPEARANCE** of **CHRIST** will not be as a “thief in the night.” **NO!** The entire world will be fearfully EXPECTING His return!

The great secret, the **MYSTERY** of **GOD**, the wonderful New Truth, that has

been revealed to the Church of God's Faithful is that CHRIST HAS ALREADY RETURNED! THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS COME as ***a thief in the night***—HE HAS SUDDENLY COME TO HIS TEMPLE! All of this is thoroughly covered in our booklet *The Day of the Lord*. Now this brings us to the next New Truth.

...And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great Day of His Wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The story flow is at the point of the opening of the SEVENTH SEAL; but notice carefully that this is the Day of the Lord's Wrath which continues only one year!

Read the following plain statements concerning the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*—or *Day of His Vengeance*:

Isaiah 34:8 **“For it is the DAY of the Lord's vengeance, and the YEAR of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.”**

Isaiah 61:2 **“To proclaim the acceptable YEAR of the Lord, and the DAY of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”**

Isaiah 63:4 **“For the DAY of vengeance is in mine heart, and the YEAR of my redeemed is come.”**

Three times we are plainly told that the *Day of the Lord's “Wrath”* (Greek word *Orge*, *Strong's* #3709) or the *Day of His “Vengeance”* (Hebrew word *Naqam*, *Strong's* #5359) is a ONE YEAR period of time. The *Day of the Lord's Wrath* is a ONE-YEAR period heralded by the awesome heavenly signs and 2½ years of the ministry of the Two Witnesses. It is an entirely different event than the DAY OF THE LORD that has come already as “a thief in the night.”

In II Peter 3:10,12,13 we read:

But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the Day of God [The Father], wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

These scriptures show as plain as day that the Day of the Lord is not the same event as the Day of His Wrath! Peter shows that the Day of the Lord, that has already begun, continues right on till all things have been fulfilled and God the Father makes His abode on the NEW EARTH. (See I Cor. 15:24).

The *Day of the Lord's Wrath* is a one-year period during the Day of the Lord! The *Day of the Lord's Wrath* is the Seventh Seal; however, all seven of the Seals are opened during the Day of the Lord! We read right over Revelation 1:10 in the past, but read this plain statement in the Bible: **“I was in¹⁷²² the Spirit on the Lord's²⁹⁶⁰ day,²²⁵⁰ and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.”** The apostle John was projected into the time of the LORD'S DAY or

the DAY of the LORD! From verse 10 to the end of the Book of Revelation, the story flow is in the DAY of the LORD!

Revelation 2 and 3 concern the history of the True Church from its beginning in 31 AD to this very time in the DAY of the LORD, and unto the visible return of our Lord. Chapters 4 and 5 depict the marvelous happenings at the very Throne of Almighty God **“on the Lord’s Day,”** or more plainly stated, **“in the DAY OF THE LORD!”** Next, Chapter 6 dramatically shows Christ, the Lamb of God, opening the First Four Seals, releasing the FOUR HORSEMEN—during the DAY OF THE LORD! This is the point of time we are in at this very moment in the DAY OF THE LORD.

The Fifth Seal, the Great Tribulation, will be opened very soon, also during the DAY OF THE LORD. Upon the heels of the Great Tribulation, the Sixth Seal will be ripped open and the HEAVENLY SIGNS will terrify the inhabitants of the earth during the DAY OF THE LORD. Finally, the Seventh Seal, the DAY OF THE LORD’S WRATH, will be opened during the DAY OF THE LORD! I repeat: the Day of the Lord’s Wrath is a ONE-YEAR period during the DAY OF THE LORD!

The Day of the Lord has come as a **“thief in the night!”** This extremely important event happened on October 1, 1997! No one was aware of it until it happened! This great Truth was revealed that night, immediately after it happened, and was preached to God’s True Church the next day on the Feast of Trumpets! The Lord **“came suddenly to His Temple”!** The Day of the Lord began! This was the MESSAGE of the mighty Angel of Revelation 10:6: **“...that there should be time no longer.”** Six thousand years allotted to mankind had come to an end—and God’s TIME began once again—the DAY OF THE LORD HAD COME! Verse 7 states: **“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the MYSTERY of GOD should be finished...”** Please understand: this seventh angel that **“begins to sound”** is the angel of Laodicea, not the seventh trumpet angel (see Rev.1:20 and 3:14, and request or download our article, “The Seventh Trumpet Angel OR the Seventh Church Angel—Which?”).

For seven years Gerald Flurry and the Laodicean Work was a wee, small voice crying aloud the warning message of Malachi. Then, in early 1997 Mr. Flurry made a monstrous mistake. He changed his God-given commission! He stole the rights to Mr. Armstrong’s book, *Mystery of the Ages* and went to the world with a discordant blast of the LAODICEAN trumpet. Then on the Feast of Trumpets 1997 Jesus Christ came suddenly to His Temple. The days of man were over; the Day of the Lord had begun. Request or download our booklet, *The Little Book...Unveiled at Last*.

Chapter Five:

The Lord Has Suddenly COME to His Temple



20. New organized beginning, 12 years after HWA's final sermon
21. Christ has come **SUDDENLY** to His Temple
22. He has **COME**, not to "appear" but to "discern"
23. What it really means "**TO STAND** before the Son of Man"
24. Who the *Pillars* in the Temple will be
25. A closer look at the Third Commandment

Please remember that the Spiritual Temple was completed at the death of Herbert W. Armstrong in January of 1986. At that point in time, God began conducting a mighty test to determine WHO would faithfully follow Jesus Christ and not just a man. God needed to know who could STAND ALONE in his belief and trust in the Word of God. Recent history has proven that very few, indeed, could HOLD FAST to Truth taught by Mr. Armstrong. As the WCG split and splintered, most of the begotten children of God were deceived and led astray as they followed their leaders who were also deceived. Satan had attacked the Church in great fury, knowing that his time was short (Rev. 12:13).

Precisely twelve years after Mr. Armstrong gave his final sermon to the Church on the Feast of Trumpets of 1985, it was TIME for a NEW ORGANIZED BEGINNING on the Feast of Trumpets 1997. Jesus Christ came SUDDENLY to His Temple as the DAY OF THE LORD began! The Gospel of the Kingdom of God had been preached and published to the entire world as a witness unto all nations by the end-time Elijah! Now the time had come to proclaim: **“the Kingdom of God is at hand!”**

Malachi 3:1 tells us: **“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me...”** John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus’ first coming to the physical Temple. Herbert Armstrong was the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus’ SECOND coming to the Spiritual Temple.

Proceed with the next part of Malachi 3:1 **“... and the Lord, whom you seek, shall SUDDENLY come to his temple...”** When our Lord came to the physical Temple at the beginning of His earthly ministry, He was righteously angry at the way the House of God was being mistreated. Read this in John 2:13-16:

And the Jews’ Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and over threw the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s House a house of merchandise.

Jesus was highly indignant with the dishonor shown the Temple by the carnal minded people of that day. How must He feel today as He observes the chaotic state of the Spiritual Temple and the dishonor done to it by those **“lively stones”** that possess the Spirit of God?

Continue Malachi 3:1-2

...even the Messenger of the Covenant [see Mark 1:1-14], whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the DAY OF HIS COMING? And WHO SHALL STAND WHEN HE APPEARETH?

“APPEARETH” is an unfortunate rendering of the Hebrew word *ra’ah*, Strong’s #7200. In verse 18 of this same chapter it states: **“Then shall ye return, and DISCERN [same Hebrew word, *ra’ah*, #7200] between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”** This is precisely the meaning of verse 2. Christ is not coming to APPEAR at this time but to DISCERN who is righteous or wicked, who serves God and who does not.

Luke 21:36 declares: **“Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man.”** Those that shall be accounted WORTHY to escape have been selected as the PILLARS of God’s Temple. They STAND securely fastened to the solid foundation of the Word of God! Through the PILLAR members’ efforts, those Lost Sheep in the synagogue of Satan whom God will *give* to us (Rev. 3:9), will be taught the Truth which you are reading, and they, also, will be “counted worthy to escape”.

Put the following scriptures together to see the PLAIN TRUTH of that last statement:

Again, read Malachi 3:2: **“But who may abide the DAY of His COMING? [As a “thief in the night”] ...and who shall STAND... [Who shall be accounted**

WORTHY to escape and **STAND** as **PILLARS**?] ...when He **DISCERNs**? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap."

I Corinthians 3:11,13,17:

For other FOUNDATION can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ ...Every man's WORK shall be made manifest: for THE DAY shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire [refiner's fire and fuller's soap]; and the fire shall try every man's WORK of what sort it is ...If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the Temple of God is Holy, which Temple you are [as lively stones].

Revelation 3:8,10,12 declare:

I know thy WORKS [they have been tested by fiery trials]: ...for thou hast a little strength, and hast KEPT MY WORD, and hast NOT DENIED MY NAME. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience... [kept His WORD PATIENTLY and have been ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE]...I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation... [the Great Tribulation]...which shall come upon all the WORLD, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple... [Strong's #3485 'naos' inner court, the holy place]... of my God...

Consider at this point: these scriptures in Revelation 3 are written for those who are the chosen and faithful **PILLARS** living today. Mr. Armstrong is dead. He doesn't need protection from the Great Tribulation. The former WCG members who have not faithfully kept God's Word have denied His Name and will not be protected from the Tribulation, unless repentance comes first. They will not be **PILLARS**—they are the *lively stones*! God's mercy to them will be covered in Chapter Six. The **PILLARS** are those who have remained **FAITHFUL**. They are promised protection from the Great Tribulation and will have the exalted position of **STANDING** in the presence of God and Christ always. See Revelation 3:12 and 21:12,14,22. Again, consider the permanent honor of the patriarchs' names above the Temple Gates and the apostles' names on the foundation stones, with the **PILLARS**' names, most likely, inscribed permanently upon them.

Malachi 3:16 declares:

Then they that feared the Lord [who kept his WORD PATIENTLY] spake often to one another [as TRUE PHILADELPHIANS]: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it [Christ is here in the DAY of the LORD to discern or perceive those who are His FAITHFUL], and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His NAME.

We must remember that we bare the NAME of GOD, and as begotten children of God and the affianced Bride of Jesus Christ, we must respect, honor, and submit to the authority of that most **HIGH NAME**. We must NOT take His NAME in vain (Ex.20:7).

Malachi 3:17 tells us:

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, IN THAT DAY [the DAY of the LORD] when I make up my jewels [*special treasure* in the Amplified Bible], and I will spare them, as a man that spareth his own son that serveth him.

His *special treasure* is made up of those who have been ACCOUNTED WORTHY to escape, to be SPARED from the GREAT TRIBULATION. Isn't it PLAIN that the time written about here is BEFORE the Great Tribulation, when our Lord has SUDDENLY come to His Temple and is making up His *special treasure*, the Pillar members of His Temple?

Malachi 3:3:

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi [The spiritually drunk ministry of the Church of God], and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

The “hireling” ministers are going to be refined and purified through trials and tests here and now, or be purged in the Great Tribulation by offering their LIVES in sacrifice. We are in the Day of the Lord. Christ has suddenly come to His Temple. A refining process is taking place. The Temple is being “measured”. Those accounted WORTHY shall escape ALL these things that must come to pass. Those who do not repent will be purged during the horrors of the Great Tribulation. They must then give their PHYSICAL LIVES or lose their ETERNAL LIVES, most likely before the final year—the Day of the Lord's Wrath—begins.

The Temple Must Now be “Measured”!

26. Two prophets can prophesy at the same time.
27. The Rock upon which Christ's Church is built!
28. Where the NAME, *Church of God's Faithful*, originates.
29. Additional information about our name.
30. Understanding of "churches of god" and "synagogue of Satan"!
31. The "hirelings" revealed.
32. The Bible's interpretation of the symbols in Zechariah 4.
33. Why "things" have proceeded so slowly
34. The "Open Door".
35. Who the "Lost Sheep of the House of Israel" are today!
36. Christ exhorts us to study and understand prophecy!
37. How the "Lost Sheep" will be gathered!
38. The Ten Virgins and the Midnight Cry!

Chapters 10 and 11 are insets in the *story flow* of the Book of Revelation and hold great meaning for us today. We can now understand, from Revelation 1:10, that the events of these two chapters and the entire Book of Revelation are seen from the point in time of the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord began October 1, 1997.

Revelation 11:1 states: **“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.”** Our Lord Jesus Christ appears here as *“the Angel”*. This fact is made PLAIN in our booklet, *The Little Book Unveiled at Last*. The word for Temple in verses 1 and 2 is #3485 in *Strong’s* and is from the Greek word *naos*, meaning: “the inner court of the Temple, the holy place.”

Please understand this is speaking of the Spiritual Temple! And, of course, the Temple could not be measured until all of the building blocks, *the lively stones* (I Pet.2:5), had been called by God. The Temple was finished at the time of the death of the second Zerubbabel, Herbert Armstrong (Zech. 4:9). The

finished Spiritual Temple was typified by Solomon's magnificent PHYSICAL Temple. When the original Zerubbabel finished the second Temple in 516 BC, the people who remembered Solomon's Temple were disappointed and sad. God spoke to them in Haggai 2:3, 9 these encouraging words:

Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? ...The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts...

Notice a point of interest seen in Haggai and Zechariah. They both prophesied at the same time period: the second year of Darius. Compare Haggai 1:1, 15 and 2:10,18,20 with Zechariah 1:1,7 and chapters 2-6.

Actually, those words in Haggai 2:3 and 9, spoken so long ago, are for us today! At the death of the end-time apostle, Herbert Armstrong, the Worldwide Church of God was a MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE, but Satan was allowed to attack and practically destroy it.

However, Christ had much earlier told another apostle, Peter, that the **“gates of hell would not prevail against His Church.”**

Notice Jesus' statement to Peter in Matthew 16:15-18:

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The Church was viciously attacked, shattered and scattered, but it would never be destroyed because it was built upon *the Rock*. What is our Lord referring to when He mentions the *Rock*? Observe carefully that Jesus tells Peter that he did not learn from men the truth that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God; it had been revealed to Peter by God the Father. Then Jesus states that the revealed truth is the *Rock* upon which the Church would be built! Of course we know from scripture that Jesus Christ is the *Rock* (I Cor. 10:4) and also the Living Word (Rev. 19:13). The Bible is the written Word of God, and John 17:17 adds: ***thy Word is Truth!*** Therefore the True Church of Jesus Christ is built upon the foundation of revealed Truth---the Holy Bible (Eph. 2:20-22).

Satan assaulted the Church and things looked bad, but Christ is in charge--**-and the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church.**

The building blocks or *lively stones*, called through the ministry of the end-time Elijah, are scattered far and wide. When Christ returned SUDDENLY to His Temple, all that remained was the FIRM FOUNDATION, the compara-

tively few building blocks of all those who qualified throughout the ages who died in the faith, and a few faithful PHILADELPHIAN PILLARS. Christ began to measure these PILLAR members of the Spiritual Temple. The PILLAR members are the remnant of the Philadelphia Candlestick.

God tells us in Zephaniah 3:12: **“I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.”** They shall trust in the NAME of the LORD! In other words they will be God’s FAITHFUL people—or the CHURCH OF GOD’S FAITHFUL! CALLED OF GOD! CHOSEN AS PILLARS! FAITHFUL TO THE END according to Revelation 17:14!

In September of 1997 we realized that to function as an organized church in South Carolina we had to be incorporated and have an appropriate name. We knew the common New Testament name for the true Church was “Church of God”. But there were already several churches that had split off of the WCG with the name “Church of God”, namely *Global Church of God*, *United Church of God*, *Church of the Great God*, *Church of God, the Eternal*, and others of the world’s churches that take the name *Church of God*.

We knew we were God’s people *called* by God through the ministry of His servant, Herbert Armstrong, *chosen* as begotten children at our baptism, and deeply desiring to be *faithful* to the end, thus the name *Church of God’s Faithful* was chosen! However, Christ revealed the True meaning of the name nearly seven years later. Revelation 1:5 states: **“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth...”** And Revelation 19:11: **“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”** The *Church of God’s Faithful* is the Church of the Faithful and True Witness, Jesus Christ—the *Church of Jesus Christ!* How very marvelous and wonderful! More information is available in our article “Why the Name—Church of God’s Faithful?”

But back to Zephaniah 3 and verse 4: UNFAITHFUL ministers are described who have become the leaders of the *churches of god* (little “c” and little “g”) or in plainer words, the *synagogue of Satan*. They are the Ambassador-trained ministers who have become “*hirelings*” (John 10:12-13). Prior to his death, those ministers taught that Mr. Armstrong was the end-time Elijah and a type of Zerubbabel. Now many of these same ministers have become deceived and confused and have abandoned much of what they formerly believed. Consequently, many of them have started their own churches and are actively trying to *preach the Gospel to the world*. They compose the 300+ split and splintered daughter churches [or groups] that exist in contention and rebellion today in 2008. Their work is completely futile in God’s sight.

Herbert Armstrong was commissioned to take the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations, and through the Spirit of God his commission was suc-

cessfully accomplished. The blind and deceived, yet proud and arrogant *hireling* ministers, lack understanding and appear indifferent to the urgent times in which we live. Gerald Flurry and his Laodiceans have fallen into the same Satan devised trap and are also rushing headlong towards the Great Tribulation unless their blind spiritual eyes are opened and they repent.

Zephaniah 3:4 declares: **“Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary...”** The word *sanctuary* is Strong’s #6944, “*qodesh*”, in Hebrew. It has practically the same meaning as #3485 in Greek as in Revelation 11:1, “*the inner court*”. Continuing in verse 4: **“... they have done violence to the law.”** However, verse 5 tells us: **“The just Lord is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his JUDGMENT [#4941] to light, He faileth not...”**

Christ has come to His Sanctuary (Mal. 3:1). He is our LORD, our SAVIOR and our EXAMPLE—and we must grow up into Him in all things! He is giving His Faithful Church daily, hands-on guidance. We must strive to be as He is. Zephaniah 3:13 shows that Christ is expecting His *faithful* to emulate the same righteous CHARACTER that He displays. These characteristics are measurements we MUST demonstrate to our Lord. Zephaniah 3:13 lists what is expected of us: **“The remnant of Israel [the Church of God, Galatians 6:16] shall not do iniquity [see verse 5 again], nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth...”**

In the New Testament, these measurements Zephaniah writes about in verse 13, are emphasized in the following scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:15: **“But speaking the truth in love, may GROW UP into HIM in ALL THINGS, which is the Head, even Christ...”**
- Philippians 2:5: **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”**
- II Peter 3:18: **“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”**
- Revelation 3:21: **“To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His Throne.”**

Of course there are dozens of other scriptures that picture the righteousness of our Faithful Lord, who is in the likeness and character of God the Father (Heb. 1:3). Those scriptures are the carefully detailed measurements into which we must willingly strive to be fashioned through God’s Spirit working in us.

Also, there are dozens and scores of scriptures, even entire chapters that tell of the UNFAITHFUL ministers of the WCG and of her daughter churches—all of which make up the “churches of god” or more accurately stated the *synagogue of Satan*!

We have completed ten years in the Day of the Lord! We must be *measuring* ourselves according to the example of our Savior, and we must remember that Christ is *measuring* or *discerning* our character, too (Mal. 3:2). The deceitful ministers are not getting away with anything either! Our Lord knows exactly what they are doing!

Again, read Malachi 3:3:

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Much the same message is stated to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:18: “**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire...**” And verse 19: “**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**”

The contentious ministers of Laodicea and the synagogue of Satan **MUST** repent of turning away from the Work of Jesus Christ! The gospel has already been preached to the world as a witness to all nations. The *pillars* and *lively stones* of the Temple are Christ’s concern at this time—not the world! Most of the “churches of god” have *denied His name* which primarily includes rejecting the Government of God. These divided and vain ministers are spiritually drunk on their different “brand of the gospel”. Instead of cooperating and seeking unity in following Christ, as examples and guides for God’s bewildered people, most of them are stubbornly involved in their own varied efforts to *preach the gospel to the world*. And by their self-centered actions they deny the WORK done by Christ through His Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. Most of them are mired in 1986 with no new growth in the knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18). They are as the leaders of the Sardis Church were when Herbert Armstrong brought New Truth to them. They refused to accept New Truth and became a dead church. Please request or download our booklet: *Holding Fast...God’s Way!*

Isaiah 28:7-8 states:

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of THE WAY [Their work is completely futile] **the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are OUT OF THE WAY...**[They are not following THE WAY of Christ: see John 14:6].**... they ERR in vision** [Remember most of these former ministers of God are stuck in a 1986 mind-set and have no knowledge of the WORK Christ has done since Herbert Armstrong’s death], **they stumble in judgment. For all the tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.**

They have disqualified themselves as ministers of God.

These scriptures, in no uncertain terms, are dealing with God’s UNFAITHFUL ministry! They are the Sons of Levi who SHALL be corrected by the Living

Christ! The ministers of the world's churches are NOT being discussed here nor are they being judged at this present time. Those being discussed are God's fallen ministers, ALL OF THEM, who are now of Laodicea or the synagogue of Satan.

The fallen, *hireling*, ministers are deceived by Satan! They, in turn, have deceived the people of God who follow them. Nevertheless, they are ALL begotten children of Almighty God and God is a *jealous God* (Ex. 20:5). He will not allow Satan to keep His people in the darkness of spiritual Egypt!

The Apostle John is inspired to write to the Church of Philadelphia the encouraging words in Revelation 3:8. We looked at these scriptures earlier in this writing, but let's read them again and notice an extremely important TRUTH that we have not seen before—something NEW God has for us. **“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for you hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”**

Ask yourself the question, “What is the OPEN DOOR?” The Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 16:9: **“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me...”** The door opened to Paul is explained in Acts 14:27, last phrase: **“...and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.”** II Corinthians 2:12 adds more information: **“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's Gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord...”**

Paul and all who were called in his day were in the Ephesus “era” which was the first phase of the Seven Churches or Candlesticks (Rev. 1:20).

Reading Revelation 2:1-7 it is plain that the Church of the Ephesian Era is not promised an open door as is promised to Philadelphia. Yet Paul was given an open door to go to the Gentiles! Why? Because Christ IS the OPEN DOOR! Jesus says in John 14:6: **“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** Every man, including the Gentiles, who Paul was commissioned to minister unto had to come to God through the DOOR, Christ our Savior. Our Lord states this fact in John 10:7-8: **“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am THE DOOR of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them.”** The ministers of the churches of the world are described as thieves and robbers.

Continue with verse 9:

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling...

Please stop here and realize this vital point. The hirelings mentioned here are the ordained ministry of God. They should have been faithful shepherds, but have become the ministers of the “churches of god”—or synagogue of Satan! They were weak and cowardly when the “thieves and robbers” took control of the WCG after Herbert Armstrong died. Instead of concern for the people, God’s Flock, many were only concerned for their pocketbooks! They were and are indeed, hirelings!

Proceed with John 10:12-13:

But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the WOLF [Satan’s ministers] coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the WOLF catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling and careth not for the sheep.

The hirelings were afraid of the “wolves” and fled from their responsibilities of being loyal shepherds for Christ, the TRUE SHEPHERD! However, Christ knows His sheep and is not going to give them up—“**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**” (verse 14).

The apostle Paul fully comprehended the warnings Christ gave in John 10. He very bluntly told the elders of the city of Ephesus what would happen after his departure. Read this in Acts 20:17: “**And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called for the elders of the Church.**” [the ministry]. Now come to verses 28-30:

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the FLOCK, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers [shepherds], to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the FLOCK. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

Isn’t this precisely what happened after Mr. Armstrong’s departure? Isn’t this exactly what Christ warned of? We have lived through this! Haven’t we seen the “hireling” ministers, in fear of having their paychecks cut off, stick with the corrupted teachings of the WCG until they could “**draw away disciples unto themselves?**” By the time these “hirelings” decided to “*draw away disciples*,” and leave, Gerald Flurry had been fearlessly warning the 100,000 members of the WCG of the “WOLVES” that had taken control of WCG headquarters. Some few listened and heeded although Mr. Flurry’s writings were impugned as *dissident literature* by the WCG, yet Mr. Flurry continued to do the Work of the Laodicean Candlestick, which was the Work of Jesus Christ! The Laodicean Candle had been “lit”. The “hireling” ministers would have nothing to do with

Mr. Flurry and the Laodicean Work of Jesus Christ. He was ridiculed by many of the *hirelings*. Only John Amos and one pastor ranked WCG minister labored with Gerald Flurry. Mr. Amos served in the PCG for 3-½ years, but died from an illness in 1993. The other minister left the PCG in 1995. None of the others ministers of the WCG would remain faithful Philadelphian ministers and follow Christ in the Work he was doing. They started their own “works” as the “churches of god” or the synagogue of Satan.

Mr. Flurry and the PCG struggled on with the Work of God for seven years. But sadly, Satan also deceived Mr. Flurry. He veered way off course and lost sight of the Work of Christ. He and his PCG have become the Laodiceans as described in Revelation 3:14-18.

Christ knows all of His sheep and they should know Him, but the sheep are confused and lost! Through 300+ splits and splinters of the WCG and thousands of pages of written and spoken words by the *hirelings*, God’s people are lost sheep in the darkness of the outer court. They are trapped in the synagogue of Satan! Remember the Church is the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16)—thus there is hope!

The fate of the “lost sheep of the House of Israel” has been revealed to God’s Faithful Church.

Remember that Jesus Christ IS the “Open Door”! He tells us in John 6:37: **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”** Now read Revelation 3:8-9. In verse 8 let’s focus only on the part of the scripture dealing with the “Open Door” and then connect it to verse 9.

I know your works: behold, I have set before thee an OPEN DOOR, and no man can shut it...Behold, I will MAKE [Strong’s #1325] them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews [They say, ‘We are the churches of god’], **AND ARE NOT, but do lie [God has ONLY ONE TRUE CHURCH]; **Behold, I will MAKE [Strong’s #4160] them to come** [Through the OPEN DOOR to His TRUE CHURCH] **and worship [God] before thy feet, and to KNOW that I have loved thee.****

Christ will do this—He is the “Open Door”! For ten years the CGF has been commissioned to go only to the *inner court* of the Spiritual Temple. But now we are fast approaching the time of the *Midnight Cry* to awaken the *ten virgins*! The *ten virgins*, as has been explained, represent the *synagogue of Satan* (the *outer court*, the *lost sheep of the House of Israel*), therefore we are very near the time when Christ will make them come to us through the “Open Door”!

The Church of God’s Faithful is SET APART BY TRUTH! When finally made aware of this revealed TRUTH, backed up by the POWER of GOD, it shall be easily recognized and accepted by many, perhaps one-half, of the *lost sheep*. The REVEALED TRUTH you are reading emphasized by the POWER of GOD

will then identify us as HIS TRUE CHURCH!

However, our commission to this point has been to warn Gerald Flurry and the Laodicean Church! We have not gone to the *outer court* at all, although our website is being accessed by some who may be from the *outer court*. None of the splits and splinters of the *outer court*—synagogue of Satan—would recognize us as the TRUE CHURCH at this time, but very soon they will. We have been mostly hidden from view except to the Laodiceans! In fact most of these churches have never heard of us! At this point in time if the opportunity to read our God-inspired booklets were presented to them, few would respond, although through God's Spirit they could recognize New Truth. They would not respond because of the vast torrent of words that have flowed from the mouths and pens of the deceitful ministry of the synagogue of Satan. The deceived "flock" of God would pay little attention to our words, unless these WORDS are backed by the POWER of GOD! God has had a reason for keeping us hidden from view!

Christ came suddenly to His Temple as man's allotted time ended and the Day of the Lord began. He came to *discern the righteous from the wicked* requiring the application of Jesus' statement in Matthew 23:12 that also requires a period of time for the characteristics mentioned there to be developed—either pride or humility. This is why the CGF has remained so small in number, poor, afflicted, and with *little strength*. A Pillar position is such an exalted position the person must be humbled and proven to be able to value the fantastic calling as a mainstay in the Temple.

In the same manner that God brought Israel out of Egypt, God is going to bring the *lost sheep* of spiritual Israel out of the synagogue of Satan (see Haggai 2:5).

Moses and Aaron were given the mighty power of the SPIRIT of GOD to perform fantastic signs, miracles, and wonders. And through the mighty power of God, Israel was completely freed from Egypt. Yet Moses had to be "trained" in the use of the power of God. Exodus 4 describes this. Verse 1: **"And Moses answered and said, but, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice..."** This is the same situation we have today! Who would believe our words today, even though they are from the WORD OF GOD, unless they were backed up by the POWER of GOD?

In Exodus 4:2-9, God instructs Moses in the performance of "simple" MIRACLES.

- Moses rod was transformed into a snake; then back again to a rod.
- His hand was made leprous and then healed.
- The water of the river when poured upon the ground would become blood! "Water" and "blood" are symbols of life.

These “simple” miracles Moses was instructed in were symbolic of MIGHTY miracles that our Lord would perform during His ministry in the flesh.

- Jesus would have power over the serpent, Satan—and the demons!
- He would have power to heal the sick and cleanse the lepers!
- He would have power to raise the dead—to give life!

The ministry of our Lord was filled with miracles as He taught and gave example to His disciples. Matthew 4:23-24 states:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatik, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

By witnessing these MIGHTY MIRACLES and by receiving the POWER and AUTHORITY to perform them, His disciples, they were taught to do them too. Read this in Matthew 10:6-8:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Luke 9:1-2 gives additional information: **“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the Kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”** Also verse 6: **“And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.”**

The manifestation of the POWER and AUTHORITY given to these twelve men as they performed MIRACLES, SIGNS, and WONDERS surely was a tremendous witness to the Jews and the others of Galilee and Judea. Luke 9:10 states: **“And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done...”** They were, most likely, absolutely amazed at that which God had done through them. But the point is; they were given TRAINING in performing MIRACLES, SIGNS, and WONDERS.

In Luke 10:1 seventy others were sent out on a similar mission. Verse 17 relates their excited report: **“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.”** This was the method Jesus used in conducting His ministry. Miracles, signs, and wonders attracted great numbers of people. That same POWER could also attract many people today—AND IT WILL VERY SOON! The ministry of the Two Witnesses

will begin shortly! Surely they too will be given advance training just as the other servants of God have been given in the past.

Many of the disciples of Jesus could not believe the deep things of God that he spoke unto them. John 6:60 states this: **“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, this is an hard saying; who can hear it?”** Then our Lord told them in verses 63 and 64: **“It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are the Spirit and they are the life. But there are some of you that believe not...”**

Later, at His final Passover, Jesus told the eleven apostles the words that are recorded in John 14:10-11:

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.

It was difficult for even his chosen disciples to believe the very WORDS of Christ, himself. Thus, He said as paraphrased, “If you can not believe my WORDS because you see me as a man, you must believe them when they are supported by the POWER of the FATHER!”

This is much like the situation that exists today! The *outer court* has heard and read so MANY WORDS by “hireling” ministers that they are complacent and spiritually asleep or bewildered, confused, and cynical. Only the POWER of God backing up the WORDS of God that we speak and write will identify the Church of God’s Faithful—the Church of Jesus Christ—God’s One True Church!

A word of caution needs to be added here too. Miracles, signs, and wonders alone do not identify God’s True Church. Others will be performing false miracles through the power of Satan. False “miracles” will be performed similar to that which Simon of Acts 8 did to “bewitch” the people of Samaria during the early years of the New Testament Church.

Matthew 7:20-23 issues this warning:

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”.

Unless the miracles, signs, and wonders are accompanied by Truth—New and Old—it will not be God’s One True Church!

Jesus also spoke these wonderful and exciting words to His eleven apostles as recorded in John 14:12-14:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

The disciples were already experienced in performing mighty works themselves, through the POWER of God's Spirit. Christ informed them that even greater WORKS would be done through God's Spirit WORKING in them. Yet even GREATER WORKS than those will be done in the near future. The Two Witnesses will undoubtedly be used of God to perform the most EARTH-SHAKING miracles ever. They must have a period of training before their ministry begins as all of those of the past have had.

Before investigating the Two Witnesses ministry in Revelation 11, we need to examine Matthew 10. This chapter was fulfilled only in type by the twelve apostles during Jesus' ministry. Verse 7 is a definite KEY for us to understand at this time! Read our Lord's statement from verse 7: **"And as you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** The Kingdom of Heaven (or "Kingdom of God" as the other New Testament writers affirm) was AT HAND because the King, Jesus, was there among them as they were to boldly proclaim! Matthew is inspired to record that the message to be delivered with the manifested POWER of God's Holy Spirit was not only *the Gospel of the Kingdom of God*, but **THE KINGDOM WAS AT HAND!** Christ, as the KING of the Kingdom of God, was there among them of Judea and Galilee.

The declaration that **the Kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND** is mentioned ONLY as referring to Jesus Christ:

1) As He ministered to the people during His life in the flesh (See Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Mark 1:15).

2) In the description of the earth-shaking events leading to HIS VISIBLE RETURN as the KING of KINGS and the establishing of the Kingdom of God on earth (Luke 21:30-31).

With this KEY we can now understand the last phrase of Matthew 10:23. Our Lord made this statement with the AUTHORITY that only He, as the King of the Kingdom can truthfully claim: **"...for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man be come."** Jesus plainly tells the disciples that they would NOT COMPLETE this task of preaching **"THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND"** to the CITIES of ISRAEL until He would COME!

How many of the cities of Judah and Galilee they covered before He arrived, physically, we don't know. We do know the disciples and Jesus, himself, went only to the JEWS during that part of their early ministry. Read the account in

Acts 10:36-39:

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:) That word, I say, you know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began in Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were possessed of the devil; for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did in the land of the JEWS, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree.

Mr. Armstrong explained to us from God's Word that the JEWS descended from their forefather Judah. Judah was one of the twelve sons of the patriarch, Jacob, whom God re-named "*Israel*." So technically, the Jews are "children of Israel" although they are of the HOUSE of JUDAH; not the HOUSE of ISRAEL! We will explain this in more detail a little later.

Christ said His disciples would not have gone over the cities of Israel with the message of "the *KINGDOM IS AT HAND*" until He would come! Now, He has come, in the Day of the Lord, and this task shall be completed! We, His Faithful Church, are once again proclaiming "the KINGDOM IS AT HAND"—the Day of the Lord has come! The King is once again here—directing His ONE TRUE CHURCH! However, this proclamation, so far, has been directed only to the PCG who are the Laodiceans or spiritual Judah. This will soon change—the *Midnight Cry* will issue forth; more about that a little later.

The original apostles, after the death and resurrection of Jesus and after Pentecost of 31 AD, continued to perform mighty signs, miracles, and wonders as they proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. In their early epistles they still thought the "*KINGDOM WAS AT HAND*". Later, they realized that the *Kingdom* was not imminently *at hand*. And before the Apostle John's death, Satan introduced the "Babylonian mystery religion": "**And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**" (Rev. 17:5).

That Mystery Religion infiltrated the early True Church, preaching a "*gospel*" about Christ while denying the true message He had taught. Satan accomplished this by using his own "*shepherds*" (II Pet. 2:1-3; III John: 9-10; Jude: 4).

The true Gospel of the Kingdom of God became lost to the world! Through the centuries the true Gospel was taught and believed by only small, scattered groups of God's people. By the time of the Sardis era of God's Church most Truth had been lost except the knowledge of the Sabbath Day and the Passover. Revelation 3:1-2 describes Sardis as a "dead church". But 1900 years after the New Testament Church began in 31 AD, Christ raised-up an end-time apostle,

Herbert W. Armstrong. Through that servant of Christ, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God was restored as the fulfillment of Matthew 17:11 and 24:14! Matthew 17:11 declares: “...**Elias [Elijah] truly shall first come, and restore all things.**” Now read Matthew 24:14 again: “**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”**”

The True Gospel was restored in its fullest and successfully *preached* (*Strong's #2784; heralded, proclaimed, published*) to the world as a witness to all nations. Christ, our Lord, restored the Gospel through Herbert Armstrong. Christ, Himself, will RESTORE ALL THINGS as Acts 3:20-21 asserts. We have entered the Day of the Lord and the “...**RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS...**” has commenced! This is explained more thoroughly in our booklet: *Hold Fast... God's Way!*

After Mr. Armstrong successfully proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world, the END of the “proclaiming” came. Soon, the proclaiming of the Kingdom is at Hand will go to the LOST SHEEP of the HOUSE of ISRAEL, and then to the WORLD! So in actuality Matthew 10 is for the immediate future here in the Day of the Lord.

Mr. Armstrong understood that the twelve disciples initially were sent to the surrounding towns and cities of Judea and Galilee. Matthew 10:5-6 states: “**These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not; But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.**” The initial training for their ministry began in the cities and towns of Judea and Galilee to the Jews of the physical House of Judah (Acts 13:37), but after they received God's Spirit on Pentecost they were to go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

All of us of the former WCG have read and studied *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Herbert Armstrong. From this inspired book we know that the nation of Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms, Israel AND Judah. The northern kingdom, Israel, was defeated by the Assyrians way back in 721 BC. Nearly the entire nation of Israel was subsequently deported to many parts of the Assyrian Empire. Then years later they migrated to the lands of Northwestern Europe. They became the “lost ten tribes of Israel.” Mr. Armstrong considered them the lost sheep of the House of Israel! In type this was correct; but this is also for NOW, in the Day of the Lord!

Let me quote from our booklet, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* on page 38:

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 (Gal. 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 David. God did the same in this end time. When the WCG (spiritual Israel) went astray, God raised up the Philadelphia Church of God (the Laodicean Work) to preserve the Key of David vision. Anciently, Israel was the Northern Kingdom. Judah was the Southern Kingdom referred to prophetically as the 'South' in Obadiah 19, *And the South will possess the Mount of Esau*...It is 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 and daughters of the Outer Court) went into spiritual captivity first to the Man of Sin. Spiritual Judah (the PCG Laodiceans) is now following suit and has ended up deceived also.

Consequently, when we read Christ's instruction in Matthew 10:6: **"But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel"**, we must consider this as a command to His faithful disciples of today to go to THE LOST SHEEP of the *churches of god*—the synagogue of Satan—who truly are LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Many Old Testament scriptures predict the chaotic condition of the Church of God; plainly describing the Church as pitiful sheep deserted by their shepherds. We have read Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 28:7-8. Now read again one of Jeremiah's prophecies in chapter 50:6:

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

Isn't the wording so PLAIN in its description of what is happening right now, today? And verse 4 declares that it is the LORD, the ETERNAL GOD, thundering those words.

God says HIS PEOPLE are LOST SHEEP!

God says the SHEPHERDS have caused them to go astray!

God says the SHEEP are scattered from the mountains to the hills; from large groups to very tiny groups, the Flock has been scattered, split and splintered by the shepherds.

The SHEEP do not know where the True Church is located!

Jeremiah 23:1-4 is a frightful warning to the vain shepherds of the synagogue of Satan:

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of MY pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed MY SHEEP; Ye have scattered MY FLOCK, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the EVIL of your doings, saith the Lord. And I will gather the remnant of MY FLOCK out of all countries [a better rendering would be, “from the ends of earth”] whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up SHEPHERDS over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.

The *gathering* of God’s lost sheep is ready to commence. Christ is bringing in a few faithful ministers as SHEPHERDS along with other true Philadelphians that have been members in the Laodicean PCG. As Christ awakens them through our constant “knocking”, they are thankfully coming to the CGF and are being set as steadfast Pillars. The Pillars must be in position in the spiritual Temple in preparation for the other “lively stones” to be *gathered* and made into a part of the Temple. Those “lively stones” are begotten children of God who presently are the *lost sheep* of the House of Israel. They are deceived and unknowingly are a part of the synagogue of Satan! However, Christ knows each one of them and will MAKE those who have not quenched the Spirit of God, to COME to the Church of God’s Faithful that they may be taught. Read this again in Revelation 3:9: **“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.”**

The TRUE CHURCH is SET APART BY TRUTH! A continuous flow of begotten brethren are recognizing this fact and are being brought into the CGF as they hear, read, and study the New Truth we have been given from the Word of God! But it appears that the vast majority of the “*lost sheep*,” trapped in the synagogue of Satan will need to see mighty signs, miracles, and wonders to recognize the CGF as the TRUE CHURCH. Christ will do this when the time is right! Remember, He is the “Open Door”! When the POWER of God’s Spirit backs up our WORDS, then we will go to the lost sheep and He will MAKE them come to us.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins!

Notice carefully Christ’s parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.

Verse 1: **“Then [when?] shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.”**

As we go through this marvelous parable we need to understand the time setting and the Bible definition of the symbols Jesus uses. The parable begins with the adverb “then”. At what point in time does “then” refer? Matthew 24 and 25 are one lengthy dissertation by our Lord. Verses 1-31 of chapter 24, give a summary of prophecies culminating in the visible Return of Jesus and the First Resurrection. Verse 32 clearly shows that when all of these prophecies are at the point of being fulfilled, then God intervenes and the Day of the Lord comes suddenly **“as a thief in the night”** (vv. 33-39). Verse 40 states that at the time of “the Lord’s coming”—the Day of the Lord—“then”, a selection will begin as Christ begins His discernment of the “righteous and the wicked”. See also Malachi 3:1-2,18.

Therefore as Matthew 25 begins with the word “then”, we are still at the point of the selecting, but have progressed from the selecting and establishing of the Pillars and have come to the fulfillment of Revelation 3:9 involving the *lively stones, the lost sheep* snared in the synagogue of Satan.

The ten virgins of Matthew 25 are symbolic of the thousands of our brethren who have been deceived as part of the “churches of god”—the synagogue of Satan. They, like all of us, had been called to repentance, baptized, and forgiven of their past sins. They were pure and clean through the blood of Jesus Christ—they are as virgins. And through the mercy of God many of them will be *given* to the CGF to be taught and be with Christ as part of the 144,000 *virgin* (#3933 same word) *Firstfruits* of Revelation 14:1-4.

Their “lamps” are symbolic of the Word of God, the Holy Bible. **“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”** (Psalm 119:105).

The “oil” that produces the light for their lamps is symbolic of the Spirit of God. This can be understood by studying Zechariah 4 where we see the vision of the two olive trees, the two olive branches, the two golden pipes, and the golden candlestick with its seven lamps (verses 1,3,11,12). It is evident that the source of the “oil” was the two olive trees. The only source of God’s Spirit is the two great God Beings, God and the Word, symbolized by the two trees.

The living “olive branches” through which the “golden oil” flows represents the Word of God, the Old and New Testaments, the “words of life”: **“It is the spirit that quickeneth [makes alive]; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”** (John 6:63). Also read John 1:1,4,5 to see a more complete picture: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”**

The two “golden pipes” through which the oil pours forth is symbolic of the holy prophets and apostles through whom God revealed and preserved the

Words of God. Ephesians 2:20 and 3:5 state this:

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone...Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...

Thus in these scriptures we see in symbolism God and Christ, the Spirit of God, the Word of God—Old and New Testaments—and the holy prophets and apostles who have written the Words of God. Therefore as we study the parable of the ten virgins, the oil in their lamps and in the vessels of the five wise virgins represent God's Spirit—and the light of the understanding of the Word of God.

Matthew 25:2-4: **“And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”**

Since the death of Herbert Armstrong Satan has attacked the Church, scattering and shattering it into the many splits and splinters of the *outer court* “churches of god” that are seen today. These are the *lost sheep*, the *lively stones* asleep in the synagogue of Satan as we read in verse 5: **“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”**

All of the *outer court* has gone fast asleep. But the *inner court* had been very much awake in the Laodicean warning message until they not only began to doze off, but became *blind* and *lukewarm* to the Work of Christ. The faithful Philadelphian remnant remained alert and on guard understanding the urgency of the time. For ten years we have tried to awaken the Laodiceans with the knowledge that the Day of the Lord has come, but with only little success. The *pillars* must be set before the other *lively stones* can be brought in and we have been encouraged at what is taking place now in this tenth year of the Day of the Lord. Nearly every week Christ is bringing new ones to us from the PCG. Most of these are old time former members of the Worldwide Church of God who have been members of the PCG and are now awakening to become *pillars*. There are a certain number of *pillars* to be placed; perhaps that number is rapidly being filled.

As we enter the eleventh year of the Day of the Lord it might be the time when Christ will have us give the *midnight cry* to the sleeping “churches of god”. Verse 6 of Matthew 25 declares: **“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”** The Revised Version states: **“...Behold, the Bridegroom!...”** The NIV reads: **“The groom is here...”** The cry to be proclaimed is that the Bridegroom is here—now! The Day of the Lord has come—the **Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand!**

When the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, is ready this *cry* will thunder forth. The message contained in this book will be sent out to the

synagogue of Satan as Christ fulfills Revelation 3:9. And read what happens next. Verses 7-9: **“Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you...”** All of them awaken; they all hear the *cry*! But the lamps of the *foolish virgins* were going out---they did not have enough of God’s spirit to have the light of truth to guide them. The other *virgins* were not being selfish with their *oil*, they were being wise and understood they would need their *oil* to produce light to proceed to where the *Midnight Cry* was emanating.

Continue with the last part of verse 9: **“...but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.”** Ask yourself, “Who is left out there that are not answering the *cry*, but have *oil* to sell to light the lamps of the *foolish virgins*?” There is no one other than the stubborn Laodicean PCG who have had opportunity to come as *pillars*, but refused. All of the *virgins* were asleep. None of them had grown in the *knowledge of Jesus Christ*. All of them had been stuck in a 1986 time warp. They had gained no new understanding since the death of Mr. Armstrong; although the *wise virgins* must have adhered diligently to the truth they had been taught. The *foolish virgins* must be made aware of what had happened to the WCG, to what caused the “falling away” that they had become a part of. The PCG can teach them about the “man of sin” and the “great falling away”. But they waste too much time coming to the realization of what has happened in these 21 years. When they “then” at last come seeking God’s Faithful Church, when they finally heed the *Midnight Cry*—it’s too late!

Verses 10-12:

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

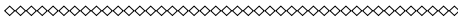
How awful! How sad! How unnecessary! They are locked out and have only the Great Tribulation to look to that they may qualify for the Kingdom of God. Read and study Luke 14:16-24, which warns of an attitude that is even worse. Some today are so asleep to the will of God and so involved with things of the world that they give up their calling and their crown—and must be replaced. Also read Matthew 7:21-23 and 22:2-14. These are dangerous and very urgent Bible times in which we live!

Please understand when we read Matt. 25:13 that it has already been fulfilled. **“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”** The Day of the Lord came as a *thief in the night* and Christ came *suddenly to His temple* ten full years ago—and it is almost time for the *Midnight Cry*!

Never before in history has the understanding of God's Great Plan been more urgent than at the present! This urgent TRUTH is the subject of the next section of this book. If you have read this far, prepare now to be totally convinced that Jesus Christ is directing the CGF and we are, indeed, ***Set Apart by Truth!***

Chapter Seven:

Time to Understand



- 39. The Abomination standing in the Holy Place understood
- 40. Those “in Judea” who must flee—made plain
- 41. Where are the mountains to which the “Judeans” must flee—revealed
- 42. Understanding the numbered days of Daniel and Revelation.
- 43. The “mark” of God revealed
- 44. The plain Truth about God’s Calendar
- 45. The important pattern of the 1335 days now understood

Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, is the Head of His one true Church. He returned suddenly to His Temple nearly 10 years ago and began the reconstruction of the scattered and shattered Temple. The firm foundation was still there with a few weathered Pillars still standing. Some of the Pillars had been moved out of place and had to be repositioned, while others had been broken and had to be replaced. Setting all of the tried and true Pillars has been the main Work in the spiritual Temple. When Christ has all of these main supports strategically positioned, then the other building blocks, the *lively stones*, can be brought in, cleaned, polished, and fashioned into the Temple of God.

The Mighty Christ has taken time, nearly ten years, to test the Pillars. Those chosen for these positions have been subjected to the stresses required to prove they can stand on the firm foundation and support the burden of responsibility that will be placed upon them. The stress tests our Lord has conducted have taken time, but they have been accomplished, producing humble men and women whom he can work with.

Isaiah 66:2 makes this statement:

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? [Where is my Church? How is it so shattered?] For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look [as building

material for the Temple], even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Proverbs 15:33 states it this way: “**The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.**” Jesus Himself declares the same in Matthew 23:12: “**And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**”

During these years in the Day of the Lord, Jesus Christ has selected and placed in position those he has humbled through various trials and tests to be His faithful Pillars. In this same time period, the Laodicean Church, headquartered in Edmond, OK has acquired the description given them in Revelation 3:14-17:

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked...

Gerald Flurry, at the 2006 PCG Ministers’ Conference, declared in exultation: “We have it all. . . We have it all!” One of his top ministers when asked about the “fruits” of the PCG said: “Well, look at all of our buildings!” Christ is not interested in physical buildings—His keen concern is to produce humble character for the *spiritual building*—His Temple. The Laodiceans are blindly measuring themselves by their physical goods, which shall all pass away. With their “need of nothing” they exalt themselves—but they will surely be humbled.

The main thrust of the work Christ has done in the CGF is to gather His Pillars, most of whom have come from the PCG. With every means known to us we have tried to stir up these lukewarm Laodiceans with only limited results. The CGF has vigorously pounded upon the Laodicean door through booklets and taped sermons sent to them. We have sent letters and e-mails to the members and to the ministry of the PCG, with personal letters to Mr. Flurry. I also telephoned Gerald Flurry, although he immediately hung-up when I informed him who was calling. Our website address has been made known to them. We suspect that quite a few are studying the flood of Truth available there, but that they are afraid to contact us because they will then face separation from their friends and loved ones who are still in the PCG. Those in this situation will face the fact sooner or later that they must follow Jesus Christ—not a misguided man. Our article, “It’s not a Complicated Subject,” addresses this topic.

Also, our powerful booklet, *Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand*, is an

important portion of the *flood of Truth* that is now available. Even the title of the booklet is a direct admonition from Christ taken from Matthew 24:15: “**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)**”

Some of the PCG have awakened at our “knocking”. They are beginning to realize that they are members of the Laodicean Church and that Gerald Flurry is the high priest fulfilling the prophetic role of *Joshua* clothed in *filthy garments* (Zech. 3). Some of these sincere but terribly deceived Laodiceans are stunned to realize that the man God had used to warn the Church about the “**man of sin sitting in the temple of God**” has now himself become the “**abomination standing in the Holy Place.**” Through Satan’s deception, Mr. Flurry has veered off track in: (1) The departure from God’s loving Church government to an abusive, militaristic (Beast) type of dictatorship; (2) The unwise and unlawful seizure of *Mystery of the Ages*, causing six long years of legal wrangling against the WCG; And, (3) in a major departure from Truth, he misrepresented the clear meaning of scriptures that refer to an office and title given ONLY to Jesus Christ, the Son of God! In his own lofty self-esteem, Gerald Flurry applied these scriptures to himself. He claims to be “*THAT PROPHET*”, a position and title belonging to Jesus Christ ALONE!

Deuteronomy 18:15 contains the inspired words of Moses: “**The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.**” To claim to be on a level equal to Moses reeks of vanity; but it gets much worse. Moses has written God’s words in verses 18-19:

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

In the New Testament, Acts 3:20-23, the “Prophet” whom God would raise up is positively identified as Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

There is no room for doubt that these Holy Scriptures refer ONLY to Jesus Christ! Gerald Flurry makes himself a “false Christ” and an abomination in God’s sight by his declaration that the title of “That Prophet” refers to him. That claim and the bizarre idea that *Malachi’s Message* is the *Little Book of Revelation 10*, have become doctrines in the PCG, and are required beliefs for any person desiring baptism into the PCG. These false doctrines are not of God and are abominable teachings!

Ezekiel 8:15-16 is being fulfilled at this very time:

Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. 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 worshiped the sun toward the east.

Mr. Flurry and about 25 of his full time PCG ministers are still “standing” in the *inner court* (Holy Place) of the Spiritual Temple. Remember, the PCG is the Laodicean Candlestick/Church! Gerald Flurry has become an “idol” to these men who seek to follow him. They are not following Christ.

Please understand! The “Holy Place” in Matthew 24:15 and the “Temple” of II Thessalonians 2:4 are both describing the Church of God, not a Jewish temple that is expected by some to be built in Jerusalem. Jerusalem today is described in Revelation 11:8 as *Sodom and Egypt*; certainly not a “holy place.” Mr. Flurry, as the *angel* of the flickering Laodicean Candlestick, is *standing in the Holy Place*, teaching his PCG doctrines which are an *abomination* to God! They are not worshipping the *sun* per se (Ezek.8:16), but are deceived into worshipping the evil being, represented by the sun, who desires God’s position as Ruler of the Universe. Meditate on Ezekiel 8:16 and ask yourself the question: Who else, other than the Laodicean PCG, has 25 ministers that are in the *inner court*?

I have written to this deceived man, warning him that he must repent of his blasphemous claim of being “That Prophet”. Appropriating a title belonging only to the Son of God, Jesus Christ clearly makes him the **“abomination standing in the Holy Place.”** Vainly boasting to be “That Prophet” and claiming that *Malachi’s Message* is the *Little Book of Revelation 10*—and enforcing belief in these two false doctrines—is abominable.

Gerald Flurry, in a sermon in February 2007, admitted that *Malachi’s Message* does have a few errors in it that must be reedited. Perhaps some of the PCG membership will now study *MM* with open eyes and understand exactly what it is. *Malachi’s Message* is the message of the prophet Malachi, concerned with a ministry gone sour. It has absolutely nothing to do with *the Little Book of Revelation 10*. We do sincerely hope that many more PCG ministers and

members will come with us as Pillar members to be set in readiness for receiving the *lost sheep*, the *lively stones*, presently snared in the synagogue of Satan.

Gerald Flurry has not admitted that he is the leader of Laodicea as yet, but hopefully that will come shortly.

When all of the PILLARS have been thoroughly tested and anchored on the Foundation of the Spiritual Temple (Eph.2:20-21 & Rev. 3:12), then the “*living stones*” can be brought forth for their place in the Temple construction.

Again, the “*living stones*” are those of the *outer court* and possibly some Laodiceans. But it seems the Laodiceans are having their opportunity now to become PILLARS, and if they reject the opportunity, they must be proven as “*lively stones*” in the fires of the Great Tribulation.

Again consider Christ’s instructions in Matthew 24:15: “**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand).**” With our spiritual eyes and ears we can clearly understand that an abomination is “standing in the inner court of the Temple” (the Church) today, in Gerald Flurry’s claim that he is “That Prophet”. Now look at verse 16: “**Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains...**” Compare verses 15-16 of Matthew 24 with Luke 21:20-21: “**And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains...**” Here we see two events described: 1) A spiritual abomination causing desolation in the *Holy Place*, and 2) Physical armies surrounding Jerusalem, which cause desolation. The spiritual application of this scripture refers to Gerald Flurry, but there will be a physical application of this prophecy, too—and both situations are followed by a warning to ***flee to the mountains***. The “abomination of desolation” is standing in the Laodicean Church (still in the *inner court*) in the form of its high priest, Gerald Flurry. If you understand this statement, aren’t you admonished by the living Christ to ***flee to the mountains? Which mountains?***

This is a dual prophecy that must be shouted aloud today. There are several actual, physical mountains to which those in Judea can flee when the time comes. But applying this prophecy spiritually, it is for now—so where is the mountain?

Observe how the Bible interprets this. Those in Judea that God is especially concerned about are mentioned in Revelation 3:9: “**Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews [spiritual Judeans], 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.**”

The word *mountains* in Matthew 24:16 and Luke 21:21 (*Strong’s* #3735) means *a mountain or a hill*, singular or plural. “Mountain” in prophecy is symbolic of a house, nation, or kingdom.

Isaiah 2:2-3 explains the symbolism:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. See also Micah 4:1-2 and Jeremiah 50:6.

Isn't it clear that *those in Judea who must flee to the mountain* are the begotten brethren snared in Laodicea (the PCG, the *House of Judah*), and the "churches of god" (the *lost sheep* of the House of Israel), who are *spiritual Jews* (Rom. 2:28-29)? They must flee to the *mountain of the Lord's House*, the House of God, His Temple, the True Church of Jesus Christ, when this message is understood by them. But some will stubbornly wait too long!

Do you "get it"? Whoso reads: I hope you are beginning to understand!

In Matthew 24:15 Christ is referring to prophecies in Daniel 8:13 and 12:11:

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?... And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Our Lord is telling us we must understand these words written by the prophet Daniel. He is emphatically saying we had better study and understand Daniel's prophecy! Some today shy away from prophecy, believing it cannot be understood, but Christ is warning that you must understand. Notice that chapter 12, verse 11, shows there are 1290 days involved in this prophecy. What does this number of days mean for us today? And also consider the following verses, 12-13: **"Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."**

We live in Bible times, and powerful prophecies are being fulfilled. We are in the eleventh year of the Day of the Lord, and the prophecies written above are, very likely, only months away from fulfillment!

Understanding is the vital priority of Christ's words in Matthew 24:15, which we make plain in the booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*! I urge you to quickly download from our website or request the booklet to receive this vital information and "flee to the mountain" of the Church of Jesus Christ,

the Faithful Witness! You must obtain His knowledge—New Truth—of the numbered days that are fast approaching fulfillment.

Are you “blessed” and patiently “waiting” for the 1335 days to begin? How about the 1290 days of verse 12, during which the “daily” departs; will you “depart”, too? The ministry of the Two Witnesses, the completion of the *midnight cry*, the Place of Safety, the end of the Four Horsemen’s ride, the opening of the Fifth Seal, and the Beast coming on the world stage are on the prophetic horizon. Do you understand the 1260 days, the 42 months, the “time, times, and a half [*portion of*] a time” that will affect every begotten child of God on Planet Earth very shortly? Also, the Biblical interpretation of the 1150 days of the 2300 *evenings and mornings* of Daniel 8 is New Truth that must be understood and proven from the pages of your Bible.

And these numbered days, in all of the different prophecies, in all the different scriptures of the Bible, must all fit perfectly together. Only through the grace of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ can it be done perfectly—in the framework of the Holy Days of God. God’s Holy Days are “*appointed times*” that Christ is exhorting the people of God to understand!

Here is an excerpt from *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*:

I want to present a scenario here that is amazing in the way that all of the *appointed times* fit. Previously, we used the year 2005, beginning at the Feast of Trumpets, and continuing to 2009 at the Feast of Trumpets, in the first edition (2003) of this booklet. Obviously 2005 to 2009 is not the time God has chosen, but it did serve to create a strong sense of urgency. And just think---what if that time period had been God’s choosing?

Now in this revision we will use 2008 to 2012 to bring us up-to-date and to preserve our deep sense of urgency. World conditions have grown more frightening as the Four Horsemen are nearer to the completion of their ride. So let’s take a serious look at 2008 to 2012, a **period of four years from Holy Day Season to Holy Day Season---APPOINTED TIMES!**

2008 to 2012

- The Feast of Trumpets of 2008 is on September 30. The following day, October 1, begins the 12th year in the Day of the Lord---eleven full years will have elapsed since the Four Horsemen have been released to fulfill their horrendous prophetic ride.
- From Trumpets September 30, 2008 to Pentecost May 27, 2012 is 1335 days. Daniel 12:12 plainly states: “**Blessed is he who waits and comes to the 1335 days.**” The pattern of 1335 days between

the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Pentecost nearly 4 years later has occurred in the period 1996 to 2000 and, as we recorded earlier, 2005 to 2009. After 2008 to 2012, the pattern of 1335 days will not be repeated until 2025 to 2029! Interesting!

We have also produced a *time line* in that booklet which extends from the completion of proclaiming the Gospel to the world by Herbert Armstrong in 1986, to the Laodicean Church being established in 1990, and then to the Day of the Lord coming as a *thief in the night* October 1, 1997! These three important occurrences have already happened; they are history! However, as Christ tells us to understand, the *time line* continues, from the Feast of Trumpets of 2008, for 1335 days, ending at the “Last Trumpet” and the return of Christ at the First Resurrection. Also the periods of 1290 days, the 1260 days of the Two Witnesses, the 42 months of the Beast’s rule, the *time, times, and a half* (portion of) *a time*, are all amazingly connected in a pattern only God could devise within His **appointed times**. And the *time line* doesn’t stop there, but soars on into the establishing of the Kingdom of God on Planet Earth for 1000 years. The *time line* continues into the fantastic times after the Millennium, with the Second Resurrection and the Last Great Day—all the way to the time when God the Father will come and make Planet Earth His headquarters!

Are the *time line* and our scenario absolutely accurate? We must wait and see! Nevertheless, Christ has told us to understand—and this is the understanding we have been given. Only in our booklet have I seen these numbered days linked so perfectly together, portraying the times of God’s Plan. If God has something else in mind that we are not yet aware of, it will be revealed later. As of now, this is the understanding we have been given! **Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days!**

Let me add here that as we “wait” we must be deeply affected by the urgency of these days. God expects us to be concerned to the point of “sighing and crying” for our spiritually blind Laodicean brethren and those snared in the *synagogue of Satan*.

Ezekiel 9:1-6 is also being fulfilled even as you read:

He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with

linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

What is God's *mark*? Do you know what it is? Do you have it? Read the scripture again and realize that if you are not set apart from the others by God's *mark*, you are in for some terrible times!

Jesus our Lord identifies God's *mark* in John 17:15-17: **"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."**

Understand! Jesus Christ asks that His faithful followers be *set apart by Truth*! God's *mark* is "Truth"!

Certainly, through grasping the Truth of God and the urgency revealed in these prophecies for today, God's faithful will be deeply concerned for all Laodiceans and the *lost sheep* snared in the synagogue of Satan. The vigilant of God's true Church understand the New Truth Jesus warned about in Matthew 24:15-16 and are *sighing and crying*—the Midnight Cry is being proclaimed! Only God's one true Church—walking in Truth—will be protected from the wrath of Satan in the Great Tribulation.

The *mark* of saving Truth "on the forehead" (symbolic of the seat of intellect) will *set apart* those who are *sighing and crying* for our brethren, because of the rotten abominations that are happening among the "churches of god".

Presently we must remain in a state of extreme urgency as we see prophecy being fulfilled at an accelerated rate. The *time line* can be a helpful tool in providing the urgency we must have to overcome and remain focused on doing God's will and finishing His work (John 4:34).

The Plain Truth About God's Calendar!

The following is a short excerpt from our booklet, *The Plain Truth about God's Calendar*, It is not new truth, but is substantiated from a new point of view, thus we list this as Truth #45. If you wish to read the entire booklet, please download it from our website or send us your request for a free copy.)

The remarkable arrangement of God's Holy Days and the "numbered

days” in the books of Daniel and Revelation can all come together in only one amazing and inspired way. Christ is telling us that we must *understand* vital prophecies that are involved with the emergency situation of Daniel 12:11: “**And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**”

Do you understand that scripture?

How about the joyous *blessing* of the 1335 days mentioned in verse 12? I am sure we all want to be included in that! These are very important numbered days which are connected with the *time, times, and a part of time* of verse 7 and also Revelation 12:14. And they are all intertwined with the rescue of God’s *lost sheep* snared in the synagogue of Satan (Rev. 3:9). At the completion of the rescue work, the *place of safety* will be ready for those worthy to escape the horrors of the Great Tribulation brought on by the Beast Power’s 42-month reign of terror (Rev. 13:5). How does the Two Witnesses’ 1260 day ministry fit with these prophecies dealing with those specific numbers of days?

The 2300 *evenings and mornings* prophecy of Daniel 8, as well as the last half of the *Seventieth Week* prophecy of Daniel 9, must be placed accurately among all the other vital scriptures if we are to understand and heed Christ’s warning!

He says; “**whoso reads— let him understand!**”

To fully understand requires a completely inspired “package of prophecy”—the scriptures all intricately woven together with the numbered days and dates of the Holy Days fitting precisely within God’s Calendar. Our booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*, does exactly that! It weaves all of the scriptures together into a presentation that can be plainly understood by a sincere person yielded to God’s will. Please request a copy of that important booklet or down load it from our website.

Our sincere effort in *Whoso Reads* was not to “set dates”, although that was a product of our study; our prime objective is to follow Christ’s command to understand these vital prophecies—and to help others to understand. We cannot definitely “set dates”, yet we must be sincerely seeking to *understand* when we see prophesies being fulfilled at the accelerated rate as seen today.

Understand this fact—from the Feast of Trumpets, September 30, 2008, to Pentecost May 27, 2012, is 1335 days. Daniel 12:12 plainly states: “**Blessed is he who waits and comes to the 1335 days.**” Are we this close? The pattern of 1335 days is an important clue in weaving the scriptures together to produce the *understanding* needed in these crucial days.

The infrequent pattern of 1335 days between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Pentecost nearly 4 years later has occurred in the recent periods 1996 to 2000 and in 2005 to 2009. It will occur again in 2008 to 2012, but after that the pattern will not be repeated until 2025 to 2029! Therefore we are closely watching 2008 to 2012!

Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand lays it all out! I was astounded by the *understanding* God had given us as it is presented in the booklet. But then the thought occurred to me: “We know the Bible is true, but our calculation of the *times* cannot be correct if the Calendar is not true!”

So, is the Hebrew Calendar really God’s Calendar?

This is the purpose of *The Plain Truth About God’s Calendar*! Our objective here is to show that the Hebrew Calendar is the Calendar God has provided for His people so that we may understand the vital prophecies veiled in the “numbered days” and dates He has placed in His Holy Word. Keep in mind also as you read this booklet (and *Whoso Reads...Let him Understand*) that this is more New Truth that identifies the CGF as God’s True Church—and is a part of the urgency of the *midnight cry*!

Our Lord admonishes us to *cry aloud* as our part in fulfilling the scriptures! The fact of our being told to understand such profound and multifaceted prophecies is to also give us assurance from the Highest Source that the Hebrew Calendar, that I will call God’s Calendar throughout, is for our use here in the Day of the Lord. This is the same Calendar Herbert W. Armstrong used in bringing each of us into the knowledge of God’s Holy Days and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, what is offered here is old, established Truth presented from a *new perspective*. We will also review a few vital facts about the Calendar that have been either overlooked or ignored.

Our intention is to prove the reliability of this amazing document—God’s Calendar.

46. Joshua repents!
47. Joshua's priests repent first!
48. The third Zerubbabel!
49. The Two Witnesses!

As Gerald Flurry stands in the Holy Place clothed in the “filthy garments” of his abominable teachings, he is fulfilling another role of prophecy—that of *Joshua, the high priest*, of Zechariah 3. Nonetheless, chapters 3 and 6 of Zechariah strongly indicate that the man will repent of his vain ways and doctrines.

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throughout the Old Testament as *wonder, sign, or miracle*.

Apparently, some of Mr. Flurry's ministers (part of the 25 of Ezek. 8:16) repent of: (1) their part in the governmental abuse of the PCG membership, and (2) blindly following their high priest in the "abominations" he is teaching. Remember, we must test our leaders to prove they are following Christ. These repentant PCG ministers are given the extraordinary opportunity to join in the *Midnight Cry*, proclaiming "the **Kingdom is at hand**"—the Day of the Lord has come—the **Branch** is here!

I have sent letters and e-mails to most of the elders and deacons of the PCG explaining their part in the repentance of *Joshua, the high priest* of Laodicea. Their repentance provides the sign to Joshua which helps him repent. Zechariah 6:9-15 describes *Joshua* with the fantastic title Christ is offering him—not the title he has attempted to claim in his deception. Christ is offering him the lofty position of High Priest sitting with Him on His Throne. Read verses 11-13:

Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man [Jesus Christ] whose name is The BRANCH; and he [Christ] shall grow up out of his place, and he [Christ] shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he [Christ] shall build the temple of the LORD; and he [Christ] shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his [Christ's] throne; and he [Joshua] shall be a priest upon his [Christ's] throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both [Christ and Joshua].

The Mighty Christ is the Head of His Church and will bring to complete fulfillment every detail of every prophecy. He smote Saul of Tarsus with blindness until he could see spiritually, and then made him the powerful instrument in Christ's service, the apostle Paul. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and sorely repented of not heeding God's will. Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday, and forever, and can surely cause *Joshua* and his ministers to repent. The PCG ministry and Mr. Flurry are being given the opportunity to turn from the futile work they are doing and work with Christ in His faithful Church.

Other scriptures state clearly that many of the PCG will not repent and must face the Beast and the fires of the Great Tribulation (see Matt. 25:9, Rev. 15:2-4 and 20:4). Thus a split in the PCG is indicated: some will come with us as Pillars, while the others, although they keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Christ, must overcome in the Tribulation (Rev.12:17).

During these urgent days, each one of us, as begotten children of God, must be in a continually repentant attitude. We must daily cry out to our Merciful Father to forgive us of our own sins: "**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me,**

and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

The prophecies of Zechariah are for these urgent times in the Day of the Lord. If Mr. Flurry is soon brought to his knees, he will take part in the work of Christ, issuing the *Midnight Cry* that is beginning now, even as you are reading this book. The Day of the Lord came ten years ago! The Kingdom is at hand!

Previously in this writing, we covered Zechariah 4 and the vision of the golden candlestick (*Strong's # 4501 men-o-raw*), with its seven lamps or candles (#5216), and the two olive trees on either side. We studied the Bible definition of the symbols of the Two Trees, the two golden branches, the two golden pipes, and the golden oil. However, all of the marvelous symbolism in this chapter is then concentrated in verse 14, which we did not study: **“Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”**

As we connect these Holy Scriptures with the scriptural interpretation of them from the New Testament, a clear picture emerges. Notice Revelation 1:11-13,20:

Saying, *I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last* [this clause is omitted in most translations]: **and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 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... The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

Next, go to Revelation 11:3-4:

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Revelation 11:3 and 10 state that these *Two Witnesses* are two prophets who shall prophesy for 1260 days. From Zechariah 4 we see the *Two Olive Trees*, symbolic of God and the Word, as the source of the *golden oil*, identified as the Spirit of Truth. Now read Haggai 2:23: **“In that day [in the Day of the Lord that began on October 1, 1997], saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel [the original Zerubbabel built the second Temple. A second Zerubbabel, Herbert W. Armstrong, completed the Spiritual Temple to which Christ**

would return. However, the Temple (the Worldwide Church of God) was fiercely attacked, shattered, and scattered by Satan after Mr. Armstrong's death. Now, in the Day of the Lord, a third Zerubbabel has come], **my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet** [the third Zerubbabel will be as the ring on the finger of God that represents the authority of God]: **for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts."**

Certainly, as we place these scriptures together, Zerubbabel is chosen as one of *the two anointed ones* who is given the authority to represent the Kingdom of God—the Family of God—the God of all the earth! *Joshua*, the high priest of Laodicea, has also been chosen as the other representative, with the stern stipulation that he must repent—quickly. Zechariah 3:7 tells us this: **"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by."**

These two prophets are also representatives of the last two of the Seven Candlesticks, which symbolize the last two Churches—Philadelphia and Laodicea. The two men who are presently the leaders of these two Churches today, are both in their seventies and are one heart-beat away from the end of their lives. Both of them can be replaced very quickly if they are not humbly ready to follow the Head of the Church in every detail of His Plan—or if younger men will be required for the earth-shaking responsibility directly ahead.

The physical leaders of the two Candlesticks/Churches, faithfully following the Spiritual Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, will be the Two Witnesses! They will be Zerubbabel and Joshua of prophecy when it is time for them to begin their 1260 ministry, which will be the greatest Work of the Church ever in New Testament times!

Considering the enormous responsibility these two individuals will have, think about the high honor they may receive after all is accomplished and they have given their physical lives. Mr. Armstrong painted a glorious picture of the governmental structure of the Kingdom of God in his book *Wonderful World Tomorrow*. He showed from God's "Hall of Fame" in Hebrews 11, that many of the great *crowd of witnesses* would assume high offices in the Kingdom. I am sure you remember much of that. Today we understand even more of this part of God's Plan.

We know the Firstfruits will be the Wife of Jesus Christ and will sit and rule with Christ (Rev. 3:21; 5:10; 20:4). The true Philadelphians qualify for the mighty positions of Pillars in the very inner court of the Temple of God. Now read Mark 10:35-40:

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for

you? They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

Zechariah 6:11-13 certainly indicates that whoever the repentant Joshua actually will be shall rule in the Kingdom as High Priest with Christ on His Throne—perhaps on His left hand. Zerubbabel is always mentioned before Joshua in scripture; therefore, it seems that the *signet* of God will have a higher position, possibly on the right hand of Christ's Throne. But that is the Father's prerogative—to give those positions to *them for whom it is prepared*.

Our Lord and Savior was able to overcome and remain absolutely faithful to His Father by being constantly focused on what waited for Him beyond His assigned task as the Lamb of God. He looked completely beyond the sacrifice of His physical life to the unspeakable joys awaiting Him when He would once again be with His Father in glory. We, as faithful Christians, must do likewise. “**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God**” (Heb. 12:2. See also John 17:5,24).

Yes! We, also, must stay focused on our Savior, and on our part in the Plan of God, with urgent excitement and great joy. But we must be ever so cautious—as we shall see in the next chapter of this book.

[illegible]

it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Down through the years most of us have believed that lie, but Jesus was not fooled for a second. He knew this creature. He had created him as Lucifer, the anointed cherub, and he was *perfect in the day that he was created*. But Lucifer grievously sinned and became Satan the devil—the adversary. Jesus as the Word was present right there at the Throne of God when Lucifer revolted against the Ruler of the Universe. That vain creature, so impressed with himself, eventually thought he should be God. In pride and jealousy he led one third of the angels in an attack to remove God from His Throne. That was a foolish plan! Jesus said: “...**I beheld Satan like lightning fall from heaven**” (Luke 10:18). As the “Captain of the Host of the Lord”, Jesus led His forces to kick Satan out of heaven (see Jos. 5:14-15).

Therefore, in this so called “temptation”, Christ had no physical strength, but He was as close to Almighty God as a human being could be. And he was fully aware of the wiles of the prince of demons. John 8:44 is our Lord’s plain warning about Satan. Speaking to the conniving and jealous religious leaders plotting His death He said:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

With an admonishment this comprehensible, why would we ever believe anything Satan says! When he declared to Jesus that all the kingdoms of this world belonged to him, that he had the authority to give them to whomever he would give them, that was a rotten lie—and Jesus knew it! But we believed him and have been deceived!

Believing Satan’s lies is the reason some have been confused in their understanding of Revelation 11:4 and II Corinthians 4:4. They believe Satan’s statement that all the kingdoms of the world are his, supposing the world is his, and that he is ruler of the earth. Nevertheless, we as true Christians must believe the Word of God—not just a man or a demon (Gal.1:6-9). Therefore, let us allow the Bible to determine the following:

1. Who is the true owner and ruler of the earth?
2. Who alone has authority to give rule over the kingdoms of the world?
3. Who has dominion over the earth today?
4. What is meant by “god of this world”?

Several Old Testament scriptures clearly give the answers. The embedded *Strong’s* numbers from the *e-Sword* Bible program are printed here to aid in your understanding.

Exodus 9:29: "...**that**⁴⁶¹⁶ **thou** mayest know³⁰⁴⁵ **how that**³⁵⁸⁸ **the earth**⁷⁷⁶ **is the LORD's**.³⁰⁶⁸"

Deuteronomy 10:14: "**Behold**,²⁰⁰⁵ **the heaven**⁸⁰⁶⁴ **and the heaven**⁸⁰⁶⁴ **of heavens**⁸⁰⁶⁴ **is the LORD's**³⁰⁶⁸ **thy God**,⁴³⁰ **the earth**⁷⁷⁶ **also, with all**³⁶⁰⁵ **that**⁸³⁴ **therein is.**"

Job 41:11: "...**whatsoever is under**⁸⁴⁷⁸ **the whole**³⁶⁰⁵ **heaven**⁸⁰⁶⁴ **is mine.**"

Psalms 24:1: "...**The earth**⁷⁷⁶ **is the LORD's**,³⁰⁶⁸ **and the fullness**⁴³⁹³ **thereof; the world**,⁸³⁹⁸ **and they that dwell**³⁴²⁷ **therein.**"

The apostle Paul quotes from these same Old Testament scriptures written in the Hebrew language, but he translates them into the Greek language in I Corinthians 10:26 and 28: "**For**¹⁰⁶³ **the**³⁵⁸⁸ **earth**¹⁰⁹³ **is the**³⁵⁸⁸ **Lord's**,²⁹⁶² **and**²⁵³² **the**³⁵⁸⁸ **fullness**⁴¹³⁸ **thereof.**⁸⁴⁸"

These are only a few of the many scriptures which confirm that the Sovereign Ownership of the earth and all on it under the heavens—is the Lord's. And to be certain we grasp who the "Lord" is, notice Jesus' words during His "confrontation" with the devil in Matthew 4, verse 7: "**Jesus**²⁴²⁴ **said**⁵³⁴⁶ **unto him**,⁸⁴⁶ **It is written**¹¹²⁵ **again**,³⁸²⁵ **Thou shalt not**³⁷⁵⁶ **tempt**⁴¹⁵⁹⁸ **the Lord**²⁹⁶² **thy**⁴⁶⁷⁵ **God**.²³¹⁶" (Notice the embedded *Strong's* numbers for the different words and check their definitions with your own concordance.) There can be no doubt that the Lord God Almighty is the Sovereign Owner and Ruler of the earth—and of the entire universe.

Next let's prove that Satan, the father of lies, has no authority to give the "kingdoms of this world" to anyone.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon had to learn this fact in an interesting manner. Daniel, the prophet, records the experience to which this world-ruling king was subjected in chapter 4 of his book. Begin with verse 25:

That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

God, the Most High, alone has that authority!

Satan's power and authority had evidently been greatly diminished after his rebellion and ignominious defeat in attempting to attack the headquarters of God Almighty. But he must still have great influence over the wretched demons he had deceived into assisting him in his attempt to usurp the authority of God. His rule of darkness is through fear, anger, competition, jealousy, hatred, and resentment. Satan and his demons are completely evil and miserable. The devil, in his insane vanity, deeply coveted God's position as Ruler of the Universe. The Bible shows us he will do anything, or tell any lie, to cause man or demon to believe in his "authority". One of his tactics is to appropriate titles that belong

either to God or to Christ. Jesus did not fall for his lies; He knew this evil creature's twisted mind and has warned us of him and his ways.

We need to thoroughly comprehend the fact:

...to⁵⁷⁰⁵ the intent¹⁷⁰¹ that¹⁷⁶⁸ the living²⁴¹⁷ may know³⁰⁴⁶ that¹⁷⁶⁸ the most High⁵⁹⁴³ ruleth⁷⁹⁹⁰ in the kingdom⁴⁴³⁷ of men,⁶⁰⁶ and giveth⁵⁴¹⁵ it to whomsoever^{4479, 1768} he will,⁶⁶³⁴ and setteth up⁶⁹⁶⁶ over⁵⁹²² it the basest⁸²¹⁵ of men⁶⁰⁶ (Dan. 4:17).

God is in charge through the Living Christ Jesus! Satan has no real authority, but he takes what he can—even the minds of men who subject themselves to his evil. Judas Iscariot is one case in point of Satan “entering a person”. (John 13:2 & 27); another was the king of Babylon, most likely Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, who saw the hand writing on the wall in Daniel 5. But whichever king of Babylon is discussed in Isaiah 14:4-13, he is vividly portrayed as being possessed by Satan.

The king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28 is another evil-minded ruler under the possession of Satan:

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God... (vv. 12-13).

The king of Tyre spoken of here lived over 3000 years after the “garden of Eden”, but Satan, who possessed this man's mind, had definitely been in Eden practicing his lies.

Throughout history, some have learned and appreciated the fact that God alone is the Sovereign Ruler. Nebuchadnezzar was one who learned the hard way! Another famous king was Cyrus of Persia. Isaiah was inspired to write about Cyrus by name 150 years before he was born. Cyrus was commissioned as the Lord's anointed to destroy Babylon, and then, allied with Darius, the Mede, he established the second world-ruling empire.

Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1-2 declare God's power and Plan, which could not be thwarted:

That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid...Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates [of Babylon]; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden

riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Observe from the following scriptures who really is the King of the earth.

- Psalm 47:7: **“For God⁴³⁰ is the King⁴⁴²⁸ of all the earth:⁷⁷⁶ sing ye praises with understanding.”**
- Psalm 95:3: **“For the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ is a great God,⁴¹⁰ and a great King⁴⁴²⁸ above all gods.⁴³⁰”**
- Isaiah 44:6: **“Thus saith the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ the King⁴⁴²⁸ of Israel,³⁴⁷⁸ and his redeemer the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ of hosts;⁶⁶³⁵ I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.⁴³⁰”**

Genesis 14:18-19 states emphatically that God is possessor of heaven and earth.

And Melchizedek⁴⁴⁴² king⁴⁴²⁸ of Salem⁸⁰⁰⁴ [who became Christ] brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.⁴¹⁰ And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God,⁴¹⁰ possessor⁷⁰⁶⁹ of heaven⁸⁰⁶⁴ and earth:⁷⁷⁶

In Daniel 7, both God and “one like the Son of man” are pictured. Each are Eternal Beings who have existed forever, and both can bare the title “Ancient of Days” (John 1:1-2).

Notice in Daniel chapter 7, verses 13 and 14:

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son¹²⁴⁷ of man⁶⁰⁶ [Christ] came with the clouds of heaven,⁸⁰⁶⁵ and came to the Ancient⁶²⁶⁸ of days³¹¹⁸ [the Father], and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,⁴⁴³⁷ that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion⁷⁹⁸⁵ is an everlasting⁵⁹⁵⁷ dominion,⁷⁹⁸⁵ which shall not pass away, and his kingdom⁴⁴³⁷ that which shall not be destroyed. (See also Rev. 11:15.)

Now compare those verses with verse 22: **“Until the Ancient⁶²⁶⁸ of days³¹¹⁸ came, and judgment was given to the saints⁶⁹²² of the most High;⁵⁹⁴⁶ and the time came that the saints⁶⁹²² possessed the kingdom.⁴⁴³⁷”**

The “Ancient of Days” in verse 22 is plainly referring to Christ when He returns with the “saints”, His Wife, to take complete rule over the earth for 1000 years. The last phrase of Zechariah 14:5 clearly states that: **“...and the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ my God⁴³⁰ shall come, and all the saints⁶⁹¹⁸ with thee.”** Verse 9 states: **“And the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ shall be¹⁹⁶¹ king⁴⁴²⁸ over all the earth:⁷⁷⁶ in that day shall there be one LORD,³⁰⁶⁸ and his name one.”**

Thus the scriptures make it obvious that God is the Possessor of heaven and earth! He is the mighty King of the earth! He alone has the authority to give rule

over the kingdoms of the earth! The scriptures are for all men to know these facts, as declared in Daniel 4:17: “...**to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest [Strong’s # 8215] of men.**”

Man Given Dominion—not Satan!

Lucifer, the anointed cherub, rebelled against his Creator and totally disqualified himself. He and one third of the angels, who are now miserable, wicked demons, turned from the work God had intended for them. We can read *a little here and a little there* about this infamous act and its results:

Jude 6: **And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.**

II Peter 2:4: **For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...**

Isaiah 14:12-13: **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north...**

Scripture plainly says Lucifer had a throne, but does he as Satan (the adversary) still have a throne today? Yes, he does! The Bible plainly tells us this in Revelation 2:12-13. Verse 13 in the KJV uses the word *seat* taken from the Greek *thronos* (Strong’s #2362). Thus the Revised Version renders #2362 as *throne* in verse 13, in addressing the Pergamos Church: “**I know where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s throne is...**”

Jesus makes it known that Satan has a kingdom in Matthew 12:25-26:

And Jesus knew their thoughts and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: and if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

Definitely, Satan has a *kingdom* and a *throne*. But we have also read the scriptures that emphatically state that God is the Possessor of heaven and earth; that He is King and God of the earth, and He rules in the kingdoms of men, and he alone sets over the kingdoms those He chooses. So, where does Satan rule? And hasn’t God given man dominion over the earth?

Due to Satan's original rebellion, the earth and much of the solar system were greatly damaged or even destroyed. The condition of the earth was as described in Genesis 1:2: **"And the earth⁷⁷⁶ was¹⁹⁶¹ without form,⁸⁴¹⁴ and void;⁹²² and darkness²⁸²² was upon⁵⁹²¹ the face⁶⁴⁴⁰ of the deep.⁸⁴¹⁵ And the Spirit⁷³⁰⁷ of God⁴³⁰ moved⁷³⁶³ upon⁵⁹²¹ the face⁶⁴⁴⁰ of the waters.⁴³²⁵"**

The 1st day of the seventh month has been recognized for millennia, by Jewish tradition and the Holy Calendar, as the memorial of the finished re-creation of the earth. The 1st day of the seven month, of course, is God's Feast of Trumpets! Therefore God had determined the exact position of the heavenly bodies relative to the earth to be that as they are set for the beginning of the seventh month. Thus, the first day of the re-creation was the 24th day of the sixth month of the Sacred Calendar! The WORD, who became Jesus Christ, on that first day stepped out into the dense darkness covering the earth and commanded, **"...Let there be light..."** (Gen. 1:3).

Understand that the heavenly bodies were already in existence *from the beginning* of the original Creation, before Satan rebelled against God and caused the disruption and destruction of the earth and other parts of the solar system. Genesis 1:2 shows that the sun was still supplying warmth to the earth, as evidenced in "waters" covering the earth instead of it being frozen into solid ice. On the fourth day of the re-creation the final adjustments were *made* (#6213) to the sun, moon, and stars—and apparently the atmosphere was completely cleansed of light-inhibiting debris. The heavenly bodies had already been *created* (#1254) *in the beginning*.

The re-creation of the earth began on the first day of the week, and was completed on the seventh day of the week with the creation of the Holy Sabbath. That first Sabbath day was also the 1st day of the seventh month, later designated as the Feast of Trumpets—the memorial of creation.

Jesus Christ was the Creator and the Light-Bringer (John 1:1-5 & Eph. 3:9)!

The physical re-creation was completed in those seven days—but the Spiritual creation was just beginning. Adam was created on the sixth day as a son of God (Luke 3:38) and a potential spiritual son of God—in the Family of God. Out of the mind of God the foundation of His most amazing Plan was beginning (see Rev. 13:8)! Adam and his wife, Eve, would be the parents of all mankind with the prospect of producing billions of offspring, also with the potential of becoming God-Beings. God had begun to reproduce *Himself*! He would create His Spiritual Temple, His Church, the Body of Christ!

Thirty-five hundred years later, a physical type of His great Plan was seen in the re-construction of the second physical Temple of God. Haggai the prophet brought a message from God, the Light of Truth, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem:

Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I

will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house (Haggai 1:8-9).

Now notice in verses 14-15 when this re-construction of the Temple began:

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

The Work on the *foundation of the temple* began on the 24th day of the sixth month (see Hag. 2:18, also).

The apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13:12 has written: “**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**” One thing we know for sure is that God does not change (Mal. 3:6 & Heb. 13:8). Therefore, when the date of the re-construction on the foundation of the Temple is made so emphatically, I see (*through the glass darkly*) that the physical Work done in Haggai’s day is a type of what God has been doing since the re-creation. And very probably the 24th day of the sixth month was the date of the birth of Jesus Christ in 4 BC, and 30 years later the date of his baptism!

Meditate on that yourself!

In the CGF we observe the 24th day of the sixth month as a day of fasting in thanksgiving for bringing us the light of New Truth, and especially for our position as Pillars in the re-construction of the Spiritual Temple. We also observe the 24th day of the ninth month as a day of thanksgiving for the great blessings of working on the Temple. That date is mentioned or alluded to five times in Haggai 2 and holds another great point of Truth that will be brought out later.

Back to the Beginning

God created Adam and Eve at the foundation of His great Plan—and they and their offspring would have dominion over all the earth:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created

man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Gen. 1:26-28)

Man was given dominance over all the earth! And although Adam sinned, man was still in authority over the earth even in the time of King David, as Psalm 8 testifies:

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:3-9)

The apostle Paul quotes from Psalm 8, and then, through God's spirit, adds the following in Hebrews 2:8-9:

Thou hast put all things in subjection under his [man's] feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

And verses 10, 14, 15:

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings...Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

But if man was given dominion over the earth and all in it, why was he "subject to bondage"? What "bondage"?

Comparing the following scriptures will answer the question.

- Romans 6:16: "**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves**

servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Every person who has ever lived, except Jesus, has yielded themselves—have become in bondage—to sin *unto death*.

- I John 3:4: **“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”**
- Romans 6:23: **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**
- Romans 5:12: **“Wherefore, as by one man sin²⁶⁶ entered into the world,²⁸⁸⁹ and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:²⁶⁴”**

Now read *Strong’s* definition of the word *world* (#2889), *kos’-mos*:

Probably from the base of G2865; orderly *arrangement*, that is, *decoration*; by implication the *world* (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literally or figuratively [morally]): - adorning, world.

Realize that sin entered into the “world” by Adam’s sin. He *yielded himself to obey* the voice of his wife instead of the voice of God; thus sin came into the *world*—the *world* i.e., humanity—not the earth. The *world* is the “orderly arrangement” of earth’s human inhabitants. “World” is equivalent to “*all humanity*”! (Strong’s #2889) However, before sin entered the *world* through Adam, the *earth* had already been physically racked because of the sins of Satan and his demons.

Remember Jesus’ words in John 8:44:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

What powerful words from our Savior! And we must understand that we, too, were children of Satan through our own sins. Compare John 8:44 with Ephesians 2:1-3:

And you hath he quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins. Wherein in time past ye walked⁴⁰⁴³ according to the course¹⁶⁵ of this world, ²⁸⁸⁹ according to the prince⁷⁵⁸ of the power¹⁸⁴⁹ of the air, the spirit⁴¹⁵¹ that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation [behavior] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Now let's add a few scriptures to present a clear picture of the dire bondage we were in and how God rescued us through His mercy and grace.

- Romans 8:7: **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”**
- II Corinthians 4:4: **“In whom the god²³¹⁶ of this world¹⁶⁵ hath blinded the minds of them [through lies and deception] which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them.”** Notice “god” and “God” are the same Greek word, *theos* (#2316). Also, the word “world” is *Strong's* #165, *aion*, defined as “an age, perpetuity (forever and ever), world, course...” Note that we saw #165 used in Ephesians 2:2 above as: “...according to the course¹⁶⁵ of this world,²⁸⁸⁹ according to the prince of the power of the air...”
- Ephesians 2:4-5: **“But God,²³¹⁶ who is rich in mercy, for his great love²⁶ wherewith he loved²⁵ us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by (grace ye are saved:)”**
- John 3:16: **“For¹⁰⁶³ God²³¹⁶ so³⁷⁷⁹ loved²⁵ the³⁵⁸⁸ world,²⁸⁸⁹ that⁵⁶²⁰ he gave¹³²⁵ his⁸⁴⁸ only begotten³⁴³⁹ Son,⁵²⁰⁷ that²⁴⁴³ whosoever³⁹⁵⁶ believeth⁴¹⁰⁰ in¹⁵¹⁹ him⁸⁴⁶ should not³³⁶¹ perish,⁶²² but²³⁵ have²¹⁹² everlasting¹⁶⁶ life.²²²²”**
- Revelation 13:8 last clause: **“...the³⁵⁸⁸ book⁹⁷⁶ of life²²²² of the³⁵⁸⁸ Lamb⁷²¹ slain⁴⁹⁶⁹ from⁵⁷⁵ the foundation²⁶⁰² of the world.²⁸⁸⁹”**

And we have believed another very mistaken preconceived idea: we have believed that God has placed in the ruling positions of governmental authority the most evil of men! Daniel 4:17 tells us: **“...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.**

We have assumed that the “basest of men” refers to every evil person from Cain to Hitler to Saddam Hussein or the wicked rulers of many of today's nations. That is a misconception and the diametric opposite of the intended meaning.

Notice above in Daniel 4:17 that *basest* is *Strong's* #8215 defined as: “...*shef-al'* (Chaldee); from H8214; *low*: - basest. This is the only place in the Old Testament where #8215 is used.

#8214 is defined as: “*shef-al'* (Chaldee); corresponding to H8213: - abase, humble, put down, subdue.”

#8213 is defined as: “...*shaw-fale'*; A primitive root; to *depress* or *sink* (especially figuratively to *humiliate*, intransitively or transitively): - abase, bring (cast, put) down, debase, humble (self), be (bring, lay, make, put) low (-er).”

And while we are looking at definitions, let's also view #8217.

#8217 is defined as: "...*shaw-fawl*"; From H8213; *depressed*, literally or figuratively: - base (-st), humble, low (-er, -ly)."

None of these words or their root words have anything to do with "evil character", as has been assumed. No! Just the opposite! It is describing a humble person, one who has been abased or humiliated.

Examine the following scriptures where these same words are underlined:

- 1 Samuel 2:7: **"The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low⁸²¹³ and lifteth up."**
- Proverbs 29:23: **"A man's pride shall bring him low⁸²¹³ but honor shall uphold the humble⁸²¹⁷ in spirit."**
- Isaiah 2:9: **"And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth⁸²¹³ himself: therefore forgive them not."**
- Isaiah 2:11: **"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled⁸²¹³..."**
- Daniel 4:37: **"Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase⁸²¹⁴".**
- Daniel 5:22: **"And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled⁸²¹⁴ thine heart..."**
- Psalm 136:23: **"Who remembered us in our low estate^{7945, 8216} for his mercy endureth forever..."**
- Proverbs 16:19: **"Better it is to be of a humble⁸²¹⁷ spirit with the lowly,⁶⁰³⁵ than to divide the spoil with the proud."**

There is nothing in any of the scriptures to indicate that these words refer to an evil or bestial type of character—not at all! In fact, the opposite is obvious! Once the misconception is removed, the New Testament makes apparent what God is stating.

Observe I Corinthians 1:26-29:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Now compare our calling, which Paul mentions above, with Revelation 5:10 and Daniel 7:27:

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

With the above scriptures in mind, now once again read Daniel 4:17:

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest [humblest] of men.

God is righteous and *changes not*! This is part of God's ultimate Plan! The humble are the ones God can work with to produce the Kings and Priests that shall reign with Christ in the Kingdom of God. But man has rejected God's Ways! God allowed man to go his own way and do his own thing for 6000 years. Eventually, it shall be known that man cannot rule himself, or others, unless it is done God's *righteous way*.

In I Samuel 8:5-8, the record of Israel rejecting the Lord their God as King and Ruler is the sad commentary on man's rebelliousness. The elders of Israel demanded of Samuel:

...Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

Israel was warned of the consequences of their decision in verses 9-18, but they stubbornly refused to heed the Words of God. They desired to follow the idolatrous nations around them, rejecting the True God and bringing themselves into subjection to vain men under the influence of the *god of this world* (II Cor. 4:4 and Eph. 6:11-12). Instead of being God's model nation living by His righteous law, they rejected God's Plan and became as wicked as the rest of the hopeless world. But God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7)! During the Millennium, Israel will finally be the example and light to all other nations by living according to God's righteous Law.

Until that time, very hard lessons will need to be learned. Only those who yield themselves to God's rule in their lives will be spared the horrors of the

Great Tribulation that is fast approaching. The faithful of God will be protected in the place He has prepared.

The Place of Safety will be “explored” in Chapter Eleven under New Truth #59.

Chapter Ten:

Prelude to the Great Tribulation!

56. The *whirlwind* of Daniel 11 has already begun.

57. When do the Four Horsemen complete their ride?

58. How can the earth “sit at rest” before the Great Tribulation!

The most horrifying time ever to occur in man's history looms directly ahead! The Four Horsemen of Revelation 6 have been galloping over the earth for nearly ten years. Verse 8 gives the gruesome report that when the horrendous ride of the horsemen comes to an end, one quarter of the earth will have died!

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Two huge religious groups are nearing the prophesied time when they will wage all out war in a struggle to the death. These two world religions, “Christianity”—led by Roman Catholicism, supported by many Protestant “daughter churches”, all united against a hated common enemy—will wage “holy” war against the Islamic religion, incited to fanatical zeal by “terrorist extremism”! Each of these religions has over a billion adherents, and they are destined to clash in the final battle between the *king of the north* and the *king of the south*.

On September 11, 2001, the first phase of this battle began when an Islamic terrorist group brought down the World Trade Center buildings in New York City. The *king of the south* “pushed at” the United States, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (headquartered in central Europe), which represents the *king of the north*. As time moves on, NATO will be absorbed into United Europe and will leave no doubt that they fulfill the prophecies of the *king of the north*.

The *king of the south* attacked on 9/11/01. The *whirlwind of war* began and will soon become a fiery cataclysm destined to destroy one quarter of mankind! Daniel 11:40 states:

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

The United States and its allied nations unleashed the “whirlwind” of war with, first Afghanistan, and now Iraq, which is sucking Iran, Syria and other Islamic nations into the vortex of all-out war.

Understand! The final thrust of the Four Horsemen will cause such monumental death and destruction that God will have His Faithful quickly finish their rescue of the *lost sheep* trapped in the synagogue of Satan, and will have a place of safety prepared for them before the Fifth Seal is opened. As the period of the 1290 days of Daniel 12:11 begins, it appears that the United States of America, most of the United Kingdom, and the nation of Israel will have already been destroyed by complete financial collapse, terrorist activities, war, and famine (see Hosea 5:5 and Ezek. 5:12). God’s people must hurriedly wrap up the rescue Work within 30 days, and prepare for departure to the place of safety. Verse 11 declares:

And from the time that the daily sacrifice [the True Church] shall be taken away [depart], and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Armies Will Surround Jerusalem—Literally!

There is a *spiritual abomination of desolation* in the Holy Place today, as is evident in Gerald Flurry and his PCG. But the *abomination that makes desolate* described in Daniel 12:11 are the physical armies that will soon surround Jerusalem. Luke 21:20-21 clearly declares:

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into.

Today, right now, immediately, is the time to flee to the safety of the *mountain* of God’s true Church to participate in the great rescue Work that must begin shortly!

When Daniel 12:11 and Luke 21:20-21 is fulfilled in the near future, only those in the True Church will be accounted worthy to be taken to the place Christ has prepared! Verse 36 of Luke 21:36 brings this clear warning: **“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”**

And verse 22 tells us why: **“For these be the days of vengeance, that all**

things which are written may be fulfilled.” The *days of vengeance* will be thoroughly explained under New Truth #55, “The Two Goats”.

Notice Zechariah 1:8-11, which informs us that we are on the brink of the most horrible time in all of man’s violent history!

I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white. Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will show thee what these be. And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk [Strong’s #1980; go, run, travel, etc.] to and fro through the earth. And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.

How is it possible that the earth is *sitting still and is at rest*—when one fourth of humanity has been killed and the Fifth Seal has yet to be opened?

Observe, verse 11 describes the riders of the horses as having ended their ride. They are there, standing still giving their report: “**We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.**” They have accomplished their violent mission! One fourth of humanity on Planet Earth will have perished as a result of the conflict of false religions producing nuclear war between the *king of the north* and the *king of the south*, and the ensuing *famine* and *pestilence*. The Four Horsemen’s ride ends, but Satan’s final world-ruling system is unleashed upon this evil world. The “holy Roman Empire” arises one last time in the political, military, and religious unification of the nations of Europe! The *Beast*, the super-dictator of Europe, and the demonic *False Prophet* are introduced, plunging the world into the greatest time of trouble ever as the Fifth Seal of Revelation 6 is opened—by the Living Christ!

So, how can the world sit still and be at rest?

Revelation 13:1-4 explains how:

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they

worshiped the beast, saying, who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? (Let us know if you need information on the subject of the *Beast*.)

The world will “sit still” in awe and fear of the nuclear-armed, super-powered, *king of the north* that will become the *Beast Power* of United Europe! The world will be “at rest” because—*who is able to make war with him?* Most of the Islamic middle-eastern nations will have been destroyed by the *whirlwind of nuclear war*, which casts a pall of fear upon the other nations of the earth!

Continue with verses 5-8 of Revelation 13:

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven [see also Daniel 7:8 & 11]. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

There is a great religious voice (a mouth) behind this sinister system. A voice with the power of Satan performing mighty *false miracles* that will cause the whole world to *worship the Beast*—and Satan! The *False Prophet*, the religious leader of the “*Holy*” *Roman Empire*, will deceive the entire world into believing and worshipping Satan’s false ways.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Rev. 13:11-17).

The *Beast* and the *False Prophet* bring on the Great Tribulation for a period of 42 months—1260 days. But they must face the two great prophets of God, the Two Witnesses. They will know they are fighting against the true God. Also, the events described in Daniel 11:44 cause them much concern: **“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”**

Revelation 16:13-14:

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The Place of Safety Will Surely Be Needed—Soon!

These are Bible times in which we are living—very dangerous times—the *Midnight Cry* is sounding forth as you are reading. The time of great terror that is fast approaching is called **“...great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”** (Matt. 24:21). God’s faithful Philadelphians are promised protection from this **“...hour of temptation, which shall come upon the entire world, to try them that dwell upon the earth”** (Rev. 3:10). Revelation 12:6 tells us that the Church, symbolized as a *woman*, has a *“place prepared of God.”* Verse 14 states: **“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and a half [portion] of time, from the face of the serpent.”**

The *Place of Safety* has always been an interesting and exciting subject to the Church of God. But, for too many Church members, the idea of saving our physical skin has been the most important thing of all—even more important than being born into the Family of God!

PART TWO:

Overcoming Misconceptions!

New Truths #59 through #74 may have been considered through the years, but the overall conclusions reached were in error. They have been misunderstood by most former members of the WCG—Mr. Armstrong included. Preconceived ideas, or misconceptions, have prevented the comprehension of some clearly stated scriptures. Looking at these misconceptions through the pure light of God's Word has revealed much new understanding of these subjects—knowledge from the mind of Christ. They are such astounding Truths that most of them will be presented with their own sub-headings, under the overall heading of Overcoming Misconceptions. In this arrangement I will be as brief as possible with the subjects that are covered in our twelve booklets. New Truths not yet in booklet form will be presented in deeper detail.

Chapter Eleven:

59 Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?

Exactly how Mr. Armstrong became interested in Petra, I don't remember. I do remember his saying something to the effect that, "If Petra is not the Place of Safety; the Bible does not indicate where the place is." Two well-known WCG ministers in the 70's gave sermons on Petra being the Place of Safety. One of them gave seven reasons why Petra had to be the Place! Now, nearly 40 years later, many of the leaders of the splits and splinters still believe Petra is the Place of Safety. Do you?

Please realize that Petra is NOT a secret place. Petra is the number one tourist attraction in the nation of Jordan. I will copy a partial quote from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary that I have written on page 9 of our *Petra* booklet:

The capital of Edom and subsequently of Nabataea...about 50 miles S of the Dead Sea. The name is from the Gr. Word *petra*, “rock,” Hebrew “*sela*.” The rock-cut city of Petra was a noted PAGAN CENTER...Its high place is an excellent example of the high places referred to and CONDEMNED in the OT.

Petra is part of the territory of the descendants of Edom. But who was Edom? Genesis 25:30 gives the answer. **“And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.”**

One of the sons of Edom was *Amalek*, the father of the Amalekites. By the time God brought the millions of Jacob’s descendants, the Israelites, out of Egypt by His servant Moses, the Amalekites had also greatly multiplied in numbers. As Israel was journeying to Mt. Sinai, the Amalekite leaders decided to unleash their military forces against the Israelites. Exodus 17 reveals an extremely important declaration by the Eternal God against Amalek, beginning in verse 8: **“Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephadim.”**

Continue in verses 14 and 16:

And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the

remembrance of Amalek from under heaven...For he said, Because the LORD has sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

AMALEK was to be an enemy of God from generation to generation. In the Bible which I am using, the marginal rendering of verse 16 states: **“Because the hand of Amalek is against the Throne of the Lord.”**

The wars between Israel and Edom—especially between Israel and the Amalakites—have continued through the centuries. This is an intriguing bit of history that comes down to our time in the Day of the Lord. The Edomites are still ENEMIES of God! The Bible brings this out in Psalm 83. Verses 1, 2 and 6-8 declare this very plainly:

...Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God: For lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head...The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagerenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them...

And Assur is Germany of today!

There has never been a confederation of these nations before. This is a prophecy for the near future. The point here is that these nations are the enemies of God! And Edom, Amalek, and Ammon all refer to the general area of modern Jordan, where Petra is located.

In our *Petra* booklet, I copied from an article in the November/December 1998 issue of *Royal Vision* magazine, the following quote by Gerald Flurry: “Even during the GREAT TRIBULATION, this WORK will continue until the desert blossoms as the rose.” In 1998, Mr. Flurry and the PCG were involved with the Royal Family of Jordan, in the restoration effort to make Petra “one of the most beautiful areas on earth.” But note that Jordan is the modern name for the land of EDOM, which means that Jordan, by Bible declaration, is an enemy of God.

However, he had another motive in mind; he considers Petra—to be the Place of Safety. Since the publishing of our first edition of the *Petra* booklet, Mr. Flurry and his PCG have been expelled from the Petra restoration project! Nevertheless, Mr. Flurry is a doggedly stubborn individual. If he believes Petra is the Place of Safety, he will not cease in his endeavor to take his followers there. In the September/October 2007 issue of *Royal Vision*, Mr. Flurry did a re-hash of his 1998 article, thus indicating his continued *blindness* to the Truth about Petra/Edom. But, if he would simply open his eyes and believe what God says about Edom, he could save himself and his PCG followers a lot of misery.

God declares through His prophet Jeremiah:

Also Edom [where Petra is located] shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. As in the overthrow of SODOM and GOMORRAH and the neighbor cities thereof, SAITH THE LORD... (Jer. 49:17-18).

People will not be impressed with the great beauty of Petra, but will be astonished by its great devastation. The Eternal had Isaiah add the following descriptive words:

For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down on IDUMEA [Greek for *Edom*]... for the Lord hath a sacrifice in BOZRAH [ancient capitol city of Edom], and a GREAT SLAUGHTER in the LAND of IDUMEA. (Is. 34:5-6).

Gerald Flurry and his Laodicean ministers, as well as many of the ministers of the *synagogue of Satan* continue to believe Petra is the Place of Safety. God's Word plainly reveals Petra will be a Place of Slaughter! What do you believe?

Please write for our booklet and PROVE to yourself what the Word of God says concerning the subject of Petra—and where SAFETY actually is!

1. We have a misconception or a pre-conceived idea about the scripture that blinds our minds to the PLAIN TRUTH of the statement. We discussed pre-conceived ideas earlier in this book, but I need to bring this to your attention once more because of the following:
2. God can use the misconception or pre-conceived idea to HIDE a particular TRUTH until the specific time when He wants the scripture to be thoroughly understood.

Where the Place of Safety is actually located is an example of the two reasons just stated. We have had pre-conceived ideas about the geographical location of the *Place of Safety*! And God has used our misconceptions to HIDE the location of the *Place of Safety* until immediately prior to the NEED for this *Place*. Let me show you this as another proof that the CGF is SET APART BY TRUTH!

First, let's remember that the idea that Petra is the *Place of Safety* is a misconception. The Bible is PLAIN in its description of Petra becoming an utter devastation, similar to Sodom and Gomorrah. Secondly, PLAIN scriptures that strongly indicate WHERE the *Place of Safety* might have been completely overlooked! This leads me to believe God has kept this SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE a closely guarded secret until this very time.

To prove my point, let me ask a few questions.

1. Into which country did Moses FLEE to escape from the Pharaoh of Egypt?
2. The man who would become Moses' father-in-law was Jethro. What was his title?
3. What was the name of the mountain on which Moses spied the "burning bush?"
4. What is another name for that mountain?
5. Where is that mountain located?
6. Where is the geographic location of the area into which God had Moses bring the Nation of Israel?
7. Was this in the Sinai Peninsula, as we have always believed?
8. Is the Sinai Peninsula completely "out" of Egypt?
9. Years later, where did Elijah FLEE to hide from Jezebel?
10. Still later, where did Paul FLEE to be given instructions and revelation by Jesus Christ?

The answer to question #1 is in Exodus 2:15: **"...But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the Land of Midian..."**

The answer to question #2 is in Exodus 2:16 and 3:1: **"Now the Priest**

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

The answer to question #3 is in Exodus 3:1-2: **"...and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush..."** God told Moses that He wanted him to bring Israel to that specific mountain:

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

The answer to #4 is in Exodus 19:1,18:

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai... And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire...

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

But WHERE is SINAI? The following is a perfect example of a misconception due to a pre-conceived idea. Haven't you always thought Mt. Sinai is on the Sinai Peninsula? This is a misconception! Mt. Sinai is NOT on the Sinai Peninsula, and the Bible declares that it is not! The scripture is very PLAINLY stated, but we have NOT paid attention to the TRUTH of the Word of God!

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

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

Paul tells us, in Galatians 1:16-18, what he did after he FLED for his life:

...immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood [See vv. 11 & 12 and II Cor.12:1-7]: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into ARABIA, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem...

Paul is then inspired to write in Galatians 4:25: **"For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia..."** Notice carefully—**Mount Sinai is in ARABIA!**

The Bible says Arabia is the location of Mt. Sinai—not the Sinai Peninsula.

But WHERE IS ARABIA? Please, carefully study the following maps. Map #1 is titled “Lands of the Bible During the Exodus” and Map #2 is “Lands of the Bible in Modern Times.” Here is the answer to question #5! Please note that the ancient Land of Midian is the modern nation of SAUDI ARABIA! Also, please note that the “Sinai Peninsula,” at the time of the Exodus, was part of EGYPT! It was not called the Sinai Peninsula until centuries later.



Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC
Map #1 *Lands of the Bible During the Exodus*

Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, in the fourth century AD, evidently believed the local *tradition* that the mountain in the southern part of the peninsula, erroneously named *Jebel Musa*, was the “mountain of Moses.” Exactly when this *tradition* began is unclear, but Helena built a chapel and a tower there to commemorate the place where Moses had supposedly seen the “burning bush.” Emperor Justinian, in the sixth century, recognized *Jebel Musa* as a holy place by building a fortress-monastery to protect the monks of his new church dedicated to the “Virgin Mary.” Later, it was rededicated to the Roman Catholic, “Saint Catherine,” and this site is still a Catholic church today. This mountain has become the “traditional” Mt Sinai, and the entire peninsula from ancient times has been incorrectly named the Sinai Peninsula, but it is definitely not the true MT. SINAI. The biblical MT. SINAI is in the Land of Midian---SAUDI ARABIA of today! The Bible says so! This is the answer to

questions #7 and #8.

There are a number of very interesting books written recently on the discovery of the true MOUNT HOREB/SINAI, which is known by the people of the area as JABAL AL LAWZ. The mountain still bares many of the identifying features that are described in the Bible. One of the books I would recommend is *The Exodus Case* by Lennert Moller, published by Scandinavia Publishing House. Another is *The Gold of Exodus* by Howard Blum.

Moses FLED from Pharaoh into Midian (Ex 2:15). The Israelites, 40 years later, FLED from Pharaoh (Ex. 14:5). God led them by a pillar of FIRE by night and a pillar of CLOUD by day (Ex. 13:21-22). HE brought them completely OUT of EGYPT!

**... how I bore you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself...
In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the Land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai (Ex. 19:4,1).**



Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC
Map #2 *Lands of the Bible in Modern Times*

This is the answer to question #6.

God brought at least two million Israelites completely OUT of Egypt on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. The actual point of their crossing the Red Sea makes this a much greater miracle than we have ever supposed.

Thus we see that Moses and ancient Israel FLED to Sinai or Horeb, the Mountain of God. The apostle Paul FLED to Arabia where the Mountain of God is located. There was another great man of God that FLED for his life to this same location. This man was the great prophet, ELIJAH! Read about him FLEEING for his life in I Kings 19:1-3 & 8:

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

Isn't it very interesting that THREE of the greatest servants of God all FLED to Arabia! Isn't it very likely that God's Spirit led Paul to the same identical area of Arabia to which Moses and Elijah were led—to the Mountain of God, HOREB/SINAI? This is the answer to questions #9 and #10.

Why were they led to this particular area? Is God showing us something?

The expression **“on eagles wings”** is mentioned in the Book of Revelation as a means which God will use for the Church to FLEE **“into her place”** from the persecution caused by the devil (Rev. 12:13-14). This place is called **“the wilderness”** in verses 6 and 14. In this place, God's faithful Church, *the Woman* (and the children of the Church members) are protected from Satan for **a time, times, and a half** (portion) **a time!**

Where is this *Place of Safety*, described as a “wilderness”, that God's people will be protected in for a time, times, and half of a time? Exodus 19:1, quoted above, states that Israel came **“...into the wilderness of Sinai.”** Israel had FLED Egypt and God had brought them to the **“wilderness of Sinai.”** There they were safe! There Moses presented them to God, dressed in their very best clean clothes. And, as all of us learned from Mr. Armstrong and other sources, Israel appeared before God on the Day of Firstfruits, or Pentecost.

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

In a fantastic display of POWER on that Day of Pentecost 1487 BC, the Eternal descended to the top of Mt. Horeb/Sinai. There God thundered forth the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:18-19 tells of this amazing event:

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto

Moses, speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

God gave Moses many instructions on how the Israelites were to live as His model nation. Great blessings would come upon them if they were obedient. This was a COVENANT between God and Israel—a MARRIAGE COVENANT! **“And he [Moses] took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient”** (Ex.24:7). Of course, they were not obedient for long, as we know. Our Lord laments for His wife later, as Jeremiah records in chapter 3, verse 14: **“Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am MARRIED unto you...”**

Please consider what we have learned so far.

- Moses FLED to Midian.
- Horeb/Sinai, the Mountain of God, is in Midian.
- Midian is the ancient name for the modern nation of Saudi-Arabia.
- Israel FLED Egypt and was brought to Mt. Horeb/Sinai as God states, **“on the wings of an eagle.”**
- Moses presented ancient Israel to God, dressed in their clean clothes, on Pentecost.
- Israel agreed to all of the terms of the COVENANT as offered to them by God.
- They were MARRIED to God.
- Elijah FLED to Horeb/Sinai.
- Paul FLED to Arabia, possibly to the Mountain of God.

Those Church members who have watched and prayed and have been *accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man*, will soon FLEE into the *place in the wilderness* God has prepared (see Luke 21:36 and Rev. 12:14).

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

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

God rescued ancient Israel by directing TWO MEN in the use of awesome miracles, signs, and wonders to back up the WORDS they spoke. The Two Witnesses are to be brought on the scene for their “training period” in miracles, signs, and wonders. The New Truths you are reading are the WORDS they will speak, supported by the same great power of God. A “training period” of ap-

proximately 72 days will have them prepared for their ministry, which will begin 113 days before the fifth seal is opened. That brief period of time will afford opportunity for our Spiritual Israelite brethren of the synagogue of Satan to seek us out.

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

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

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

Ancient Israel was presented to God with the sound of a trumpet on the Day of Pentecost. Spiritual Israel will be presented to God at the sound of the Last Trumpet. That GREAT TRUMPET will sound and then: “...**In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed**” (I Cor. 15:52). This will also happen on the Day of Pentecost—the Day of Firstfruits. That is the subject of the next NEW TRUTH that we shall explore.

We do not definitely know if the Place of Safety is in the area of Mt. Horeb/Sinai, or as the Arabs call it today, *JABAL AL LAWZ*. Jesus Christ is the HEAD of this Church and knows exactly where the *Place of Safety* shall be, because He will prepare it. The Church of God’s Faithful is SET APART BY TRUTH! Christ will give us this TRUTH, also. He will let us know the exact location as the time to FLEE draws nearer. As of this moment, we definitely have a “good indication”.

Chapter Thirteen:

#61 The Two Goats!

Iesus Christ, before He became flesh, had existed forever with God as the Word.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3 and 14)

Jesus Christ was God and became flesh. He became *flesh*, a human being, to fulfill a most vital part in the Plan of God. The last phrase of Revelation 13:8 tells us that He was the *Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world*. John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the inhabitants of Judea as the *Lamb of God* (see John 1:29 and 36).

In chapter 3, verse 16, the apostle John records one of the most well-known of all scriptures: **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”**

The apostle Peter has written in I Peter 1:18-20 (MKJV):

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; indeed having been foreknown before the foundation of the world...

And Paul is inspired to record the clear definition of Christ's sacrifice:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (I Cor. 5:7-8).

I want to emphasize the plain Truth that Jesus was the *Lamb of God* sacri-

ficed for us!

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Isa. 53:5-7)

Jesus as the Passover Lamb was ordained from the beginning of the world to be offered as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. As the Eternal God of the Old Testament, He gave Moses the instructions for the observance of the first Passover.

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats. (Ex. 12:2-5)

Notice that verse 5 allows a lamb or a goat to be used as the Passover sacrifice, but nowhere in the Bible is Jesus mentioned as the *goat of God*—He is always acknowledged as the *Lamb of God*!

The Feasts of the Lord

Now let us review the Feasts of God as listed in order in Leviticus 23.

Verses 1-2 state emphatically that these are the Lord's Feasts!

Verse 3 reiterates the command to observe the Holy weekly Sabbath.

Verse 4 is important in the realization that the annual Holy Days are also commanded Feasts of the Lord, holy convocations.

Verse 5 simply declares: **"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover."**

Verses 6-8 gives the instructions for the Days of Unleavened Bread with the first and the last of the seven days listed as holy convocations.

Verses 9-17 describe the Wave Offering of the first of the Firstfruits, conducted on the first day of the week within the Days of Unleavened Bread. Then, after seven weekly Sabbaths, the *Firstfruit Loaves* are offered on the

fiftieth day—Pentecost. The early spring harvest clearly pictures the early spiritual harvest of the First Resurrection.

Verses 20-21 state that the 50th day is a holy convocation, an annual Holy Day, the Feast of Firstfruits.

The Passover and the two Holy Days of Unleavened Bread are observed in the first month. Pentecost is always in the early part of the third month. The other four Holy Days are all in the seventh month.

Verses 24-25 tell us:

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

The first day of the seventh month is the Feast of Trumpets. We studied earlier that this Holy Day is a memorial of the creation of the “world”. However, let us understand, too, that the seventh month pictures the Day of the Lord. The “called out ones” of God observe the seven days of Unleavened Bread, which portray our lifetime of struggle to keep sin out of our lives. Then we count seven weeks, which represent our time of spiritual growth into firstfruits by staying focused on the Resurrection, depicted by day 50—Pentecost! As we count up to the seventh month, it is plain to see that the Feast of Trumpets is not only the memorial of creation, but it also reminds us that the 6000 years allotted to mankind to go his own way has come to an end—then God’s time—The Day of the Lord—began again.

The Seventh Trumpet!

Beginning on a future Feast of Trumpets, the seventh Seal—the Trumpet Plagues—will be opened and seven mighty angels will begin to sound seven different trumpets, one after another (Revelation, chapters 8 & 9 and 11:15). The first will be blown on the Feast of Trumpets, announcing the one-year period of the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:17).

It is very likely that the other trumpets will be blown on the other ensuing Holy Days, the seventh and last trumpet being blown on Pentecost.

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever (Rev. 11:15).

The First Resurrection occurs at the sound of the last trumpet:

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”... “For this we say unto you by the word

of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. (I Cor. 15:52 and I Thess. 4:15-16)

The Resurrection of the Firstfruits occurs as the *last trumpet* sounds on the Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost. Request or download our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets Or The Day of Pentecost...Which?*, for more details on this wonderful subject.

The Firstfruits rise to meet Christ in the clouds; He then escorts us to the very throne of the Father God Almighty to present us to Him as the Bride of Christ without *spot, blemish, or wrinkle*.

The seven trumpet angels have sounded, and their plagues have been poured upon the earth. This happens during the one-year period of the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb. The trumpets have all sounded by the Day of Pentecost, but the year has not been completed. No! The seven last plagues must also be poured out as part of the seventh trumpet plague. While those horrible conditions are befalling the earth, the 144,000 Firstfruits are in Heaven and are married to Christ!

From Pentecost until the Feast of Trumpets, the unspeakable joys of God-hood in the Heaven of God's Throne are experienced by the Firstfruits, who have become the Wife of Jesus Christ! Then, on that Feast of Trumpets, the time will have come for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to return to earth for the final events of the Wrath of the Lamb. The 1000-year reign of Christ will be ushered in as all resistance to His rule is utterly stamped out.

Notice Zechariah 14:3-5:

Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south...and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. (See also Rev. 19:11-16, 7-8.)

The events of the seventh month are concerned with the future return of Christ and His Wife to completely rule the earth, banishing Satan and the demons, preparing for the Millennium, and, ultimately, the great fall harvest of the Second Resurrection---the Last Great Day.

Back to Leviticus 23 and the Feasts of God. Let's read again of the four Holy Days in the seventh month, portraying events in the Day of the Lord. Six

thousand years have ended and the Seventh Day that shall continue forever has begun.

Verses 24-25 issue the command for the first day of the seventh month to be observed as the Feast of Trumpets.

Verses 27-32 give the special instructions for keeping the Day of Atonement.

Verses 34-36 tell us of the joyful Feast of Tabernacles and the solemnity of the Last Great Day.

What we have seen so far is that God designed the spring and fall harvests as types of His Spiritual Harvests, and that the Holy Days picture His Plan. And it all begins with the Passover Lamb—Jesus Christ.

Unusual Sacrifices!

Next let us look at Numbers 28 and some very unusual sacrifices that have gone unnoticed in the past.

The first sacrifices listed in Numbers 28:1-8 are the *continual burnt offerings* which were conducted every day, morning and evening. This sacrifice consisted of two lambs of the first year and prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine—for *a continual sweet savor unto the Lord*.

On every Sabbath, additional sacrifices were offered. Verses 9-10 show two lambs and extra flour, oil and drink offerings to be burned along with the daily, continual burnt offerings.

Verses 11-14 describe burnt offerings that were to be sacrifices at the *beginnings of your months*. (Notice that Moses never used the expression, *new moons*.) Two bullocks, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year, along with flour, oil, and wine, were offered as a sacrifice made by fire for a sweet savor unto the Lord. This sacrifice was done at the beginning of every month throughout the year.

Verse 15 adds a new sacrifice of a young *goat* for a sin offering besides the continual burnt offering.

Verse 16 states simply, that the 14th day of the first month is the Passover. No additional sacrifices are mentioned. Instructions for the Passover are given in Exodus 12.

Verses 17-25 describe the offerings for the seven Days of Unleavened Bread, with a very unusual and interesting difference noted in verse 22: “**And one goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.**” A *goat* was offered each of the seven Days of Unleavened Bread for a *sin offering, to make an atonement for you*.

The Passover had been observed the day before on the 14th. Today we understand that Christ is our Passover sacrificed for us---and those of ancient Israel and all of mankind. Our sins are forgiven through the spilled blood of *the Lamb of God*! The Creator gave His life for the sins of the world.

So why is a *goat* offered beginning the very next day for a *sin offering*? And

what does it mean, *to make an atonement for you?* What is an *atonement*?

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines *atonement* as:

H3722, kâphar: A primitive root; to *cover* (specifically with bitumen); figuratively to *expiate* or *condone*, to *placate* or *cancel*: - appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, to pitch, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile (-liation).

The first instance in the Bible where *kaphar*, #3722, is used, it means *to cover* as in Genesis 6:14: **“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch³⁷²² it within and without with pitch³⁷²⁴.”** Number 3724 *kophar* is a noun meaning *a covering*, in this instance with the ark the covering was *bitumen*. This is an exact meaning of *atonement*, literally a sin “covered over”.

Hebrews 10:4 makes it clear: **“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”** The blood (life) of the sacrificed animal did not forgive sin, it covered it over. A pardon therefore was given until the sin could be forgiven (after repentance) through the blood (life) of the Lamb of God.

Note at this point an essential fact explained by Leviticus 17:11: **“...the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls.”** The Eternal God, as the Sovereign Owner and Creator of nature, reserved the blood to Himself and allowed men only one use of it—sacrifices (see Deut. 12:23 and 27 and Psalms 50:10).

Jesus was the Lamb of God and poured forth His blood (life) for the remission of sin.

Notice Hebrews 9:11-15:

But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Only through Christ's blood is there *forgiveness*—total redemption!

Please understand; Jesus is the Passover Lamb—is He also the Atonement

goat?

We read the instructions for the Days of Unleavened Bread in Numbers 28:17-25 and asked the question, “Why was it necessary to offer a *goat for atonement* each day during the days of Unleavened Bread right after the observance of the Passover?” The Passover lamb had been slain, with the ceremony picturing the sacrifice of the true Lamb of God.

Numbers 28:26-31 lists similar animal sacrifices for the Feast of Firstfruits, as was done during the seven days of Unleavened Bread, and the same special command for an *atonement goat* in verse 30.

Numbers 29 lists the Holy Days and sacrifices in the seventh month.

And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have a holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you. And ye shall offer a burnt offering for a sweet savor unto the LORD; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year without blemish: And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals for a bullock, and two tenth deals for a ram, And one tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs: And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you: Beside the burnt offering of the month, and his meat offering, and the daily burnt offering, and his meat offering, and their drink offerings, according unto their manner, for a sweet savor, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.
(verses 1-6)

Verses 7-11 bring us to the 5th Holy Day of the year, the Day of Atonement and the required sacrifices. Notice carefully what is stated.

And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month a holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein: But ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD for a sweet savor; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year; they shall be unto you without blemish: And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals to a bullock, and two tenth deals to one ram, A several tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs.

Now read verse 11:

One kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the sin offering of atonement, and the continual burnt offering, and the meat offering of it, and their drink offerings.

We have previously shown from chapter 28, verse 15, that a *kid of the goats* was offered for *a sin offering and to make atonement for you* at the beginning of months. Next, we see scriptures which make you think there are “Days of

Atonement” during the spring Holy Days! The same instructions are repeated in verse 22—for each day of the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Then, in verse 30 the identical wording is used for Pentecost: **“And one kid of the goats, for a sin offering and to make atonement for you.”**

Numbers 15:24-26 mentions offering a *kid of the goats* for *sins of ignorance*, but that is not what is being brought out in Numbers 28 and 29.

Numbers 29:5 has the identical command for the Feast of Trumpets, in addition to the other sacrifices—***“And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.”*** However, on the Day of Atonement there is a definite difference in the wording. Repeating verse 11, ***“One kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the sin offering of atonement, and the continual burnt offering, and the meat offering of it, and their drink offerings.”***

From this point in Numbers 29, the word *atonement* is not used again. Why? Verses 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, and 38 stress only ***“one kid of the goats for a sin offering...”***, but no *atonement*. Evidently Numbers 29:11 is indicating that something very important happens on the Day of Atonement!

In the Worldwide Church of God, whenever we thought of the Day of Atonement, Leviticus 16 came to mind; so let us examine that chapter.

As we look into this intriguing bit of scripture, let us keep in mind that the physical actions in this ceremony on the tenth day of the seventh month are portraying fantastic spiritual events in the Day of the Lord. The Feast of Trumpets is observed on the first day of the seventh month. It is not only a memorial of the creation of the “*world that then was*” (II Peter 3:6); it is also a picture of the return of the King of Kings and His Wife to take complete rule of the earth---to create and establish the “*World Tomorrow*”. Ten days later, the Day of Atonement is solemnly observed, picturing extremely important events that shall occur after Christ has returned.

Physical and Spiritual

Only once in the year could the High Priest enter beyond the veil into the Holy Place:

Now these things having been thus prepared, the priests go in continually into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the services; but into the second the high priest alone, once in the year, not without blood, which he offereth for himself, and for the errors of the people (Heb. 9:6-7 RV).

In Leviticus 16:3-4, Aaron was to enter into the Holy Place with a young bullock and a ram. He would remove the splendid robes he usually wore and bathe himself. Then he would attire himself in the plain linen garments the common Levites wore and offer the bullock as atonement for himself and his

house—and as a *sin offering* for himself (vv. 6, 11, and 14). He alone was to perform these rites explicitly as instructed (v.17).

The Jamison, Fawcett, and Brown Commentary has the following comment about Leviticus 16:11-19:

Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself, etc.
 — The first part of the service was designed to solemnize his own mind, as well as the minds of the people, by offering the sacrifices for their sins. The sin offerings being slain had the sins of the offerer judicially transferred to them by the imputation of his hands on their head (Lev 4:4, Lev 4:15, Lev 4:24, Lev 4:29, Lev 4:33); and thus the young bullock, which was to make atonement for himself and the other priests (called “his house,” Psa 135:19), was killed by the hands of the high priest. While the blood of the victim was being received into a vessel, taking a censer of live coals in his right hand and a platter of sweet incense in his left, he, amid the solemn attention and the anxious prayers of the assembled multitude, crossed the porch and the holy place, opened the outer veil which led into the holy of holies and then the inner veil. Standing before the ark, he deposited the censer of coals on the floor, emptied the plate of incense into his hand, poured it on the burning coals; and the apartment was filled with fragrant smoke, intended, according to Jewish writers, to prevent any presumptuous gazer prying too curiously into the form of the mercy seat, which was the Lord’s throne. The high priest having done this, perfumed the sanctuary, returned to the door, took the blood of the slain bullock, and, carrying it into the holy of holies, sprinkled it with his finger once upon the mercy seat “eastward” - that is, on the side next to himself; and seven times “before the mercy seat” - that is, on the front of the ark. Leaving the coals and the incense burning, he went out a second time, to sacrifice at the altar of burnt offering the goat which had been assigned as a sin offering for the people; and carrying its blood into the holy of holies, he made similar sprinklings as he had done before with the blood of the bullock. While the high priest was thus engaged in the most holy place, none of the ordinary priests were allowed to remain within the precincts of the tabernacle. The sanctuary or holy place and the altar of burnt offering were in like manner sprinkled seven times with the blood of the bullock and the goat. The object of this solemn ceremonial was to impress the minds of the Israelites with the conviction that the whole tabernacle was stained by the sins of a guilty people, that by their sins they had forfeited the privileges of the divine presence and worship, and that an atonement had to be made as the condition of God’s remaining with them. The sins and shortcomings of the past year having polluted the sacred edifice,

the expiation required to be annually renewed. The exclusion of the priests indicated their unworthiness and the impurities of their service. The mingled blood of the two victims being sprinkled on the horns of the altar indicated that the priests and the people equally needed an atonement for their sins. But the sanctuary being thus ceremonially purified, and the people of Israel reconciled by the blood of the consecrated victim, the Lord continued to dwell in the midst of them, and to honor them with His gracious presence.

Now let us look at the *two goats*, which are really the subject of this study. Verse 5: “**And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.**” Notice the *two goats* compose one sin offering!

Verses 7-10 describe the *sin offering* of the *two goats*:

And he shall take the *two goats*, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD’s lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

Remember, the ceremony presented in Leviticus 16 is picturing events on the earth during and immediately after the return of Christ and the Firstfruits to take over the rule of the earth.

Hebrews 10:4 makes it very plain that the *blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins*. Verse 3 states: “**But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.**” Chapter 9, verses 11-14:

But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Now verses 23-26:

It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves

with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Yes! Jesus Christ was once sacrificed for us as the Lamb of God! He is the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us—He is not the Atonement goat!

In Leviticus 16, after Aaron has sacrificed the bullock for himself and his house, after he has sprinkled the blood of the bullock upon the mercy seat for the sins of the people, then Aaron, the high priest, is pictured as the Resurrected Christ!

Then the *two goats* are brought forth. Young goats are often nearly identical in appearance; you can hardly distinguish one from the other. In this case they both were a single *sin offering*. It was determined by lot which goat would be for the *Lord* and the people (vv. 8 and 15), and which goat would be for the *scapegoat* (the *azazel* #5799, *goat of departure*) (v. 10).

The first goat is killed and its blood sprinkled upon and around the mercy seat, as done with the sacrificed bullock. The blood of both of these animals was also smeared upon the horns of the altar.

And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat... (Lev. 16:18-20)

Notice at this point in the ceremony, as the High Priest brings in the live second goat, the *sins* of the people have not been forgiven, even though the first goat has been sacrificed:

And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. (Lev. 16:21-22)

We were taught in the WCG that the second goat represented Satan the devil—which is true. But we were also taught that the first goat represented Christ—that is not true! Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb; He is not the Atonement goat!

The goat representing Satan was released in the wilderness, away from all human contact. The first goat was killed, its blood sprinkled on and around the mercy seat and upon the horns of the altar for *atonement*, and then:

And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. (Lev. 16:27)

Let us review a few facts before we proceed:

- The Day of Atonement ceremony performed in Leviticus 16 pictures events in the Day of the Lord during and immediately after the return of Christ and the Firstfruits.
- The two goats were evidently identical in every way. Their role in the ceremony had to be determined by lot.
- The first goat was *for the Lord* and *for the people*, and was killed.
- The second goat was for the *azazel*.
- The second goat represents Satan.
- The first goat that looked like the second goat must represent something very similar to Satan.
- The first goat was killed for *atonement*—not forgiveness—but both goats were for a *sin offering*.
- The first goat was killed, but the *sins* were laid upon the head of the second goat.
- “Atonement” implies a “covering over”.
- The blood of bulls and goats cannot forgive sins.
- The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).
- Life is in the blood (Lev. 17:11).
- The death of the sacrificed animal represented an atonement for the sinner.
- Sin is forgiven only through the total sacrifice of the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ—the pouring out of His blood—the giving of His Life!.

Now let us view the Day of Atonement ceremony in the light of the return

of Christ.

The Bible plainly declares that Satan (portrayed by the second goat) has deceived the entire world: “**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him**” (Rev. 12:9). He is the *deceiver* and the *god of this world* (II Cor. 4:4). And he has a system by which the entire world worships his evil ways:

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? (Rev. 13:1-4)

Also verses 11-15:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

We understand that the second goat of Leviticus 16 represents Satan the devil. Now, doesn't it become obvious what the first goat represents? One goat was practically the same as the other, thus either could be used in their representations. One was the image of the other! The second goat depicts Satan—therefore the first goat represents Satan's evil system of deception! Throughout the history of man, Satan's deception has caused death and the shedding of much blood.

Satan's evil system is vividly described in Revelation 17:1-6:

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Satan knows he has but a short time left (Rev. 12:12) and is exerting his evil influence over the earth to bring about the most horrible time of suffering ever to be experienced. But as the Great Tribulation begins, notice what is stated:

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and *avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?* And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (Rev. 6:9-11)

Romans 12:19 states: “...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

Remember, the first goat was for the Lord—and for the people. The first goat, representing Satan’s evil system, has spilled the blood of millions of people, but the Mighty Christ will wreak His vengeance—He will repay! The first goat was killed, its blood was spilled, and then it was taken and completely burned in the fire. That is the fate of Satan’s system! Notice it in Revelation 18:2,4-6,8:

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her

even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double... Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. He is the Lamb of God! The *two goats* of Leviticus 16 were for a *sin offering* and *atonement* for the people. The *first goat* represents the wickedness of a false system that is summed up in Revelation 18:24: “**And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**” Nevertheless, when Christ returns, that system will be totally destroyed and burned with fire. “Vengeance is mine,” the Living Christ proclaims, and He repeats the end of the matter in verse 20: “**Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.**”

The *first goat* shall be utterly destroyed! The *second goat*, Satan, will be banished to the “wilderness” of the “bottomless pit” for a thousand years, with the *sins* caused by his lies and deception heaped upon his wicked head. He will be unable to exert any evil influence upon mankind for an entire Millennium of happiness, peace, joy, and love—in the Kingdom of God. No more *atonement* will be needed in the World Tomorrow. Yet, after the 1000 years, Satan will be loosed for a *little season*.

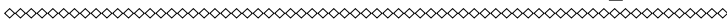
What happens after his release for a *little season*, and the ultimate fate of the devil and his demons, is the subject of New Truth #71 of this book. But let me state here—they get what they deserve!

Chapter Fourteen:

#62 The First Resurrection

Occurs on the Day of Pentecost

—Not on the Feast of Trumpets!



The magnificent Plan of God is revealed in His Holy Days! God's Faithful Church thankfully observes these Holy Days each year. Each of the seven Holy Days represents a vital part in the Plan of God. Passover is not one of these Holy Annual Sabbaths, but is the most solemn ceremony of the Church year picturing Jesus Christ's SACRIFICE as the LAMB of GOD! It is very respectfully observed on the evening prior to the next evening, which ushers in the Days of Unleavened Bread. The first and the last days in this seven-day observance are ANNUAL HOLY DAYS. Fifty days from the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread brings us to the Day of Firstfruits, also known as the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. Pentecost is the third annual HOLY DAY of the year. The other four Holy Days are observed during the seventh month of the Sacred Calendar.

God tells us twelve times in one chapter of the Bible, Leviticus 23, that these are His Feasts. They are important to God and must be observed and understood by his Church. The more we observe them the more we learn about God and His Plan.

Passover, of course, pictures Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God. John 1:29 tells us this: **"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."** Revelation 13:8 adds the following: **"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."**

Yes! Jesus, the Lamb of God, was brutally killed on that Passover day of 31 AD. He was slain, but no power in the entire universe could have prevented his resurrection from the grave three days and three nights later. God the Father was in charge and would raise His Son from the dead! Colossians 1:18 states:

“And he is the Head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence.” As the slain Passover lamb, our Lord became the FIRSTBORN and the FIRSTFRUIT from the dead. **“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the FIRSTFRUITS of them that slept”** (I Cor. 15:20).

Christ is the FIRSTFRUIT! He was raised from the dead late on the weekly Sabbath, three days and three nights, exactly, from the Wednesday crucifixion that had occurred on the 14th of Nisan, Passover day. He was placed in the tomb shortly before sundown on that Wednesday. The annual Holy Day, the First Day of Unleavened Bread would begin at sundown as John 19:31 declares: **“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was a high day)...”** It was a HIGH DAY, the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

Leviticus 23:10-11 states:

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When you be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf (Strong’s #6016, *an omer*) of the Firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you; on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

The “morrow” after the weekly Sabbath is the first day of the week—Sunday!

The *Jamison, Fawsett, and Brown Comentary* describes the waving of the “sheaf” as follows:

A sheaf, literally, an omer, of the first-fruits of the barley harvest. The barley being sooner ripe than the other grains, the reaping of it formed the commencement of the general harvest season... but it was reaped after sunset on the previous evening by persons deputed to go with sickles and obtain samples from different fields. These, being laid together in a sheaf or loose bundle, were brought to the court of the temple, where the grain was winnowed, parched, and bruised in a mortar. Then, after some incense had been sprinkled on it, the priest waved the sheaf aloft before the Lord towards the four different points of the compass, took a part of it and threw it into the fire of the altar - all the rest being reserved to himself.

Some Jewish sects and a few other religious groups erroneously contend that the Sabbath being discussed in verse 11 is the annual High Day, the First Day of Unleavened Bread. That annual Holy Day, during the crucifixion week, began at sunset on Wednesday as the 14th of Nisan ended and the 15th began. All Wednesday night and all day on Thursday would be the First Day of Unleavened

Bread. The Jews would have begun killing their Passover lambs on Wednesday afternoon approximately the same time [after 3:00 pm] Jesus was killed, as he hung on the “cross.” The Jews, incorrectly, combine the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread into one Festival. See Numbers 28:16-17. Our Lord had kept the true Passover the evening before as Luke 22:14-15 relates. The day after the annual High day Sabbath was Friday. That is when the Jews waved their “Wave Sheaf” offering.

However, the actual facts surrounding the resurrection of our Lord makes it PLAIN that the true WAVE SHEAF was offered and accepted by God on the day after the WEEKLY SABBATH. The day after the Sabbath of course is Sunday. Jesus lay dead in the tomb Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. He was dead all day Thursday, Friday, and most all day on Saturday. Just prior to sunset Saturday, three days and three nights after being placed in that tomb; the FIRSTFRUIT from the dead, triumphantly, walked out of the tomb. Now He could say: **“I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [the grave] and of death”** (Rev. 1:18). He had fulfilled every detail of the Passover! Now he would fulfill every detail that pictured the WAVE SHEAF.

We know the touching account of Mary Magdalene at Jesus’ appearance to her on the first day of the week. Read this in Mark 16:9: **“Now when Jesus was risen, early the first day of the week He appeared first to Mary Magdalene...”** When Mary realized the person she saw there at the tomb was Jesus, her natural impulse was to reach out and embrace Him. However, John 20:17 explains that another important step in the Plan of God must then take place:

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended unto my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and unto your Father, and to my God, and to your God.

At the precise day and time for the Wave Sheaf offering to be physically waved before God, on that morrow after the Sabbath, our Lord fulfilled this as the SPIRITUAL FIRSTFRUIT and WAVE SHEAF, as the scriptures instruct.

After he had ascended to the Father and was accepted as the Wave Sheaf, he returned and appeared to the other women who had come to the sepulcher. Mathew 28:9-10:

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

This was a different message than that he had told Mary Magdalene. By this time, He had already ascended to heaven and was accepted as the Wave Sheaf, the FIRST of the FIRSTFRUIT harvest. See Isaiah 53:10-11 & Colos-

sians 1:18-19. Now, because of the immediate danger of being associated with Him, He wanted His disciples to get out of Jerusalem and flee to Galilee, as he had instructed them before His death (Mat. 26:32; Mark 16:7).

The Jews, as a whole, will not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. If they would believe, there would be no doubt, that they should observe the waving of the Firstfruit Sheaf on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath. Jesus Christ is the perfect example and fulfillment of the WAVE SHEAF, on the WAVE SHEAF DAY.

Fifty days from the “... **morrow after the Sabbath**,” brings us to the third Holy Day of the Sacred Calendar, the Feast of Firstfruits—PENTECOST. Let’s read God’s instruction to the Nation of Israel concerning this third Holy Day of the year. Leviticus 23:15-16:

And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the SHEAF of the WAVE OFFERING: seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even to the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number FIFTY DAYS...

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

Verse 17 continues the instructions:

You shall bring out of your habitations TWO WAVE LOAVES of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS UNTO THE LORD.

Christ is the FIRSTFRUIT as pictured by the Wave Sheaf. The comparative few throughout history that have been called by God to qualify for the First Resurrection will be the Firstfruits of “the small early harvest” as pictured by the WAVE LOAVES! James 1:18 reads: “**Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of Firstfruits of his creatures.**”

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

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

Pentecost is the Feast of Firstfruit! The Firstfruits will be raised from the dead, or if still living will be changed from flesh to Spirit in an instant at the First Resurrection. Christ fulfilled the true meaning of the Passover and the Wave Sheaf. He fulfilled these two important steps in God’s Plan on the exact

days as they had been ceremonially kept for nearly 15 centuries. God accepted Him as the WAVE SHEAF FIRSTFRUIT on the WAVE SHEAF DAY! In the near future, we will be symbolically waved before God by our High Priest, Jesus Christ, on the Day of Firstfruits---Pentecost.

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

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

We must “Overcome Misconceptions” and pre-conceived ideas and thankfully drink in New Truth as it is revealed to us. Read again the 6 points of comparison brought out in Truth #30. Remember God is consistent! Our Lord fulfilled the Passover and the Wave Sheaf on those exact days. We are the FIRSTFRUITS! He will present us to the Father on the Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost! Please request our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost?*

This brings us to the next New Truth that tells us HOW MANY Firstfruits there will be in God's Great Plan.

the Gospel was going into ALL nations! Millions were reading the *Plain Truth* magazine and viewing *The World Tomorrow* telecast. Nevertheless, when we consider the evidence we have from the Bible, 144,000 makes a lot of sense. The Bible always makes sense once we get our own pre-conceived ideas out of the way.

The Word of God reveals that from Adam through Noah, spanning a time period of 1650 years, only Abel, Enoch, and Noah were considered righteous men. From Noah to the time Israel entered the Promised Land, another 900 years elapsed. Those who walked with God during those 900 years of history can be counted on our fingers and toes. Throughout the period of the judges, the kings, and the prophets of the Old Testament, how many are counted as righteous individuals possessing the Spirit of God? Seven thousand had not “bowed their knees to Baal” during this time (Rom. 11:4), but did they possess God’s Spirit? This question will be addressed later.

Only a very few had the Spirit of God during Christ’s 33 ½ years in the flesh. Those included were Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, Anna, Simeon, John the Baptist, and very FEW others of whom we are aware. Thousands followed Jesus and claimed to believe in him, but where were they on the Day of Pentecost as the New Testament Church began? Even his 12 disciples were not given God’s Spirit until PENTECOST of 31AD. Acts 2:41 tell us that after Peter’s stirring sermon on Pentecost, 3000 people: “...**gladly received his word and were baptized.**” In the last phrase of acts 2:47 the Bible states: “...**And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**” Verse 14 of chapter 5 shows continued growth: “**And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.**” After Stephen’s death, persecution set in, and the Church scattered and spread abroad. “**Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word**” (Acts 8:4).

Paul was inspired to write II Tim. 4:3-4 as a warning of what was to come. “**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**” This has a familiar ring to it, doesn’t it? Verse 10 shows how the ministry can fall away, bringing tragic results upon the Flock: “**For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. ONLY Luke is with me...**” The time was approaching 65 or 66 AD. There was much persecution being thrust upon God’s people. Satan and his demons were bringing persecution from the World, OUTSIDE, and infiltrating the Church, INSIDE, with false ministers (see II Pet. 2:1-2; Jude: 3-4).

II Tim 4:16 declares: “**At my first answer no man stood with me, but ALL men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.**” Many did NOT “endure to the end” as Paul sadly states in II Tim. 1:15! “**This**

thou knowest, that ALL they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.”

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

Let's proceed with the description of the 144,000 Firstfruits in Revelation 14. Again, verse 1: **“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.”** We know the “*Lamb*” is symbolic of Jesus Christ. We know that Mt. Zion is synonymous with the City of Jerusalem in the land of Israel. However, there is a HEAVENLY Mt. Zion too! We will look at this next. Let's also search out the meaning **“... his Father's name written in their foreheads.”**

Hebrews 12 gives us the answer to WHICH Mt. Zion is being discussed in Rev. 14. Begin with verses 18-19:

For ye are not come unto the mount [Horeb/Sinai] that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them anymore...

Continue with verses 21–22:

...and so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.

This PLAINLY tells us that the MOUNT ZION where Christ and the Firstfruits are standing is in HEAVEN! Do pre-conceived ideas and misconceptions in your mind prevent you from seeing this wonderful scene?

The meaning of **“the Father's name written in their [our] foreheads”** is revealed in four very familiar scriptures. First look at Ephesians 1:13-14:

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession,

unto the praise of his glory.

Acts 5:32 adds: **“And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that OBEY Him.”**

Our Lord tells us in John 17:11 that the Father has given us to Him. The Father’s NAME is then given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. **“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own NAME those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”** And it is a sure fact that God KNOWS and SEALS those that are his: **“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this SEAL, The Lord knoweth them that are his...”** (II Tim. 2:19).

Revelation 14 is an obvious portrayal of 144,000 firstfruits with Christ on Mt. Zion in the Heavenly Jerusalem. The First Resurrection has taken place and the firstfruits have been born into the God-Family. **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we KNOW that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”** (See I John 3:2). The 144,000 firstfruits bare the NAME of the Father, GOD! When this is all a reality, the marriage of the SON of GOD to the FIRSTFRUITS will be ready to commence.

Revelation 14:2 states:

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps...and they sung as it were a new song before the throne and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Again I caution you not to let misconceptions, that may be deeply engrained in your mind, to dim the magnificence of the spectacle being described here. These occurrences are at the very THRONE of GOD in HEAVEN! It should NOT seem strange to realize that the 144,000 FIRSTFRUITS become BORN MEMBERS into the Family of God at the First Resurrection. As God-Beings, Christ will have them ascend to HEAVEN and stand in the PRESENCE of GOD THE FATHER! Verse 5 declares: **“...they are without fault before THE THRONE OF GOD!”** Our Lord and Savior will present us before His Presence “without fault”. **“...to present you faultless before the presence of His glory...”** (Jude 24).

Now observe WHEN it is that they **“stand in His Presence.”** Revelation 15:1 and 6 give this startling information:

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues: for in them is filled up the wrath of God...And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the

seven plagues...

Now read verse 2 and realize that the picture here is BEFORE THE LAST PLAGUES are poured out.

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire [also Rev. 4:6]; and them that had gotten the VICTORY over the Beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

This is a WONDERFUL, absolutely AMAZING statement of ENCOURAGEMENT! What we see depicted here is that portion of the FIRSTFRUITS who must OVERCOME and achieve VICTORY over the BEAST and his IMAGE! They stand in TRIUMPH because they “**kept the commandments of God and had the testimony of Jesus**” (Rev. 12:17). But they did NOT “**grow in grace and knowledge**” (II Pet. 3:18). They “HELD FAST” but refused to GROW and become a part of the One TRUE CHURCH. They are the Laodiceans and the unfaithful Philadelphians who are not “*accounted worthy to escape*” and go to the Place of Safety. These people of God must OVERCOME in the MOST DIFFICULT of ALL SITUATIONS! They must endure physical, mental, and emotional suffering on a scale we, thankfully, cannot imagine, before they are allowed to die in the HORROR of the Great Tribulation! “**And they OVERCAME him [Satan, the Beast, the Image] by the blood of the lamb, and by the Word of their testimony, and they loved not their LIVES unto the death**” (Rev. 12:11).

God, in His great mercy, has John write this portion of scripture portraying them as VICTORIOUS! God singles them out from the rest of the 144,000 Firstfruits for this special honor, due to the severity of their trial and for their encouragement when they finally “awaken”—in the Tribulation. This is written as part of the “Word of His Testimony,” (verse 17) informing them that they CAN OVERCOME! Through the Spirit of God, they must lose their PHYSICAL LIFE, but they gain the ultimate VICTORY— ETERNAL LIFE!

Remember, this great scene is BEFORE the last plagues are poured out! The Resurrection occurs before the seven last plagues are cast upon the earth! The Bible says so!

In chapters 14 and 15 the FIRSTFRUITS are standing before the Throne of God and they all have *harps*. Rev. 15:3 shows them singing the songs of MOSES and the LAMB. Chapter 14:3 describes them singing a new song that no one else can learn. The Greek word for “*song*”, Strong’s #5603, can be singular or plural, as in these two verses. (See also Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16.) Consequently, verse 3 may be paraphrased as “*and they sung as it were new songs...and no one could learn those songs of Moses and the Lamb, except the 144,000.*”

Our very important booklet, “*The Feast of Trumpets Or The Day of Pentecost...Which?*” continues from this amazing point of revealed TRUTH.

Hopefully you now understand that there are quite a few AMAZING events PLAINLY described in the Bible that have been hidden until now. I hope it is as plain to you as it is to me, that the Resurrection of the 144,000 FIRSTFRUITS occurs on Pentecost—the Feast of Firstfruits—BEFORE the seven last plagues are cast upon the earth and upon the remaining rebels of mankind.

So, *after these things*, John writes:

After the first six seals have been opened and before the seventh seal is opened, God causes a pause in these 2½ years of HORROR to accomplish a very merciful and gracious act. The trumpets of the seven angels are not allowed to blow UNTIL 144,000 Israelites are SEALED. We discussed in a previous

portion of this book exactly what is meant by being SEALED. Acts 2:38 tells us: **“...Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”** We read Ephesians 1:13 earlier, but read it again as we consider the 144,000 Israelites: **“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your Salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise...”**

As we come to this pause to allow this multitude to be SEALED with the Spirit of God, think a moment of HOW this would be done:

- The Faithful Philadelphians, who were accounted WORTHY to escape the Tribulation, have been in the Place of Safety for 2½ years by this point in time.
- It appears that those begotten brethren not accounted worthy to escape the Tribulation would have given their lives by this time, to qualify as FIRSTFRUITS.
- The 144,000 Israelites are neither Philadelphians nor Laodiceans, nor will they be a part of the 144,000 FIRSTFRUITS!
- They will HEAR the WORD of TRUTH from the TWO WITNESSES.
- And God will bring them from all parts of the RAVAGED earth to the Place of Safety. HOW? That is a good question! The actual answer is unknown at this point; but God knows, and ALL things are possible with Him! The answer may be in Acts 8:39-40: **“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more...But Philip was found at Azotus...”** This scripture could also be a very important CLUE as to HOW we Philadelphians will get to the Place of Safety before them!
- In the Place of Safety they can be baptized, have hands laid upon them, and receive the SEAL of the Holy Spirit. They too, will be PROTECTED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD (see Rev. 9:4) in the Place of Safety God has prepared.
- They will NOT be FIRSTFRUITS at the Resurrection but will be the FIRST CITIZENS of the WORLD TOMORROW—human beings with the Spirit of God.
- They will be RACIAL ISRAELITES as it says in Rev. 7:4-8. WHY this is so, will be explained in the next section.

#65 ONLY Israel is Given God's Holy Spirit During the Millennium!

Mr. Armstrong's radio and television programs that carried the true Gospel to the entire world were called *THE WORLD TOMORROW!* Mr. Art Gilmore, for years, was the announcer for the program. I can remember his strong, clear voice ringing out, "The Worldwide Church of God presents Herbert W. Armstrong, bringing you TODAY'S WORLD NEWS and the PROPHECIES of THE WORLD TOMORROW!" Then Mr. Armstrong's powerful voice would thunder over the airwaves. Herbert Armstrong taught us of the WONDERFUL World to come—the Millennium—when Christ and the Saints will rule the earth in righteousness for 1000 years. We still look forward to this wonderful time! However, God is revealing more facts to the CGF that just were not available to Mr. Armstrong!

Look closely at what God states in Zechariah 14:16-18:

And it shall come to pass, that everyone that is left of all nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the HEATHEN that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

The scripture is very PLAIN! There will be NATIONS that refuse to keep God's Law during the Millennium. Does this sound like they have God's Spirit written in their hearts? It seems obvious they do NOT have God's Spirit! God calls them HEATHEN! The word used here as "*heathen*" is "*ghoy*", Strong's #1471. This Hebrew word also is used for "*nation*" and "*Gentile*". The plural form of the word "*ghoyim*" is generally used to refer to the pagan nations that

surrounded Israel.

We have already discussed how easy it is to have a MISCONCEPTION in our minds. Another of these mistaken ideas is the teaching that ALL PEOPLE will have access to God's Spirit in the Millennium. This is just NOT correct! Mr. Armstrong did not try to DECEIVE us; he simply did not understand. God did not give him the complete picture, nor all the details which we are being given now.

In Revelation 12:5 and 19:15 Christ declares that He will rule the nations of the earth with A ROD OF IRON! The Firstfruits who qualified during the Thyatira era are promised authority over the nations. Read this in Revelation 2:26-27: **"And he that overcometh, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power [authority] over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron..."** WHY? Why will Christ need a *rod of iron* to rule the nations IF they have God's Spirit?

Do YOU need a "rod of iron" over your head to actually FORCE you to walk in the ways of God? If you have God's Spirit and His Laws in your heart, you do not NEED a "rod of iron" over you. You need God's Spirit! God's Spirit LEADS his begotten children (Rom. 8:14-16). A converted Christian, in God's Church, is led by God's Spirit to follow their minister, as long as the minister FOLLOWS Jesus Christ (I Cor. 11:1). Today the "churches of god" are split and splintered, divided and confused. They are FOLLOWING ministers that are not FOLLOWING Christ! But it is NOT because they need an "iron rod" over them. It is because of being deceived by their ministers who themselves are deceived. Read Jeremiah 50:6 again: **"My people hath been LOST SHEEP: their shepherds have caused them to go astray..."**

When the LOCATION of God's True Church is made available through the Midnight Cry (Mat. 25:6), God's Spirit will MAKE many of these deceived ones awoken and come to us (Rev. 3:9). A "rod of iron" will NOT be used. The Spirit of God within these brethren will be "stirred up" (II Tim. 1:8) as they behold rapidly escalating troubles in the world and mighty miracles, signs, and wonders performed by the Faithful of God! These miracles, signs, and wonders must be COUPLED WITH TRUTH to conclusively identify the Church of God's Faithful as God's True Church. The POWER of God and the TRUTH of God, through the SPIRIT of God, will MAKE them repent and seek us out. They will come through Christ (the Open Door) and WORSHIP GOD, being taught at our feet through the Spirit of God, NOT a "rod of iron."

But, in the Millennium Christ will use the FORCE of the "rod of iron." No rebelliousness will be allowed. The "rod of iron" will compel the Gentiles to live by God's law and, thus experience happiness and prosperity as the result. ONLY Israel will receive God's Spirit during the 1000-year reign of Christ. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SCRIPTURE IN THE BIBLE INDICATING THAT THE GENTILES RECEIVE GOD'S SPIRIT IN THE MILLENNIUM!

I realize this is a shocking statement—nevertheless it is true! Please look at what the Bible PLAINLY declares:

Isaiah 44:1-3:

Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, My servant; and thou Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring...

The Gentiles and their seed are not even mentioned.

Isaiah 4:3: “**And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion [Israel] and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem...**” Israel will be God’s HOLY nation. Notice again, there is no reference to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 59:20-21 tells us more:

And the REDEEMER shall come to ZION, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the the Lord, from henceforth and forever.

Generation after generation of Israelites during the Millennium will possess the Spirit of God and will teach His Word.

Jeremiah 31:8-10 declares that the Lord will gather Israel and lead them as their Shepherd. Verse 33 is very clear that Israel will know God in the World Tomorrow.

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel; After those days [of the Great Tribulation], saith the Lord, I will put my Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me [all of Israel], from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 11:17-20 continues the PLAIN TRUTH that Israel alone will receive God’s Spirit in the Millennium:

Therefore say, thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather YOU from the people, and assemble YOU out of the countries where YE have been scattered, and I will give YOU the land of Israel. And THEY

shall come thither, and THEY shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give THEM one heart, and I will put a new Spirit within YOU; and I will take the stony heart out of THEIR flesh, and will give THEM a heart of flesh: that THEY may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and THEY shall be my people, and I will be their God.

The scriptures are PLAIN; God will give Israel His Spirit in the Millennium.

I want to quote from page 18 of our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*, which explains WHY God will give Israel his Spirit. This is under the heading, *God's Model Nation*.

God is going to gather Israel, and bring them back into their own land during the millennium. They are going to be his people and he will be their God. Ezekiel 36:22 adds this:

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine Holy Name's sake, which ye have profaned among the Heathen, whither ye went.

God originally called Israel to be a model nation. But they failed miserably! They profaned God among the heathens. Verse 23:

And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Israel WILL be a model nation. They are going to be an example to this world. God is going to CAUSE them to do his will. God is going to give Israel His Spirit during the Millennium and they are going to fulfill everything God has said and intended for them in the past.

These are just a few of many, many scriptures that PLAINLY show that Israel, ONLY, will receive God's Spirit in the Millennium. So, what happens to the Gentiles during the 1000 years?

The Gentiles make up the majority of the population of the earth. We have assumed that ALL NATIONS of the earth will have access to God's Spirit during the Millennium, but that is NOT what the Bible says. What will the Gentiles receive during the 1000-year reign of Christ in the World Tomorrow? Let's look at Isaiah 11:10-12 to begin to understand the question:

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign [#5251...banner, standard, beacon] of the people; to it [Christ] shall the gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it

shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people [Israel] which shall be left from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he [Christ] shall set up an ensign for the NATIONS [He shall set up ISRAEL as a LIGHT to the Gentiles], and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Israel is going to be a LIGHT to the world as they teach God's Law from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-3 state:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the NATIONS, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not lift up the sword against Nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The GENTILE NATIONS will be TAUGHT the ways of God by ISRAEL! God's LAWS will be enforced by the "rod of iron" of the GOVERNMENT of GOD! The GENTILES will receive KNOWLEDGE of the LAWS of GOD through God's MODEL NATION! The Gentiles will have Israel as an example, a MODEL NATION! Israel will be a LIGHT to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:6 declares: **"...I the Lord have called thee [Israel] in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a LIGHT of the GENTILES..."**

We have read verses 10 and 11 of Isaiah 11; now read verse 9: **"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my Holy Mountain: for the earth shall be full of the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."**

The EARTH will be full of the knowledge of God. Notice carefully! It does NOT say it will be full of God's Spirit! Does having the knowledge of God save us? Of course not! Ancient Israel was given full knowledge of the CREATOR GOD. They saw God every night and day for 40 years in the pillar of fire and cloud. They heard His voice THUNDER from Mt. Horeb. They agreed to follow all of his LAWS and other knowledge he gave them. But, did the knowledge of God keep them walking in the paths of God? NO! It did not! The 7000 Israelites of Elijah's day did not *"bow their knees to Baal."* (See I Kings 19:14, 18

and Romans 11:4.) They obviously had much knowledge of God's ways and knew that "bowing to Baal" was wrong. There are many sincere Protestants today who know it is wrong to "bow before Baal," but they aren't converted. KNOWLEDGE of God does not convert a person. God's Spirit does convert a person (see Romans 8:9).

God has a wonderful, step-by-step Plan. The 144,000 physical Israelites who repent and receive protection from the Day of God's Wrath will go into the World Tomorrow as its FIRST-CITIZENS. ALL the rest of Israel who live through that terrible time, and each succeeding generation, will be given access to God's Spirit during the Millennium. They will become the MODEL NATION and a LIGHT to all other nations. Through God's Spirit, His Words shall be *in Israel's mouth* to teach all the Gentile nations the ways of God.

After the Gentile nations receive the KNOWLEDGE of God, couldn't they then receive God's Spirit? If it were God's will, they could! However, in God's Plan, the Holy Spirit is NOT made available to them until later. (All of this is explained in detail in our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*.)

Joel 2:28 tells us WHEN all "*flesh*" shall receive the Spirit of God. "**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh...**" What is meant by "*afterwards*"—AFTER WHAT? Verses 18-20 begin a gradually progressing series of events that explain step-by-step what God means by "AFTERWARDS."

Then will the Lord be jealous for his land and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the Heathen: But I will remove far off from you the Northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part towards the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, because he has done great things.

Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, with the Firstfruits and the angelic armies of Heaven, will return to the earth and utterly crush the armies of the earth that dare oppose him.

Continue with verses 21-22:

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, you beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

These scriptures declare that the Great Tribulation and Day of God's Wrath are history and the WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW IS BEGINNING! Verses 23-27 go on with the description of the World Tomorrow:

Be glad then, ye children of Zion and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he has given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that has dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Unmistakably, this depicts the MILLENNIUM!

Now, when you read verse 28, the meaning is so obvious! **“And it shall come to pass AFTERWARD, that I will POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH...”** YES! AFTER the MILLENNIUM—during the LAST GREAT DAY—God’s Spirit will be poured upon ALL flesh, Israelite and Gentile. All who have ever lived—who are resurrected at the SECOND RESURRECTION—will then have access to God’s Holy Spirit.

However, be sure you understand: from the point of the Sealing of the 144,000 Israelites to the Second Resurrection, **ONLY** Israel will have access to God’s Spirit. If there are some Gentiles that God chooses to call during the Millennium, as He has done in the New Testament Church age, it is not indicated in the scriptures. This brings us to an example of GREAT MERCY that the Church has never understood until NOW!

Midnight Cry of the CGF thunders forth in fulfillment of Matthew 25:6—**the Bridegroom is here—come you out to meet Him!** Christ will cause many to repent as He makes his Faithful Church visible through miracles, signs, and wonders. When this does occur, Satan will also perform “counterfeit” miracles in an attempt to continue his deception (see Matt. 7:21-23). But, the TRUE CHURCH will be SET APART BY TRUTH, and the POWER of CHRIST will back up our words!

Those who awaken will be made to come and to be taught by the PILLARS (Rev. 3:9). The initial instruction and teaching will open their minds to the depth of their deception. The Bible tells us that many will deeply repent and be *accounted worthy to escape* the Great Tribulation. Then, much more knowledge and Truth will be given to all of us in the Place of Safety. Those who do not respond to the *Midnight Cry*, or wait too long to repent, must be proven as *lively stones* by giving their lives in the fiery trial of the Great Tribulation.

Step-by-Step

Through the ministry of the Two Witnesses, 144,000 Israelites will repent during 2 ½ years of Tribulation and will be spared the unbearable horrors of the Trumpet PLAGUES of God by being allowed to enter the Place of Safety. The Two Witnesses will be killed after 1260 days of their powerful world-shaking ministry. After another three and one-half days they will be raised to Eternal life, as the First Resurrection occurs! The VISIBLE RETURN of Jesus Christ for His FIRSTFRUITS will take place on a future Day of Pentecost—the Feast of Firstfruits.

Our Lord will present us to our Father to be accepted as the Firstfruits, at the very Throne of God in Heaven! Who, other than Almighty God—the Father—would perform the marriage of Christ and the Church?

During this time the seven last plagues will be cast upon those rebellious ones remaining on earth. Revelation 18:8 states: **“Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.”** A careful reading of that verse and Revelation 16 makes it apparent that the *one day* in which the seven last plagues come is not a 24-hour period of time. Absolutely not! “Famine” cannot happen in one 24-hour day! Revelation 1:10 and 6:17 clearly define which *day* is meant! The Day of the Lord is the overall meaning: **“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.”** Revelation 6:17 is more specific: **“...For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”** The *great Day of His Wrath* is the final year of the 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation all occurring during the Day of the Lord which continues forever! The seven last plagues are poured

upon the remaining rebellious of the earth during approximately 113 *days* between Pentecost and Trumpets—while the Firstfruits are experiencing the joys of God-hood in Heaven.

After a definite period of time spent in Heaven, then the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with His Wife and the angelic armies of Heaven, will descend to the earth in all-conquering POWER to crush all rebellion—and to RULE the EARTH with a *rod of iron* for 1000 years. Satan and the wicked demons will be completely subdued and put away for that wonderful Millennium of the World Tomorrow. The converted, 144,000 physical Israelites described in Revelation 7:3-8 will be the FIRST CITIZENS of the New World! And our CHILDREN who were protected in the Place of Safety will be the ROYALTY of the earth as the World Tomorrow dawns.

All Israelites left alive (and all Israelites born during the Millenium) will have their minds opened and will have access to the Holy Spirit of God. Through God's Spirit they will fulfill their calling and be the LIGHT, the EXAMPLE, and the MODEL NATION to all other nations of the earth. The Law of God shall be taught and enforced throughout the entire world.

The GENTILE NATIONS will receive the KNOWLEDGE of the WAYS of GOD. Justice and mercy shall be extended to them. They shall be prosperous, healthy, and happy beyond their imagination. However, they shall be subservient to Israel and will not have access to the Spirit of God during the Millennium. Their EQUAL TIME comes later. God is NOT a respecter of persons, but He does have an all-merciful Plan! This thumbnail sketch brings us to the END of the World Tomorrow!

Revelation 20:6-7 projects us into that time:

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the First Resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison...

WHY?

Why will God release Satan the devil from his prison after he has brooded and raged in his insane mind for 1000 years?

Our minds cannot conceive of the beauty and productivity of this earth after 1000 years of having the LAWS of God enforced! The KNOWLEDGE of God with all the benefits it produces will fill the earth. All of mankind will have known ONLY the TRUE GOD for 1000 years. But notice carefully verse 8: **“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, GOG and MAGOG, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”**

Did God's Plan fail? This is a description of MILLIONS of GENTILES being

utterly DECEIVED by Satan after 1000 years of the reign of Christ and the Saints! How is this possible? Now, read the depth of their deception in Revelation 20:9: **“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city...”**

Incredibly, these multitudes of humanity, who have known the ways of God, will be deceived to the point of attacking the HEADQUARTERS of GOD on earth—**“...and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”**

Consider! Over 1000 years into the future, after the wonderful World Tomorrow, millions of bitter people from all over the earth will have been so deceived by Satan that they will attempt to attack Jerusalem—the City of the King of Kings! But they will be utterly annihilated by God! Their destruction appears to be similar to what happened to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah during the time of Abraham. There is no indication that these people, numerous as the sand of the sea, will have time or opportunity to repent. Their lives are SNUFFED out. GOD KILLS THEM! Are they lost forever?

They will have lived under the LAWS of God all their lives. Yet, they will REBEL against the GOVERNMENT of GOD and plan to do violence to Christ’s headquarters in Jerusalem. If they possessed the Spirit of God, but died in disobedience and defiance, wouldn’t they be disqualified for ETERNAL LIFE? The obvious answer is YES—if they had the Spirit of God! But, they will not have God’s Spirit! Only Israel will have access to the Holy Spirit during the Millennium. These Gentiles, Gog and Magog, from the four corners of the earth will have the KNOWLEDGE of God, but will not have His Spirit. They will not be ETERNALLY LOST!

The Second Resurrection will happen shortly after the destruction of the rebellious multitude, perhaps within a few hours! They will be raised back to physical life and see their former twisted and distorted bodies lying upon the ground—killed by God! They and other BILLIONS who will also be raised to physical life at the Second Resurrection will have stamped within their minds a lesson they will never forget—rebelliousness against God and His Law does not work!

And then they will have access to the Spirit of God!

Remember, our Father and Christ our Lord are MERCIFUL beyond human understanding and have a fantastic PLAN for ALL mankind. These people, Gog and Magog, will have their opportunity for Salvation! This is WONDERFUL NEW TRUTH that has not been understood until revealed to God’s Faithful Church!

Revelation 20:8-9 is only a microscopic glimpse of this DISOBEDIENT and SENSELESS act. Ezekiel 38 and 39 give more details of the REBELLION and the subsequent MASSIVE SLAUGHTER of MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

Now, ask yourself:

1. WHY will God allow Satan to be released from his prison after the Millennium?
2. WHY don't the Gentiles receive God's Spirit during the Millennium?
3. WHAT is the purpose of the GREAT SLAUGHTER of millions of Gog and Magog?

WHAT Happens Next?

There are FOUR reasons WHY God allows Satan to be released from his prison:

- To prophetically demonstrate to us today the deceptive powers of the devil.
- To prepare for Satan's final end.
- To use Satan as a tool in the next step of His Plan.
- To produce the greatest deterrent to SIN, ever!

The Gentiles do not receive the Spirit of God during the Millennium because God, in His wisdom, will give all of mankind who have ever lived, a special time to qualify for the Family of God. The Gentiles who live and die during the Millennium will have lived with the KNOWLEDGE of God all their lives. As they are raised to PHYSICAL life at the Second Resurrection, God's Holy Spirit is made available to them for the first time. They will be perfect candidates to be the LIGHTS and EXAMPLES to the other BILLIONS resurrected to physical life—those who lived and died during the 6000 years never KNOWING anything about the TRUE GOD or His Ways.

All Israelites who lived and died during the Millennium, who did receive God's Spirit—just as we do today—and qualified, will also be resurrected as Spirit-Born God-Beings. They, as Spirit-Beings, and the Gentiles who were taught God's ways during the Millennium and then were raised to physical life, will be the teachers and instructors to the multitude of humanity who will have access to God's Spirit during the Last Great Day.

The dead bodies of Gog and Magog, littered over the countryside of Israel, will be the frightening scene that awaits the billions at the Second Resurrection. Each person will be made to view the carnage and stink of this LAST REBELLION. In no uncertain terms the PENALTY of disobeying God will be vividly impressed upon their minds. The dead bodies of the rebellious multitude will be gathered and cast into the fires that will be kept burning in the "*Valley of the Son of Hinnom*"—Gehenna!

Sin will not be tolerated!

The vast majority of the bodies of all the people that have ever lived will

have disappeared into dust by the time of the Second Resurrection. This is no problem for God! He will give everyone who has ever lived a new PHYSICAL body. The same will be true for Gog and Magog, whose rotting bodies will defile the land. God will also give Gog and Magog new physical bodies! In their NEW PHYSICAL BODIES they will view their OLD, DECAYING, and STINKING former bodies, which will subsequently be thrown into the FIRES of Gehenna. They and ALL mankind will see the sure RESULTS of REBELLION against God!

One other horrifying sight that will be seen by ALL mankind is Satan and his demons wallowing around in the filth and fire as they are imprisoned in the *Lake of Fire*! Revelation 20:10 states a brief part of Satan's punishment: **"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."** This brings us to our next NEW TRUTH.

Notice that the Beast and the False Prophet are mentioned in verse 10. These two wicked men will be put to death BEFORE the millennial rule of Christ and the Saints begins. They will be cast alive into “*a lake of fire*” at the return of Christ (see Rev. 19:20). The area where they perish may be the same area where God will ignite the Lake of Fire as He sends fire down from heaven on the hordes of Gog and Magog over a thousand years later. But the fire which the Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into at the return of Christ will not continue burning throughout the Millennium because there will be no one else to be “finally judged” until the Second Resurrection.

At the Second Resurrection it appears that the Beast and the False Prophet—raised to physical life—will be the first creatures to be cast into the *Lake of Fire*—***prepared for the devil and his angels*** (see Matt. 25:41)—which is the SECOND DEATH!

Understand! The *Lake of Fire* is ignited at the beginning of the Last Great Day—not at the end! Satan and the demons will be confined to the fire and filth of the *Lake of Fire* for the entire duration of the Last Great Day. Those few throughout the ages who knew of God’s ways but refused to walk in them in their lifetime, will be raised at the Second Resurrection, forced to bow before Christ and then cast into the *Lake of Fire* to be consumed by the flames. If their bodies don’t fall into the open flames, their rotting remains will be consumed by *maggots*, as described below.

The multitude of resurrected humanity, *all flesh*, who never had the opportunity to know the Eternal God or His Plan, will observe the end results of sin—firsthand! The *Lake of Fire* will be an age-lasting deterrent to sin.

And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon²³²⁰ to another²³²⁰ [new moon is a mistranslation; it should be rendered: *month to month*] and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh. (Isaiah 66:23-24)

The Old Testament scripture above says that *all flesh shall come and worship before God*! They will be compelled to observe the ultimate punishment—the *Lake of Fire*. Here is undeniable Truth that this is at the Second Resurrection and the *Lake of Fire* has been ignited at the beginning of the period of judgment. And the New Testament states plainly who is meant by *all flesh*!

Revelation 20:5 declares: “**But the REST OF THE DEAD** [*all flesh*] **lived not again UNTIL the thousand years were finished...**” *All flesh* are the REST of the DEAD! Does that mean everybody who has ever lived?

The apostle Paul gives us the answer in Acts 24:15: “**...And have hope toward God which they themselves also allow, that there shall be A resurrec-**

tion of the DEAD, both of the just and the unjust.” Paul is in no way referring to the FIRST RESURRECTION of the FIRSTFRUITS. He is plainly referring to the SECOND RESURRECTION when ALL of the REST OF THE DEAD, the good and the bad, will be raised in A SINGLE RESURRECTION!

Paul is merely stating what Christ has already declared in John 5:28-29:

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

This is also a good place to bring out another Truth that has been misunderstood about the First Resurrection. Which Resurrection is Jesus referring to in John 6:39, 40, 44, and 54?

Verse 39: “**And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**”

Verse 40: “**And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”

Verse 44: “**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”

Verse 54: “**Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**”

Certainly in each of those scriptures in John’s Gospel, our Lord is referring to the *First Resurrection*, but why does He say, in each verse, that He would *raise them up at the last day*? Meditate on that a moment and it is apparent that Jesus is plainly stating that both major Resurrections—the First and the Second Resurrections—occur in the Day of the Lord—the *Last Day* that continues forever!

Now back to “the rest of the dead” in Revelation 20:5.

ALL the REST OF THE DEAD at the Second Resurrection will include the “just” 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 and the other enormous number of “just” Israelites who qualify for the Family of God during the Millennium and are resurrected as Spirit-born God-Beings. They are the “just”—the GOOD—who are resurrected to LIFE at the Second Resurrection.

However, the over-whelming majority of the REST OF THE DEAD are those who never were called or given God’s Spirit. They will ALL be raised in one resurrection for “judgment”—the Second Resurrection. They are the “unjust” and will be raised to PHYSICAL life and given their TIME to qualify for the

God-Family. Also included in this Second Resurrection will be those who did know and had their opportunity to qualify, but rejected their calling. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with the Beast and the False Prophet at the BEGINNING of this period of JUDGMENT!

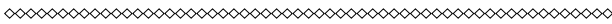
Revelation 20:11-15 describes this fantastic event:

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the DEAD, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the DEAD were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the DEAD which were in it; and death and hell [the grave] delivered up the DEAD, which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the SECOND DEATH. And whosoever was not found written in the book of LIFE was cast into the lake of fire.

For years we tried to get a Third Resurrection out of these scriptures, but it did not seem right—because it does not say that! When all is put together correctly there is no NEED for a Third Resurrection. Let me state once again, this entire subject is expounded in detail in our free booklet, *The Deep Things of God*.

Chapter Twenty:

#71 The Actual DURATION of the LAST GREAT DAY!



How long will the TIME of JUDGMENT, known as the LAST GREAT DAY, actually last? Mr. Armstrong and the writers of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course taught that it lasted for 100 years. But how did they arrive at this understanding? They sincerely thought Isaiah 65:17-25 pictured the LAST GREAT DAY; nevertheless, a careful scrutiny of these scriptures will prove that this is not the case. These scriptures plainly portray the Millennium!

Begin with verse 17: **“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”** This PRESENT EVIL WORLD will be totally destroyed. It will become “*tohu*” and “*bohu*” during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath (Jer. 4:19-29). A new WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW will be created. Verse 18 continues: **“But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”**

Jerusalem will be the capitol of the earth; the CITY OF THE KING OF KINGS!

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that has not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.
(Verses 19-20)

Everyone will live long lives during the Millennium. Verse 23 is definite proof that these scriptures are describing the Millennium—not the Last Great Day. **“They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble...”** The RSV states this phrase as **“...or bare children for calamity.”** Continue in verse 23: **“...for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”** Procreation will cease during the Last Great Day of Judgment—children will not be born—but there will be generations of happy children born

during the Millennium!

Now read verse 25 and discern the peace, harmony, joy, and safety enjoyed in all the earth as Satan has been put away and the RULE of the God-Family blesses the World Tomorrow. **“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.”**

But, you may ask, “If the 100 years spoken of in Isaiah 65 depicts the minimum life-span in the Millennium, where do we look to find the actual duration of the LAST GREAT DAY?

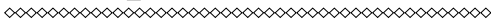
II Peter 3:8 makes this PLAIN statement: **“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as ONE DAY.”** Could you find a more basic definition than that? Doesn’t it seem very obvious that God is telling us that the LAST GREAT DAY extends over a period of 1000 years?

God is fair! God is no respecter of persons! The World Tomorrow will last for a millennium—1000 years; therefore, doesn’t it seem obvious that the Last Great Day will also be for 1000 years. Think of the hundreds or even thousands of people who lived during the 1600 years before the flood. Many of them lived nearly 1000 years. Adam lived 930 years. Methuselah lived 969 years! Righteous Noah lived 950 years! Twelve generations later, Joseph, the son of Israel, was the first man to die less than 110 years old (Gen. 50:26).

The Last Great Day extending for 1000 years makes good sense. A person who lived during ancient times had nearly 1000 years to establish habits of sin. Why wouldn’t God give him 1000 years to break those habits and build Godly character? God is fair! Perhaps this is why God has the Last Great Day observed after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, on the EIGHTH day! It pictures the EIGHTH one-thousand-year-long LAST GREAT DAY.

Chapter Twenty-One:

#72 Spirits CAN DIE!



One of the misconceptions planted deeply within the mind of all of us of the former Worldwide Church of God is the belief that Spirit Beings cannot die. This misconception has produced even more erroneous ideas. These ideas are so extremely deep-rooted that some people refuse to even consider the possibility that mistaken beliefs exist in their minds. That is HOW Satan can deceive! Consider two FACTS from the Bible:

1. **“...With God ALL things are possible.”** (Matt. 19:26)!
2. The Eternal, who became Jesus Christ, through whom ALL LIFE (other than God, Himself) was created, died (Col. 1:15-18)! Jesus was DEAD for three days and three nights. If God had not raised him up, he would still be DEAD!

IS THIS NOT PROOF THAT SPIRITS CAN DIE?

But doesn't Luke 20:36 tell us that ANGELS, who are spirit-beings, CAN NOT DIE?

...But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God...

This is the scripture that is referred to by people who believe that Satan can not DIE or be destroyed! Remember though, Romans 6:23 tells us: **“For the wages of SIN is DEATH; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Does this inspired statement apply ONLY to MANKIND? NO! We will see, as we look deeper into this subject, that this applies to angels, too.

We know that Jesus has appeared as an ANGEL in many, many places in the scriptures. (See Gen. 16:9-13; Ex. 13:21-22 and 14:19; Judg. 6:12-24; Rev. 10:1-11 and 11:1-3, for example.)

And ANGELS appear as MEN in many, many scriptures. See Genesis 18:1-8, 16-22 and 19:1-13, where two angels—and the LORD—all appear as men and sit down to have a hearty meal with the patriarch, Abraham.

Now read Luke 24:36-40: **“And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in**

the midst of them, and said unto them, peace be unto you.” Jesus had been dead, but was resurrected as the FIRSTFRUIT—the First-Born from the dead. He is God and He is SPIRIT (John 4:24)! As a Spirit, he walked right through the locked door of the room where the disciples were meeting—then appeared in the flesh.

But they were terrified and affrighted and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as you see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet (Luk 24:37-40).

Isn't it OBVIOUS by these PLAIN scriptures that God and angels can turn themselves into MATERIAL FLESH and BONE? Isn't it also very POSSIBLE for GOD to turn the sinful ANGELS into material flesh and have them destroyed?

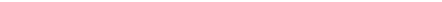
Luke 20:36 is NOT a contradiction! The BIBLE is TRUTH, and we of God's Faithful Church are SET APART BY TRUTH! Let Mark 12:24-26, a parallel account of Luke 20:36, explain.

And Jesus answering said unto them, do ye not therefore err, because you know not the Scriptures, neither the POWER of God? For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are they given in marriage: but are as the ANGELS WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN.

The righteous angels in HEAVEN have not sinned and they will NOT DIE. They, like members of the GOD-FAMILY, will LIVE forever. The wicked angels, including the chief demon, Satan, have SINNED and will DIE! The wages of SIN is DEATH—period!

Chapter Twenty-Two:

#73 The FATE of Satan and the Demons!



From the previous section it should be obvious that Satan and the demons can and will DIE! However, let's add some other corroborating scriptures to get a clear picture of exactly what will happen to these evil creatures.

John 3:15 states: **“...That whosoever believeth in him should not PERISH, but have eternal life.”** We, of the Church of God, have long known in light of this familiar scripture that PERISH means exactly the opposite of HAVING ETERNAL LIFE. Simply stated, “to perish” would be “to have eternal DEATH.” The Greek word for perish is Strong’s #622 and means “to destroy fully, die, perish, mar.”

Our Lord in Mark 1:24 encounters a demon spirit that screams out: “...**Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us...**” The word DESTROY in this scripture is the same word used in John 3:15 as PERISH. The evil spirit KNEW exactly what was in store for them.

The demon knew the PLAIN TRUTH of Ezekiel 28:12-19. Satan possessed the King of Tyre, as verses 12 and 14 clearly show:

...Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty...Thou are the ANOINTED CHERUB that covered; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

There is no doubt WHO this actually is! This is Satan, formerly Lucifer, the covering Cherub!

His monstrous VANITY was WHY he sinned, as revealed in Ezekiel 28:17: **“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness...”** Notice that the scripture continues, although in the past we have always stopped at this point. We have had the misconception that SPIRITS cannot DIE! But read what is so very apparent as

we proceed with the remainder of verse 17:

I will cast thee to the ground [the “ground” is the earth], I will lay thee before kings [see Revelation 5:10], that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a FIRE from the midst of thee, IT SHALL DEVOUR THEE, And I will BRING THEE TO ASHES upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shall be a terror, and NEVER SHALT THOU BE ANYMORE.

Satan will be destroyed! This is what the demon knew, as he cried aloud in Mark 1:24! That demon KNEW the scriptures and the sure FATE of himself, the other demons, and the chief demon, Satan!

Matthew 24:41 declares: **“Then shall he say also unto them on the left-hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire [#166], PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS...”** This is the same type of EVERLASTING FIRE that DESTROYED Sodom and Gomorrah, as Jude 7 states: **“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner...are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire [#166].”** The eternal fire is not still burning in Sodom and Gomorrah, but the effects of its complete destruction is EVERLASTING!

Read again Revelation 20:10: **“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone...and shall be TORMENTED day and night forever and ever.”** The words rendered *forever and ever* are Strong’s #165 and the preposition #1519. This simply means from AGE to AGE: from the AGE of the Millennium where Satan is tormented in the solitary confinement of the *bottomless pit*, then through the 1000-year AGE of the LAST GREAT DAY spent in the mental torment of the lake of fire!

Isaiah 14 describes some of the continual TORMENT that Satan will experience for 1000 years in the LAKE OF FIRE, before he is consumed into ashes. Verses 12–13:

How are thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how are you cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...

That is the ULTIMATE statement of VANITY! However, God has other ideas. Verse 15 emphatically declares: **“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell [sheol], to the sides of the pit.”** This is the pit of the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom—Gehenna.

Satan is confined to the filth and the fire of Gehenna for the duration of the

Last Great Day. People from all over the earth will be compelled to view his wretched state. Verse 16 makes the following pronouncement: **“They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, IS THIS THE MAN that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms.”**

Go back to verses 10 and 11 for additional description of Satan’s TORMENT.

All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms COVER thee.

Satan is reduced from his power, beauty, and splendor to the repulsive sight depicted here. Again, read Isaiah 66:23-24 and grasp how these scriptures will be completely fulfilled.

And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another [*month to month*], and from one Sabbath to another, shall ALL FLESH come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto ALL FLESH.

Finally, at the close of the LAST GREAT DAY, Satan and the demons will be changed into combustible material (flesh and bone?) and devoured by the FLAMES of the Lake of Fire. They will become like ALL of the wicked who have PERISHED in GEHENNA FIRE—they will be ASHES under the feet of the Saints (Malachi 4:3).

That IS Satan’s fate!

V But the DAY of the LORD will come as a thief in the night...
[AND IT HAS COME, as the Church of God's Faithful is PROCLAIM-
ING] ...in the which ... [the 1000 years of the World Tomorrow and the
1000 years of the Last Great Day will occur] ... wherein dwells RIGH-
TEOUSNESS. the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and
the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the EARTH also and the
works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these
things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in
all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto
the coming of the DAY of GOD [the FATHER], wherein the heavens
being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with
fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for
new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

After Christ has completed all things in the Plan of God and delivered up the KINGDOM, God the Father will make this earth His Headquarters (I Cor. 15:24-28). Revelation 7:9-17 presents a finished picture of this great event and the identity of the Innumerable Multitude. This has not been understood in the past because of another misconception!

Verse 14 has caused us to think that this INNUMERABLE MULTITUDE of people will come out of *THE GREAT TRIBULATION*, which is to come upon this entire world very shortly (Matt. 24:21). Is this true? Is that what the scripture actually says? Or is this another misconception? Verse 14 states:

...And I said unto him, [one of the Elders] Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

It does state that they *came out of great tribulation*. However, let's take a

deeper look.

The Greek word for *great* is *megas*, which is Strong's #3173, meaning: "exceedingly, great, high, large, loud..." The Greek word for *tribulation* is *thlipsis*, Strong's #2347, meaning: "pressure, afflicted [-tion], anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble."

Now observe how these words are used in several other scriptures.

Matthew 24:21: **"For then shall be great [#3173] tribulation [#2347], such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."**

Mark 13:19: **"For in those days shall be affliction [#2347], such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."**

Acts 7:11: [This is a part of Stephen's great sermon] **"Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Canaan and great [#3173] affliction [#2347]..."**

II Corinthians 8:2: **"How that in a great [#3173] trial of affliction [#2347] the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."**

Revelation 2:22: **"Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great [#3173] tribulation [#2347]..."**

John 16:33: **"...in the world ye shall have tribulation [#2347]..."**

Acts 14:22: **"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation [#2347] enter into the Kingdom of God."**

Matthew 24:21 and Mark 13:19 are unmistakably speaking of the most awful time of trouble ever to come upon mankind: the ONE and ONLY, Great Tribulation. Nevertheless, it is very obvious that the same expression, *great tribulation*, is used to vividly portray conditions in Joseph's day over 35 centuries ago! In Paul's day, 1900 years ago, the Corinthian Christians were experiencing *great tribulation*. The condition of *great tribulation* was manifested in the time of the Thyatira era approximately 5 centuries ago.

Our Lord is emphatic in John 16:33 that Christians will have *tribulation*! Acts 14:22 declares that Christ's disciples enter into the Kingdom of God through *much tribulation*! Therefore, when we read Revelation 7:14, the Elder who is speaking to John is declaring the same thing as the scriptures we have just reviewed. Allow me to paraphrase what the Elder tells John. He says: "This INNUMERABLE MULTITUDE has entered into the Kingdom of God through

much trial and affliction!”

From righteous Abel to the last person qualifying during the Last Great Day, everyone will suffer trial, affliction, tribulation, persecution, and trouble in their effort to be born into the God-Family!

Plain and simple!

It refers only to the “GREATEST TIME OF TROUBLE EVER” when referring to those called of God but accounted unworthy to escape the Great Tribulation. Consequently, those *accounted unworthy to escape* have only the *fires of great tribulation* in THE Great Tribulation to qualify for the Kingdom of God.

Those who must suffer this indescribably terrible time will be comparatively FEW in number, not an Innumerable Multitude. The great Innumerable Multitude will have successfully suffered through their individual tribulations and trials, through the power of God’s Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus Christ!

Once this *misconception* concerning the meaning of “*great tribulation*” is removed, the TRUTH of the identity of the Innumerable Multitude is easily understood. Let’s begin reading in Revelation 7 verse 9:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the Throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands...

John sees this fascinating vision following the Sealing of the 144,000 Israelites. The time is immediately before the Wrath of God is poured upon the earth; therefore, this fantastic scene is not in the proper time sequence.

This FUTURE occurrence is inserted at this point in the Book of Revelation for reassurance to those who will be in the Place of Safety. The *Day of the Lord’s Wrath* upon this earth will be of such an incredible magnitude that even in the Place of Safety the effects of it will be seen and felt (see Isaiah 24:19 & Rev. 16:17-21). We will need the written assurance of Revelation 7:9-17 that God’s Plan will be successfully accomplished.

The incomprehensible number of PEOPLE staggers John. They number in the BILLIONS! And they are ALL MEMBERS of the GOD-FAMILY. Also notice in verse 10 that God the Father is THERE—on the earth! This certainly clarifies and substantiates the time when this vision will be a reality.

Let’s lay this out in a step-by-step string of major events, to be sure that the time sequence is understood:

1. Christ will visibly return and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth for 1000 years—with the Saints ruling with Him (Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6).
2. After the 1000 years of the *World Tomorrow*, Satan will be released

from his prison and shall deceive the nations that are in the four quarters of the earth. The deception of these nations will be so complete that they will attack the very headquarters of the King of the earth, Jesus Christ (Rev. 20:7-9), thus precipitating total destruction upon that huge multitude.

3. The Second Resurrection then occurs (Rev. 20:5), ushering in the Last Great Day! This period of time is indicated to extend for another 1000 years—allowing all mankind that has ever lived to be given their opportunity to qualify for the Kingdom of God (II Peter 3:8-9).
4. Christ will have successfully completed His mighty mission and relinquished control to God the Father (I Cor. 15:24-28).
5. God the Father will come to Planet Earth to establish it as His universe ruling headquarters (II Peter 3:12-13).

Coming back to Revelation 7:9, it is plain to see that the *Great Day of God* and the success of His great Plan are vividly pictured in vision for wonderful encouragement.

Continue with verse 10:

...And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb. [Now, verses 15-17] Therefore are they before the throne of God [in the New Jerusalem—on this earth], and serve him day and night in His Temple: and He that sitteth on the Throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the Throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 7:9-17 is a PREVIEW of the SUCCESSFUL CREATION of an IN-NUMERABLE MULTITUDE of GOD-BEINGS!

1. Astounding New Truth has been given to this tiny Church!
2. The astounding New Truth does SET US, the Church of God's Faithful, APART from all the shattered and scattered churches and groups that were formerly the Worldwide Church of God!
3. It presents us as the WORK of Jesus Christ, and God's ONE TRUE CHURCH!

I do not fault Mr. Armstrong or anyone else for any errors that have been sincerely taught! Mr. Armstrong was God's end-time Elijah and taught each one of us the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Through this servant of God, I was brought into contact with the Body of Christ, was baptized, and received God's Spirit. That was 46 years ago. I still love and honor his memory. However, I still follow his wise admonition to believe the Bible instead of ANY man! If Mr. Armstrong were alive today, he would still thunder out, "Don't believe me; believe your Bible!" And he would have written this book instead of me. He lived and died before it was God's TIME to reveal these New Truths! Now, in the Day of the Lord, it is time for them to be revealed and written. I am only the *scribe* Christ has used for this purpose.

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be deceived. But look around at the 300+ different splits and splinters of the synagogue of Satan! Someone is certainly deceived! They CAN'T ALL BE RIGHT!

Matthew 24:24 declares: **“For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the VERY ELECT.”**

Please understand this important fact (New Truth #75): the reason WHY it will be IMPOSSIBLE to deceive the *very elect* is because the *very elect* will NOT be there to be EXPOSED to the DECEIT of those *false Christs* and *false prophets* performing those *great signs and wonders*. Verses 21-24 very clearly show that powerful deception happens during the Great Tribulation. The VERY ELECT will be in the Place of Safety, away from the *false Christs*, *false prophets*, and *“the face of the serpent”*—Satan the devil (Rev. 12:14). And, be aware that, as of right now, you, the reader, must be extremely cautious and dedicated to ***proving all things*** by the Word of God—or even as one of the *very elect* you will be deceived. Satan is the great deceiver.

Please understand; any dear, deceived brethren, who are not counted worthy to escape, will know of a certainty that they have been deceived when they find themselves in the throes of the Great Tribulation! Then, their only hope is Revelation 12:11: **“And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”**

Make sure you will be one of the *VERY ELECT* when Matthew 24:24 is a reality! Study every New Truth presented in this book. Be like the noble Bereans of Acts 17:10-11. You must be *CONTINUALLY* growing **“in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...”** (II Peter 3:18).

Remember, GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST IS NEW TRUTH, GIVEN BY THE GRACE OF GOD! You MUST prove all things—God’s way! Have you PROVEN all that is written in this book?

God’s True Church IS Set Apart By Truth! God will POWERFULLY place His endorsement upon us, for EVERYONE to recognize us as the TRUE CHURCH, when the time is right according to His Plan! The *Midnight Cry*, followed by miracles, signs, and wonders, will attract great attention.

However, unless New Truth accompanies the *signs, miracles, and wonders*, be extremely cautious—they will NOT be of God (Matt. 7:21-23). Many of Satan’s counterfeit “churches” and the great *false prophet* will perform awesome “false miracles” in an attempt to confuse and deceive those seeking the True Church.

GOD’S TRUE CHURCH WILL ALWAYS BE SET APART BY TRUTH!

In John 17:15-17, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made a last request as he fervently prayed to God:

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that

thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Time is very short! We ARE in the Day of the Lord! Christ has returned to His Temple and is giving YOU an opportunity to respond and to be *set apart—by truth*. May God help you understand!


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**The  
Little Book...**  
*unveiled at last!*

*The Day Of The  
Lord Has Come...*

*The mystery of  
God is finished!*

Robert Goddard

When *Malachi's Message* was first written in 1989, it was not the TIME for the LITTLE BOOK to be UNVEILED, BUT IT IS NOW! Request your free booklet and prove these statements for yourself.

### PLACE OF SLAUGHTER?

Read this in Jer. 49:17-18 and in Isa. 34:5-6. Mr. Flurry says Petra is the Place of Safety! God says Petra is a place of slaughter! Who do you believe? The Plain Truth concerning this subject is given in our free booklet.






However, we read in Rev. 1:7, Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him... How do you reconcile these scriptures? Can it be that the Day of the Lord and the

Yes! The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a ONE-Year period of time within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a "thief in the night" and YOU did NOT know it! What happens NOW?

# The Deep Things of God



The  
DEEP  
THINGS  
of GOD  
by Robert Ardis

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The Feast of Trumpets  
OR  
The Day of Pentecost...  
WHICH?

1. Does the First Resurrection occur on the Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost?
2. Where and when does the Marriage of the Lamb take place?
3. Do the 3½ years of the Church's protection in the Place of Safety, the 42-month rule of the Beast Power, and the 1260-day ministry of the Two Witnesses all begin and end at the same time?

## Other Booklets

- **Holding Fast...God's Way**
- **I'll See You in Galilee**
- **Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand**
- **The Midnight Cry**

## Important Articles

- **Behold, the Bridegroom has Come**
- **Where is the Place of Safety**
- **Wrested Scriptures**
- **What the Bible Teaches about Women's Makeup**

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The door  
is open  
and the  
bridegroom  
has come.  
Go ye out  
to meet  
Him.

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

## The Midnight CRY

Church of God's Faithful  
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Eutawville, SC 29048, USA  
803-492-9061  
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**Are you a part of the “WOMAN” or the “REMNANT” of Revelation 12:14,17? Your life depends on the answer!**

But where is the WOMAN? And how will she be found?

The answer is found in Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. The time has come for God's people to read, understand, and heed Matthew 25:6 - The Midnight Cry.

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Write or call us for your copy of *The Midnight Cry*. Send your request to Church of God's Faithful, PO Box 279, Eutawville, SC 29048. Our telephone numbers are 803-492-9061 and 843-462-7977. If you prefer downloading our literature from our website, our web address is [www.setapartbytruth.org](http://www.setapartbytruth.org).

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