

The Midnight



CRY

# *The Midnight Cry!*

By  
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To aid in this study of God's Word,  
the computer program, *e-Sword*, is used.  
This program presents the key Hebrew or Greek words  
in the King James Version of the Bible numbered and defined  
by *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*

# **What has happened to**

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## **God's Church?**

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**It has been estimated that the Worldwide Church of God has split and splintered into over 300 different churches and groups!**

**Are all of these disagreeing divisions the “Churches of God”?**

**How could they all be God's “Churches”?**

**Doesn't God have only one True Church?**

**Are we seeing a modern version of the old “mother church” and the “protestant daughters”?**

**Are you a member of one of the 300 splits of the “churches of God” or have you given up on all of that confusion and are out there all alone?**

**Does “synagogue of Satan” mean the same as “churches of god”?**

**Jesus Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25 lists four groups of God's called and chosen ones who must qualify to be counted worthy to be taken to the *Place of Safety* and then to become a part of the *Marriage of the Lamb*!**

**The first group is the five wise virgins.**

**The second group is the five foolish virgins.**

**A third group is unresponsive to the *Midnight Cry*, yet has "oil" to sell to the foolish virgins.**

**The fourth group is issuing forth the *Midnight Cry* that the Bridegroom has come!**

**The four groups in the parable compose all of God's people alive today!**

**Which group are you in?**

**This which you are reading is sent to you in love.**

**Hopefully you will read, understand and respond to**

***The Midnight Cry!***

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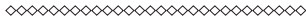
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## Introduction:



**H**erbert W. Armstrong was called by God to restore the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Vast changes in Christ’s gospel had been occurring even as the first century AD came to a close. Satan desperately wanted to stamp out the truth of God. The true gospel originally brought by Jesus Christ had gradually been replaced by “another gospel” about Jesus, thereby denying the message He brought. Nearly 19 centuries later, when Herbert Armstrong was brought on the scene, the “Christian” churches of the world, were composed of the Roman Catholic Church, as the “mother church”, and the hundreds of protestant “daughter churches” that were in complete spiritual darkness.

Even the remnant of the Church of God, the fifth flickering candlestick of the Sardis era, was described by the Book of Revelation as an almost *dead, ready-to-die Church* (see Rev. 3:1-2). Deep spiritual darkness had descended upon the world, but the “time of the end” had come and the gospel was prophesied to be proclaimed to the world—and the Spiritual Temple was to be completed.

Satan and his “churches of the world” despised Mr. Armstrong and the true gospel, but could not refute the message he brought. The leaders of the Sardis era held fast to what little truth remained in the Church, but would not accept the New Truth that God’s servant was bringing to them. Consequently, they were rejected and Jesus Christ ignited the sixth candlestick, Philadelphia. Slowly the Church began to grow taking the name *Radio Church of God*.

Christ commissioned Mr. Armstrong to begin his ministry during one of the bleakest times in the history of the United States—the Great Depression of the late 1920’s and the 30’s! From a very humble beginning, and through nearly 60 years of struggle, Christ’s servant successfully accomplished his commission—the gospel of the Kingdom of God was proclaimed as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14). The *Radio Church of God* later changed its name to reflect the worldwide work that was being accomplished. The name *Worldwide Church of*

*God* was adopted in the 60's, and the Church grew into a truly powerful worldwide voice through radio, television, the *Plain Truth* magazine, and Ambassador College. It became a worldwide ministry, with nearly 100,000 members.

Mr. Armstrong gave his final official sermon on the Feast of Trumpets of 1985, and died January 16, 1986. The gospel of the Kingdom of God had been proclaimed as a witness to the world. Exactly 12 years later, the "Kingdom is at hand" would begin to be proclaimed!

But 21 years after Mr. Armstrong died, the Worldwide Church of God has been shattered and scattered! What happened? Do you know?

Jesus Christ has stated in Matthew 16:18: **"...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** Notice, He says He will build His CHURCH not CHURCHES!

What has happened in these 21 years? Where is His CHURCH?

Probably you have never heard of the *Church of God's Faithful*, although we have been around since 1997. This is our 12<sup>th</sup> booklet, but it is the first one designed especially for you of the scattered churches. Our other booklets, containing over 70 New Truths, were sent to our brethren of the Laodicean Church, the seventh candlestick, and its leader, Gerald Flurry. Have you heard of Gerald Flurry and his Philadelphia Church of God located in Edmond, Oklahoma? Mr. Flurry has played an important role in the recent history of the Church.

The true history of God's Church during the past 21 years is an intriguing story—and Truth can sometimes hurt. I certainly do not mean to offend any of you. I am sure each of you is as sincere in your beliefs as I am in mine. I know many of you personally, as Church members, deacons, and elders and am aware of your honesty and devotion to your particular church.

I definitely do not mean to offend, but I have a very important message from the Word of God that, hopefully, you will carefully and prayerfully read and study.

Time is swiftly going by! Prophecy is being fulfilled and most of God's people are asleep spiritually, not comprehending the extreme perils of the times in which we live! Hopefully, this you are reading will be a wake-up call for you. And as you read, please understand that you are hearing *The Midnight Cry* of Matthew 25:6!

# The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 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. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 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: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 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. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matt. 25:1-13)



*He who has an ear, let him hear  
what the Spirit says to the churches.*



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*The  
Midnight  
Cry!*

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**And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. (Rev. 14:3-4)**

Ephesians 2:21-22:

**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.**

Notice I Corinthians 3:16-17:

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

The 144,000 called to be firstfruits form together one vast Temple. The expression is not, “*ye are temples*,” but “*ye are the temple*” collectively, and “*lively stones*” individually. “*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*” (I Peter 2:5).

Before Mr. Armstrong passed from the scene, he also fulfilled the scripture of Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:9: “**The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it...**” The Temple was finished—and Satan the devil, filled with wrath, attacked!

Revelation 12:12-13 foretold Satan’s assault upon God’s Church:

**Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**

## **God’s People have been Deceived and are Spiritually Asleep**

God’s Church, the called and chosen of the Spiritual Temple, also

symbolically pictured as *the woman*, have been viciously attacked since 1986 by the master of deceit. Let me repeat; these are extremely dangerous *spiritual* times in which we, the begotten children of God, are living. Satan has deceived the world—and God’s Church!

Do you, the reader, understand that statement? Has Satan deceived you?

The shameful fact, which we will read in the Word of God, is that many of the begotten of God have succumbed to a vast variety of Satan’s deceptions, and, in an Esau-like attitude, have contemptuously thrown away their fantastic invitation to be a part of the Spiritual Temple! Some of our dear brethren have taken their eyes off of their goal of the Kingdom of God, have become more involved in their personal activities, and are rejecting their calling—thus they are being replaced. Their positions are being filled by others whom God has specially reserved from *the streets and lanes of the city* or from the *highways and hedges*.

Satan has lulled most of God’s people to a complacent spiritual sleep. This situation is so vitally urgent—I hope you can understand!

Our Lord Jesus Christ gives an ominous warning of the apathetic condition existing among the called and chosen of the Church today. Before we study the parable of the *Ten Virgins*, we must first carefully observe Christ’s dire warning concerning those who have lost the vision of God’s Plan. The warning is in two other related parables. The first is the parable of the *Great Supper* in Luke 14:16-24.

**...a certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my**

**house may be filled. For I say unto you, that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

The second parable is Matthew's version of the same situation, but with a few added details. We will examine Matthew 22:1-10 and leave verses 11-14 for a little later:

**And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son. And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, the wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.**

Verses 11-14 bring out other circumstances that Luke does not mention, therefore those verses will be examined after the summary below:

The parables are not difficult to understand!

1. Christ is the "man" in Luke's version and the "king" in Matthew's account, who has prepared the great supper—or *wedding feast*.
2. The *supper* symbolizes the first stages of the great *Marriage Supper of the Lamb*. The initial "festivities" are most likely in the *place of safety* and conclude in Heaven with the marriage of Christ to His Faithful Church.
3. Many have been called!
4. All things are in readiness—now is the time! The Day of the

Lord is the time setting. If you do not understand that the Day of the Lord has already come *as a thief in the night*, please request our free booklet, *The Day of the Lord*, or download it from our website.

5. There are faithful servants (#1401) taking the message to those who had been invited.
6. Those “bidden” described in the parable have received a precious “calling” (akin to a verbal invitation [see Rom.8:30 and Rev.19:9]), but make excuses not to come; they are apathetic to their calling and do not want to be bothered. The first mentioned in both accounts have become a part of the world; the second group, much like the first, has become more interested in their own business practices than God’s business; the third group has *married a wife*—perhaps this means they have joined another church—and are hostile to the message of the true servants in Matthew’s description.
7. All of them make excuses, excuses!
8. Violence is thrust upon the servants for delivering the message—provoking the King [Christ] to wrath.
9. Those who dare attack God’s servants are *destroyed*, and their city [church, see Rev. 17:18] burned with fire.
10. Christ is angry and demands that all who refused to come be quickly replaced and their positions be filled by those of *the streets and lanes of the city*—those who have had exposure to the Church during their lifetime (Plain Truth subscribers, Correspondence Course students, second or third generation children, etc.). When those are insufficient in number to provide the needed replacements, Christ tells His servant to go to those *of the highways and hedges*. God has reserved some from the world who have never before had knowledge of God’s truth. They are compelled to come. It is frighteningly obvious that many today, who have been called by God, are involved in throwing away their priceless invitation!

Now let’s read verse 11-14 of Matthew 22:

**And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith**

unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.

11. The person not clothed in a *wedding garment* was one who had, evidently, received the invitation, but had not *clothed himself in righteousness*. He disrespectfully came “as he was”—and was rejected—and replaced! He was not *worthy to escape and to stand before the Son of man* (Luke 21:36). Perhaps this is a declaration that in the *place of safety* there will be complete unity and one accord.
12. Those from the *highways and the hedges* were compelled to come and did not have time to obtain a *wedding garment*; therefore, it appears that their *wedding garments* were provided for them. That speaks highly of their character.
13. Those who had been invited but refused to come *throw away their crowns* and are rejected and shall have no part in the *wedding feast*. They will be replaced by others. What a terrifying thought!

These warning parables refer to Old Testament scriptures in Zephaniah 1:7-8.

**Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid His guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.**

Isaiah 61:10 can apply to those of the *highways and hedges* that will be *compelled* to come, as stated in Matthew 22:

**I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.**

Satan has done a work of treachery in these past 21 years! The Church of God has been deceived, disillusioned, shattered, and scattered resulting in a lack of concern for the true Work of Christ thereby causing many to *throw away their crowns*.

Most of the nearly 100,000 called and chosen, baptized members of the WCG as it was in 1986, have no idea of the powerful prophecies that have been fulfilled in those 21 years, or the extreme danger they are in through the deception of the devil. The vast majority of those called of God are in a deep spiritual sleep—and they must be awakened!

A loud warning cry must issue forth as another fulfillment of God's Word—the *MIDNIGHT CRY* must awaken the sleeping Church!

Prophecy proves in advance that it will!

### **Attention!**

As we proceed, carefully notice the importance and urgency Christ places on the *Midnight Cry* in the parable of the *Ten Virgins* of Matthew 25:1-13.

**“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 slowly through this marvelous parable we must be aware of the time setting and the Bible's definition of the symbols Jesus employs. The parable begins with the adverb “then”. To what point in time does “then” refer?

Matthew 24 and 25 are one lengthy dissertation by our Lord. Verses 1-31 of chapter 24, gives a summary of prophecies culminating in the visible return of Jesus and the First Resurrection.

Read verses 32-35:

**Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**

When all of the prophecies are at a point of being fulfilled, even at the door, God intervenes and the *Day of the Lord* comes suddenly—as



in the days of Noah.

**But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** (vv. 36-39).

Note that it is a time when everything is going along normally—*eating, drinking, giving in marriage*, and everything as usual. Understand this: At the end of the *great tribulation* and the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*, when Christ returns in glory, (not *as a thief in the night*), nothing will be *as usual*—the earth will be practically destroyed.

Revelation 1:10 plainly tells us that the apostle John is in the Day of the Lord as he is writing the Book of Revelation: “**I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.**” Doesn't that plainly show that the Day of the Lord has already begun as the Book of Revelation unfolds—*before* any of the *seven seals* are opened? (Be sure you understand that *the Day of the Lord* is not the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*; they are two entirely different events. Again I invite you to request our booklet *The Day of the Lord* which scripturally explains that fact.)

Verse 40 states that at the time of “the Lord's coming” (the Day of the Lord), “then” a selection will commence as Christ begins His discernment of the “righteous and the wicked”. Read this in Malachi 3:1-2 and 18 where *Strong's* #7200 *raah* is used as appeareth in verse 2 and discern in verse 18:

**Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me** [John the Baptist for His physical coming and Herbert Armstrong for His spiritual coming]: **and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye 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?<sup>7200</sup> ...[Christ is not here to “appear”, but to “discern” who is worthy to stand, as you read next in verse 18]... Then shall ye return, and discern<sup>7200</sup> between the righteous**

**and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.**

### **Pillars in the Temple of God!**

Therefore, since Matthew 25 begins with the word “then”, we are still at the point of the *discerning*. Christ is *discerning* and selecting! First, He has been choosing the steadfast, faithful *Pillars* for His Temple. In the construction of a building the foundation is first laid and then the pillars are installed. After the pillars, then the remainder of the building materials are secured in place. This is happening now to the shattered and scattered Spiritual Temple. The selection of the *pillars* has been proceeding for nearly ten years!

That is recent history!

This is why you have, most likely, never heard of us! Our commission is plainly stated in Revelation 11:1-2:

**And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God [#3485, naos, the inner court], and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple [the outer court] leave out, and measure it not...**

Our job has been to *measure* the *inner court*, the faithful Philadelphians, which Christ has been selecting and placing in His Temple as the steadfast *Pillars*. The *outer court* would not be *measured* until all the *Pillars* were set on the firm foundation of the Word of God! In that dual prophecy, the *outer court* would be first subjected to the *Gentiles*! We will expand on this a little later.

Now the time has come for the *Midnight Cry* and the measuring of the outer court.

The *measuring* of the *Pillars* has consisted of much testing and proving, through great physical and spiritual stresses, over the past ten years, of those called to that exalted position in the Spiritual Temple (see Rev. 3:10).

Ephesians 4:13 states the “blueprint” by which the *measuring* must be done: “**Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”**

God had to have His *Pillars measured* and humbled before they could be exalted (Matt. 23:12)—and that takes time.

As the parable begins, we are rapidly approaching the fulfillment of Revelation 3:9 involving the *outer court*, the scattered *lively stones* of the Temple. All of the Pillars have apparently been set; therefore, next in the construction of the shattered Spiritual Temple is the placement of the *lively stones* that are snared in the *outer court*, the synagogue of Satan!

Revelation 3:9 states:

**Behold, I will make<sup>4325</sup> [give, grant, commit] them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make<sup>4160</sup> [appoint, see verse 12] them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**



less, Christ is deeply concerned for them and will bring many of them to His faithful Pillars to be taught New Truth, which is one of the identifying signs of the true Church (see John 17:17 and II Peter 3:18).

Prophecy makes it plain that many will be shaken into wakefulness through the *Midnight Cry*. Many of them will abruptly come to the knowledge that they are ensnared by Satan and must quickly flee to where Christ is.

Now consider these important points as we explore the wonderful, yet very urgent, parable of the *Ten Virgins*.

1. All called and chosen brethren who are alive (including those out there who are not affiliated with the organized “churches of god”, but are a “church” unto themselves—and those specially selected as replacements) compose the Spiritual Temple, and are pictured in the parable.
2. The *Ten Virgins* are, symbolically, the *synagogue of Satan*. They are all one body, yet made up of two groups: one considered by God as wise—the other as foolish.
3. All of them, both groups, were waiting for the Return of Christ.
4. But they all went to sleep spiritually.
5. A *Midnight Cry* awakens all of them, the wise and the foolish.
6. Another group is proclaiming the *Midnight Cry*: “The Lord (the Bridegroom) has come as a *thief in the night*; come you out to meet Him?”
7. Still another group has “oil” to sell, but refuses to answer the *Midnight Cry*?

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

The Ten Virgins of Matthew 25 are symbolic of the thousands of our brethren who have been deceived as part of the “churches of god”, again, labeled in the Bible as the *synagogue of Satan*. They had been called to repentance, baptized, and forgiven of their past sins. They were pure and clean through the blood of Jesus Christ—they were as virgins<sup>3933</sup>—but have been snared in the *synagogue of Satan* by the deception of the devil. Yet, through the mercies of God, many of them

will be *given* to the Church Jesus loves, that they may be taught, and then they will be with Him as part of the 144,000 virgin<sup>3933</sup> firstfruits of Revelation 14:1-4.

## **Symbols!**

Come to verses 3-4: **“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”**

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 and 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 olive 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 John 1:1 and 4 presents 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:

**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. The golden lamp stand with its seven candlesticks is identified by Revelation 1:20: **“...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”**

Therefore, as we study the parable of the ten virgins, the oil in their lamps and in the vessels of the five wise virgins represents God’s Spirit—and the light of the understanding of the Word of God.

### Spiritual Slumber

**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.”**

How was it possible for Satan to deceive the thousands of begotten brethren, to scatter and shatter them into hundreds of competing churches and groups? How did Satan lull these children of God into deep spiritual slumber and indifference to the Work of Christ?

How it was done is no great mystery—it is plain to see just what has happened as we study the history of these past 21 years in the light of Bible prophecy. The Bible plainly predicted that which has so vividly come to pass.

Now, it is time to WAKE UP! You must understand the seriousness of these days, as the Four Horsemen have been loosed, and death and destruction to the entire earth loom on the immediate horizon. We have come nearly ten years into the Day of the Lord—the *midnight hour* has come!

**And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him (v. 6, KJV).**

**But at midnight there is a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth to meet him (v. 6 RV).**

**But at midnight there came a shout: ‘The groom is here!’**

**Come out to meet him (v. 6 ISV).**

Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, has come suddenly to His Temple—the Day of the Lord came as *a thief in the night* nearly 10 years ago while you were fast asleep. Now you are hearing the *Midnight Cry* and are being given understanding of what has happened since Satan’s attack upon God’s Church. You have awakened *and* must quickly come to meet the Bridegroom—to be protected from the wrath of Satan, the devil!

How did Satan accomplish the amazing feat of scattering and shattering the “churches of god” and lulling them to spiritual slumber?

**The Apostasy Begins!**

Jeremiah 50:6 is the plainly stated answer:

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

God says HIS PEOPLE are LOST SHEEP!

God says the SHEPHERDS have caused them to go astray!

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

God’s Word declares: “**And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand**”. (Mark 3:25)

The SHEEP do not know where *their resting place*, the true Church, really is!

The Word of God will show that the Ambassador trained ministers, those trained at the feet of Mr. Armstrong, have become *hirelings* and have led God’s people astray!

There are dozens and scores of scriptures, even entire chapters that tell of the UNFAITHFUL ministers of the WCG and of the “daughter churches” that sprang up after Mr. Armstrong died—all of which make up the “churches of god”, as some describe themselves.

It is astonishing and very sobering to realize we have lived through such important milestones of prophetic history as the *man of sin* being revealed, by the *great falling away from truth*, and the amazing coming of the Day of the Lord *as a thief in the night*. All of this has happened



in the 21 years since the death of God's Elijah.

Do you understand what I am writing?

Please consider II Thessalonians 2:1-3:

**Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...**

Can anyone doubt that the *falling away* has taken place? Just look around! Where is the *Worldwide Church of God* today? And look at all of the confusion in the estimated 300 or more splits and splinters of the former magnificent *WCG*! The powerful voice of the *WCG* through the *World Tomorrow* telecast and radio-broadcast has been silenced. *The Plain Truth* magazine, as we knew it, with 8 million subscribers has vanished from the scene along with the *Good News* magazine. The Worldwide Church of God headquarters and Ambassador College, formerly located in Pasadena, California, has ceased to exist. The beautiful campus and the splendor of the Ambassador Auditorium, dedicated to the Eternal God, has been ravaged and contemptuously sold.

Verse 4 of II Thessalonians 2 clearly describes that which has happened to the WCG: “**Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**” Slowly but insidiously, the man Herbert Armstrong selected as his successor, began to change the God-given doctrines of the Church for doctrines of the world. He systematically began dismantling and removing all precious truth Christ had given to Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong had believed that the warning scriptures concerning the *man of sin* in II Thessalonians 2 were about a future great *false prophet* who would perform mighty demonic miracles in support of a soon coming world-ruling, super dictator, prophetically called *The Beast* (see Rev. 13). Herbert Armstrong could never have believed that the man he handpicked as his successor would fulfill the prophecies of II Thessalonians 2! Understand—the *Beast* and the *false prophet* will

surely come upon the world scene, but the *man of sin* and *the great falling away* from truth has already occurred!

No one really suspected the *man of sin* would be the one chosen by Mr. Armstrong to ascend to the leadership position in the Church of God. Revelation 11:1-2 states plainly that those who were not deep within the *inner court* would be part of the *outer court* ruled by the gentiles! Joseph W. Tkach, Sr., of Russian descent, became Pastor-General of the Worldwide Church of God and the apostasy began; slowly, slyly the changes began to come.

*Mystery of the Ages (MOA)*, Mr. Armstrong's finest and final literary accomplishment, was first edited and then finally removed from publication. His other major books, *The Incredible Human Potential* and *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong* were discontinued. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the most requested of all WCG literature was removed from print, as was *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*. Truth was changed for lies! The *born again* doctrine and other false teachings began to be taught and adopted by the compromising WCG ministry as they clung to their paychecks and led God's Flock astray.

How was it possible for thousands of people, possessing the Spirit of God, to be so completely deceived? Verses 9-11 tell us:

**Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceitfulness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie...**

"Changes, changes; what changes," they would say! "We are not changing anything; we are making clarifications," is the way it all started! But as the scripture above says, those were *lying wonders* by the deceiving power of Satan the devil. And, apparently, many did not have enough *love of the truth* to be saved from the strong delusion that God would allow. God was conducting a powerful test to determine who would follow Jesus Christ—and who would follow deceived men.



Spiritual Temple of God! And *Malachi's Message* amazingly revealed the *man of sin, the son of perdition*, sitting in the controlling position of the Worldwide Church, God's Spiritual Temple!

The great *falling away from truth* was very rapidly taking place.

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

In retrospect, it surely appears that, as these two men stood there before Joseph Tkach Jr., a tremendous change in Church leadership took place. After four years, the Tkaches and the WCG ministry (kowtowing to that corrupted administration) had disqualified themselves in the eyes of God (see Luke 13: 6-9). So what was God to do?

Through hindsight it is apparent to me that, at that precise moment, the candlestick of Philadelphia was removed from the disqualified WCG in Pasadena! The candlestick was not extinguished, as scripture clearly shows in Revelation 11:3-4. The Two Witnesses will represent Philadelphia and Laodicea, the last two candlesticks, to the end of their ministry 3-½ days before the visible return of Jesus Christ at the First Resurrection (Rev. 11:9-12).

To whom did God give the sixth candlestick? In my opinion, it was given to John Amos! Also, amazingly, the seventh era of the Church began as the Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry. These two men were types of the Two Witnesses! Putting together this series of rapid changes brings me to the conclusion that these two men suddenly represented the last two of the seven churches. Who else could have assumed these roles?

Upon leaving Mr. Tkach, Jr.'s office, Mr. Flurry prophetically and sternly warned him, "You have just taken the first sip of a very bitter drink!" The *Philadelphia Church of God* (PCG) was quickly formed after the two men returned to Edmond. The first official Sabbath service of the PCG was held on December 16, 1989. *Malachi's Message*, in manuscript form, was mailed out on the fourth anniversary of the death of Herbert W. Armstrong to a large number of the WCG!

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

to totally disqualify them—no righteous fruit was found (see Matthew 7:16 -20 and the parable of the *barren fig tree* in Luke 13:6-9).

Four years after Herbert Armstrong died, God appointed Gerald Flurry to begin the dynamic Laodicean Work of Christ in warning the betrayed brethren of the apostasy occurring in the WCG.

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

John Amos was a man of love and served the brethren well. He was also a stabilizing force for Mr. Flurry's tremendous zeal. But Mr. Amos died in 1993 and the Philadelphia candlestick was passed on to another man who was completely unaware of the plans God had in store for him.

*The Worldwide Church of God* had been violently attacked by Satan, the devil, and the shattering of that magnificent Church began. The WCG had existed as the sixth candlestick, Philadelphia—the true Church of God, under the end-time apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong—but no more! The sixth candlestick was removed from the WCG and glowed brightly along with the seventh candlestick in the PCG! Some faithful of the sixth candlestick followed Gerald Flurry—because he followed Christ! Others joined with him, but would soon forget to “test their leaders” and would follow the man, Mr. Flurry, instead of Christ. Nevertheless, as that situation developed, Matthew 24:41 would be fulfilled—*two women would be grinding at the mill*.

For over six long years, the WCG routinely dismantled most of what Mr. Armstrong used to proclaim as the true gospel to the world. And they continued casting aside the truth of God for the doctrines of this world. Hundreds of brethren had become members of the PCG, but thousands of God's confused and bewildered flock were still in the WCG. Many very sincere people heard Gerald Flurry's warning message, but were afraid to “leave the Church”. To them, “leaving the Church” was the same as “leaving the truth”. It has taken a while for some of them to realize that *Jesus Christ* is synonymous with “Truth”—and He has left the WCG because that church no longer welcomes Truth!

Finally, in late 1992, several of the “high ranking” WCG ministers

who had “sat at the feet of Mr. Armstrong,” rebelled against the church leadership. From 1986 to 1992 they had begrudgingly cooperated with the WCG, as the apostasy gained momentum. And, incredibly, they taught much of the false doctrine oozing out of the corrupted WCG to the befuddled flock! But during 1992 these ministers became confident that they could secure a following—and maintain a salary. Thus, the *Global Church of God* was launched. Although Gerald Flurry had been crying aloud since 1990, they would not cooperate with him.

### **The “Hirelings”**

In the Book of Acts, the Apostle Paul’s inspired words are recorded describing a situation in his day similar to what had developed in the WCG after Mr. Armstrong’s “departure”. Paul very bluntly told the elders of the city of Ephesus what would happen after his departure. Read this beginning with verse 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 has made you overseers [shepherds], to feed the Church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. For I know this that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the FLOCK. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them.**

Isn’t this precisely what happened after Mr. Armstrong’s departure? Isn’t this exactly what Christ warned of? We have lived through this! Can you understand this? Haven’t we seen the ministers of God become “hireling”? These supposed leaders just sitting there, doing nothing for six long years, caused God’s people much confusion. Haven’t they, in fear of having their paychecks cut off, supported the corrupted teachings of the WCG—if only by their continued presence there—until they could *draw away disciples unto themselves*? Absolutely!

In the local congregations, haven’t we experienced the compromising pastor-ranked ministers requiring their assistants to preach the “garbage” coming from headquarters, even though they knew it was corrupt, so they could maintain their status in the WCG? Yes, we certainly lived through that fiasco!

There were a few ministers who refused to teach the false doctrines

and left the WCG to begin their own “work” before the *Global* was formed. But they also refused to cooperate with Gerald Flurry and have seen very little fruit in their struggling ministries.

By the time the “hirelings” decided to “*draw away disciples*,” and leave, Mr. Flurry had been fearlessly warning the nearly 100,000 members of the WCG of the “WOLVES” that had taken control of WCG headquarters. A few brethren listened and heeded, although Mr. Flurry’s writings were impugned as *dissident literature* by the WCG. Nevertheless, he and the PCG continued to do the dynamic warning Work of the Laodicean candlestick, which was the Work of Jesus Christ!

Instead of participating in the Work Christ was doing, two “evangelists” and other high ranking ministers left the WCG to form the *Global Church of God*. The *Global* attracted several thousand of the WCG members, but their efforts were doomed to failure—and fail it did! There was division and contention among these men from the beginning, with no true leadership. They practiced a *collegial government*! Those who had *sat at the feet of* Mr. Armstrong had not learned one of the most important doctrines he taught—God’s government. Neither were they in agreement that Herbert Armstrong was the end-time Elijah, although most of them had taught that he was while he was alive.

And none of them, that I am aware of, teach that Herbert Armstrong had completed the task of preaching and publishing the gospel of the Kingdom to the world as a witness to all nations; thus, they futilely seek to do the job Christ has already successfully completed.

The “leading evangelist” was “booted out” of the *Global Church* in November of 1998 after years of bickering and mismanagement. He then established the *Living Church of God*. This man admitted that the *collegial government* of the *Global Church* was not God’s type of government, thereby confessing that the *Global* had not been God’s Church for those six years. I wonder if any of those who had sleepily followed him ever asked where the true Church was during those confused years of the *Global Church*.

In May of 1994, the ministry and members of the *Global Church* were appalled to learn that another huge group was leaving the WCG—not to unite with the *Global* but to form their own church—the *United Church of God*! That large split added to the confusion of God’s flock. Satan was having a field day!

The *United Church of God*, the largest of the many splits, certainly chose an inappropriate name. They have been anything but “united”,



already having several splits and splinters, with most using a presbyterial/congregational form of government.

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

The true Church of God must continually *grow in the grace of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior* (II Peter 3:18). The knowledge of Jesus Christ is New Truth from the Word of God—by the grace of God. Seriously, do you know of any New Truth that has come from *The Living Church* or any of the other groups that came out of the defunct *Global Church*? Do you know of any New Truth from the *United “Churches”* or any of the other “daughter” churches?

God’s True Church must be continually growing in New Truth because Christ is there as the Head.

Consider this! The *synagogue of Satan* is not just an uncomplimentary title given by Christ to identify these groups of churches, but is conclusive evidence that no New Truth will be found in any of the competing splits and splinters. They are the *synagogue of Satan*—not the Church of Jesus Christ!

In May of 1999, one disgruntled, pastor-ranked minister left the crumbling *Global Church* and established his own church, the *Restored Church of God*. He also began preaching against the apostasy of the WCG-as Gerald Flurry had been doing for over nine years. He copied the idea of Gerald Flurry’s very revealing booklet, *The Worldwide Church of God... Doctrinal Changes and the Tragic Results*. In this booklet, Mr. Flurry very plainly revealed how the blessings of God had been removed from the WCG as it departed from the policies of Mr. Armstrong. He also listed at least 50 doctrinal changes. The minister of the *Restored Church*, for what it was worth, added nearly 100 doctrinal changes in the booklet he wrote, ineffectively repeating the work Christ’s Laodicean messenger had already completed years before.

Another of the leading men of the *Global*, the last we have heard, is part of one of the splits of the *United Church*. One of the original evangelists of the *Global* was later disfellowshipped by his former brother-in-law, and a while afterward began the *Twenty-first Century Church of God*. Two other high-ranking ministers, formerly in the *Global*, joined with the *Living Church*, but in disagreement have recently left the *Living*. One of them has begun his own *church*.

Each of these contentious ministers, along with those of the splits



and splinters of the *United Church*—and dozens of others—are taking their “brand” of the Gospel to the world, disregarding the fact that Christ accomplished that through Herbert Armstrong.

One person described the pointless efforts of these confused, contentious, and competing church leaders attempting to preach the Gospel to the world as “all of them dipping out of the same pot of soup with one adding a little salt, another, a dash of pepper, maybe a spoonful of sugar, etc—but the same soup!”

Can’t these men read?

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

**Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment...Is Christ divided...?**

No! Christ is not divided! He has one true Church. Those contentious “churches of god” are divided and are not in the same mind and judgment; they, in reality, are the synagogue of Satan.

Galatians 4:16 presents my feelings as I write this message to you who are reading: **“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”** Please don’t be mad with me for bringing you understanding.

### **Please Understand!**

Have you read our enlightening booklet, *The Day of the Lord*? The Day of the Lord has come as a ***thief in the night***—as was prophesied—and you didn’t know it! I am trying to bring you to the awareness of the powerful prophecies that have been fulfilled—that have swiftly brought us to the tenth year of the Day of the Lord? Do you realize the Four Horsemen have been galloping rough-shod over the earth for nearly ten years! Look around at the troubles and woes of the world. Unprecedented problems, conditions, and evils exist today that were unimaginable when Mr. Armstrong began his ministry. These are extremely dangerous and incredibly deceptive times in which we live. Satan is in a frenzied rage knowing his time is short. He knows the Day of the Lord has come and is doing all he can to deceive—in an attempt to destroy truth from the earth.

One of the truths Satan wants to destroy is the easily proven Biblical fact that the Day of the Lord and *The Day of the Lord's Wrath* are not the same events!

Christ, our Lord, has admonished His people to *WATCH*; to be aware of world conditions and of what has already happened within the Spiritual Temple. He gives us an up-to-the-minute warning 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)...**”

To be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are coming to pass and to stand before Christ, we must understand what has happened and where we are in the great plan of God. Read Ephesians 4:13-15:

**Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.**

We must be *growing up into Christ in all things!* “All things” include *the knowledge of the Son of God!* And, let me repeat, “the knowledge of the Son of God” is New Truth through the *grace of God* (II Peter 3:18).

This is the purpose of this booklet, *The Midnight Cry*, to bring you New Truth—the *knowledge of Christ*—the understanding of the urgency of these days. Through understanding and heeding Christ’s warning, we will be *measuring* ourselves—*growing up unto Him in all things*. Please remember that Christ is *measuring* us, too (Mal. 3:2).

### **Purifying the Sons of Levi**

The deceitful ministers of the synagogue of Satan and of Laodicea are being *measured* too and are not getting away with anything! Our Lord knows exactly what they are doing!

Malachi 3:3: “**And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi [the Ambassador trained ministry], and purge them as gold and silver [in the fires of the Great Tribulation if repentance is not quickly seen], that they may offer unto the Lord**

**an offering in righteousness.”**

Much the same message is thundered to Gerald Flurry and his Laodiceans in Revelation 3:18: **“I counsel you 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.”**

### **Satan Strikes Again!**

Certainly, Christ blessed Mr. Flurry and the Laodicean Work. The growth of the PCG and its valuable acquisitions and properties are quite impressive. However, after seven years of faithfully laboring for Christ, two strange actions changed the direction of the PCG.

Tithes, offerings, and membership began to decrease in the PCG. One major cause of the decline was due to Mr. Flurry’s top lieutenants applying abusive governmental control over the PCG membership. His top men were lacking in ministerial experience and Bible knowledge. Apparently, unable to Biblically answer questions about PCG doctrine, these men had reverted to fear tactics when someone sincerely asked questions. People were being cast out of the PCG, right and left, and Mr. Flurry seemed to always back the minister and not hear the member’s case. Unless you have been a part of the PCG it will be difficult for you to realize how bad the abuse has been—and it has become even worse today.

But as the tithes, offerings, and membership decreased, Gerald Flurry was “inspired” with a very unwise course of action. He needed a “gimmick” to excite the membership and rally them behind him. Satan deceived the man into illegally seizing *Mystery of the Ages*, printing and distributing several thousands of copies—and starting a legal battle with the WCG!

Gerald Flurry turned from his commission of warning the Church of the *falling away from truth*. He became obsessed with the court battle over *Mystery of the Ages*. Early on, he had correctly taught that Herbert Armstrong had successfully taken the gospel to the World and had ridiculed the efforts of the leaders of the *Global Church* in their attempted duplication of Mr. Armstrong’s Work. Mr. Flurry has written in his booklet, *The Little Book*, on page 11:

**He (Mr. Armstrong) also preached the Gospel around the world. He said in *Mystery of the Ages* that this work had been accomplished. If we know what the true Gospel is, we**

**also know that Mr. Armstrong did that job. And there is nobody else coming on the scene to do that before Christ returns! The PCG preaches the Gospel, but our main commission is to PROPHECY AGAIN. THIS VERY COMMISSION TELLS US THE GOSPEL HAS ALREADY BEEN PREACHED AROUND THE WORLD!**

Gerald Flurry had written that emphatic statement in 1995, but by 1997 changed his teaching 180 degrees claiming he could now convert the whole world with *MOA*! He knew, as we all do, that *Mystery of the Ages* is a synopsis of the gospel and, of course, is Spiritual knowledge!

Yet, read his direct contradiction of his own words in this next quote. This second quote is from his *Personal* article in the February 1997 issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine:

**We will freely give *Mystery of the Ages* to anyone who requests it. That means we have, what I believe time will prove to be, THE MOST POWERFUL BOOK EVER WRITTEN ABOUT THE BIBLE! And anybody in the world can easily understand the message. We can now reach any person on earth and bring him or her to conversion. We can make disciples in all the world with one book.** (My emphasis)

Mr. Armstrong did not believe or teach what Mr. Flurry has written in that second quote! Herbert Armstrong knew from the scriptures that a person cannot understand spiritual knowledge unless he is called by God and receives His Holy Spirit. And His Spirit is given only to those who obey Him. Read the following excerpts from pages 5-6 of *Mystery of the Ages* where Mr. Armstrong teaches the exact opposite of that quoted from Gerald Flurry:

**Why? The Bible is the basic mystery of all.**

**...The truths of the Bible are revealed here a little, there a little, scattered from beginning to end, and revealed only through the Holy Spirit within those surrendered and yielded to God, willing to have confessed error and wrongdoing, and yielding to BELIEVE Christ the Word of God.**

**...No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the mind to understanding of this Word of God, without a complete repentance and an implicit belief in Christ as well**

**as believing what he says.**

**...Today we have reached that time. God has opened to understanding his Word to those he has chosen, who have yielded and surrendered to him and to his blessed sacred Word.**

Understand! The world has not yielded or surrendered to God's Word, nor has the world been called. Therefore, attempting to "convert" the world is a vain and foolish endeavor. Herbert Armstrong proclaimed the Gospel to all nations as a witness—not to convert! That was his commission, and (I repeat) he completed the job.

### **Unbelievable Vanity!**

The second great blunder Gerald Flurry became involved in is incredible in its incongruity. He, being the leader and high-priest of Laodicea, (see Zechariah 3) veered off course and allowed himself to become snared by Satan. Deceived by the devil and overwhelmed by his own vanity, he made an exceedingly vain declaration. Unbelievably, he proclaimed that he fulfilled the prophecies of "That Prophet"! And even more unbelievable is that most of his followers believed him!

Mr. Flurry was either an *apostle* or a *prophet* of God. Whatever he was, he was sent to warn a Church going astray. He is the leader of a Church era! But whatever he is, he most certainly is not "That Prophet". "That Prophet" is a title that belongs only to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. To arrogate this great title to himself makes Gerald Flurry a *false prophet* and a *false Christ*! It also reduces him to an abomination in the sight of God (see Proverbs 3:32 and 16:5).

The high priest of Laodicea boasts that only he and his PCG are in the *inner court* of the Spiritual Temple. He is completely mistaken about this—the *faithful Philadelphians* are deep within the *inner court*. Mr. Flurry represents the seventh candlestick, Laodicea, that also still flickers within the outer area of the *inner court*.

Notice how vividly his situation is described in Ezekiel 8:15-16:

**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.**

Understand! This prophecy is occurring immediately before the *great tribulation*, as seen in chapter 9. Ezekiel 9 also shows God setting apart a group of people by placing his “mark” upon their foreheads. In the New Testament, John 17:17 interprets the “mark” as being “*sanctified*” or “*set apart by truth*”. Read Matthew 24:15 and then please request our important booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*, which explains the predicament Gerald Flurry and the PCG are ensnared in.

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

The PCG is the Laodicean Church, and they have followed their confused leader into unbalanced and fanatical beliefs. They believe all of the “churches of god”, the *synagogue of Satan*, are Laodiceans instead of “unfaithful Philadelphians”, which they actually are. PCG members are required to believe that *Malachi’s Message* is the “little book” of Revelation 10, and that Mr. Flurry is “That Prophet”. Belief in these two false doctrines is required of anyone seeking to be baptized into the PCG, which is an abominable requirement.

### **Total Defeat in the Court Case!**

Gerald Flurry and the PCG were defeated in their shameful court battle with the WCG. The PCG lost the case, but in a surprise move, the WCG offered to sell the copyrights of the literature Mr. Flurry so desired; therefore, they calmly negotiated a price. Gerald Flurry then boastfully exulted that they had won, but what they “won” was the right to purchase *MOA* and 18 other WCG publications for 2 million dollars, after wasting another 3-4 million dollars over a six year period on court expenses. **“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?”** (I Cor. 6:1)

I ask again; “Can’t these people read?”

Before the PCG unlawfully seized *MOA*, it was suggested that they negotiate with the WCG for the copyrights, but Gerald Flurry vociferously shouted that he “would never negotiate with a demon.” Nevertheless, after six long years of *daring to go to law*, he did negotiate with

those he had previously labeled as demons. His proud stubbornness cost the PCG at least \$4 million!

Remember, Jeremiah 50:6 plainly declares: “**My people have been lost sheep, their shepherds have caused them to go astray...**”

### **Lost in 1986!**

The ministers of the synagogue of Satan MUST repent of turning away from the Work of Christ. The leaders of most of the divided churches have *denied His name*, which primarily includes rejecting the government of God. The Bible says that these vain and contentious ministers are spiritually drunk, each promoting their own different brand of “church” instead of seeking the unity God demands. Instead of laboring to be examples and guides for God’s bewildered people in following Jesus Christ, most of them are involved in their own varied efforts to *draw a following to themselves* as they preach the Gospel to the world. By their actions they deny the WORK done by Christ through Herbert W. Armstrong (see Titus 1:16).

Most of them are mired in 1986 with no growth in the “knowledge of Christ” (II Pet. 3:18). Most (not all) are asleep concerning II Thesalonians 2—that the *man of sin being revealed* and the *falling away from truth* have already happened. Some are oblivious to all that has occurred in the past 21 years and are unaware of the urgency of the times. They have the same mind-set as the leaders of the Sardis Church when Herbert Armstrong brought New Truth to them. Sardis refused to accept New Truth and was rejected, becoming a dead church. The same has occurred today in the synagogue of Satan. Please request or download our booklet: *Holding Fast...God’s Way!*

This *Midnight Cry* will awaken the sleeping children of God!

Isaiah 28:7-8 cries aloud about the *hirelings*:

**But they have erred through wine, and through strong drink** [they are spiritually drunk] **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.**

They have disqualified themselves as ministers of God.

Those 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 the leaders of the *synagogue of Satan*, pictured by the Ten Virgins of Matthew 25.

The fallen, *hireling*, ministers are deceived by Satan! They, in turn, have deceived the people of God who follow them. Yet, 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 these encouraging words in Revelation 3: 8:

**I know your works: behold I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it; for you have a little strength, and have kept my word and have not denied my name.**

John also has written in his gospel that Christ IS the OPEN DOOR! Jesus states in John 10:7-8:

**Then said Jesus unto them, 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.**

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 gives his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**

Please stop here and realize this vital point. The *hirelings* mentioned here are the ordained ministry of God. And remember, these are not my words, but the Words of Jesus Christ! They should have been faithful shepherds, but have become the ministers of the "churches of god", the



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 mostly concerned for their pocketbooks and just “sat there”! They were and are indeed, hirelings!

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”** (John 14:14).

Satan attacked, shattered and scattered the Church through the unfaithful shepherds—that’s scripture!

Yet, through all of the situations and circumstances created by the attack upon the Church, a great series of tests have been conducted by Christ in the past 21 years to determine:

- Who loved God’s truth?
- Who would follow Christ instead of deceived men?
- Who the four different groups, written about in the parable of the *Ten Virgins*, would be when the parable becomes a reality!
- Who would be the Pillars of the Spiritual Temple that would be used to awaken the brethren snared in the synagogue of Satan so that Revelation 3:9 could be fulfilled?

Hopefully, at this point you are wide awake and the meaning of the parable of the *Ten Virgins* should be clear to you. Therefore, let’s finish the parable and understand what must be done immediately.

## Chapter Four:

## Now You Know!

**C**ome back to Matthew 25, verse 7: “**Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.**” All of them awaken; they all hear the *Midnight Cry*—that is a miracle in itself! 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.

Continue with verses 8-9: **“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...”**

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 from.

Continue with the last part of verse 9: “...**but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.**” Ask yourself, “Who, other than the synagogue of Satan, is out there? Who, of those called by God, are out there but refuse to respond to the *Midnight Cry*—yet have *oil* to sell to light the lamps of the *foolish virgins*?” There is no other group, except the stubborn Laodicean PCG, who have had opportunity to come as Pillars, but have refused.

Understand; the PCG has *Malachi's Message* that reveals the *man of sin* and *the falling away from truth*. They have *Mystery of the Ages* and the other literature they purchased from the WCG. They also have Stephen Flurry's book *Rising from the Ruins*, which presents a distorted "Laodicean" view of recent church history: especially his erroneous assessment of the court battle with the WCG. In those publications are nuggets of truth—*spiritual oil*—that they have to "sell" or "freely give" as they receive tithes and offerings.

Before this *Midnight Cry*, 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 be diligently adhering to the truth of the gospel they have been taught. The *foolish virgins* have lost spiritual understanding! They must begin anew with their studies of the basic doctrines taught by Mr. Armstrong—then they can realize what has happened to them—and the WCG. They will deeply repent and understand what caused the “falling away” to which they have succumbed.

The PCG can teach them the basic truths and 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 past 21 years. When they “then” at last come seeking God’s Faithful Church, when they finally heed the *Midnight Cry*—it’s too late!

**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.** (Matt. 25:10-12).

How awful! How sad! How unnecessary!

**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** (Matt. 7:20-23).

They will be locked out and have only the Great Tribulation to look to, that they may qualify for the Kingdom of God.

### **Living in Bible Times!**

In the past 21 years we have seen powerful prophecies fulfilled.

Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled by God’s Elijah: the gospel has been proclaimed to the world as a witness to all nations!

Matthew 24:15 has been fulfilled, spiritually, by Gerald Flurry’s abominable claim of being *That Prophet*—as he *stands in the Holy Place*.

Matthew 24:16 is being fulfilled as you read. **“Then let them which be in Judea flee into the 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. Spiritually, **“them which be in Judea”** are the same people referred to 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.**

Remember, the PCG is referred to prophetically as “the house of Judah” (Judeans), thus Matthew 24:16 can apply to the Laodiceans too.

The word *mountains* in Matthew 24:16 and Luke 21:20 (*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.

Is it not clear that *those in Judea who must flee to the mountain* are the begotten brethren snared in the synagogue of Satan, the “churches of god”? They are the *lost sheep* of the House of Israel, who are *spiritual Jews* (Matt. 10:6 and 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. The tiny “remnant” of God’s Faithful Church will quickly grow into the “woman” of Revelation 12, as thousands of brethren of the synagogue of Satan respond to this *Midnight Cry*, as it is thundered forth by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ!

We are living in very urgent Bible times, and as you understand this

Cry you must flee to God's true Church!

You might diligently keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, but if you are not a part of God's One True Church you will not be taken to the *place of safety*; you will have to prove yourself as a *living stone* in the fires of the Great Tribulation! That is plain scripture as you read in Revelation 12:17:

**And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

### **The Church of Jesus Christ!**

So here we are, the Church of God's Faithful! Are we just another tiny splinter church among all the rest in the synagogue of Satan? Do we have any fruit that would make it worth your while to investigate us? God's Word says, "...**you will know them by their fruit**" (Matt 7:16). Do we have any fruit that would identify us—that would make you know who we are?

We do not have beautiful buildings, a college campus, a powerful television or radio program, a high-quality monthly magazine, or any of what Mr. Armstrong had at his death. We don't have as much as most of the larger splits and splinters have today. We have none of this: are we therefore lacking in fruit?

Please think for a moment: what is the only fruit of Mr. Armstrong's ministry that survives today? Only the revealed truth given him by Jesus Christ has endured! Truth is the only lasting fruit of Herbert Armstrong's ministry. All of the physical, material fruit is gone! Only Truth remains! Truth is one vital fruit that truly identifies God's true Church, not material possessions.

II Peter 3:18 instructs Christians: "**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...**" What is the knowledge of Jesus Christ? Jesus is the Living Word of God and the Holy Bible is the written Word of God. Therefore, as you grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, you grow in the understanding of the Word of God, by the grace of God. You grow in NEW TRUTH from the Word of God! And John 17:17 tells us, "**Sanctify them through your Truth, your Word is TRUTH.**"

God's TRUE CHURCH will always be growing in NEW TRUTH;

it will be set apart by Truth! Continually receiving New Truth, right out of the Word of God, will set the true Church apart from all the other churches.

The truth of the gospel of the Kingdom of God is the only enduring fruit of Mr. Armstrong's ministry. That enduring TRUTH, and NEW TRUTH, is the FRUIT found in the Church of God's Faithful! Check us out! You will find over seventy New Truths right out of your Bible—right from Jesus Christ! One of those astounding TRUTHS is: the Day of the Lord has come as *a thief in the night*. We have reached the point of the *midnight hour* in the Day of the Lord!

Listen to us! The Kingdom is at hand! Heed this Midnight Cry! The Bridegroom has come—now you must come where He is! You must contact us immediately and begin your diligent study! You must read and study carefully, but urgently! Compare that which we claim with the Holy Scriptures! You may need to re-read some parts of our writings to be sure you grasp what is being stated. Give us a call! Scroll through our website with your Bible opened, and understand wonderful NEW TRUTH—and realize, as you find NEW TRUTH, that you have found the Church of Jesus Christ. That is where you want to be!

He that has ears to hear, let him hear and answer *The Midnight Cry!*

*Recommended Reading from the  
Church of God's Faithful*

# Holding Fast...God's Way!

Only a few of the nearly 100,000 former members of the Worldwide Church of God have remained Faithful to the doctrines taught by Mr. Armstrong. Then there are others who “Hold Fast” to the Elijah’s teachings, but refuse to grow in new Truth.

Did Mr. Armstrong RESTORE ALL THINGS? Can NEW TRUTH be received at this present time?

II Peter 3:18 tells us to “grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Growth in the knowledge of Christ IS NEW TRUTH! So, can you GROW in knowledge of Christ (NEW TRUTH) and still Hold Fast to that which Herbert Armstrong taught 21 years ago? You can if you are *Holding Fast - God’s Way*!

# The Day of the Lord 6000 Years Have Ended!

Where are we in God's Master Plan? 6000 years HAVE ended! What is the Day of the Lord? Are you sure you know? Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath the same occurrence? The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, according to I Thess. 5:2 and II Peter 3:10. Christ says he will come as a thief; unexpectedly (Rev. 3:3 and Luke 12:39-40).

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 Day of the Lord's Wrath are not the same event?

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?

You can read all about it in our free booklet: *The Day of the Lord*.

# Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!



We Live In A Violent World!

Wars and rumors of wars everywhere are the news of the day. International Terrorism plagues the earth. Yet Life goes on! Especially here in the Western World, eating, drinking, living it up, marrying, starting families—just as it was in the Days of Noah!

Violence and wickedness is everywhere, but Life goes on.

But how long can Life continue on as usual? Where are we in Bible prophecy? Can we really know?

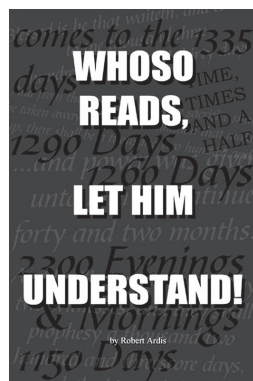
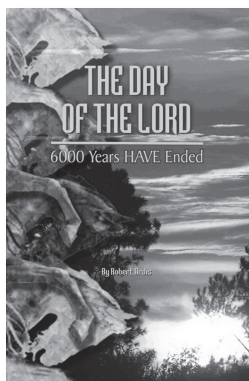
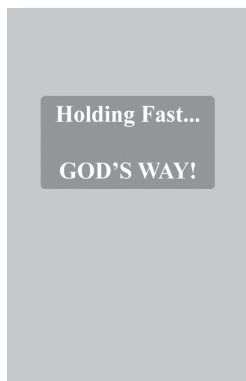
Matthew 24:15 states: “*When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand).*”

Today many understand that the amazing prophecy of the “*man of sin sitting in the Temple of God*” has already been fulfilled. But do you realize “the abomination standing in the Holy Place” has also been fulfilled—NOW!

Do you understand? And do you understand what happens next in prophecy? Do you understand the prophecies of the 1335, 1290, and 1260 days?

These are the urgent subjects of this booklet!

Please write for your copy, then read carefully and UNDERSTAND.





*Additional Literature from the  
Church of God's Faithful*



The Little Book...Unveiled at last!

The Feast of Trumpets or  
The Day of Pentecost Which?

Bloody Jezreel

Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God

Petra: Place of Safety?  
or Place of Slaughter

I'll See You In Galilee!

Set Apart By Truth

The Deep Things of God

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We are the Church of God's Faithful. We are here to help you in your studies of God's Word. You are invited to request our free literature and to access our website, [www.setapartbytruth.org](http://www.setapartbytruth.org). Our address is Church of God's Faithful, PO Box 279, Eutawville, SC 29048. Our telephone numbers are 803-492-9061 and 843-462-7977. We look forward to hearing from you.