

The Little Book... Unveiled At Last!

The Day of the Lord
Has Come...

The Mystery
of God
is Finished



by Robert Ardis

THE LITTLE BOOK

Unveiled at Last!

by Robert G. Ardis



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It is published as an educational service
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The Church of God's Faithful
136 Woodland Drive
Harleyville, SC 29448

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First edition March 1999
Revised second edition February 2002
Revised third edition January 2015
Revised fourth edition June 2020



Chapter 10 of the book of Revelation in the Holy Bible depicts a mighty spiritual messenger standing on the sea and on the Earth holding an open little book in his hand. There has been much speculation as to the meaning of this chapter and the contents of the little book.

Gerald Flurry, the Pastor-General of the Philadelphia Church of God, authored a book in 1989 titled *Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today*. He has since claimed that *Malachi's Message* is the little book of Revelation 10.

Mr. Flurry also claims that his book contains the “seven thunders” that are mentioned in verses 3 and 4 of Revelation 10.

Men can make claims about everything under the sun, but their claims do not make them true, unless God's Word supports those claims. Does the Holy Bible support Gerald Flurry's claims that *Malachi's Message* is the mysterious little book, and that it reveals the meanings of the seven thunders?

In this publication that you are now reading, it will be made obvious that Mr. Flurry is deeply mistaken in his claims. *Malachi's Message* is not the little book of Revelation 10. And the seven thunders defined by Mr. Flurry are mostly serious blunders when viewed in the light of God's Word.

But now, at last, the plain truth of the little book is clearly revealed by Jesus Christ, the living Word of God. In 1989, it was not time for the little book to be unveiled...but it is now!

Author's Statement

The Church of God's Faithful (CGF) is the remnant of the Philadelphia candlestick—or Church (Rev. 1:20), as described in Revelation 3:7-13. Our commission is stated in verse 20 of this chapter: “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.”

Jesus Christ has suddenly come to His Temple (Mal. 3:1), i.e., His Church. The Day of the Lord came “as a thief in the night” (2 Pet. 3:10) on October 1, 1997, eighteen years ago. Christ is at this time knocking on the door of the Laodicean Church (Rev. 3:20), i.e., the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma. Christ is doing this “knocking” through the CGF.

We have knocked loudly through four of our booklets that were designed to awaken the PCG from their spiritual sleep. The first two booklets, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* and *Bloody Jezreel*, reveal that Gerald Flurry is the head of the Laodicean Church, the seventh candlestick (Church), or era, listed in the book of Revelation. Our next booklet, *The Day of the Lord*, dramatically demonstrates that God has taken away from Mr. Flurry the blessing of receiving new understanding, and that Our Lord has been pouring new truth on the faithful remnant of the Philadelphia candlestick, the CGF.

The truth of *The Day of the Lord* is perhaps one of the most important truths ever revealed to the Church of God. Since it was revealed, many other truths have become open to us. Of course, this truth is built upon the framework of “The 18 Restored Truths” given to God's end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. And this framework was built on the foundation of the Word of God.

God is pouring new truth upon His faithful Church to powerfully demonstrate where the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, is, and where He is working. The blessing of new truth has been withdrawn from the PCG because Mr. Flurry has turned away from God's government of love, and has cast aside his God-given commission. He took to himself the title of “that prophet” (Acts 3:23), which belongs only to Jesus Christ. This action has reduced Gerald Flurry to the status of an abomination in the sight of God. In addition, he has led the PCG away from truth in claiming that his book, *Malachi's Message to the Church*

of God Today, is the little book of Revelation 10. In our literature, we use God's Word to explain that Mr. Flurry's false claims are irreverent statements.

Our fourth booklet, *Petra—Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?*, presents the plain truth that Petra is not the place of safety mentioned in Scripture. The Scriptures are direly plain on this subject, but they were closed to our eyes until this particular time. Our *Petra* booklet has been sent to Mr. Flurry, his ministry and his members with the hope of awakening most of them. We state at the close of the booklet:

As the Laodiceans read this message, it may well be that their final warning will be completed; the knocking will cease. As it was in the days of Noah, the "door of the ark" will be closed (p. 48).

The information you will read in this booklet is a warning not only to the Laodiceans. Now the door has been opened to the scattered churches (Dan. 12:7), and the midnight cry (Matt. 25:6) is being readied to thunder forth the message that "the Bridegroom is here"—in the Day of the Lord!

This message is for the members of the Church of God's Faithful and for all begotten children of God. This is for *our* understanding, inspiration and encouragement. And it is a warning to us, to get ourselves ready—now—for the most visible and mighty work of the Church of God ever!

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Introduction

As a young high school student struggling through Physics class, way back in the 1940's, I was amazed and thrilled to read about the astounding discoveries recorded in our textbooks pertaining to the marvels of the Universe. The heavens were now being viewed through the new 200-inch telescope recently installed in Palomar, California. This was thought to be the largest and most powerful telescope ever developed by man. Our textbook described one particular star that was given a name and designated at a certain powerful luminosity. However, as the new Palomar telescope was focused on that star, it was discovered that it was not a star. It was a galaxy composed of millions of stars, similar to our Milky Way galaxy. That was truly amazing to me!

Since that time, more powerful and sophisticated telescopes have been developed. Computerized radio telescopes and the Hubble orbiting telescope are now being used. As these new instruments were directed toward the star that was actually a galaxy, another amazing discovery was made. That brilliant speck of light in the heavens was neither a star nor a galaxy. It was clearly seen through these new instruments that this was a cluster of galaxies—thousands of galaxies, each composed of millions of stars! How wondrous, marvelous and astounding!

In each case, as the trained astronomers viewed the heavens, using the tools available to them, they were correct in their conclusions. First, they could see only one bright star. That was as deep as they could peer into space. Now it is possible for the astronomers to see many light-years deeper into space and focus much more accurately on any distant object. The point is that, since they are able to see deeper and are more sharply focused, more truth about God's physical Universe is available to them. The same principle holds true for those who look deeply into the spiritual things of God.

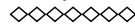
Jesus Christ has polished and cleansed the lens of our spiritual eyes (our spiritual telescopes) by the Spirit of God. We peer into the deep things of God from the foundation of the Word of God and the framework of the 18 Restored Truths that were revealed to Herbert W. Armstrong. From this lofty perspective we can now focus on more crystal-clear understanding of revealed truth (see John 16:13).

The apostle Paul was inspired to write in 1 Corinthians 2:10: “But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.” Mr. Armstrong probably had this verse in mind as he referred to the revealed mysteries in *Mystery of the Ages*: “Such basic truths are *revealed*, not thought out in any human mind. They come from God, not man! And in all Biblically recorded cases the initiative was God’s” (p. 12).

The initiative is still God’s, and through His Spirit, He continues to allow us to peer deeper and deeper into revealed truth, “yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:10).



Chapter 1



Truth Will Stand; Time Will Tell

Twenty-three years ago, on December 7, 1992, my wife and I began supporting the work of Gerald Flurry as members of the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG). We, along with hundreds of others, had been crying out to God, beseeching Him to correct the situation in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), which was becoming more serious each week. God's servant, Herbert W. Armstrong, had died on January 16, 1986, and from that time, the leaders of the WCG were replacing precious true doctrines with doctrines of this world.

It was apparent to those of us who had been taught by God's servant, that the Church we loved so deeply was headed completely off the straight track of revealed and proven truth.

What were we to do? We did not realize that the great Eternal God was conducting a test and had recently ignited the seventh candlestick (Rev. 1:20). The work of Laodicea had begun!

The son of an old friend introduced my wife and me to the Laodicean work. He and his father had also been searching for answers to the dilemma that the WCG had fallen into. Remarkably, they had stumbled across an old manuscript of *Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today* (MM), written by Gerald Flurry and published by the PCG.

This young man asked me to read MM, which by now was in book form. I had previously come into contact with MM, but had refused to read even the first page. The young man challenged me, "Mr. Ardis you are my friend and my father's friend. I am asking you as a friend and as a minister of God to please read *Malachi's Message* and show me where it is wrong—or if it is right." I took the book and read it—and recognized truth immediately!

At the very beginning of MM (July 1992) is Mr. Flurry's "Author's Statement." In it he says:

In her book *Another Gospel*, Ruth Tucker congratulated Joseph W. Tkach for the direction he is headed in the Worldwide Church of God—away from many of the teachings of the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

Vast changes have been made in the Worldwide Church of God since Herbert W. Armstrong died. Even other religions can clearly see that the Worldwide Church of God has changed its thinking about Herbert W. Armstrong. But is it clear to the members of the Worldwide Church of God? EVERY ONE OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S MAJOR BOOKS HAS BEEN ABOLISHED! Many of his teachings have been altered or destroyed. What does it all mean? Did you know that many of those changes were prophesied? Much of what has happened since Mr. Armstrong's death is revealed in the book of Malachi. If you will prayerfully study *Malachi's Message*, you will see that there are many urgent issues confronting God's people today. Please search the scriptures as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11), and prove all things (1 Thess.5:21). Then BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE—NOT MEN!

We have nothing to fear. God's "very elect" CANNOT be deceived (Matt. 24:24) (pp. ix-x).

Wow! That was just what I needed to read. And that was only the Author's Statement!

A Much Needed Message

Mr. Flurry begins his book by quoting Malachi 3:16:

Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and *a book of remembrance* was written before him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon his name.

On page 2, Mr. Flurry writes:

This is really more than a "book of remembrance." It's a

message from Christ to those who remember past instructions. It's a wonderful message of encouragement. [And that was needed back in December of 1992—encouragement!] GOD CALLS THINGS WHAT THEY ARE! It all revolves around *remembering*—by Philadelphians, and by God. Much of our remembering revolves around an “Elijah” and the things God taught us through him. Then God remembers the Philadelphians, and He protects and rewards them in the future.

The entire book of Malachi revolves around two groups—those who forget (the majority) and those who remember (the minority). Are you in that book of remembrance? Anyone who is not is destined to go into the Great Tribulation. We must take this warning seriously.

I did take the warning very seriously. I considered myself a Philadelphian. I did remember what I had been taught. Once I understood Mr. Flurry's clear explanation of 2Thessalonians 2:3-4, and the revealed truth of *the man of sin sitting in the temple of God*, I knew why the destruction of the WCG was taking place. I left that church as quickly as possible.

That was in 1992. From late 1992 until early 1997, my wife and I worked among the PCG brethren in the southeastern United States. I continued to remember the teachings of the Elijah, especially the number-one instruction—government. However, in the PCG, I saw God's government being cast aside, and a militaristic government of fear being forced upon God's people. Because I tried to help His people, I was suspended from all ministerial duties in February 1997, and finally was cast out of the PCG in May.

But I knew I was still a part of God's Church. I had not changed anything. I remembered what I had been taught. From that time, I was able to view our situation from an entirely fresh perspective. Jesus Christ began opening the spiritual eyes of some Church members, including myself, to make us aware of who and what Mr. Flurry and the Philadelphia Church of God really are. Please request a free copy of *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*. It explains how Gerald Flurry has turned away from his original commission as stated in MM, and from the government of God.

Christ tells us in Luke 17:35: “Two women shall be grinding together;

the one shall be taken and the other left.” The two women are two candlesticks (Churches, Rev. 1:20), Philadelphia and Laodicea, which had *ground together* for seven years as the PCG. Then there came a separation. God raised up the Church of God’s Faithful Philadelphians to warn the Laodiceans who continue to blindly follow Gerald Flurry in his Philadelphia Church of God.

Time and Truth

“Truth will stand” and “Time will tell” are two factual statements. Now, after twenty-five years since *Malachi’s Message* was first published in January 1990, we will see how time has judged it. There is truth contained in MM, but also error. *Malachi’s Message* was vital to us in making our decision to leave the WCG those years ago. Since then, however, great glaring errors, which we could not see at the beginning, have become obvious. As we said, “Time will tell.”

But, would God use a book containing glaring errors to open the eyes of His people? Similar situations developed during Mr. Armstrong’s day. Imagine the problem he had when the serious error he had written in his first booklet on *Divorce and Re-Marriage* was revealed to him. And consider his original teachings in the booklet, *Pagan Holidays or God’s Holy Days, Which?*, regarding the correct day to observe Pentecost. The WCG had kept Pentecost on the wrong day for forty years! But time does tell, and when made aware of these errors, Mr. Armstrong admitted and corrected them.

The earliest writings of the apostles Peter, James and Paul reflected their original thought that Christ would return in their day. These thoughts are recorded in the Word of God (1 Cor. 15:51-52, Jas. 5:8 and 1 Pet. 4:7). Of course, time and God’s Holy Spirit revealed to each of these men that their beliefs about the timing were mistaken.

Let me also admit the following: in the 1999 original version of this booklet, *The Little Book Unveiled at Last*, I wrote on page 7:

In our own writings of the Church of God’s Faithful, in only a year and a half, errors are beginning to be seen. The main reasons for these errors are: 1) we based some of our statements on errors written in MM and other PCG teachings; and 2) it was not time for certain truths to be revealed.

Now it is 2015, and time has brought to light more errors in Mr. Flurry's literature, some in Mr. Armstrong's teachings, and also some in our writings. Truth has come so fast to the CGF that at times I have been unable to present every detail correctly. But when error is discovered, it is quickly admitted and made biblically correct. An example was our teaching about the inner court and the outer court, which we had adopted from Mr. Flurry. Amazingly, I didn't realize this was an incorrect teaching until 2010. The article, "The Kingdom of God IS at Hand," in the January 2010 issue of our *Midnight Cry* magazine, is an admission and correction of the error, and a careful explanation of why the error occurred.

As Mr. Armstrong often stated, "Don't believe me or *any* man—believe your Bible!"

In *Malachi's Message*, Mr. Flurry makes no claim whatsoever that it is the little book of Revelation 10. However, he emphatically made that claim later in an article in the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine, and still later in his booklet, *The Little Book*. On page 8, Mr. Flurry writes: "As we said before, the Little Book IS *Malachi's Message*."

However, time and truth tell us that *Malachi's Message* is definitely not the little book of Revelation 10. *Malachi's Message* is exactly what the title implies. It is the message of Malachi about a priesthood gone sour, and the tragic outcome for all those affected by that rebellion away from God's ways. But it is not the "little book"!

It needs to be emphatically stated that *Malachi's Message* is not the little book of Revelation 10, and Gerald Flurry is not "that Prophet," as he claims! Mr. Flurry demands that anyone interested in becoming a member of the PCG must believe these two utterly false claims. These false doctrines, and his demands, make Gerald Flurry an abomination in God's sight.

Now, let's read Revelation 10:1-7 from the King James Version of the Holy Bible:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, and cried with a loud

voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore by him who liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The apostle John sees and hears this amazing scene as the events unfold. Notice, first the mighty angel cries aloud, and then the seven thunders utter their voices. John begins to write, but is immediately told not to write what the seven thunders proclaim, but to seal their message. On the other hand, the little book is open—it is not sealed.

The mighty angel continues his message, making the profound announcement that: "...there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel [Rev. 1:20], when he shall begin to sound..."

Notice, the mighty angel is speaking, and he does not say, "When I begin to sound." He says, "When *he* [the seventh angel] begins to sound." Isn't it very clear that the mighty angel and the seventh angel are two different angels? The seventh angel is the angel of the Laodicean Church! He is not the seventh trumpet angel (Rev. 8:2), nor is he the mighty angel. (The identity of the mighty angel will be given later.)

Gerald Flurry swerves completely off track with his *Little Book* booklet. He confuses the mighty angel of Revelation 10, who had the little book open in his hand, with the angel over the Laodicean era, who is the seventh candlestick angel of Revelation 1:20. Mr. Flurry begins his booklet with these words:

Lange's Commentary states that Revelation 10 and 11 are one vision. A close study reveals that to be true. The entire vision revolves around the *little book*. The little book is delivered by a mighty angel...There was an angel assigned to each of the

seven church eras, “*The mystery of the seven stars which you 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 you sawest are the seven churches.*” The angel over the Laodicean era had the little book in his hand. One of his major responsibilities was to get the little book delivered (p. 1).

But that is not a true statement!

The Message of Malachi

If *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today* is not the little book of Revelation 10, what is it? What is this book that opened our eyes to the evil conspiracy that was taking place in the WCG, the Church we had dearly loved? *Malachi’s Message* is exactly what the title states. It is the message of the prophet Malachi from the Word of God. It is the message that the Laodicean angel inspired Gerald Flurry to write as the seventh era of the Church began. This message was first sent out in January 1990, to warn a corrupt ministry that they were causing the people of God to “stumble at the law” (Mal. 2:8). It is a warning to remember the Law of God (Mal. 4:4). The book of Malachi condemns a ministry that refuses to hear the message (Mal. 2:2) and that shows partiality in their judgments (v. 9).

On page 32 of *Malachi’s Message*, Mr. Flurry writes:

Malachi was a reformer trying to lead the ministers and people back to the *law*. The priests were the usual expounders of the law. The prophets only appeared on special occasions as in the case of Malachi who came chiefly because the priests were leading God’s people astray. The men at the top were rejecting God’s law—God’s government. The ministers have “profaned the holiness [sanctuary, RSV] of the Lord...” (Mal. 2:11). They profaned God’s sanctuary or temple [Church]. Again, this is not about some bad physical marriages as we thought in the past (vv. 14-16). It’s about the Church, the wife of Christ, being corrupted.

Yes! That is the message of Malachi! *Malachi’s Message* is a powerful message to those who have failed to remember the truth

and have left the “inner court” of the spiritual Temple. It was and still is a powerful message from the angel of Laodicea—and it also applies to Gerald Flurry! But, I repeat, it is not the message of the little book that was open in the hand of the mighty angel in Revelation 10.

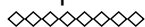
Our booklet, *Elijah’s Message to the Philadelphia Church of God (EM)*, was first mailed out in manuscript form in September 1997. Then in January 1998, it was published in booklet form. In both editions, I quoted Mr. Flurry’s statement from *Lange’s Commentary* as he had copied it on page 2 of his booklet, *The Little Book*: “The angel over the Laodicean era had the little book in his hand. One of his major responsibilities was to get the little book delivered.” I wrote that quote on page 13 of EM and then exclaimed, “And he did!”

But was I ever so wrong! What a mistake—and in our first booklet! I was completely in error with my exclamation. And it was error because I had believed Mr. Flurry’s confused explanation of Revelation 10. The angel of the Church of Laodicea delivered the message of Malachi concerning a corrupt ministry leading God’s people astray, not the message of the little book of Revelation 10. The message of Malachi was revealed to Mr. Flurry in late 1989. He wrote the message in his book, *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today*. That message from Malachi has nothing to do with the little book of Revelation 10, which was delivered by a different angel, i.e., the mighty angel!

I am correcting this obvious error in this latest edition of *The Little Book Unveiled at Last* because I had unwittingly supported a totally wrong concept in our earlier editions, and the misconception needed to be addressed.



Chapter 2:



The Unveiling Begins

As we prepare to peer deeply into the wonders of Revelation 10, where should we begin? Where does chapter 10 fit in the time flow of the book of Revelation? To answer these questions we need to turn to chapter 1, verses 1, 2 and 10, to really get our bearings:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servant things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw...I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

The beloved apostle John was a prisoner on the isle of Patmos, but was projected, "in the Spirit," into the future, into this present time. (Please request a free copy of our booklet, *The Day of the Lord*, to fully understand the truth of this astonishing statement.)

Chapters 2 and 3 are given to John as history and prophecy. They show the progression of the Church of God from its beginning in 31AD to the very last days of the Laodicean era, i.e., the dangerous and critical historical juncture in which we are living at this time in 2015.

Chapters 4 and 5 present a vivid description of the actual throne room of the universe, as John observes much of it in symbolism. Jesus Christ is pictured as the Lamb of God in Revelation 5:6. In verse 7, He appears before God the Father, who is seated on the throne, holding in His right hand a scroll (or book) sealed with seven seals (Rev. 5:1), "And he [the Lamb] came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne" (Rev. 5:7).

Chapter 6 describes the opening of the first six seals.

The book of Revelation *could not* be understood until the “time of the end” (Dan. 12:8-9), the end of man’s allotted 6000 years. The end of 6000 years was reached, to the very day, on October 1-2, 1997. At that time, the Day of the Lord came “as a thief in the night” (2 Pet. 3:10), and Christ began to open the seven seals of the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:10 and 6:1-12).

God’s apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, was given partial understanding of the seals many years ago, as he reported in his booklets, *The Key of the Book of Revelation* and *Revelation Unveiled at Last*. Now, in the Day of the Lord, we are able to gaze much deeper, with more precise focus, into the meanings of the seven seals and to see where chapter 10 fits into the story flow of the book of Revelation.

As a Thief in the Night

Much clearer understanding was given to the Church of God’s Faithful on the evening of October 1, 1997. That date marked the end of 6000 years of man’s misrule of this Earth under the influence of Satan the devil. At that precise time, God opened my mind to the astounding knowledge that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are not the same event. The Day of the Lord’s Wrath is only a one-year period within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord came “as a thief in the night” in a time of “peace and safety” (1 Thess. 5:2-3), with life going on as usual (Matt. 24:36-44), on the Feast of Trumpets 1997! And the Day of the Lord will continue throughout all eternity.

Revelation 1:10: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet...”

The Day of the Lord is the point of time into which John was projected, into the present time—now!

As chapter 6 begins, Christ rips open the first four seals, and the four horsemen come galloping forth to accomplish their gory tasks upon the entirety of the Earth. Most people recognize that something is going on here on Planet Earth, with earthquakes in different places, violence everywhere, perversion and evil on a scale seldom seen, and a rejection of the true God and His Holy Word. The horsemen *are* riding at full gallop!

As the horsemen gallop forth one by one, the “living creatures” before God’s throne cry aloud to Christ, “Come and see.” And He did come—as a thief, secretly (Matt. 24:42-43; Rev. 3:3)! The Mighty Christ

returned suddenly and secretly to His Temple, His Church (Mal. 3:1-2), and He beheld the chaotic ruins of all but His faithful few. Now He is allowing the four horsemen to bring about the circumstances to totally fulfill the prophecies of the first four seals, which will result in the death of one quarter of the population of this Earth (Rev. 6:1-8).

Christ knocks on the door of the Laodiceans through His faithful Church (Rev. 3:20). He also places His mark (Ezek. 9:4) upon His faithful jewels and prepares a place of safety for them (Mal. 3:16-17; Rev. 12:14). A place of safety will indeed be needed as the four horsemen wreak their havoc, and as Christ prepares to open the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation!

This is the exact point in the story flow of the book of Revelation where the events of the tenth chapter should be introduced.

The Mighty Angel

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven” (Rev. 10:1). John says this is *another* angel. As the chapter sequence in the book of Revelation is presented, John was informed about, and perhaps saw, the seven angels of the seven Churches in chapters 1, 2, and 3. He saw multitudes of angels and great, powerful spirit creatures in chapters 5, 6, and 7. In chapters 8 and 9, the beloved apostle sees the seven trumpet angels. At last, we come to chapter 10, where John beholds *another mighty angel*. This angel was, apparently, one he had not seen before. It was neither one of the Church angels nor one of the trumpet angels. This magnificent being was breathtaking in appearance. He had:

...come down from heaven clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire...and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth (Rev. 10:1-2).

Observe the description of this awesome being. Who does this sound like? He comes down from Heaven clothed with a cloud. His face is as the sun with a rainbow upon His head. His feet appear as fiery pillars. Wow! Where else in the Bible do we see a being pictured in this manner?

Look first at Revelation 1:7,13-16:

Behold he comes with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him...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. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass as if they burned in a furnace...and his countenance as the sun shineth in his strength.

This is the living Jesus Christ pictured here!

Next, we will read Ezekiel's description:

And above the firmament that was over their [the cherubim's] heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the color of amber [as molten brass], as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had a brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord (Ezek. 1:26-28).

Again, this is Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Eternal.

Ezekiel 8:2-3 gives similar descriptions. Then, in verse 4 it is stated: "and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there." The mighty angel of Revelation 10 certainly appears to be Jesus Christ—or an angel representing Him. Is this possible?

The mighty angel stands on the earth and the sea, representing great authority. Matthew 28:18 reads: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *all power* is given me in heaven and in earth." Again, this mighty being appears to be Christ the Lord.

Is there anywhere in the Bible where Christ is depicted as an angel? Yes, of course. In many places, the Eternal who became the Lamb of God is spoken of as an "angel" and as a "messenger."

The Greek word in the New Testament for angel is "aggelos." *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* lists this word as #32, defined as: "a messenger; esp. an 'angel'; by impl. a pastor:--angel,

messenger.” In the Old Testament, the word for angel is “malak,” #4397. Strong’s gives this Hebrew word the same meaning as the Greek word “aggelos”: “...a messenger; spec. of God, i.e. an angel (also a prophet, priest or teacher): - ambassador, angel, king, messenger.”

The first scripture concerning “the angel of the Lord” is in Genesis 16. We will read verses 9-11 and 13:

And the angel [#4397] of the Lord said unto her [Hagar], Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael: because the Lord has heard thy affliction...And she called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me.

Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac, in obedience to the “angel of the Lord” is recorded in Genesis 22. Here are portions of verses 11 and 15-18:

And the angel [#4397] of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I... And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing...that in blessing I will bless thee...and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

It is very plain that the Lord, the Eternal, who became Jesus Christ, appears here as the angel of the Lord!

Another powerful example, from the life of Jacob, emphatically declares that the angel of God *was* God (the Word who became Jesus Christ):

And *the angel of God* spake unto me in a dream saying, Jacob: and I said, here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ring-straked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. *I am the God* of Bethel where thou anointedst the pillar (Gen. 31:11-13).

There are many examples of Christ appearing as an angel, but we will conclude with one more. Comparing Exodus 13:21-22 with Exodus 14:19,24 vividly confirms this truth:

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

And the angel of God which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them...And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud and troubled the host of the Egyptians.

It is definitely not unusual for the Lord Jesus Christ to appear as an angel or as a messenger. Again, both of these words in the Old Testament are #4397. In Malachi 3:1, it is stated: "Behold, I will send my messenger [#4397] and he shall prepare the way before me." The Church of God's Faithful realizes that this prophecy dealing with the "messenger" is dual. It is referring to John the Baptist preparing for Christ's first coming to a physical temple, and it also refers to Herbert W. Armstrong preparing the way for Christ's second coming. The second coming would be to His *spiritual* Temple. Continuing in verse 1: "...and the Lord whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger [#4397 "messenger" or "angel"—Jesus Christ] of the covenant." Christ quotes this scripture in Matthew 11:10, as He praises John the Baptist: "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger [#32, angel or messenger]."

It should be clearly evident to us, as we peer deeply into the Scriptures, that Jesus Christ has on many occasions appeared as the angel of the Lord or the messenger of the Lord. It is now unveiled that the mighty angel of Revelation 10 is, in reality, the Mighty Christ!

Cried...as When a Lion Roars

Let's return to Revelation 10:1-3:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven... he had in his hand a little book *open*...And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars: and when he cried seven thunders uttered their voices.

Please consider what we see now. Christ, as the Mighty Angel, has returned to Earth. The little book is open in His hand. As He stands there on earth and sea, He cries (#2896) with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. The Greek word for “cried” is given more intense meaning in *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*: “1. Prop. To croak... of the cry of the raven; hence univ. to cry out, cry aloud, vociferate: particularly of inarticulate cries” (p. 358). In addition to Revelation 10:3, Thayer gives three scriptures where the same phraseology is used:

“Jesus when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit” (Matt. 27:50). As the Roman soldier’s spear was plunged into His side, Jesus screamed out in pain. He made His final utterances and died.

“And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him” (Mk. 1:26). In this scripture, the unclean spirit is commanded to come out of the man. In violent rage, the demon shrieks and departs.

“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord” (Acts 7:57). Stephen’s sermon so affected the self-righteous mob that they roared in contempt and hatred for this servant of God.

Compare the “cries” contained in these verses with the “cry” of the Mighty Angel that was “as when a lion roars.” The roar of a lion is a terribly frightening, inarticulate sound. Our Lord is spoken of in Scripture as “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev. 5:5). And Amos 3:8 says, “The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?”

Can we begin to grasp *why* Christ, as the Mighty Angel, cried aloud as a lion when He returned to Earth in the Day of the Lord? The Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night. Christ came suddenly, unexpectedly, “as a thief” to His Church, and He beheld the chaos, confusion, and devastation that exists within Laodicea and the outer court of the spiritual Temple.

Revelation 10 is primarily about the time period we entered on

October 1-2, 1997. Of course, Christ and the Father know exactly what has happened to the Church since the death of Herbert Armstrong. They are fully aware of the turning away from truth by the great majority of the WCG. God raised up Gerald Flurry and the Laodicean work—and watched it fail. Now, only a faithful few are left. All the other begotten sons of God have been deceived by Satan, and are the ten *sleeping* virgins of Matthew 25. These are either snared in the “synagogues of Satan” (Rev. 3:9), or they are following Gerald Flurry as blind Laodiceans. And the fifth seal (the Great Tribulation) must soon be opened.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb.13:8). As it was in the days of Noah:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart (Gen. 6:5-6).

In Matthew 23:37, Jesus expresses the same heartfelt grief and concern for the inhabitants of Jerusalem during the final days of His physical life:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Our Lord has the same deep compassion (see also John 11:33-35 and Mark 6:34) today. However, He also has righteous indignation that grows into severe anger, as we see described in God's Word.

In Ezekiel, chapter 8, Jesus Christ appears to Ezekiel and shows him the wretched condition of the Temple/Church. Ezekiel had already been shown the wickedness of the land. Now in Ezekiel 8:5-15, he is shown the abominations of the outer court. However, verse 16 concerns the inner court:

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 [they are at the point of

leaving the inner court], and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

The portrayal of these men continues in Ezekiel 11:1-3:

Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me into the east gate of the Lord's house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men [the 25 priests or ministers] that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city: which say, it is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh.

Which Church do you know of that has about “five and twenty” full-time ministers that are at the point of leaving the inner court? It is obvious that this is the Laodicean PCG. Some of these men have built themselves expensive homes—and a college. Their actions certainly imply that “it is not near,” or that “My Lord delays His coming” (Matt. 24:48). Ezekiel says they have turned their backs on God, looking to the east (where Petra is located).

They have “devised mischief.” They have stolen *Mystery of the Ages* (Ex. 20:15) and have gone to court against their brother (1 Cor. 6:1-10). They have broken the Law of God and the law of the land. They have reasoned around the plain scriptures that condemn their actions (Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1). They exulted and boasted that they had won the court case against the WCG. But this was totally untrue. The PCG actually lost the court case. But in a surprise move, the WCG sold the rights to *Mystery of the Ages* and other copyrighted literature to the PCG for two million dollars. Gerald Flurry stubbornly refused to negotiate with the WCG at the beginning of the legal wrangling, calling them “demons.” He finally did negotiate, after wasting nearly four million dollars on lawyers and court costs. Doesn't that tell you something?

Isaiah 59:4,14 states plainly:

None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity...And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street,

and equity cannot enter.

Ezekiel 8:17 reads:

Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O Son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah [PCG] that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence [#2555: unrighteousness, injustice], and have returned to provoke me to anger: lo, they put the branch to their nose.

As this warning goes out to those twenty-five men and their Church, observe what happens next in Ezekiel 11:13:

And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah, the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord God! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

The name “Pelatiah” is #6410 in *Strong’s* and means “Jah [God] has delivered.” This was a sign that God would deliver that “remnant of Judah” to death! Please request our booklet, *Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?*

This booklet was originally written in February 1999. Since then, time has told us much about Gerald Flurry and the PCG. In 1999, Mr. Flurry was exultant about his victory in the legal battle against the WCG; however, a higher court overturned the decision. Then his victory was turned into defeat and his jubilation to embarrassment and consternation. All of his appeals were exhausted, and he was waiting for the penalty to be issued by the court, when the WCG offered to negotiate with the PCG for the literature in question. The PCG agreed to pay \$2,000,000 for *Mystery of the Ages* and other literature. If Gerald Flurry had agreed to negotiate at the beginning, he could have saved several millions of dollars in lawyers and court costs, and would not have broken the commandments of God (Matt. 5:19 and 1 Cor. 6:1). Since that time, Gerald Flurry has become even more befuddled and off-track. He now claims titles that apply only to Jesus Christ. In his confused

state of mind, he considers himself to be “that Prophet” (Deut. 18:15,18-19; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37) and “the Breaker” (Mic. 2:13; Ex. 19:22; Judg. 21:15). These titles refer to Christ alone. Satan has deceived vain men down through the centuries to follow in his way of vanity. These “great swelling words of vanity” (2 Pet. 2:18) deceive his blind followers. However, to God these claims are an abomination. Our Lord thundered at the false ministers of His day in Luke 16:15, “Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”

Satan wanted to take God’s title, “the most High” (Is. 14:14). Gerald Flurry, through his vanity and overwhelming self-esteem, has taken titles that are Christ’s alone. This is an abomination to God. Gerald Flurry is not only a false prophet, but also a false Christ (Matt. 24:11,24). The Laodicean candlestick is barely burning in the inner court. Go back and read Ezekiel 8:15-16 and 11:1-3. Here is an abomination standing in the inner court! Time will tell—and now we can understand Matthew 24:15: “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).” I hope you do!

The Seven Thunders

Continue in Revelation 10, verses 2-4:

And he had in his hand a little book *open*...And he cried with a *loud voice* as when a Lion roars: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, *Seal up* those things which the seven thunders uttered, and *write them not*.

Notice:

1. The little book is open, not sealed.
2. The seven thunders were in response to the loud cry of the Mighty Angel.

3. The message of the seven thunders is sealed.
4. The message of the seven thunders is not a part of the little book.

In the prophecies we have read from the book of Ezekiel, we find the same time-setting as Revelation 10. The Mighty God cries aloud to Ezekiel in chapter 9. The time is at the beginning of the Day of the Lord, as we will prove later. This is immediately before the Great Tribulation, as the following verses describe:

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 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 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... (Ezek. 9:1,2,4-6).

Verse 18 of chapter 8 makes this thunderous, very chilling announcement:

Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity; and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

In time, this is where we are now! The “man with the writer’s inkhorn” is searching out God’s faithful people and placing “the mark” on them. Malachi 3:16-17 is also being fulfilled at this very time:

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him [by the man with the writer’s inkhorn?] for them that feared the Lord, and that thought

upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day [in the Day of the Lord—now!] when I make up my jewels [special treasure]; and I will spare them [from the Great Tribulation], as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Most of God's precious sons and daughters have been deceived and led astray by the ministers they have followed. The former Worldwide Church of God ministers, trained at Ambassador College, have turned away from what they formerly believed and taught. (Request our booklet, *Set Apart by Truth*, to thoroughly understand what is being stated here.) The Church of God has been split, splintered, and divided until they call themselves the "Churches of God"—much like Protestants. Nevertheless, God has only *one* true Church. These others are the "churches of god," or the "synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 3:9)! Many of God's begotten sons do not know what to do, so they follow these "hireling" ministers (John 10:12). Others have awakened to the deception of these ministers and have left them and their churches. These people, by the hundreds, some resentful of any church authority, are lost sheep sitting out there alone, bewildered and lost.

God tells us very plainly in Jeremiah 50:6:

My people have 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.

Christ is angry, but in His great mercy, He is not finished with these deceived ones. They are part of His bride! Revelation 3:9 states:

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not but do lie [They say, "I am a part of the Churches of God." But God has only one true Church, so that statement is a lie.]; behold I will make them to come and worship before thy feet and to know that I have loved thee.

Through some very troublesome times to come, Christ will compel many of those of the *synagogue of Satan* to come to us, the Church of God's Faithful, His one true Church, to be taught to follow Christ in all the old established truth and the recently revealed truth. All who will heed and faithfully serve God will be spared the Great Tribulation by

receiving the mark from the man with the writer's inkhorn.

What is this mark that we need to receive? Very plainly, the mark is God's truth—old and new—placed in our minds to set us apart (John 17:17) as members of the one true Church of Jesus Christ.

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 (Ezek. 9:4).

These are extremely dangerous times, and we need to remember that the "six men" with their "slaughter weapons" will follow closely upon the heels of *the man with the writer's inkhorn*.

Meditate on this fact: the CGF has six ministers with very sharp swords (meaning the Word of God) that can totally destroy rebellious spirits.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

The Seven Thunders Are Not Part of the Little Book

The echo of the loud cry of the Mighty Angel, who is Jesus Christ, comes rolling back as the seven thunders of Revelation 10. They are not a part of the little book. Their message is sealed, but the little book is open. The two witnesses will probably deliver the message of the seven thunders, at the proper time. But we don't want to get ahead of the story.

At this point, we need to prove that Gerald Flurry is completely mistaken in his interpretation of the seven thunders. Here is what we have discovered so far:

- The "mighty angel" and "the seventh angel" of Revelation 10 are two different beings.
- The Mighty Angel, not the seventh (Laodicean) angel, had the

little book in His hand.

- The little book is not *Malachi's Message*.
- The little book does not contain the seven thunders.
- The seven thunders were still completely sealed when Mr. Flurry wrote *Malachi's Message* and *The Little Book*.

Blunders...Not Thunders

In his *Little Book* booklet, Mr. Flurry states on page 10:

The little book, *Malachi's Message*, contains seven thunders...There are two introductory chapters entitled "A Call to Remembrance" and "Hold Fast." The last seven chapters contain much thunder.

First, the little book of Revelation 10 does not contain the seven thunders—they are separate. Second, we will see plainly that Mr. Flurry's seven thunders in *Malachi's Message* are, in reality, seven serious blunders away from truth—not thunders.

Mr. Flurry claims the first thunder is chapter 3 of *Malachi's Message*, labeled "The Laodicean Era." We have proven for anyone to read in *Elijah's Message* that Gerald Flurry and the Philadelphia Church of God are the Laodicean church. He has labeled all the rest of the Church of God as Laodicea. But he, himself, and his PCG are the Laodiceans. This is, indeed, a serious blunder. (*Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* and *Bloody Jezreel* thoroughly explain the identity of Laodicea. Please write or call for your free copy.)

Mr. Flurry says the second thunder is "Following Elijah," which begins on page 52 of the 1992 edition of MM. Is Gerald Flurry "Following Elijah"? Mr. Flurry has followed the Elijah more closely than many of the splits from the WCG, but his work is based on several mistaken concepts. On pages 56 and 59 of MM, Mr. Flurry writes:

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong started and finished an ERA that "restored all things." He started it and finished it before he died, with the power of God's Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:6). His hands laid the foundation and his hands finished the house—the

Philadelphia era...When he died the Philadelphia ERA was completed.

This statement does not follow the beliefs of the Elijah. I do not believe Mr. Armstrong ever claimed the house (temple) that he was commissioned to finish was the Philadelphia “era.” The following is from a letter that Mr. Armstrong wrote to the Church on March 19, 1981:

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 for the First Coming of the human Jesus...Then coming to His material temple, and to His physical people Judah...So God would use a human messenger in the spiritual wilderness of twentieth 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.

God used Herbert W. Armstrong to finish the spiritual Temple, not an era. The Temple/Church could not be “measured” today if it were not finished (Rev. 11:1). It needs a lot of repairs, but Christ is attending to that at this time. Also, as we have stated many times, when Mr. Armstrong died, the Church did *not* die!

Think of the events stated in the Philadelphia section of Revelation 3 that have not as yet been fulfilled:

1. The synagogue of Satan has not yet come and worshipped God at our feet (verse 9).
2. The faithful Church has not yet been protected from the Great Tribulation (verse 10).
3. The Great Tribulation has not yet begun (verse 10).

Therefore, the Philadelphia candlestick (Church) did not cease at the death of Mr. Armstrong, but continues to burn brightly today in the CGF.

This so-called second thunder is also a terrible blunder away from truth. But, before we leave this counterfeit thunder, it should be stressed that Mr. Flurry has not followed the Elijah in other important areas.

He has not followed the first of the 18 Restored Truths—"Government." He has cast aside God's government of love and concern for the good of the governed, as taught by the Elijah. He has exchanged it for a beast-type, militaristic rule of treading down the people of God through fear.

Mr. Flurry is now on a campaign to convert the world. This is not following the Word of God as the Elijah instructed. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is spiritual knowledge that the world cannot understand, and Mr. Armstrong taught that it is not our job to convert anyone (John 6:44). As Mr. Armstrong diligently fulfilled his commission of taking the Gospel to the entire world as a *witness* (Matt. 24:14), the Father called disciples from all nations and completed the spiritual Temple through this end-time Zerubbabel. (The building of the Temple was finished, but the work of the Philadelphia Church is not over.)

Here are two contradictory quotes from Mr. Flurry that prove his inconsistency in following the Elijah. The first quote is from *The Little Book* (1995) 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 *prophesy again*. This *very commission tells us the gospel has already been preached around the world.* (My emphasis)

The next quote from Mr. Flurry shows that he has blundered away from this true statement. He knows as well as anybody that the message contained in *Mystery of the Ages* is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. But read the following statement from the November 1997 *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine article, "The Largest Audience Possible":

We will freely give *Mystery of the Ages* to anyone who requests it...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.

Here he says he will take the Gospel to the world, whereas in the first quote he says no one else is coming on the scene to do that because the Elijah had accomplished that task.

Mr. Flurry claims he can convert the world. Mr. Armstrong never believed or taught that. Mr. Armstrong taught what he recorded in *Mystery of the Ages* on page 4:

No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the human 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.

On page 5, Mr. Armstrong adds a vital fact about understanding the Gospel:

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. (Emphasis mine)

The world definitely has not yielded and surrendered to God's Word. Therefore, they cannot understand and become converted, no matter what Gerald Flurry may say. John 6:44 states: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

It should be obvious now that Mr. Flurry's campaign to convert the world is another awful blunder from truth.

Mr. Flurry's third thunder is entitled "The End-Time Joshua" (p. 15). This sounded good at the beginning. However, God now shows us this "prophet" was speaking from his own mind, not the mind of God. Mr. Flurry, on page 66 of MM, emphatically states that Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. is the end-time Joshua: "It appears that this modern-day Joshua won't wake up until he is in the Tribulation." How wrong can he get? Mr. Tkach is dead—not in the Tribulation! Absolute proof that this third thunder is just another outlandish blunder from truth.

The fourth thunder, according to Gerald Flurry, is "The Man of Sin" (p. 17). His identification of the "man of sin" of 2 Thessalonians 2, as well as the subjects of the other three chapters in MM that he labels as thunders, are powerful messages that are mostly correct.

Nevertheless, that information comes from the message of the book of Malachi and other scriptures relating to the takeover of the WCG by the “mystery of iniquity” (2 Thess. 2:7). They have nothing to do with the true seven thunders. Remember that the seven thunders are not a part of the little book, and they were still sealed when *Malachi’s Message* was written.

Mr. Flurry has only scant knowledge of Revelation 10 and 11. Consequently, all seven of his thunders are abject blunders. Remember also that Mr. Flurry writes and speaks from the false assumption that all of the Church of God is Laodicean except himself and his PCG—which is the biggest blunder of all!

In the Name of the Creator

Now, back to Revelation 10:5-6:

And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven...And swore by him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein...

Before we finish verse 6, let us definitely establish who the Creator is. Three sets of scriptures will succinctly inform us of this.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, Behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne...Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Rev. 4:2,11).

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals...And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb...and he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne...And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and as such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon

the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever (Rev. 5:1,6,7,13).

It is apparent from these two scriptures that God the Father is sitting on the throne and has the title of Creator of all things. Paul focuses even more clearly on this:

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9).

The Great Announcement

Thus, in Revelation 10:6, we see the Mighty Angel, symbolic of Jesus Christ, holding up His hand and swearing by God Almighty, the Creator, “that there should be time no longer.” Oh, what a fantastic announcement! Read verse 7, as the details of the announcement are given:

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he has declared to his servants the prophets.

What does verse 6 mean, “that there should be time no longer”? And what is “the mystery of God” that shall be finished? Only God the Father knew the greatest mystery of all time. This secret is recorded in Mark 13:32:

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father [only].

This is indeed a great mystery! Now look carefully at Matthew 24:36-37:

But of that day and hour knows 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.

That statement identifies the great mystery—the greatest secret of all time! Surely, most Christians and angelic beings have desired to know—when will Jesus Christ return? Only God the Father knew.

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. [Notice that everything is going along as usual.] Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women will 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, 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 (Matt. 24:38-44).

Consider what this scripture is telling us. There are scriptures in the Old and New Testaments that tell us Christ will return *secretly*, as a thief, and suddenly, when life in general is going along as usual—as it was in October 1997. Then there are other scriptures that show the *visible* return of Jesus Christ, when the entire Earth is at the point of being destroyed, and nothing is going along as usual, and everyone will see Him coming in the clouds of heaven (Rev. 1:7; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 19:11-16,19).

The extremely violent trumpet plagues will be poured out upon Earth during the one-year period of the Day of the Lord's Wrath, which ushers in the First Resurrection.

And I repeat—at that time, nothing will be going on as usual! The entire Earth will be lying in ruins, and *every* eye (remaining alive) will see Him at His coming. When every eye sees Christ return, He will not return as a thief, or suddenly or unexpectedly. Before they are killed, the two witnesses will have warned the entire world of the exact time of Christ's return and of the First Resurrection.

The whole rebellious world will not want to believe the message of the two witnesses. People will feel that the message is a torment to them. But the world will surely know, because they will have been warned by God's two witnesses!

The Church of God's Faithful understands this because God has revealed to us the message of the Mighty Angel of Revelation 10. God allows the Mighty Angel to make the grand announcement that *time*

shall be no more.

Man's time shall be no more! At the point of the grand announcement, the six one-thousand-year days (2 Pet. 3:8-10) of man's misrule of Earth came to an end. And God's time—the Day of the Lord—began again and will continue forever!

The Day of the Lord has come! It came as a thief in the night (2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:2). Jesus Christ was sent suddenly and secretly, as a thief, to Earth, to His spiritual Temple (Mal. 3:1), while all things were going along as usual (Rev. 3:3; Matt. 24:37-38). If you have not read our free booklets, *The Day of the Lord* and *The Feast of Trumpets* or *Pentecost*, please request your own copies. They make very plain all that is being stated here.

The little book was open in the hand of Jesus Christ. The message of the little book was the revealed mystery of God—that the Day of the Lord arrived. Man's time ended. God's time, which had no beginning and continues forever, began again. The Four Horsemen were released, and Christ returned suddenly to His Temple!

It all began on the evening of October 1, 1997, on the Feast of Trumpets.

Pinpointing the Time

The great announcement is made in Revelation 10:6 that “time shall be no more” (Aramaic Bible in Plain English). Most modern versions of the Bible translate this statement as “there will be no more delay.” They translate it this way because they do not understand that 6000 years were allotted for man to go his own rebellious way, as was revealed to Herbert Armstrong.

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong has written on pages 119-120, under the heading “Adam's World Sentenced”:

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

Man's allotted time came to an end, and man's time will be no more. Six thousand years ended on the Feast of Trumpets 1997, and

God began His intervention by opening the first four seals—the ride of the four horsemen. The ride of the horsemen results in false religions, wars and rumors of war, eventually world war, worldwide famines and the death of one quarter of the population of Earth—approximately 1¼ billion people.

The Mighty Angel brought the grand announcement that 6000 years of man's rule were over and done!

Let's proceed with verse 7. "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel," man's time is up, and then something else is added for more understanding. We are given details to show exactly what will occur next, and when. Let's peer deeply into these words to obtain their full meaning.

"...in the days of the voice of the seventh angel..." "In the days of" certainly denotes the interval of time when the seventh angel (Laodicea) is on the scene. The Greek word translated "voice" is *Strong's* #5456, and is rendered "noise, sound, or voice."

In John 3:8, #5456 is used as "sound": "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound [#5456] thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth." The description here is of an audible wind blowing. Even a very light wind can rustle the leaves of a tree and make a sound.

When the voice of the seventh angel began, it was as a wee, insignificant sound. In those early days, weeks, months and years of Laodicea, Mr. Flurry and the PCG could barely be heard. It was just a wee voice for seven years. No one but the Church of God could even hear it. However, the next detailed expression is: "...when he shall begin to sound..." In this passage, the Greek word rendered "sound" is *Strong's* #4537 and means: "to trumpet, to sound a blast, to sound a trumpet." *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* expands the definition: "to take care that what we do comes to everybody's ears, make a great noise about it (do a thing, with a flourish of trumpets)."

What was it that Gerald Flurry and his Laodiceans did with a flourish after seven years of "the days of the voice of the seventh angel"? What was it that could be declared a trumpet blast that everybody could hear?

Before these questions are answered, we need to focus on another vital detail. The words translated "shall begin" impart a frightening meaning to the entire phrase, "when he shall begin to sound." The two words rendered "shall begin" are one word in *Strong's*, #3195,

defined as: “to intend, i.e. be about to be, do, or *suffer* something.” Thayer adds to this: “things future, things to come, to be on the point of doing or *suffering* something, to intend, have in mind, think.”

The following scriptures contain #3195, designated by italics. In each case, something is about to be done which will bring suffering:

- For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to *come* (Rom. 8:38).
- And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear unto him, was *about to die* (Luke 7:2).
- And if it bare fruit, well: and if not, then *after that* thou shalt cut it down (Luke 13:9).
- And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to *come* (Matt. 12:32).
- And the keeper of the prison awakening out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled (Acts 16:27).
- When he heard that Jesus was come out of Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death (John 4:47).

Notice that, in each of these scriptures where #3195 is used, suffering is involved or about to be experienced.

Now I ask again, but with an addition: “What was it that Gerald Flurry and his Laodiceans did with a flourish after seven years that could be declared a trumpet blast that everybody could hear, and which will eventually cause them much suffering?”

The answer should be obvious. For seven years, Gerald Flurry adhered to his commission of warning the ministry and members of the WCG and the other groups that had split off from the WCG. Only a few hundred people were awakened by this tiny, barely audible work. But Christ blessed the work. It was Christ’s Laodicean work—the work of the seventh candlestick/Church. Mr. Flurry was very zealous, and

labored long and hard.

However, by late 1996, Christ began removing His blessings from Mr. Flurry and the PCG because of the abusive government that he had adopted. Consequently, unwise decisions were made. Gerald Flurry began giving weird, way-out prophecies, and biblically inaccurate articles and booklets were published. These were the days of the voice of the seventh angel beginning to sound—confused and barely able to be heard.

Membership was falling fast, as the PCG ministry seemed to be on a rampage to cast out anyone who dared to ask the simplest question. Receipt of tithes and offerings naturally took a plunge. Mr. Flurry became desperate and opened his mind to a very rebellious and dangerous idea: he would change his God-given commission.

In late 1996, he decided to go to the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He knew this had been Mr. Armstrong's commission and that it had been successfully accomplished, but he needed a gimmick. He would unlawfully seize *Mystery of the Ages* and attempt to convert the world. In mid-January 1997, the trumpet of the seventh angel sounded. Mr. Flurry intended for everybody in the whole world to hear the sound. Although the WCG possessed the copyrights to *Mystery of the Ages*, Gerald Flurry illegally printed and offered to distribute it to the entire world in powerful ads on television and radio and in major newspapers. His brashness prompted legal action by the WCG.

A direct attack and counter-attack by two warring churches captured the interest of some major news media. Mr. Flurry turned his back on the Word of God. The trumpet sounded and great suffering will ensue.

Should Be Finished as He Has Declared

One last detail of Revelation 10:7 should be examined as another corroborating proof of what we are claiming. Look at the phrase, “the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* lists the Greek word translated “finished” as #5055, and the word translated “declared” as #2097. Here, I want to show *Thayer's* expanded definition of the two words:

First: *finished* #5055: “1. to bring to a close, to finish, to end.

2. To perform, execute, complete, fulfill, (so that the thing done corresponds to what has been said, the order, the command, etc.) i.e. [a] with special reference to the subject-matter, to carry out the contents of a command: [b] with reference also to the form, to do just as commanded, and generally involving a notion of time, to perform the last act which completes a process, to accomplish to fulfill..." (And Thayer's uses Revelation 10:7 as an example of this last definition.)

Second: *declared #2097*: "to bring good news, to announce glad tidings." (Thayer's again gives Revelation 10:7 as an example in both the beginning comment and in the first definition.)

God has declared to His servants, the prophets, the great good news (the Gospel) that Christ will come to establish the Kingdom of God—in the time of the Day of the Lord. Verse 7 states the conclusion, "the mystery of God is finished," of the full grand announcement which began in verse 6: "...there should be time no longer."

This is the complete announcement, or declaration, and it is stated as a command. The portion of verse 7 concerning the seventh angel is only interjected for detail. Paraphrased, using the revealed understanding that we have been given, the grand announcement by Jesus Christ would be:

Man's misrule of Earth has ended. The great secret has been revealed and I have come, as the Scriptures have declared!

This grand announcement is the main message of the little book. The revealed knowledge that Christ has suddenly come to His Temple (His Church), and the Day of the Lord has begun, opens up many of the remaining prophecies of the Bible.

A Means to an End

In early 1997, as the high priest of Laodicea began careening off track, the PCG could plainly be seen as described in Revelation 3:14-18. Mr. Flurry became *lukewarm* to the Law of God and had *need of nothing*. He exclaimed, "We have it all!" Gerald Flurry's zeal turned from doing the work of God to his own vain work.

At the same time, I was thrust into a position of having to confront the southeastern regional director of the PCG because of governmental abuses for which he was plainly responsible. This situation resulted in my wife and I being cast out of the PCG—but it was a means to an end!

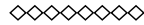
I had no idea that God Almighty was preparing to have Jesus Christ return secretly and suddenly to His Temple, and the Day of the Lord was to come unexpectedly as a thief in the night. I knew none of this at that time. It was slowly revealed a step at a time. Initially, we were astonished to grasp that two candlesticks—Philadelphia and Laodicea—were burning (Rev.1:20). The sixth candlestick/Church, Philadelphia, had not gone out as Gerald Flurry taught. We were thrilled to realize we were still part of the Philadelphia candlestick. And it was a shock to realize that Gerald Flurry was the leader of the seventh candlestick, Laodicea.

The CGF booklets, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* and *Bloody Jezreel*, provide introductory information for understanding the true message of the little book. The astounding revelation in our booklet, *The Day of the Lord*, is definitely needed to understand the grand announcement of the little book. For additional information, I would also recommend our article, "The Seventh Trumpet Angel or the Seventh Church Angel—Which?"

And remember, *Malachi's Message* is not the little book of Revelation 10, and Gerald Flurry is not "that prophet." By these deceitful declarations, Mr. Flurry has become the spiritual type of "the abomination standing in the holy place"! It is paradoxical that the man who revealed to us *the man of sin sitting in the Temple of God* (2 Thess. 2:3-4) has himself become the *abomination standing in the Holy Place* (Matt. 24:15).



Chapter 3:



From This Point On

*T*he angel of Laodicea began his discordant blast in early 1997, as Gerald Flurry careened off the course of biblical truth. However, God's inspired truth flowed into our minds as Christ raised up the CGF. The Church of God's Faithful (His true Philadelphians) was organized in September 1997. I informed Mr. Flurry on September 12 that we were poised and ready to warn the members and ministry of the PCG, just as he had done for the WCG, about what was occurring right before their closed eyes.

I knew that we, of ourselves, could do nothing, but I was sure God was with this very tiny Church. I did not realize that the Day of the Lord was about to come as a thief in the night, and that God was sending Christ back to the Temple/Church. And Christ had much more in mind to do than I could imagine.

The Day of the Lord was a brilliant flash of revealed truth that occurred on October 1, 1997. Only God's faithful few were made aware of this exceedingly important event the next day at the Feast of Trumpets services. The Day of the Lord had come "as a thief in the night." Jesus Christ opened the first four seals to release the four horsemen, and then came quickly to His Church.

It is at this point that the apostle John sees the scene described in Revelation 10. However, we did not understand Revelation 10 until it was revealed in late 1998.

John continues writing in Revelation 10:8-9:

And the voice I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall

make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth as sweet as honey.

John is told to “eat” the little book. He is not told to read it or write its contents, but to eat it. We have always understood that this means to digest the information contained in it. Remember, this is a little book. Revelation 5:1 pictures God the Father with a book (Strong’s #975, *biblion*, a roll–bill, book, scroll, writing), written on both sides, concerning the remaining chapters of the book of Revelation. It is very similar to the book Ezekiel was told to eat (Ezek. 2:8-10 and 3:1-3), which was a sizable scroll filled with lamentations, mourning and woe. On the other hand, the little book (#974, *bibliaridion*...a booklet, little book) could be simply a scroll of one sheet with only the grand announcement written on it. But, with the fantastic revelation of its meaning, many other prophecies of the Bible have opened up to us. We have eaten the little book, and we are still digesting it.

In verse 10, John does just as he was commanded: “And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.” This is John’s only comment about the little book other than that it was open in the Mighty Angel’s hand.

Revelation 1:19 is another command given earlier to the beloved John: “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.” John does exactly what he is told: he writes what he just saw and the things he views in the far future, which in actuality is this present time in the Day of the Lord.

As each of the seven seals is opened, John records the future occurrences. We have stated that the events of Revelation 10 are during our time today, immediately before the opening of the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation.

The apostle John died approximately 1900 years ago. He is dead. He is not here today to take the little book out of the Angel’s hand and eat it up. We see this being done in Revelation 10 in symbolism, just as Ezekiel did. We must conclude, then, that John is a type of someone today to whom the truth of the little book and Revelation 10 has been given. I have asked our Lord Jesus Christ, humbly and a little fearfully, to “Give me the little book” (Rev. 10:9). He gave it, we have eaten it, and we are in the process of digesting the multitude of related prophecies

revealed with our acceptance of the little book.

It is very sweet to know that Jesus Christ has come to His Temple. The “mystery of God” has been revealed. Man’s time is no more. We are now in the Day of the Lord. Nearly all of the prophecies in the Bible are now open to God’s faithful Church by the understanding of this one great announcement. However, many of these prophesied events that are now unfolding are very *bitter* knowledge—Satan is in a rage and these are dangerous Bible times in which we live.

Work to Do

Revelation 10:11 states: “And he said unto me, thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” The time setting here, I repeat, is immediately before the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 10 and 11 have nothing to do with Gerald Flurry and the Laodicean work, other than to pinpoint the time when the described events happen. Mr. Flurry has preached that he will “prophesy again” before the world rulers, but he is mistaken. Mr. Armstrong certainly believed that he, himself, was a type of Ezekiel the watchman. He knew all about the scroll Ezekiel was commanded to eat. And he deeply believed it was part of his commission to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to the kings and rulers of the nations of Earth. Jesus Christ opened the door for Mr. Armstrong to personally go to the national leaders of the world. This was an astounding accomplishment that only Christ could orchestrate, and verse 11 was fulfilled in type. However, it says it must be done again! There is a great work to be done, quickly.

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying...” (Rev. 11:1). The *Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown One Volume Commentary* (JFB) has a very interesting comment on this verse:

“...And the angel stood”—Omitted in A, Vulgate and Coptic. Supported by B and Syriac. If it be omitted, the reed will, in construction, agree with “saying,” so Wordsworth takes it. The reed, the canon of scripture, the measuring-reed of the church, our rule of faith, speaks...The Spirit speaks in the canon of scripture (the word *canon* is derived from Hebrew *kaneh*, a reed, the word here used; and John it was who completed the canon).

A close study of the JFB comment shows again that the Mighty Angel is really Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the “reed” or standard by which we are measured.

Continuing in verse 1, “...Rise and measure the temple of God [the inner court], and the altar [the ministry] and them that worship therein [the members].” John was writing from his vantage point in Heaven, but then he is told to measure those in the *inner court* of the temple, i.e., the living flesh-and-blood begotten children of God on Earth. That includes you and me, and the Laodiceans, and the scattered churches snared in the synagogues of Satan.

The word “rise” (Strong’s #1453) means “to awaken, wake up...used of the dead called again to life...(or) to get up and do the work” (see John 14:31). John is dead, so someone else, at this juncture, must do the work of measuring the Temple.

Let’s review the following points about the time in which this verse is focused:

1. The Day of the Lord has begun.
2. The Laodicean angel has sounded.
3. The CGF has been given understanding of the message of the little book— that man’s allotted 6000 years have ended and the Day of the Lord has begun once again.
4. The little book has been “eaten” and is being fully digested by the CGF.
5. Revelation 11:3 shows that this is immediately prior to the two witnesses’ ministry.

Revelation 10 and 11 make it apparent that the work Christ will have us do is two-fold. The Church of God’s Faithful has grown tremendously in knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 3:18) and His plan. The new knowledge of Christ is “new truth,” and the CGF is set apart by truth. Now we must be seriously applying all truth in our daily lives to grow more like Christ (Eph. 4:13). This can be done only by God’s Spirit in us causing us to grow more in His grace (2 Pet. 3:18).

As God’s faithful, we must be measured according to the “measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13) and “grow up into

him in all things” (Eph. 4:15). In every detail, we must walk as He walked (1 John 2:6), abhorring that which is evil, cleaving to that which is good (Rom. 12:9). In short, we must hate sin, spiritual and physical, which is the transgression of God’s laws.

A faithful Philadelphian patiently keeps God’s Word, living by every word, by all of His commandments. Revelation 3:10 declares plainly:

Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The “hour of temptation”—the Great Tribulation—has not happened yet. This fact alone tells us that the work of Philadelphia is still to be done. Mr. Armstrong is dead and his outstanding work was completed. The Worldwide Church of God and her daughter churches have become “the synagogue of Satan,” and Mr. Flurry and the PCG, as the Laodicean work, have become lukewarm. But as Revelation 10:11 states, there is much work to do.

Our main work is to measure ourselves by the example of Christ—to grow more like Our Savior, to have the very mind that He had. We must be constantly striving to overcome, to be completely submissive to the will of God our Father, and to finish His work. As we sincerely struggle to overcome, when the time is right, Christ will open a mighty door for us to complete the greatest work ever by the Church of God. This work will be led by the two witnesses, who will represent the Father and Christ—and the Philadelphia and Laodicea candlesticks.

Revelation 3:8-9 thunders out this amazing statement:

I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 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 come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Then verse 10 declares that we will be protected from the Great Tribulation. This apparently includes some of those of the synagogue of Satan. These begotten sons of God have followed their vain “hireling” ministers into the “churches of god” (John 10:12-13). All of them should remember that God has only one true Church that is not divided into many groups following disagreeing priests of God. And those whose

eyes have been opened to the deception of these ministers, but who sit alone doing their own thing, also will be made to remember that God *always* has one organized true Church.

The four horsemen are galloping across this Earth. The “king of the South” (Islamic extremism) pushed at “the king of the North” (NATO, i.e., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, composed of the major nations of Europe, the United States of America, and Canada). A “whirlwind” of war began on September 11, 2001 that only God can end before all flesh is destroyed (Dan. 11:40, Matt. 24:22). We are in the Day of the Lord. Christ is orchestrating all systems on Earth to bring about the conditions that will make His true Church known. These circumstances will compel the lost sheep snared in the synagogue of Satan to repent, as they behold their own situation and the power exhibited by the door Christ opens to us.

At this moment, the Church of God’s Faithful can be proven to be the true Church, by the new truth revealed to us from God’s Word. Very soon, the power of performing miracles, signs and wonders will accompany the truth, as a sure sign that the CGF is the one true Church. Then, the “midnight cry” of Matthew 25 will thunder forth and awaken the sleeping virgins snared by Satan in his “synagogues.” The wise virgins will quickly come to the CGF as Revelation 3:9 is fulfilled.

(Write, call for, or download our booklet, *Set Apart by Truth*.)

In the Midst of the Years

Let’s look again at Revelation 11:1-2. Here the modern-day John is told to measure the Temple of God. The Temple is symbolic of the true organized Church of God (1 Cor. 3:16). The altar symbolizes the ministry, and those “that worship therein” are all of God’s begotten sons and daughters in the scattered churches, including the Laodiceans and the faithful Philadelphians (See Matt. 25:1-13). All of these are a part of the inner court and must be measured.

Ephesians 4:13 explains the standard of this measuring, and the desired goal: “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.” And verse 15 adds: “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” The CGF has the new truths—the *knowledge of the Son of God*—that must be received by those that are snared by Satan.

Our job, then, is to help all of the brethren in the inner court to grow in the knowledge of Christ, and to be prepared as the bride of Jesus Christ. Christ is here. He has come already, secretly and silently, as the Bridegroom. The Day of the Lord has come, and our task is to awaken—with the midnight cry—all who are spiritually asleep in the synagogues of Satan!

Jesus Christ came secretly, and the Day of the Lord came suddenly, as a thief in the night, on October 1, 1997, over 21 years ago! The question we ask ourselves is: “How much time do we have to complete the work, and to have the Church prepared to be the bride of Jesus Christ?”

Revelation 11:2 states:

But the court which is without the temple *leave out* [see *Strong's* # G1544, which is also rendered “cast out”], and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

This is a frightening verse because it is plainly speaking of those who have been called and chosen as part of God's true Church, but have turned their backs on God with all sorts of excuses.

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Then said he unto him, 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 shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come

in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper (Lk. 14:15-24).

God will cast them out of the inner court (v. 24). They will be left behind when Christ leads His faithful people to the place of safety. Those rebellious individuals must face the beast and the false prophet (the Gentiles). Three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation await them—or worse yet, they will be fuel for “the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15). Jesus Christ is responsible for them and will see that they bow before their Creator, whether they want to or not.

The Greatest Work...Ready to Commence!

In Revelation 11:3, Jesus Christ begins telling a modern-day John what He is going to do: “And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sackcloth.” The word “power” has been added by translators and should not be in this verse. The correct translation is: “I will give unto my two witnesses that they may prophesy...”

However, in verse 6 it is stated:

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.

They will be given plenty of power and authority later on, but in the early stages before their 1260-day ministry begins, they need training and experience to use the power they will be given.

“Jesus Christ, the same today, yesterday, and forever” (Heb.13:8). What did Christ do to train His disciples in the early Church?

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease (Matt. 10:1).

In his *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Spiros Zodhiates’ definition of the word “power,” used in verse 1, is as follows: “#1849 *exousia*:

Permission, authority, right, liberty, power to do anything.”

That, indeed, is power!

Our Lord continues His instruction to His disciples in verse 8: “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons: freely ye have received, freely give.” A little later, He sent out 70 others. Luke 10:1,17 relates their experience:

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come... and the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

They were elated and astonished at the manifestation of God’s power working through them. These men were not yet converted, but they were being powerfully led by God’s Spirit. They had seen with their own eyes the mighty miracles Christ was performing everywhere He went. The blind could see. The deaf could hear. The lame could walk, run and jump. The dead were raised to life. Thousands were fed miraculously. They had seen Christ do these things! They had that wonderful experience and were sent forth to do the same things.

The two witnesses are alive and well at this moment. They do not have the experience, authority, or possibly the faith, at this time, to perform the mighty acts that we read about in Revelation 11:5-6. These two men must be trained to expect to be able to do anything Christ requires. Remember, this is the Day of the Lord; Christ is here as the little book proclaims. And the whole world will soon know this.

Christ tells us in John 14:12-14:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes 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 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.

We know we are in the Day of the Lord. We know Jesus Christ has poured out amazing truths upon the CGF during this short time. And we are asking for more grace and truth, that we may glorify the Father in Christ’s name.

We have eaten the little book. Now God is preparing His true

Church to gather His lost sheep from the synagogue of Satan. He has told us: “Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings” (Rev. 10:11). Of course, this means to the entire world through the ministry of the two witnesses.

God is preparing to give to His faithful Church the opportunities to perform any miracle, act, or deed needed to provide the experience the two witnesses will require. Please think about this and recall that God had to instruct even Moses in regard to performing mighty works (Ex. 4:1-9).

We will continue our knocking on the door of the Laodiceans according to our commission (Rev. 3:20), even though it appears that they have turned deaf ears to us. The midnight cry has been going out to the inner court with some success, but God will make them come to us when the time is right (Rev. 3:9).

This is similar to Christ’s original instructions to the twelve in Matthew 10:5-6: “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.”

Now read verses 16-18:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

All we need to do is what we are told to do. Christ will open mighty doors for us. As great and mighty signs and wonders are seen in God’s faithful Church, the scattered churches will awaken and the wise will quickly come. Then, hopefully, even some of the Laodiceans will notice and come to us.

The Kingdom Is at Hand!

The sequence of events in Matthew 10 compared with Mark 13:3-13, Luke 21:8-19, and the grand announcement of the little book, graphically detail what we can expect in the immediate future. Mark 13:10 declares that “the gospel must first be published among all nations.”

This was the gospel of the Kingdom of God that Mr. Armstrong finished delivering to the world over 28 years ago. Now, the Day of the Lord has come, and the proclamation that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 10:7) will be delivered to the scattered lost sheep—and to the world.

The first four seals have been opened and will shortly be fulfilled in all their horror. However, Luke 21:12 tells us:

But before all these [the fulfillment of the four horsemen’s ride] they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake. (Remember Revelation 10:11.)

The actual fulfillment of all these scriptures will be completed as Jesus Christ brings His two witnesses on the scene. That is sweet news to understand, but bitter trials lie directly ahead.

An Open Door

We are the Church of God’s Faithful, the Philadelphia candlestick. We have the “key of David” (Is. 22:22 and Rev. 3:7) and the “open door.” The PCG is the Laodicean candlestick, and followed Christ for nearly seven years. It is “rich and increased with goods,” as prophecy says it is to be. It boasts of its very obvious material wealth, but its spiritual blessings have been taken away. And everything the PCG possesses will be taken away in the near future, even the lives of its members.

Remember Pelatiah in Ezekiel 11. A split in the PCG may occur, and it seems, from the scriptures in Zechariah 3, that Gerald Flurry, the high-priest of Laodicea, will repent of his abominations and take part in the work of God, announcing the Day of the Lord and Christ’s return as a thief in the night. If Gerald Flurry joins us, will he represent Laodicea as one of the two witnesses? Perhaps this is under way, even as I write. Time will tell.

Please notice our Church seal in the front of this booklet, as we read Revelation 11:3-6:

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 [Zech. 4:3,11-14] standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 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 will be mighty signs, wonders and miracles by the power and authority of God. The little book is open and understood. It is possible that these two humble servants of God will soon boom out the message of the seven thunders to this world. Their ministry of 1260 days will begin before the beast and the false prophet bring on the Great Tribulation.

We will see the whirlwind of Daniel 11:40 greatly accelerate and intensify as the king of the north wages all-out nuclear war with the king of the south. Great destruction and death will be seen, as the United States of America, Britain and Israel are ravaged by economic collapse, racial violence, terrorism and upset weather. The four horsemen will ride to the completion of their ghastly tasks as one-fourth of the population of Planet Earth is destroyed (Rev. 6:8).

Then Jerusalem will be encompassed with armies, and the 1260 days of the beast power's evil rule will bring on the most horrible time of trouble ever on Earth—the Great Tribulation.

The Church must flee to the one and only true place of safety as the two witnesses continue their mighty work. Perhaps, by this time, many Laodiceans and those of the outer court will recognize that we are the true work of God on this Earth. What will they do? Chaos will be progressing over the entire Earth. Many will have waited too long. You need to read and study our booklet, *The Midnight Cry*. The door of the ark will soon close. However, during the Tribulation some will remember and have hope!

There will be no protection except in the place of safety, where Christ will protect and provide for His beloved special treasure. The Day of the Lord is here now! The Tribulation is coming, then the heavenly signs, and the Day of the Lord's Wrath. And that brings us to the visible coming of Christ and the Resurrection of the Firstfruits—then the Kingdom of God!

Conclusion

Dear reader, please study carefully what you have just read. If this is truth from God, you can prove it through the Word of God. We are in the Day of the Lord. This is the grand announcement, proclaimed by Jesus Christ in the little book of Revelation 10. Man's time is no more! Overcoming must be your first priority. We all must be extremely urgent about this, as we humbly draw closer to Christ, becoming more like Him, striving to have the mind of Christ, to think as He does. God will give this little Church the power to accomplish all that has been stated in this booklet. We must do the will of God. We must finish the work (John 4:34). The Father and Christ are depending on us! We will patiently wait and thereby be blessed (Dan. 12:12).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...yea, the deep things of God (Rev. 3:13 and 1 Cor. 2:10).



All of our literature is available at our website: www.setapartbytruth.org. Or you may write or call for our free booklets. 843-462-7977. Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Drive, Harleyville, SC 29448. Please write or call with any questions you might have. We are here to help.