



THE DAY OF THE LORD

6000 Years HAVE Ended

By Robert Ardis

The Day of the Lord

by Robert G. Ardis



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The Church of God's Faithful

136 Woodland Drive
Harleyville, SC 29448

First edition 1998

Second edition 2000

Revised third edition 2006

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Edited for online reading 2024

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6000 years have ended!

Where are we now in God's master plan? Can we know?

What is "The Day of the Lord"?

Are you sure you understand, or do you just think you know?

Do you realize that the Four Horsemen have been released
and the Great Tribulation looms directly ahead?

You will be astounded by the new truth revealed in this booklet!

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Chapter One:



God's Master Plan

*I*n the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:1-4,14).

The Holy Bible states in the scriptures above that God and the Word (who became Jesus Christ) have existed from the beginning. The Word created all creation, the entire known Universe. This great being, who became flesh and dwelt among us, also created the invisible spirit world that man cannot see. All angels, including the super angels Lucifer, Gabriel, and Michael, were made by Him (see Ezekiel 28:15).

The apostle Paul proclaims about Jesus Christ:

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over every creature: For by him were all things made that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: and he is before all things and by him all things consist (Col 1:15-17).

The patriarch Job records the words of the great Creator:

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding ... Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all of the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4,6-7)

Genesis 1:1 verifies that, at an indeterminate time, God completed the creation. At that time, He positioned Earth and millions of other planets in the heavens. But Earth was unique. At the creation of the earth, the angels were overjoyed. God has a plan! But why—for what purpose were all things created?

Herbert W. Armstrong, in his last and greatest literary accomplishment, *Mystery of the Ages*, explained the creation of the

universe and the angels' part in it. In the section "The Mystery of Angels and Evil Spirits," pages 88 and 89, Mr. Armstrong wrote:

Remember, this earth, originally, was intended to be the abode of a third of all the angels. The angels beholding the earth at its creation, found it so beautiful and perfect they shouted spontaneously for joy. It was to provide a glorious opportunity for them. They were to work it, produce from it, and preserve and increase its beauty.

And at this point, it is well to understand the nature of God's original creation: It is like the unfinished furniture available in some stores. This furniture is "in the raw"—it is finished all but for the final varnish, polish, or paint. Some can save money by doing this *finishing* themselves—provided they have the skill to do so. This furniture may be of fine and superb quality—yet lacking the final beautifying *completion*.

So it is with God's creation. It is *perfect, but subject to a beautifying finish that God intended* angels to accomplish. The original "unfinished" creation was produced by God *alone*. But He intended angels, prehistorically, and man, now, to utilize creative power—to finish this part in God's creation—of adding the final beautifying and utilitarian phases of what shall be the FINAL COMPLETED CREATION!

Lucifer, the great archangel, was given rule over the earth with one third of the angels. But Lucifer sinned. Excerpts from *Mystery of the Ages* (MoA) continue:

Yet this great being, knowledgeable, trained and experienced at God's own throne in Heaven over the universe and the administration of the government of God, corrupted his way, rebelled against administering or even obeying it. He had led all his angels astray and into the sin of rebellion (p. 87).

God changed the adversary's NAME to what he became, Satan, the devil—Satan means adversary, competitor, enemy.

Satan directed his supernatural powers henceforth to EVIL. He became bitter not only against God, but against God's laws. He used his subtle wiles of deception to lead the angels under him into disloyalty, rebellion and revolt against the Creator and finally into a WAR of aggression and violence to attempt to depose God and seize the throne of the UNIVERSE.

Their penalty (they are still waiting final judgment up to

now) was disqualification— forfeiture of their grand opportunity, perversion of mind, and a *colossal earthwide* CATAclysm of destruction wreaked upon this earth....

As a result, the earth came to the condition briefly described in Genesis 1:2 (p. 91-92).

Renewing

Genesis 1:2 states: “And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” How long the Earth was left in this condition is not revealed in Scripture. Satan’s rebellion had brought spiritual and physical darkness to Earth. Mr. Armstrong made the following comment on pages 93-94 of *Mystery of the Ages*:

As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy, he must have realized that since the highest, most perfect being within his almighty power to create, had turned to rebellion, it left God himself as the only being who would not and cannot sin.

God had a plan and it involved time!

The last phrase of verse 2 establishes the fact that time had come for a re-creation of Earth and our immediate solar system, “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” A re-creation was necessary due to the destruction that had occurred in the rebellion and ensuing war caused by Satan. The beautiful Earth and parts of the solar system were damaged or destroyed. They became *without form and void*. “Without form and void” are from the Hebrew words “tohu” and “bohu,” which mean “to lie waste, an indistinguishable ruin, a desolation” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, #8414 and #922). God did not make Earth this way; it became this way at the revolt of Satan. Isaiah 45:18 confirms this:

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain [#8414], he formed it to be inhabited.

This verse says God did not create the earth in vain—not “tohu.” This is the same word used in Genesis 1:2. God created it in such perfection that the angels shouted for joy. It became “tohu” and “bohu”

through the rebellion of Satan and his demons.

The words “deep” and “waters” in Genesis 1:2 mean just what they imply. These words are #8415 and #4325 in *Strong's* and are defined as “An abyss (as a surging mass of water) especially the deep (the main sea or the sub-terranean water supply)—water.” These verses prove that the Earth, Sun, Moon, our solar system, and the entire Universe had been created at a previous time. This was a renewing, a repairing of what already existed. If the Sun had not been in existence (though hidden by dense clouds similar to the atmosphere of our sister planet Venus), ice would have covered the Earth. God's word states, “The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters,” not ice. “Ice” is *Strong's* #7140, defined as “ice, hail, or frost.”

This fact is conclusive proof that a re-creation was beginning in Genesis 1:2.

Thus, we come to this time, years ago, when God was ready to renew the face of the Earth and to commence this phase of the creation of His ultimate masterpiece. God and the Word were preparing to create God-beings, just like themselves.

And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Gen 1:26-27).

Mr. Armstrong continues:

God saw that no being less than God, in the God family, could be *certainly* relied on never to sin—to be like God—who cannot sin. To fulfill his purpose for the entire vast universe, God saw that nothing less than himself (as the God family) could be absolutely relied upon to carry out that supreme purpose throughout the entire universe.

God then purposed to *reproduce himself*, through humans, made in his image and likeness, but first from material flesh and blood, subject to death if there is sin unrepented of—yet with the possibility of being born into the divine family begotten by God, the Father. God saw how this could be done through Christ, who gave himself for that purpose.

And that is why God put man on the earth! ... to reproduce

himself! (MoA, p. 94-95)

Cut Off from God's Spirit

Earth was renewed. Genesis 1:3-2:3 describes the seven-day creation of all living things and the Sabbath. On the sixth day, God created Adam and placed him in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Shortly afterward, He created Eve and brought her to Adam as his wife. Adam had the opportunity to replace Satan on Earth's throne and restore the government of God. But, as Mr. Armstrong has written:

The first human, Adam, was created with the potential of qualifying to replace Satan, the former Lucifer, on earth's throne, restoring the GOVERNMENT of God.

But it was necessary that he resist and reject Satan's "GET" way, which was the foundation of Satan's evil government, and choose God's WAY of LOVE (GIVE), the basis of God's government!

His Maker talked first to Adam and Eve—instructed them in the GOVERNMENT and spiritual LAW of God—though in Gen. 2, only the most condensed summary of God's instructions to them is revealed. Satan was restrained from any contact with them until God first had taught them (MoA, p. 114-115).

God instructed Adam in the way he should go, but how long did he pursue God's way? The scriptures do not reveal how long it was until Adam sinned by eating the forbidden fruit his wife offered him.

Adam and Eve did not have the Spirit of God and were carnal-minded human beings (Rom 8:7). Eden was a perfect place to live, and an evil world did not influence them, since they *were* the world. Although Adam and his wife were physically perfect, and God instructed them personally, they were still inexperienced and must have had a childlike naivete. How long did it take Adam to succumb to the deceptive wiles of Satan the devil? Probably not long.

Mr. Armstrong continued this subject in *Mystery of the Ages* on pages 119-120:

The wily Satan got to Adam through his wife Eve. He did not say, "Choose MY WAY!" He appeared as a subtle serpent. He cleverly deceived her.

He put DOUBTS in her mind about God's veracity. He put a sense of injustice and resentment within her. He deceived her into believing God had been unfair—selfish. He subtly injected vanity of mind. He misled her into thinking it was *right* to take of the forbidden fruit.

Adam, not deceived, nevertheless, went along with his wife. With her, he took to himself the determination of what is right and what is wrong—thus DISBELIEVING what his Maker had said, REJECTING God as Savior and Ruler—rejecting God as the source of revealed basic KNOWLEDGE. He believed and followed Satan's WAY!

Remember, Adam and Eve were the only people on Earth. Satan viewed Adam as a direct threat to his position as ruler of Earth. Therefore, he directed all of his energies into causing Adam to sin. Did it take a day, a week, or how long? How many days or weeks have you been able to live perfectly, without sin, even though you have God's Spirit? Think about it!

Continuing quotes from *Mystery of the Ages*, pages 120-122:

When God “drove out the man” from the Garden of Eden, and barred reentrance—lest he go back and receive eternal life *in sin* (Gen. 3:22-24) – God PRONOUNCED SENTENCE!

God said in effect: “You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge—you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way—you have rebelled against my command and my government—you have chosen the ‘GETTING,’ ‘TAKING’ way of Satan. Therefore, I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6000 YEARS of being *cut off* from access to me and my Spirit—except for the exceedingly FEW I shall specially call...

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.

God thereupon, at the very foundation of this world, laid out a

7000-year master plan for accomplishing His purpose.

Where Now?

The critical question is: Where are we now in God's master plan? When is Christ going to intervene supernaturally? Is it possible that Christ will supernaturally intervene *before* man's world "confesses the utter hopelessness of the way of life they have chosen," instead of *after*, as Mr. Armstrong has written above? Don't the scriptures declare that His supernatural intervention is what will compel mankind to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life he has chosen? Yes! And we will prove this as we proceed.

How did Herbert W. Armstrong come to understand God's master plan? God revealed much of this to him through the feast days listed in Leviticus 23. The Church of God's Faithful depicts God's master plan each year as we observe these seven annual feasts of the Lord.

(Our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost... Which?*, discusses the first three feast days. The booklet brings out the overwhelming proof of the visible return of Christ for His firstfruits on a future Day of Pentecost—at the First Resurrection. Please request your free copy or download it from our website, www.setapartby-truth.org)

The fourth feast day of the year, which occurs on the first day of the seventh month of the holy calendar, is the Feast of Trumpets (Lev 23:24). This holy day pictures the one year of the Day of the Lord's Wrath. The Day of His Wrath is the seventh seal, which only the mighty Christ can open (See Rev 5:9, 6:17, 8:1). The seventh seal consists of the seven trumpet plagues and the seven last plagues, culminating in Christ's return with the firstfruits to take over rule of the Earth.

The fifth feast day, the Day of Atonement, depicts the binding of Satan and at-one-ment, or complete unity, with God (Lev 23:26-32). The sixth holy day is the Feast of Tabernacles (vv 33-35), which pictures the 1000-year reign of those of the First Resurrection. They will rule as kings and priests under Jesus Christ. Each year's seventh and final feast day is the Last Great Day (vv 36,39), which pictures the Second Resurrection.

Mr. Armstrong believed the Last Great Day to be 100 years, and he called it "the Great White Throne Judgment." The Second Resurrection

occurs after the 1000-year reign of Christ and the firstfruits, after the release of Satan to deceive Gog and Magog, and after the annihilation of the millions of humans Satan will deceive (Rev 20:8-9). Are those millions lost forever for attempting to overthrow the headquarters of the King of Kings? Our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*, thoroughly explains the truth about these future events. Call or write us and request your free copy, or download it from our website.

Mr. Armstrong taught us a 7000-year plan. However, he knew that if the Second Resurrection and the "Great White Throne Judgment," which he believed to be 100 years, were included, the total would be 7100 years. He said:

God thereupon, at the very foundation of this world, laid out a 7000-year master plan for accomplishing his purpose.

Why did Mr. Armstrong omit the time of the Second Resurrection? We will explain this as we proceed.

Can We Know?

When will the 6000 years of man's misrule expire, and God supernaturally intervene? If we knew the time of the renewing of the face of the Earth and the creation of Adam, it would be simple for almost anyone to calculate when 6000 years would end. We don't know exactly when Adam sinned and had to leave the Garden of Eden. But the Bible seems to indicate that this happened shortly after the creation. This booklet will show how to closely determine the date of Earth's renewal. Consequently, the time of Adam's expulsion and the overall plan of God can be explained by the principle expressed in Romans 9:28:

For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

Regardless of when Adam sinned, God can begin the 6000-year sentence from the point of His creation, which we can calculate in righteousness.

Genesis 5 and 11 contain the genealogies from Adam to Abram. These genealogies are painstaking records, giving the age at which a man sired a son and the age of that man when he died, generation after

generation.

In his *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Spiros Zodhiates comments on the book of Genesis:

The chronology which one often finds in the marginal notes of the older Bibles, notably in the Authorized Version of the King James, is not a part of the Bible itself by any means! Archbishop Usher arrived at the date of 4004 BC by using his calculations of the years in the patriarchal genealogies (Gen. 5, 11). A comparison of these genealogies with those in the Gospels will reveal that biblical genealogies are not necessarily complete by design, nor were they given to allow us to calculate the span of time between various events in the early history of man.

The statement by Mr. Zodhiates is only his opinion. Comparing the genealogies in the Old and New Testaments reveals only one difference between the two lists of names. The name *Cainan* is the only variance in the listings. *Ungers' Bible Dictionary* explains:

Cainan: The son of Arphaxad and father of Shelah, according to Luke 3:35-36. He is nowhere named in the Heb. text, nor in any of the versions made from it, such as the Samaritan, Aram., Syr., Vulg., etc. It is believed by many that the name was not originally in the text, even of Luke, but is an addition of careless transcribers from the LXX.

Scribal errors certainly can occur. Satan tries to hide important spiritual information. But our great God will make His truth known to those who fear Him and keep His commandments (Jn 16:13; 1 Cor 2:10).

There was a precise time when God renewed the face of the Earth. At that time, He also set the solar system to be a gauge for His plan. In the 1650s, Bishop James Ussher published his creation calculation as 4004 BCE. Many versions of the Bible show this date in the margin comments. In his *Wall Map of World History*, Professor Edward Hull confirms Bishop Ussher's calculations. Although not all historians and scholars agree with that date, most Bible teachers refer to it for the creation.

In the New Testament, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Mat 4:4; Lk 4:4). The apostle Paul was inspired to write in 2 Timothy 3:16-17,

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

All scripture would include the early genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11, and 2 Peter 3:8:

But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Pattern

God called Herbert Armstrong to fulfill many prophecies. One was the office of the end-time Elijah, who would “restore all things” (Mal 4:5-6 and Mat 17:10-11). “Restore all things” refers to all things God gave him to restore, namely the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. But Jesus Christ, Himself, will restore *all* things, as plainly stated in Acts 3:20-21:

And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of *all things*, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

God revealed His master plan to Mr. Armstrong, but not every detail. The overall master plan was restored to the Church, and Mr. Armstrong saw that the seven-day week was the pattern for this plan. God has given man six days to make his choice of work and activities, but “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God” (Exo 20:10). On the Sabbath, God rested from His work of renewing and creating; thus, the Sabbath is a memorial of creation. God blessed and sanctified the seventh day and commanded man to keep it holy (Gen 2:2-3; Exo 20:8-11; Mk 2:27-28). This seven-day pattern has existed since the creation of Adam. Six days each week are for man’s work. The seventh day, the Sabbath Day, is God’s holy day on which man is to rest and keep the day holy. This pattern of the seven-day week has been constant and unbroken since Adam and the renewing of the Earth.

Mr. Armstrong recognized the pattern and applied it spiritually. 2 Pet 3:8 states:

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day.

Applying this principle to the weekly pattern, Mr. Armstrong understood that God gave mankind six one-thousand-year days to go his own way, but the seventh day belongs to the Lord. The great fulfillment of this symbolic week will not repeat like the weekly cycle. The Lord's Day is to continue for eternity. Within the Lord's Day, there will be a 1000-year Sabbath rest (Heb 4:1-9), or "the World Tomorrow," with Jesus Christ reigning with the saints. Following that period, Satan will be released and will deceive "the nations in the four quarters of the earth" (Rev 20:8). Finally, after Christ crushes that rebellion, the Second Resurrection will occur. Mr. Armstrong believed this to be another 100 years into the Day of the Lord, but all within God's seven-day spiritual week.

Mr. Armstrong probably expended much energy on research into the time of creation. Understanding that the weekly cycle is a pattern for God's plan, he readily perceived how Bishop Ussher's calculations fit precisely into the spiritual seven-day plan. We would not be giving Mr. Armstrong due respect if we thought he did not understand that the seventh day of the spiritual week would last for eternity.

Jewish tradition places the seventh day of Genesis 1 as the weekly Sabbath and the first day of Tishri, the beginning of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. When the Word rested on that first Sabbath, Earth had been renewed to a harvest-time condition to provide food for all the complex living creatures and organisms. Today, the Jews observe the first day of the seventh month as New Year's Day.

Starting Point

We have asked the following question: At what historical point was Earth's renewal and the creation of Adam? Some authorities believe this creation was physically complete when God rested from His labors on the first of Tishri, 4004 BC. Then the great God who created everything (Jn 1:1-3) came to Planet Earth as a tiny babe 4000 years

later. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was very likely born on or around the first day of the seventh month in 4 BC. Four complete millennial days had swiftly gone by, and God's Word had predicted the time of His first coming (Dan 9:25).

Professor Edward Hull laid out these dates in his *Wall Map of World History*. We old-timers and former members of the Worldwide Church of God were taught many years ago that Jesus was born on or around the Feast of Trumpets in 4 BC. Mr. Armstrong, Dr. Herman Hoeh, and other ministers and writers of the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines gave sermons and wrote several articles on this important subject.

Most "Christians" have never really questioned when Jesus was born. Most of these sincere people assume Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day over 2000 years ago, but few have ever tried to prove their beliefs, even though many first-rate encyclopedias, books, and articles about Christmas and its ancient pagan origin are readily available. Jesus Christ was not born on December 25. (If you need information about the origin of Christmas, please contact us.) The actual time of His birth (and His death and resurrection) are prophesied in detail in God's Word.

True Christianity is based on the fact that the Creator of all things gave up the power of His divinity and came to Earth as a helpless newborn babe. There is much controversy over the exact time of His birth. But an honest search into the Scriptures and authentic history accurately answers the question, "When was Jesus born?"

The book of the prophet Daniel records the "seventy weeks prophecy," supplying the clues to determine when Jesus Christ was born:

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks [a total of 69 weeks]: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall

Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined (Dan 9:24-26).

Numbers 14:34 gives us a key to understanding Bible prophecy: “each day for a year.” Also Ezekiel 4:5-6: “I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days ... I have appointed thee each day for a year.” Thus, a day of prophetic fulfillment equals a year of actual time. Sixty-nine weeks of prophetic fulfillment would be 69×7 days per week = 483 years of actual time.

Ezra, the priest, records the exact time when the “commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem” was decreed by King Artaxerxes of Persia:

And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which *was* in the seventh year of the king ... Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe” (Ezr 7:8,11).

This decree officially recognized Jerusalem as a provincial capital city within the Persian realm. The Jews were to rebuild it and have their own governor. King Artaxerxes’ seventh year was from September 458 BC to September 457 BC. The 483 years of the 69-week prophecy was fulfilled from 457 BC to AD 27, when Jesus, the Messiah, began His ministry. Here is how to calculate the date:

69 x 7 =	483 years
minus	457 BC, the year of the decree.
That leaves a subtotal of.....	26 years, or AD 26.
Compensation for no year zero...	+1
The correct final figure is.....	27 years, or AD 27

There was no actual year zero, which should have been between 1BC and AD1. So we must add a year to compensate. Thus, the correct final figure is AD 27.

Remember, Daniel 9 contains the seventy-week prophecy, and we have not yet looked at the last seven years of the prophecy—the seventieth week. This last prophetic week is vitally important. Verse 27 declares:

And he [Jesus Christ] shall confirm the covenant [the New Covenant] with many for one week [the 70th week = 7 actual years]: and in the midst of the week [the middle of the prophetic week, or after 3½ years] he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.

Daniel prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would be cut off “in the midst of the week.” In other words, Jesus would be killed as the sacrifice for the sins of the entire world after 3½ years of ministry.

His ministry began in the autumn of AD 27, which was AD 27½. The addition of 3½ years to AD 27½ makes it evident the year of His death would be the Spring of AD 31.

By the Spirit of God, Luke, the physician, records that Jesus was about thirty when John baptized Him.

Now that we have determined that He was 30 years old in the autumn of AD 27, it is simple to calculate the year of His birth. Since Jesus was about thirty years old at His baptism in AD 27, He must have been born in 4 BC.

Since we have calculated Jesus' birth year using the Bible's prophecies and history, can we also calculate the season or month of His birth?

Yes, we can! We old-timers learned this back in the late 60s and early 70s. Scripture, history, and the Hebrew calendar proved to us that the birth (first coming) of Jesus Christ was within two weeks of the first day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar. It is abundantly clear from Biblical, historical, and calendar evidence that Jesus Christ was not born in Winter or Spring. Thus, Jesus could not have been born on Christmas day. The overwhelming evidence strongly points to the birth of Jesus Christ being within two weeks of the Feast of Trumpets, 4 BC.

From Here to Eternity

The first day of the seventh month, 4 BC, was 4000 years from the completion of the renewing of the Earth, the creation of Adam, and God resting on the seventh day. This total of four one-thousand-year days appears to be corroborating proof that 4004 BC was when God began 6000 years of allowing man to choose his own way under Satan's influence. According to His plan for the spiritual creation of millions

of God-beings, God inserted six thousand years into His eternal time beginning in 4004 BC. Knowing that date, we can easily understand when the 6000 years should end and God's eternal time—the Day of the Lord—begin again.

Let's do a simple calculation, as we did above.

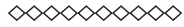
Renewing of the earth.....	=	4004	BC
Birth of Jesus Christ.....	-	<u>4</u>	BC
	=	4000	years completed
6000 years minus 4000	=	2000	years left to be fulfilled
Minus	-	<u>4</u>	BC
Uncorrected date	=	1996	AD
Compensate for no year 0 ...	+ <u>1</u>		
Corrected year	=	1997	AD; End of 6000 years.

The first day of the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar (God's Feast of Trumpets) in 1997 began the evening of October 1. On that date, by the best calculations, 6000 years of man's time under the influence of Satan ended, and God's time, the Day of the Lord, eternity, began once again.

Could that be true? Has God begun to supernaturally intervene in men's affairs, as Mr. Armstrong declared?

Has the Day of the Lord begun? If it has, where is Christ?

Chapter Two:



No Man Will Know—Until!

For many years, I have counted days. Most of us who study the prophecies of the Bible know that God says He will reveal His truths to those who reverence, honor, and fear Him. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secrets to his servants the prophets” (Amo 3:7). Psalm 25:14 gives additional assurance: “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will show them his covenant.” And John 16:13 states:

Howbeit when it, the Spirit of truth, is come, it will guide you into all truth: for it shall not speak of itself; but whatsoever it shall hear, that shall it speak: and it will show you things to come.

One of the “things to come” we have always sought to understand was: When will Christ and the Day of the Lord come? On the evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997, as I began to prepare the sermon for the holy day, I knew that 6000 years were supposed to be ending. However, the Great Tribulation had not yet occurred, nor had the heavenly signs (Mk 24:21,29; Lk 21:25) that are to usher in the great Day of His Wrath. I knew that the Day of the Lord’s Wrath was to occur *after* these awesome events.

Are we foolish to think that man could accurately determine the time of the creation of Adam, or had the time finally come for us to understand more hidden truth? Had God held back a vital truth from the Church until this specific time and then suddenly revealed it?

Revelation of this astounding truth can bring to light other vitally important prophecies, one at a time. God does everything perfectly and right on time.

God Expects His Faithful to Understand

There are quite a few prophecies in the Bible that give a specific number of days for events to occur. For example:

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days (Dan 12:11).

In his gospel, Mark has written:

But when you shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing where it ought not, (let him that reads understand,) then let him that be in Judea flee to the mountains (Mk 13:14).

Here, the Word of God exhorts us to understand the prophecies that refer to a number of days.

Verses 12-13 of Daniel 12 give more meaning to the time spoken of here:

Blessed is he that waits and comes to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go your way till the end be: for you shall rest, and stand in your lot at the end of the days.

This clearly reveals that Daniel would die but “stand” in the Resurrection at the end of the days—when Christ returns at the second coming. Revelation 12:14 adds more:

And to the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, times and a half of time, from the face of the serpent.

These scriptures inform us that a significant event will soon occur, and true Christians had better be watching and waiting. When this event does occur, the faithful (Rev 17:14) will understand and flee. God will take them to a place of safety for a time, times, and a half of time (Dan 12:7). A short time before the flight of the Church, the two witnesses will begin their 1260-day ministry (3½ years), and at the completion of their work, they will be killed. “And they of the people and kindred and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies” (Rev 11:4-13). But then, after 3½ days, they will be resurrected and ascend into the heavens along with the other righteous dead (like Daniel) at the return of Christ. Faithful Christians who are alive and remain (in the place of safety) will instantly be changed from flesh to spirit and

also rise to meet Christ in the clouds. Again, see Revelation 11:4-12 compared with 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:52-54.

(Write for our free booklets; *Petra ... Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?* and, *The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost ... Which?* These booklets reveal, from the Word of God, the truth about the events leading up to, during, and after the 3½ years.)

Doesn't it make sense that a real Christian will:

1. see these mighty events beginning to occur,
2. flee as God instructs him to do,
3. enter the place of safety,
4. know that the two witnesses are fulfilling their ministry,
5. begin counting these specifically numbered days and know when Christ will return—at the end of the days?

Why couldn't we know the day or the hour? Or at least the week, month, or year?

The Time Is at Hand

“The time is at hand” (Rev 1:3; 22:10). That is where my thoughts were on the evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997, as I asked God to inspire me in my sermon preparation.

I began reading Revelation, chapter 1:

Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (v 3).

And the time really was at hand! As I read verses 9-10, I was utterly amazed at the thought that hit me like a lightning bolt!

I, John, who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on *the Lord's day*.

I was amazed and startled! How many times had I read those verses? But now they shouted out the truth that God had kept hidden.

It was a mystery, a secret—until the very time this fantastic event happened!

What would you consider to be the greatest, most safeguarded secret in the Bible? What mystery would be tucked away in the Word of God that no one could understand until certain events occurred?

Revelation 10:7 states, “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, *the mystery of God* should be finished.” (My emphasis)

What is the mystery of God? The greatest mystery of all time, known only by God Almighty? Matthew 24:36 records Jesus’ statement of this secret: “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only” (also Mk 13:32). This is indeed a great mystery. But which day and hour is it that only the Father knows?

Continue reading Matthew’s account: “But as in the days of Noah were, so shall also the *coming of the Son of man* be” (v 37). The greatest mystery of all time, known only by the Father, is the *time*, day, and hour of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Proceed now to Matthew 24:38-44:

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. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left. Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come. But know this, that if the good man 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 you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes.

This great mystery, or secret known only by the Father, was the time of the coming of Christ. Jesus describes His Coming as a time when everything is going along as usual—eating, drinking, marrying, etc.—until Christ comes suddenly, unexpectedly, “like a thief,” while society is entirely unaware. No one, other than God Himself, knew this.

Notice that I state this in the past tense. No one I know of who was

a Church of God member under Mr. Armstrong is expecting Jesus to return before the Great Tribulation. All of the former WCG churches believe that the above scriptures address Jesus' *visible* return (which does come after the Great Tribulation, the heavenly signs, and the Day of the Lord's Wrath). We all thought that in the past, but that is not the time Jesus described in these passages.

Matthew 24:38 pictures a time of normal activity, as it is today—not conditions after the Tribulation has destroyed most of the earth and much of humanity. Let me emphasize Matthew 24:44: "Therefore be you ready: for in such *an hour as you think not* the Son of man comes." Please understand—the visible return of Christ (Rev 1:7) will not be an unexpected event. The two witnesses will announce the visible coming of Jesus Christ *in advance* to the whole world.

The two witnesses will know their ministry lasts 1260 days (Rev 11:3,7). During their ministry, they will call down the trumpet plagues as Moses and Aaron did anciently. And they will inform the entire world of the exact time of the visible return of Jesus Christ. Read about this in Revelation 11:3-15. Verse 6 states:

These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

These two prophets will be killed at the end of their 1260-day ministry. Their death occurs 3½ days before the last trumpet sounds to usher in the second visible coming of Jesus Christ—and the Resurrection of the saints.

Proceed with verses 9-12:

And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts to one another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelled on the earth. And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended

up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. (See also 1 Cor 15:51-52 and 1 Thes 4:16.)

Revelation 1:7 proclaims: “Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him...” His visible coming will not be as a thief, unexpected and sudden, but the two witnesses will proclaim it to the entire world in advance. Mighty, fantastic sights and sounds will accompany the visible return of Christ. Everyone on Earth will see and hear it all. Revelation 11:15 informs us that these incredible events will happen as the last trumpet sounds.

All inhabitants of Earth who are still alive at that time will be warned. Even as they rejoice over the two witnesses’ deaths, you can be sure they will be counting the days, hours, and minutes, and will be fearfully waiting for something to happen at the end of 3½ days. The two witnesses’ resurrection and Christ’s visible appearance will not be as a thief in the night. It will be expected!

The great secret, the mystery of God, the wonderful new truth revealed to the Church of God’s Faithful is that Christ has already returned! The Day of the Lord has come *as a thief in the night*. He has come suddenly *to His Temple*.

Revelation 1:10 says John was projected into the Lord’s Day. Everything John recorded in the Book of Revelation is what he saw occurring during the Lord’s Day.

After precisely 6000 years, God made the scripture very plain to me—He opened my mind to the biblical fact that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are not one event. The Day of the Lord’s Wrath is only one year and is the seventh of the seven seals. All seven seals are opened during the Day of the Lord. What we had not realized before, the reason we could not know the day or the hour, the Father’s great secret, was now revealed.

John observes everything in the book of Revelation from the point of view of our present time. Chapters 2 and 3 summarize the history of God’s Church from its New Testament beginning in 31 AD. This history and prophecy extend from the Ephesian era through the end of the Laodicean era and will be completed very soon in the Day of the Lord, now here.

Chapters 4 and 5 show John projected into Heaven on the Lord’s Day. He beholds the mighty Heavenly scene in the throne room of Almighty God. The Father has a book (scroll) in His hand. Only Jesus

Christ, the Lamb of God, can receive the book from the Father's hand and open the seals on the book. The seven seals cover the remaining chapters of the book of Revelation, and John observes Christ opening all seven seals in the Day of the Lord.

Prophecies that have long been closed to our understanding are now plain truth that makes so much sense.

As a Thief in the Night

The next vital point to consider is in 2 Peter 3:9-10:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Peter emphasizes that in the last days people would scoff:

And saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation (v 4).

Some today scoff at the statement that 6000 years have elapsed and the Day of the Lord has come. Nevertheless, He is *not slack* concerning His promise. Verse 10 is clear: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."

And it did!

Apparently, no one accepts what Revelation 1:10 and 2 Peter 3:10 plainly state. Yet these scriptures mean precisely what they state. John was projected, in the Spirit, into the Day of the Lord. We could not know the day or the hour until the time came. Then God allowed us to understand the meaning of the Day of the Lord, which came as a thief in the night.

"In the Which"

The Day of the Lord is God's time again, following the insertion of 6000 years allotted to man under the devil's influence. At last, Christ will supernaturally intervene. God's time, which began again at the end of the 6000 years, will last throughout eternity.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; *in the which* the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up ... Looking for and hasting unto of the coming of the day of God [the Father] (2 Peter 3:10,12).

Study these verses carefully. Notice the expression “in the which.” The Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night. It continues right on through the time “in the which” the Great Tribulation occurs, “in the which” Christ visibly returns for the firstfruits, “in the which” the 1000-year reign of Christ and the saints will occur, “in the which” is the 1000-year Last Great Day, and “in the which” Earth will become Universe headquarters and the Father’s dwelling place. The Day of the Lord extends throughout all eternity.

It came “as a thief in the night” because we were not looking for it. We assumed the Day of the Lord was the seventh seal, the Day of the Lord’s Wrath. Neither the Great Tribulation nor the heavenly signs had occurred; therefore, we did not think it was time for the Lord’s Day. We did not understand that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are two different periods. The Day of His Wrath is only a one-year period within the Day of the Lord, which began *before* any seals were opened and which continues forever.

Please understand—Christ opens all seven seals *during* the Day of the Lord. God revealed this truth to us at the precise moment to fulfill 2 Peter 3:10: “But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night ...” And indeed, it did!

This statement from the Word of God cannot happen again at any other time. Why? Because now we understand the meaning of the Day of the Lord. We had thought only of the Day of the Lord’s Wrath, but now God has revealed the truth. It can never happen again *as a thief in the night*.

In the Day of the Lord, John sees Christ opening the first four seals and releasing the Four Horsemen. As Jesus Christ rips open each of these mighty seals, John hears the voices of the awesome living creatures. Each cries out in succession, “Come and see” (Rev 6:1,3,5,7). Are they crying out for John to come and see? John does observe these fantastic events unfolding. But the living creatures are actually crying out for Christ to come and see the effect that the opening of the seals

is having on the earth.

The Greek word rendered “come” is *Strong’s #2064, erchomai*. The KJV also uses this word as “go” or “went.” In fact, Matthew uses it as “come” and “go”: “And he said, *Come* [#2064]. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to *go* [#2064] to Jesus (Mat 14:29).

The first eight verses of Revelation 6 describe the release of the Four Horsemen and their horrible effects as they gallop over the Earth. The living creatures are crying out to Christ to go and see if the horsemen have all conditions ready for opening the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation. The horsemen are now racing forth to perform their grisly tasks that will cause the death of one-quarter of Earth’s population and bring the Beast onto the world scene. The tenth year of their ride begins on the Feast of Trumpets, September 23, 2006. Jesus Christ has much to do now, in the Day of the Lord!

Visits

Our Lord has always watched over the affairs of humankind. He saw the world’s evils in Noah’s day and instructed Noah to build the ark (Gen 6-7). God observed the building of the tower of Babel and went down and confounded the people’s languages (Gen 11:1-9). He visited Abraham and informed him of His plan to destroy Sodom and the cities of the plain (Gen 18:20-21). He even sat with Abraham and two angels and enjoyed a meal (Gen 18:1-8). Christ the Lord called Moses up to the top of Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai) and talked with Moses from the burning bush (Exo 3:1-6). He brought the plagues upon Egypt and opened the Red Sea for the Israelites to escape (Exo 7-14). He appeared every day and night for forty years in the pillars of cloud and fire to the Israelites. Throughout the Old Testament, we read about His appearances to His people. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon even saw Him inside the raging fiery furnace, walking and talking with Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego (Dan 3:23-26).

After His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven, Jesus appeared to the apostle Paul in brilliant glory, so bright that Paul was blinded (Acts 9:3-6). He came to Paul again just before he was martyred, to strengthen him (2Tim 4:16-17). Visits have been the Lord’s way of staying involved in His plan. He visits Earth! Now, as

one of history's most important events is beginning to happen, this great God-being undoubtedly wants to come and inspect, investigate, discern, and evaluate to be sure that everything is ready to happen as prophesied.

His first action as He returns as a thief (Mat 24:42-43, Luke 12:39-40) is to fulfill Malachi 3:1:

Behold, I will send my messenger [John the Baptist at Christ's first coming, and Herbert Armstrong at Christ's second coming], and he will prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple.

Jesus Christ has suddenly come to His Temple (His Church) and found it primarily in rebellion, chaos, and confusion—divided, split, splintered, and blind. Nevertheless, a tiny group of faithful remains in the Temple's inner court (Rev 11:1). Can you grasp the reality that Christ has suddenly come?

God's faithful people are humbled and thrilled to receive this new understanding. God expects this revelation to generate a sense of extreme urgency to overcome our sinful nature and become more Christ-like. We must struggle to overcome as Christ did (Rev 3:21). 2 Peter 3:11 declares,

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you be to in all holy conversation [behavior, conduct] and godliness.

Realizing that Christ has come suddenly to His Temple, we must strive mightily to overcome the pulls of our carnal minds, this plague of our human heart (Rom 8:7 and 1 Kgs 8:38).

Watch you therefore and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man (Lk 21:36).

Return to Malachi 3:1-2

...and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap.

Who will stand when He comes suddenly to His Temple? What will He do now, since He has suddenly returned? The KJV says, "... who shall stand when he appears," but the Hebrew word for "appears" or "appeareth" is Strong's #7200, *ra'ah*. This same word is used right across the page in my Bible as "discern."

Then shall ye return, and *discern* [#7200] between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serves God and him that serves him not (Mal 3:18).

No one has seen Christ yet. He hasn't come to appear—yet! He has come to His Temple and is *discerning*: who are the righteous and who are the wicked; who serves God and who does not; who is worthy to escape all these things and stand before Him. He has come unexpectedly to His Temple and is very much aware of the division, the splits and splinters, and the utter confusion that exists in the outer court of His Temple today. We will have much more on this subject later in this booklet.

Peace and Safety?

Inspired by God's Spirit, Paul mentions the Day of the Lord in his own words and style in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3:

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

We do not know how much Paul understood the prophecies concerning Christ's second coming. We know he understood that Christ would come at the sound of the last trumpet (1Thes 4:15-17 and 1Cor 15:51-52). You should now see that the coming of the Lord as a thief in the night and the coming of the Lord at the last trump are two entirely different times.

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety." But when Christ returns at the sound of the last trumpet, no one will say "peace and safety." At that time, the Earth will be reeling

and wobbling through the solar system because of massive nuclear war and the angelic bombings of the first six trumpet plagues, with much of Earth's population dead or dying. And instead of peace and safety, the seven last plagues loom ahead and will be poured out upon the Earth. The Earth as we know it today will be utterly destroyed.

Repetition Helps

Jesus' visible return will not be as a thief in the night. The two witnesses will have warned the entire world of his imminent return. Everyone on Earth will hear their message: "The Kingdom of God is at hand!" The two witnesses will know the exact time of Christ's return. They will be counting the days. These two righteous prophets fully realize their ministry is 1260 days, and then they must give their lives. They also know that 3½ days later, they will be resurrected,

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first (1 Thes 4:16).

A forewarned Planet Earth will expect His visible return and the First Resurrection. Everyone left alive on Earth will see Him returning. "Behold he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him" (Rev 1:7). This will be the greatest event in history! All will see and hear. God will have this recorded by some type of spiritual videotape, so that even those who killed His Son, as the Lamb of God, will be required to view His triumphal return, when they are raised at the second resurrection. This great event will not be as a thief in the night. It will be the most visible event ever. The Day of the Lord has already come—as a thief in the night.

Let's consider Matthew 24:37-44 again, this time adding Luke 17:26-30 for a more complete understanding:

And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, they did eat they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But

the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

These verses in Luke are the same as Matthew 24, and they picture a time when life is going on as usual: eating, drinking, planting, building, marrying, and starting families. This does *not* describe everyday life when the Day of the Lord's Wrath begins. At that time, the ravages of war and 2½ years of tribulation will have practically destroyed the Earth. Add to that the one year of God's wrath and the imminent visible second coming of Christ, then life will certainly not be going on as usual—but it is now.

Read Matthew 24:36 again, but this time with the revealed knowledge of God's great secret: "But of that day and hour knows no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." And *why* didn't we know? We did not know because we thought the Day of the Lord and the Day of His Wrath were the same. The Father kept this secret about the Day of the Lord until the very moment it began. Verse 37 continues, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." The "coming of the Son of man" is at a time when all things are going along as usual.

Matthew 24:40 declares, "Then shall two men be in the field; the one shall be taken and the other left." When Christ comes suddenly, secretly, as a thief, *then* He says: "...two shall be in the field..." And verse 41: "Two women shall be grinding at the mill; one shall be taken and the other left." Luke 17:31 makes this comment:

In that day, [the Day of the Lord] he which shall be upon the housetop and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field let him not return back.

This clearly speaks of now and the time immediately before the great tribulation.

In the Day of the Lord's Wrath and the visible coming of Christ, there will be very few houses or housetops left, let alone stuff in the house. The woman, or the faithful Church (Rev 12:1-6), will be in the place of safety. The "remnant of her seed" includes both Laodiceans and some of the "synagogue of Satan." Through stubbornness or lethargy, they will not become a part of the one true Church and will not be "worthy" to escape the Tribulation. They must resist the Beast,

his image, and his mark (Rev 15:2; 20:4). They will give their lives during the 2½ years of Tribulation, before the Day of the Lord's Wrath begins, and then rest in their graves, awaiting the first resurrection.

The 144,000 physical Israelites of Revelation 7:1-8 will have suffered through the Tribulation, too. They certainly will not possess houses, housetops, or "stuff." Immediately before the Day of the Lord's Wrath, it appears that Christ will bring them to the place of safety to protect them from the Lord's Wrath (Rev 7:1-8; 9:4). So, as that terrible last year begins, the Earth and all in it will be nearly destroyed.

These scriptures in Matthew and Luke are for now!

Humanity will not be saying "Peace, Peace" or "Peace and safety." Instead, they will be screaming in horror and fear the words recorded in Jeremiah 4:19-26:

My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment. How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? [This is obviously the time of the seventh seal, the trumpet plagues, the Day of the Lord's Wrath.] For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. I beheld the earth, and lo, it was *without form and void*; and the heavens and they had no light. [Notice that the wording by Jeremiah is the same as in Genesis 1:2, "without form and void," "tohu" and "bohu," the same Hebrew words.] I beheld the mountains, and lo, they trembled, and the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heaven were fled. I beheld, and lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and *all* the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and at his fierce anger.

Today, we are in the Day of the Lord. Men are seeking peace and safety. Life, on the whole, is going on as usual in some areas of the world, although violence and unbelievable evils are everywhere. We have passed the point of "the beginning of sorrows" (Mat 24:8). The Four Horsemen are in full gallop, and the Great Tribulation looms on

the horizon. The accumulated results of man's rebellion against his Maker will be reality. The Great Tribulation, the heavenly signs, and the Day of the Lord's Wrath will come storming frighteningly upon this wicked world, bringing complete destruction—all during the Day of the Lord.

Christ is very busy. He will spare His jewels (special treasure) (Mal 3:17) the horror and misery described above. Jesus Christ is discerning and thoroughly testing those special few who will be His pillars. Nine years have quickly gone by in this discernment period. Some He has selected; others have failed. Some have proven themselves worthy and are His special treasure. They are His steady pillars that will stand before Jesus Christ in His Temple.

The vital pillar members must sit upon the true spiritual foundation (Eph 2:20-21). They must be securely situated there before the other scattered pieces, or "lively stones," can be fashioned back into the Temple. The pillars are the faithful Philadelphians. Some of the synagogue of Satan will come before the Philadelphians' feet to learn the truth you are reading at this moment. Revelation 3:9 informs us of this:

Behold, I will make [or give #1325] them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie [they say they are Churches of God, but God says He has only one true Church; therefore, they are the churches of god or the synagogue of Satan]; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Mothers and Daughters

There are now more than 300 split and splintered divisions of the former Worldwide Church of God. Since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986, Satan has struck a masterful blow. The Church as a whole has been scattered and practically destroyed. The same situation that has existed for years with the Roman Catholic Church and her Protestant daughters is now very apparent in the WCG and her daughter churches. Division, confusion, politics, lack of true leadership, and inability to cooperate due to vanity and contention are what Christ is discerning as He observes His Temple. He has only one

work and one faithful, true Church—not 300+ divisions!

Most of these divisions, splits, and splinters are made up of our brethren, who possess God's Spirit. They are begotten children of God. Nevertheless, they have left the truth in one way or another. Either they have followed a minister who is not following Christ, or they have become a law unto themselves, just sitting out there, doing nothing. Others are too fearful to become a part of the true Church and risk separation from their families and friends. And some have become involved in the study of bizarre doctrines that cloud their minds and rob their time (2Tim 2:16). Satan uses all kinds of excuses to deceive (Lk 14:16-24). These spiritual hazards will erupt abruptly into a pitiful wail for God to intervene on their behalf. We are approaching the ninth anniversary of the Day of the Lord, and the Four Horsemen are riding.

The book of Malachi, Ezekiel 34, Jeremiah 23, and Isaiah 28 are four sections of the Holy Bible that give an up-to-the-minute picture of what has occurred in the scattered and shattered divisions of the daughter churches and the Laodicean Church today. Isaiah 28:7-8 sums up the confusion in the divided churches of the Temple's outer court, the synagogue of Satan.

But they also have erred through wine and strong drink are out of the way; the Priest and the Prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For *all* tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so there is *no* place clean.

This is how Jesus Christ, the Lord of Hosts, sees His Temple at this time, in the Day of the Lord. We will take a closer look at this a little later.

At this time, Christ is busy selecting, measuring, and polishing His special treasure, that is, those deep within the Temple's inner court. They know Christ has one true Church and will always have one humble priest/shepherd/minister sitting in the seat of judgment. Isaiah 28:5-6 states this plainly:

In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people, And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for

strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Christ will protect them from the Tribulation (Mal 3:17 and Rev 3:10).

Our Lord appeared to the prophet Ezekiel in chapters 8 and 9 of his book. Ezekiel saw, in spirit, things which are occurring right now, in July 2006. Christ has suddenly come in the Day of the Lord, immediately before the Great Tribulation, the fifth seal. Ezekiel saw the Eternal God in awe-inspiring splendor, riding on a mighty cherub. The Eternal then took Ezekiel, in spirit, to Jerusalem. We know this is a prophecy for these days, immediately before the Tribulation. In this prophecy, Jerusalem is a type of national Israel, but it is also God's Church, or Temple, to which He has suddenly come.

Ezekiel 9 describes what is actually happening at this very time in God's Church:

He cried also in my 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 lies toward the north, and every man with a slaughter weapon in hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writers inkhorn by his side: and they went in and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side. And he 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 (vv 1-4).

Making Up His Special Treasure — In That Day

We can clearly see that Christ has come suddenly to His Church. He is examining, investigating, checking, and testing to discern who is “worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Lk 21:36). This fact is made more evident in Malachi 3:16-17:

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 [by the angel with the writer's inkhorn?] before him 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 [The Day of the Lord] when I make up my jewels [special treasure] and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.

“Spare them” from what? The Great Tribulation! He is here now to ensure that His special treasure, the faithful of His Church, will be set apart and protected in the place He has prepared.

Isn't this obvious? God has sent Jesus Christ back to His spiritual Temple at the beginning of the Day of the Lord to gather, lead, and inspire His special treasure, His faithful elect. Christ will soon take the called, chosen, and faithful of the Philadelphian candlestick to the place of safety that He has prepared for them. These faithful ones know that we have entered the Day of the Lord and urgently desire to be about our Father's business. Only the Church of God's Faithful has understood this pivotal truth until now. We must sigh and cry over the abominations Gerald Flurry and the PCG have ensnared our Laodicean brethren in. And also for the thousands of God's lost sheep in the outer court of the spiritual Temple.

The Laodiceans

Revelation 3:20 states another vital point: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.” Gerald Flurry has used this scripture extensively, claiming that it pictures the PCG warning the Laodiceans. Mr. Flurry has refused to understand that *he* is Laodicea. God chose him to be the physical leader, the high priest, of the Laodicean Church, the seventh candlestick. The Laodicean era began with Gerald Flurry. (Request our latest revision of *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* for a complete explanation of this fantastic truth).

The outer court of the spiritual Temple consists of unfaithful Philadelphians who can rightly be called the “adulterous wife,” the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” or the “synagogue of Satan.” They are not Laodiceans. The faithful who followed Mr. Flurry out of the adulterous outer court to do the work of the seventh Church era became the true

Laodiceans. Mr. Flurry has mistakenly placed the title “Laodicean” on everyone in the outer court. He and the PCG members were the dynamic Laodicean work of Christ for seven years. But he gradually substituted a militaristic government of fear in the PCG instead of God’s government. Gerald Flurry appropriated the title “That Prophet” and veered off track, doing his own futile work instead of God’s work (More about “That Prophet” later). Thus, the Laodicean members caught up in that abomination are heading toward the Great Tribulation if they don’t hurriedly get out of that Church and back to the Philadelphia Candlestick/Church.

The Laodicean work was a mighty work. God chose Gerald Flurry to “measure” the faithful inner court (Rev 11:1). Also, Mr. Flurry, as a type of the watchman of Ezekiel 33, was to warn the adulterous outer court and national Israel. Mr. Flurry is very zealous, but he has turned his zeal from God’s work to his own. (Write for our free booklets, *Bloody Jezreel* and *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand*).

When the PCG began, the Laodiceans of the seventh candlestick worked together with the Philadelphians of the sixth candlestick. A few thousand sincere brethren heeded the warning message of Mr. Flurry’s book, *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today*, and joined the work of Christ’s Laodicean Church. The two candlesticks worked together (Lk 17:35) in the Philadelphia Church of God for seven years.

God’s Faithful Elect

Now, in the Day of the Lord, Christ is again separating and sifting out His precious “peculiar treasure.” The sixth candlestick burns brightly in the Church of God’s faithful, who are God’s elect, sifted out of the PCG. And a few rare cases have come from the *streets and lanes of the city* and even from *the highways and the hedges*. Satan has not deceived the faithful elect. They perceive the lukewarm attitude of the PCG leadership and an abusive government.

If you are in the PCG, look around and notice how many called-out ones are now the cast-out ones. The Diotrephes-type ministers (3Jn:9-10) that rule over most PCG congregations have disfellowshipped these precious believers without good reason.

The faithful elect also recognized the complete change of the PCG’s commission, the illegal copyright infringement concerning

Mystery of the Ages, and the disgraceful lawsuit the PCG leaders provoked with their WCG brothers. The faithful elect know that efforts by Gerald Flurry and the PCG to get *Mystery of the Ages* to the world is an exercise in pious futility. *Mystery of the Ages* contains spiritual knowledge that the world cannot now understand (Jer 4:22).

Herbert Armstrong was a type of Zerubbabel (Zec 4:9) and completed the building of the spiritual Temple. Mr. Armstrong wrote on pages 5-6 of MOA:

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

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.

God deliberately coded his book so that it would not be understood until our modern 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)

Please read the above statements by the Elijah again. Ignoring Mr. Armstrong's explanation of these important facts, Gerald Flurry attempts to send the spiritual knowledge in *Mystery of the Ages* (the Gospel) to the entire world. God is not calling the world now. Mr. Armstrong accomplished his commission to take the spiritual knowledge of the Gospel to the world as a witness to all nations. And through HWA's ministry, Jesus Christ called all the "lively stones" for the building of the spiritual Temple (His Church) (1Pet 2:5).

The principle of Herbert Armstrong's statement is from God's word:

But God has revealed them to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of

God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we may know the things that are freely given to us of God (1Cor 2:10-12).

Mystery of the Ages is for those of God's spiritual Temple, not the world now. As we have previously stated, the PCG can distribute *Mystery of the Ages* by the shipload to the world, but it cannot be understood because it is spiritual knowledge!

Faithful Philadelphians and awakening Laodiceans, hearing the new truth from God through the Church of God's Faithful, realize that this is where Christ is working. God has revealed to the CGF the true identity of Laodicea and the two candlesticks. He has given the CGF the astounding revelation of the Day of the Lord, which opens practically all prophecies from here on out. In fact, God has revealed much of "the end from the beginning" (Isa 46:10), as recorded in our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*.

The great God does not reveal truth to rebellious dissidents. He reveals truth only to those who love, fear, and humbly submit to Him. We would be unable to understand the many new truths God is pouring upon us if we were not submissive to God. That is not a boast; it is a biblical fact.

Some Laodiceans know that Mr. Flurry turned his back to the inner court (Eze 8:16), and they are crying aloud for God to show them what He wants them to do. They have not known where to go. However, as you are reading this, you should recognize your Shepherd's voice (Jn 10:4).

Now, it appears that our commission, the work Christ has given the CGF (the Philadelphian candlestick), is rapidly being fulfilled. Christ, through His faithful Church, has stood at the door and knocked on Mr. Flurry's Laodicean door (Rev 3:20) for nine years. Many have laughed and scoffed at our efforts. However, as they ridiculed our warnings, they failed to see that Mr. Flurry had careened off course, and they blindly followed him. But God, in His mercy, has revealed His tiny Church through our website to some deeply sincere Laodiceans. Gerald Flurry's unbiblical claims and demands have jolted some into wakefulness. Thus, Christ has led them to the CGF, where Jesus Christ is pouring out new truth and developing proven pillars for the spiritual Temple (Rev 3:12).

Similarly, just as the WCG brought in more and more unbiblical

worldly doctrines, Gerald Flurry began teaching bizarre doctrines. The most recent of these doctrines is his ridiculous spin on the “lawful Joshua” and the “unlawful Joshua.” This proved to be the last straw for some of the PCG ministry. But the most outrageous of these false doctrines (that should have awakened the Laodiceans months ago) is his claim that he fulfills the office of “that prophet” (Deu 18:15,18; Jn 1:21; Acts 3:22-23). The title “that prophet” refers only to Jesus Christ. Taking this title to himself is not only a blasphemous claim but also makes Gerald Flurry a false Christ and a false prophet. That false claim is an abomination in God’s sight, and it is one reason we believe our work of knocking on the Laodicean door is close to concluding.

After HWA’s death, many WCG members accepted the satanic trinity doctrine and possibly quenched the Spirit of God within them (1Thes 5:19). In like manner, the Laodiceans in the PCG unquestioningly accepted their leader’s heretical claim and put themselves on a straight course to the Great Tribulation. Sadly, only a few Laodiceans have awakened at Christ’s knocking to become a part of the CGF. The time of warning with words and writings to the PCG will end. Once all the pillars have been proven and set in their positions, then action by the power and authority of the living Christ will begin. Christ will open the door to the lost sheep snared in the synagogue of Satan. Many of them will be made to come (Rev 3:9), but I wonder if miracles, signs, and wonders can open the Laodiceans’ blind spiritual eyes (Mat 12:22-33).

It Is Near, Even at the Door

Our great God has bound Himself and His plan for humanity to a condition we call *time*. Our beautiful Earth is just a speck of cosmic dust rotating and revolving around a tiny star we call the Sun. God set them and the other celestial bodies to suit His marvelous plan. Each rotation of Earth is a day. Each time Earth makes a complete revolution around the Sun is a year. From the beginning, God and the Word had a master plan for creating God-beings just like themselves—and it required time and circumstances.

At sundown on October 1, 1997, the Feast of Trumpets began, and Earth had circled the Sun 6000 times since the creation of Adam. Also, man’s time ended at that moment, and we re-entered God’s

time—His day! The mighty Christ is busy setting tremendous events in motion. He will quickly bring about the final conditions to fulfill every scripture concerning the period we are now in—the Day of the Lord.

Christ has ripped open the first four seals and released the Four Horsemen. The four living creatures have cried out to Him to “Come and see,” as the horsemen manipulate the circumstances of this world. Christ has come, and He sees the conditions on Earth and in His Church. Every tiny detail of prophecy will be fulfilled as He prepares to open the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation. Our Lord suddenly came to His Temple. He is well aware of the sad condition of the shattered outer court and the victims of Satan’s deception. Christ is sternly observing Gerald Flurry as the High Priest of the Laodicean Church (It certainly appears that Gerald Flurry is “Joshua” of Zechariah 3). In his “filthy garments,” Mr. Flurry is leading the PCG into abominations (Mat 24:15) and the Great Tribulation. But Christ is very much aware that most of the members are begotten children of God—and part of His bride.

God is a jealous God (Exo 20:5). He will not permit Satan to cause the spiritual death of God’s called and chosen ones (Jn 6:44; 10:28-29). It seems that Christ will bring Joshua to repentance of his abominations and vanity.

Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee [by complete and total repentance)], and I will clothe thee with change of raiment (Zec 3:3-4).

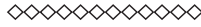
Make no mistake, dear reader, if Gerald Flurry is the Joshua of Zechariah 3 and 6, God can bring him to repentance. The prophet Jonah tried to run and hide from God but truly repented in the belly of the great fish. The living Christ can create any circumstance to bring a man to his knees. Mr. Flurry’s pitiful clamoring about a “lawful Joshua” and an “unlawful Joshua” indicates an extremely troubled mind.

Watch and pray for this stubborn man that his repentance can come about with as little pain as possible. But if repentance does not occur quickly, suffering and death in the Great Tribulation is his only other option. And what about his Laodicean followers? What will they do? Can they accept the fact that they have been mindlessly deluded

and are actually the Laodicean Church? They have looked upon their scattered brethren in disdain and deep contempt, especially the CGF. When God brings Mr. Flurry to humble submission, can the ministry and members of the PCG also repent of their vanity and pride and respond to our “knocking” before it is too late?

Our booklet *Petra—Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter* is a must-read (available on our website).

Chapter Three:



The Day of the Lord... Key to Prophecy for Today!

Proving that the Day of the Lord will exist throughout eternity is one of the goals of this booklet. Mr. Armstrong recognized the pattern of the seven-day week and applied it to a seven-day spiritual week. God interrupted His eternal time and gave men six 1000-year days to follow their own ways, influenced by Satan and his demons. The seventh day, the Lord's Day, is God's time again and will exist forever. Within the Day of the Lord will be the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ and His wife. Herbert Armstrong fittingly labeled that millennium of peace, productivity, and plenty as *The World Tomorrow*.

At the Second Resurrection, God will raise to life the billions of people who lived on Earth throughout history. They will see the perfect model world established during the millennium, with God's law of love in action. They will see the effects of God's way of cooperation and peace compared to man's way of competition and war. God will use this contrast to teach all resurrected people how to live righteously. Their day (3 Pet 3:8) to live a long life and qualify to become God-beings through God's Spirit comes after seven thousand years.

Six thousand years have ended, and the Day of the Lord has come. There are many Old and New Testament scriptures whose subject is the Day of the Lord, especially for this exact time immediately before the Great Tribulation. We will explore a few of these shortly. Other scriptures deal with the Day of the Lord as time progresses into the Great Tribulation (Lk 17:31; 1Thes 5:2). Other scriptures continue into the one-year of God's wrath (Zeph 1:14-16; Isa 13:9,13). Some prophecies use the term "Day of the Lord" or "in that day" to mean the Millennium (Isa 11:11; Amos 9:11-15). "In that day," meaning the Day of the Lord, also pertains to the Last Great Day (Eze 38:14-16; 39:11 and Rev 20:11-15) and can even include the Father's coming to make Earth His headquarters (2Pet 3:12-13). These scriptural references are just a few of many about the Day of the Lord, which is again God's time that continues throughout eternity.

The apostle John projected into the Day of the Lord (Rev 1:10) before Christ opens the seven seals is vital to understanding prophecy. For example, we have previously looked at Malachi 3:16-17, but let's examine it again:

Then they that feared the Lord spake often to 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. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serves him.

As you study these verses, you should ask, "To which day is God referring?" The verses state that these people feared God, were in close fellowship with one another, and thought upon His name (Rev 3:7-8). Consequently, God says they are His, and in that day, He will make them His jewels, or special treasure. When? He says also that He will spare them. Spare them from what? Indeed, we understand that God will spare them from the Great Tribulation and the Day of His Wrath.

Malachi 3 begins with the Lord coming suddenly to His Temple. Verse 2 states that He has come in that day to *discern* those worthy to stand—His pillars and His jewels. Isn't it clear that Christ comes first, suddenly, as a thief in the night? *Then* He determines who His faithful jewels are—before the Tribulation! We are nearly nine full years into the Day of the Lord. What has Christ discerned about you?

"Churches of God" or "churches of god"?

Earlier in this presentation, we mentioned that the Church of God has been scattered and shattered. Divisions, strife, and contention are the fruits of the *synagogue of Satan*, called "the Churches of God" by various groups. They can use any title they like, but biblically, the title *synagogue of Satan* would be correct (Rev 3:9). Those churches are dead branches (Isa 7:11; Jn 15:6) and are the *churches of god*—little c and little g.

1 Corinthians 1:10 warns,

Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Can you grasp the seriousness of the situation in the WCG and her daughter churches in light of this directive from God's Word? Can't those church leaders read? There is only one true Church and one true leader, "... him that sits in judgment ..." (Isa 28:6). And as of now, only new truth identifies the true Church of Jesus Christ.

We have also read in Isaiah 28 of a corrupt and spiritually drunk ministry that has deceived and led God's people astray. Jeremiah 23:1-2 states:

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.

Read the remainder of this chapter and all of Ezekiel 34. These are warnings from the Eternal God written to the vain and contentious ministers of the synagogue of Satan, including every one of the "churches of god." Isn't it plain that God is extremely angry with these ministers? They were His ministers, keeping His flock. They are His ministers no more!

Has Satan won?

We are living in perilous times. We are nearly nine full years into the Day of the Lord. The Four Horsemen's ride and the Great Tribulation will bring disaster to the entire world—and to many of God's people. Has Satan won? Will he finish gobbling up the vast majority of the Church of God in the Great Tribulation (1Pet 5:8; Rev 12:12,17)?

No! God will show His people where the true Church is—where the living Christ is working, leading, and guiding. Written words like you are reading will convince very few that the CGF is the only true Church of Christ. Even dynamic sermons won't bring many of God's people to the Church of God's Faithful. The scores of written and spoken words by a corrupt ministry have so confused God's flock that they do not know what to do or where to go.

Jeremiah 50:6 describes this existing condition:

My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill [Confused brethren are searching out large groups and small groups, not knowing where the true Church is.]; they have forgotten their resting place [where Jesus, the true Shepherd is].

Satan has done a job!

But the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, will do what is needed to show where the true Church is. When all is ready, Christ will manifest His power and authority (Matt 28:18) through His Church with miracles, signs, and wonders, precisely as He did during His Earthly ministry. Matthew 10:6-8 declares:

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

Nevertheless, at this moment, God is supplying new truths and the urgent need for inspiration and guidance to those with eyes to see and ears to hear. He is moving the CGF forward to complete the work of God (Jn 4:34) in a step-by-step process.

First, look at Isaiah 28:5-6:

In that day [now] shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty [to us who understand the glorious truth that the mighty Christ, with all the authority of His name, is here with us in the Day of the Lord] unto the residue of His people [the CGF is a tiny and pitiful remnant, but we are His Church], And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment [God gives His Spirit to one individual to judge righteously in the seat of judgment. Jesus Christ is not divided, and God's government will always exist in His one true Church.] and for strength [#1369, force, victory, might, power] to them that turn the battle to the gate.

The CGF has no real strength (Rev 3:8), but when Christ is ready to rescue the lost sheep, we will complete the work, even if we must salvage some from *the gates of hell* (Matt 16:18).

Triplicates

Next, read Haggai 2:23, emphasizing vital details during the Day of the Lord:

In that day, saith the Lord of Hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.

Notice that it states three times that it is the Lord speaking. Three times—triplicates! He is talking about the Day of the Lord—not twenty years ago. Herbert W. Armstrong was a second type of Zerubbabel. However, a third has arisen in the Day of the Lord, and God will back him up with His own power and authority.

In that day, saith the Lord of Hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the Lord has spoken it (Isa 22:25).

Isaiah refers to a modern-day Shebna:

Thus saith the Lord God of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house (v 15).

A third Shebna has been removed since the Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night on October 1, 1997. He was removed from his position in the seat of government of God's Church and replaced by a third present-day Eliakim.

It shall come to pass *in that day* [now], that I will call my servant Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit the government into his hand (Isa 22:20-21).

Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. He also was a type of Eliakim, but notice again, this is “in that day,” the Day of the Lord. A third Eliakim has come on the scene. Just as God used three different Elijahs, there are three Zerubbabels and three Eliakims. Keep watching these prophecies from the Word of God.

God has poured His Spirit of Judgment upon one individual who

will sit in the seat of the government of His Church. At the same time, the spiritually drunken ministry of the *synagogue of Satan* wallows around in their filth (Isa 28:7-8). The Lord of Hosts is the head of His true Church. Through His Church, He will manifest power and authority in great signs, wonders, and miracles. The training program for the two witnesses is in its infancy at this time—in the Day of the Lord.

The third Eliakim will not only have the seat of government in God's one true Church, but Christ, the Lord of Hosts, will give him an *open door* (Isa 28:16-18,21,26; Rev 3:7-8). Of course, we know that Jesus Christ is the door (Jn 10:7-9).

The Open Door

Let us read Revelation 3:8-9 but temporarily omit the three phrases that do not apply to the subject of the open door.

I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it Behold, I will make [#1325] them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold I will make [#4160] them come and worship before thy feet, and to know I have loved thee.

Please analyze carefully the meaning of these vital words.

An open door is given to the remnant of Philadelphia. This message to Philadelphia is *before* the “hour of temptation,” the Great Tribulation (v 10), from which a faithful Philadelphian is promised protection. It does *not* apply to Mr. Armstrong. He has been dead for over twenty years. At this moment, this promise does not apply to the split and splintered “churches of God,” the “synagogue of Satan,” because they have not patiently kept God's word.

The synagogues of Satan say they are true Christians, or “spiritual Jews” (Rom 2:28-29). They say, “We are the Churches of God,” but that is a lie. They are the *churches of god*, “the synagogue of Satan.” Nevertheless, they are begotten children of God.

Our Lord says He will give some of them to us and make them come to us. They must be taught the new truth from Christ by His pillar members, His special treasure that He loves. How will He make them come? Remember that the Four Horsemen have been galloping

over the face of the Earth for nearly nine years. All systems for the horrendous completion of their task to destroy millions of human beings are almost ready. When this begins, God will give the CGF the power to perform any miracle by the name of Jesus Christ. The “churches of god” will recognize that this tiny Church has new truth and is Christ’s true Church. They will come through “the door” to God’s true Church. Once they begin coming to us, the process will be greatly accelerated by us going to them.

The Lord Jesus lived Matthew 10 when He walked this Earth in the flesh. A close study shows Matthew 10 is also for this time when our Lord is again walking over this Earth. For example:

1. Verse 6 states: “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” These lost sheep are not the nations of Israel. The nations of Israel have not yet had their calling; thus, they are not lost! But the divided churches of the synagogue of Satan are perilously close to being lost forever.
2. Verse 7: “... preach ... the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” The Kingdom was at hand during Christ’s ministry because the King was among them. Since October 1, 1997, the Kingdom is at hand again because the King has returned.
3. Verse 23: “You shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.” The early apostles went to the cities of Judah and, to a lesser extent, to the nations of Israel that had migrated to Western Europe. The end-time apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, thundered the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations (Matt 24:14). Christ will see to it that we reach the cities of Israel now that He has come.

The Gospel is the good news of the family of God. Mr. Armstrong completed that commission through the power of God’s Spirit. The message that “the Kingdom is at hand” will be carried to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, *the synagogue of Satan*, by the tiny residue of God’s true Church, and to the world by the two witnesses. The tiny Philadelphian remnant will greatly multiply into the woman of Revelation 12. The power and authority of God’s signet (Hag 2:23) will accomplish the mighty acts of faith as done in the first century, as Matthew 10:8 declares, “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely you have received, freely give.” The authority of the

head of the Church, Jesus Christ, the Lord of Hosts, will add tremendous strength to these words (Matt 28:18).

Come!

As of this writing in July 2006, we are approaching the ninth anniversary of the Day of the Lord. Horrendous events are erupting and will intensify on this evil world and the divided daughters of the WCG. You can come now and be part of the most significant and mighty work of God's Church ever. With the understanding you have gained in this booklet, please proceed to Chapter Four and use the 15 points presented to teach others, in a scriptural and common-sense method, *why we believe the Day of the Lord has come.*

We are the tiny "residue" at this time. But as thousands of God's begotten children witness mighty works coupled with new truth, they will come to the CGF to be taught (Rev 3:9). Through the love of Christ, there will soon be tremendous growth in our numbers. Instead of being the "residue" or "remnant," we will be described as the "woman" (Rev 12:13-17) who flies into her place (v 14). However, there will be some who see and hear, yet make excuses not to heed. Others will hurry off to investigate other confused groups. And there will be some who stubbornly refuse to respond, even though they "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (v 17). These all together are pictured as the "remnant" that will suffer the wrath of Satan in the Great Tribulation.

We are nearly nine years into the Day of the Lord! The Kingdom of God is at hand! What will you do?

Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein, for *the time is at hand* (Rev 1:3).

Chapter Four:



Why We Believe the Day of the Lord Has Come

A here is a point-by-point explanation of this crucial subject:

Remember, we all have preconceived ideas in our minds. We must study the Bible with an open mind and then believe the Scriptures.

1. Revelation 1:10 states, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day...” “The Lord’s Day,” or as more often stated, *the Day of the Lord*, has absolutely nothing to do with Sunday or any other day of the week. When we remove the preconceived ideas about this verse, we can read what it actually says, and it becomes evident that at this early point in the Book of Revelation, John is projected into the prophetic *Day of the Lord*, so often written about in the Old Testament.
2. In Revelation 1:10, John states that he is in the Day of the Lord. In Revelation 1:19, Christ tells John he will be shown things that will be *hereafter*—and the *hereafter* he sees includes the opening of the seven seals. The seven seals cover the climactic release of the Four Horsemen, the Great Tribulation, the awesome heavenly signs, and the one year of the *wrath of the Lamb*, culminating in Christ’s visible return at the sound of the last trumpet and the First Resurrection! Christ opens all seven seals while John is *in the Spirit on the Lord’s day*, or more clearly stated, during the Day of the Lord.
3. We had the preconceived idea that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath (the seventh seal) are the same. A careful examination of the scriptures proves that they are *not* the same.
4. The seventh seal is the Day of the Lord’s Wrath, the final year of the 3½-year Great Tribulation—*during* the Day of the Lord.

Revelation 6:17 declares:

5. For the great day of his wrath [Strong's # 3709: meaning - anger, indignation, *vengeance*, wrath] is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Now read these scriptures that define the length of time for the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*:

- Isaiah 34:8: "For it is the day of the Lord's *vengeance*, and the *year* of recompense for the controversy of Zion."
 - Isaiah 61:2: "To proclaim the acceptable *year* of the Lord, and the *day* of *vengeance* of our God."
 - Isaiah 63:4: "For the day of *vengeance* is in mine heart, and the *year* of my redeemed is come."
6. God's Word declares that the Day of the Lord (not the Day of His Wrath) would come as a thief in the night, suddenly, and unexpectedly (1 Thes 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10; Matt 25:13).
 7. The fantastic and frightening sixth seal (the heavenly signs) (Rev 6:12-17) will be seen by everyone on Earth as they usher in the one year of the seventh seal, also called the *Day of the Lord's Wrath* or the trumpet plagues. Not only will the sixth seal introduce the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*, but the two witnesses will be warning the entire world about what is on the horizon. Just as Moses and Aaron warned Pharaoh, these two prophets will thunder aloud to the world, warning them before each event unfolds. They will call down each of the trumpet plagues. They will inform the entire Earth of when the *Day of His Wrath* will begin—and when it will end! These two powerful yet humble servants of God know they will be killed at the end of their 1260-day ministry and will alert the whole world of the exact time of their death and the time of their resurrection. Their resurrection will be at the last trumpet—at the return of Jesus Christ to gather His firstfruits (Study Rev 11:3-15 carefully).
 8. There will be nothing unexpected, secret, sudden, or as a thief in the night about the *visible* return of Christ for His firstfruits.

The proclamation of the two witnesses will inform everyone, in advance, of the exact time of His visible return. And the whole world will see him return (Rev 1:7).

9. On the other hand, Jesus said that His *secret coming* (beginning the Day of the Lord) would be at a time when everything is going along as usual, “eating, drinking, marrying, giving in marriage” (Matt 24:36-44). This coming is as a thief—sudden, unexpected, and not seen by the world. But *after* the Great Tribulation and the one-year Day of the Lord’s Wrath, *nothing* will be as usual (see Jer 4:19-29 and Isa 13:9-13).
10. Sudden destruction is coming upon Earth despite world leaders’ attempts to bring peace and safety. Peace and safety can still be hoped for today, but no one on Earth will be saying “peace and safety” (1 Thes 5:2-3) when the Day of the Lord’s Wrath begins. By that time, the Four Horsemen’s ride and 2½ years of Great Tribulation will have destroyed billions of people. Sudden destruction will have already come. There will be *no* safety or peace except in the place God has prepared for His faithful people.
11. The Day of the Lord has already come as a thief in the night—and you didn’t know it. That’s the way God intended it to be. That is precisely *how* it could come as a thief in the night. Now the secret has been revealed (Mar 13:32). Before Christ revealed this new truth, we had the misconception that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath were the same. But now you know. And when you read the scriptures and think it through, it is obvious they are two different occurrences.
12. According to the figures of the best scholars, 6000 years of man’s acting according to his own deceived heart ended on October 1, 1997. Herbert Armstrong said he did not think time could go on past 1997. And I believe that the Day of the Lord (which will continue for all eternity) began on the Feast of Trumpets, the evening of October 1, 1997, secretly, suddenly, like *a thief in the night*. God opened my mind to the meaning of Revelation 1:10 at that very time! It was time for this great truth to be known, and God revealed it to me. I state this as humbly as I can. He had to use someone, and I was available. Regardless

of who He used, the biblical points already mentioned above are true: The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are two different events. Christ gave His Church that understanding on the Feast of Trumpets, 1997. If you understand that this is true, then you know the Day of the Lord must come *before* the Great Tribulation—and the Tribulation is imminent. I am also saying that Christ opened the first four seals nearly nine years ago, and the fearsome Four Horsemen have ridden out over this Earth—in the Day of the Lord—before the opening of the fifth seal. I hope you have the spiritual eyes to see the effects of their ride to this point. When all is in readiness, Christ will open the fifth seal.

13. Christ has “come suddenly to His Temple” (Mal 3:1). When Christ returns visibly at the First Resurrection, it will not be sudden or unexpected. The faithful in the place of safety will have been waiting, watching, and praying for 1150 days. His return will be expected—and God does things right on time.
14. Christ has already come suddenly to His Temple, and He is now doing the following:
 - a. He is discerning who is worthy to stand as His pillar members (Mal 3:2; Rev 3:12; Lk 21:36). Notice the question in Malachi 3:2, “Who shall stand when He appears?” “Appears” in this phrase is an unfortunate rendering of the Hebrew word *ra'ah*. In verse 18, the same Hebrew word is translated “discern.” Christ has come secretly, as a thief, not to appear but to discern. See also Matthew 24:39-41 and Luke 17:30-37, and notice the selection taking place.
 - b. He will discern, or determine by careful inspection, those worthy to escape the Great Tribulation and stand as His pillars. Malachi 3:17-18 shows that He will discern, by close examination, those who are to be spared as His special treasure “in that day”—the Day of the Lord. He is placing His mark (Eze 9:4; Jn 17:17) on His faithful people now—in the Day of the Lord—before the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lamb's Wrath.
 - c. Malachi 3:3 declares He will also “purify the sons of Levi.”

These sons of Levi are the *hireling ministers*, the shepherds of God (not the ministers of the world's churches, Jn 10:12-13) who have led His people astray (Jer 50:6). They will be purified and purged in the "fire" of the Great Tribulation if they do not repent before then. The Great Tribulation occurs *during* the Day of the Lord but *before* the one-year Day of His Wrath. These hirelings must repent now, or the fires of the Tribulation will purify them. When the Day of the Lamb's Wrath begins, all faithful Philadelphians will have been in the place of safety for 2½ years. It appears that the hireling ministry, the unfaithful Philadelphians they have deceived, and the Laodiceans will have given their lives in the Tribulation before the Day of His Wrath begins. To be proven faithful, they must overcome the Beast, the image of the Beast, his mark, and the number of his name (Rev 15:2; 20:4). Those who do not overcome will lose their lives eternally in the lake of fire.

We began to see the new truth presented in this booklet on October 1, 1997, on the Feast of Trumpets. At that time, we entered the Day of the Lord, and Christ returned suddenly to His Temple. You now have new knowledge, and you are responsible for how you handle this knowledge (Hos 4:6). Christ identifies His one true Church by new truth given only to that Church. The Church of God's Faithful (the Church of Jesus Christ) is *set apart by truth!*

I hope this chapter and the entire booklet will help you fully understand the vital subject of The Day of the Lord—and that you can explain this essential truth to others.

We are here to help you study God's Word and grow spiritually. Our address is:

Church of God's Faithful,
136 Woodland Drive
Harleyville, SC 29448.

Our telephone number is 843-462-7977. We invite you to view our website at www.setapartbytruth.org.

We look forward to hearing from you during these urgent times.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Rev 3:13).



Literature Available from the Church of God's Faithful



Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God



Herbert W. Armstrong was the end time Elijah and a type of Zerubbabel. What was finished and completed at Mr. Armstrong's death? Do you really know? When Mr. Armstrong died, did the 6th Candlestick cease to burn? No! It continued to burn brightly in the Inner Court. However, the WCG leaders began to dismantle the true doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God and they drifted into the Outer Court of the Spiritual Temple as the synagogue of Satan. Only those faithful few of the 6th Candlestick stayed with Christ in the Inner Court. After four years of the systematic destruction of the WCG, God ignited the 7th Candlestick and gave it to Gerald Flurry. The Laodicean Work of God began. The 6th and the 7th Candlesticks began to work together as the Philadelphia Church of God to warn those of the Outer Court to return to the truth. Now, true to the prophetic description of the Laodicean era, that Candlestick/Church has become lukewarm to the Law of God (Rom. 13, 1 Cor. 6, Matt. 5:19). The Faithful of the Church of God, the 6th Candlestick, have had to separate from the Laodicean 7th Candlestick. Our free booklet explains this separation and what you must do to come out of the Laodicean Church.

Bloody Jezreel

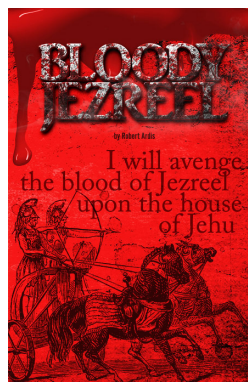


In his *Hosea* booklet, Gerald Flurry states on page 5, "We are typed by Jezreel. The same message taught in the PCG, or Jezreel, today is going to fill the earth."

Mr. Flurry says the Book of Hosea is an end-time book, and that is true. But, If the PCG is JEZREEL, what does it mean in Hosea 1:4 where it states, "And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel, and I will avenge the Blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu..."

Think about what this is saying—the Blood of Jezreel!

Jezreel's Blood! If you are a member of the PCG, and the PCG is Jezreel, and these scriptures are for the end-time, isn't this speaking about **your blood**? Shouldn't this give you an uneasy feeling? And who is Jehu? You very much need to read the explanation of this in our free booklet *Bloody Jezreel*. It is a matter of Life and Death!





The Little Book... Unveiled at Last!



Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today is claimed by its author, Gerald Flurry, to be the Little Book of Revelation 10! He also claims that the Mighty Angel who has the Little Book open in His hand and the 7th Angel (Laodicea) of verse 7, are the same Being. However, by a careful reading of this section of scripture it is evident that Mr. Flurry's claim is not true!

The Mighty Angel is easily identified by the Holy Scriptures, not by erroneous ideas of a man. The days of the 7th Angel (Laodicea) and the sounding of the Angel are also clearly revealed in light of recent history. *Malachi's Message* is just that! It is the vitally necessary message of the book of Malachi, but has NOTHING to do with the LITTLE BOOK of Revelation 10. Mr. Flurry has no understanding of the 7 Thunders of Revelation 10. Unaware of the true significance of these thunders, he minimizes their meanings with his own interpretations. His "seven thunders" are actually blunders away from the TRUTH of God!

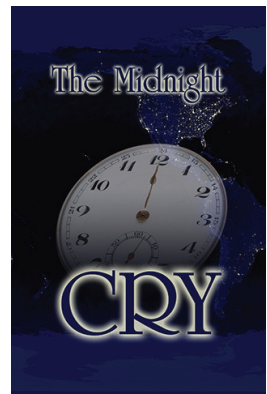
When *Malachi's Message* was first written in 1989, it was not the TIME for the LITTLE BOOK to be UNVEILED, BUT IT IS NOW! Request your free booklet and prove these statements for yourself.

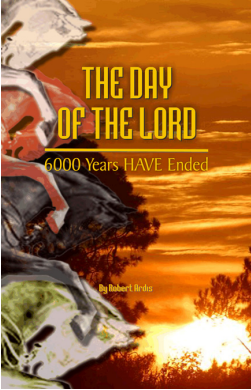
The Midnight Cry



Are you a part of the "WOMAN" or the "REMNANT" of Revelation 12:14, 17? Your life depends on the answer! God says that he will take the WOMAN to a place of safety to be protected from the worst time of trouble to ever come upon mankind. But, where is the WOMAN? And how will she be found?

The answer is found in Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. The time has come for God's people to read, understand, and heed Matthew 25:6 - The Midnight Cry.





The Day of the Lord 6000 Years Have Ended!



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

However, we read in Rev. 1:7, Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him... How do you reconcile these scriptures? Can it be that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are not the same event?

Yes! The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a ONE-Year period of time within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a "thief in the night" and YOU did NOT know it! What happens NOW?

You can read all about it in our free booklet; *The Day of the Lord*. Don't wait. Order it now!

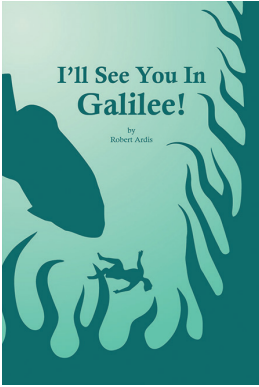
The Deep Things of God



Have you ever wondered about Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium? These multitudes from the four quarters of the earth will be deceived by Satan's power after living their entire lives during the 1000-year reign of Christ. How could they be deceived into attacking the headquarters of the only God they had ever known? Are these people, described in such enormous numbers, lost forever? Does this part of God's Plan fail? Of course not! God's Plan is perfect.

What is the ultimate fate of Satan and the demons? You might think Spirits cannot die or be killed. But, the Creator of all the angelic beings died! Jesus Christ was KILLED and would still be dead if the Father had not raised Him up. If God can die, can He not put a rebellious demon to death? What will the Lake of Fire be created for? When will it begin to burn? Why do we believe there will be three resurrections, while the Bible mentions ONLY two? And how long is the period of the Last Great Day? All of these questions concerning these *Deep Things of God* are thoroughly explained by the Word of God as revealed in our booklet. Request your own free copy.





I'll See You in Galilee



Why was it necessary for the prophet Jonah to remain three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish? Did it require 72 hours for him to repent of refusing to follow God's instructions? Couldn't he have repented after one day, or one hour, or one minute? Why three days and three nights?

What about Jesus' resurrection from the dead? Didn't He declare He would be in His grave three days and three nights, just as Jonah was in the fish's belly three days and three nights (Mat 12:40)? But most "Christians" believe He was in the grave only one day and two nights, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. What do you believe? And why do you believe it?

Why would our Lord claim He would be entombed three days and three nights if it were not true? What is the significance of three days and three nights? Neither the Church of God nor the world has understood that world history has been seriously altered for not knowing the real meaning of why three days and three nights were necessary. In this booklet, you will read the fantastic story and the all-important lesson of paying close attention to the words of God, as revealed in answer to the question: Why three days and three nights?