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About the cover Just as our Father takes us by the hand in our Christian lives, so too does every physical father have a responsibility to lead his family in his God-given role (liquidlibrary).

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MCIORY Prophesied!

As we begin our new television season, being able to offer viewers a whole collection of works by Herbert W. Armstrong, it is worth reviewing some details of the tremendous victory God orchestrated in giving us that material. Here is why, even in the darkest days of our court battle, we absolutely knew the PCG would obtain these invaluable written works.

By Stephen Flurry

THOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED THE DISTRICT COURT'S RULING in favor of the Philadelphia Church of God to stand, Pastor General Gerald Flurry was anything but devastated by the Ninth's Circuit's reversal on September 18, 2000. "I'm not discouraged—I'm not depressed," he told PCG members a few days after the disappointing verdict. "I want to fight more than ever. I asked the lawyers to fight as if our lives depended on it, but to really fight it with a positive attitude—realizing that God is with us."

Soon after the decision at the appellate level, our attorneys petitioned for a rehearing *en banc*. We submitted a brief to all 27 judges at the Ninth Circuit, hoping one of them would move to have our case submitted before an 11-judge panel. No one responded.

"It's not over yet," Mr. Flurry insisted. "We're going to win this thing in the end. We absolutely know that."

We then appealed to the United States Supreme Court. While waiting to hear if they would accept the case, my dad made this amazing statement in the March-April 2001 *Trumpet*: "We are in a court battle over Herbert W. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*. The big issue is *who owns the copyright?* ... Now there has been an injunction issued. We have had to stop printing and mailing *Mystery of the Ages* (and all of Mr. Armstrong's writings).

"We have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. There is less than a 1 percent chance of our getting into the Supreme Court, but I believe we will. I prophesy to you that, *one way or the other*, God will provide a way for us to mail that book again" (emphasis mine).

A few weeks after that appeared in print, on April 2, the Supreme Court declined to hear our petition without comment as to why.

On the surface, things had gone from bad to worse.

Yet everything my dad kept saying assured PCG members that things would eventually take a turn for the better. In *The Royal Book of Revelation*, published about the

same time the Supreme Court decided not to hear our case, he wrote, "Should we deliver *Mystery of the Ages*? I tell you we *MUST* DELIVER IT! When the Bible talks about prophesying again, that primarily means the *same* prophecy—again. God is talking about a message that has been prophesied before. We must prophesy again, because we haven't yet reached the largest audience possible with *Mystery of the Ages*. The job is still incomplete.

"God won't allow anybody to stop this message until that work is done. The injunction is only a temporary delay!"

He based his strong statements on certain prophecies in Revelation 10, where God said the "mystery of God" had to be "finished" before Christ returned (see Rev. 10:7, 11). This is why, he went on to say, the PCG has been commissioned to get *Mystery of the Ages* to the world. "But for this temporary injunction, *Mystery of the Ages* is going out again. Understanding this really puts things into a greatly reduced time frame," he wrote.

He didn't know all the answers with respect to HOW God would do it—only that God would do it! Regarding the lawsuit, we knew that our counterclaim for 18 other works had yet to be resolved. We also knew that once the damages trial for *Mystery of the Ages* ended, we could again appeal to the Supreme Court. And since the Ninth Circuit's ruling was a split decision and was criticized in a number of law journals, including the *Harvard Law Review* (April 2001), we felt like anything could happen.

Then there was our opponent—the Worldwide Church of God—beset with plummeting income and reserves, and averse to the idea of facing us in court. And even if they chose to fight through to the end—and won at every stop—they would then be obligated to somehow make these works available. They won at the Ninth Circuit, you remember, on the strength of their "annotated version" argument—that they wanted to print *Mystery of the Ages* with annotations of all its "errors." And after all was said and done, if the annotated plan never got off the ground, would they then expose themselves to *more* litigation?

The way we looked at it, God could fulfill His prophecy in Revelation 10 any number of ways.

Helge's Indirect Admission

Writing for The Journal, a publication reporting on the

news of the WCG and its many splinter groups, Bill Stough said in the May 31, 2001, issue, "The director of the Worldwide Church of God's legal department says that if the Philadelphia Church of God wants to publish and distribute WCG-copyrighted publications it should negotiate directly with the Worldwide Church of God."

So far as we know, this was WCG's first indication that they had reconsidered their "Christian duty" (in the words of their pastor general) to suppress Mr. Armstrong's works and might, under certain circumstances, allow them to be distributed. (Helge was interviewed for the story on May 11, 2001.) But more than an offer to license the works, I believe the above quote implies this indirect admission from Helge: "There are no plans to annotate or make Mr. Armstrong's works available." The deeper WCG got into this litigation, the more they realized that in order to prevail on all the merits of their case, they had to, in some form, make these works by Mr. Armstrong available to the public.

Later, that summer, WCG made it known in court filings that it would have objectively considered any offer we might have made to license the works of Mr. Armstrong prior to our printing them in 1997. They also suggested that they would—even then—seriously consider any bona fide offer from the PCG. Furthermore, they assured us (and the court) that when Joe Tkach Jr. said he had a "Christian duty" to keep Mr. Armstrong's works out of print, he was not speaking for the WCG, but rather espousing his own "personal" views.

At the time, we had a hard time believing that WCG sincerely wanted to get out of this lawsuit by letting go of Mr. Armstrong's works. To that point, we had been dropping the "Christian duty" statement at every opportunity in court, arguing that it would have been futile to make any request to obtain the works direct from WCG.

Prophecy Gets More Specific

In September 2001, we produced another book, titled *Who Is 'That Prophet'?* My dad wrote on page 86, "I believe we will not lose the court case. Yes, our chances of winning are small. But that only makes greater odds for God. He is like the Supreme Court in that He only takes certain cases. But He usually takes them when you've already gone into the fiery furnace! *Mystery of the Ages* was an open door for us. God has put it on hold temporarily. But Isaiah 22:22 Says that when Eliakim Opens a door, none can shut it. We must have faith in that."

Whereas Revelation 10 (as expounded on in The Royal Book of Revelation) revealed that the message in Mystery of the Ages would, in fact, go out again, the prophecies discussed in That Prophet indicated more. Isaiah 22 says that someone in this end time would come as a type of Eliakim. Notice what verse 24 says regarding this man: "And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons." Anciently, these vessels were the tools needed to perform the temple services. My dad explained that today, "These must refer to all of our books and booklets. All the glory hangs on Eliakim—ALL THE REVELATION FROM MR. ARMSTRONG, plus all the new revelation God has given to that prophet. That is quite a lot of glory! We have it all!"

This was the first indication we had that God wanted more for us than just the right to copy and distribute Mr. Armstrong's works. *He wanted us to own them!*

Later in the same book, my dad expounded upon another prophecy in Amos 9: "In that day will I RAISE UP the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old" (v. 11). This, he believed, referred to the work the PCG was doing—raising up something that had been torn down. In other words, Mr. Armstrong's work! "If you're going to build this tabernacle 'as in the days of old,' you would have to have the books and booklets you once had," he said on page 91.

Notice verse 12: "That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this." Here is what my dad wrote regarding this verse: "That MUST include Mystery of the Ages and Mr. Armstrong's other books and booklets. That is what I believe, and faith firmly dictates that I continue to believe that until God says otherwise."

According to Strong's Concordance, the word "possess" in verse 12 means "to occupy (by driving out previous tenants, and possessing in their place); by implication, to seize, to rob, to inherit; also to expel, to impoverish, to ruin." God was now getting pretty specific in directing my father through the lawsuit. Being able to use the material was not enough—God wanted us to control it. As to how that would work out, we still weren't quite sure.

God wanted more for us than just the right to copy and distribute Mr. Armstrong's works. He wanted us to own them!

E-Publishing—More Revelation

By this point in the lawsuit, wcg had concocted another "plan" to help

support its argument in court. They intended to e-publish all the works we were seeking—that is, make them available over the Internet. Initially, they wanted us to absorb the costs of such action. In November 2001, however, wcg told us that if we failed to settle the case, they would move forward with the e-publishing venture, at their own cost, in order to undermine our argument that it would be futile to request a license.

That same month, we produced yet another book, *The God Family Vision*. In it, my dad wrote, "*Mystery of the Ages* DOESN'T BELONG to the Worldwide Church of God. It is the knowledge of God!" (p. 98).

On pages 132-135 of that book, my dad discussed how the Worldwide Church of God had sold its spiritual birthright, comparing that church to Esau. He wrote, "If you sell your birthright for all the wealth in the world today, it's still just a bowl of soup!" And that's what wcg had been doing for a number of years—selling off valuable gifts given to Mr. Armstrong, fine furniture, youth camps, festival sites, college campuses. They were even trying to sell their headquarters facilities in Pasadena, including the church's crown jewel—Ambassador Auditorium.

But would they also sell off Mr. Armstrong's writings? To that point, they had only suggested licenses—and very restrictive ones, at that.

VICTORY PROPHESIEE

Initial Offer to License

On March 14, 2002, we made a formal offer to WCG to license the works in dispute. Admittedly, the offer was not put forth without some reservation. For one, we felt God wanted us to own the works. And we simply did not trust WCG. We didn't like the fact that under such an agreement, WCG would have control of the literature, even if we were able to distribute the works.

But, in thinking on it, this was really no different than what we had in 1997 when we started printing *Mystery of the Ages*. The wcg owned the copyright, but we were able to distribute it under "fair use." Aside from that, wcg had made representations in court that they would have, all along, considered any offer to license the works. So we wanted to see just how serious they were.

Turns out, they weren't—at least not at that time. In response, WCG said on April 8 that our offer was "denied." They said they were no longer interested in licensing the works now that e-publishing would make all the works available.

In posting these works online, however, WCG prefaced each of them with a 1,500-word attack against Mr. Armstrong and his teachings. They had a "Christian duty," you see, to keep these works "out of print." But if they absolutely HAD to publish them, they wanted to make sure readers understood that Mr. Armstrong was stupid and that he taught heresy.

When wcg rejected our offer and later revealed their defamatory preface, it breathed life into our litigation. From then on, we concentrated all our energies on fighting them in court—giving no thought to licensing the works.

God wanted us to have those works. And somehow—we still didn't know exactly how—He would hand them to us.

Habakkuk Revealed the Outcome

As 2002 wore on, looking at it purely from a legal perspective, we were getting further and further away from possessing our spiritual vessels. The counterclaim had yet to be resolved, and the damages trial kept getting postponed. Once the counterclaim was settled, it would have undoubtedly been appealed to the Ninth Circuit by the losing party. After the damages trial, we would have immediately appealed to the Supreme Court. In other words, much more litigation.

On the other hand, Bible prophecy indicated that things were quickly winding down. My dad wrote a lengthy article in our September-October issue of *Royal Vision*. The title speaks for itself: "Habakkuk Reveals the Outcome of our Court Case." On page 3, regarding Habakkuk 3:2, he wrote, "The PCG has never needed *REVIVING* EXCEPT IN THE COURT CASE. This is a prophecy about God reviving us. So we need to prepare for a spectacular end! Yes—we are going to get Mr. Armstrong's writings. ... I believe that God will *have* to give us Mr. Armstrong's writings. I state that in faith, and I strongly believe He will if we have the faith we need."

Once again, he based such strong statements on what was revealed in Scripture. Notice Habakkuk 1:1-2: "The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!" There

was a temple crisis in Habakkuk's day—a type of what the PCG has endured in this end time.

Verse 3: "Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up *strife* and *contention*." The Hebrew for those two words, *strife* and *contention*, indicates that this is a LEGAL STRUGGLE.

And notice, God's faithful people in Habakkuk's day didn't fare well in their legal struggle. "Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (v. 4). Again, notice the legal language—law, judgment, wrong judgment. The Hebrew word for judgment, according to Strong's Concordance, means "a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree"

My dad quoted from a couple commentaries in his article. Concerning "wrong judgment," *Lange's Commentary* says, "[T]he meaning would be: there is no more any righteous verdict given" The *Anchor Bible* says, "[T]he juridical language of verse 4 is unmistakable ... it could be describing corruption in the courts."

Habakkuk's reference to a wrong judgment, or verdict, is especially interesting in light of our court battle. There is no mention of a right judgment to correct the wrong. It just continues on with this most inspiring verse: "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you" (v. 5).

My dad wrote on page 5 of his article, "God says He will raise up a work that people will hear about but won't believe—and this is in the context of the court battle. I believe this has already been fulfilled in general, but is God also saying there will be a specific fulfillment related to the court case, a specific miracle, that will fill God's people with wonder? A miracle that will remove the *injustices* and *destruction?* Do we have the faith to believe?"

The "destruction" he refers to is brought about by an evil man bent on destroying God's truth. Right at the outset of our lawsuit, Joseph Tkach said he had a "Christian duty" to keep all of Mr. Armstrong's writings "out of print"—destroyed. And while we won the lawsuit at the district level, the Ninth Circuit reversed that ruling—injustice. With that as our context, Habakkuk says something wondrously marvelous would happen to remove the injustice and the destruction. What could prevent Mr. Tkach from destroying Mr. Armstrong's literature and the Ninth Circuit's injustice from keeping it buried? Only a miracle from God.

My dad continued in his article, "I believe we will see something dramatic on the scene VERY SOON! I can't read these verses any other way. This is in the context of a revival, and a court battle, and God says a DOUBLE WONDER IS COMING" (p. 5).

Later in the article my dad wrote, "If God reveals Habakkuk, then it follows that He is going to revive this work *soon* if we walk by faith. ... We must continue. If so, WE CANNOT LOSE. God will revive His work" (p. 13; emphasis mine).

A General and Specific Fulfillment

This specific understanding of Habakkuk in that issue of Royal Vision set the tone for my dad's messages at the

Feast of Tabernacles in September 2002. On September 22, he compared two verses in Daniel. In Daniel 8:11, it says that in this end time, Satan will *take away* the "daily"—meaning God's truth (see v. 12). My dad explained that this was a direct reference to Mr. Armstrong's literature and how it had been cast to the ground in this end time because of the court case.

Then, in comparing that passage with Daniel 12:11, we read that God (not Satan) takes away the "daily" just before the Great Tribulation begins. Elsewhere in Scripture, this is referred to as the *famine of the word* (see Amos 8:11).

The point is this: For the daily to be taken away now (by Satan) and then again just before the Great Tribulation (by God), it PROVES, my dad said in September, that we will somehow take the daily (Mr. Armstrong's literature) to the world again before Christ returns.

A week later, on September 28, my dad expounded on a verse in Revelation 10:11—"And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." In *The Royal Book of Revelation* he had explained the general meaning of the verse: that we were to prophesy *again*, the way Mr. Armstrong did before he died.

Yet, look at this verse in all its specific detail, he told the PCG membership. "Prophesy again implies that it was stopped. Then God says 'prophesy again.' But we must fight our way through it and see how God delivers us."

And Then—"Double Wonder"

Less than three weeks later, on October 14, the Worldwide Church of God made an offer they had not made throughout the six years of litigation and, in fact, had vowed in 1997 never to make. They asked if we would be interested in BUYING Mystery of the Ages. They even attached a dollar figure to their offer (one that was much too high for our budget). Later, they not only lowered their dollar amount to a more reasonable sum—they tacked on the other 18 works we were seeking in our counterclaim!

Everything we had been fighting for was now ours. No one but God could have predicted such an incredible outcome for the Philadelphia Church of God. Yet, given these numerous specific prophecies, that is exactly what He had done.

Answering the Critics

In the *Journal* story quoted earlier in this article (May 31, 2001), the author asked Ralph Helge if he was aware of the prophecy Gerald Flurry made in the March-April 2001 *Trumpet*—that "one way or the other, God will provide a way for us to mail that book again."

Aware of my dad's comments, Helge was quoted as saying, "He won't want his prophecy to fail, so what he is probably really doing is pronouncing ahead of time what he is actually planning on doing. Hence his words are really nothing more than a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Stop and think about that comment for a moment. The Ninth Circuit had ruled against us eight months earlier. There had been an injunction served against us. And we had just heard that the Supreme Court chose not to hear our petition. The WCG had WON THE LAWSUIT over *Mystery* at the appellate level and would receive damages from us at trial!

It's almost as if Helge knew, even then, that we would somehow get these works. And when we did, he wanted everyone to know that it wouldn't be because God said so, but because of a self-fulfilling prophecy of Gerald Flurry!

How in the world could Gerald Flurry have "planned" for the case to end up the way it did?

Fast-forward two years and look at what Mr. Helge says now that the lawsuit is over and the PCG owns the copyrights. "During the last year or so, PCG made different offers to license or purchase some or all of the literary works in question, and thereby settle the litigation. As the Church did not consider that the amounts offered were sufficient, the offers were rejected. But then PCG made a substantial offer of three million dollars [of which the PCG paid \$2 million] to purchase 19 of the literary works written by Mr. Armstrong, and settle the litigation.

"The Church board of directors and some of its officials met to consider this offer" (Worldwide News, April 2003).

This misrepresents the facts entirely. The truth of the

matter is this: Long before there were ever *any* negotiations, the wCG board of directors met to decide they wanted out of this lawsuit. This is why, on October 14, they offered to sell *Mystery of the Ages* on the condition that they drop their suit and that we drop our counterclaim.

We rejected this initial offer, and many others to follow, just as sure as WCG "rejected" a number of our counteroffers.

Fact of the matter is, THEY WANTED OUT. *It was obvious*. That's why they asked us to settle.

Even after both sides had agreed to the principle terms of settlement on January 16, 2003, contractual negotiations were nearly derailed

when WCG insisted that we either give back or destroy all the documents we had accumulated in this case from WCG. We told them this was a "deal breaker" for us.

On February 27, my dad told Dennis Leap and me that he was getting his "second wind" and was prepared to go back to court if wcg insisted on that clause in the contract. Four days later, Helge wrote to tell us that wcg had reconsidered and, "in the spirit of Christian cooperation," had agreed to delete the paragraph requiring destruction of court documents from the contract.

In light of what Helge said in the months that led up to October 14, it makes sense that he would put the spin on the settlement discussions that he did. All along, he had made no secret of the fact that he felt WCG was in the driver's seat—that PCG was in a totally indefensible position, faced with the prospect of not getting Mr. Armstrong's literature and paying out multiple millions of dollars.

In their "ideal" position, the only way wcg would even talk to us is if we humbly approached them with an offer they couldn't refuse. So goes the spin.

In that Habakkuk article I quoted from earlier, my dad made this statement on page 4: "People have pressured us to make a *deal* to resolve this dispute. But we won't Continued on page 17

"If God reveals
Habakkuk,
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that He is going
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· Gerald Flurry ·

We are to be subject to one level of government implicitly the government of God. We are to submit to the government of man where that is not in conflict with God's law. We are to absolutely resist, reject and overcome the government of Satan with all the power at our disposal!

begin to see three levels of government which are extant in this world: God's supreme government at the ultimate spiritual level, Satan's perverse government, also on the spiritual plane, and the government of man.

We are to be subject to one implicitly—the government of God. We are to submit to the government of man where that is not in conflict with God's law. But we are to absolutely resist, reject and overcome the government of Satan with *all* the power at our disposal! To do so demands that we *understand* how this chief enemy of God's government operates.

Satan's Counterfeit

Now, what of the structure of Satan's demonic hordes? Notice the counterfeit. The Apostle Paul uses military terms in adjuring us to be well prepared for battle against Satan and his troops. Notice his emphasis on our need for strength, power and might so as to withstand Satan and his army (Eph. 6:10). In verse 11, Paul shows that it takes a veritable suit of spiritual armor with which to be completely covered, spiritually, to wage this battle on the spiritual plane, a cut above the mere physical! In the following verse, he shows us why: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (v. 12).

Mr. Armstrong refers to this satanic host as "Satan's kingdom of angels—now turned to demons—[who] rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD" (Good News, June 1976).

In his booklet What Do You Mean ... The Unpardonable Sin? Mr. Armstrong used the Moffat translation to give a clearer rendering of the hierarchy of demonic forces. Moffat lists the demonic ranks as "angelic [demoniacal] Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit forces of evil in the heavenly sphere."

The Armor of God

So it is, by military analogy again, that Paul admonishes the Church to be completely armed, spiritually, by the power of God, to resist this spiritual Pharaoh, his demonic captains, charioteers and horsemen.

Note how *detailed* Paul is in his description of our spiritual armor. Every single part of the individual must be covered in spiritual armor! Not one chink of the individual must be exposed (vv. 14-17). Note that the maintenance of this spiritual protection comes by *prayer* and *watching!* This is exactly as Jesus Christ admonished His disciples: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Yes, Satan has a mighty powerful army at his disposal. But, remember, they are outnumbered two to one by God's loyal angelic host! Satan, now a great false cherub, is outnumbered two to one by the loyal cherubim Michael and Gabriel. Over them rules the master of all, in submission alone to the supreme Father of lights, our Savior, our own Defender and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Triumphant over Satan, He now awaits, during the final hour of man's civilization on Earth, the command of the Father to join battle, leading the angelic forces and the saints of God to put down and restrain the total rank and file of Satan's army for 1,000 years.

Our part in that great, climactic battle is guaranteed, so long as we continue, daily, watching and praying, ensuring that not one part of this temple of God's Holy Spirit remains exposed, armed to the hilt with the power of God, which is guaranteed to make us conquerors over all!

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21). •

VICTORY from page 5

make a deal with such an evil force—we will only fight, using any means at our disposal!" Leaving aside the incredible amount of fulfilled prophecies in that article, not to mention the context in which the above statement is made, let us examine that statement in particular, since a handful of critics have said that we caved in to make a deal.

First of all, who was "pressured"? Halting negotiations at the 11th hour, insisting we call the judge to resume litigation—as my dad did—are not the acts of one pressured to make a deal.

Even Helge would have to admit that we did fight, using any means at our disposal. And it was for this very reason that *the wcg*, despite their spin, was pressured to make a deal in order to get out of this lawsuit.

Now look at the context of the statement in question: "If you look at the court case physically, it is hard to understand why one church would go to such effort and expense simply to destroy what we're doing. But if you understand Satan and his demons, you clearly recognize that there is a force out there intent on DESTROYING God's truth!" What follows is the comment about the PCG not being pressured to make a deal.

In pressuring WCG to make a deal, GOD PREVENTED THEM FROM DESTROYING HIS TRUTH! Those who might criticize one statement in my dad's 12-page article need to read the ENTIRE article—and then direct their criticism elsewhere. Joseph Tkach Jr. is the one who said he had a "Christian duty" to keep Mystery of the Ages out of print.

So much for his duty as a Christian to keep Mr. Armstrong's teachings buried. He's the one who sold out—not Gerald Flurry. We got everything we wanted—and more!

But, in considering these arguments from critics—doesn't it make sense? They know we now own the very works we not only fought for, but said—over and over—that we would obtain! Now that it has happened, they HAVE TO criticize the *manner* in which those works fell into our lap. The only other alternative is to believe the prophecies of God as revealed by His messenger. ❖