

An aerial photograph of Lower Manhattan, New York City, showing a dense cluster of skyscrapers and buildings. The Hudson River is visible on the right, with the George Washington Bridge spanning it. The East River is at the bottom, with the Manhattan Ferry Terminal and other waterfront structures. The image is used as a background for the magazine cover.

FALL HOLY DAYS ISSUE

ROYAL VISION

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

Today's Cities
**SOON TO BE
TRANSFORMED!**

ROYAL VISION

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

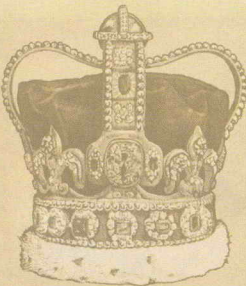
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ABOUT OUR COVER Though human leadership has brought a great deal of improvement to New York City in the past few years, God's coming world government will utterly transform cities like Manhattan. (Index Open)

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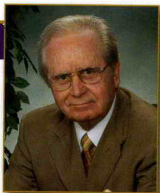
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The Two Joshuas

By Gerald Flurry



THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER I RECEIVED FROM one of our ministers after my messages at the 2006 ministerial conference—where I spoke about a righteous successor to Zerubbabel. This should help clear up any questions our members may have on this subject.

“The part that’s hard to grasp [about the two Joshuas] is the fact that Haggai and Zechariah were from the same time period. Are they talking about two different high priests that both had the name Joshua? Seems too coincidental. Also, the positive things mentioned about Joshua in Zechariah 3 (after the filthy garments) and Zechariah 6 have never been addressed as far as I can tell. Why speak in such a glowing manner about someone if they’re causing so much destruction in the Church?”

Here is my response:

Haggai and Zechariah were from the same time period anciently. There was only one high priest, Joshua, in that time period—not two.

From what I can see in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, Joshua was loyal to God—a lawful Joshua. There was no record of an unlawful Joshua anciently, when the temple was being rebuilt. But there is an unlawful Joshua mentioned in the book of Zechariah.

Haggai and Zechariah were contemporary prophets. From what I have been able to determine, their messages anciently were delivered within two to three months of each other.

We can see that the books of both Haggai and Zechariah are mainly for this end time.

So what Zechariah states about Joshua’s filthy garments in Zechariah 3 must be for the end time only. There is nothing in Ezra-Nehemiah about a Joshua with filthy garments, and Ezra-Nehemiah contains the history of Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai and Zechariah.

There is one Zerubbabel anciently and one Zerubbabel type today. However, there are two types of Joshua in this end time, one lawful and one unlaw-

ful. Both were successors to Zerubbabel—one lawful and one unlawful. The unlawful Joshua is discussed in the book of Zechariah.

God has not yet fully revealed Zechariah chapter 6, so let’s not confuse the issue by getting into scriptures we don’t fully understand. (I believe that I understand most of chapter 6, but not well enough to teach about it at this point.)

WHAT ZECHARIAH STATES ABOUT JOSHUA’S FILTHY GARMENTS MUST BE FOR THE END TIME ONLY.

The unlawful Joshua type was revealed in this end time. He caused a split in the Church. That happened after Mr. Armstrong died. That is why the Zerubbabel type (Mr. Armstrong) in this end time is a *signet*. If you don’t understand about the signet, please review what I gave about Haggai at the confer-

ence, or read the Haggai booklet.

There is also a Joshua in Haggai who is lawful, as he was in Ezra-Nehemiah. This end-time Joshua type is lawful *because* he accepts Mr. Armstrong as a signet and fully accepts all things that were restored by him (Matthew 17:10-11). That is what sets this Joshua apart from the Joshua in Zechariah.

Mr. Tkach Sr. and I both were ministers in the Philadelphia and Laodicean eras. The Church split is what makes part of this end-time work depart with the way it was anciently with Joshua (so far as we can tell from the Bible). That is why it seems perfectly logical for God to refer to two Joshuas in this end time, when Ezra-Nehemiah shows that there was only one Joshua anciently.

The *signet* makes it very easy to determine which Joshua is lawful. In fact, the signet could imply that there are two end-time Joshuas and God shows us how to know which one to follow. Otherwise, why even mention the signet?

This subject will also be clarified more in the booklet. If you have other questions, please let me know.

In Christ’s name,
Gerald Flurry

5 Five Ways to Prepare for the PLACE OF SAFETY

By Joel Hilliker

WHAT IF AMERICA'S HIGH-FLYING AFFLUENCE crashed? Or Britain's? Or Australia's?

What if the convenient food ran out—if people by the millions faced boarded-up fast food joints and grocery stores with empty shelves?

What if the government checks stopped coming? Or if they became worthless?

What would happen if gasoline first became too expensive to afford—and then too scarce to find?

How much patience would the people have? For how long would they peacefully suffer such conditions? How well would they work together under the rule of law?

A peculiar prophecy in the book of Ezekiel is worthy of study. God instructed the Prophet Ezekiel to shave off his hair and divide it into equal thirds. The first third he was to burn with fire; the second, he was to strike with a sword; the third, he was to scatter in the wind. This curious ceremony was intended to illustrate the future downfall of America and the modern nations of Israel (for proof of America's identity as part of biblical Israel, read our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*; also, this prophecy is explained in our free book *Ezekiel: An End-Time Prophet*).

These nations' destruction will happen in three parts. The first third of the population will be burned "with fire ... in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled" (Ezekiel 5:1-2). The *siege* is referring to an economic battering by foreign nations (see Deuteronomy 28:52). As America's economy suffers, unemployment will become epidemic, bringing with it a host of other social ills.

In this climate of increasing want and desperation, the layers of social order will begin to erode, particularly "in the midst of the city." Inner-city criminality will begin to spread—not merely within a single city, but from city to city.

This plague will take the lives of a mind-numbing 100 million American souls. Plus 20 million Britons. Plus 11 million Canadians. Plus 7 million Australians.

"A third part of thee shall die with the *pestilence*, and with *famine* shall they be consumed in the midst of thee," Ezekiel continues (verse 12). *Pestilence* is mentioned first—it is actually the principal cause of the famine. *Pestilence* simply means destruction or death, not necessarily a physical disease. It could refer to a plague of *violence and burning*—terrorist attacks, race riots, any kind of violent bloodshed in the cities.

Why will God allow this? Because of the people's disobedience to Him (verses 5-7; "Jerusalem" is a type of all the nations of Israel, including America). The curses of weak character and poor government, exacerbated by terrorism and other violence, will precipitate these nations' downfall because, God says, "Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations" (verse 8).

Several biblical prophecies forewarn that we will face intense PERSECUTION. Are you ready for that?

Then, when the nations of Israel are crippled by division and violence—when *tens of millions* of its own people have been killed by *violence and burning and pestilence and famine*—that is when "the sword" portion of Ezekiel's prophecy will occur: The beast power will strike, and finish our nations off with

"INHABITANTS OF THE ROCK"
Passages in Isaiah indicate that God's end-time remnant will be protected in a rocky wilderness.

nuclear warfare!

The point is, VERY SOON, GOD'S PEOPLE WILL NEED SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION.

Conditions will be so bad, God will have to remove us bodily! That is the only way we could physically survive. Ezekiel 5:3 says God will take "a few in number, and bind them in [His] skirts"—or *wings*. We faithful few will be protected in God's great wings, as He draws us out of disaster zones.

God gives His people two hopes. Not only do we have the spiritual hope of the Kingdom of God, but we also have a *physical hope*—a biblically prophesied PLACE OF SAFETY.

How much have you thought about that place? Are you truly READY to go? Times are urgent. The time to prepare for our coming place of safety is now.

WALK BY FAITH

God says He will bear us to that place on "two wings of a great eagle" (Revelation 12:14). That doesn't necessarily mean we will be flying on a luxury jetliner. When God delivered the ancient Israelites on "eagles' wings," they had to WALK (Exodus 19:4). *Eagles' wings* simply refers to the fact that this move will require *faith*. Like the first time a little eaglet has to jump out of a nest, there will come a time when we will have to just go—jump into midair and trust that God will give us wings. To get to the place of safety, we will have to count on divine intervention. That will require FAITH.

Before the Israelites fled Egypt, they had time to pack, to spoil the Egyptians, to load up their carts and donkeys. But regarding our flight, Christ said we won't be able to go back for anything! (Matthew 24:17-18). In Isaiah 16, God calls us His *outcasts*. Our pastor general wrote, "It appears that God's people are going to be CAST OUT of their own countries for obeying God! ... It may look VERY GLOOMY to many people when God's Philadelphians become OUTCASTS" (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, July 1995; emphasis mine).

When we are persecuted, will we buckle under the pressure and deny Christ, as Peter did before his conversion? (Matthew 26:69-75). Or will we be practiced in using the Holy Spirit, and stand up for God? Read Matthew 10:32-33.

To prepare, we need to be growing in faith now, learning to trust God each day of our lives. We cannot expect to suddenly summon that faith the day we become outcasts—it will be too late by that point! Faith is a fruit of God's Spirit. Ask God for more of it daily, then *practice* it—USE it—by letting God lead in the little things, learning through day-by-day experience how and when to let go and trust God.

After the children of Israel traveled out of Egypt, God allowed pharaoh and his army to pursue them. When the Israelites realized they were cornered,

they utterly lost faith! (Exodus 14:8-12). We are about to face the same situation: Revelation 12:15 describes what appears to be an army coming after us as we flee. God has warned us, and we have the Israelites' bad example to look back on; we can meditate about this and pray God would prepare our minds for it.

When you receive the instruction to flee, how will you respond? You can know the answer to that by gauging how you respond to the direction given by Church government today. Do you murmur and doubt? Do you put on a good show in public, but secretly confide to your spouse or best friend that you don't agree? Do you damage others' faith by your own faithless example?

We are running out of time! If we don't have the faith we need right now, it is time to develop it! Just look at the miracles by which God delivered ancient Israel. We can have rock-solid faith that our great God *will* take care of those who follow His direction and trust in Him.

BUILD THE HABIT OF BEING POSITIVE

What will it be like when we arrive at our place in the wilderness? "He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions [or fortress] of rocks ..." (Isaiah 33:16). What would your attitude be like if it was a desolate wilderness? Will you *know* that God guided us there, even if you don't see a physical pillar of fire?

Many of God's people over the years have speculated that the place of safety will be Petra, Jordan. What if it isn't? Will you doubt whether it really is the place?

We shouldn't be too shocked if the place God provides isn't too impressive when we arrive. The 170 acres on which Herbert W. Armstrong College has been built was just a flat patch of prairie grass and a few sparse junipers.

You can easily see that God needs people not only filled with faith, but also practiced at having EXCELLENT ATTITUDES, in whatever state they're found!

In 1 Corinthians 10, God specifically tells us not to murmur like the ancient Israelites did (verse 10). Israelites have a tendency to be *complainers*. Soon we are going to find ourselves in the *wilderness* just as they did. If we are not in the HABIT of being positive, then Satan will destroy us as he destroyed them.

God promises to provide us bread and water. He may do that the same way He did with the Israelites. To respond favorably would require not only faith, but a certain positive approach.

The way to tell how your attitude will be is to gauge your attitude *today*. Judging by how some people view what God provides today, we won't all pass this test with flying colors. What is your attitude

toward what God gives you? How do you react at the Feast when your hotel room isn't what you thought it would be? Are you generally in good spirits—cheerful? Are you generally *grateful*? Are you *truly content* with what God provides? Or do you always wish God would bless you just a bit more?

If you struggle with negative attitudes, work to correct that habit *now*. Learn to recognize what is going on in your mind, and to kick Satan out the moment your thoughts start turning sour. Develop the habit of quickly asking God to fill you with His joy, His Spirit of love and of a sound mind. Develop these habits *now*, and then no matter what the place of safety is like, you will be ready!

PREPARE TO REDUCE YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING

Biblical descriptions of our place of safety as a rocky fortress don't sound very luxurious. If you sleep on a mattress, you may be swimming in luxury by comparison. Your tiny apartment or mobile home today might be, in relative terms, a palace! God *may* provide comfortable accommodations, but we should be prepared to accept less.

In a July 1982 co-worker letter, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "... I know many of you seem to have your hearts set on going very soon to Petra as 'the place of safety' during the soon-coming Great Tribulation. Well, GET YOUR MINDS OFF PETRA. Brethren, I have never said that Petra definitely is the place of protection where God will take us [and neither has Mr. Flurry]. I HOPE IT IS NOT! One reason it could be the place is that it is a place NOBODY ELSE WOULD WANT TO GO. It would be the most unpleasant, uncomfortable, miserable place you could go! There is nothing to be desired there."

There is nothing wrong with the incredible wealth we enjoy in the nations of Israel—God is the wealthiest of all! But if we don't have the right perspective, we may be in for some big shocks. *Economic siege* is prophesied—the prosperity won't last much longer! We must not get caught up in the materialism of this satanic world, being overly concerned with the things of the flesh.

When disasters strike, people tend to donate generously to relief organizations like the Red Cross. After Hurricane Katrina, Americans privately donated about a billion dollars! Are God's people exempt from disaster relief? When disasters strike, people need to hear God's voice, spoken through His prophet, in order to understand the MESSAGE behind those disasters! Shouldn't we double our efforts and sacrifice even more than those people in the world, in order to funnel *our* energies, *our* prayers, *our* extra donations into that Work as times become more urgent? Can we even give up some of our comforts? Soon, we won't have a choice, if we are

to be protected.

Mr. Flurry wrote in his July 1995 *Trumpet* personal, "Petra would be a superb place for God to test and separate those who are faithful from those who just *think* they are!" The place of safety will be a place of testing.

The May 1982 *Good News* said concerning the place of safety, "It will apparently be safe from Satan. But it will not yet be God's Kingdom. Those who go will not yet have 'endured to the end.' They will not yet have it made. They will still be able to sin and fall away. To some, the 'place of safety' could prove to be a place of danger and the place where they finally lose out on salvation." Make this real to yourself, so you have a realistic picture of what to expect.

DRAW CLOSE TO THE BRETHREN

Think of all 10,000 of God's saints packed together in a single community, working, playing and eating meals together. The place of safety will have no hermits. We'll be together 24/7/1,260.

God will want us to get along peacefully.

As the whole world experiences the nightmare of the Great Tribulation, people will be scrambling for answers. The great God of love will not leave them without hope. From the place of safety, our place of *final training*, God will have a WORK for us to do in order to help those in the tribulation. And of course, God always uses His work as the most effective form of training for His people.

First, we will beautify that area. In Isaiah 43:19-20, God says that He will provide the irrigation we need to transform that place into something truly special. He will bless and prosper our work, but we will be working *hard*, probably turning a desert into a garden.

Imagine the tribulation, with the world wallowing in *darkness and death*. In the midst of that darkness, God's people will create a paradise of *light and life*! As the world buckles under BRUTALITY and VIOLENCE, the place of safety will be a sanctuary of COOPERATION AND PEACE. As the months progress, our rocky fortress will become an oasis of beauty that the world can see—something that will INSPIRE HOPE in those who turn to God!

Isaiah 33:17 implies that God will be there with us. He may be in a cloud, as He was in ancient Israel, but Mr. Flurry has said this could mean Christ will be more personally involved with us there. Whatever the case, God will want things run in a way befitting His royal Family. God's people must learn to *love* each other, not just tolerate one another. We must do this even today.

EMBRACE GOD'S GOVERNMENT

Mr. Flurry has called the place of safety "the embryo of the World Tomorrow." "Great joy and abundance will be given in the place of safety," he wrote, "and *then* THE WORLD will have a vision to look upon and



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"Petra would be a superb place for God to test and separate those who are faithful from those who just think they are!"

**—Gerald Flurry
Trumpet, July 1995**

in the place of safety will also be far from perfect and perhaps unqualified.

Consider the Feast of Tabernacles: That is a good example of an environment where all of God's people live and work under God's government, and everyone

has to pitch in. Are you a diligent volunteer? Do you contribute cheerfully? Do you *love* being under that government?

Our work in the place of safety will only be successful if we are all practiced at being diligent, submissive employees who work *as unto Christ*.

To get ready for the place of safety, lose your life in God's Work today! Make it your *life*! Christ says when He returns He expects to find us **DOING THE WORK** (Matthew 24:46)—doing our part to support the proclamation of God's warning to this world—intensifying our effort as we see intensifying disasters—bearing down to finish this Work!

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE IT?

When we think about the place of safety, we must not be motivated simply to **SAVE OURSELVES**. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:24). Our sacrifices for God's Work must spring from **GOD'S LOVE IN US**. Those who truly lose their lives for Christ's sake—who serve and sacrifice for God's Work—will be saved.

The place of safety mindset we need is one of **PASSION TO DO GOD'S WORK IN THE MIDST OF CALAMITY**. That's what life in the place of safety will be! Get ready for it.

"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). Will you be accounted worthy to escape? Though God promises to bring *His Church* to the place of safety, each of us must be accounted worthy *individually*. If you are ready, then when God gives the command, you will be going. If you are not ready, then *you will not be there*.

The place of safety will be an oasis of miracles, but it will also have a highly organized, hard-working, family atmosphere. It will be a 3½-year training camp preparing us for the work we will be doing as kings and priests throughout the Millennium! As the tumult rises around us in the months ahead, we can hold on to this wonderful physical hope.

Get ready! It's almost time!

inspire them to fill the Earth with the same kind of beauty and character" (*Royal Vision*, November/December 1998). Isaiah 43:21 says we will "shew forth," or *declare*, God's praise. That is speaking of a wonderful message that will be going out from the place of safety. Isaiah 42:11-12 talk about "the inhabitants of the rock" (speaking of the rocky fortress of the place of safety) giving glory to God and "declar[ing] his praise in the islands." Mr. Flurry wrote, "There certainly are no islands in the wilderness areas of the Middle East—especially in the area of Jordan. So there's some kind of a **WORK** going on *from* the wilderness God has a message, and these people are declaring it ..." (ibid.). Mr. Flurry went on to explain this is referring to the islands in northwestern Europe. God's priority will most likely be to warn the Israelites within the European beast power, and secondarily the Gentiles in that power, since they are going to be destroyed by the "kings of the east" (read our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*). Considering the frightful state of the world at that time, our message will surely generate intense interest.

We will have a monumental work to do—but think of all the manpower we will have! Today, God's Work only directly employs several dozen people. How powerful will this work be when we are using the capabilities and energies of **ALL** of God's people?

The work will be highly organized. We will take the pattern of organization in use at headquarters today and expand it to include thousands more people. What kind of a headquarters employee will you be? There is a good way of knowing: How do you perform on your job today?

To prepare for your working life in the place of safety, strive to become skilled at following instructions precisely in your job today. Work to align your thinking with the man directly over you, and try to extend his shadow. Strive to make him more effective in *his* job. Do your best to work in a way that prepares you for working within the framework of God's government. That's why God tells us to submit to our boss as unto Jesus Christ—even if he is a sinful, unqualified man (Ephesians 6:5-7; 1 Peter 2:18). The reality is, your boss