

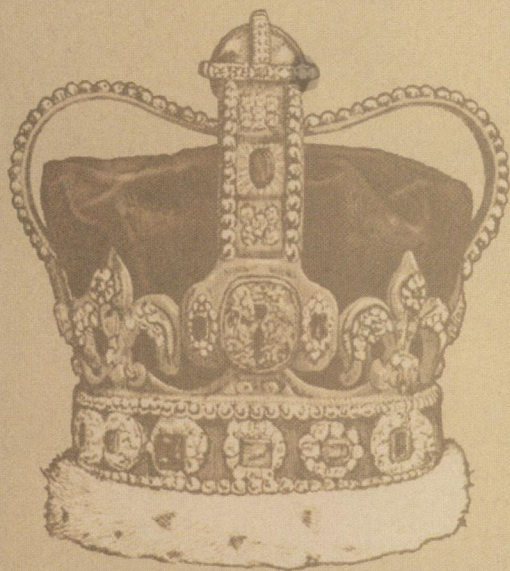
IS PATRIOTISM SIN?

ROYAL VISION

MAY-JUNE 2008

PENTECOST ISSUE

Ready to
Teach the
World?



ROYAL VISION

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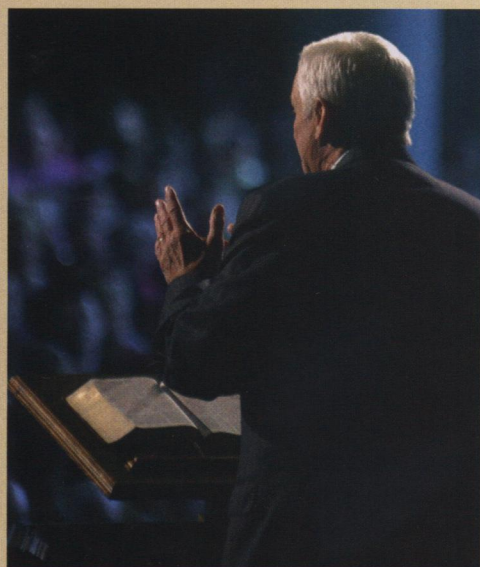
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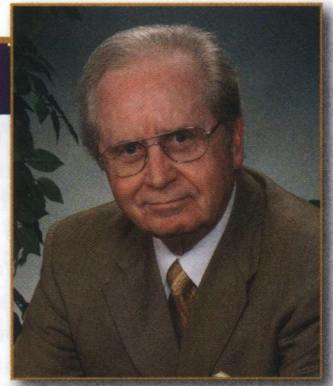
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ABOUT OUR COVER Pentecost teaches how God's Church is called out of this world today to prepare to teach all humanity in the World Tomorrow. (iStockPhoto)

Why God Must Punish the Laodiceans



The Book of Lamentations, Part Three

REVELATION 3:17-18 SHOW THAT THE MOST tragic fault of the Laodicean Church is its spiritual complacency. The Laodiceans are blind to their wretched spiritual condition. In setting their own spiritual standards, the Laodiceans have grown so far removed from God's standards that they cannot imagine how God could possibly be angry with them. In their deceived minds, they feel they are growing and on-target spiritually. In reality, the Laodiceans are in serious rebellion against God, and He is very angry with them.

The second chapter of the book of Lamentations describes the lamentable future awaiting the people of God who have rebelled against Him in this end time.

It is important to remember that the tragedies it describes represent God's efforts to CORRECT these people and bring them into obedience to Him. Throughout these graphic and disturbing prophecies are statements that serve as shining signals of God's unparalleled love for the people He is trying to reach.

BLACK CLOUD OVER ZION

Lamentations 2 begins, "How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!" (verse 1).

This chapter mentions the word *Zion* seven times (more on this later). Herbert W. Armstrong taught God's people that *Zion* always refers to the Church today. This can easily be proven from your Bible. This verse refers to "the *daughter* of Zion," which is specifically the *end-time* Church of God.

It is clear God is intensely angry at this church's deeds. By the time of the Tribulation, God is so angry with His Church that He has covered IT with a CLOUD and has cast IT down to Earth! Rather than cover-

ing His people with a cloud of protection as He did ancient Israel, God is covering them with a cloud in His anger! To *cover with a cloud* means that God is placing thick darkness between Himself and His Church. God is no longer leading this group of people. He has cut off His guiding light. It is the same type of description as removing a "lampstand" as found in Revelation 2:5. It is also similar to God sending "strong delusion" to His Church as revealed by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

Also in His anger, God casts His Church, "the beauty of Israel," down to Earth. This is similar to what Michael and the angels did to Satan in Revelation 12:7-9. But here in Lamentations, *God* does the casting out. Are we surprised by this? Remember, Jesus Christ "spews" the Laodicean Church out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16). What does this mean for God's Church? In the Tribulation, God will no longer lead them until they repent. Though His people make many prayers, God will not deliver them from severe punishment.

This all seems unthinkable to many of God's people today. Many ministers have ridiculed the Philadelphia Church of God for making such strong statements. THESE ARE BIBLICAL STATEMENTS! Some full-time ministers have stated that God would never send "strong delusion" to His Church. Others have said that God would never punish older "innocent" people and children. Could God allow His people to "believe a lie" by sending them "strong delusion"? Will God severely punish the elderly and children? THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS CLEARLY SAYS HE WILL! Why? Because there is something very wrong in Zion, and it must be corrected!

Notice, however, as in Lamentations 1:6, how God speaks of the *beauty* of His people—"the beauty of Israel." They once had—and *should still have*—daz-

zling beauty! God gives them that label here because He is trying so earnestly to *restore* that beauty to them!

The “footstool” mentioned here can refer to the ark of the covenant (e.g. 1 Chronicles 28:2). For God to “remember not his footstool” means that He will no longer abide by His covenant. There is only *one* reason why God would not keep His covenant: His PEOPLE HAVE BROKEN IT! What is wrong in Zion? God’s people are breaking God’s covenant! Malachi 2:8, 14-16 show that God’s own ministry is causing an entire Church era to “stumble at the law” and to break His covenant! God’s own ministry is committing treachery against God’s true religion.

When we were baptized, we all made a covenant with God. That covenant was based upon obedience to God’s truth. It was God’s truth that brought us to repentance and baptism. God will not give salvation to any individual who doesn’t deeply love His truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10). He gets very angry when His Church does not love TRUTH above all else.

GOD—THE CHURCH’S ENEMY

Three times in Lamentations 2:4-5, God says what He will do if His rebellious Laodicean sons do not respond to His correction: “He hath bent his bow LIKE AN ENEMY: he stood with his right hand AS AN ADVERSARY The Lord was AS AN ENEMY” God becomes the Church’s enemy! Woe be unto ANYONE who becomes GOD’S ENEMY!

Like an angry warrior with a taut bow, God begins to deal with the Laodicean Church—the “tabernacle of the daughter of Zion.” This says He “slew all that were pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion: he poured out his fury like fire. ... [He] hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation” (verses 4-5). Oh, how God will take vengeance!

We shouldn’t kid ourselves as to what causes God to act this way. The Philadelphian era is the only era besides the Ephesian that has had so much of God’s truth. God holds us responsible. He must severely punish all who take His truth lightly.

All that was “pleasant” to the Laodicean Church He begins to destroy. God does not hold back His anger. He pours it forth like a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29) because they rejected His truth.

But He will do that because the Laodiceans’ only hope is to heed God’s warning and respond to His punishment!

“And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest” (Lamentations 2:6). Could anyone believe

God speaks of the beauty of His people—“the beauty of Israel.” They once had—and should still have—dazzling beauty! God gives them that label here because He is trying so earnestly to restore that beauty to them!

that God would destroy His own tabernacle?—His own “places of the assembly?” This is what God inspired the prophet to write for us. Where is God’s tabernacle today? God revealed to us through Mr. Armstrong that it is the Church (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Notice—it says the feasts and Sabbaths are FORGOTTEN in this sinful Zion. Jeroboam, when he became king, changed the Sabbath and the holy days for the nation of Israel. The Worldwide Church of God leaders did the same thing inside God’s own Church, and Satan took them all captive! Soon, you will see a great false church establish a false sabbath in many nations, and enforce it—what Scripture calls the “mark of the beast”—on threat of death! (Request our free reprint article on this subject.) The Laodiceans who recognize what they have done, and determine to obey God and refuse to accept that mark, will be martyred. That act will require a *deep, deep repentance*.

Realize, God is bringing this punishment about! Yes, the great God of LOVE is doing it—because the people of God must never let God’s truth be compromised again.

“THE LORD HAS CAST OFF HIS ALTAR”

The message in Lamentations is directed at the lay members of the Church. God has moved past trying to reach the ministers in the Laodicean churches. Revelation 11:1 shows that when God wants His temple measured, “the altar,” or the ministry, is measured before “them that worship therein,” or the Church members. Lamentations shows God is in that *final* stage of measuring.

Lamentations 2:7 begins with this frightening statement: “THE LORD HATH CAST OFF HIS ALTAR” Who is the author talking about here? Who does the work of the altar? It is the priests. This is a symbol of God’s ministers today.

Here God is reaching out to the members of His Church with this message of Lamentations, and then He makes this statement. What does God mean by

saying He has just CAST OFF THE ALTAR? It appears this means that most of the ministers might be *losing their eternal lives*.

God blames the ministers most of all for what happened in His Church. Very few of the Laodicean ministers have come into God's faithful Philadelphia remnant. It was to them that we sent the little book in the first place; *Malachi's Message* is aimed *directly* at the ministry. And there God says they are in danger of losing their eternal inheritance completely! That is what is at stake! Because they led the Laodicean rebellion against God, they will be cast off. Because they were ashamed of God and His truth, they will be put to shame. God will cause them to fall into the hands of their enemies.

Verse 7 continues, "[God] hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast." "His sanctuary" refers not to the ministry, but to the people—what Revelation 11:1 terms "them that worship therein." (This shows a strong relationship between the book of Lamentations and *Malachi's Message*—a connection I will stress later. Please request a free copy of *Malachi's Message* if you don't have one.) This says God absolutely *abhors* what His sanctuary is doing! These people will see "the enemy" making a noise within the Church. Instead of hearing the happy noises of the feast days, they will have to listen to themselves being mocked and ridiculed openly to their own great shame.

MEASURING WITH PRECISE DESTRUCTION

Lamentations 2:8 shows a *measuring* just like in Revelation 11. "The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: *he hath stretched out a line*, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together." God has stretched out a line to measure, and He is measuring His people.

But notice: It is measuring taking place in the midst of *destruction*. God has precisely "stretched out a line" to destroy the Church! Just as a builder must lay a straight line to erect a sturdy building, God lays a straight line to bring the Church down. God will not stop until the Church repents! God is measuring the only way these people understand: in a time of lamentations, mourning and woe. Do you want to be in the inner court or the outer court? Fifty percent of those in the outer court will be measured out in this terrible violence! It will be violence like nothing ever on Earth!

As terrible as this destruction will be, however, it will not be indiscriminate. God builds with precision. When He used Zerubbabel to build His temple, He

used a plummet—a measuring instrument to ensure the utmost exactness (Zechariah 4:10). What is interesting is that God also *destroys* with precision! This verse in Lamentations shows God **PRECISELY MEASURING THE DESTRUCTION OF "THE DAUGHTER OF ZION."**

God knows their eternal lives are at stake! God doesn't destroy in a fit of anger! It is calculated to be of exactly the right intensity and duration and power! (You can see similar uses of a plummet in 2 Kings 21:13 and Isaiah 28:17.) They will either make it into the Kingdom now, or they won't make it at all—they have no other opportunity.

THE LAW

The next verse reveals a great difference between Mr. Armstrong and the false churches that turned away from him—as well as the difference between those churches and God's faithful remnant today. Anyone should be able to discern this: It is like a towering monument showing where God is working today.

"Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: **THE LAW IS NO MORE; HER PROPHETS ALSO FIND NO VISION FROM THE LORD**" (Lamentations 2:9).

This curse is mentioned several times in the Bible, as well as in the little book. Because of their rebellion, the Laodiceans lose their focus on prophecy and are caught off-guard. The prevailing attitude is, "My lord delayeth his coming" (Matthew 24:48). Then the Tribulation crashes in around them when they could have escaped.

God has stopped giving revelation to His rebellious people. When people stop receiving new revelation, or vision from God, it's because "the law is no more"—they are not keeping God's law!

Here in Lamentations 2:9, God is saying to the Laodiceans, *I will not speak to you until you repent of breaking my law!*

If we don't have the law, which the Father gave us, then we don't have revelation or spiritual vision. That comes from the same source that the law came from: the Father.

Under Mr. Armstrong, the Church received *all kinds* of revelation! That is because Mr. Armstrong *established the law* when he restored all things (see Malachi 2:6-7). The LAW is the FOUNDATION of "all things"! (Matthew 17:11).

God's faithful remnant, which keeps that law, also has *all kinds of revelation!* Anyone should be able to recognize that as clearly as a shining beacon in a dark night.

The beauty of this truth is that it tells you where God is. The flow of His revelation shows where He is working! It *identifies* us. That should make us deeply

grateful to be a part of this work. We are the *wife* of Jesus Christ, and there is nowhere else on Earth that people are receiving revelation.

"The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground" (Lamentations 2:10). While in the Tribulation, the ministry will begin to repent. This verse says "the elders," or ministry, just sit in silence. This is an enormous change for the Laodicean ministers. Prior to the Tribulation, they were very talkative. They "wearied" God with all their words. They were quick to give their opinions and even spoke against God (Malachi 2:17; 3:13; Revelation 3:17). The ministers who gave their own human reasoning for changing God's truths now just sit in the dirt—SPEECHLESS. And the "virgins of Jerusalem," or God's true people (Revelation 14:4), just hang their heads. No one but God can save them now!

SICK AT THE SIGHT

Again, the author of Lamentations, probably Jeremiah, was *eyewitness* to the destruction of Judah. It deeply pained him to see that! So this book describes better than anywhere in the Bible what is going to happen to Israel and to the people of God during the Tribulation.

Notice this intense reaction: "Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people ..." (Lamentations 2:11).

Can you vividly imagine the horrible pictures that this author witnessed? We do not like to focus on dreadful events—but we need to face the reality of what is coming. *What this man envisioned and perhaps witnessed made him physically sick! His eyes became blinded by his many tears.* His grief and crying were so bad, HIS EYES BECAME SWELLED SHUT! His bowels wrenched in pain and HE HAD TO VOMIT BECAUSE OF THE HORROR! The Church, "the beauty of Israel," will be destroyed. It is not a pretty sight.

It is important for all people to think deeply about these prophecies. The warning they contain should motivate all people to seek God in repentance.

"[T]he children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city. They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom" (verses 11-12). What a sickening scene! The young children and infants of the Church will die of starvation. What has happened to many African nations will happen to God's own people. CAN YOU SEE GOD'S ONCE VIBRANT PEOPLE CRAZED WITH STARVATION? Church members' chil-

dren about to die ask their mothers, "Where is the corn and wine?" Imagine emaciated little children asking their mothers for food, and there is none to give them! The infants look at their mothers, longing for food, as they die upon their breasts.

This tragedy will be awfully difficult to endure. Who wouldn't become sick at such images? The author of Lamentations had to ask himself why the parents allowed this to happen to their children. Church parents will have to realize that they brought this on their children. Many if not all those children will probably miss the Millennium and will have to come back to life in the second resurrection. No wonder this prophet became so stressed by these events. It should not have ended that way.

Is God trying to hurt these people? "What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, *that I may comfort thee*, O virgin daughter of Zion? ..." (verse 13). Is God trying to hurt us when we experience trials and tests? Here, through the prophet, God is saying, *What can I do to you people to comfort you?* He *wants* to comfort them, but they need correction because they have pushed Him away (e.g. Matthew 23:37). What will it take to reach these people? Prophecy shows that God won't be able to reach half of the Laodiceans *even with the Tribulation!*

Verse 13 concludes, "for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?" The *breach* is the afflictions and problems the people are suffering. It's not like a creek or a river—it's a vast sea of tribulation!

FALSE PROPHETS

What caused all this trouble for the Church? Jeremiah lays the blame where it belongs! "Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment" (Lamentations 2:14). The Laodicean leaders have brought all of this trouble on the people. These false prophets will not tell people the true cause of their problems. Instead of God's warning, they preach only deceit and smooth things—only what the people want to hear.

Because they refused to prophesy what God taught, they misled the people to believe the horrible end-time events were far into the future. By not prophesying the truth, Church leaders actually gave false visions. They did not do their job in warning members of the coming punishment for sins. The Laodicean ministers ridiculed God's truth about a place of safety. They failed to teach the people about a future captivity and holocaust. The *Anchor Bible* calls their message "[m]ere whitewash. Hebrew [phrase],

When God's Church obeyed God and fulfilled its commission, God was enamored by its beauty! That is a prophecy of how, in the Kingdom of God, the glorified saints of God will bring joy to the whole Earth!

literally, [means] 'emptiness and whitewash,' as applied to visions by false prophets" It compares this image to the one in Ezekiel 13, where people are trying to fix a rickety wall by just painting over it.

Smooth things don't help anybody. What we need is the *truth from God!* That is how we really receive comfort. After all, GOD IS BUILDING HIS FAMILY! He made us in His own likeness, and is developing us in His image—the very character and mind of God! That is *reality!* We really are going to be in God's Family and sit on the throne with Jesus Christ!

THE JOY OF THE WHOLE EARTH

"All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?" (Lamentations 2:15). Clearly this is describing a time of woe, when God's people are being trampled. But again: Notice God's heartfelt description of His precious people! At one time, they were "The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth!"

When God's Church obeyed God and fulfilled its commission, God was enamored by its beauty! That is God's assessment of His loyal remnant even today, as we fulfill the job He has given us. That is also a prophecy of how, in the Kingdom of God, the glorified saints of God will bring joy to the whole Earth!

Sadly, that "perfection of beauty" is departed from the church Mr. Armstrong founded. The college campuses that exuded such excellent standards, the golden character of the students and instructors—the beauty that impressed even noted world leaders—are gone. Most of those young people have *turned away* from what they learned! What would King Leopold, who said that the day he spent on the Ambassador campus was the happiest of his life, say if he saw those people today?

Verse 16 reveals that the Church's enemies rejoice because what they have desired for God's Church has finally happened. God's Laodicean Church is no

more. But what the world does not see is that God's Philadelphia Church is alive and in a place of safety.

GOD'S ANGER COMPLETE

The entire second chapter of Lamentations discusses the destruction of "Zion," or the Church. We mentioned earlier in this article that the word *Zion* is mentioned seven times in Lamentations 2. This signifies that God *completes* His wrath against His Church.

"The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries" (Lamentations 2:17). This is all *God's* doing. God is fulfilling His word that He commanded in the "days of old." Why would God mention the "days of old" at this point? God is telling the Laodiceans that what Mr. Armstrong taught in the old days, or the Philadelphia traditions, are right! God wants the Laodicean Church to admit that what He revealed through Mr. Armstrong should not have been changed.

In the Tribulation, God will get the Church back on-track to WHAT IT USED TO BE! God will condemn His entire Church for getting away from the old ways!

"Cry aloud to the Lord! O daughter of Zion! Let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite! Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of YOUR CHILDREN, WHO FAINT FOR HUNGER AT THE HEAD OF EVERY STREET. Look, O LORD, and see! With whom hast thou dealt thus? SHOULD WOMEN EAT THEIR OFFSPRING, the children of their tender care? Should priest and prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?" (verses 18-20, Revised Standard Version).

The Apostle Paul warned us that "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). God loves His Church so much that He will pull out all stops to help His people repent. Verse 20 shows that He will even allow some members to come to the point where they may be tempted to eat their own children because of their severe starvation.

Do God's people really have to experience something so gruesome? Is that the only way God can reach them and finally comfort the half of them who repent? Is that how *hard* and *self-willed* they are?

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE HARD! If we use the Spirit of God, that makes us childlike and teachable. We will *want* God to correct us! That is our only hope!

The closing verses of Lamentations 2 show dead
continued on page 29 ►

self-improvement—to prod and drive myself on and on. I had sought the jobs which would provide training and experience for the future. This had led to travel, to contacts with big and important men, multimillionaire executives.

At 28 a publishers' representative business had been built in Chicago which produced an income equivalent to some \$35,000 a year measured by today's dollar value. The flash depression of 1920 had swept it away. At age 30, discouraged, broken in spirit, I was removed from it entirely.

Then, in Oregon, had come the advertising service for laundries. It was growing and multiplying rapidly. After one year, in the fall of 1926, the fees were grossing close to \$1,000 per month. I saw visions of a personal net income mounting to from \$300,000 to a half million a year with expansion to national proportions. Then an action by the Laundryowners National Association swept the laundry advertising business out from under my feet.

It seemed that I was King Midas in reverse. Every material money-making enterprise I started *promised* gold, but turned to *nothing*! They vanished like mirages on a desert.

Yes, God Almighty the Creator, was knocking me down—again and again. As often as I got back to my feet to fight, on starting another business or enterprise, another blow of utter and bitter defeat seemed to strike me from behind by an unseen hand. I was being “softened” for the final knock-out of material ambition.

Now came the greatest inner battle of my life.

To accept this truth meant—so I supposed—to *cut me off from all former friends, acquaintances and business associates*. I had come to meet some of the independent “Sabbath-keepers” down around Salem and the Willamette Valley. Some of them were what I then, in my pride and conceit, regarded as backwoods “hillbillies.” None were of the financial and social position of those I had associated with.

My associations and pride had led me to “look down upon” this class of people. I had been ambitious to hobnob with the wealthy and the cultural.

I saw plainly what a decision was before me. To accept this truth meant to throw in my lot for life with a class of people I had always looked on as inferior. I learned later that God *looks on the heart*, and these humble people were the real salt of the Earth. But I was then

still looking on the outward appearance. It meant being cut off completely and forever from all to which I had aspired. It meant a total crushing of vanity. It meant a total *change of life*!

I counted the cost!

But then, I had been beaten down. I had been humiliated. I had been broken in spirit, frustrated. I had come to look on this formerly esteemed self as a failure. I now took another good look at myself.

And I acknowledged: “I’m nothing but a burned-out old hunk of junk.”

I realized I had been a swellheaded egotistical jackass.

Finally, in desperation, I threw myself on God’s mercy. I said to God that I knew, now, that I was nothing but a burned-out hunk of junk. My life was worth nothing more to ME. I said to God that I knew now I had nothing to offer HIM—but if He would forgive me—if He could have any use whatsoever for such a worthless dreg of humanity, that He could have my life; I knew it was worthless, but if He could do anything with it, He could have it—I was willing to give this worthless self to HIM—I wanted to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior!

I meant it! It was the toughest battle I ever fought. It was a battle for LIFE. I lost that battle, as I had been recently losing all battles. I realized Jesus Christ had bought and paid for my life. I gave in. I surrendered, unconditionally. I told Christ He could have what was left of me! I didn’t think I was worth saving!

Jesus said, “Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” I then and there gave up my life—not knowing that this was the *ONLY* way to really *find* it!

It was humiliating to have to admit my wife had been right, and I had been wrong. It was disillusioning to learn, on studying the BIBLE for the first time, that what I had been taught in Sunday school was, in so many basic instances, the very opposite of what the Bible plainly states. It was shocking to learn that “all these churches *were* wrong” after all!

But I did, later, have one satisfaction. I wrote up a long manuscript about the Sabbath, finally tying it up with evolution, and *PROVING* evolution false. I gave it to my sister-in-law, Mrs. Dillon. She read it unsuspectingly. Before she realized what she was reading, she had accepted the evidence and *PROOF* that evolution was false.

“You tricked me!” she exclaimed.

But she *did* have to “eat those words”! ■

(to be continued)

Punish from page 5

bodies everywhere. It is a tragic scene, worse than any human mind can imagine. How horrible! But it is necessary to wake people up!

“The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied” (verse 21). The prophet—moved by God’s Spirit—called the people in the midst of this tribulation “my virgins and my young men.” He was intensely, personally moved by the utter destruction God brings against them.

“Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the LORD’s anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed” (verse 22). This verse speaks of “terrors round about”—they are *everywhere*. And *none*—not a single one of these rebels—will escape! Though God “swaddled and brought [them] up” through Mr. Armstrong, this is the terrible end they came to.

There is still hope for God’s people in the Tribulation. Some will begin to see their desperate need for repentance. God’s anger will have brought them to a point where they can be saved spiritually. In the Tribulation, Church members will realize that they cannot be saved physically. Some will repent and be granted salvation—though they still must die! Those who don’t repent will die in the Tribulation or the Day of the Lord. Their fate is eternal death.

What a bitter price this church must pay for its rebellion. No one will escape alive. Yes, God will severely punish both the young and old, the infants and children. God is going to force people to the point of death to get them to listen.

Wouldn’t it be *MUCH BETTER TO LISTEN NOW*—while there is still time—*THAN TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS TRAGEDY*? ■