

Royal Vision

July-August 2000

SPECIAL ISSUE

THAT
PROPHET

ROYAL VISION

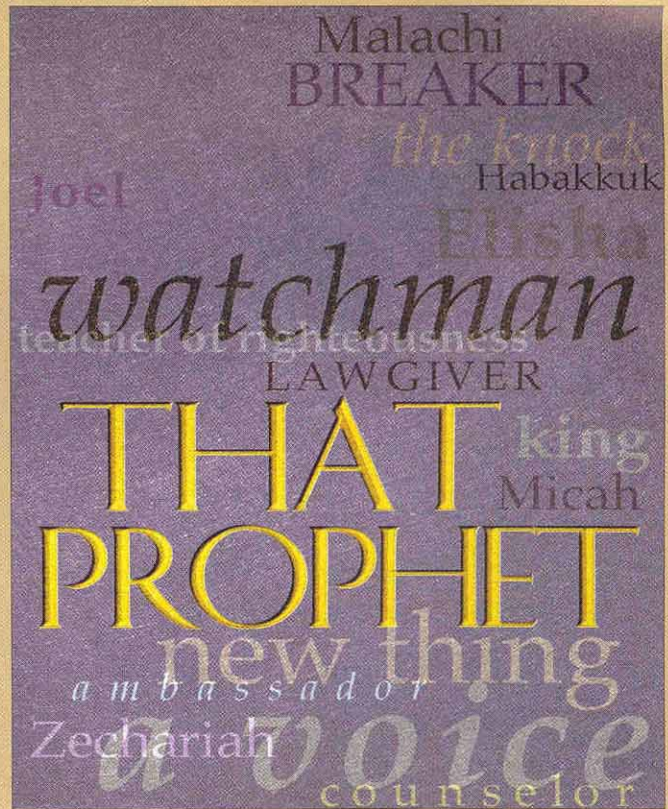
July-August 2000/Volume 3, Number 4

ARTICLES

Special Issue THAT PROPHET BY GERALD FLURRY	1
Part One Who Is "That Prophet"?	2
Part Two A New Thing	9
Part Three God's Watchman	13
Part Four The Throne and Lawgiver	20
God's Command	25
Zechariah's Flying Scroll	26
Part Five The Elisha Work	29
Christ Directly Guides His Church	31
Part Six The Voice of the Day of the Lord	34

DEPARTMENT

Letters	41
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About our cover The various biblical titles associated with an end-time prophet who comes on the scene just before Jesus Christ's return. (Joel Hilliker)

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THAT PROPHET

**Jesus Christ said, "You shall know them by their fruits."
You will not know a prophet by how many followers he has.
Or how much property he purchases.
You will know him by the prophecies God reveals to him.
God will also give him a powerful work
to deliver those prophecies.**

**The Bible refers to "that prophet" declaring his message just
before Christ returns. He is prominently mentioned in the
former prophets, all of the major and minor prophets,
plus Lamentations, Daniel and Revelation!
Can we prove who he is?**

**I believe this message will have more impact than any booklet
we have published. It will also bring more persecution!**

**Remember, God reveals prophecy ONLY to "babes"
(Matt. 11:25). If you will prayerfully study this issue of
Royal Vision, asking God for a humble, childlike attitude,
you can prove the identity of that prophet.**

WHO IS "THAT PROPHET"?

BY GERALD FLURRY

LAST YEAR, ONE OF OUR Church members brought to my attention this scripture: "And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the *Christ*. And they asked him, What then? Art thou *Elias* [Elijah]? And he saith, I am not. Art thou *THAT PROPHET*? And he answered, No" (John 1:19-21). This member believed "that prophet" applied to me. But he didn't give a reason *why*. I felt I should at least study into it and beseech God for more understanding.

What is God talking about here? This conversation between the priests and Levites and John is all about Christ, and Elijah—who is associated with the return of Christ. It revolves around the Second Coming of the Messiah.

John the Baptist was a mystery to people, especially the Jews. They asked if he was Christ, and he said no. They asked if he was Elijah, and he said no. Actually he was a *type* of Elijah, though he might not have known it at the time. Finally they asked if he was "that prophet," and again he told them no.

What is interesting is that the Jews knew the Bible prophesied of a coming Messiah. They did not, however, understand that He was prophesied to come *twice*. That is why they rejected Christ when He came to this Earth the first time. They didn't like the idea that He came on a mule. They wanted a God with power. They wanted a God who could free them from the Romans and restore to them the stature they felt they deserved. They knew all the prophecies about the God of power who is coming to this Earth. What they did not understand was that Christ wouldn't come in that fashion until His *Second Coming*. Yet these priests and Levites could clearly see from Scripture that a Messiah would in fact come.

They also knew an Elijah would precede the Messiah's coming; the Bible makes that clear in scriptures like Malachi 4:5-6. These were the priests and Levites, people who knew the Scriptures.

The Jews also knew about another man, another prophet, associated with that great end-time event. There was to come an Elijah and also an unknown prophet before Christ's return. When the Jews asked about "that prophet," they knew who they were referring to, and it appears John did too. There must have been someone else, besides Elijah—someone whom prophecy places near the end time, near Christ's return. He wasn't Elijah; he really was unknown as far as a name was concerned. He was simply called "that prophet."

Who Is "That Prophet"?

This unnamed prophet is mentioned again in verse 25 of John 1: "And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither *that prophet*?" In other words, they asked him, *What are you doing, if you're not one of those men? Should you even be baptizing people?*

A few commentaries say "that prophet" is Christ, but that doesn't make sense; that prophet is presented in this list as being distinct from Christ and Elijah.

Thayer's Lexicon says the Jews believed that prophet was to "arrive just before the Messiah's advent." Notice, the time setting for this individual to arrive is just before Christ's return. The *International Critical Commentary* says, "There was a general belief that Elijah would return to Earth to prepare the way of the Messiah. This was founded on Malachi 4:5. This was another alternative the Jews held that, not only Elijah, but others of the prophets would return before Messiah's appearance. This expectation of the return of one of the prophets was the expectation of one who was preeminently 'that prophet.'" According to these commentaries the Jews thought there was ANOTHER PROPHET TO COME JUST BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN.

Lange's Commentary says (emphasis mine), "The prophet with the article, the 'well-known' prophet, a personage in their Messianic theology presumed to be familiar." This prophet was familiar to them because of their knowledge of prophecy. "This particular prophet, therefore, is meant, WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE FORERUNNING OFFICE OF ELIJAH...." So the Jews believed *that prophet* would complete the office of Elijah! The *Jamison, Faucett and Brown Commentary* says, "Elijah, but in his own proper person whom the Jews expected and still expect before the coming of their Messiah."

The Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) has always believed that Herbert W. Armstrong fulfilled the end-time type of the office of Elijah. Since he died in 1986, we know that "Elijah" has come and gone. Now, a prophet with no name is to come on the scene. All the commentaries I have

studied place his arrival at the END TIME, JUST BEFORE THE GREATEST EVENT EVER TO OCCUR IN THE UNIVERSE: CHRIST'S RETURN. That fact alone should greatly help us identify this man! You must realize the significance of the *time* setting. That prophet has a very important job in this end time.

Who is that prophet, which several commentaries say must come soon after the end-time Elijah and just before the Messiah? We need to know.

A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that *Elias* [Elijah] *must first come*? And Jesus answered and said unto them, ELIAS TRULY SHALL FIRST COME, and restore all things" (Matt. 17:10-11). The Jews didn't believe what Christ said in the New Testament, but they knew Elijah was to come before Christ's return. And here Christ affirmed that fact.

Notice what Christ said next: "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and *they knew him not*, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed [desired]. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist" (vv. 12-13). Since the Jews rejected Christ at His first coming, you can see why they did not recognize John the Baptist as a type of Elijah. They did not know who John was, and John suffered at their hands because of it. This is powerfully symbolic of what happened in this end time among *spiritual* Jews, or God's Church. Most of God's people did not recognize Herbert Armstrong for who he was. They do not believe Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the end-time role of Elijah. The world also failed to recognize his office.

Let's return to the passage in John 1. The Jews persisted in their questioning of John the Baptist. "Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias [Isaiah]" (John 1:22-23). John didn't say he was Elijah, yet he said he was fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 40.

Clearly, Isaiah 40:3 refers to John the Baptist and Herbert W. Armstrong: "THE VOICE of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John prepared the way for Christ's first coming. Mr. Armstrong prepared the way for His Second Coming. He prepared a "highway" for God in the spiritual "desert" of this world. He *restored* all things.

Think about this for a moment. There are only two "Elijahs" after the original Elijah—that is, John the Baptist and Mr. Armstrong. If they were the only ones who fulfilled Isaiah 40, why didn't God inspire Isaiah to put Elijah's name there? Why did he simply call it "the voice"? There is an important reason why: ISAIAH 40 REFERS TO MORE THAN JUST ELIJAH. Let's look at this passage in more detail.

You That Tell Good Tidings

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (vv. 1-2). This is a comforting message, because it all revolves around the return of Christ. Some of this message isn't comforting, but when you see the

overview, it will comfort you. The modern nations of Israel (which include Britain, America and Palestine) must receive this announcement before they die.

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (v. 3). This, as I said, refers to both John the Baptist and Mr. Armstrong.

Verse 4 begins to discuss specifically the *end time*—the time of the latter-day Elijah, Mr. Armstrong.

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (vv. 4-5).

Now look carefully at verse 9. The correct translation is in the margin of the King James Version; it is the same as the Jewish Publication Society translation: "*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!*" Here is a "voice" bringing good tidings TO ZION, of all things! Zion is a type of God's Church, and here someone has to *bring them* the good news. They should be taking it to the world, but instead someone is bringing it *to them*, because THEY DON'T HAVE IT! This is an amazing scripture, when you understand it.

So there are actually *three voices* here in Isaiah 40. There is John the Baptist. There is Mr. Armstrong. And there is a voice that comes on the scene during the final era of God's Church, the Laodicean era—a voice bringing God's message to God's own lukewarm Church. This third voice is the final one; two voices have already come and gone. This is the LAST VOICE before Jesus Christ returns! It is the voice that says, "BEHOLD YOUR GOD!"

The first two voices in Isaiah 40 are both types of Elijah. Christ said so (Matt. 17:10-13). But if there were only two voices in Isaiah 40, God would undoubtedly have called both of them Elijah. There is a third voice who is *not* a type of Elijah. He is *that prophet*. The *time frame* shows us that. He introduces Christ's Second Coming—and he is not Elijah. There are only two prophesied leaders in this end time who do God's work—Elijah and *that prophet*.

It is a *voice*—singular. *He*—not a committee—is the physical head of God's work.

He delivers two messages that Mr. Armstrong did not deliver. He gives good news to God's sinning, Laodicean Church, and he delivers good news to the cities of Judah.

It is amazing to realize that God must send a voice to give this good news to His own people. They have simply LOST what God gave them! But someone has the honor to come back, with a host of supporters, and say, "BEHOLD YOUR GOD!" *That is the best news anyone could ever hear.* Announcing Christ's return to the world is a wonderful opportunity—a great honor! The sad news is, 95 percent of God's Church fails to deliver this message.

Where is *this* voice that speaks for God? Where is this "third voice," the last and final voice? Who is crying out just before Christ returns, telling good tidings to God's

This is the last voice before Jesus Christ returns! It is the voice that says, "Behold your God!"



The covenant isn't made with just "a man"; it is made with all the ministers who are supporting this man in doing God's work. They share in this responsibility to teach about David's throne.

the cities of Judah (or Palestine) today. But I still expect that message to become more powerful.

Why Unnamed

Why would God refer to this end-time office as "that prophet"? Why not assign it another name, like *Elisha*? Because God wants us in this end time to focus on ELIJAH. If people focus on Elijah, they'll have no trouble locating this other voice.

Elijah is the central leader in this end time; if we don't realize that, we're not doing God's work. God doesn't want any confusion. He wants everything constructed on the foundation Elijah built.

So God just calls this other man "that prophet." After all, he's a prophet—what difference does the name make? He is like many of the Old Testament prophets: God simply doesn't tell us much about them. The man isn't important; what's important is the MESSAGE.

Never Lack a Man

Jeremiah 30:1-3 shows that Jeremiah was written for the end time. We must keep that in mind as we look at the following scriptures.

In the Revised Standard Version, Jeremiah 33 reads, "For thus says the Lord, David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; and the Levitical priests shall never lack A MAN in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn cereal offerings, and to make sacrifices forever" (vv. 17-18). We have written a lot about the first part of that covenant, which refers to the royal family now ruling in Britain (request our free booklet *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*). That is the throne of Isaiah 9:6-7, the throne Christ will rule from forever.

In the second part of that covenant, God says the priests would never lack a man from among them, a man in God's presence, to teach about the throne of David. That prophecy says "forever," and that is what it means. There will ALWAYS be one leading minister talking about that eternal throne of David until Christ returns! This is an exciting prophecy! God promised the Levitical priests—His ministers today—that the message about David's throne would be delivered through one

man. God always keeps His promises.

Notice, the covenant isn't made with just "a man"; it is made with ALL the ministers who support this man in doing God's work. They share in this responsibility to teach about David's throne.

Although these ministers fulfill their priestly responsibilities, there is still ONE MAN chiefly responsible; ONE MAN who heads the work. The other ministers follow him as he follows Christ (I Cor. 11:1). They follow him as he fulfills his job teaching God's prophecy about David's throne to the world.

If God is going to give REVELATION about this throne, it will be through a prophet or an apostle (Eph. 3:5). This man will have the responsibility to preach to the world the revealed prophecy about David's throne—the key of David. Some man will always be there to tell people about this single greatest hope in the world.

From the beginning, the PCG has been able to distribute *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It was the first booklet by Mr. Armstrong that we reprinted. In 1992, we printed the small 1945 version. We have distributed more than 50,000 copies of that booklet. Now we have printed the larger 1980 version. God says we have to continue that message.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Armstrong focused on the first covenant in Jeremiah 33. But I don't remember him even teaching about this covenant with the Levitical priests, or ministers. So where is there "a man" teaching more and more depth about David's throne today? God has revealed much more depth about these two covenants since Mr. Armstrong died. We didn't understand that depth when God inspired us to call our television program *The Key of David*. But the fact that God inspired that name at the beginning of our work reveals a lot about how important the key of David vision is to God. Now we also have a booklet titled *The Key of David*.

How much do the Laodicean churches understand about this vision? They don't teach it because THEY HAVE LOST IT. None of the Laodicean churches even want the God-inspired *United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It is the greatest vision in the Bible, and when you lose it, you lose everything. Those who have it are Philadelphian; those who don't are Laodicean.

Minister Unto God

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord; if ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me" (Jer. 33:19-22). This is an amazing covenant, and nothing will break it.

These priests "minister unto" God! *Lange's Commentary* says this is a "technical term for the ministration of the Levites and priests"—that is God's ministers today. God gets very technical when it comes to His ministers' jobs. These leaders should seriously ponder the covenant they have made with the living God! They cannot afford to take this statement casually.

God says that a *man* will always be proclaiming this ultimate vision. Is this man "that prophet" in the end time? There is certainly a lot of evidence to offer as proof of that fact.

God states that we would never lack "a man" to be in God's presence to lead His people spiritually. This man would also lead other ministers.

These ministers would be following A MAN—whom God has appointed to deliver the message about David's throne. In other words, they either follow a *man*—God's man—or they are not God's ministers! They have made a covenant with God to do so.

Is there a prophet today who continually prophesies about David's throne and how it is the greatest vision in the Bible?

God has revealed the truth about His covenant with the ministers to me. I will be held accountable. So will our ministers, and so will God's people—*Philadelphians and Laodiceans*.

God's people should always follow the ministers that God says minister unto Him. That means God's followers have a deep understanding about David's throne and the whole Bible, or they will be deceived. God's very elect will be led by God—not *men*—to share David's throne with Christ FOREVER! This is all about Christ's rule. God has made a *covenant* with His *ministers* (plural). But these ministers will follow *that prophet*—a man—as he proclaims new and deeper revelation about David's throne. Then this man and God's other ministers rally God's people to teach this vision to the world. It is the world's *only* hope!

We have all made a *covenant* with God to get this work done. God is going to hold each one of us accountable for every word of His truth.

Can anybody stop God's covenant with the ministry? No more than they could stop God's covenant with day and night!

God's one-man rule will be disputed more and more as time continues. As the spiritual war heats up, you will see God's one-man rule called into question more than anything else in this Church. People will say that *one man rule is an evil thing!* But that is only true if that one man isn't being ruled by the great God who will sit on David's throne! FOLLOWING GOD'S MAN IS ACTUALLY FOLLOWING GOD. God says we are *cursed* if we follow a mere man (Jer. 17:5). This work is not about a man. "That prophet" doesn't even have a biblical name. This helps us to focus on GOD.

God's Covenant with the Ministers

What is the meaning behind God's covenant with the ministers? GOD'S MINISTERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT GOD'S PROPHET, BUT ALSO TO HELP GOD'S PEOPLE SEE THAT THEY ALSO NEED TO SUPPORT HIM—PASSIONATELY! God holds the ministers accountable for that, just as He does anyone in a position of responsibility. They are the *example* to God's people. That is the number-one way they teach. The main responsibility of getting this message to the brethren rests with the ministry. All of God's ministers need to do some soul-searching to make sure we are fulfilling our obligations in this respect.

Do we realize how serious the obligations of the ministry are? We know we'll lose 50 percent of the Laodiceans to eternal death (Matt. 25:1-13), but I'm sure *it will be a higher percentage among the ministry!* THIS IS AS SERIOUS AS ANYTHING I COULD TALK ABOUT. Our ministers need to be

very receptive to correction, *even, at times, from our own wives*, who are 50 percent of our ministry.

I also believe our ministers are not as close to each other as we need to be. God's ministers are *covenant brothers*, which means we should be closer than physical brothers. We have a responsibility to God's people to show a deep unity among ourselves. We all need to work harder for this unity. Then the whole Church will become more unified by following our examples.

This is how we will unify the entire world! "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause *the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David*; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, *The Lord our righteousness*" (Jer. 33:14-16). Ultimately, THE THRONE OF DAVID will unify all of God's people. The Church today will truly unify only by rallying around this throne through a man. Before God's people can unify, they will have to regain this vision.

Meditate on these verses in Jeremiah 33, in the context of those two covenants. THERE IS A SPIRITUAL THRONE OF DAVID IN GOD'S CHURCH TODAY. We experience a type of what it will be like over all the Earth once Christ returns. EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE UNIFIED AROUND THAT THRONE!

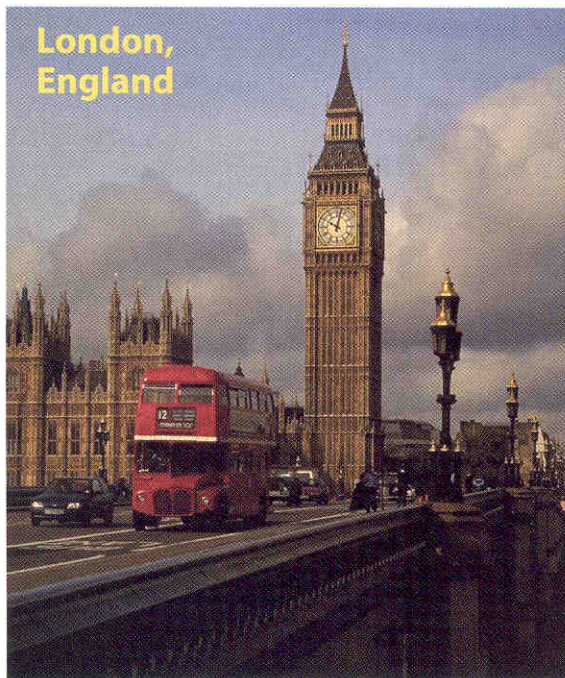
A Message to a King

The spiritual leader discussed in Jeremiah 33 has some very specific jobs to do. One of these is found in Jeremiah 22. "Thus saith the Lord; GO down to the house of the king of Judah, and SPEAK there this word, And say, Hear the word of the Lord, O *king* of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates: Thus saith the Lord; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place" (Jer. 22:1-3). I don't yet know exactly how God will want this fulfilled. But remember, there is a connection between that man in the Levitical priesthood—that prophet—and the king or queen sitting upon the throne of David today. This verse specifically says "king." Will it be King Charles? It will take great faith just to "go" and "speak" to that king. How direct will this message be? This isn't a message that the British royalty will want to hear.

God's ministers are covenant brothers. We should be closer than physical brothers. We have a responsibility to God's people to show a deep unity among ourselves. Then the whole Church will become more unified by following our examples.



I urgently need the help of God's ministers and God's people. Only we can do the job! We will be held accountable for Israel's blood (Ezek. 33:7-9). This is a deadly serious calling!



The message continues: "For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people. But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation" (vv. 4-5). God says that this warning will be out there, and it will be delivered by a man. It is directed to one royal person and his people. If they refuse to hear that voice, there will be terrible consequences. "For thus saith the Lord unto the king's house of Judah; Thou art Gilead unto me, and the head of Lebanon: yet surely I will make thee a wilderness; and cities which are not inhabited" (v. 6). This did not ever happen in Israel's ancient history. Clearly this is talking about a nuclear disaster. Hosea 6:8 calls Gilead a city of wrongdoers—a city that will suffer as no city ever has if they don't heed God's message today! If this "king" fails to heed, it will affect not only his throne, but all of Israel!

CITIES ARE TO BE UNINHABITED. Cities like London, Manchester, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Dallas! These major cities are to be left like a desolate "wilderness"—an uninhabited plain, flattened and unpopulated. How terribly important our message is! This catastrophe can only be avoided if they hear that prophet. It is their only escape.

This Great City

There is a direct connection between this massive, unparalleled calamity and the throne of David!

"And I will prepare DESTROYERS against thee [God is doing this even now], every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast them into the fire. And many nations shall pass by *this city*, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto *this great city*?" (Jer. 22:7-8). God gives special attention to "this great city" where David's throne is. That has to be London, England!

This scripture says many nations will come to see the total destruction of this city—it will be a bigger tourist

attraction than the Coliseum of Rome or any other ruins on Earth. People will wonder, *how did this happen?*

IMAGINE LONDON BEING THE NUMBER-ONE TOURIST ATTRACTION IN EUROPE. AND WHY? BECAUSE IT IS TOTALLY OBLITERATED! NOT ONE INHABITANT LEFT!

People will ask why God punished London more than any other city ever. That devastation will show they did not listen to our message—just as those who will be killed did not listen!

IT'S TIME PEOPLE AWAKENED AND LISTENED TO GOD'S WARNING MESSAGE! God will hold them accountable for rejecting His covenant with David and His message about that throne. THAT THRONE IS THE GREATEST PHYSICAL SYMBOL OF HOPE ON EARTH! But how can other people respect and admire it if most of the British people scorn their own history and prophecy about this throne?

God is going to hold all of Israel responsible for the truth about David's throne—especially the British. This is a hard message to deliver. Doesn't it seem logical that God would send a prophet to proclaim this prophecy?

If we understand this most important warning ever, surely it must motivate us to do God's work! Do we deeply comprehend what is about to happen?

Notice the next verse: "Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them" (v. 9). WHAT COVENANT COULD A KING IN THAT CITY FORSAKE? ONLY THE COVENANT GOD MADE WITH DAVID ABOUT THAT THRONE!

If you remember history, you realize that the people of Israel should *know* about and should be a part of that covenant. God does hold the British people specifically (and all Israel generally) accountable for scorning that throne and covenant today! Consider too that Mr. Armstrong distributed over 5 million copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Many people had the honor of knowing about that throne and that covenant. The royal family certainly ought to know about it! But today people scoff—and we just have to make our warning message stronger.

If this king doesn't repent, he is going to have the burial of an ass! (vv. 18-19). What a tragic ending for the world's most famous royalty.

Proclaiming the warning about this destruction is a hard job. It is not a message guilty people want to hear. Yet no one can prevent this message from going out. God says it will happen. We must deliver the message to Israel, and to that king.

How much can you support a man to deliver it? If you love God's people, and you love this world as Jesus Christ did, you will do all you can to help proclaim this desperately needed message.

God cares deeply about that throne. These prophecies say He is about to *annihilate* Israel! He is about to obliterate cities, leaving not a single inhabitant! This is a deadly serious matter in His mind, and He wants to ensure that the people concerned are sufficiently warned.

As we will see in prophecy after prophecy, when God reveals something He expects it to be declared! That

places great responsibility on the shoulders of that prophet who comes just before Christ does, and to a great extent on the people who support him. I need a lot of support, from the ministry and from all of God's people. I am held accountable for all the revelation I've been given. It must be declared to Israel! As Paul said, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:16).

Mr. Armstrong did not understand this covenant with God's ministers regarding David's throne. That would obviously limit his message to the British royal family. He also never got as specific in his message to the royal family as I do today and shall do in the future. Mr. Armstrong's message did not emphasize a warning about David's throne as my message does.

That message cannot be delivered by one man alone. He must be supported by each one of God's very elect. I urgently need the help of God's ministers and God's people. Only we can do the job! We will be held accountable for Israel's blood (Ezek. 33:7-9). This is a deadly serious calling!

A Vigilant Watchman

Jeremiah was given a huge job: God ordained him a prophet to the nations (Jer. 1:5). In his lifetime he only preached his warning to Judah; he never went to Israel. So we know that if we don't get his message out to the nations in this end time, he will have lived in vain! That's why he wrote the message in a book.

Jeremiah could have said, *This doesn't make sense to me—why warn Israel when they're already in captivity?* But God showed him what would happen in this end time.

"Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a *rod of an almond tree*. Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it" (vv. 11-12). As I wrote in our *Jeremiah* booklet, the "rod of an almond tree" could be described as "a vigilant watchman." This prophecy shows that a vigilant watchman would come on the scene in the end time. In sending this watchman, God is giving the nations a chance to repent. God gives him a "rod," or the authority he needs to do the job. Then he is expected to do as God tells him.

Jeremiah knew God would have to send *someone* to deliver His message in the end time. And that watchman must have the most important job on Earth, because we're about to face the worst catastrophe ever, just before Christ returns!

This prophecy does not apply to Mr. Armstrong as specifically as it does to me. Here is why: "And the word of the Lord came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a SEETHING POT; and the face thereof is toward the north. Then the Lord said unto me, *Out of the NORTH an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land*" (vv. 13-14). This seething, boiling pot—the king of the north, or the European Union—is about to spill over all Israel. That description *dates this prophecy specifically*: The vigilant watchman will arrive when the pot is about to boil over. Look at Europe today, and you see a boiling pot ready to spill over at any time! It was never boiling when Mr. Armstrong was around. What he warned about all those years is REALLY boiling today!

"And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, *who have forsaken me*, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the

works of their own hands" (v. 16). This too is dated: Only God's people can forsake Him. Here they forsake Him just as the pot is boiling—at a time when they are most needed! So God will utter His judgments against these Laodiceans. HOW? THROUGH HIS WATCHMAN.

Ezekiel 33 tells us that this watchman is also a prophet. Under the leadership of one man, the PCG has been warning the Laodiceans about their actions for over a decade. God rebukes them because, not only are they failing to warn the world about the boiling pot, they are adding to the workload by having to be warned themselves!

Though Mr. Armstrong understood a great deal of the book of Jeremiah, there was also a lot that couldn't be revealed until after his death. That is when this watchman came on the scene.

Again, because of the time element, we can deduce that THIS WATCHMAN IS THE SAME INDIVIDUAL AS "THAT PROPHET."

God says, "I will utter my judgments against them." How will God do this? He will do it through *that prophet*—with the help of God's very elect.

Arise and Speak


God gives this instruction to Jeremiah, but it is also directed, in principle, to that end-time prophet: "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I *confound* thee before them" (Jer. 1:17). *Confound* comes from a Hebrew word which means "break in pieces." God says, *I'll tell you what to speak, and you must speak it, or I'll break you in pieces!* Does that sound like a serious responsibility? That warning is directed specifically to that watchman, that voice—that prophet. It is not primarily directed at the Church members; not even the ministry. The people simply need to back that one man and support him in his commission.

In delivering God's message, we will face fearsome situations. If we run like Jonah did, we will face God's wrath. He forces us to choose: *Face them, or face Me.*

God promises to give the watchman the strength he needs. "For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee" (vv. 18-19). God's enemies will not prevail against the watchman and his supporters. We are destined to win this war because God is with us; but we will only win after many intense battles.

Again, God ordained Jeremiah *a prophet to the nations* (v. 5). Jeremiah only went to Judah. God also ordains this end-time watchman *a prophet to the nations*. He must deliver Jeremiah's message. The Laodiceans turn away, and God raises up a watchman to give the full message of

God says,
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Why would God want to focus more on the office of "that prophet" now? God's people must understand this office so they can support it. It will be under attack, so we'd better know who we are and what we're a part of. If we don't, we will never withstand Satan's attacks.

Jeremiah, to warn them and the world about the pot about to boil over and scald all of them. All of God's ministers and Church members are called solely to back and support that office.

"I Magnify Mine Office"

During Paul's ministry, there were times when people challenged his office. He would often begin his letters this way: "Paul, an apostle of God...." He would magnify his office, not to get people to follow a man, but to help them see what *God was doing* through that office. To the Romans he came right out and said, "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office" (Rom. 11:13). We don't exalt men, but we must exalt the offices that God exalts.

Why would God want to focus more on the office of "that prophet" now? Is it because of what is ahead? The greatest event ever in this universe is about to occur. The opposition we will face before that time is to be the most intense ever! God's people must understand this office

so they can support it. It will be under attack, so we'd better know who we are and what we're a part of. If we don't, we will never withstand Satan's attacks.

We need to focus more on the office Mr. Armstrong had. He had 50 years to build a powerful work that was about 25 times bigger than what we have.

Yet, in some ways, we face a more intense warfare. So I also believe it is now time that God wants to magnify my office. I fulfill the office of "that prophet."

No Prophets Today?

Mr. Armstrong made this statement in the *Tomorrow's World* magazine, June 1972 (emphasis his): "Emphatically I am NOT a prophet, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God—separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. And I never have claimed to be.

"There is no such human prophet living today!"

"The Bible is the written word of God—and, for our time now, it is COMPLETE! *Never have I believed or claimed that God reveals to me new truths not contained in the Bible—in addition to, or apart from the Bible....*

"Let's take a look at the Church of God of the first century, as we find it revealed in the book of Acts, beginning from the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. The Bible was not fully written—only the Old Testament—in A.D. 31. God then was still communicating new truth, instruction and knowledge directly and personally to prophets. As the Church progressed, it was the function of a prophet to communicate to the APOSTLES special messages which God had personally revealed to them. Others were inspired in the writing of the books of the New Testament.

"So we read, in Acts 11:28 and 21:10-11 of the prophet Agabus. But today we have the COMPLETE word of God,

for our time, in the Bible. *There are no such prophets—EXCEPT FALSE ONES.*"

I agree completely with this quote. Mr. Armstrong was not a prophet in the sense that God spoke to him like He did with the prophets of old. God spoke to Mr. Armstrong THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE BIBLE. Mr. Armstrong was careful to make this distinction when discussing his office. Why? Probably because of the office he knew he was fulfilling. He, and just about everyone in the Church shortly before his death, believed he had fulfilled the end-time office of Elijah THE PROPHET (Mal. 4:5). The mere fact that he was an apostle, the highest rank God gives to a human being, means he also held the office of prophet—and every other office below the rank of apostle.

When Mr. Armstrong said he was not a prophet like those of old, he meant that he did not communicate with God like they did—in visions mostly. He communicated with God through the pages of the Bible. God gave him an abundance of new revelation—making the hidden truths of the Bible plain before all.

God has worked with me in the same way. He has not spoken to me directly in vision. But He has given me all kinds of new revelation from the Bible—new revelation that you can prove. You can easily prove that from the little book (*Malachi's Message*) and most of the booklets I have written.

I need to better understand what God requires of this office. This isn't really pleasant to think about sometimes. It is sobering to me. I know what the Laodiceans and the world will say when they hear about this. Grappling with heavy responsibility is never easy. Coming to realize the weight of his office caused Jonah to run. It has caused me to think about that a couple of times. Perhaps it has you too, because of what God has called you to do. But God considers the turning away of His own people the worst tragedy of all.

An apostle is the highest rank God gives to a man (Eph. 4:11). The next highest office is prophet. Mr. Armstrong had the highest office—an apostle. If I were vainly seeking an exalted office, surely the office of an apostle would have been my choice. But I had no choice. God placed me into the office of a prophet. The fruits of new prophetic revelation and a work to declare the message prove who I am.

I must always be subject to what God taught through Mr. Armstrong—government, law, statutes and judgments.

This work is not about a man. It's about what God taught or teaches through a man. Again, you are under a curse if you follow a man! At the same time, however, you are also under a curse if you fail to follow GOD'S MAN! (I Cor. 11:1). The only safe way is to follow Christ.

Remember, we must place this understanding in its proper context (John 1:19-21). The subject is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Right now, THE WORLD IS HEARING THE LAST VOICE THEY WILL HEAR BEFORE HE RETURNS—at least prior to the Tribulation. And my job and your job is to passionately support this office of God, so we can finish that all-important work. We don't need to be ashamed of this office. I hope it gives us a better perspective on what God expects from each one of us. He expects us to finish the work! We desperately need to work together, unify and be a family so we can achieve what God has given us to do.

A NEW THING

BY GERALD FLURRY

I WAS 25 YEARS OLD WHEN GOD CALLED ME INTO HIS Church. My life was a mess. I had grown up in a family where my dad, who was an alcoholic, gave me a lot of discipline. Some of it I certainly needed, but many of my needs went unfulfilled. So when the time came, I was happy to move out on my own. I wanted to live the “exciting life” everyone in the world was living. Yet it wasn’t that way at all. Soon I felt life was hopeless and empty. I even started trying to prove whether or not there was a God. The more I tried to prove it, the more I thought God did not exist. That discouraged me even more.

My mother had been called into the truth in 1957, and from that time until 1961 she tried endlessly to convert me. I rebelled against that and persecuted her for what she was doing. Whenever Herbert Armstrong came on the radio, she would turn up the volume so I could hear him, and that upset me. I was antagonistic against him and his message—that is, until my life had finally become so miserable and hopeless that I would do *anything* to change it, even if it meant getting interested in “mom’s religion.”

I eventually came into the Church and began to think of Mr. Armstrong as a father. My own father was lacking in many ways—he didn’t know how to teach me; no one had taught him. But I saw that Mr. Armstrong was very stable. Following him helped me stabilize my life and become stronger.

I have spent most of my adult life in the Church of God, and I noticed how Mr. Armstrong was always there keeping the Church going—keeping the truth alive. I knew he was God’s man. There was no question about that. I had proven it deeply. He was the only person who gave me what it took to make my life meaningful and happy. He taught me how to love God, and I had never experienced anything like that before in my life.

Mr. Armstrong was always there when problems needed to be solved. I began to take him for granted. I believed that as long as Mr. Armstrong was there, everything in God’s Church would be wonderful and stable. And it was. Then he died. That was stunning at first, but I figured God would get another man and it would all go the same way as it did under Mr. Armstrong. So it was easy for me, at first, to support Joseph W. Tkach.

At that time, I pastored nearly 500 people in the Oklahoma City area, and we all signed a card for Mr. Tkach, showing our support and inviting him to the area. He decided to come, and I was thrilled. Here was the man who replaced Herbert W. Armstrong. I was truly supportive of him. I had heard a lot of good stories about him and thought he sounded like the kind of man God would use.

I soon realized this was not true. Doctrinal changes began to come from headquarters, which were unsettling to me. I had seen nothing but stability and strength in the

Church for all those years; even in the 1970s, when the Church went off track, Mr. Armstrong was there to set everything straight. This time, he wasn’t there to fix the problem.

Then on December 7, 1989, the late John Amos (my assistant pastor) and I were fired from the Worldwide Church of God. We sat in the office of Joseph Tkach Jr. for about four hours. I was in emotional shock because of what was being said. It was obvious that Mr. Tkach Jr. seriously disagreed with what Mr. Armstrong had taught. This surprised me, because on some naïve level I believed that when I went to Pasadena, maybe I could contribute to helping God get the Church back on track with what He had revealed to me in *Malachi’s Message*.

The longer I sat there, though, the clearer it became to me that the Worldwide Church of God was not going to get back on track again. That was most disturbing.

What Happened to God’s Church?

Leaving Mr. Tkach’s office that night, I was more discouraged than I had ever been in my life. I didn’t know what was going to happen. We’d had God’s truth all those years, which perhaps I had taken for granted, and here I had talked to a man at the very top who contributed greatly to the changes taking place.

What a frightening experience. Why would God allow a leader like that to be over His Church? It was deeply distressing to me.

My daughter, who was working at Pasadena headquarters at the time, was going to travel back with us. She had a little yellow pickup truck, and I let her take my airplane ticket so I could drive the truck home. The trip took three days. I needed those days to sort things out in my mind. As I drove, Church issues weighed so heavily on my mind that I sometimes would have to stop the truck and walk around. *What in the world was happening to God’s Church?* I wondered.

This is a “new thing” God is building, so we have to think anew—differently than we’ve ever thought humanly in our lives!

new church being raised up. But I soon began to realize, after I was fired, something like that had to happen.

Revolving Around One Man

I was very upset over the Church’s problems. But God was even more upset. He asks in Jeremiah, “How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter?...” (Jer. 31:22). The Hebrew for the word *backsliding* means “turned away.” God’s Church turned away. We now know that there are many scriptures describing this “turning away,” but I didn’t know about them before writing *Malachi’s Message*.

As much as God hated what was happening, He did have a plan to solve the problem: The end of that verse reads, “...for the Lord hath created a NEW THING in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.” Within the context of the “turning away,” God says He will create a “new thing”—a woman will compass, or SURROUND, a man. We have said many times that a woman in Scripture represents a church. The root word of *compass* means “to revolve.” In other words, God will have His Church revolve around a man. This is something God says He has *created*.

The Church was that way under Mr. Armstrong. It started backsliding after he died, however, and quit revolving around what he taught us. So God says here in Jeremiah that He will create a new thing—AGAIN.

Realize how rare it is to have that new thing. If you study Church history from the first century until the present, you can understand that. The Church failed time and time again. Its leaders didn’t want to do the work the way God wanted it done.

So God creates this “new thing,” showing how He is going to conduct His Church and His work. What a wonderful gift! This isn’t something a *man* conjured up. God created this in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and the whole work revolved around Mr. Armstrong. When this “new thing” was no longer there, I was sent, along with the whole Church, into an emotional and spiritual turmoil. It made me appreciate the wonderful gift of having the Church revolve around God’s faithful leader.

Soon thereafter, the Philadelphia Church of God began. God created a “new thing” again. We were a Church that wanted to make its work revolve around a man who was put there by God to do His work. It was to be *God’s* creation.

The Laodiceans don’t want God’s government. They don’t want “the evils of one-man rule,” as they have said

many times. THOSE WORDS ARE STRAIGHT FROM THE MIND OF THE DEVIL! They don’t even discuss the *blessings* of one-man rule, when that man follows God. Think about it: Was the era of Herbert Armstrong evil? I *know* that Mr. Armstrong’s rule was wonderful. It almost drove me crazy after he died when we no longer had that wonderful gift. Is one-man rule bad? I have to say my experience with one-man rule was absolutely splendid! I exalt the office, not the man. But Mr. Armstrong was a wonderful blessing all my adult life. I know. I experienced it. I don’t care what any carnal-minded rebel says.

The Laodiceans are guilty of being a “backsliding daughter” because they have rejected Mr. Armstrong’s office. That also means the Laodiceans would reject the man who would follow in his footsteps. They are guilty of the great sin of trying to DESTROY this *new thing* God has CREATED. And 95 percent of them are not with God today.

This is a great tragedy in God’s Church, but, at the same time, God is training His very elect for positions nobody else in this end time will ever have. He will put them on a level that even repentant Laodiceans won’t have in the World Tomorrow.

This is a “new thing” God is building, so we have to think anew—differently than we’ve ever thought humanly in our lives! We have to think the way our Husband Jesus Christ thinks.

Voluntarily Accepting the New Thing

Mr. Armstrong got the Church back on track in the late 1970s. He was able to do it only because he would not let go of God’s “new thing.” Look at the marvelous fruits of his work for nearly 60 years—a result of God’s *new thing*. How rare! How unique. How wonderful!

When Mr. Armstrong died, that *new thing* was gone from this Earth! God’s government did not exist in an organized work until God raised up the PCG. And if it weren’t for the PCG, God’s government would not rule a single church or work today!

God’s government is the greatest gift He can give to His Church. No work can endure without it.

This world is headed for its worst apocalyptic crisis ever. People still haven’t learned that the “old thing” won’t work. This world will never solve its problems until they accept this *new thing*.

Soon this new thing will rule the Earth. Thankfully, it will last forever. What a fabulous joy to be able to help Christ establish His rule over the Earth and the universe.

We must be grounded in this concept if we are to be a part of what God is creating.

Our ministers must be *grounded* in this concept today. It is God’s majestic creation, and humanly it revolves around *that prophet*.

This is a deep, deep, deep concept that we must learn before we can ever be born into God’s family.

Think about this: When this new thing is created again after Mr. Armstrong’s leadership, isn’t it the time of “that prophet”?

This new thing was not my idea. God chose a man I would never choose. But there has to be a work that revolves around a man, or it is *not* God’s work!

Revolving Around a Man

GOD ALWAYS BUILDS HIS WORK AROUND A MAN. If you don’t accept this profound concept, THEN YOU MUST REJECT

THE END-TIME ELIJAH (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6). God's whole end-time work revolves around him! The Bible makes that very clear. He was the physical leader. The whole Church got behind him to do God's work.

The Church revolves around a man—Christ's man. This you can and must prove to yourself. You are under a curse if you just follow a man (Jer. 17:5). It must be Christ's man.

This government of God is the hope of the world. This is how God would solve all the world's problems, even today, if they would heed His message. IT ALL REVOLVES AROUND FINDING GOD'S MAN!

God is revealing a deep and often fatal flaw even in His own Church. He is revealing to us WHY His Laodicean Church has gone astray. All of their leaders have rejected Herbert W. Armstrong as God's end-time Elijah. That also means the Laodiceans would reject the man who would follow in his footsteps.

Herbert W. Armstrong restored God's government. He was the physical head of God's Church. The Philadelphia Church of God clings to that same government. It is the ONLY WAY God ever does His work.

Why is this a "new thing"? The book of Jeremiah is prophecy for the end time. Anciently God established a letter-of-the-law government. Moses enforced it on Israel even when they didn't like it. Today we have God's Holy Spirit and must *choose* God's government. Nobody is forced to submit. Most of God's people have chosen to reject God's one-man government. They often talk about "the evils of one-man government." They refuse to let God's Church revolve around a man. They must be plunged into the Tribulation, where God makes them choose His government or eternal death. VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTING GOD'S GOVERNMENT TODAY QUALIFIES US TO BE CHRIST'S BRIDE—THE HIGHEST POSITION MAN CAN ATTAIN IN GOD'S KINGDOM!

This concept goes much deeper. Marriage and family are God-plane relationships. They are a type of the first-fruits marriage to Christ and the family of God. The physical marriage and physical family MUST revolve around A MAN as the head if we are ever to enter God's family—our purpose for being on this Earth! The families on this earth are being destroyed because they reject God's form of government—and accept a version of Satan's government.

We must submit to God's government today, or we'll never rule with Christ or be in His Kingdom!

God rewards those saints who remain Philadelphian when most of God's people are becoming Laodicean. The Philadelphians are going to be God's headquarters kings and priests forever (Rev. 3:12). That reward is not given to the Laodiceans.

The Philadelphians were loyal to a man of God from the Philadelphia era and also the Laodicean era. They learned the profound lesson of God's *new thing*. As 95 percent of God's people turn away, these remain Phila-



Voluntarily accepting God's government today qualifies us to be Christ's bride—the highest position man can attain in God's Kingdom!

delphian. They rejoice in the honor of following the man whom God is using. This is the type of "university" that God uses to train His headquarters leadership. After all, they are preparing for a job that will last FOREVER!

We are honored mightily to be trained for the highest rewards in this age. And this training for us today relates directly to *that prophet*.

God is about to bring Israel into captivity again (Jer. 31:23). "Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And *there is hope in thine end*, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border" (vv. 15-17). The whole family of Israel is about to be plunged into their worst crisis ever. But there is hope in their end.

Even if they don't repent now, there is still hope in their end. We must get this message of hope to them. It will only be done by having God's "new thing." We must do it through *that prophet*, supported by God's Church.

The New Thing and Micah

"Hear, ALL ye people; hearken, O EARTH, and all that therein is: and let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple" (Mic. 1:2). Our message is one for the entire world. ALL people are commanded to "hear" and "hearken" to the warning. God is speaking to them through one man.

Notice Micah 2:6: "Prophesy ye not, say they to them that prophesy: they shall not prophesy to them, that they shall not take shame." This is about the conflict between the Laodiceans and the Philadelphians. One group says to the other, *Do not prophesy*. The Revised Standard Version reads, more specifically, "*One should not prophesy,*" because ONE among the faithful remnant *is prophesying*!

But there are others of God's own family who fight against this message. "Prophesy ye not, say they to them *that prophesy*: they shall not prophesy to them, THAT THEY

God's people recently have become His enemy, because they have ripped off their wedding garments—that fine linen, or the righteousness of the saints.

SHALL NOT TAKE SHAME." That translation is a little awkward, but it means that the Laodiceans don't want us to prophesy about them taking shame. They wouldn't feel so guilty about doing something shameful had they not rejected God's prophecy. Yet they don't want us talking about it, because they would rather act like children and imagine these prophecies will never be fulfilled.

"O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the spirit of the Lord straitened? are these his doings? do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly? Even of late [Hebrew: *yesterday*] my people is risen up as an enemy: ye pull off the robe with the garment from them that pass by securely as men averse

from war" (vv. 7-8). God's people recently have become His enemy, because they have ripped off their wedding garments—that fine linen, or the righteousness of the saints (Rev. 19:8). Zephaniah 1:8 says they wear "strange apparel."

This is a real spiritual marriage. This is a "new thing," and we truly are the bride of Christ. Satan is trying to strip away our wedding garments! "The women of my people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye TAKEN AWAY MY GLORY FOR EVER" (Mic. 2:9). ETERNAL GLORY IS AT STAKE!

They are destroying this new thing God created BECAUSE OF THEIR REBELLION! So what does God have His very elect do? Verse 10: "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." The people polluted something that was unpolluted at one time. So God will destroy them with "sore destruction," unless they depart from that polluted church—as God has departed from it!

But how does God want them to depart? Would it be an unorganized mass exodus in every direction—or does God have a specific place for them to go?

"If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people. I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I WILL SURELY GATHER THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make GREAT NOISE by reason of the multitude of men" (vv. 11-12). God Himself will gather a little remnant with a GREAT NOISE! We are on about 70 television stations and our *Trumpet* magazine has a circulation of more than 300,000. We also distribute dozens of books and booklets. We make a loud noise for so few people.

But how will God raise up this remnant—this new thing?

The Breaker—the King

"The BREAKER is come up before them: *they have broken up*, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their KING shall pass before them, *and the Lord* on the head of them" (v. 13). God uses one man, a breaker, to separate the little remnant—those "broken up"—from His rebellious people. They all go out through the gate.

The breaker, according to the Revised Standard Version, is "he who opens the breach before them." Is that referring only to God? Well, God always uses a man to do His work. The "breaker" and the "broken up" are people who have separated from a church that turned astray. The breaker is a modern type of Micah.

Notice the last part of the verse: "...and *their king* shall pass before them, *and the Lord* on the head of them." Micah makes a distinction between the "king" and the the Eternal God. Who is this king?

Micah 4:8 says this: "And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; THE KINGDOM SHALL COME TO THE DAUGHTER OF JERUSALEM." The "tower of the flock" is to watch and warn Zion, God's Church, of any danger. The "first dominion" means the first in time, place or rank—referring to those God calls in this time period, His first-fruits. They should be the ones watching and warning.

"Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there NO KING in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail. Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies" (vv. 9-10). The Laodiceans have no king or counsellor! God cannot rule them, so they are headed for the "pangs" of the Great Tribulation. Since they won't let God rule them, their enemies shall do so.

But is this king, this counselor, God? Or, again, is God using a *man*? In fact, "king" and "counselor" apply to the office I hold. Remember, the woman, or the Church, must revolve around ONE MAN. The Laodiceans will not look to one man. They don't get God's counsel because they don't have His family government.

"*Their king* shall pass before them, and the Lord on the head of them." Christ is still the Head of the Church. This king must have God as his Head, as did Mr. Armstrong—who was also like a king. We still are not to follow a man. If the man doesn't follow his Head, then we'd better break away from that organization. That is the whole lesson: When the Laodiceans rebel, we must break away *God's way*, with the "breaker" whom God has chosen. Those who have broken away on their own did not have God as their Head and have made a tragic mistake. For further insight on these verses in Micah, write for our free booklet *Micah: God's People Rise Up As His Enemy!*

Why did God send a breaker? So He could create a new thing. If we hadn't broken away, we wouldn't have a Head. Our Head moved away first, then we broke away with Him! Christ, our Head, moved the lamp through a breaker. We followed the light—the revelation. We had to wait for Him to show us what to do. But God uses a man—a breaker, a king—to lead us.

I have to make "kingly" decisions sometimes. We all have to make certain decisions, because we will rule as kings and priests in the World Tomorrow. So if God's very elect are kings and priests in embryo today, as God said He has made us (Rev. 1:6), then there must be a "king" over them. Is that bad? If God is leading him, it is the greatest blessing possible! I know, because I experienced it under Mr. Armstrong.

God's GREATEST GIFT is the "new thing"!

GOD'S WATCHMAN

BY GERALD FLURRY

WINSTON CHURCHILL WAS A WATCHMAN before and during World War II. Without a doubt, his efforts to warn the nations about Germany made a great impact on the outcome of the war.

Today there are people who say, "If we only had another Winston Churchill, we could save our nations." But is that really true?

Jonathan Rosenblum wrote an article in the *Jerusalem Post* on May 19, 2000, titled "Wanted: A Jewish Churchill." In it, he quoted a commentary by Daniel Pipes, who wrote (emphasis mine), "Israel today has weapons and money. THE ARABS HAVE WILL.... Israel has high capabilities and low morale. The Arabs have low capabilities and high morale. Again and again the record of history shows victory goes not to the side with greater firepower, but the side with greater determination."

Rosenblum, obviously critical of the Middle East peace process, then wrote, "In negotiating with the Palestinians we increasingly resemble a man fleeing from a lion, who keeps dropping hamburger meat in the lion's path to delay it. We forget, however, that there's only so much meat...." The Israelis' only hope is to depend on God, because they are surrounded by millions of bitter enemies who want to destroy them.

"We refuse to confront the existence of enemies who still think in terms of victory, not reconciliation. Arnold Kasbaum's poll of Arab students at Beirut University drawn from a cross-section of our neighbors reveals that 69 percent of the Arabs taken in this poll don't want peace with Israel.... The emblem of the Palestinian Authority [PA] shows all of Israel as Palestine, and the PA continues to educate students in their duty to retake all the land. The Kasbaum poll and studies of Palestinian textbooks would DESTROY OUR ILLUSIONS, AND SO THEY ARE IGNORED BY THE ISRAELI MEDIA." Mr. Rosenblum touches on an important point: People in modern Israel, and also America and Britain, are clinging to illusions, because they are weak and lack the will to fight. What happens when you seek peace while your enemy seeks war? If you cling to the illusion that they want peace, it's only a matter of time before you are destroyed.

He continued: "In our moment of truth, Israel desperately needs a leader who recognizes the crucial role of the spirit in human affairs. We need a leader who can restore a sense of pride in our country.... Our challenge is one of the spirit, not of tactics.... We need a leader who can stir our souls...."

"Unfortunately WE ALSO NEED A LEADER CAPABLE OF PREPARING US FOR WAR. Failure to do so will only make war more likely by encouraging our enemies to believe that victory will be theirs, if not today then tomorrow. In short, we need a Jewish Churchill."

We need to realize that a Churchill wouldn't solve Israel's problems today. They need much more than

that. Why? Why wouldn't another Churchill solve these problems like he did in World War II? Because of what God has prophesied.

Two Types of Watchmen

The Prophet Ezekiel, though he wrote a lot *about* God's watchman, was *not* a watchman. How could he have been? His warning message for Israel came over a hundred years after ancient Israel had gone into captivity. In fact, they were already moving out of Assyria into north-western Europe and Britain! That's how "out of date" his message was.

But Ezekiel did not write his book for his time. His message is for our people today. Israel, in all its history, has *never* suffered the way Ezekiel prophesied that it will. Great cities are to be left without inhabitants. Only a modern-day nuclear war could inflict such a dreadful outcome.

Ezekiel 33:1-6 may be talking directly about what happened in World War II: "Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if *the people of the land* take A MAN OF THEIR COASTS, and set *him* for THEIR WATCHMAN..." (vv. 1-2). God did bring the sword upon Israel to correct us, and a man named Winston Churchill came on the scene, and *the people* set him up as their watchman. God had a hand in it, but still, the PEOPLE chose Churchill.

Mr. Churchill's warning in the 1930s would fulfill those verses better than any example I know of in Israel's history.

In verse 7, however, it is no longer talking about World War II or a period like that. The setting dramatically shifts to this present time: "So thou, O son of man, I have set THEE a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them *from me*." This is *not* a watchman that the people chose, like the one referred to in verse 2. God says

Can we appreciate the significance of this end-time event? God takes a man and gives him words: *Hear the word at my mouth,* He says.

boldly and strongly, "I have set you a watchman." This watchman is set there and sustained by God.

Why is this important? Because God has now taken the situation to another level. This is not the same as the people choosing a Churchill to save America and Britain, or modern-day Israel. That will not happen this time around. Times have changed dramatically! We're on a different page, so to speak. This time, people will either hear GOD'S MAN or suffer nightmarish catastrophe!

If a Churchill came on the scene today, he wouldn't be telling us to repent. He might tell us some of our flaws and weaknesses, but he wouldn't tell us to repent of our sins

toward God. Only God's watchman would do that. And that is what Israel needs.

Can we appreciate the significance of this end-time event? God takes a man and gives him words: *Hear the word at MY MOUTH,* He says. The words from Ezekiel (and the rest of the Bible) are from the very mouth of God! God gives this man *revelation*. Then He sends him out to proclaim those words: *You tell them this warning is from Me. No matter what they say, unless they repent of their sins, they will go into captivity or die.* This is not about a Winston Churchill; this is a direct message from God to Israel! If they don't hear God's watchman, there is only invasion and captivity, worse than any ever known.

There is no solution in having a Churchill anymore. But God has a message that *WOULD* save them if they would listen!

God's Watchman

If you have your mind focused on God, you'll know that in this "last end" for mankind, God Himself will have set a watchman in the midst of everything. Today, there is a watchman whom GOD HIMSELF set, and to whom God gave words from His own mouth. How many people can recognize that man? If you're tuned in to God, you won't have any trouble discerning who he is.

Look around at the Laodiceans, and you can see that they don't have a watchman work. They're divided and confused. As we shall see, God also instructs this watchman to warn *them* about what is going to happen.

Commenting on Ezekiel 33:7, *Gesenius Bible Study Aid* says about the word *watchman*, "To look out...bending forward in order to view." This watchman strains and stretches to make sure he sees what's happening. New developments on the world scene are coming faster than ever, and he's there to see it all. The word *warn* is used repeatedly in these verses. This is a message with an emphasis on warning.

Mr. Armstrong's commission was to preach the gospel around the world (Matt. 24:14). His message

emphasized the gospel and included a warning. Today, our commission is to "prophesy again" (Rev. 10:11). The PCG *emphasizes* the warning, which includes the gospel.

Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the watchman work in a general way. The PCG fulfills it specifically. I emphasize the warning as the Ezekiel watchman was prophesied to do. Time is running out, and there has been a change in commission. Also, Israel's sins have grown so much worse that only repentance toward God will save them.

Verse 11 states, "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" GOD IS TALKING ABOUT THE DEATH OF NATIONS! Times are different than they were in World War II. Israel had Winston Churchill, a political watchman, to save it from destruction. Israel does not have a political watchman as World War III approaches. No such man is on the world scene. That fact alone would frighten our people if they understood world conditions.

THERE IS A MUCH GREATER DANGER TODAY THAN WHEN MR. CHURCHILL WARNED US IN THE 1930s. Today our people are too degenerate to choose a Churchill, even if he were on the scene. But there is no hope in such a political watchman anyhow. Our sins are much worse.

God, through His watchman today, pleads with America, Britain and modern Judah specifically to *TURN*. A powerful message is being sent out to Israel and the world. Israel must turn to God—OR OUR NATIONS WILL DIE!

How could our message to them be more important?

After that happens, the rest of the world will receive the same warning from the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3).

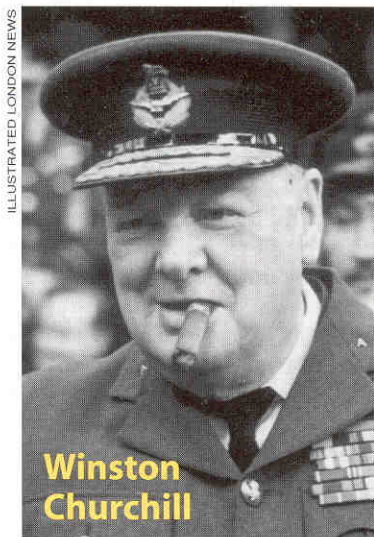
If the watchman and his supporters do their jobs, people *will* get the message. "Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking [about] thee by the walls and in the

doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord" (Ezek. 33:30). They may not do anything about it, but they somehow sense that this message is from God. Verse 31 shows that, even then, most of God's own people will refuse to give up their lusts and covetous desires.

Still, that doesn't change the enormous responsibility of the watchman to declare God's warning before the Great Tribulation strikes.

Then Shall They Know

"And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) *then shall they know* that A PROPHET hath been among them" (v. 33). When the Tribulation comes to pass, *THEN* they will know that a prophet was among them. Obviously, the prophet is on the scene when it comes to pass. The phrase "lo, it will come" is translated in the *Soncino Commentary* as, "Behold, it comes." The Interlinear Bible reads, "BEHOLD, IT IS COMING." Yes, it is coming. It is coming speedily! God warns us to either submit to His



government now or learn a big part of that lesson by being conquered by the Nazis.

Verse 33 reveals that there is a modern-day Ezekiel watchman on the scene who is a watchman and a PROPHET. He prophesies about the sword coming. He says, "BEHOLD, IT IS COMING!" Even Mr. Armstrong, though he was a watchman in a general way, did not specifically fulfill Ezekiel 33 because he could not *see* the sword as this man can today. This individual comes at the "last end." He is called a prophet in Ezekiel 33:33 and a watchman in verse 7. He is termed a prophet in Ezekiel 2:5 and a watchman in chapter 3:17. He comes to watch and prophesy. He is not here to restore all things. That has been done by Mr. Armstrong. The watchman is on the scene to warn the Laodiceans and the world of what is coming—*behold, it is coming!*

Who is this watchman—this prophet? Haven't I given you revelation about Ezekiel and all the prophetic books? Almost every book and booklet I have written is filled with prophecy. Has anyone else done that? Is revealed prophecy present in any of the Laodicean churches? Do they even have a smattering of the abundance of new revelation which God has rained down on His people through me? They have no new revelation.

How many true prophets are there on Earth today? Only one. People may scoff at that, but soon they won't. When the Tribulation comes, they'll remember a man who was out there with a powerful message that probably got him into some measure of trouble internationally. THEN THEY WILL KNOW who he was—after it is too late physically! As Mr. Armstrong often said, most of the fruits of our work will come during the Tribulation, not today.

How could people possibly know that a prophet has been among them unless he had a powerful work? If we weren't making much of an impact, once the Tribulation started, would people really remember what we did? OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MAKE SURE THEY KNOW A PROPHET WAS IN THEIR MIDST!

Only a very few know there is a prophet in their midst today. But a great multitude is about to know! If you ask the Laodiceans today, they wouldn't say they know it. These are great prophecies of God, and He *will* bring them to pass before it is all over.

Warning the Laodiceans

Keep reading into chapter 34 of Ezekiel to see why God's Laodicean ministers must be warned. "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and

ROYAL VISION

**Mr. Flurry delivers
a Key of David program
in Washington D.C.**



How could people know that a prophet has been among them unless he had a powerful work? If we weren't making much of an impact, once the Tribulation started, would people really remember what we did? Our responsibility is to make sure they know a prophet was in their midst!

say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed THEMSELVES!..." (vv. 1-2). These pastors are self-centered. They are only concerned with feeding themselves. They want the OFFICE, the status, but they do not want to submit to God. They reject His revelation. They don't want to do His work.

"Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was SICK, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was DRIVEN AWAY, neither have ye sought that which was LOST; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them" (vv. 3-4). This is not referring to the world. The world has always been sick. These people were healthy at one time. They have been "driven away" by men who were once ministers working for God. Now they are lost.

God's watchman prophesies against His shepherds who do this. The first book I wrote, the foundational publication of the Philadelphia Church of God, was *Malachi's Message*, which is specifically aimed at warning the ministers, the shepherds! Laodicean ministers have DRIVEN God's sheep away. Now the Church members are, as verse 5 describes, just spiritual meat for the demons. God's Laodiceans have no watchman or prophet, and they are being ripped apart by Satan and his demons!

As you can see in the next few verses, God judges the ministers very harshly for their neglect of God's people! So God sends them a stern warning, and He sends it through His end-time prophet.



Isaiah 56
refers to God's
Laodicean
"watchmen"—
plural. God
condemns them,
likening them to
watchdogs who
remain silent as
beasts surround
their house.
They should be
in a barking
frenzy!

A Prophet Among Them

"And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a *rebellious nation* that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I DO SEND THEE UNTO THEM; and thou shalt say unto them, THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD" (Ezek. 2:3-4). The word *nation* should read *nations*. In Ezekiel's day there was only one nation Israel; today this message is for ALL the nations of Israel, but primarily Britain, America and Judah. Ezekiel, a prisoner on the river Chebar at the time God gave this instruction, obviously could not complete this commission. So Ezekiel recorded this warning in vain, unless we thunder his message today!

This is a heavy responsibility. So heavy, in fact, that 95 percent of God's people think it is too much. But we didn't choose this; God did the choosing.

This prophet must "say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God." Here is a clear statement that God sends a "thus saith the Lord God" through ONE man—His watchman, or prophet. The man speaks for God! This is how God delivers His message.

How many people believe that? Very few. It's because they *refuse* to believe. Mankind, and even most of God's own people today, want God to stay out of their lives.

"And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them" (v. 5). This is really God's two-part plan. First we proclaim this message and let people know there is a prophet among them. Then, when the Tribulation comes, people will know how to repent. If we don't let people know now, we will have failed God. I will have failed God.

God knows the people probably will not "hear." But the prophecy will be so strong that when it comes to pass, they will then know that the man was God's prophet. They will recognize that what he prophesied came to pass exactly as he said.

Again, we see that people will not respond until it is too late physically.

By no means does God's watchman have an easy job. But how can he possibly fail if he does just what God asks of him? "And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house" (v. 6). *People will have strong words, but that's okay*, God says. *Because I am supporting you, just step out and tell them what I say. Soon I will make them see you were carrying my message.*

"And THOU SHALT SPEAK MY WORDS unto them, whether they will HEAR, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious" (v. 7). A man speaks for God. "You shall speak my words" is a COMMAND to the

prophet—not a suggestion. Even if they won't hear, he is to continue speaking. His efforts will bear much fruit *after* the prophecy is fulfilled. God fully understands the difficulties involved. But He says, *Don't be rebellious as they are. Just do as I say.*

"And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and SPEAK WITH MY WORDS UNTO THEM. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel" (Ezek. 3:4-5). God sends His watchman first of all to English-speaking people, Britain and America. "Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee" (v. 6). This is a slap at Israel. God says if He had given the Gentiles as much as He's given Israel, they probably would have heeded the warning and *repented!*

Right now we are in phase one: letting people know there is a prophet in their midst. But because these people are so hard-hearted and won't listen to *that prophet*, God is about to go to fearsome phase two.

Here is a warning specifically for the Laodiceans: "And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath DEPARTED FROM ME, and with their eyes, which go a-whoring after their idols: and *they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.* And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I HAVE NOT SAID IN VAIN THAT I WOULD DO THIS EVIL UNTO THEM" (Ezek. 6:9-10). One day soon they will remember all the warnings they received from that prophet. Right now they act as though what God says doesn't matter, but GOD HOLDS THEM ACCOUNTABLE FOR EVERY WORD! None of it is in vain!

More Than One Watchman?

In a *Plain Truth* article in 1961, Mr. Armstrong wrote a personal in which he referred to the News Bureau staff as "your watchmen." I don't believe he would have said the same thing in 1985 or 1986, because "your watchmen" is somewhat misleading. It is not really consistent with Ezekiel 33. That is not the way God expresses it. In fact, in all the places I have found, when God talks about WATCHMEN, He puts them in a negative light.

For example, Isaiah 56 refers to God's Laodicean "watchmen"—plural. God CONDEMNS them, likening them to watchdogs who remain *silent* while beasts surround their house. They should be in a barking frenzy! That is the kind of *watchmen* the Laodiceans have today, right before we enter the worst type of suffering ever! Satan has a grip on them. God raises up ONE watchman to warn them! The Laodiceans must listen to that prophet, or they will suffer the bloody end described in Ezekiel 33.

Of course, many people back and support God's work. But are people in the News Bureau or the *Trumpet* editorial department "watchmen"? Not according to Ezekiel 33. God doesn't talk about "your watchmen." He talks about one man, set on the scene at a specific time. "I have set YOU," He says—not "you all"! Perhaps we've all said "watchmen" the way Mr. Armstrong did. I'm not trying to diminish the supporting roles everyone else has. But we must see things the way God does, or it can lead to serious trouble.



It becomes very troublesome and confusing to think of there being more than one person fulfilling the most important office of God. Perhaps Mr. Armstrong regretted saying "your watchmen." Why? Consider what is wrong with the Laodiceans: Almost all their leaders are trying to equate themselves with Mr. Armstrong! They are nowhere near his rank—and no matter how great they think they are or their works are, you can easily prove that fact.

Bind and Loose

The older he got, the more deeply Mr. Armstrong realized the importance of establishing God's government.

In 1978, he strongly corrected one evangelist for writing something that implied that all of God's ministers had the power to bind and loose. You can see plenty of evidence today where that minister never repented of trying to make himself equal with Mr. Armstrong in that area. It is a terrible mistake to make yourself equal with an office God ordained, when you're not equal to that office!

The biblical instruction on binding and loosing gives us an important principle relating to God's watchman. In Matthew 16, beginning in verse 13, you can see that there was a lot of confusion over Christ's identity. But Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:16-17). That was a wonderful answer Peter gave. If we are to know where God's prophet is, God will have to REVEAL it to us! We will be

just as confused as the people of Christ's day unless God opens our eyes. Only He reveals where His prophet is, and we need a childlike attitude for Him to do so (Matt. 11:25). I think Peter understood this concept more deeply than the other disciples did.

Christ told him, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee [Peter] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:18-19). That authority was given to Peter alone, the chief apostle.

It is dangerous to be confused on this issue. I still do not believe that I have the authority to bind and loose. Such authority is given only to an apostle, and I am not of that rank. I don't put myself on that level, because God has not. Mr. Armstrong restored all things, and now we just build on that foundation.

I don't have the authority to bind and loose, but I do have the authority of God's watchman—THAT PROPHET. We must elevate ourselves to where God exalts us. Any minister who does otherwise is headed for spiritual disaster.

Historically, there may have been more than one watchman at a time. They didn't have modern communication and travel, and perhaps there was a need to have more than one. But that is not the way it is in this end time. Today God sets ONE WATCHMAN at a time. Look at the fruits of this Church. There is none other doing God's work.

Learning From Elijah

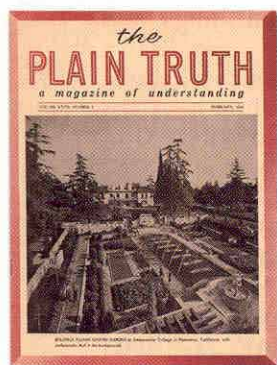
To illustrate these points about Mr. Armstrong further, I will quote from the June 1961 *Plain Truth*. This article is about the humble beginnings of Ambassador College in 1947. Among the first four students was Herman Hoeh. "After a year or two," Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Mr. Hoeh began writing articles for the *Plain Truth*—but no one ever read them except myself. I did not consider them of *Plain Truth* caliber. They showed promise, but still lacked in experience. But he refused to be discouraged. As fast as I filed his articles away, unused, he kept right on writing and submitting more articles.

"Finally seeing how persistent he was, realizing the need of editorial help, I said to myself, 'I've got to give this young man some real, personal attention and instruction in magazine writing!'"

"I had spent years in developing a style in writing—a style that is, first of all, fluent, easy to read, plain and understandable, achieving whatever literary quality it might have by *the way* ordinary simple words are grouped and phrased together—a style that was fast moving, alive, forceful and, above all, sincere. A style that was anything but 'dry' or monotonous and also, above all, the kind of writing that even those of no more than fourth- or fifth-grade education can UNDERSTAND, making the truth PLAIN.

"One day I picked up a couple copies of the *Plain Truth*, began to explain all this to Mr. Hoeh, I pointed out examples in specific articles in these copies. Soon he was submitting articles that sounded almost as if I had written them. And our readers began reading articles under the by-line of Herman L. Hoeh.

Why can they not put themselves below the end-time Elijah? Since he taught them everything—even how to write! These men have much to answer for.



"Very shortly thereafter, with personal coaching from both Mr. Hoeh and myself, Mr. Roderick Meredith's articles began to appear. Also a few written by my elder son, Richard D. Armstrong."

God's end-time Elijah was giving these students PERSONAL attention—to train them how to be effective writers and eloquent orators for God. They were given specialized, *one-on-one* training in how to get this message to the world. And where is their message today? Why can they not put themselves BELOW the end-time Elijah? Since he taught them *everything*—even how to WRITE! These men have much to answer for.

The Trumpet

Swift destruction is coming upon these Laodicean rebels. "They have dealt treacherously against the Lord: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a *month* devour them with their portions" (Hos. 5:7). This is why our work is so urgent. They are devoured in *one month*—so quickly. For God's people, our spiritual brothers and sisters, eternal life is at stake. That should motivate our efforts.

God says, "BLOW YE THE CORNET in Gibeah, AND THE TRUMPET in Ramah: CRY ALOUD at Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin" (v. 8). Gibeah is located on a hill. Ramah means height. God has given us a "hill" and "height" in the nations of Israel to warn them. We are broadcasting on great television stations in Israel and around the world. God's work is being done. GOD WANTS US TO "CRY ALOUD" ABOUT HIS WONDERFUL REVELATION. That's why He enables us to understand these many prophecies through the revelation He gives His prophet—the man who is commanded to "cry aloud."

This man has to understand God's *revealed* prophecy. Revelation is given *only* to apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5). In this end-time work, it is *that prophet*.

Bethaven refers to God's house. I have a direct command from God to trumpet His message to God's house—the Laodiceans.

God gives this work a trumpet so that we might blow! One person, specifically, is charged with blowing that trumpet. But the rest must fall in line behind that man, lending their full support.

"Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard" (Hos. 7:11-12). We have a television program reaching Britain today and expect more impact in the future. They have *heard* a prophet of God warn them. They have also read a warning message for many years.

Ephraim, or Britain, has a "silly dove" foreign policy! No *silly dove* nation can endure in a world full of hawks and tigers! This is a strong warning to a once-mighty nation. How terrifyingly weak they have become.

Soon they will falter badly and then seek help from Assyria, or Germany. That move will end in national disaster. Their congregation *heard* this message from an end-time Elijah before they heard our message.

Nobody can save a *silly dove*. They either repent or die. They have sown the wind and are about to reap the whirlwind! (v. 7).

"SET THE TRUMPET TO THY MOUTH. *He shall come as an eagle* against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed *my covenant*, and trespassed against my law" (Hos. 8:1). God addresses His Church and the nations of Israel. HIS CHURCH HAS BROKEN THE MARRIAGE COVENANT. Nothing could be more disastrous! WE ARE MARRIED TO JESUS CHRIST! This is "my covenant"—God's covenant! Eternal life and eternal death are at stake! There is no second chance.

Do we see how super-critical this warning is?

The nations of Israel also have rejected and transgressed God's law.

The word "mouth" is singular. God is using one man to blow the trumpet, but many thousands back that man.

The *International Critical Commentary* reads, "To your mouth with the trumpet." Verse 1 means to set the trumpet to the mouth like a permanent fixture. Our message is to warn and warn and warn. Destruction is about to swoop down like an eagle.

This verse indicates a NEW COMMISSION for the PCG. The enemy is on its way—approaching to destroy. The urgency has intensified. God's Church has fallen. The nations of Israel are collapsing. The beast power is rising very fast.

Of course, most people are deceived and fail to see what Germany and the European Union are planning. However, some of the best television responses we get are from our programs about Germany. More and more people are beginning to see what is happening in Germany!

Do we see how terrifyingly close the Great Tribulation is? And the return of Christ?

This trumpet-blowing commission is directed at me personally—and, indirectly, those who support the work of the Philadelphia Church of God. Mr. Armstrong preached the gospel around the world. But the trumpet-blowing commission was reserved for us because of the times in which we live. God has commissioned us to blow the trumpet until the land can no longer bear *His* words (Amos 7:10).

The only way I can put the trumpet to my mouth and deliver a loud and definite sound is if I have loyal and dedicated servants behind me. God simply will not do this work any other way. He needs you, but only if you demonstrate that you need Him!

An End-Time Habakkuk

Habakkuk also prophesies of a time of crisis in God's Church when a watchman is needed. "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!*" (Hab. 1:1-2). Habakkuk cried out to God, and it *appeared* God was not listening. This is an end-time book, and there will be an end-time Habakkuk crying out to God to save His Church. Well, God *DOES* hear the crying out, and He has a plan to save.

Do you cry out to God? We should be praying to God about an hour a day (at least 30 minutes just to survive),

but in crises, we really need to be crying out to God! The crisis in the Church is a test from God to get His people to cry out to Him. If we are crying out to God as Habakkuk did, we'll know where God's work is. God's very elect cried out for answers from God—not from any man.

"Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and VIOLENCE are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention" (v. 3). There is great violence in God's Church, and notice—verse 4: "THE LAW IS SLACKED." Someone is doing *violence* to the law and the government. The government is supposed to administer the law. If the law is slack, that means no one is properly administering the government! There is a deep government problem in God's Church.

Mr. Armstrong established the law (Matt. 17:10-11). But now, the very church that God founded through him is saying people don't need the law for salvation—only *grace*. They have lost contact with God! They are not crying out to Him.

"Therefore the law is slack, and judgment doth never go forth: for *the wicked doth compass about the righteous*; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (Hab. 1:4). When the government is not being administered and the law is slack, there is a great falling away. God's people are surrounded by evil leaders, evil ministers, evil spirit beings. WITHOUT GOVERNMENT, IT ALL DISINTEGRATES! You cannot raise up a work and sustain it if you do not have the government to administer the law.

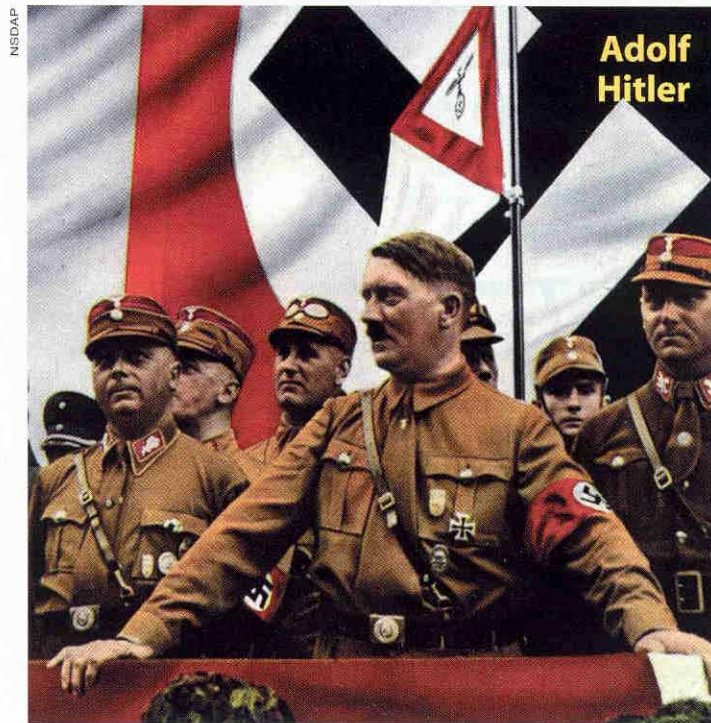
Do you remember being puzzled and angry seeing this happen to God's Church? I could not *understand* why God did not DO something about it. I HAD to cry out just to survive! I had to let God straighten out my thinking. God has to give us the answer. God answered my prayer. He got the Church back on the track—but much differently than I expected.

A Marvelous Work

"Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be TOLD you" (v. 5). God "told you" through *that prophet*! God is speaking to us through a modern-day type of Habakkuk. God raises up a work in the midst of all the spiritual violence being done to His people. God raises up a watchman to warn the Laodiceans—A WATCHMAN WHO TALKS ABOUT LAW AND GOVERNMENT!

Where is God's prophet who fulfills Habakkuk 1? Who has a booklet revealing the meaning of Habakkuk? (Write for a free copy if you don't have one.)

Though God has raised up *that prophet*, most people in His own Church won't believe it is God's work. Do you know why? Because they are doing violence to



Satan will get to this Chaldean leader, and his mind will change. Understand what that means. His actions will dwarf what Adolf Hitler did! Never has this world needed a prophet and watchman more urgently than today!

God's government and law! If you do violence to one, you do violence to the other. These rebels are not child-like, so God cannot reveal to them where His marvelous, wonderful work is!

These Laodiceans are not crying out to God as Habakkuk did. That is why they don't have a work with any real impact. They look to men and things. Their fruits show us that shameful spiritual condition.

You and I should thank God daily that we are not in a spiritual ghetto of shame, starving for God's revealed truth. We had to cry out to God to discover what He was doing. God will always lead us to a solution of joy.

Now we are experiencing the marvelous wonder of delivering God's message and doing God's work. How richly blessed we are!

Do we realize what a blessing it is that God has raised up this work? That we can be here and not be surrounded by evil? That we don't have to be discouraged because the law is slack?

Verse 6: "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs." As God's Church falls apart and He raises up a watchman work, He also raises up a "bitter and hasty nation" to correct His sinning people. Lo, they are coming!

Why is this message so important? Because we are about to enter the worst time of suffering ever! We have to warn Israel that their "lovers," as the Bible calls them, will betray and destroy them. Satan will get to this Chaldean leader, and his mind will change (v. 11). Understand what that means. His actions will dwarf what Adolf Hitler did!

Never has this world needed a prophet and watchman more urgently than today! Never before have men lived in such treacherous and frightening times. Do we truly understand where we are in Bible prophecy? If we do, we will see how blessed we are to back and support *that prophet*.

THE THRONE AND LAWGIVER

BY GERALD FLURRY

WHERE THERE IS A GOD-ordained throne, there will *always* be a lawgiver. With God, that never changes. There can be no godly rulership without strong godly law. God will reward His saints with positions of rule in the World Tomorrow *only* if they administer His government according to His rule of law. In other words, we must know God's holy law and put it into action in our lives now. Keeping the spirit of the law is how we qualify for future positions as kings and priests.

Lucifer failed in his rule over the Earth. He became Satan the devil because he failed to administer God's law. God then realized that only by re-creating Himself in man could He give such authority, or government, to anyone. Those who rule must have God's character. That is the only way we can become rulers of this Earth. That is why the firstfruits are building God's character today. They do that by keeping God's spiritual law. God has to be certain that men won't make the same mistake that Lucifer and one third of the angels made.

Today Satan still has a throne. And he holds the whole world captive to his rule. Anybody can easily see what it is like when you have a throne or rule without God's law being administered. All you have to do is look around.

In the World Tomorrow, only those people who have built God's character will be sitting on thrones. And you can be sure they will be administering God's law.

A Twofold Covenant

Genesis 49:10 contains a very interesting end-time prophecy. It reads, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, NOR A LAWGIVER from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." From verse 1 of Genesis 49, we can understand that this entire passage is for the "last

days"—the time we are living in now. So, in the last days, God said there would be a scepter, or a ruler on a throne, *at the same time there is a lawgiver.*

Concerning the scepter promise, we have always believed it refers to a kingly line today that would rule right up to the return of Christ—and also to the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.

But verse 10 also refers to a lawgiver *from between Judah's feet*. The Companion Bible says this lawgiver comes "from his feet," which means he is to come from Judah's descendants.

There is to be a *scepter* AND a *lawgiver* in the "last days."

This the same twofold covenant referred to in Jeremiah 33:17-18: "For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel [the scepter promise]; Neither shall the *priests* the *Levites* want a man [the lawgiver] before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually."

The kingly line of the tribe of Judah continues to this day in Westminster Abbey in London. God said in Genesis 49:10 that a *lawgiver* would parallel that scepter promise. Both would be of the tribe of Judah.

Traditionally, we have believed this lawgiver to be Christ. In principle, that is true. Christ *always* gives the law. He is the source. But notice, the scripture says this lawgiver would not depart from Judah's feet "until Shiloh [Christ] come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Would it make sense to read that *Jesus would not depart from Judah's feet until Jesus come?*

Shiloh refers to Christ, so this "lawgiver" must refer to another individual. Hasn't God always worked through *one man* at a time? Again, Jeremiah 33:18 says that God made this covenant with the ministry, but also that one man would direct this work.

Administering God's Law

There is a scepter and a law. David's throne is always connected to the law.

God's law is certainly not emanating from the throne of David today. It did, however, come from Herbert W. Armstrong during the course of his 57-year ministry. And since Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, God has given me the responsibility of continuing in that same law he established.

Some of you might remember how surprised Mr. Armstrong was to find that the ancestry on one side of his family could be traced back to King David. I too was shocked to discover this fact concerning my own lineage a few years ago. Is there a reason why Mr. Armstrong and I both can follow our roots back to David's kingly line—to the tribe of Judah? Does it have anything to do with this "lawgiver" coming from Judah's feet—or Judah's descendants—in the last days, "until Shiloh come"?



The throne in Westminster Abbey

ROYAL VISION

We are called to qualify for kingly positions under the King of kings (Rev. 1:6).

Here is the main point you must grasp: If we are to rule with Christ on the throne of David in the World Tomorrow, we must submit to His law. That's why God said He would send His lawgiver. It is not about a man—IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD'S LAW AND GOVERNMENT. That's why Mr. Armstrong said, "The government of God is the whole thing, and it had better be in our lives."

We have entered into a covenant with God to administer His law in the Church today and over all the Earth in the World Tomorrow. In preparation for that calling, we must identify God's lawgiver and then voluntarily submit to His law.

Spiritual Jews

Why would God choose physical Jews to administer His law in the "last days"? God is not a respecter of persons—or races. The main reason has to be that God wants each one of us to focus on becoming a *spiritual Jew*.

A casual reader of the Bible might wonder why God repeatedly refers to Jews, thinking God is trying to exalt them above other nationalities. But there is a reason why God consistently refers to Jews in the Bible, even in the New Testament.

Notice Revelation 3:7: "And to the *angel* of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." Here you have Jesus Christ, who is holy and true, who has the key of David. Then He opens the door for us to get this beautiful vision out to the world. So God sent His *messenger* (that's what "angel" means at the beginning of the verse). I don't think God is talking about an angel here. I believe it is the man God raised up to lead His Church during the Philadelphia era—Herbert Armstrong. But even if it refers to an angel, there still has to be a human messenger.

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (v. 8). The Philadelphians have not denied God's *name*. The word *name* means God's *authority* or *government*.

God sends a man—a lawgiver—to implement His law! It is impossible to do God's work without His government.

God's great vision is about "the key of David." He gives His leader the authority to proclaim His ultimate vision through a door He opens.

God gave Mr. Armstrong the key of David vision. He has continued to expand our understanding of this vision,

There is a scepter and a law. David's throne is always connected to the law. God's law is certainly not emanating from the throne of David today. It did, however, come from Mr. Armstrong during his 57-year ministry. And since he died, God has given me the responsibility of continuing in that same law he established.

Mr. Armstrong had to establish God's law and government. He was the Elijah who restored all things just before Christ's return. I have continued the same law and government that he taught. No other church can truthfully make that claim!

Mr. Armstrong and I each have been used to fill the role of lawgiver to God's Church and the world. So today, where is the human lawgiver descended from David and the tribe of Judah? Who administers the same law that Christ will teach when He returns to sit on that throne of David? Those are questions you *must* be able to answer!

This man will be teaching about the scepter—the kingly line, or David's throne, and the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is the same throne that is about to be ruled by Jesus Christ forever (Luke 1:30-33).

In these last days, the kingly line, David's throne, is not governed by God's law. But the Church is ruled by Christ, that great lawgiver—the King of kings who shall rule on David's throne forever.

When God puts a man a charge, He also gives that man something no one else has: His revelation to proclaim. God has given me a wealth of revelation to proclaim—because He wants to give it to you and then have all of us deliver it to the world. God wants you to have what I have.



after Mr. Armstrong's death, through me. He has opened the door for us to take this vision to the whole world.

But notice what it says in verse 9: "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, AND ARE NOT, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." That is government! God will make them come back and keep the law before they will ever be spiritual Jews.

Today, many of God's own people say they are spiritual Jews, but they lie. How can this *division* be removed? WE CAN BECOME UNITED ONLY BY THE KEY OF DAVID VISION. The Laodicean rebellion revolves around this vision and God's law. It revolves around the scepter and the lawgiver!

The Laodiceans have lost this greatest of all visions because of their government problem.

This is where almost all of God's people are misled in the "last days." Perhaps it is the greatest deception ever in God's Church. They say they are Jews as they reject the Jew—Jesus Christ—through whom they are given salvation. They also reject the man He uses to do His work. Fifty percent of those deceived saints will lose their eternal lives (Matt. 25:1-13).

Remember, Genesis 49:10 says the *scepter* and the *law-giver* would not depart from Judah in the "last days." Both the kingly line and the lawgivers have descended from Judah physically. But if we are to receive salvation, God expects all of us to become Jews *spiritually*. "Let this mind be in you," the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 2:5, "which was also in Christ Jesus." If we acquire the mind of Jesus Christ, who was also a physical Jew, then we actually become *spiritual* Jews (Rom. 2:28-29).

God hammers away at Jew, Jew, Jew throughout Scripture—not because He favors that nationality

above others, but because He wants each of us to become like Christ, spiritual Jews, through the power of His Spirit! (Rom. 8:9). God says He has called us to follow in Jesus Christ's steps (I Pet. 2:21). The main way we do that is by finding the man God is using and then giving him our full support.

God's supreme focus in the Bible is always on the *spiritual* and the eternal. God is referring to spiritual Jews in Revelation 3:9. There are some people who say they are Jews—who claim to be followers of Christ—but whose actions reveal that they *lie*! Laodiceans want the throne but refuse to submit to the lawgiver. They push Christ aside by pushing aside His man, His lawgiver—that *prophet*. And so God says, "You are not spiritual Jews anymore."

Identifying That Man

God will not force you to follow His lawgiver. You wouldn't build character that way. But He can give His lawgiver something you don't have in order to encourage you to follow.

Just look at all the truth God revealed to Mr. Armstrong during his ministry. I never looked upon him as just another man. I saw him as an individual who had something I didn't have—God's special revelation for the world and God's Church. I know God revealed truth to him. It didn't come from Mr. Armstrong. It came from God *through* Mr. Armstrong.

When God gives a man a charge, He also gives that man something extra, something no one else has. He gives that man His revelation to proclaim.

God has given me that same advantage He gave Mr. Armstrong. He has given me a wealth of revelation to

proclaim—not because of anything I’ve done, but because He wants to give it to you and then have all of us deliver it to the world. God wants you to have what I have. He also wants you to submit to His loving government. That’s why He has given me so much revelation.

Can you see why Satan always works so hard to discredit God’s leader—His lawgiver? If you refuse to submit to the law, it’s easy to push aside God’s man. After all, ours is a voluntary submission. Just look at how many people have pushed aside Mr. Armstrong as God’s end-time Elijah, despite the vast wealth of truth that he restored to the Church. Like a waterfall, God poured His revelation upon us *through* Mr. Armstrong. That man restored “ALL things.” *All* means all! Yet insignificant men come along and try to compete with God’s chosen apostle.

Even today, when some leave the Philadelphia Church of God, they almost always try to discredit me *personally*. It’s true that in one respect, I am no different than any of you. To be sure, I am a sinner as you are. But I do have an office that you do not have. It wasn’t my choice. It was God’s. God saw to it, because *someone had to implement the law in His Church*.

We should all know by now that it is not about the man. It is about an office that God has established to teach His law.

If we have God’s Spirit and we judge by fruits, we will find the lawgiver whom God is working through.

The Knock

Shortly after I was disfellowshipped from the WCG, God revealed an important truth to me. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:19-20). God *rebukes* and *chastens* His Church in love. We know God will chasten the Laodiceans in the Great Tribulation, if they don’t repent. But how does He *REBUKE* His Church? This has always been done through a man.

Shortly after God had revealed *Malachi’s Message* to me, we were having one of the PCG’s first meetings in a tiny room inside the old Edmond armory building. About 25 people attended, and the room was crowded! What a small beginning.

I spoke to the Church that day about some new revelation. We had been teaching that God would warn the Laodiceans in a *general* way, so they would have a chance to repent before the Great Tribulation.

God revealed to me that He would use a *specific man* to knock on the Laodiceans’ door. As always, God would use *a man*. That knock would come primarily in the form of *Malachi’s Message*. That was the only literature we had at that time. So it was rather obvious how God would knock on their door—at least in the beginning.

I can still remember how one of our leading ministers was stirred by that revelation. He and all of us were beginning to see that God was raising up a specific work for a specific job. We all had very crucial roles in that work and in the body of Christ.

We were exhilarated to receive any new revelation—especially then, when the PCG was so small. All of our members had just come out of the Worldwide Church of

God, where there had been NO revelation since Mr. Armstrong’s death.

I hope we *still* get excited about new revelation today, since it flows so abundantly in our Church (like what you are reading now, for example). Whether revelation is rare or abundant, its source is still the Creator of the universe! We must not treat it casually. That is how Philadelphians become Laodicean (Mal. 3:16).

We had around 25 people in a tiny room the day Revelation 3:20 was revealed. THAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING ON EARTH! The world was unaware of our existence, yet we were the only group on Earth through which God was revealing His prophecy and doing His work!

It took us seven years to move beyond the Laodicean warning, to include the nations of Israel and the world.

“If any man will HEAR MY VOICE” (v. 20)—God was speaking to the Laodiceans and His very elect through a man—that *prophet*—one voice. I began to knock for Christ. He was speaking to them through me. God had revealed *Malachi’s Message* to me. It was clearly a message for the Laodiceans. God had shown us it was also *prophesied* in the book of Revelation—Revelation 3:20. We could see more clearly *why* God revealed *Malachi’s Message*. He wanted us to *knock* very hard on the Laodicean door. They must have an opportunity to “hear” GOD’S VOICE—His *loving rebuke*. A powerful message had to be proclaimed.

We now see that this *prophecy* was given to *that prophet*.

Receiving this new truth from Revelation 3:20 was like a strong prod from Christ to get on with *His* work.

Christ said the Laodiceans could “hear” His “voice” (singular) through God’s man. If they heard that voice, the Creator of the universe would come in and dine with them and feed them spiritually! That is THE GREATEST POSSIBLE BLESSING!

That spiritual food, however, comes only through *that prophet* and *Malachi’s Message*. You can see why the devil tries to demonize me. It is *only* through me that the Laodiceans can hear Christ’s voice today! It is only through the PCG that we can get that voice to them and the world.

Obviously, I could do nothing without the support of God’s very elect. We are all the body of Christ. Each one of us has a different function in the body.

God tells us not to despise the day of “small things” (Zech. 4:10; better translated “small beginnings”). That small beginning seemed insignificant to many people. But it was the beginning of a marvelous and miraculous work that God was raising up (Hab. 1:5). It is wonderful history. Look at the heavyweight role of God’s very elect. What a super-inspiring job God has given us to do!

Whether revelation is rare or abundant, its source is still the Creator of the universe! We must not treat it casually. That is how Philadelphians become Laodicean.



There is one prophet who does find a vision from God! It is your responsibility to find him. This is what sets God's very elect apart from all of the Laodicean churches.



God has *one voice*. Where is it? Where is *that prophet*? It is easy to prove if people are willing to hear God's rebuke. If they refuse, then God must chasten them in the Great Tribulation.

"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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 3:21-22). Here we see God's Church united around the throne of David (v. 7; Luke 1:30-33). Where God's throne is, there is God's law and government. This is how the family of God is built today and forever!

Here is the greatest vision in the Bible. THIS VISION IS WHAT SEPARATES THE PHILADELPHIANS AND THE LAODICEANS! The Laodiceans have lost this vision. It's ABOUT RULING THE WORLD AND THE UNIVERSE, and the Laodiceans have lost it!

They have the opportunity to share their Husband's throne as the bride of Christ forever! Their forgetting about it is the ultimate disaster.

Will you hear what the Spirit says? Do we have an ear to hear?

Jesus wants to sit down at our spiritual dinner table and give our lives direction and guidance, as any husband would do to a loving wife. But we have to let Him into our homes, our lives, our minds.

That is the greatest possible blessing we could receive. Look at what responding to *Malachi's Message* has *already* done for thousands of lives. The fact that I wrote it doesn't make me anything special. It is God's voice coming through that will revolutionize our lives.

This is a spectacular family vision. God has called us to be a part of it. Will we allow a stumblingblock of any kind prevent us from these spiritual riches? That's what the Laodiceans have done. They want physical riches above this awesome spiritual inheritance.

Rejecting Revelation and the Law

Lamentations 2:8 says, "The Lord hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion...." The daughter of Zion, as we have said before, refers to God's Church in this end time—in this case, His sinning Church. Jeremiah, the author, is lamenting the destruction of God's Church!

The rest of the verse reads, "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 purposed to destroy that church for their Laodicean rebellion. (Our free booklet *Lamentations and the End-Time Laodiceans* covers this subject in detail.)

"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" (v. 9). BUT THERE IS ONE PROPHET WHO DOES FIND A VISION FROM GOD! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND HIM. This is what sets God's very elect apart from all of the Laodicean churches.

When we reject God's law, we can't receive His revelation! It won't be there! The church will have no direction from God. THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE DISASTER THAT COULD COME UPON GOD'S PEOPLE.

If you do not have a revelation, it follows that you do not have a true *prophet* either. Again, God gives something special to the one in that office. HE GIVES SIGHT TO HIS CHURCH THROUGH THAT OFFICE. It is God who is the real Watchman. He is the one who sees. But He always speaks through a man—a man who abides by the law of God.

Two years after Mr. Armstrong died, a Worldwide Church of God leader cautioned fellow ministers about writing names in Scripture where God has not written them. And certainly, that is good advice. But this high-ranking minister was implying that we had mistakenly put Mr. Armstrong into certain scriptures.

GOD IS the one, however, who MADE IT KNOWN TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH THAT MR. ARMSTRONG HAD FULFILLED THE END-TIME OFFICES OF ZERUBBABEL AND ELIJAH. As long as Mr. Armstrong was around to enforce the law, everyone in the Church understood who he was and what prophecies he was fulfilling. Everyone in the Church could *see*.

But when he died, the lawgiver was removed. And when the next leader failed to step forward and be a lawgiver, the members turned to disobedience and rebellion. As a result, that church lost all of its revelation—its vision!

It all happened so quickly.

Paul marveled at how quickly God's people turned away from the truth during the first century (Gal. 1:6). Notice what he told the brethren from Galatia: "I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (vv. 11-12). Some of them had a problem with Paul. But Paul said they were missing the point—the revelation did not originate from him! *It came from Christ*.

I say the same today. I didn't receive this message from man! I was taught it by revelation from Jesus Christ! The same was true with Mr. Armstrong. God gave him all that revelation. Yet, when Mr. Armstrong was taken out of the way, look how fast most of God's people rejected the revelation.

Their love of God's truth was dangerously shallow.

Hosea's Harlot

The book of Hosea sheds additional light on God's rebellious church. "Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine" (Hos. 3:1). God told Hosea to marry a law-breaking harlot because He wanted us to get a clear picture of what the Church would be like in this end time.

Hosea's wife was a *type* of God's Church. Only they can commit adultery, because only they are married to Christ. The subject is Christ's wife. God's Church is acting like a sleazy harlot toward her Husband!

Notice what this woman's problem was above all. "Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as *they that strive with the priest*" (Hos. 4:4). The people

strive with the priest, or the one who administers God's law and government. The Hebrew word for "priest" here denotes *chief priest*. THE LAODICEANS ARE NOT IN GOD'S INNER COURT TODAY BECAUSE THEY HAVE REJECTED GOD'S CHIEF RULER! That is the heart of the Laodicean problem. They will not follow a man as he follows Christ.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast FORGOTTEN THE LAW OF THY GOD, I will also forget thy children" (Hos. 4:6). Only God's people have God's law. They had the law and then forgot it! What an indictment. Because THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD'S LAW, HE WILL FORGET THEIR CHILDREN. That is what happens when you reject the law and the man who is administering that law. God help them to repent. If not for their own sake, for the sake of their children!

God's people are destroyed physically and spiritually because THEY HAVE REJECTED KNOWLEDGE. WHAT KNOWLEDGE? MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, ACCORDING TO VERSE 6, IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S LAW AND GOVERNMENT!

Let me repeat: If we forget the law, God will forget our children!

Shouldn't we think deeply and emotionally about this subject?

"And there shall be, *like people, like priest*: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings" (v. 9). There's the problem. The Laodicean priests have become just like the people. Remember, when God places a man in charge, He gives that individual something extra spiritually—an added power to lead God's people. That places him at an advantage, prompting the people to look to him. Yet, here in Hosea 4, we see no difference between the Laodicean laymembers and their leaders. That's because they have rejected God's law and His lawgiver.

God's people had the law and then forgot it! Because they have forgotten God's law, He will forget their children. God help them to repent. If not for their own sake, for the sake of their children!

GOD'S COMMAND

"AND NOW, O YE priests, this commandment is for you" (Mal. 2:1). The *Hebrew/Greek Key Bible Study* says about the word *commandment*: "to send A MESSENGER to set in order." The root word of *commandment* means to *delegate* or *commission* someone with commands from God.

God is sending a messenger to set things in order—an end-time Malachi-type prophet to deliver His message to a sinning church. Who, in this very end time, is warning God's own ministers and people to stop polluting God's word? *Malachi's Message* is the centerpiece of our literature. Our whole message is built around the book of Malachi. The PCG was commissioned by God to deliver *Malachi's Message*. More specifically, I was commissioned to do that, and the people of God were commissioned to surround me and help me blow the trumpet. We couldn't do anything if we didn't all work together as the body of Christ—God's family.

"If ye will not *hear*, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it

God is sending a messenger to set things in order—an end-time Malachi-type prophet to deliver His message to a sinning church.

Malachi's Message is the centerpiece of our literature.

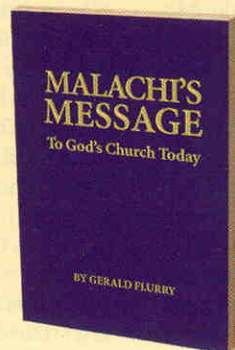
Our whole message is built around the book of Malachi.

to heart" (v. 2). The Laodiceans can't "hear" a message or lay it to heart unless someone delivers it to them.

They are being cursed because they "will not hear" God's loving message from *that prophet*. God's warning is available. "A curse" correctly reads "THE curse" in the Revised Standard Version. *The curse* means they are about to lose their eternal lives if they don't repent (Mal. 4:1, 6). And the ministers are judged even more severely (James 3:1).

What a thunderous, lion-roaring message! The prophecies reveal that there is always a disturbing connection between an end-time Elijah and the Laodiceans. Do you know of any book that teaches such a message in detail? *Malachi's Message* is unique.

"Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts..." (Mal. 2:3). How serious is this? This has to do with eternal life and eternal death! There are ministers who will receive "the curse." That is horrifying. How shocking that these ministers in the Church of God are in danger of not only being cursed as they are today, but of receiving "THE curse." God is trying to wake them up. Since He can't do it with words, He will use the Tribulation.



ZECHARIAH'S FLYING SCROLL

GOD GAVE ME MORE NEW REVELATION EVEN AS I was editing this issue of *Royal Vision*. (I spoke about most of the material in this issue at a ministerial conference in 1999.)

The central theme in the book of Zechariah is God's temple—a type of God's Church. Those who are not blind can easily see what is happening inside God's Church. Understanding this makes it easy to understand Zechariah's message.

Beginning in chapter 3, Zechariah writes, "And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel" (vv. 1-3). We know that just as Mr. Armstrong was an end-time type of the Zerubabel spoken of in chapter 4, so there has been an end-time type of Joshua.

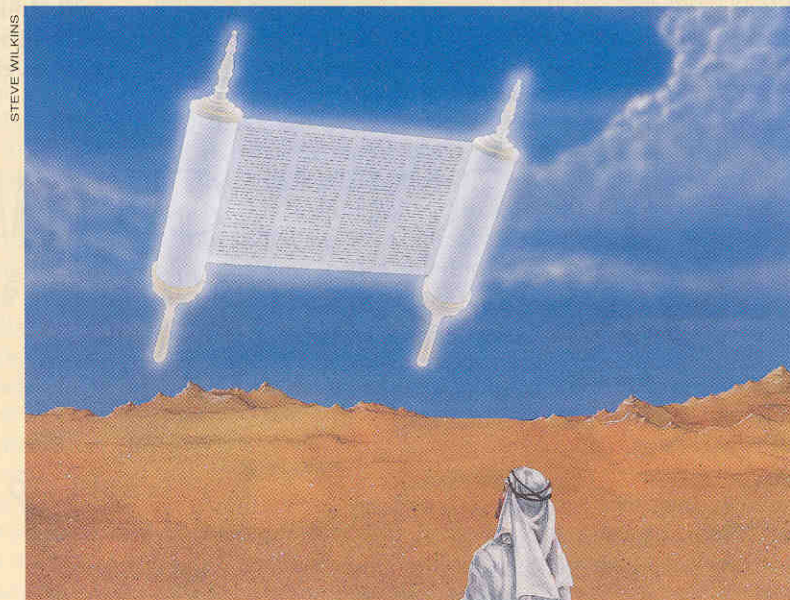
"Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by" (Zech. 3:7). This was a *conditional* promise made to the man Mr. Armstrong appointed as his successor—the end-time Joshua. That man, however, did not obey God. He rejected the authority of Jesus Christ and the law of God.

And so, verse 8: "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH," or Christ. This great rebellion against God occurs shortly before the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth.

Zechariah 4:6-10 refer to an end-time Zerubbabel, fulfilled by Mr. Armstrong. This scriptural *inset* serves as a reminder to Joshua and "his fellows" of how God's work should have continued. Mr. Armstrong did not use his own power to take the gospel message around the world—it was accomplished by God's power. Nevertheless, Mr. Armstrong did play a critical role. He was God's instrument. God performed the work, but He did it by the "hands" of Zerubbabel (v. 9).

This gives you the context for chapter 5, where God refers to a flying scroll. "Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a *flying roll*; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits" (Zech. 5:1-2). Here God shows Zechariah a flying roll; the Anchor Bible calls it a "flying scroll." And notice, Zechariah gives us the precise measurements—20 cubits long and 10 cubits wide (approximately 30 feet by 15 feet).

If you study I Kings 6:22-27, you will see that inside the holy of holies (the holiest room inside the temple) there were two cherubim, each 10 cubits high and 10 cubits wide, with their wings outstretched. These cherubim were positioned on each side of the mercy seat (a type of God's throne) which rested on top of the ark. Their wings met in the middle of the holy of holies and touched the outer walls of the room—making their combined reach 20 cubits. In other words, the cherubim were 10 cubits tall and 20 cubits wide, adding their wingspans together.



The fact that Zechariah's scroll is the same size as the two cherubim inside the holy of holies is no coincidence. God has drawn attention to these precise measurements for an important reason.

The Ark: Throne and Law

I have mentioned before that inside the ark, under the mercy seat, were the Ten Commandments (God's law) and Aaron's rod, symbolizing God's government.

The rod of Aaron clearly shows us that God gives His government to a man. He must implement the law as Aaron was commanded to do.

Then God reveals His Zechariah prophecy to that man. The flying scroll vision was given to Zechariah. But he, like Daniel, didn't understand what the vision meant. That is because it was mainly for the time just before Christ returns.

So where is the *type* of Zechariah today who receives the scroll revelation from God? You can find him where you find God's law and government. He is used by God to *measure* His very elect with that government and law.

God is trying to keep our minds on His throne and His law! The holy of holies is where God dwells. Never lose sight of the great, majestic God who rules from His throne!

First there is God and His throne, symbolized by the mercy seat on top of the ark. Then we see the law and Aaron's rod inside the ark. But there is another ingredient inside the ark: manna. If we submit to God, His law and His government, then God feeds us spiritual manna (John 6:49-50). Then we understand the prophecy of Zechariah.

We recognize *that prophet* as the man who fulfills Zechariah's role in this end time.

Ancient Israel was led by the ark physically. God's loyal ministers today are those who follow that ark of God spiritually and lead God's people.

God wants us to clearly understand that the flying scroll came from the holy of holies, or the inner temple, or the *inner court*. Don't forget that important fact. **THIS MESSAGE DID NOT COME FROM A MAN! IT CAME FROM THE VERY THRONE OF THE LIVING GOD!** The specific dimensions of the scroll and the cherubim remind us of that wonderful truth!

Again, keep in mind that God's temple is the central theme of this book. And God's temple in this end time refers to His Church.

"Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. I will bring it forth, saith the Lord of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof" (Zech. 5:3-4). This is talking about worldwide disobedience to God's law and the curses that accompany such behavior. These curses are even more pointedly directed at God's people in the temple, because they are also transgressing.

Our job as supporters of Jesus Christ is to apply the law now in our own lives—by which we prepare to teach all peoples in the World Tomorrow. God's master plan involves the whole world. There may only be a few people in the Philadelphia Church of God now, but **THIS MESSAGE IS FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD!** That's why Jesus said He would send His end-time Elijah—to help prepare the Church for this tremendous work.

WE ARE GOING TO HELP CHRIST TAKE GOD'S GOVERNMENT AND LAW TO THE WHOLE EARTH AND REMOVE THE WORLD-WIDE CURSE! THIS IS GOD'S MASTER PLAN. Very soon we will see every city and every individual ruled by God's law.

This mind-stretching plan starts today in His own Church.

Look at the Laodiceans today as they "stumble at the law" (Mal. 2:8). That means they have not kept God's government—the worst crisis of all! They are cursed and could never be used to remove the world's curse.

It takes vision to see where present events are leading. The government present in this Church today, the law being administered in the Church today, is exactly what God will establish throughout the world after Christ's return!

Two Women and an Ephah

"Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said,

This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah" (Zech. 5:5-7). An ephah is a device used to measure grain. Yet, in this vision, the ephah is used to *measure a "woman"*—a symbol for God's Church. In other words, God is measuring His Church (I Pet. 4:17; Rev. 11:1-2).

"And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof" (Zech. 5:8). This measuring revealed nauseating sins in God's Church.

"Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out *two* women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base" (vv. 9-11). The end of the flying scroll vision reveals two women, picturing the split which has occurred between the Laodicean Church of God and the Philadelphia Church of God (see also Matthew 24:41 and Luke 17:35).

At first, there was one woman, or church, united under the leadership of Herbert Armstrong (Zech. 4). After he died, however, that church transgressed God's law.

Then, on December 7, 1989, God raised up the Philadelphia Church of God to, as one commentary puts it, revive the priestly role in the administration of justice. God has raised us up to revive His government administration and His law within the Church!

The Outer Court

The flying scroll also has the same dimensions as the porch, or entrance, to the temple anciently (I Kings 6:1-3). This is where the ministers assembled. But it was in the *outer court*.

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the *altar*, and them that worship therein. But the *court which is without the temple* leave out, and MEASURE IT NOT; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (Rev. 11:1-2). First God had His leader measure the *altar*—a type of the ministry. Almost all of God's ministers are in the outer court. That is where they are assembled today. And they remain there. That is the lesson of the scroll size. **GOD GIVES US THESE DIMENSIONS FOR A REASON.** These are not just idle words in the Bible that we can ignore! It shows why there is a second woman, and who is responsible most of all—the ministers.

As Mr. Armstrong always said, the Bible is a coded book, and only God can break that code. That is what God is doing in this message.

These ministers lead God's own people to break His law and become cursed! (as in Zechariah 5). Over 95 percent of God's own people are under a curse today.

Some of these people come to the PCG, and almost all of those who do say they were starving spiritually. They were not being fed spiritual manna. The church they came from did not have Aaron's rod, or God's government. They "stumbled at the law."

There are two women mentioned in Zechariah 5. One is in the inner court and one is in the outer court.

These prophecies are not that hard to understand after God reveals them. They are all focused on a short span of time just before Christ returns.

The dimensions of the scroll, the cherubim and the porch also indicate that these ministers and their followers have a connection to the holy of holies. THE LAODICEANS HAVE A SPIRITUAL HISTORY WITH THE GREAT GOD! Nothing can change that history!

The great tragedy is that God no longer dwells in their midst, as He did in the days of Herbert W. Armstrong.

Counterpart of Revelation 10 and 11

Zechariah 5 is a counterpart to Revelation chapters 10:1-11:2. The *little book* is about how God's Church splits and becomes two women. That is also the subject of the flying scroll.

THE FLYING SCROLL AND THE LITTLE BOOK ARE THE SAME! Zechariah 3 and 4 are explained in detail as a part of *Malachi's Message*, or the little book.

After John discussed the little book, he wrote about measuring. After Zechariah discussed the flying scroll, he too wrote about measuring. In both cases, it is a *woman*, or church, that is being measured. And there is another church which refuses to be measured.

"And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings" (Rev. 10:11). The commission for this new work is to *prophesy again*—with the emphasis, this time, on *prophesy*.

Now we have entered an era when prophecy—a warning message—is the *primary* message.

A prophet is a person who has revealed prophecies from God. If the commission is to prophesy, there must be a *prophet* to lead the work. More specifically, *that prophet*.

If we have a spiritual focus, we will be continually thanking God for His revealed prophecies. Mr. Armstrong often said our greatest sin is that of *ingratitude*. Are we *spiritual* enough to *continually* thank God for His revealed prophecies?

The Laodiceans became ungrateful when they were "rich and increased with goods." Physical things became more important than God's spiritual gifts! Beware of that deadly Laodicean sin.

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein" (Rev. 11:1). A man is given a rod—God's government—to measure God's very elect. God uses a man to implement His law, which is likened to Aaron's rod. God's own Church is being cursed, so this man is directed to measure himself and God's very elect with God's *law*.

Zechariah 5 discusses the curse for breaking God's law. However, one woman kept the law—or was measured by the law. Another woman refused to be measured and was cursed.

"But the court which is without the temple leave out,

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and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (Rev. 11:2). When this man measures the very elect with God's law, the result is an inner court, where God dwells, and an outer court, which refuses to be measured. That means there are two women, just as described in Zechariah 5. One church became wicked; the other was obedient to God. Suddenly you have two churches—one Philadelphian and one Laodicean.

"Then shall *two* be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matt. 24:40). The Revised Standard Version and the New King James Version read not just "two," but "two men." "Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (v. 41). One woman (Philadelphian) is taken and the other woman (Laodicean) is left behind. God takes His very elect to a place of safe-

ty (Rev. 12:14). The Laodiceans must go through the Great Tribulation because of their rebellion (v. 17).

God appoints one man as the "ruler over his household" (*that prophet* with Aaron's rod; Matt. 24:45). There is another man whom God views as the leader of the Laodiceans. He is undoubtedly on the scene now and is apt to gain more prominence as time continues.

He will lead many Laodiceans into the worst time of suffering ever—a nuclear Tribulation (vv. 21-22). This is all in the context of the two women, or the church split. The storm is building fast (v. 34). Christ is about to return! (vv. 35-37).

Revelation 10 and 11 and Zechariah 5 discuss two women. Zechariah's scroll is about two women. So is the little book. The central message about the two women is the flying scroll. The centerpiece of our work to God's Church is the little book. The flying scroll and the little book are used to *measure* God's very elect.

The flying scroll discusses a measuring of God's obedient people. God has given the PCG a measuring responsibility.

It is a *flying scroll*. *Malachi's Message* has been advertised on television and radio. It has been mailed around the world—by airplanes. It gets around as if it had wings.

The flying scroll has huge dimensions. The little book has been seen by most of God's Laodicean people—and read by many of them. It has had a real impact inside God's Church. That is exactly what God prophesied would happen!

Who fulfills a type of the Zechariah office today? Who had the flying scroll revealed to him? And the little book? Who is used to prophesy again—to measure God's Church with God's law?

Let me emphasize once more: This flying scroll, or the little book, came from the holy of holies—where God dwells!

Zechariah 5 is an Old Testament counterpart to Revelation 10 and 11. THIS IS NEW REVELATION THAT I DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHEN I ORIGINALLY GAVE THIS MESSAGE TO THE PCG MINISTERS IN 1999! God continues to do His "marvellous work and a wonder."

THE ELISHA WORK

BY GERALD FLURRY

WHEN I WAS FIRED FROM THE WORLDWIDE Church of God, it was quite hard on my wife. It was difficult for her to follow me. And I think it might not have been so difficult had I handled things differently. I kept saying, while Mr. Armstrong was alive, *We must look to headquarters*; and after Mr. Armstrong was gone, *We must look to headquarters*. In 1988, I could see headquarters was leading us astray. Then I said, *We must NOT look to headquarters!*

What I needed to say all along was, *We need to look to Herbert W. Armstrong and his instructions*. That makes it simple, because he was our spiritual father, the man who brought all of us to God, directly or indirectly. That is the way it was with Paul and the Corinthians (I Cor. 4:15-16). I believe that approach might have made it easier for my wife to make the transition. I was always telling her to look to headquarters. When I quit looking to headquarters, that was a problem for her.

When I was fired on December 7, 1989, my daughter, Laura, had already graduated from Ambassador College (AC) and had gotten one of the best jobs on campus: She was working in Joseph Tkach Jr.'s office. She had many friends at Ambassador College, and yet, when I was fired, she came home with her father. I don't think there was ever a time in my family history when I was more well pleased with my daughter—because she looked to her father, both physically and spiritually, when she could have been tempted to look many other ways. This was the greatest father-daughter moment in my history!

Even while working there, she heard derogatory comments about Mr. Armstrong, but I had taught her and my son, Stephen, to respect God's Elijah. So she didn't like those comments, and I think that also helped to prepare her for making a break.

When my son, Stephen, went to college, I encouraged him to attend the Pasadena campus, because I thought that would be the best place for him to be. I wanted him to be there if that was God's will. He loved Ambassador College. But when things in the Church started getting worse, I encouraged him to transfer to Big Sandy. I wanted him to be closer to me so I could hopefully have more influence on him. In the middle of his sophomore year at Big Sandy, I was fired. Shortly before that, I had shown him *Malachi's Message*, and I think he began to see that he would soon have to make some big decisions.

It so happened that he was able to work part-time in the library; there he could study Mr. Armstrong's tapes and writings, and compare them with what he was learning at AC. That was what *turned* him away from the college's wrong direction. Stephen went to AC to get an education. But IT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE THAT TAUGHT HIM WHAT TRUE EDUCATION WAS!

He learned how to bring God into his education. Now he knows what true education is. Today he teaches that

lesson to many other young people, the Church and the world.

It was a painful experience, but he got the equivalent of a four-year education in a few months!

The Laodicean era has shown that only the Philadelphians know what true education is! The split in the Church has deeply enriched the very elect's understanding of true education.

Mr. Armstrong's writings guided Stephen to God. And he saw that college leaders were guiding the college *away* from God. He was very disturbed to see the college turning away. Stephen had many close friends too. He thought they would probably listen to him as he told them what Mr. Armstrong taught and how it contradicted what they were learning at AC. But he found that those friends kept leaving him, and soon he was alone—physically. That is the way it works. He was alone, but he knew that he was doing what God said. I was also very well pleased with him.


Our Father was well pleased with His Son, Jesus Christ. And how could a father be more well pleased with a son or a daughter when they conduct themselves that way? That's something you never forget!

It really is a very simple formula for them to follow. All they had to do in this case was look to their father, who, although he wasn't always the greatest example, nevertheless pointed them to their spiritual father, Mr. Armstrong. He then pointed them to God the Father. If we can keep things simple, it will be a lot easier for us to make it into the Kingdom of God.

Elisha Work

I Kings is a part of the former prophets. That means it contains Bible prophecy. And 90 percent of all prophecy is for this end time.

Elisha followed Elijah anciently. So it should be no surprise if there is an Elisha *type* who follows the end-time Elijah.



The majority of
God's people
have rebelled.
But God always
reserves a
warrior remnant
to do His work
in the worst
of times.
How precious
that remnant is
to God!

The Elisha work has some great examples for us, because ELISHA WAS ALWAYS GROUNDED IN ELIJAH'S INSTRUCTIONS, and he carried on the Elijah work. Where on Earth is there someone who points you back to the end-time Elijah? Where is there someone pointing you back to your spiritual father who gave instructions that will lead you into the Kingdom of God?

Let's begin by studying the example of the original Elisha looking back to his spiritual father. Elisha was a family man—mainly a God-family man. That God-family understanding kept him on track.

"And he [Elijah] said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown

down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (1 Kings 19:14). Elijah was in a real spiritual war! He thought he was alone. God answered Elijah's discouragement, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him" (v. 18). Elijah did not recognize this faithful remnant. He did not know who the 7,000 were. Likewise, Mr. Armstrong, the end-time Elijah, felt very alone toward the end of his life. He knew that most of his brethren didn't "get it."

"So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him" (v. 19). Here, Elisha was put into the office Elijah had. God did not find him at a seminary, or Oxford or Harvard; Elisha was a farmer. And it was *Elisha* who would be working with those 7,000 who had not bowed their knees to Baal.

God provided a group of supporters—7,000 warriors—to help Elisha do God's work! Elisha needed help. It can be depressing if you are alone. But a dedicated army to help fight the war encourages the leader.

We can see that God's army always revolved around one man—a physical commander—to lead them. That is the *only* way to win a war. It is the *only* way to do God's work.

The Laodiceans in this end-time, however, HAVE bowed their knees to Baal. That is because their minds are not on God the Father and Elijah's instructions. Even my daughter related to me about times in junior high school when she could have gotten into trouble while hanging out with some of her friends. But she said what kept her out of trouble was that she feared me. God, our Father, wants us to look to Him and fear Him.

My office must be a *type* of the Elisha office. But God does not refer to me as Elisha. I believe that is because *that prophet* is typed by so many other prophetic offices.

Why Magnify God's Office

The New Testament counterpart to these verses in 1 Kings is found in Romans 11. Paul wrote, "I say then,

Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias [Elijah]? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a REMNANT according to the election of grace" (Rom 11:1-5).

Paul was going through an experience similar to Elijah's. He was losing some of his brethren in the war, yet there was a *remnant* left, which encouraged Paul. The word *remnant* means *remainder*. The word also means *fragment*. That is all that was left! Paul saw *many* people turn away from God as times worsened.

Paul faced a time when lawlessness abounded—as we do today. The majority of God's people have rebelled. But God always reserves a WARRIOR REMNANT to do His work in the worst of times. God prophesied, "I have reserved to myself seven thousand men." What an honor to be a part of that noble remnant that belongs to God! No wonder God calls them His *very elect*, or elite. How precious that remnant is to God!

Notice again what Paul states in verse 13: "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, *I magnify mine office*." Why did Paul magnify his office? "If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and *might save some of them*" (v. 14).

If we magnify God's office, then we can do this work and SAVE PEOPLE! That is why we have been called out of this world—to do this work of being saviors. Paul only had a small remnant, as we have. He had to go through the same horrifying experience of watching God's people depart. It is a type of what we are going through today.

Like Paul, I will continue to magnify my office that I might save some. Paul's *motive* was to save people, not to beat them down with abusive government. My motive is the same. Satan tries to get people to believe that God's leader is a harsh monster. If that man follows God, just the opposite is true! He is saving God's family by loving and fighting for the truth.

Although we save only a few people now, God will save ALL Israel when He returns (vv. 25-26). That is why He is revealing more on the subject of my office. The ministers have to magnify this office if we are going to save people. That will help us to unify and work together. If we do the opposite, we will *destroy* people! The Laodiceans are being destroyed and scattered—just the opposite of what the end-time Elijah did, who taught them about unity, government and law.

Satan wants to remove my credibility and defile people spiritually, or keep them away from the true God. God's ministers must understand this concept deeply and lead God's people to magnify my office—which is really God's office.

Paul magnified his office because so many were challenging it. That is also a prophecy that the same evil will surface in this end time.

This is not some new phenomenon. It has always been this way.

Elisha and the Father Vision

The books of I and II Kings teach us *how* to become kings and priests of God *forever*.

Elijah established three colleges. That means he also taught us what true education really is—how kings and priests are to be educated. Herbert W. Armstrong was also used to raise up three colleges. He taught us the same lessons that the original Elijah taught.

Elisha continued God's educational work, which indicates that our work will do the same, at least in a limited way. Those colleges were always established to strengthen God's Church and do His work.

Late in Elijah's life, it became known that God was going to take him away in a whirlwind. The students at Elijah's colleges somehow knew Elijah would be taken away, and it unsettled them. Who would lead the work? It was a crisis of sorts in their lives. These students had been under Elijah for years; they did not know of God's work without him. He was their spiritual father, for he had brought them to God—no one else had.

You can see in II Kings 2 how Elisha remained loyal to Elijah through this time. "And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, *I will not leave thee...*" (II Kings 2:4). Elisha promised never to leave Elijah. That is what the Elisha work is like today. We will stay with Elijah and what he taught. Elisha's wonderful attitude is what we must have today to **SAVE** people.

Three times Elisha said, "I will not leave you." God tested Elisha for years to see if he would be loyal to what Elijah taught. He was being prepared to carry on the Elijah work.

All of God's people are being tested today to see who will follow the God of Elijah! Most of the Church members are failing that test. Elijah's leaving had an intense impact on God's people at that time. And Mr. Armstrong's death touched all of us—especially me. I was chosen to lead God's Elisha remnant.

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, MY FATHER, MY FATHER, THE CHARIOT OF ISRAEL, AND THE HORSEMEN THEREOF. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces" (vv. 11-12). This is the attitude we must have in continuing Elijah's work! Elisha is showing us that if we, spiritual Israel, are to do God's work, we must hook our chariot to Elijah! We must be with Elijah's spiritual chariot. He is our spiritual father. It all came from God through that one man and no one else—not a committee! If we are not grounded in Mr. Armstrong's writings, we will not be in the chariot Elisha was talking about.

We are the work saying, "My father, my father," as Elisha did. There will come a time when Israel and the world will have to say, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel," because what we are doing is just the beginning. **THIS LESSON WILL BE TAUGHT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!** As we understand it, the original Elijah will be over education in the World Tomorrow. And Mr. Armstrong will most likely work under him in that area. As Elisha had the vision here about his spiritual father, we'll be teach-

ing the world not just about the Elijah, but about their Father in heaven. He is the Head of the family.

Elisha's vision about his spiritual father and God his Father was a vision of the *family of God*. That is what we are to teach Israel and the Gentiles—to look to God our Father who called us out of this world. That is why we are here, now, as firstfruits. The *Father* selected us. Not even Jesus Christ could decide to call us (John 6:44). Our focus, as Elisha's was, must be on God the Father.

Notice how God rewarded Elisha's vision: "He [Elisha] took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over" (I Kings 2:13-14).

CHRIST DIRECTLY GUIDES HIS CHURCH

IN A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS AND CO-WORKERS OF THE Laodicean church he leads, Roderick Meredith wrote, "In the past we have *mistakenly assumed* that Christ directly guides His Church." That statement alone shows that he is dangerously deceived. If he doesn't repent of that statement, he will go into the lake of fire. That is how serious it is. It is fundamentally wrong.

For most of his adult life, Mr. Meredith was a part of what God did through Herbert W. Armstrong. The above statement casually rejects God's direct guidance through Mr. Armstrong for 57 years!

Christ directly guided that work, and the fruits are there to prove it. In terms of people reached, it was probably the greatest work God's Church has ever done! That work could not have been done without Christ directly guiding it!

Mr. Meredith is rejecting what Christ did directly. His statement is close to blasphemy—if not outright blasphemy! Christ takes that statement personally.

Now it is obvious why he rejects Mr. Armstrong as the end-time Elijah: Christ does not directly guide Rod Meredith. So Mr. Meredith has grossly assumed God doesn't directly guide His Church.

Mr. Meredith is making the same mistake about the PCG. Christ *directly* guides the PCG as He did Mr. Armstrong's work. Again, the fruits are there to prove it.

Rod Meredith's church does not produce real fruits, because Christ doesn't guide his church! But he *mistakenly assumes* it is God's work, when it is not.

There is no excuse for such vile rebellion against the Head of God's Church. Mr. Meredith failed to learn the most important lesson of his life under Mr. Armstrong. And he had so many years to learn it. Anybody who has a Philadelphian knowledge of God can see his grotesque mistake.

He failed to learn a fundamental truth that Elisha learned about the original Elijah. He knew that God directly guided him.

Where is the God of Elijah? Where is the miracle of new revelation? The Laodiceans need to be asking these same questions.

WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH? WHERE IS THE MIRACLE OF NEW REVELATION? THE LAODICEANS NEED TO BE ASKING THESE SAME QUESTIONS. Yet they don't, and do they have a work where they reach out to the world with power? Where is the God of Elijah? He is not in those dissenting, bickering Laodicean groups.

Why are God's people in the PCG today? We know that Mr. Armstrong is our spiritual father. That is *why* we are here.

When we establish a college, we will accept only those young people who deeply realize that Mr. Armstrong was and still is our spiritual father. God's leaders are chosen from this group. That is because we must soon teach that lesson to the whole world. That is why we are here! God's goal is to bring all humanity into His family. The very elect keep their focus on God the Father and the family vision. That is true education. This is the chariot that will CARRY US INTO GOD'S GLORIOUS ETERNITY!

That prophet is the *only* leader who teaches this lesson today.

My Father, My Father

Elisha must have done a wonderful job fulfilling his commission because he ended up receiving the same praise as his father Elijah—and it was from the king of Israel! "Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof" (II Kings 13:14).

Why would God have the king of Israel come before Elisha and say, "My father, my father"? We need to remember that II Kings is prophecy for us today.

God performed the same miracles through Elisha that He did through Elijah. That is because Elisha correctly answered the big question, "Where is the God of Elijah?" Elisha followed the same God that Elijah did.

Today we follow the God of the end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. And God performs the same miracles for us.

Elisha called Elijah his father because both of them focused on God the Father and His family. The Father is the Head. Our calling is all about the God family vision. You must build this vision into the heart of your thinking. Today we learn the lesson in God's Church. Then, in the World Tomorrow, we help Jesus Christ, our Husband, lead the whole world into the Father's family.

Then all humanity will be saying "Father, Father," to God the Father! That is what this family vision is all about. It is so magnificent that we dare not lose it!

King Joash was given a little tiny insight into what *all* kings and priests will see in the World Tomorrow. Christ is leading us into the family of His Father. This understanding will soon fill this Earth.

I am the *only* Church of God leader who looks to Mr. Armstrong as our spiritual father. This strikes at the heart of how we continue the Elijah work today. It also reveals that we have kept our vision about God the Father and His family.

God has to have a man fulfill the Elisha role today. His prophecy about the Father vision would keep the very elect grounded in their God-family future.

He would be an inspired prophet—that *prophet*, to be more specific.

God is a family. Physical families are a *type* of God's family. Family relationships are God-plane relationships. It is all so simple if we keep the family vision.

This vision will totally change the world!

The people who have this understanding before Christ returns will be God's kings and priests who rule this Earth. That time is extremely close.

We are here to be royalty, kings and priests for God, and these former prophets show us how to do that. We have to act like our Father and Jesus Christ if we are to be royalty and reflect them in every way.

That Prophet and Spiritual Battles

"Elisha is portrayed as more actively involved in MILITARY affairs than Elijah," the *Anchor Bible* states, citing II Kings 3:11-19 and 6:13-17 as examples. Elisha was involved in a war. Likewise, our work may be thrust into the limelight very soon. We shall have more intense spiritual battles than those faced by the followers of Elijah during the Philadelphia era.

Are we ready for military attacks—spiritually?

In II Kings 8, the Syrian king fell sick, and he sent his military leader, Hazael, to ask Elisha if he would recover. Verse 11 shows that when Hazael came to Elisha, the prophet *wept*. "And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child" (v. 12).

Elisha was given a vision of what this evil man would do to Israel. It was a prophecy that was not a part of the Bible at that time. Elisha saw clearly that this man would become king and burn towns, slay Israelites, dash children to death and rip apart pregnant women.

That event was only a *type* of the horrific deeds coming upon the nations of Israel very soon. God will afflict primarily the U.S., Britain and Palestine using the beast power, which is rising very fast. You can easily see this power rising on the world scene today.

Also, Elisha was prophesying what would happen in God's Church during the Laodicean era.

IS THIS VISION REAL ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WEEP? CAN WE VIVIDLY SEE OUR OWN PEOPLES' CHILDREN BEING DASHED TO DEATH AND PREGNANT WOMEN RIPPED APART BY THE MILLIONS? HOW BLAZINGLY URGENT THIS WORK IS!

Only PCG members will escape this unparalleled holocaust!

Elisha wept over what would happen. That is the love we need to have for the nations of Israel. It should motivate us to do whatever we can to proclaim this message, because all that trouble will happen to our own people! We especially ought to be weeping for the Laodiceans. The pot is boiling, and things are getting bad quickly! We must do all we can to save people from the Great Tribulation.

"And Hazeel said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?... (v. 13). He didn't think he was capable of such monstrous deeds, but he had a mind change. Satan got to him (Isa. 10:7; Hab. 1:11).

Sometimes our television program is criticized for speaking about politics. Elijah and Elisha had to deal with politics and politicians. God's work has historically had serious confrontations with kings and politicians.

Our work today is no exception. We are commissioned to prophecy about international politics.

In II Kings 9, Elisha sent one of his students to anoint a king, and the student had to run to the king and back as quickly as he could, since things around that area were so dangerous. Elisha was involved in some dangerous warfare, and his students had to be quite courageous to serve him. They had to trust in God, because they could have lost their lives. If you read II Kings 9, you'll see how that one young man changed the course of history by his actions.

Amos and That Prophet

"And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the Lord. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not" (Amos 2:11-12). People raised up by God Himself tell the Elisha work not to prophesy as Herbert Armstrong did. Yet we continue to look back to the end-time Elijah and prophecy exactly as he did.

"HEAR this word that the Lord hath SPOKEN against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt..." (Amos 3:1). Where can you "hear" the word which God "has spoken against" Israel? Have you heard God's voice from heaven? No, but you do have access to our booklets on Amos and *The Former Prophets*. And you hear that message spoken about on our television program and written about in our literature.

You can *hear* God's voice *spoken* through a man—a prophet.

"You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (vv. 2-3). These verses are about a church battle over Bible prophecy. Those in God's Church are the *only* people God has known in this end time. The Philadelphia Church prophesies and the Laodicean Church says "prophecy not."

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" (vv. 7-8). Where is that secret? Where is *that prophet* who is DETERMINED to prophesy? God has already roared! And He has spoken through His prophet! That prophet does not listen to the Laodiceans. He prophesies as Elijah did, because God

has roared! He sees the boiling pot. He weeps for Israel, because he sees that the suffering will be much worse than what Hazeel caused.

It takes courage to prophesy. It takes your prayers for me to lead the work God wants us to do. "Who can but prophesy?" I do not have a choice. I MUST prophesy!

"The Lord God has spoken" through His prophet. A true prophet *must* warn! The false prophets talk of "peace, peace, when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14). God's true prophet warns about WAR!

The lion has roared and is ready to pounce! Can anybody afford to be "at ease in Zion"? The Great Tribulation is dangerously close!

This is a very strong message. Even most of God's own people reject it.


"WOE TO THEM THAT ARE AT EASE IN ZION, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!" (Amos 6:1). Terrible things are coming, and the Laodiceans are at ease. They are not urgent about the work to be done! They don't shed tears for Israel, because they think its destruction is far in the future. Great woe will come into your life if you fall into this category.

Get into God's work! Don't be at ease. Satan attacks those who are at ease. If you are not urgent for this work of God, Satan will get to you. "Ye that put far away the evil day, and *cause the seat of violence to come near*" (v. 3). Do you put the evil day far into the future? And spiritually do violence to God's government spoken of by *that prophet*?

Amos was quite involved in dealing with politics. Amos 7:10 states, "Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el [God's house] sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all HIS words." Amos was accused of *conspiracy* against his own nation. His prophecy was only a *type* of our work. This is a prophecy of what we can expect today! He is before the king of the land and the high priest (picturing the Laodicean Church leader). I have already been before him in court! And Amos says the "land is not able to bear all HIS words." This is certainly not a type of Mr. Armstrong's work. It is referring to the work of that prophet! These prophecies show that our work will have a great impact on this land. It will happen very quickly!

Even in verse 13, it states, "But prophecy not AGAIN any more at Bethel..." They do not want us to prophesy AGAIN the way Elijah did.

So God sends a prophet. He's called "that prophet" because he gives prophecy from every prophetic book in the Bible. Let's not confuse him with Elijah. He is nameless; he is "that prophet." We continue the Elijah work. I am not Elisha, but my office is a *TYPE* of Elisha's *office*. And I have been the conduit for revelation from all the major and minor prophets, Colossians, Lamentations, Daniel, Revelation, the former prophets and other books. All this prophetic revelation has come from God through THAT PROPHET.



Elisha was involved in a war. Likewise, we shall have more intense spiritual battles than those faced by the followers of Elijah during the Philadelphia era.

THE VOICE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

BY GERALD FLURRY

THE MESSAGE OF THE PHILADELPHIA Church of God is both terrible *and* wonderful: Although it is terrible for a little while, it then becomes wonderful forever!

Revelation 10:6 talks about a time of no more delay ("time no longer"). It is spoken of in context with a *little book*. In the time of this little book, events will be racing along much faster.

Revelation 11:1-2 relates how God's Church is being measured by a man just before the Great Tribulation. There is only a short span of time between these events.

It seems clear that Satan was cast down around the time Mr. Armstrong died (Rev. 12:9). Revelation 12:12 says Satan attacks us with great wrath. He knows there is no more delay and that his time is about up, so he is very urgent in his evil endeavors. His rage intensifies as he sees time shortened. That means we are facing him at the time of HIS WORST WRATH IN MAN'S HISTORY. We need to realize how he will take advantage of the little time he has left. THERE IS NOTHING ON HIS MIND BUT DESTRUCTION, especially the spiritual destruction of God's people.

These are dangerous and urgent times. Do we realize what a target of Satan's rage we really are? I believe God's people lack understanding in this area. And what we see now is only the beginning; the attacks will intensify. We are, after all, exposing Satan to the world for what he is. He hates that, because he doesn't agree with God's evaluation of him. But we have to tell the world about him while there is still time.

WE MUST BE AWARE OF TIME THE WAY SATAN IS.

The Voice of the Day of the Lord

"The great day of the Lord is *near*, it is *near*, and *hasteth greatly*, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the

mighty man shall cry there bitterly" (Zeph. 1:14). This frightening time hastens greatly, speedily, suddenly! Those words could even mean *at once*. *Greatly* means *very exceeding* or *emphatically doubled*. Of course, God calculates time differently than we do, but make no mistake: That day is very close!

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near." The expression is repeated for *double emphasis*. And then, to add to the urgency, "it hasteth greatly"! The emphasis is on the lightning speed of events ushering in that darkest day ever in the history of man.

Notice, now, in that verse it refers to "THE VOICE of the day of the Lord." There is a voice, a voice of warning, a voice of prophesying again, a voice that puts the trumpet to the mouth and doesn't remove it. This is the voice of the Day of the Lord. Today, as the world stands on the threshold of Christ's return, THAT VOICE IS ON THE SCENE! Do you recognize where that voice is?

We must think in the spirit of Zephaniah. This book has a very somber theme. It amplifies Revelation 10:6—not only are we in a time of no more delay, but the Day of the Lord is *near*, it is *near*, it *HASTENS GREATLY*. Hardly a week goes by without some major prophecy being fulfilled. There has never been a time like this, and events will never be the same again!

When I read the book of Zephaniah and study it deeply, I look at myself and realize that I'm not as urgent as the spirit of this message. I don't believe I'm as urgent as I need to be; I don't believe our ministers are; I don't believe God's people are! WE MUST REALIZE JUST WHERE WE ARE IN PROPHECY!

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; BEFORE the decree bring forth, BEFORE the day pass as the chaff, BEFORE the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, BEFORE the day of the Lord's anger come upon you" (Zeph. 2:1-2). NOW is the window of opportunity for God's people to do our deeds! NOW is when we must get our act together—*before, before, before*, BEFORE the Tribulation and Day of the Lord begin! The word *before* is used four times to get us to act *before* it is too late! We must act now!

"Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not *the voice*; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Lord; she drew not near to her God" (Zeph. 3:1-2). She, God's Church, "obeyed not *the voice*" (singular). She wouldn't receive correction from *the voice*, *that prophet*, used by God to warn her.

"Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law" (v. 4). These Laodicean ministers polluted God's sanctuary, or Church. They did violence to God's law. Only God's people have God's law to pollute.

This is during the Laodicean era. That is when *the voice* warns them from the book of Zephaniah.

Verse 6 also discusses cities without an inhabitant. That blackest of all prophecies gives extreme urgency to *the voice*!

Hear Now

In Zechariah 3, God speaks to Joshua (which is also the sign talked about in II Thessalonians 2): "*Hear NOW, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at [for men of sign]: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH [speaking of Christ's Second Coming]*" (Zech. 3:8). Why doesn't it just say "*Hear, O Joshua,*" the way it is incorrectly rendered in *Lange's Commentary* and other translations? Why are there, in fact, TWO WORDS in the Hebrew—*hear* and *now*? Because it is an URGENT message for Joshua! *You'd better hear RIGHT NOW, Joshua!* God says. *You don't have much time. You're right at the top of the government, and you are held more accountable than others. Hear NOW!* History has proven that this end-time Joshua really didn't have much time.

God didn't issue this warning to Joshua personally. He said "*Hear now, O Joshua*" through a Zechariah-type prophet—that prophet.

The man who filled the Joshua role died of cancer. He rejected that warning. Now it is too late physically and spiritually. Was God "*crying wolf*" when He prophesied, through a man, "*Hear now*"?

Let's not forget that His warning also applies to *all of us*. God pleads with and warns all of us to HEAR NOW! There is no more delay—now is the time to hear. Time is racing along. Soon it will be too late.

After Joshua, God addresses his fellows: "...and thy fellows that sit before thee..." I can't help but wonder if Joshua's "fellows" only had until his death to qualify or lose it all. Why else would God express it this way? "*Hear NOW, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee!*" After all, they were following a man in the bonds of Satan! God warned all of them through *Malachi's Message* and other media to hear it immediately. Neither Joshua nor any of them heeded that warning. At least, none of them have yet. Now those "fellows" are vigorously fighting the PCG, just as the devil does. Maybe this is why they fight so hard—because they now have nothing to lose!

God allows them to do so, because He wants to test us to see how urgent we are in fighting for Him.

When God says "*Hear now,*" we had better hear the "*now*"! This is GOD TALKING! Could it be any more serious? We have heard so much truth, and God isn't giving us much more time to hear. These men on the scene are men "of sign"—a sign that "the BRANCH," Jesus Christ, is about to return! This is time for the utmost urgency in God's people.

Blow the Trumpet

Let's look at what the prophet Joel says on this subject. "*The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel*" (Joel 1:1). The word came to Joel, as the *interpretation* comes to me today. "*Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?*" (v. 2). God uses a type of Joel today to say "*hear this.*" People

have an opportunity to *hear* the prophecy of Joel. In this verse, God uses a *prophet* to discuss history and *prophecy* that these old men have never seen before—horrificing times—times that are rapidly growing worse. Some of them have even experienced the holocausts of World War II. But far worse is coming.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for *it is nigh at hand*" (Joel 2:1). God keeps reminding us of this: The Day of the Lord is NEAR! In this verse He again tells us to sound this alarm in *God's own holy mountain*—to the very people who were set apart to do God's work, the people who *themselves* were to be thundering this message, and failed. Yes, we are to warn "all the inhabitants of the land," but we are to sound the alarm in God's holy mountain, the Church, first of all. Those people were set apart for a job and they didn't do it, so God sends *that prophet* and a group supporting him to blow the trumpet and thunder Joel's message to them!

Where is the Joel-type prophet who is proclaiming "*HEAR THIS*"? Who is delivering the message of Joel on television, through a booklet on Joel and in other literature? Who blows the trumpet in Zion, or God's Church? Who is sounding an alarm in God's *holy* mountain?

The word *holy* is not a moral quality. It means they were *set apart* for God. Set apart for what? THE LAODICEANS AND THE PHILADELPHIANS WERE SET APART TO DELIVER GOD'S MESSAGE—TO BLOW GOD'S TRUMPET!

Most of God's people have even forgotten *why* they were called!

Who is warning "all the inhabitants of the land"? I have written booklets on *all* the major and minor prophets. "*Hear this*" is the strong warning of all the booklets.

The end-time Joshua was warned in most of them. God always gives us an opportunity to repent.

"A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations" (v. 2). This verse indicates that you will be able to SEE events building toward the Day of the Lord, as Churchill could see what was happening in Germany before World War II. You will be able to see the clouds and gloominess before they actually come on the scene. A true watchman can see it, and he knows it is coming fast.

"A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them" (v. 3). Before, it was a garden of Eden. Then came the devouring fire and left it a desolate wilderness. From the utmost beauty to a complete wasteland—by fire and flame. Not even a blade of grass remains. Just how bad is a nuclear attack? A nuclear winter? "Before their face the people shall be much pained: ALL FACES SHALL GATHER BLACKNESS" (v. 6).

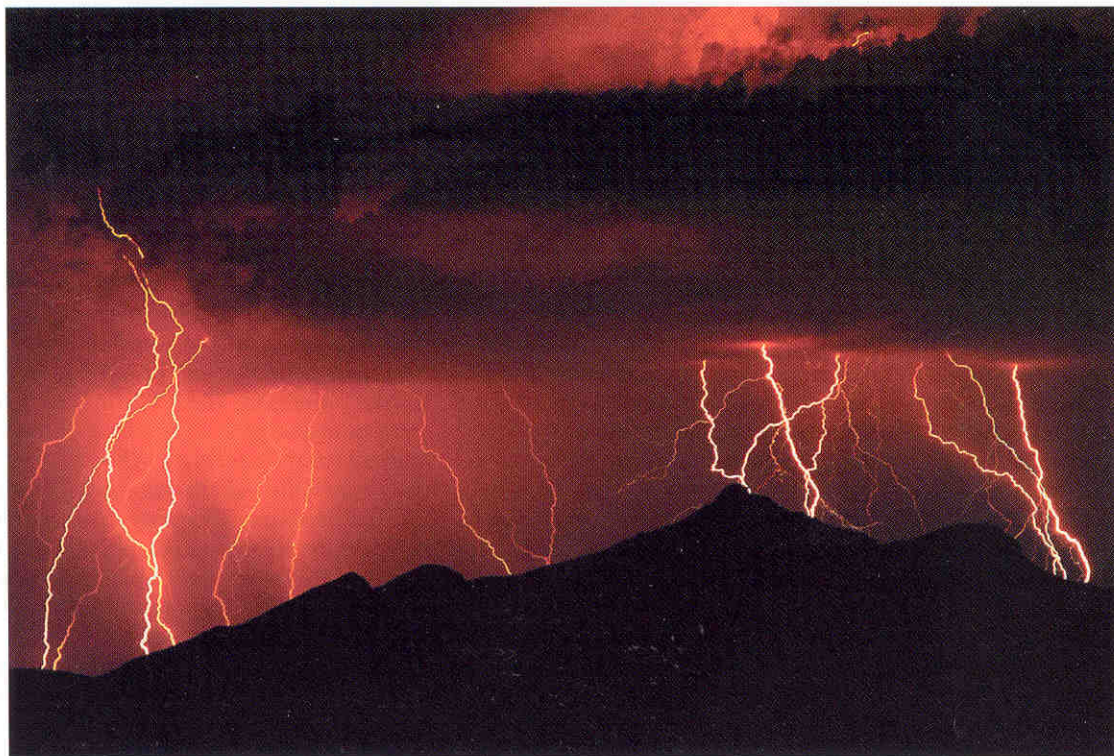
By verse 10, we're into the Day of the Lord: "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall trem-



When God says
"Hear now,"
we had better
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This is God
talking!

From the
utmost beauty
to a complete
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Not even a blade
of grass remains.

The nuclear
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World War II
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to this!



DIGITAL STOCK

ble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining." The nuclear winter and other problems will snuff out the light of the stars. World War II was trivial compared to this!

What can we do about this? "BLOW THE TRUMPET in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly" (v. 15). I must blow the trumpet!—even in Zion, God's own Church. Your job is to support me in that heavy responsibility.

When God instructs, "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly," He is talking to us as well. How can we overcome our carnality and get through to God? How can God's people turn their lives around? By becoming humble before God. Look also at verses 12 and 13—God is very anxious to extend mercy to His people.

Roar out of Zion

The same story is told in chapter 3. This is clearly PROPHECY, not history: "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land" (Joel 3:2). The blood in that valley will be up to the horses' bridles (Rev. 14:19-20). That is how God pleads if people fail to hear His prophet! The warfare will be so gruesome that human life will be considered meaningless.

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up" (Joel 3:9). God's prophet is to proclaim this bloody message. He is to "prepare war, wake up the mighty men." It is not a time for ease and comfort. We are entering into the worst worldwide war ever in history. God has always warned Israel before catastrophes. He certainly will do so before the dark and ghastly Day of the Lord!

"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the

heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great" (vv. 12-13). The Earth is pictured as a vat full of blood. PEOPLE BY THE MILLIONS ARE GOING TO BE WADING THROUGH HUMAN BLOOD!

But that isn't the worst crisis. Very soon life is going to end forever for 50 percent of God's own people. How much does their salvation depend on our work? How much do we love our spiritual family? OUR LOVE FOR THEM IS REFLECTED IN HOW ZEALOUSLY WE DO GOD'S WORK! This is a work of love (Rev. 3:19).

But notice what God does in the context of all these terrifying prophecies of the Day of the Lord. Verse 16 of Joel 3 reads, "The Lord also shall *roar out of Zion*, and utter his *voice* from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel." The Day of the Lord will be intense. So God's warning must be equally intense! God says He will ROAR out of Zion! This is not a little cat's meow. Through His people, led by one man, God will deliver a powerful message. He will utter His VOICE—singular—from spiritual Jerusalem.

There must be a PROPHET who is that *voice* of the Day of the Lord. And for him to really ROAR, he must have a lot of support!

Realize, there are people out there whose salvation depends upon this voice—people who, when they hear it, *will* come around and turn to God. What will God say if we don't ROAR out of Zion? I can't get this message out by myself—I need God's people supporting me. There isn't much time left, and God wants us to really ROAR!

A Teacher of Righteousness

Joel 2 explains even more about this voice, this one man, who comes just before the Day of the Lord. "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord

your God: for he hath given you *the former rain moderately*, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" (Joel 2:23). That is a marvelous translation, if you want to obscure the meaning of that verse!

"Children of Zion" should be translated "sons of Zion." This verse is addressed to God's own family.

As I explained in our *Joel* booklet, the margin of the King James Version renders "the former rain" *a teacher of righteousness*. The Hebrew term can mean *the early or former rain*, or it can mean *one teaching*. The word "moderately" reads in the margin *according to righteousness*. These two Hebrew words, put together, and the context, definitely signify *a teacher of righteousness*.

The second time "the former rain" is used in that verse, it is in connection with the latter rain. God is likening a spiritual harvest to the former and latter rains of the harvests in Palestine. Both rains, in April and October, were required for good crops. So here, "the former rain" is an appropriate translation. "In the first month" should read *as at the first, or as previously*. So God is saying He will send rain, a type of His Holy Spirit, as He did before.

In other words, God's spiritual harvest was interrupted! His Holy Spirit was greatly reduced. The ULTIMATE CALAMITY struck His Church.

In verse 25 God promises to "restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten." A remnant of God's people will not be cut off. They will receive the former and latter rain. They will be fed spiritually as they were in the glorious past, under Herbert W. Armstrong.

THIS SPIRITUAL EDUCATION WILL COME THROUGH "A TEACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." Not only will he hold fast to past instruction, but *more* spiritual rain—revelation—will abundantly fall for him and his followers. That latter rain will come, in fact, *because* he holds on to the past instruction, the former rain.

Are we thankful for the spiritual rain we abundantly receive in this Church? What a wonderful gift! In the midst of the greatest crisis the world has ever seen, just before the Day of the Lord, there is abundant rain coming from a teacher of righteousness—or *that prophet*. The book of Joel is about the Day of the Lord, the blackest day in man's history. This teacher of righteousness would certainly be a prophet. He would be teaching about this book, and many other prophecies.

We must give God credit for this rain from heaven. He is sending it today even faster than He did to Mr. Armstrong! (I believe this is comparable to the fact that Elisha performed more miracles than Elijah did, even though he held a lesser office. The seriousness of the times required it, and God does what the times require.) Look around in this world and you see nothing but spiritual drought! But there is ONE PLACE with continual spiritual rain. To those who receive this rain, it is strikingly clear where God is working.

That He May Declare It

Jeremiah also fills in some of the details of this picture. He talks about the Laodicean rebellion in Jeremiah 9:6: "Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; *through deceit* THEY REFUSE TO KNOW ME, saith the Lord." It is so easy for men to deceive themselves. But God knows, and He says they *refuse* to know Him. They have had ample opportunities to know the truth.

"Who is *the wise man*, that may understand this? and who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord hath spoken, that *he may declare it*, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?" (v. 12). Here again is the picture of a land so desolate, so saturated with radioactivity, that nobody even wants to pass through it—clearly an end-time prophecy. And God says there is a man whom He has spoken to, whom He has given this strong message to, who will turn around and DECLARE IT!

Declare what? That the nations of Israel are about to be burned like a desolate wilderness—so bad that "*none passes through*." None! Nobody! The land is so radioactive that *not one* person passes through. The whole land is like the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Russia—only about 1000 times worse!

Nuclear weapons are being proliferated throughout the world today. All the signs point to a nuclear holocaust. Hundreds of God's prophecies do the same. Still, men reject God's truth, which makes the worst time of suffering ever inevitable.

Why won't they listen now to *that prophet* as he declares God's message to the world? God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Why must that prophet be a voice crying out in the wilderness of religious, political and educational confusion?

It says God has SPOKEN to this man. That does put me in a different category. It also puts on my shoulders a heavy responsibility: "that HE [a man] may declare it," Jeremiah says. If you realize what has happened here, you know you must support this message. This is speaking to you *indirectly*, and to me *directly*.

God is not just *suggesting* that we declare the message. This is a *command* directly from God—to me *personally*. The people who have God's revelation are the only people who can declare the message. I must do it, and so must the very elect if they want to escape this blackest of all days and enter into God's family. And we have very little time to get the work done.

God asks, "Who is *the wise man*, that may understand this?" Wise men and women will understand about *that prophet*. They will know that God makes the work revolve around him. Those who fail to understand are hopelessly unwise, and they will pay the worst possible penalty.


God is *now* determining who are the wise and unwise. Which category will you be in?

Love the Law

"And the Lord saith, Because they have forsaken *my law* which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein" (Jer. 9:13). You can't forsake God's law if you never had it. These people were given the law by an end-time Elijah. Now they are rejecting it. So this warning is directed first of all to God's own Church.

There are plenty of problems in the land, and many people propose solutions. But none of them are willing to stand up and say that we need to start keeping GOD'S LAW! They like to deal in generalities, handling things in a way that will never solve anything.

The nations of Israel are about to be burned like a desolate wilderness—so bad that "*none passes through*." None! Nobody!



High mounds of
dead bodies all
over this Earth!
There will be no
funerals and
lamenting. There
will be too many
bodies for
people to
even bury!

Some people say we need stricter gun control, for example. This is how they would control the school shootings and other similar problems. But that is no solution. We must totally change our society. We must go from being a lawless society to being a law-keeping society.

Other people say that we need a change in our morals, which is true. But this is still speaking in generalities. These same people won't say that we must keep God's law, the Ten Commandments!

Also they reject the *one* man and God's government needed to enforce God's law. That is the *only* solution.

Not some vague abstraction or generality. People keep avoiding God's solution as our society collapses.

Repeatedly these prophecies declare that they reject God's law. They refuse to let God rule them unconditionally. They reject the Elijah whom God sent, and the holocausts keep coming. They reject *that prophet*, and the holocausts keep coming. The next holocaust will be so bad that Christ must stop it or there would be no flesh saved alive (Matt. 24:21-22).

The solution lies in a specific law—God's Ten Commandments—and a specific government taught today, *only* by *that prophet*.

It isn't that man *can't* understand. HE REFUSES TO UNDERSTAND! Soon it will be too late physically. For some, it will be too late spiritually.

"Why will you die, O Israel?" (Ezek. 18:31).

What about you? Do you love God's law and government? Do you want God to rule you unconditionally? Only those who do can accomplish the work of God. Are you 100 percent behind what God is doing? God knows. And He will continue to measure His Church.

Cause the Nations to Drink

"Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle" (Jer. 25:10). This too is describing the terribly black times of the Day of the Lord.

"And I will bring upon that land *all my words which I have pronounced against it*, EVEN ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations" (v. 13). God has revealed much more to the PCG from the book of Jeremiah. ALL that God has revealed to me in Jeremiah is about to be fulfilled!

Mr. Armstrong did not understand "ALL that is written in this book." Most of the prophecy to occur in the Laodicean era has been revealed to me. Now we have the complete picture.

Jeremiah wrote the message. Now I must declare it "against all the nations."

Here is another specific command to me, and to all who support me: "For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and CAUSE *all the nations*, to whom I send thee, *to drink it*" (v. 15). That is a strong command. A man must deliver this message, and CAUSE the whole world to drink it. Let's remember

that Jeremiah only went to Judah. But now his message must go to all Israel and the world. And *that prophet* must deliver it. I must *cause* all the nations to drink this message. And our success in this commission is assured, because our message has all the power of God behind it.

What a commission for *that prophet* and God's very elect! Do we realize deeply how incredibly important this message is?

"And they shall drink, and be moved, and be MAD, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me" (vv. 16-17). The military attack will drive many people MAD! Why won't our people heed this warning message and avoid that unparalleled disaster?

"And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground" (v. 33). The *Gesenius Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon* says this is talking about "high mounds of dead bodies." HIGH MOUNDS OF DEAD BODIES ALL OVER THE EARTH! There will be no funerals and lamenting. THERE WILL BE TOO MANY BODIES FOR PEOPLE TO EVEN BURY! They won't even try. THIS WILL HAPPEN FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER! The world will be one gigantic cemetery, but without burials or lamenting.

Why will this happen? Why will this indescribable nightmare occur? Because mankind would *not* listen to the warning message of *that prophet*!

Do we really fathom the meaning of these prophecies? If we do, I can't see how they would fail to make us a little sick—or very sick!

The sad truth is that most of God's own Laodiceans have their minds on getting things for themselves. What a grotesque distortion of priorities. No wonder God spews them out of His mouth!

Think on these verses, and you will begin to realize just how difficult our job really is. We have a frighteningly strong message for this world. Delivering it will take tremendous faith and resolve. Every one of us must labor and do everything possible to contribute to God's great work. Get involved as much as you can. Contribute financially and any other way. Wisely seek another job if it is needed. We should all want more responsibility in contributing to this greatest work on Earth.

Rise Up in Battle!

Obadiah refers to this same end-time office. "The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; We have *heard* a rumour [or report] from the Lord, and *an ambassador* is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up *against her* in battle" (Obad. 1). People have "heard" an end-time Obadiah. He has a "vision," or revelation from God.

God sends a messenger ("ambassador" is a weak translation). This man is also a *warrior* for God.

This is the only time in the Bible when Edom is referred to as "her." Why? She represents God's Church—specifically the Laodiceans who refuse to repent, even in the Tribulation. Fifty percent of God's own people lose their birthright, or salvation (Matt. 25:1-13). This is the most painful message we could deliver. (Our free *Obadiah* booklet contains a thorough explanation of these scriptures.)

When you see a messenger of God sent among the Laodiceans to do battle, THAT IS YOUR SIGNAL TO RISE UP AND JOIN THE WAR! This is where “the sheep go into the midst of the wolves” (Matt. 10:16). We must do battle with spiritual Edom, who affects all of God’s people adversely today.

Notice, we initiate the battle specifically against EDOM! They have stolen God's precious revelation and are fighting to stop God's work forever. God guides us to fight with all our might. We do battle specifically to print *Mystery of the Ages*.

There is more of Mr. Armstrong's literature that we must print. It belongs to God's people. We must fight a ferocious spiritual battle, or the world will be in darkness. God's work can't be done if we won't fight!

You have to know God to recognize the messenger He sends, and to believe in him. Because IT TAKES DEEP CONVICTION TO STAND UP AND DO BATTLE! You must KNOW this is the man God has sent! A few people got focused on their personal understanding of the copyright law, became convinced we were wrong in printing *Mystery of the Ages* and left the Church. But wait a minute! What about the messenger God sent with a report? God has told His people to rise up and do battle! We must see things spiritually! It requires a different mindset than we've had in the past. We have to see the overview of God's battle plan.

Like Esau, the Laodiceans have sold their birthright for a bowl of soup. They gave up everything for a bowl of soup! (v. 5). They're not concerned about Obadiah—they just want the bowl of soup, *physical* things. The whole world is about to be destroyed, and they only care about things like salary and retirement.

There is no way we can escape our responsibility without punishment. In Obadiah 21 God even calls us *saviors*. That's what we are: saviors for God! We are helping to save people for God.

There is a certain amount of burden involved with doing God's work, but we must see beyond that.

This is a book of “vision”—or revelation from God. Who is delivering revelation from the book of Nahum today? *That prophet* is discussing some bad news. But the good news is, the bad news is about to end forever!

I am proclaiming a message that this world is about to see no more of the Holy Roman Empire. You'll never see it march through Israel again!

We need to see the beautiful feet of “him”—the one bringing revelation from the book of Nahum to the world. I’ve written a booklet on *Nahum*, and we understand this message even better than Mr. Armstrong did. God actually wants us to focus on this “him,” this messenger, and his message.

The man is only a messenger. God's very elect have their focus on God, who sends the message. That's why we are admonished to see the *feet*, which puts everything in perspective. The *good tidings* don't come from a man, but from God! The man has the honor to deliver God's message. And the very elect are also honored to support such a "marvelous work and a wonder."

Nahum is a book about Germany, a nation which has been a *continual* curse upon mankind. Satan chose the Germans to inflict a stream of misery and destruction upon mankind. "Upon whom has not your wickedness passed *continually*?" (Nah. 3:19). But you are seeing the

**MYSTERY
OF
THE
AGES**

*Did you ever read anything? "What came it?
What was it? Why did it? ... Did you see mystery?
The world is covered deep in an mystery.
Now, you can understand!"*

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

It is very important that we all fully support *that prophet*. But at the same time, deeply understand we are following God, not a man.



ROYAL VISION

last of this beast power—*forever*. This is the final chapter. The armies of Germany and the Holy Roman Empire will march no more! Words can't describe such a wonderful future.

God is about to fill the Earth with truth and joy. Look at the beautiful feet of *him* who races ahead to deliver this message of a new civilization, ruled by our Creator.

God's Chosen Leader

To conclude this extensive study on "that prophet," I would like you to notice this quote by Mr. Armstrong. It's from a *Good News Personal*, dated August 1979: "This thought came to me as I was eating breakfast this morning: In all this world's history God has never started an important work or special activity through a chosen human, and then, after that special accomplishment is well advanced, ALLOWED His chosen human leader to be overthrown by Satan—or in any way to turn false.

"Yet those promoted high *within* that work or special activity for God *have* been allowed to turn false, against God's chosen leader."

Then Mr. Armstrong gave the examples of Moses, Joshua, Paul, Peter and, of course, himself. "This Church was drifting into a Laodicean condition. Incidentally, both the Sardis and the Laodicean eras of the Church were GOD'S CHURCHES—NOT SATAN'S.

"Someone spread the false rumor that I have said these others were or will be Satan's churches.... The Laodicean Church will be characterized by spiritual lukewarmness—half of its membership (Matt. 25:1-13) will be shut out of the Kingdom of God." One half will be shut out FOREVER! People we know will *soon* be forever shut out of the Kingdom of God to the tune of 50 percent! Is it important that we declare this message?

Mr. Armstrong continues, "But the bad news is, as it appears today, my dear brethren, is that we, undoubtedly of the Philadelphia era—my son's ridicule notwithstanding—are in serious danger of BECOMING also the Laodicean era." Indeed, they were. This was 1979. He said, "I am personally much concerned about that. If YOU are NOT concerned, then indeed you *are* in mortal DANGER." Are you deeply concerned about this truth? If not, you *are* in mortal danger. Mr. Armstrong was talking about your ETERNAL LIFE—OR ETERNAL DEATH!

"Satan is pulling out ALL STOPS now to DESTROY THIS CHURCH OF GOD," Mr. Armstrong continued. And he is pulling out all the stops to destroy the PCG! "But what Jesus Christ raised up is the CHURCH OF GOD. Today it encompasses the Earth so we call it the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! Garner Ted bragged to me that he built this Church. It was BUILT when he was 3 years old!"

God also built the Philadelphia Church of God. If it isn't so, we shouldn't be here. God built this Church and it continues to grow. Yet men sometimes think *they* built it. I didn't build anything; you didn't build anything, except that we are able to *help* the great God build it.

Mr. Armstrong concluded, "But what CHRIST BUILT through his father placed those microphones before him. He STARTED nothing. He pioneered NOTHING....

"God never yet has let one through whom He STARTED a great project turn wrong—and He has never yet let such an appointed leader of His die *until his job was FINISHED*."

How inspiring it is to think about that! God will carry on with His work and will really do everything He can to help that leader. His success has been 100 percent throughout the ages.

So it is very important that we all fully support *that prophet*. But at the same time, deeply understand we are following GOD, *not* a man. ❖

Letters

THE PENTECOST ISSUE ANSWERED SOME questions that had risen to my mind about spiritual maturity. "Hannah's Vision" was very personal to me and it really touched my heart. It has enhanced the thoughts I had in my mind!

Pickens, S.C.

I'VE JUST FINISHED READING THE MAY/JUNE issue of *Royal Vision*, and there is nothing to compare with it. It's simply wonderful. I've learned more about God and God's work since reading the *Royal Vision* and the *Trumpet*. I've studied the Bible over 26 years and I thought I understood a little of the Scriptures. Now I find I know almost nothing. Thank God for someone who can tell me and show me the truth. Thank you for the really outstanding magazines.

Fiji

"HANNAH'S VISION" PUTS THE PRINCIPLES of child rearing on a higher dimension. It is truly inspiring to understand this awesome vision!

Quezon City, Philippines

THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME THE May/June issue of *Royal Vision*. I was moved by the article "Faith to Do the Work" by Mr. Flurry.

Hollywood, Calif.

YOUR ARTICLES "FAITH TO DO THE WORK" and "Hannah's Vision" were inspiring and encouraging to me. Focusing on God's work draws us closer to God and to each other. And you helped us understand how to draw closer to God through our trials.

Tucson, Ariz.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW MOVING and inspiring the May/June *Royal Vision* is in its ability to feed us to the fullest and then some. It's great to see in print how God moves the writers with such compassion to help us understand thoroughly this God family vision and how real it truly is!

Davenport, Okla.

THANK YOU FOR SENDING OUT ALL OF THE new literature; it is God's awesome and inspiring truth, and it is priceless! God's *continual* is moving full-speed ahead and it is a blessing to be a part of it.

St. Clairsville, Ohio

I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED MR. RUMLER'S article. It was powerfully concise, articulate, full of deep God-revealed symbolism. Mr. Rumler weaved through a number of historical and current sources to present one of the most dynamic articles since my receiving the *Royal Vision*.

Kanata, Ont.

WHAT EXCELLENT READING MATERIAL WE are receiving in the *Royal Vision* magazine. "Hannah's Vision" by Mr. Flurry was outstanding to teach us about spiritual marriage and the family of God.

Bonner Springs, Kans.

I ENJOY READING YOUR LITERATURE AND can easily see that the quote in Revelation—to prophesy again—has been fully accomplished by this little PCG organization. This is certainly the most important work on this planet! I am truly encouraged by how well you follow in the footsteps of H.W. Armstrong, God's 20th-century Elijah!

Paradise, N.F.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE *TRUMPET* and the *Royal Vision*. I can't begin to tell you how much they mean to me—also the many booklets that I have received.

Burnham, Maine

I AM TRULY GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR PROVIDING us with *Mystery of the Ages*, *Malachi's Message*, the *Trumpet* and *Royal Vision* magazines. We have been praying diligently that the Father grant His understanding that we may be able to digest His truth. We agree with you concerning Mr. Armstrong and would like to counsel with a minister.

Bethlehem, Pa.

I HAVE MOST OF THE LITERATURE PUBLISHED by the PCG. I receive the *Trumpet*, *Royal Vision* and *True Education* magazines. In the latest issue of the RV I read with exciting interest that Mr. Flurry is thinking of opening a college to train new students in God's truth. I think this is fantastic! The PCG is following in the footsteps of God's end-time Elijah. All that seemed lost after the WCC's rebellion is once again being restored through the PCG. Keep up the incredible work God has commissioned you to do.

Calgary, Alb.

GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS ME AS I ABSORB the knowledge from your inspired literature. My wife and I were able to study quite a few booklets during the year before her death last spring. We were extremely happy that God let us find where God's lamp had gone after Elijah (Mr. Armstrong) died. My knowledge and understanding has increased immensely, especially during the past couple of years. Thank God for sending another prophet for the perfecting of the saints, and thank you all for helping do His work.

Tallassee, Ala.

I'M THANKFUL TO GOD FOR THE THINGS that are being revealed to you. I understand the truth about the PCG and the WCG, and the big difference—and that difference is God's government.

Baldwin Park, Calif.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING THE WORK of Mr. Armstrong. Almost daily we see his understanding proving to be correct. I was able to study his works for about eight years before he died. Satan sure had his advocates move in rapidly when Mr. Armstrong died.

White Springs, Fla.

BEING RELATIVELY NEW TO THE TRUTH, three and a half years, the *Royal Vision* is a real joy to read, being so full of practical instruction. The *Trumpet* seems to get better with each issue, it really is sending out a strong warning message to this world.

Dalmeny, Sask.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE VERY VALUABLE literature and magazines. It is so wonderful to once again read the wisdom and guidance of God's people. God answered my prayers and led me to you. I had prayed for Him to guide me to His remnant. One morning, I was awakened and couldn't go back to sleep. I turned on the TV and there was your show. Thank you so much for continuing Mr. Armstrong's work.

Mt. Hope, W. Va.

❖ Letters may be sent to *Royal Vision*, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to (405) 359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@pcog.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.