



Royal Vision

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SPECIAL ISSUE

HABAKKUK

REVEALS THE OUTCOME OF OUR COURT CASE

HABAKKUK.

CHAPTER I.

Two hundredth and thirty-third chapter of the Bible.

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HABAKKUK

REVEALS THE OUTCOME OF OUR COURT CASE

By Gerald Flurry

THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD (PCG) has been involved in a court battle with the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) for well over five years now. It has been over a year that we have been restricted from printing *Mystery of the Ages* and any other material by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Habakkuk wrote his prophecy in the sixth century B.C., shortly before Babylon destroyed Judah. The temple was a mess. The priests were terribly divided, arguing about law and government. God sent the Prophet Habakkuk to straighten them out.

I want to prove to you that HABAKKUK'S PROPHECY REVOLVES AROUND OUR COURT CASE. This is new revelation from God!

But I can only prove this to people who have faith. If you don't read this message and apply these words in faith, I guarantee that you won't understand. Habakkuk 1:5 says God will work something that people won't believe even when it is spelled out for them. This is why we need to walk by faith—because otherwise we will never understand God's plan.

REVELATION IS THE MAJOR PROOF OF WHERE GOD'S VERY ELECT ARE! That is a truth you can prove from the Bible. But even more than that, it implies LAW AND GOVERNMENT. God doesn't give His revelation to a committee—that would result in division and confusion. He gives it to *one man*, as He did to Mr. Armstrong, and He holds that man accountable. That implies LAW AND GOVERNMENT, implemented by that man, to keep people focused on God's revelation.

Habakkuk's prophecy reveals what happens when you lose that government. God's revelation is watered down, lost or destroyed, and people stumble at the law.

WITH THE WORLD IN ITS LAST HOUR, DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE THAT GOD WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE VERY

ELECT'S FIVE-YEAR COURT CASE? He is getting very specific in this end time. He has strong feelings about this battle among His people.

The Middle of the Years

"A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid ..." (Hab. 3:1-2). Notice Habakkuk's attitude: He heard God's Word and was afraid. That is the right approach to God. Habakkuk had a godly fear, like Mr. Armstrong (the "Levi" type of Malachi 2:4-5) did. He trembled when God spoke.

God only reveals truth to people who fear Him—who "tremble" at His Word. That is why most people do *not* understand Bible prophecy. They don't tremble before God's Word.

New revelation, such as what you are about to read here from Habakkuk, comes only from God. It is how God speaks to His very elect! God speaks to only one Church. If He spoke to several churches, there would be massive confusion.

God speaks to His Church today. The Philadelphia Church of God is unlike any other church in the world, because here *God speaks* through His leader, as He always has. GOD SPEAKS! How much do we tremble?

I believe God has given us more revelation, faster, than any church ever! And we shall be held accountable for every word. Why? Because you can prove that our message is taken from God's Word.

"... O Lord, REVIVE thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2). Sometimes God has *wrath*—especially when He sees evil within His own Church. We must pray every day, "In wrath remember mercy." We are sinners, and we must ask God for mercy.

The phrase "in the midst" is used twice in verse 2. *Gesenius Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon* says that phrase means "the interior, midst of a thing; in the middle." It is referring to the middle of the crisis years in God's Church. Not at the beginning or the end, but in the middle (stated twice, for emphasis), God must REVIVE HIS WORK. Referring to us today, Habakkuk is asking God to revive His work. Habakkuk gets *specific* regarding this end time. We will see that many of his prophecies are surprisingly detailed and specific to our day.

Revive thy work in the midst of the years. Aren't we praying the same thing today? *Revive* means to preserve alive, live again, recover health, be healed, deliver from destruction of life. This is speaking spiritually. Why does the PCG need to recover health? Look at our situation, and the one area we really need to be revived in concerns this COURT CASE.

The WCG has stopped us from using Mr. Armstrong's writings. We won in the District Court, but lost a split decision in the appeals court. We have lost a battle, but not the war!

We lost this court case in the middle of the Church crisis years. This is so only because we lost one court *battle*. Now we must cry out for God to revive His work.

THE PCG HAS NEVER NEEDED REVIVING EXCEPT IN THE COURT CASE. This is a prophecy about God reviving us. So we need to prepare for a spectacular end! Yes—WE ARE GOING TO GET MR. ARMSTRONG'S WRITINGS. We must, if we are going to proclaim God's message in the middle of the crisis years, just before Christ's return.

God will complete His work. And I see no way that it is completed yet.

At one time we were printing God's message—God's rev-

elation through Mr. Armstrong. Then the ANTICHRIST began to fight against Christ (1 John 2:18), and stopped us from sending *Mystery of the Ages* to the largest audience possible. That hurt the work. Now we can no longer disseminate any of Mr. Armstrong's literature. We need to be revived. We didn't need that revival until the antichrist took us to court.

Why is a man called *antichrist*, and his helpers, *antichrists*? Because they not only rebel against God, they also FIGHT AGAINST Christ and try to destroy His work! *The most dramatic way they do so is in the court case.* They are evil beyond words to describe. The whole world, though they may not understand, can see them fighting against Christ in the last hour.

This is a prophecy for the middle years—to prepare us for a *spectacular end*. I believe that God will *have* to give us Mr. Armstrong's writings. I state that in faith, and I strongly believe He will if we have the faith we need.

In *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*, I wrote that for the first seven years of our work our primary commission was to send *Malachi's Message* to the Church of God, which was falling away from God. After seven years, that became our secondary commission, and God inspired us primarily to get *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong's other writings to the largest audience possible. That is still our number-one commission today—but we need to be revived! And God continues to give us revelation (this time from Habakkuk) to show how it will be done.

How Long?

Let's examine how Habakkuk's prophecy begins. "The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see" (Hab. 1:1). Habakkuk saw a heavy message—a *burden*. What was it about?

"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!" (v. 2). Habakkuk and the righteous Jews of his day were in a temple crisis. But it was only a *type* of the injustice that was prophesied for the end time.

There is a real injustice going on in this end time. We see it, as Habakkuk did in his time, and say, *God, how long will you let this destruction continue? Why do you keep letting this happen?*

How much longer do you think God will allow people to WITHHOLD His great message from this world? How long will we have to battle for God's truth? God is making us fight—He wants us to stand up for His truth. He wants to know how much we love Him. So many of God's people are just sitting and letting the man of sin take it all away. But there is a group fighting tenaciously for God.

Only a fool would think God is not concerned about this court case. For almost SIX YEARS this has gone on! The last year of which we have been prevented from printing Mr. Armstrong's works.

Our own booklets are not enough to offer on our television program. We desperately need Mr. Armstrong's writings.

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We get a good response from our television programs. However, without the foundational writings of Mr. Armstrong, we can't educate people deeply in God's truth.

What is God preparing us for? I believe we are in for a significant and dramatic change in this Church. We deeply NEED that material of Mr. Armstrong's, and I have to beseech God and ask, *How long will this go on?* I see now that the answer is right here in Habakkuk.

Strife and Contention

"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).

After Mr. Armstrong died in 1986—even after 1989 when the PCG started—there was some measure of strife and contention, but nothing significant. We simply left the WCG. But here Habakkuk discusses real STRIFE AND CONTENTION! And it is written in the *present tense*. In other words, when this prophecy is revealed, *we are living it!* The whole world can see this strife and contention. A lot of them have talked and written about it.

Strife comes from *riyb*, which means a contest, personal or legal. Another meaning is to strive or defend. It also means controversy, lawsuit, or adversary. Several times in the Psalms, David asks God to "plead my cause." Both *plead* and *cause* come from the Hebrew word *riyb*.

Contention comes from *madowan*, which is derived from *diyn*—by implication to judge as an umpire, or to *strive as at law*. The *Anchor Bible* says the etymology of *contention* "is closer to the language of the law courts. ... It could be subordinate to what follows. 'When there was a lawsuit the verdict came out *perverted*'" (emphasis mine throughout). Did that happen? It certainly did. *Anchor* continues, "[I]t could be describing corruption in the courts of the land." Have we seen that? Yes, we have.

In these first few verses Habakkuk talks twice about *violence*, which merely means unjust gain by cruelty or lawlessness. One Bible scholar says *iniquity* in verse 3 is a technical legal term for a court dispute. *Grievance* means injustice. The *Companion Bible* explains it as "sin viewed in light of the trouble it causes and of its burden and its grievousness." Where have we beheld injustice and grievousness?

All of these words directly relate to our court case!

Two Individuals

Notice the phrase at the end of verse 3, "there are that raise up strife and contention." *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* shows that it is really speaking of an *individual*: "In the English version the relative 'that' is to be understood—literally, 'there is (HE that) raiseth up strife and contention.'" ONE MAN is raising it up. How?

Spoiling in verse 3 means desolation and destruction. This too is referring to a *man*. In fact, it is the same man spoken of in II Thessalonians 2:3 as the son of *perdition*, or *destruction*. In other words, the phrase "Spoiling and violence are before me" in Habakkuk 1:3 could read, "the SPOILER [is] before me."

If you look at the court case physically, it is hard to understand why one church would go to such effort and expense simply to destroy what we're doing. But if you understand Satan and his demons, you clearly recognize

that there is a force out there intent on DESTROYING God's truth! People have pressured us to make a *deal* to resolve this dispute. But we won't make a deal with such an evil force—we will only fight, using any means at our disposal!

"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the *wicked* doth compass about the *righteous*; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (v. 4). The *Anchor Bible* continues by saying that *wicked* and *righteous* here also refer to *individuals*: "The text is best left as it is, ... the *righteous* (one) is a specific individual." Or the teacher of righteousness there from verses 3 and 4 is enough to show that this person was identified as the 'righteous one' and the wicked priest was the 'wicked one.' In other words, there is a man representing God and a man representing the devil, and they each have a church supporting them. The *Companion Bible* says "the lawless one" compasses about "the just one."

This is about two men who are battling. THIS WOULD NOT BE HAPPENING IF WE WEREN'T IN THIS COURT CASE!

Legal Language

Habakkuk 1:4 mentions the law being *slacked*, meaning feeble or faint. Has that happened in God's Church? Yes. Many ministers don't like the law today.

Notice the legal language Habakkuk uses: "judgment doth never go forth ... therefore wrong judgment proceedeth." *Judgment* comes from *mishpat*, which means a verdict, pronounced judicially. One commentary says it is to pronounce sentence or litigate—which is to get a lawyer and go to court. *Gesenius* describes it as "the sentence of a judge ... especially used of a sentence by which penalty is inflicted ... sentence of death ... to pass a hard sentence upon one, to impose punishment upon him" (our adversary would sentence this Church to spiritual death if he could).

Lange's says of *wrong judgment*, "the sentence goes forth perverted to injustice. ... *Mishpat* is not merely a righteous verdict. ... [T]he meaning would be: there is no more any righteous verdict given ..." This is unquestionably about a court battle. The *Anchor Bible* says "the juridical language of verse 4 is unmistakable"—*juridical* relates to the administration of justice, the office of a judge, a lawsuit or verdict—"or it could be describing corruption in the courts," speaking of *human* courts. Other commentaries say this verse is about a "formal lawsuit."

There appears to be a contradiction between the two phrases "judgment doth never go forth" and "wrong judgment proceedeth." But the judgment is on two levels. Within the WCG, judgment *never* goes forth. They are simply ANTICHRIST. But within the courts of the land, sometimes the judgment is perverted, but sometimes you'll get a right decision. In the lower court we won, but in the upper court an unjust decision was handed down that never should have been made.

The *Anchor Bible* says, "Magistrates have perverted justice. ... The second part of Habakkuk's first prayer is unified by the language of legal disputation. ... There are quarrels (or lawsuits). [It] would mean that a court case takes place; the wicked win the suit."

Part of verse 4 in *Soncino* says the wicked one "literally 'surrounds', hems in the liberties of the righteous." Has he hemmed in our liberties? Yes, he has! How could he do that except in a court case? Throughout history, it has been

almost routine for God's people to be in court battles, at loggerheads with the law of the land.

There is a warning in all this for the court system. It's true that God will condemn the Laodiceans—but He will also condemn the courts of this land. They have never had an easier case to decide than this one. Their bad judgment condemns them. Their time is coming—the FINAL JUDGMENT is almost here! By the end of the book of Habakkuk it talks about nuclear winter. Events in this world are about to trigger that nightmarish scenario! Habakkuk says it is time to get urgent.

Wonder Marvelously

Notice verse 5, remembering that this is all in the context of the court case: "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

Behold ye ... heathen. God is talking to His people who have betrayed Him through the worst kind of treason and become *heathen*! As John says in his first epistle, they went out from us and began fighting Christ! (1 John 2:18-19).

God says He wants them to "wonder marvelously." The Hebrew says "wonder, wonder"! Something is about to happen that should overwhelm us with wonder. What is it?

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

I believe we will see something dramatic on the scene very soon! I can't read these verses any other way. This is in the context of a *revival*, and a *court battle*, and God says a DOUBLE WONDER IS COMING. God is going to revive His work, and I BELIEVE IT IS STARTING WITH THIS NEW REVELATION.

Mr. Armstrong's Battle

The Church faced a life-and-death struggle with the courts in the 1970s. Mr. Armstrong fought with all the strength he had.

He wrote in a letter to the Church at the time, "This may be the most important letter I have ever written. The very life of God's Church and His work hangs in the balance." The fact is, *churches die*! We must have FAITH to keep God's Church ALIVE!

"This letter may have to be long," he continued. "I want you to know all the facts about this master-blow of Satan to DESTROY the CHURCH OF GOD through the civil power of the State, in flagrant violation of the Constitution of the United States!" What the WCG is doing to us violates the Constitution as well. For someone to talk about his "*Christian duty*" to keep books out of print is not constitutional.

Mr. Armstrong continues, "[A] TREMENDOUS INJUSTICE WAS DONE THROUGH THE COURTS AND JUDGES OF MEN. I knew 52 years ago, that as they persecuted Jesus, so would they me—and His people—if I surrendered and was baptized and received the gift of His Spirit. I counted the cost. And now I am paying it! —AND UNJUSTLY! ...

"I have told you this was actually precipitated by my own son [Garner Ted Armstrong], whom I still love in deep

sorrow. My son, just before I excommunicated him, stood over me as I was seated, thundering, 'Dad, I could DESTROY YOU!' His wife, Shirl, telephoned saying, 'This is WAR!' My son said in a letter that this is a war I can't win because, he said, it is a nationally known television personality fighting me."

But Mr. Armstrong's son didn't win.

This co-worker letter is reprinted in the second volume of the *Autobiography*. The paragraph I just quoted has been cut out—edited by men who thought they were somehow qualified to edit God's apostle when he wrote a letter like that. Where did that thinking get them? Where are those men that would have the arrogance and the rebellion to say so many evil things about Mr. Armstrong, but who don't want anything in there about war in the Church or about what Garner Ted and his wife did? We need to know what happened and what can happen to any one of us if we unjustly edit God's apostle.

This is a war. What happened to all those men that were so free in editing what Mr. Armstrong wrote? They are no longer around. Mr. Armstrong warned that the Church was drifting into a careless, lukewarm spiritual condition. We in the PCG are the only ones who have survived that debacle!

Mr. Armstrong said, "Don't ever worry about God or Christ forsaking us or His work. HE WON'T! We need to be concerned about whether we have begun to veer away to some extent FROM HIM—have WE unknowingly begun partly to forsake Him?"

World Crisis

Right after Habakkuk discusses this miracle in the court case, he reveals what is about to happen on the world scene. "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" (v. 6).

God is going to use the Chaldeans, or the Holy Roman Empire, to punish America, Britain and the Middle East Jews—along with God's own Laodicean Church, the same sinning church that has fought against or failed to support God's own work in this court case.

These are the times we are living in! We are watching Habakkuk's prophecy—even on the physical level—beginning to unfold before our eyes! In response we must take on an appropriate level of urgency in our relationship with God.

Seeking Correction

Look at Habakkuk's attitude. In chapter 2 he said, "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved" (Hab. 2:1). Some commentaries believe Habakkuk didn't have a good attitude here. In fact, he had a *great* attitude! Habakkuk went to his tower to see what God would say. He *wanted* to be reproved by God!

The *Anchor Bible* states that *stand* "specifically indicates the respectful posture of a courtier attending on a king or of

Mr. Armstrong said, "Don't ever worry about God—or Christ—forsaking us or His work. He won't!"

The revelation has come just as God prophesied. The vision has spoken.

so he could concentrate all his senses on God's revelation. He did all he could "to see what he [God] will say." God always speaks to His Church through a man like Habakkuk. He reveals His precious truth.

Each individual has the responsibility to prepare himself for God's revelation, as Habakkuk did. It is a *rare* person who will receive and love God's revelation.

Until Christ personally comes to this Earth, this is the way it will work. God will *POUR OUT* His revelation if we just believe what He has to say. God wants people like Habakkuk who won't talk back to Him, who will go to Him to hear what He has to say. He wants people who seek correction.

God is proclaiming His message today, and people with faith want to be a part of that.

At the End It Shall Speak

"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it" (v. 2). God answered Habakkuk. Where is God revealing His answers today? We don't have to guess. We *must* not guess!

What is God's plan? What is God doing? Where is God working? God answers all of our questions. He is the living God—our Father. A loving father answers his child. But the child must be submissive to God's government.

God promised to reveal His answers in the end time. Where are those answers? You are reading some of them.

The PCG has beseeched God for revelation, and now we are writing this vision down. God commands us to make the vision plain, and we are. People can now read it and run—become urgent in this *last hour*. It is a time not to walk, but run spiritually!

Here is a quote from the *Norman Transcript* newspaper, February 28 (emphasis mine): "The hands of the Doomsday Clock, a symbolic gauge of the threat of nuclear annihilation, were moved for the first time in nearly four years Wednesday [February 27] because of the September 11 attacks, increasing tension between India and Pakistan and other threats.

"The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which keeps the clock, set the hands at 11:53, two minutes ahead of the time it's had since 1998. ...

"THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS COMBINED WITH EVIDENCE THAT TERRORISTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE MATERIALS FOR A CRUDE NUCLEAR WEAPON SHOULD HAVE SERVED AS A WAKE-UP CALL TO THE WORLD. [George A. Lopez, the Bulletin's chairman of the board] said the world has focused on short-term security rather than solving long-term problems.

"THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SIMPLY HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON RATHER THAN RAISING THE GENERAL ALARM," Lopez said. ...

the heavenly hosts waiting on the Lord." He went to God with a very submissive, childlike attitude. He sought God's correction. That is why God spoke to him and revealed His prophecy.

THIS IS THE KIND OF ATTITUDE THAT WE MUST HAVE FOR MIRACLES TO FLOW. THEN GOD SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCH THROUGH NEW REVELATION.

The expression *keep watch* is a military expression. He was a spiritual soldier, waiting and watching

"The board started meeting in November, Bulletin spokesman Steve Koppes said, but did not reach a decision until recently 'because of the uncertain nature of what is going on in the world.'"

If ever there was a time to *run*, it is now.

The Middle East is ready to explode and drag the whole world into the deadly morass. And God asks, "[W]hy will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezek. 33:11). NATIONS ARE GOING TO DIE IF WE DON'T WAKE UP AND HEED GOD'S WARNING!

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Hab. 2:3). God is speaking! We have waited for revelation, and now God is giving it to us.

"[A]t the end it [the vision] shall speak." Has it spoken to you? THE REVELATION HAS COME, JUST AS GOD PROPHESED. THE VISION HAS SPOKEN. That means *justice* will also come to God's very elect—"at the end." God has spoken. It must come.

A specific time "appointed" by God is upon us. *The new revelation in Habakkuk is a specific sign that shows where we are in prophecy*. Be patient and wait—this prophecy will be totally fulfilled. It "will not lie"!

The *Anchor Bible* states, "These few 'prose particles' are enough to show that the discourse is not general, but is referring to specific topics and concrete objects." God is getting extremely concrete and specific. We now see Habakkuk's prophecy is about a concrete, specific court case at a precise, *appointed* time.

God is filling in the details as never before in this end time. We are going to be left without excuse.

Live by Faith

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" (v. 4). This goes back to speaking of those two individuals: one whose soul is not upright, and another who is *just*—"the just one" it should read. The *Companion Bible* refers to them as the "lawless one" and the "righteous one." Their followers are also *lawless* and *righteous*.

This first man is "lifted up" by pride and vanity. One translation says he is a proud, treacherous person. Of the second man the *Anchor Bible* says, "The words of encouragement in verses 2 and 3 are addressed to the prophet, who we suggest is himself the righteous person of verse 4. The continuity of what follows requires identification of the person whose rapacity is described in verse 5." In other words, here are two men who each represent a church, one of which is a work of faith, and the other, a work of pride and vanity.

SATAN AND HIS MAN ARE REAL. SO MUST GOD AND HIS MAN BE REAL TO YOU!

There is a god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). There is a man of sin (II Thes. 2:3). We know all about that. But there is also a *prophet of God* we must understand as well.

Some people don't like me to talk about government and one-man rule. But that is what GOD is talking about!

This just man must live by his faith. He believes God and lives by the Bible. And every one of you should follow that faith—not the man. If you really want to live—if you want God to fill your life with stunning miracles and exciting growth—YOU MUST LIVE BY FAITH. That is the only way this work can reach the largest audience possible.

We must fight this court battle in faith! Some who have thought we shouldn't be involved in this case have left the Church. And now we see that the court case IS PROPHESED! Where would we be if we hadn't stepped out and fought in this court case? We would be Laodicean.

Faith is not a fuzzy thing. This is the real world, and our faith must be based on specifics like what Habakkuk is talking about. Many people reject the fact that Habakkuk is discussing specific events and personalities in this end time. But that attitude shows a lack of faith.

The court case is fought by people who live by God's faith in them (Gal. 2:20). Only the faithful will fight this war. As Paul said, we must "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12).

People of faith know that we were commissioned by God to reach the largest audience possible with Mr. Armstrong's writings. Therefore we fight for God's revelation.

Satan tries to extinguish this *light*—the lamp—for the world. Without those works and the revelation given to the PCG, this world would be in total darkness.

A Proud Man

Habakkuk gives some startling detail about the enemy we face.

"Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people" (Hab. 2:5). He transgresses—a *man*. There is a specific man fulfilling this prophecy spiritually today; the physical fulfillment will come shortly.

The *International Critical Commentary* explains, "As with wine, the wrongdoer vaunteth. He hath more than enough, but he is not filled; who enlargeth his desire like sheol [the grave] and like death he is not sated but gathers to him all the nations, and heapeth to him all the peoples." He is just trying to get all the members and prospective members to himself.

Of the statement that this man "is as death," the *Anchor Bible* says, "[T]he imagery is quite concrete. It is death as a monster that opens its maw. The insatiable hunger of death is shown by the fact that its meal of the living never ends." This is talking about ETERNAL LIFE AND DEATH. There is a man out there eating people alive spiritually! There is no end to his desire to destroy people's eternal lives! He destroys people's faith, and they die spiritually (II Thes. 2:10). This is nothing to be casual about—this is what we are up against!

"Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!" (Hab. 2:6). Again, this is within the context of the court battle. It occurs *before* the Tribulation. The work of this man will be smashed in the Tribulation. Here is a man trying to increase what is not his.

Why are Mr. Armstrong's writings "not his"—that is, they don't belong to him? Because REVEALED TRUTH COMES ONLY FROM GOD, AND GOD ALWAYS EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO PROCLAIM THAT TRUTH. This man is doing the opposite. He wants to destroy this truth and suppress it from the whole world!

This evil rebel has already been judged by God.

How could he try to increase what's not his except through the courts? He couldn't come and forcibly take *Mystery of the Ages* from us—he needs the help of the court. And that's when Habakkuk responds by saying, *How long, God? How long will you allow him to do that?*

Why is Mr. Armstrong's literature not his? We could argue this forever, but that's what God says. He may have a court on his side, but God has already ruled on this issue. THE SUPREME COURT OF HEAVEN SAYS IT IS NOT HIS PROPERTY! So we don't have to worry about what the courts of this land say; we look to God. (But we always try very hard to be obedient to the laws of this land.) MYSTERY OF THE AGES BELONGS TO GOD AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO DELIVER IT TO THE LARGEST AUDIENCE POSSIBLE!

Satan has struck a dangerous blow against this Church by forbidding that printing. This is not an easy battle. It wasn't easy for Jesus Christ to sweat blood to keep Himself going in spite of the persecution He faced, but He did it. Sometimes we have major obstacles in fighting the man of sin today.

But notice in verse 6: Habakkuk tells us that PEOPLE ARE GOING TO RISE UP AGAINST THIS MAN. I don't know exactly *how* this will happen, but I KNOW IT WILL HAPPEN.

They Shall Rise Up Suddenly

Habakkuk 2:6 says this man loads up for himself "thick clay." That obscure term means *pledges* or *debts*. People are indebted to this man. How?

In the ministry we deal with people's problems in a very confidential way. If people have certain weaknesses or sins, this man, who holds the top position in that church, would know about those sins, especially of his leaders. He could then use that knowledge to coerce submission. Personally, the thought occurred to me when some WCG members were making false accusations against me that perhaps they ought to be concerned I might reveal true personal things about them. I would never do that, because I'm absolutely commanded by God not to breach this kind of confidentiality; perhaps they realized that. But with the man in Habakkuk 2:6, we must realize who we are dealing with. I'm sure that somehow this man has used that power—and I believe these prophecies indicate that his actions are about to kick back on him. If not that, then something similar.

Read what will happen: "Shall they not rise up SUDDENLY that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?" (v. 7). Perhaps some of these people will join the PCG; many probably won't. But they will rise up. They who have been plundered will come back and do some plundering themselves!

They will "vex" him. *Strong's Concordance* defines that word as *agitate* or *trouble*, and it can even mean to *strike fear* and *terror* in a person! And it will happen *suddenly*!

When will this happen? In the middle of the Church crisis years. Not in the Tribulation. In fact, I BELIEVE IT ALL STARTS WHEN GOD GIVES US THIS REVELATION THAT YOU ARE READING NOW.

"Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein" (v. 8). This man has spoiled *nations*, spiritually. So the people will come back and somehow cause *him* problems in the middle years. His evil business is bloody, when you

This evil man
is "cutting off
many people"
from what?
From God and
the truths He
revealed to
Mr. Armstrong!

consider that the Church is responsible for the blood of all Israel (Ezek. 33:6-8).

Habakkuk says the *remnant* will spoil this man. That means the firstfruits of God—or, according to *Gesenius*, “that which is excellent or first.” GOD’S OWN PEOPLE are going to rise up against him.

More and more WCG members and ex-members are going to join the PCG. Others will undoubtedly fight against this antichrist, yet not become members of our Church.

The firstfruits rise up against him. This will all play a part in reviving God’s work in the middle of the Church crisis years.

“Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!” (Hab. 2:9). This man exalts himself. This is similar to Obadiah 4, which talks about the 50 percent of the Laodiceans who will lose their eternal lives: “Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.” Nothing could be more serious! This man thinks he is safe and secure, but he is about to lose his eternal life.

Coveting God’s House

Habakkuk 2:9 says this man covets a *house*. *Gesenius Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon* says, “steward, a servant set over the household and the other servants; ... a royal house, a palace.” Another definition is, “the house of God, temple.” We must not forget that God’s house is on the WCG’s Pasadena property—the Ambassador Auditorium, the building Mr. Armstrong dedicated to the great God, which he always referred to as the house of God. The Auditorium is the only house on Earth built and dedicated exclusively to the great God!

Another definition is “*family*.” God honored His family by letting them use this house. God always puts the emphasis on the spiritual. However, the *house* probably also means God’s physical house. God is very concerned about that house, and I believe is pointing to it as a symbol.

God will never forget His physical or spiritual house! And He will never forsake His spiritual family—unless they forsake Him.

“Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul” (v. 10). THIS EVIL MAN IS “CUTTING OFF MANY PEOPLE”—FROM WHAT? FROM GOD AND THE TRUTHS HE REVEALED TO MR. ARMSTRONG!

This antichrist is destroying the faith of many Church members and prospective members. Now he is trying to destroy the PCG, God’s faithful remnant, in this court case.

God pronounces “woe to him”!

The Connecting Beam

“For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it” (v. 11). This verse undoubtedly has a spiritual and a physical application. Stone, wall, beam, timber—these are elements of a physical house.

That majestic physical house of God has a plaque which states: DEDICATED TO THE GREAT GOD. It was built to honor God. It has awesome physical and spiritual significance.

Who can understand this verse of great symbolism?

Stone is referring to God (i.e. in Genesis 49:24 He is called “the stone of Israel”). Christ isn’t silent or passive about what is going on. HE IS CRYING OUT TODAY THROUGH THE PCG!

Beam comes from *kaphiyec*, which means to join together or connect. *Strong’s* says it is a girder beam to connect. What is it connecting? *Soncino* says this beam is “derived from a root meaning ‘to fasten’ and signifies ‘a connecting girder.’” Put this in context with the court case.

This verse says that a Stone cries out, and this connecting beam answers. The present court battle is over *Mystery of the Ages*. *Mystery of the Ages* provides a synopsis of the whole Bible. It binds everything we believe together. It connects all of our doctrines. All of the foundational mysteries of life are revealed in that book. Every vital question about life’s purpose is answered.

This beam summarizes all of our doctrines. This beam connects the whole spiritual building. It’s as if it holds the whole building together. *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* calls it “the main rafter connecting the timbers in the walls.”

Mystery of the Ages would unite the WCG and all its dissenting groups, if they believed its message!

Jess Bravin, a journalist from the *Wall Street Journal*, said all of the WCG dissenting churches have a great interest in this case.

The Stone is crying out. But are they heeding that cry?

The main emphasis of the court case is on the beam—*Mystery of the Ages*. God personifies the Stone who cries out.

That house has experienced all of the good and evil described here. Now the Stone is crying out about this monstrous evil. The Stone cries out about this court case and His revealed truth, and also the evil that is impeding God’s work.

Mystery of the Ages contains all of the vital answers. Study that book and the Bible is no longer a mystery. It should remove the confusion and blindness from God’s Laodicean churches! IT SHOWS WHERE THE STONE IS! It points to God’s government and His law.

Mystery of the Ages should connect all of God’s people to the Stone. It should hold the temple, or Church, together. It should unify God’s people into one voice.

But sadly, no church outside the PCG even wants that book! At least, not enough to fight for it. Therein lies their main problem. They don’t love God’s truth (II Thes. 2:10), and they lack Habakkuk’s faith.

Habakkuk is speaking of our court battle. We are getting quite a lot of publicity. All the other churches are glued to this case. It’s as if, through the PCG, the Stone is crying out, and *Mystery of the Ages* answers.

If you don’t look at these verses with faith, you’ll think this is nonsense. But remember, the Bible is a coded book, and it takes God’s Spirit to decode it. God only decodes the Bible for people who use that Spirit and walk by faith.

There is a physical house of God on Earth. These verses personify that house. It seems apparent that there is a dual meaning—spiritual and physical houses.

Mystery of the Ages was the first book of Mr. Armstrong’s the PCG printed (except for the uncopyrighted 1945 version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which we are still able to print). That started the whole battle. God inspired us to realize that we NEEDED that book, but then He let Satan attack us. *The whole issue, in God’s mind, is determining how much we love His truth.*

The House

Mr. Armstrong believed there was a COMMAND from God in the book of Haggai to build the physical house of God. So he

and the WCG obeyed that command. If God directs the building of His own house, just how important is it to Him? If God had it built, then wouldn't He also have it destroyed if His people rebelled against Him?

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by Mr. Armstrong to the WCG members on January 20, 1961 (emphasis his): "During the conference, God revealed something important to me, which came sharp and clear like a bolt of lightning. One night—or early morning before going to the conference, I don't remember which—I was reviewing once again the book of Haggai and the 4th chapter of Zechariah.

"A certain number of the House of Judah had returned to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. The high priest among them was Joshua. The governor was Zerubbabel. God spoke to Zerubbabel through the Prophet Haggai.

"Fourteen years before, the foundation of the temple had been laid, and some progress made on the building itself. But the building had been interrupted. And now the Jews were saying, 'The time is not come, the time that the ETERNAL's house should be built.'

"Jeremiah had prophesied the rebuilding of the temple after 70 years. These returned Jews had misfigured dates. They thought the 70 years had not yet come—but it had. Then God said to them, through the Prophet Haggai: 'Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?' They were building elegant houses for THEMSELVES to live in—but they were neglecting to build the HOUSE for GOD to dwell in.

"So, 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the ETERNAL.'

"Then Zerubbabel and all the people OBEYED the voice of God. Zerubbabel was the leader in the construction. Then God said to the people, 'I am with you, saith the ETERNAL.'

"Then the ETERNAL 'stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ... and the spirit of ALL the remnant of the people: and they came and did work in the house of the ETERNAL of hosts, their God.'

"Zerubbabel was chosen by GOD to BUILD GOD'S HOUSE—that is, to be the human leader in it. Now this whole two-chapter book of Haggai is a PROPHECY. It applies to US, today. Near its end, it is recorded that God said to Haggai, 'Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will [future—a prophecy] shake the heavens and the earth; and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; ... In that day, saith the ETERNAL of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant ... and will make thee a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the ETERNAL of hosts.' Thus ends the prophecy.

"Plainly, this refers to the very present, just before the soon-coming DAY OF THE LORD, and the Second Coming of Christ, and beginning of the WORLD TOMORROW! ...

"[W]hen I read, once again, Haggai's message from God—it came like a bolt of lightning as a message of God TO HIS CHURCH TODAY!

"It struck me as a loud message straight from God that we have been planning to build, first, buildings for college use. But here we are AT GOD'S HEADQUARTERS on Earth. And WE WERE PLANNING TO DELAY THE BUILDING OF GOD'S HOUSE, FOR HIM (in spirit) TO DWELL IN!

"Brethren, I went straight to the council of God's ministers assembled in our outgrown former assembly hall, and announced to them that GOD'S HOUSE—the new auditori-

um—the meeting place for the headquarters church—MUST COME NEXT on the priority list. We are already engaged in the construction of a new dining hall, and a gymnasium. But NEXT, ahead of everything else, must come the HOUSE OF GOD, at God's earthly HEADQUARTERS!

"This is a commandment direct from God! It is not for us to question. The living CHRIST is HEAD of God's Church. He leads—He directs His Church. And, as Zerubbabel was OBEYED to the command, and with the enthusiastic and generous help of all the people, started building GOD'S HOUSE, so must we. ...

"Brethren, THIS MESSAGE FROM GOD TO BUILD THE HOUSE FOR HIM TO DWELL IN is His command to YOU as much as to me!

"Not only did Zerubbabel move to build God's house, but he 'with all the people OBEYED the voice of the ETERNAL their God And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ... and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did the work in the house of the ETERNAL of hosts, their God.'

"Brethren, will we let the SAME GOD stir up our spirits to DO THE WORK of building this HOUSE OF THE LORD, at His earthly headquarters, TODAY?

"It is going to mean extra sacrifice—generous offerings. The way YOU, as one of God's people today, do the work on this HOUSE is by your SPECIAL offerings to the PROPERTY AND BUILDING FUND."

And so God's house was built. The whole rest of the building program *stopped* because God wanted Mr. Armstrong to build His house.

If you don't have faith, you won't believe that. But IT IS THE TRUTH—building the Auditorium was a command from God! So that house surely still has God's attention today. It is not just any old building.

The focus of the book of Haggai is "in that day" (Hag. 2:23), the end time. But there are other indications that this is an end-time book. God said He would take pleasure in this house as long as He was glorified. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I WILL TAKE PLEASURE IN IT, AND I WILL BE GLORIFIED, SAITH THE LORD" (Hag. 1:7-8). If God's people rebel, then He curses them (vv. 9-11).

With this history in mind, let's look again at Habakkuk 2:11: "For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it." The *Anchor Bible* says of the phrase *cry out*, "this verb expresses a call for redress, not a cry of exultation over the downfall of a tyrant"—that is, speaking of verse 7, where the people rise up against the proud man (actually it will not be a *downfall* but a *wound*. His *downfall* will occur in the Tribulation.)

In other words, the building materials of this house are PLEADING FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE. It's not a cry of joy over a tyrant being wounded—it's a cry for justice and truth in God's Church and in His physical house!

This prophecy is a warning to the WCG. This could only happen *before* the Tribulation. No work will be done in that house during the Tribulation.

Through
Habakkuk,
God is telling
us not to be
discouraged,
because He is
going to
revive His
work before
our eyes!

This is not a chess game. We are here to receive eternal glory or eternal death! And there is not much time to qualify!

physical house of God on this Earth with great spiritual meaning, and God is deeply concerned.

Who and What Is God?

The first mystery solved in *Mystery of the Ages* is *who and what is God*. THAT IS THE MOST MAGNIFICENT AND WONDERFUL QUESTION EVER ASKED IN THE UNIVERSE! Knowing that brings us all together. The whole world is going to learn that truth, or they will have no future. Where is God today? If He is alive, where is He? Well, if you know *who and what* God is, you will know WHERE He is doing His work. You will know where the Stone is. You will know about the law, the government and every other doctrine, all of which are unified by that connecting beam, *Mystery of the Ages*.

What is the cause of problems in the Middle East? It is a clash of two religions that are misled about *who and what is God*! They often want to kill each other! Religion is the cause of so much division in this world! They may get angry when we tell them this, but THEY DON'T KNOW GOD!

God condemns false religion as being the major *cause* of all the world's evils. The most powerful nations of Israel are going to be destroyed by a church-state power that is now rising on the European scene.

The whole world is deceived (Rev. 12:9), and that includes religion—religions that don't know *who and what is God*!

Remember, the first religious challenge Mr. Armstrong faced was dual: First it was the Sabbath question, which involves the special covenant that reveals where the people are who know the true God; next it was evolution, which takes God out of the picture. God raised up a man who brought God right back into the picture! There is no truth so important as *who and what is God*! But sadly, even God's own people—95 percent of them—don't deeply know God.

None of the other dissenting groups from the WCG want *Mystery of the Ages*. Most of them want the PCG to lose the court case.

Such reasoning only condemns them. They are really saying they don't truly know *who and what is God*! That is *why* God says they are *blind* Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-17).

In Acts 17:16-31 Paul talked to the philosophers of Athens about the UNKNOWN GOD. *You don't know God*, he was telling them. Even Jesus Christ, at the end of His ministry, had only 120 faithful disciples (Acts 1:15). How many people really know God? Most Christians believe in a "trinity." They

Legacy Partners, the development firm that had planned to buy the campus, sunk millions of dollars into planning a project for that campus, and it has been held up at every turn. I don't believe God will ever allow that project to move forward. I believe we can expect more crises to strike that property, where God once dwelled in His house! (in spirit). God has a great deal to say about His house. [The project has failed since this was first written.]

Why is God discussing a physical house in Habakkuk's end-time prophecy? First of all, this is a spiritual message. But there is also a

don't understand the Father and Son, and the fact that God is opening His family to mankind. The gospel is all about God building a family. How many people know that gospel?

God says that an ox knows its owner, but Israel does not know God (Isa. 1:2-4). When are we going to believe God and His Word? Apparently only unparalleled suffering will teach that awesome lesson.

Soon we will teach the whole world who and what God is. *Mystery of the Ages* will fill the Earth.

Satan's Wrath

Chapter 2 of *Mystery of the Ages* addresses angels and evil spirits. THIS BOOK EXPOSES SATAN AS NO BOOK ON EARTH. The devil hates and fears exposure most of all. He is in a fitful rage and is trying to destroy *Mystery of the Ages*. Never has this work suffered such wrath. So far he has been dangerously successful. But we must not let him succeed. God is on our side. Now each one of us must walk by "his faith."

Satan knows that if he can destroy Mr. Armstrong's writings, God's message cannot reach the world. Spreading that message is the very reason why we are called now!

Through Habakkuk, God is telling us not to be discouraged, because HE IS GOING TO REVIVE HIS WORK BEFORE OUR EYES! And it will be in the context of the court case.

Satan is working on our members intensively. We MUST be grounded in *Mystery of the Ages*—that connecting beam—to withstand those attacks. And we MUST trust God when He says He will deliver us, even if it takes a while!

Even our prospective members are being attacked. It seems some will be coming along, and in just a short time something happens and they stop coming. We need to be praying for them all the time—our co-workers and prospective members.

The world has never seen violence as it is seeing today, in the Middle East and all over the Earth. Why? "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12). Satan knows his time is almost over! "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child" (v. 13). His first target is the Church. We have to expect that.

Satan's rule is about up. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO GIVE IN! NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE THE VICTORY!

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (v. 14). God will protect His people from the devil.

Events are poised to explode in this world. People, including the Laodiceans, are about to get to know Satan and his demons through the worst suffering ever!

The Other Mysteries

Mystery of the Ages chapter 3 discusses the mystery of man. We are here to replace those evil spirits in their positions of rulership.

Chapter 4 talks about the mystery of civilization. If you understand what man's civilization was founded upon, you know exactly why the world is in such violent turmoil today.

Chapter 5 is the mystery of Israel. The Laodiceans don't want *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. They reject that book and don't understand the third of the Bible that is prophecy.

Chapter 6 is the mystery of the Church. How many people understand this truth? This chapter reveals the purpose of the Church. In fact, this reveals why it is so important that we publish *Mystery of the Ages* and get as many people studying it as possible. If PCG members really studied and believed *Mystery of the Ages*, they would never leave the true Church!

There was a voice crying out in the Philadelphia era under Mr. Armstrong. And there is a voice crying out in the Laodicean era from the PCG. But do the Laodiceans understand? No, they don't comprehend the mystery of the Church chapter. They no longer understand God's purpose for the Church.

Finally, it is the mystery of the Kingdom of God chapter which unveils the family of God. How can all the conflicting ideas in the world—even the various splinter groups of God's Laodicean churches—ever unite? The only way is through FAMILY—the family of God. If people don't want to be part of the family, if they don't want "one-man rule," or God's government, or God's law, they'll never be part of that Kingdom.

Laboring in the Fire

"Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!" (Hab. 2:12). This is talking about the blood of God's people! If we don't get this message out, we are guilty of their blood! God is a God of justice, and He holds us accountable for the truth He has revealed to His Church through Mr. Armstrong and me. That truth must be proclaimed to Israel and the world! That is *why* God reveals it! He wants to *give* to this world. Having the blood of God's people on your head is a terrible guilt! (Ezek. 33:7-9).

THERE COULD BE NO STRONGER WARNING TO ALL THE LAODICEANS THAN THIS!

"Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?" (Hab. 2:13). That's right—many of God's people today are simply **LABORING IN THE FIRE**! Eternal life **REALLY IS AT STAKE**! Many of the Laodiceans are working, but it is all for vanity, and they are **LABORING IN THE FIRE**! Fifty percent of God's people will die forever! This is dangerous knowledge.

Jesus Christ took His work **SERIOUSLY**. He came to Earth and had His body beaten and mangled to the point where His bones were protruding through His flesh. He worked so hard that He sweat blood! People who shrug off their calling, or who think this isn't the way God does things, **DON'T KNOW WHO AND WHAT GOD IS!** They won't humble themselves so God can reveal Himself to them.

This is not a chess game. We are here to receive eternal glory or eternal death! And there is not much time to qualify!

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (v. 14). Here is what our work is all about. This process of spreading God's knowledge has already started, and it will be completed in the Millennium. This is what our fight for *Mystery of the Ages* is for—filling the Earth with the knowledge of God's glory.

God has given us this commission. It isn't vanity. Why is God's Church here today? To fill this world with His truth!

It "shall be" done in the future. Not yet. Not in the middle of our end-time crisis years. But we have started the process. That is why we try to reach *the largest audience possible*. This work of God will continue until this marvelous prophecy is fulfilled! This is where our work is leading. Habakkuk reminds us of our wonderful goal.

We are not motivated by vanity. We are motivated by God to fill this Earth with His truth as the water covers the seabed.

"Christian Duty"

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!" (v. 15). Some people were sober, and a man made them drunk. They knew God's precious, revealed truth, and he *pressured* them into surrendering to the devil.

This chief rebel strips them of all their spiritual clothing. Then he gloats as he looks upon their nakedness. That nakedness was also prophesied (Rev. 3:17-18).

Woe unto *him*—a man. This is what can happen if you trust a man. Habakkuk is speaking spiritually—of God's Church.

In his book *Transformed By Truth*, Joseph Tkach Jr. wrote, "We feel it is our Christian duty to keep this book [*Mystery of the Ages*] out of print ... because we believe Mr. Armstrong's doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation." Is this just a wish that he has? Or is it something he will fight for fiercely, to make sure no one is ever able to get that truth of God? He wants to suppress Mr. Armstrong's "doctrinal errors"—which refers to **EVERYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE MR. ARMSTRONG EVER WROTE!**

In the language of Habakkuk, this man considers it his "Christian duty" to strip their clothing off and look on their nakedness! An ugly picture. But like Satan, he comes as an angel of light. He makes it sound so nice—he would never do this if it weren't his "Christian duty." But He's following another Christ! He's saying, *I don't want ANYONE to read this book ANY PLACE on Earth!*

Who is really behind that kind of global passion? That is **SATAN'S** message. Revelation 13:11 talks about a beast that looks like a lamb but speaks like a **DRAGON**.

"Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and LET THY FORESKIN BE UNCOVERED: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory" (Hab. 2:16). Do you want to lose your glory? Some of God's people are getting into the worst kind of shame. What glory they had—and now what **SHAME!**

God will uncover the foreskin of this filthy, Satan-led spiritual pervert. That means his putrid spiritual life is going to be exposed! This is a very ugly portrayal.

And remember, this is all in the context of the court case. If we had won in the appellate court, this could never have happened. We would not have exposed the WCG and the

The main evidence that God is in His temple is the new revelation, such as this from Habakkuk.

devil as we are doing now—as Habakkuk prophesied! God is leading our cause. We must trust Him, and we must believe His prophecy.

None of our prophecy is more timely than this. God revealed new prophecy to us *after* we stepped out in faith and fought for *Mystery of the Ages*. But now we have lost the second round, and God has revealed very specifically why: *Satan and those he inspires must be exposed*.

We lost a battle, but we will win the war. God has said that we must *prophesy again* (Rev. 10:11), and nobody can stop God's work but God!

Even this new revelation signifies the beginning of something more serious for this man. We need to watch for dramatic developments—I suspect quite soon.

"For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein" (Hab. 2:17). Look at Lebanon today. This is a prophecy that Lebanon would be in disastrous ruins in the latter days. And those who have destroyed God's truth are going to experience a similar disaster.

They are guilty of "men's blood" because they failed to deliver God's message.

Teacher of Lies

"What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?" (v. 18).

This *teacher* (singular) of *lies* is in God's own Church. He is getting God's own people to look to dumb idols. *Idols* means anything worthless or vain. *Graven image* means a vain object of worship. The man has a kind of worship, but he is not worshipping the true God. *Molten image* could be a covenant or an offering to a false god. A false god inside God's own Church! This man is rich and increased with goods, and that helps him to teach his lies. *Lies* means a way of life contrary to the law, one that breaks God's covenant. This teacher of lies has a gigantic lust for physical things!

The *Hebrew-Greek Key Bible Study* says the word *teacher* (Hebrew *yarah*) "definitely has the connotation of *aiming* or *controlling*." He doesn't run a haphazard operation; it is *controlled*, and it is *aiming* at something. It has the design of the devil. In Numbers 21:30 and II Chronicles 35:23 *yarah* is translated *shot*; in I Samuel 20:36 it is *shoot*. Satan is spiritually aiming and *shooting* at God's people through this man! When *yarah* is used, there's always someone behind the shooting. II Thessalonians strongly indicates that this man is *POSSESSED*. It's as if the teacher is an arrow shot by the devil.

Satan is controlling people through a man, and the only thing standing in his way is the faithful remnant of God's people. One manuscript has the word *bitterness* for *teacher*. I believe that is absolutely right, because we are dealing with Satan's bitterness! Usually that bitterness is expressed through a man. How could you break God's law as much as Satan has and not be extremely BITTER? And he got to a man *inside of God's Church* to become *antichrist* and begin fighting Christ and His spiritual Jews. That is what we are facing in court today.

"Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of

it" (Hab. 2:19). This is the fifth woe against this man in Habakkuk 2 (the others being in vv. 2, 9, 12 and 15). That is God's number of judgment. Here this man is pictured just bowing down before a piece of wood! There is no sense in it, but God's people are doing it.

Keep Silence Before God

Now, a beautiful verse: "But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (v. 20). Don't forget, the context is the court case. God is in His temple, and the whole world ought to keep silent before Him.

THE MAIN EVIDENCE THAT GOD IS IN HIS TEMPLE IS THE NEW REVELATION, SUCH AS THIS FROM HABAKKUK. He is not going to come in thunder and lightning, or destroying armies—*yet*. But His temple is in full service, because HE IS SPEAKING. He has a lot to say during this court case. He is telling the whole Earth to be quiet and LISTEN! They are not ready to do that yet—the Laodiceans even *talk back* to God! But let me tell you: They ought to be listening to this revelation, and listening to what is coming upon this world. God is not some dumb idol. Those who don't listen to His voice *now* will have to learn the hard way. If we, on the other hand, keep silent and listen, we will see some dramatic changes.

SOME OF GOD'S PEOPLE CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIVING, OMNIPOTENT GOD AND A DUMB IDOL! That is the greatest of spiritual disasters.

God is speaking through new revelation. Just because people refuse to listen doesn't change that fact. The whole Earth should shut up and heed His warning. If they don't, their immediate future is black and gloomy. But soon this world will change its course—after intense suffering.

How wonderful and spectacular to be honored to hear and heed God's voice. Where is there a greater blessing than that?

Make Known

"A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth" (Hab. 3:1). *Shigionoth* means *crying aloud*. That's what we are doing, even in this court case—crying to God. We will get answers if we heed the next verse.

"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and *was afraid*: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (v. 2). Habakkuk feared God. That is a condition for receiving revelation—first we must FEAR.

Habakkuk said he heard God's speech. How did God speak to him? With thunder and lightning, as He did from Mount Sinai? No—as far as I can tell, God spoke to him in the same way God speaks to me. Do we hear God's speech?

The Laodiceans are failing today because they don't fear God. They don't tremble at His Word. God is speaking today and they refuse to hear. They would rather look to speechless idols.

Do you hear God's speech as Habakkuk did? About 95 percent of God's own people are refusing to hear His new revelation. So this is not an easy process. But the rewards—even today—are monumental.

Why is God revealing most of Habakkuk now? Because He is about to revive this work in the middle of the years. We must believe it! We are about to see miracles from God! They have already started, because He's revealing Habakkuk to us—words shaped by the Spirit and revealed by the Spirit.

If God reveals Habakkuk, then it follows that He is going to revive this work *soon* if we walk by faith. It must happen in the *middle* of our crisis years—not at the very end. The new revelation is proof that God will revive our work.

This new revelation also proves that we are walking by faith. We must continue. If so, we cannot lose. God will revive His work. Probably most of it will be done through His people, as is usually the case.

Make known, Habakkuk says, means to *really know* God. That is a euphemism for sexual intercourse! How will people get to know God—through punishment, or through these inspiring words? What is it worth to **KNOW GOD**? We are just the tiny beginning of this whole world coming to know God. All that black, gruesome violence in Jerusalem is connected to the return of Jesus Christ, when He will make God known to the whole world from Jerusalem—a marvelous work and a wonder!

The whole world is about to become God's family. What a joyful wonder!

Mount Paran

"God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise" (v. 3). Mount Paran is probably within the area where the place of safety will be. Petra is in this vicinity. This time, though, Christ doesn't have 10,000 saints with Him (Deut. 33:2; see the last chapter of our booklet *No Freedom Without Law*).

The *International Critical Commentary* says it's better to put this chapter in the present tense. In other words, it's happening right now. **THAT MEANS CHRIST COMES FROM MOUNT PARAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS COURT CASE.** What was He doing in Mount Paran? Why would He be there now? We must put this in context with the fact that we are Christ's bride, and our loving Husband protects His bride and prepares for our safety and protection.

Within a short time of the September 11 terrorist attack, terrorists tried to bomb Petra. Did Christ stop that Himself? I don't know, but I think it is reasonable to believe that our Husband will come to our aid *personally* when He needs to. He came or is coming from Mount Paran today for *some* purpose.

These verses indicate Christ will be personally involved in the court case. This is all going to lead to the Earth being "full of His praise."

Amos's Prophecy

"I saw the Lord standing upon the altar: and he said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and *cut [wound] them in the head*, all of them ..." (Amos 9:1). I believe this may be the same prophecy as the one in Habakkuk.

Amos saw God standing upon the altar. Will Jesus Christ make a special appearance in this end time? The commentaries say it is a rare and perhaps a *personal* appearance of God. Amos calls it *the* altar, not just any altar. The *Anchor Bible* says it may refer to the great and main altar of Bethel—God's house—as a special target.

What is going to happen to the Worldwide Church of God? Will it go bankrupt? Will there be an earthquake? Will we cause them a lot of problems in the court case? All I know is that God will give us the victory if we trust Him. God will wound the Laodiceans in the head. Will it be done

in the context of our court case?

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom ..." (vv. 11-12). Edom is described in the book of Obadiah (write for our *Obadiah* booklet). God says we will possess the remnant of Edom (those Laodiceans who lose their birthright), and it's in the context of raising up the ruins. Is this another version of Habakkuk's saying God would revive His work? It looks like the same prophecy to me.

Victory

"And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power" (Hab. 3:4). God sometimes hides His power. We didn't see it in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, did we? But that doesn't mean our faith is hidden. And God's power will not *remain* hidden.

"Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger. Thou wentest forth *for the salvation of thy people*, even for *salvation with thine anointed*; thou *woundedst the head* out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah" (vv. 12-13). This too is before the Tribulation. God is going to save His people and His *anointed*.

And God will also *wound* the head of the wicked, just as in Amos 9:1. That man—certainly that organization—will be exposed and wounded. The word *wound* (Hebrew *machats*) is translated *smite* in Numbers 24:17, *pierce* in Numbers 24:8 and *pierced* in Judges 5:26. Never in Scripture is it used to denote *destroy*. The man of sin and his work will be *destroyed* in the Tribulation. But this is a *wound* in the middle of the years. The *Revised Standard Version* says **GOD WILL "[LAY] HIM BARE FROM THIGH TO NECK"—A REAL EXPOSURE!**

Again, this is all about two men, one whom God will save and another whom God will wound.

What if we had never tried to acquire Mr. Armstrong's literature? Well, we would not understand this revelation from Habakkuk. In fact, we wouldn't even be here with the Creator of the universe who speaks to His people. So God has to guide the man in charge to fight the battles that He wants fought.

God is in His Church. He looks after us with special, loving care, tender mercy and kindness, as no man or army of men ever could. This Church means so much to Him. What wonderful truth He gives to His bride! We are about to claim a victory! God is going to save His people.

All I am is a delivery boy. I don't say that just to sound humble. The message I'm delivering is God's. How does that involve you? You have to help me deliver that message if we are to escape the Tribulation.

We are so honored to be part of this marvelous work and a wonder. Keep your mind on this work so we can get the job finished and so God can usher in His glory to all the Earth. ♦

The Revised Standard Version says God will "[lay] him bare from thigh to neck"—a real exposure!