

A close-up photograph of a person's hand gripping a dark, textured rock. The hand is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers curled around the rock. The background is a blurred, dark, rocky surface, suggesting a climbing or outdoor setting. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the rock and the skin of the hand.

# *Royal Vision*

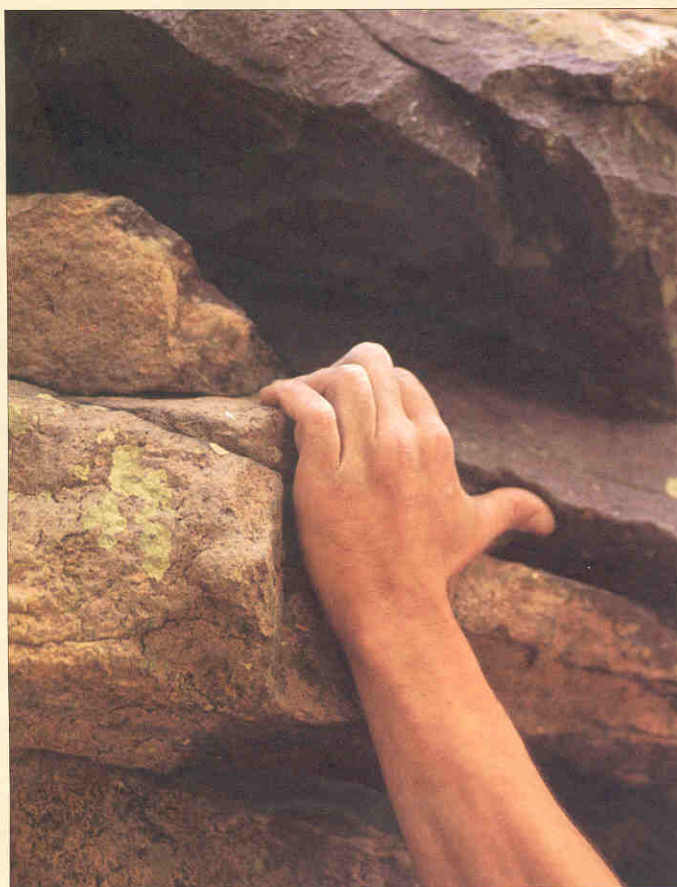
May-June 2004

**HOW  
TO BE  
AN  
OVERCOMER**



# ROYAL VISION

MAY-JUNE 2004 • VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3



**About the cover** No matter how difficult the obstacles and challenges of the Christian life are, you can be an overcomer. Read our cover story to find out how.  
(Comstock)

**Editor in chief** Gerald Flurry

**Senior editors** Stephen Flurry, Dennis Leap

**Managing editor** Wik Heerma

**Associate editors** Joel Hilliker, Ryan Malone

**Contributing editors** Eric Anderson, Ron Fraser, Mark Jenkins

**Contributors** Fred Dattolo, Mark Nash, Gary Rethford

**Proofreaders** Donna Grieves, Jason Hensley, Wayne Turgeon

**Prepress production manager** Ryan Malone

**Circulation manager** Jason Hensley

**Royal Vision** (ISSN10979808) is published bimonthly by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices.  
© 2004 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved.

**Subscriptions:** Subscriptions are sent free to all members and co-workers of the Philadelphia Church of God. Address all communications to the Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083.

**Notice:** *Royal Vision* cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs.

**U.S. POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Royal Vision*, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083.

**1 From the Editor: Jude—Part 2**  
by Gerald Flurry

Child Rearing

**8 Training the Spirit in Man**  
by Dennis Leap

**11 Watch and Pray**  
by Joel Hilliker

**15 How to Be an Overcomer**  
by Eric Anderson

**19 How to Apply and Use Faith**  
by Herbert W. Armstrong

**20 Are You Truly Free?**  
by Wik Heerma

**23 How to Obtain Character**  
by Ryan Malone

**26 The Power of One**  
by Ron Fraser

**28 Prepaid Funeral**  
by Mark Nash

**29 From Our Readers**



FROM THE EDITOR  
GERALD FLURRY

# JUDE

The Most Urgent Prophecy Yet for This End Time!

**Here we conclude our review of the book of Jude.  
The first part was featured in the September/October 2003 issue.**



STEVE WILKINS

**I**T SEEMS THAT JUDE WAS SLOW IN COMING TO REPENTANCE. But he finally realized who his brother really was—the Logos, God in the flesh.

Christ came from the northern heavens, then was born as a baby and grew up in the same family as Jude. After Jude became deeply converted, he knew his brother really came from outer space!

Then he wrote one of the most powerful small books in the Bible. He showed us that we must build the character to rule the universe. That is why we are here. We must learn to keep and administer God's law—be executives of God's government—in the World Tomorrow. That is what the *gospel* is all about.

This is what Jude was trying to get God's own people to fully understand. But his book is primarily prophecy for God's

end-time Church. Many of God's people are dying spiritually today, as they were at the time of Jude's warning. Nothing could be more important for us to comprehend.

This book shows us why the angels on this Earth failed and how we can succeed.

## A Sequence of Warnings

In Jude 7, Jude continues with this incredible sweep of history: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

He wrote about Israel's history in Egypt, the angelic rebellion,



and Sodom and Gomorrah—a type of the end-time nuclear holocaust. Jude saw the big picture! He must have begun to remember a lot of what his brother, Christ, had said.

How bad was it at the end of the Ephesus era? How bad is it in God's Church in the Laodicean era? Well, let's look at what happened to Israel, when, after coming out of Egypt, all the adults (except two) died in the wilderness. Let's talk about what happened to one third of the angels, and how they are going into outer darkness forever. And now let's focus on Sodom and Gomorrah, where God totally destroyed *all* of them with fire from heaven! Think about that; think about the history of *massive failures* of angels and mankind!

What is Jude saying? He is talking about many of God's people turning away from the law, into lawlessness! He's talking about the death knell of the Ephesus and Laodicean eras!

Jude is describing these damnable catastrophes that came upon angels and men, TO GET THROUGH TO US—THE PHILADELPHIANS IN THE LAODICEAN ERA! THIS IS DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE! LOOK AT WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU GO ASTRAY. Realize how high the stakes are. Be sobered by this message.

Even Jude's mention of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah "going after strange flesh" is prophecy for today. Homosexuality and lesbianism have become chic today in the nations of Israel. What does God think of that?

Those people "are set forth for an example" for us. First, our people are "giving themselves over," utterly surrendering, to an evil spirit of fornication that destroys marriages and families. Then they go after "strange flesh," or "change the natural use into that which is against nature" (Rom. 1:26).

*BEFORE THE PLAGUE OF HOMOSEXUALITY, THERE IS THE SPIRIT OF FORNICATION, WHICH TEARS MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES APART!* Many don't even learn the concept of marriage and family.

We must get to the real *cause* of homosexuality. It is a product of sin in marriages and families. Homosexuals are surrendering to a satanic spirit and power. This is why Jude began with the angelic rebellion. Satan is the spirit to which they are "giving themselves over," in spite of the fact it is unnatural. Satan is forcefully behind homosexuality and the breakdown of our families.

Satan and the demons are "under darkness" (Jude 6). "*Under* carries the sense of the darkness brooding over the fallen spirits" (Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*). Now that same darkness broods over the homosexual community. They call themselves *gay* to try and hide the wretchedness and misery. This is why they fight now for marriage rights, which really confuses and destroys the concept of a God-plane marriage ordained of God. Homosexuals gain no more legal rights if they are "married." Homosexuals too are "under darkness"—this is their real motivation. They want to destroy God-ordained marriage because they are in the rebellious spirit of Satan.

However, the heterosexuals are often in the same spirit. They too destroy marriages as God ordained them. So we are all reaping the whirlwind of disintegrating God-ordained families. Marriage and family are God-plane relationships.

We would not have the homosexual problem if we were

building God-plane families. Upside-down families are the primary cause of homosexuality.

These people are being stirred by the devil to live twisted lives. They are led into *lawless* perversion. Homosexuals and lesbians have been racing to get "married" *unlawfully*—that is, unlawfully according to both man's laws and God's laws. They are following Satan's lawless way of life.

THE NEWS MEDIA RUSH TO TELEVISION THOSE DEPRAVED HOMOSEXUAL "MARRIAGES" AROUND THE WORLD. AMERICA HAS BECOME A POLLUTED SPECTACLE TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH! And God, in His wrath, is going to strike some terrifying blows, as He did against Sodom.

Even the homosexuals have been stunned by their successes. How is it happening so fast? Because Satan has been cast down to Earth and has no more access to God (Rev. 12:9). Now Satan is full of his worst wrath ever, because he knows he has only a short time left before God imprisons him (v. 12).

What makes it worse, many ministers are leading the way into depravity by example (in America and Britain). Most

colleges and universities are promoting this Satan-inspired perversion as well. But first, Satan is causing the breakup of traditional families, which is the foundation of homosexuality!

God's plan is to expand His own family through human families. Great nations can only be built through great families. FAMILY IS AT THE CORE OF ALL THAT IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS LIFE.

Homosexuals and lesbians demonstrate that there is a total breakdown of family within our society, and it is a *sign* that such nations are cursed by God and about ready to be destroyed!

America's most profitable worldwide industry is pornography! The second is perverted sex—as it destroys millions of marriages and families. JUDE 7, IS THE STRONGEST WARNING IN THE BIBLE AGAINST THE NATIONS GIVEN OVER TO SODOMY! Sodom and Gomorrah received fire from heaven and were reduced to ashes by God. IF WE LIVE LIKE SODOM, WE ARE GOING TO DIE LIKE SODOM!

Ezekiel discusses the great cities of America and Britain becoming "without inhabitant." THAT MEANS NUCLEAR FIRE IS GOING TO REDUCE OUR MAJOR CITIES TO ASHES!

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE GOD GIVING US A STRONGER WARNING!

Some of the men of ancient Sodom were struck blind. But they continued in their attempt to molest God's angels who appeared as men! (Gen. 19). Shortly after that, God destroyed the whole city. He had to send a message, and destruction was the only language they understood! And only one family escaped. Lot, his wife and two daughters escaped because they were a family guided by God. But even Lot's wife turned to salt because she looked back in sorrow at the destruction of Sodom as they were leaving.

So the end result of sinful marriage and families is Sodom—ashes! But those families who remain loyal to God will be saved physically and spiritually.

Marriage is a *type* of the firstfruits' marriage to Christ. The Church, Christ's wife, must get herself ready to marry Christ

**The news media rush to televise those depraved homosexual "marriages" around the world. America has become a polluted spectacle to the inhabitants of the Earth!**



(Rev. 19:7). We must prepare now by having righteous marriages. This is what homosexual “marriages” are working to destroy. And Christ is not taking it lightly. He is full of wrath and never looks upon such a perverted relationship as a marriage. A physical family is a *type* of the God family. We must look to our Father as the Head of the family for all eternity. We can only be a part of that glory if we pattern our physical families after the God family. And all the members must strive to be perfect, *as our Father in heaven is perfect* (Matt. 5:48).

REMEMBER, JUDE 7 GIVES US AN “EXAMPLE,” OR WARNING—OF PEOPLE “SUFFERING THE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE.” NOW IS THE TIME TO HEED THIS WARNING!

There is no warning stronger than this in the entire Bible!

LOOK AT THIS SERIES OF MONSTROUS WARNINGS: 1) all of the adults brought out of Egypt died in the wilderness (except two), 2) all of the angels sent to this Earth (one third of the total host) failed and 3) all of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah died (except Lot and his family). This must be the most condemning chapter in the Bible! Jude is bluntly and soberly warning us to learn from these examples NOW! God doesn't want us to become ashes.

All of these chilling examples refer back to Jude 3. They will not “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” First of all it is referring to the Laodiceans, the 95 percent of God's people who rebel in this “last hour”!

Again, the word *faith* means a body of beliefs, or Church doctrines. We fought in court to obtain the body of beliefs that God gave us through Mr. Armstrong. We had to exercise faith to win that battle. And now, we can take God's message to the whole world.

This is the specific message of Jude. It is aimed precisely at the Church of God today—the Philadelphians and the Laodiceans.

COURAGE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT WILL FINISH GOD'S WORK—AND SET THE COURSE OF CHURCH HISTORY AND PROPHECY!

THIS IS THE MOMENT. Only God's faith in us will win the war.

### Michael's Example

Jude then brings his warning right up to the present date. Verse 8 in the RSV reads, “Yet in like manner these men in their dreamings defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones.” This refers back to verse 4, and the lawless men within the Church.

“Yet,” in spite of these monstrous warnings, these people persist in their deadly rebelling. They refuse to earnestly contend for the faith and instead turn grace into lawlessness. They do this in spite of Jude's scathing prophecy.

The King James uses the word *likewise* instead of *yet*. That is a bad translation. The word *yet* shows how hard, or contemptuous, these rebels are. They don't fear God. But God knows how to reach such hardened and defiant transgressors.

They “revile the glorious ones”—God's very elect. They turn people from God and persecute us, as in the court case.

PCG members regularly receive mailings from dissidents who are trying to deceive them. Jude says their ideas are just “dreamings”—with no logic, totally founded in fantasy.

These people “reject authority” in the Church. That is a serious problem, because it is GOD'S AUTHORITY!

But notice now this inspiring insert, in the middle of the condemnation of Laodicea: “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee” (v. 9). Here is an example of an archangel who *is* keeping God's law and government.

Jude says Michael contended with Satan over Moses's body. Why did Satan want Moses's body? Undoubtedly to get people to look to the man, instead of the law he delivered to them.

There is no other scripture in the Bible that discusses Moses's

body. Jude must have gotten this information from Christ.

Also, the prophecy of Enoch (v. 14, which we will study in a moment) is revealed only by Jude. Christ probably also discussed this subject with his brother and family.

This is also a powerful reminder of who the Head of our Church is—Jesus Christ, the second Adam! He is the one who delivers prophecy to this Church.

Jesus Christ must have discussed many examples with His family that are not even mentioned in the Bible. This is a good insight into why Jude could write so powerfully. How explicit and stirring he was in announcing the death knell of the Ephesus and Laodicean eras!

Michael set a great example here. He is fighting the arch-enemy of God. Satan still possesses a measure of power; he rules Earth, and we must respect that. In the midst of this conflict, Michael never allowed himself to forget God's law and government. Even though he was dealing with the most evil being in the universe, he didn't say to Satan, *I rebuke you*. He said, “The Lord rebuke thee”! That is God's job, and Michael saw what trying to take God's job did to Satan! Michael is an impressive archangel who has learned some deep lessons in his lifetime. He has a marvelous attitude toward government and authority.

Michael represents two thirds of the angels, the righteous angels who were loyal to God. We must learn from their good example.

### Cain, Balaam, Korah

Then Jude returns to the subject of the Laodiceans, and the intensity of his message increases. “But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves” (v. 10). They are like brute beasts—there is no Holy Spirit there guiding them. We must be able to discern that. I am learning more deeply as time goes on that we must look at *fruits*—we can't measure conversion by sweet smiles.

Animals act according to their instincts. These “brute beast” rebels act according to their natural carnality. God has been pushed out of their lives. They were and are guided only by evil human reasoning.

**Jude says Michael contended with Satan over Moses's body. Why did Satan want Moses's body? Undoubtedly to get people to look to the man, instead of the law he delivered to them.**



"They corrupt themselves"—at one time these people were uncorrupted. Then they stopped contending for the faith and lost their body of beliefs. They no longer trust God.

"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core" (v. 11).

Jude compares the Laodiceans to Cain, the first murderer. They are guilty of MURDER! They are guilty of failing to warn physical Israel, and Israel's blood is on their head (Ezek. 33:8).

Only God's own saints could be guilty of such massive physical murder. Jude wrote specifically to the first century and last century, the only two centuries in which God's gospel was preached around the world. Satan was able, in time, to destroy both of those works. This end-time work was able to reach many millions of people! When God's people became lukewarm, they became guilty of murder on an enormous scale.

But those murderers are worse than Cain in another way. They are also guilty of aiding in the *eternal* destruction of 50 percent of their Laodicean brethren (Matt. 25:1-10). Also, they help to cause

the other 50 percent to be plunged into the Great Tribulation.

*Cain's murderous sin was trivial compared to the guilt of these murderers! These are weighty and dangerous words for the Philadelphia Church of God today!*

This warning is about how much we hate or love physical and spiritual Israel. Each of us is being judged now! Everything depends on our dedication to God's work of love. God is going to save His very elect, physically and spiritually—if they do His worldwide work.

Then Jude likens God's leaders and Laodicean Church to Balaam, who wanted to sell out God's people (Num. 22-24). The RSV says they "abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error." This ties in with Revelation 3:17, which states the Laodiceans are "rich, and increased with goods." They wanted *things* more than God, so God gave them *things*. Oftentimes, the greatest curse we could have is to get exactly what we WANT!

Balaam took a bribe to corrupt Israel. He was repeatedly warned by God, but he kept sinning. The Laodiceans have been repeatedly warned today, but they continue to put things and themselves ahead of God.

A lot worse than the fate of Balaam awaits them. They are dying spiritually!

Korah *divided* Israel. Many leaders today have *divided* God's Church. So what kind of penalty can they expect? Here is a summary of Korah's story from *The Interpreter's Bible*: "Korah was the leader of a group of malcontents who 'became arrogant and took their stand before Moses.' They 'gathered in a body against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'Enough of you; for all the community are holy ... since the Lord is in their midst; why then do you exalt yourselves above the Lord's assembly? ...'" Moses then induced Israel to move away from 'the tents of these wicked men' and the ground under their tents 'opened its mouth and swallowed them up ... and all the men who belonged to Korah. ... So they ... descended into Sheol alive ... and they perished from the community' (Num. 16:1-34, *passim*, Amer. Trans.)."

Korah and his rebels thought they were as righteous as Moses and God's government. Today the Laodiceans "have need of nothing." They think they are more righteous than God's chosen government.

Are they going to PERISH in the "gainsaying of Korah"? Jude is prophesying of the greatest rebellion ever in God's Church, in terms of numbers. And it's all about rejecting God's government. They are against any man who teaches God's law as Moses and Mr. Armstrong did!

Never has mankind lived in a time when God has revealed so much truth. And God is going to hold us accountable for every word!

At the same time, it appears many of God's people follow a Satan-possessed man! (Write for a free copy of *Malachi's Message* for more information.)

How can such people ever survive spiritually? How "blind" the Laodiceans are! Jude piles on one scathing rebuke after another.

Korah and his self-righteous group were killed. If we commit such sins,

we must understand what our fate will be!

The examples of Cain, Balaam and Korah are about rebelling against God's government. They are some of the most prominent rebels in the Bible. These are examples of towering sins! And how did they end up? Cain was cursed, Balaam was slain and Korah was swallowed up in an earthquake.

We only have a short time to wake up. To this point, Jude is the most urgent warning in the Bible.

## Hidden Rocks

"These are *spots* in your feasts of charity [love], when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear ..." (Jude 12). *Vincent Word Study* says this of the word mistranslated "spots" or "blots": "These were no longer mere blots, but elements of DANGER AND WRECK." One source says it is a reference to reefs, "a chain of rocks near the surface of the water." *The Interpreter's Bible* renders it "hidden rocks."

This is how ships are wrecked! There is a lot of danger, and we have to be careful in our ship of faith.

*How could evil people in the Church be "hidden rocks"?* Remember, the time setting is today, during the Laodicean era. People crept into the Church, or ministry, and became hidden rocks! Even Paul talked about faith becoming shipwrecked (1 Tim. 1:19). Those rocks can wreck spiritual ships, and lives can be lost!

Why do the translators refer to this chain of spiritual rocks as "spots"? It is because they have no concept of the *eternal danger* to God's Spirit-begotten people!

It is so easy to have our eternal glory wrecked. The Laodiceans are "without fear." We must see the danger and have a deep fear of God.

Satan is fully aware of the damage that can be done from within. NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GUARDING OUR SPIRITUAL TREASURE!

These "feasts of charity," or love, could be called feasts of *law*. God is love and His law is a law of love. We must fear breaking



God's law of love. And we must highly exalt the government that proclaims and protects that precious law.

The United States is in a war against terrorism. In the Church, we must be concerned about *spiritual* terrorism, which is a much more serious threat! DO YOU REALIZE THAT GOD WOULD RATHER SEE THE WORLD TRADE CENTER WRECKED THAN SEE A SINGLE ONE OF HIS SAINTS TURN AWAY FROM HIM? That is because there are eternal consequences!

Jude says these spiritual terrorists are "feeding themselves" when they should be feeding God's people. And they are committing all these heinous acts "without fear." They don't fear breaking God's law. They don't fear God!

"[C]louds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots" (Jude 12). The clouds block out the sun—the light and righteousness of God—and they give no rain. *Clarke's Commentary* says, "The doctrine of God is compared to the rain, Deuteronomy 32:2, and clouds are the instruments by which the rain is distilled upon the earth. In arid or parched countries the very appearance of a cloud is delightful, because it is a token of refreshing showers; but when sudden winds arise, and disperse these clouds, the hope of the husbandman and shepherd is cut off. These false teachers are represented as clouds; they have the *form* and *office* of the teachers of righteousness, and from such *appearances* pure doctrine may naturally be expected: but these are clouds *without water*—they distill no refreshing showers, because they have none; they are *carried away and about by their passions*, as those light fleecy clouds are carried by the winds."

Regarding the trees whose fruit withered, Adam Clarke writes, "*Galled or diseased trees ... according to Phavorinus ... a disease (in trees) which causes their fruit to wither; for although there are blossoms, and the fruit shapes or is set, the galls in the trees prevent the proper circulation of the sap, and therefore the fruit never comes to perfection*" (ibid.). The trees bear no fruit.

And God warns that these people are "twice dead"—meaning they will suffer the SECOND DEATH! They'll be "plucked up by the roots," as if they never existed! This is the ultimate disaster.

Jude gives a stark warning in these verses. Will we heed? Christ yearns to protect His bride!

The semicolon after verse 12 shows the thought is not complete. It continues in verse 13: "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." The Laodiceans had everything, but then were conquered by this evil spirit. Since they spun out of spiritual orbit, they will never shine like the stars forever (Dan. 12:3). They'll miss out on the glorious reward awaiting us. That is the real tragedy. We must not be enticed by the wandering stars that have led the Laodiceans away from God.

Verse 13, like verse 6, is about wandering stars—Satan and the demons. They are behind the Laodicean rebellion. These evil beings are out of spiritual orbit—no longer fulfilling their purpose for being created. Like demons, the Laodiceans no longer give light to the world through God's work. They are being led into the blackest gloom by the devil!

We are here to conquer the devil as Christ did (Rev. 3:21). We either conquer him or he conquers us.

The novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote about the effect of radical ideas on the psyche. He virtually prophesied the Communist movement. He could see it coming because of the violent political ideas in his time.

Jude is warning us to avoid radical and explosive ideas that destroy our stable and joyful spiritual lives.

### Enoch the Prophet

"And ENOCH also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands [10,000] of his saints" (Jude 14).

This verse ties in with Deuteronomy 33:1-2, which speaks of

10,000 saints coming from Mount Paran, located in Petra, Jordan. It is a prophecy about Christ personally bringing His people back from a place of safety in the end time. *This too shows the TIME FRAME of Jude's message.* This

**Do you realize that God would rather see the World Trade Center wrecked than see a single one of His saints turn away from Him? That is because there are eternal consequences!**

book is aimed at the PCG today!

"And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with *ten thousands* of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them" (Deut. 33:1-2).

The expression "ten thousands" is from the Hebrew word *rbabah*; 12 out of 15 times in the Old Testament it means 10,000. A reference for one other time also says 10,000. The word can also mean a myriad or a large but indefinite number, but that couldn't describe the little flock of God, nor even all of the firstfruits. This is specifically discussing 10,000 saints that Christ brings from Paran.

So the most accurate figure we could use is 10,000. However, since this Hebrew expression is translated differently for 3 out of the 15 times it appears in the Old Testament, we should not say it is a *precise* figure. It is a "ballpark figure," as we say in the vernacular. Still, 10,000 is the most exact figure we can use, but we shouldn't be alarmed if the actual number is a little more or less. Also, the number may be exactly 10,000.

Those called by God today are being invited to be one of those 10,000 saints. If among them, very soon you should be born as a son of God and helping Christ to put down all rebellion on Earth. What an honor!

The verb in that sentence, "The Lord *comes* with 10,000 of his saints," literally reads *came*. God sees this as having already happened. That is the kind of vision you and I need! This is how we keep ourselves positive and inspired.

Mr. Armstrong did not prophesy about 10,000 saints. That is because this event unfolds in the Laodicean era, which began after he died. These people will be alive when Christ returns.

But notice: Jude describes Enoch as being the seventh from Adam. If you study the genealogy, you'll see that he was actually the *sixth* "from" Adam. How do we explain this?

We have to look at this spiritually. Christ was the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45). When He came to Earth, He made Peter



the physical head of the first era of the Church. Today we are living in the *seventh era* from that second Adam. There is a type of Enoch today—the seventh from Adam, or in this seventh, Laodicean era.

Study what the commentaries write about *the seventh from Adam*. They are confused and cannot explain this verse. But you can understand if you study my article. Only God's Philadelphia Church understands this prophecy. Christ always "revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

Jude says that Enoch "prophesied of these," speaking of the evil men in the previous verses. One commentary explains, "Enoch prophesied primarily of the coming Flood and the end of the known world." The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says, "His reference was not to the antediluvians alone, but to all the ungodly (Jude 15). His prophecy applied primarily to the Flood, ultimately to the FINAL JUDGMENT."

So there must be a prophet today prophesying about the end of the world—not by water, but by fire. This world will be held accountable for its sins, just as Noah's world was

(Matt. 24:38-39). Who is prophesying about 10,000 saints today? You are reading about this prophecy now.

Enoch prophesied about the end of Noah's world. But that was only a *type* and prophecy of the destruction of this world today.

Methuselah was the son of Enoch (Gen. 5:21). He was also the grandfather of Noah. *Smith Bible Dictionary* says that according to the Hebrew chronology, Methuselah died the year of the Flood. *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown* says of him, "Methuselah ... literally, man of sending, particularly with reference to *water* .... Hales interprets the name as signifying, 'He shall send his death' and referring to the time when this patriarch was to die. His inspired father, who had announced the approaching judgment of God for the wickedness of his contemporaries (Jude 14-15), probably bestowed upon his son the name of Methuselah as prophetic of the threatened flood; and accordingly it is computed that Methuselah died that very year in which the deluge commenced."

The point is, Enoch did prophesy about the end of the known world. And someone **MUST** be on the scene in this end time prophesying about the end of the world—a far more cataclysmic event! That is what Jude is talking about.

If Enoch made his son a prophecy, surely he knew a lot about the Flood and foretold its coming. Most people didn't listen, as they don't listen today. But still, the warning is proclaimed.

Genesis 6:5 says that at the time of the Flood, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Their minds were totally depraved. By comparison, Daniel 8:23 shows that we are now in a time when "the transgressors are come to the full"—they are filled to the full with sin and evil! That is the world we live in today—and it is going to come to a fiery end!

"To execute judgment upon all [that is what the Flood did, and that is what will happen in this end time], and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard

speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him [Jesus Christ]" (Jude 15). This is still talking specifically about the antichrists. They have hard speeches against Christ, and they will be punished for that. At the end of the seventh era, God will "execute judgment upon all"—the whole world.

Noah and his family were saved from the Flood. God's end-time very elect—His family—will be saved from the nuclear tribulation. We are now entering into the hundreds of prophecies about the worst time of suffering ever on Earth.

This is the focus of Jude's prophecy—which would be *revealed* to an end-time *type* of Enoch—the seventh from Adam. Enoch "prophesied" about the days leading up to Noah's flood. And as it was in the days of Noah, "so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37-39). God warned the evil world of the end in Noah's day and shall do the same at the end of man's rule on Earth.

The people in Noah's time refused to heed God's message and were caught unaware as a rat being caught in a trap. So shall it be when Christ returns.

Both worlds had to come to an end because the minds

of the people were on evil continually.

America's president has said that "we are good people." But God disagrees! We are the most sinful, lawless people ever!

The people of our nations are "ungodly," with "ungodly deeds" that have been "ungodly committed" by "ungodly sinners." God is about "to execute judgment upon all," and then use the firstfruits to rule "all"—the whole world! These rebels have insatiable lusts and despise God. And some of them belong to God's own lukewarm Church.

## Measure the Moments

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the *last time*, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 17-18).

The word *time* comes from the Greek *chronos*, which means "a succession or measurement of moments, as in a chronometer"—a device for measuring time with great accuracy.

God has recently revealed exciting new truth from the epistles of John, which are just before Jude. In those epistles, God revealed that we are in the *last hour* of this world (1 John 2:18, RSV).

Now Jude gets into the measuring of minutes and moments! We have less than an "hour" of time left. Truly, Satan's rule on Earth is almost over.

Why would Jude even discuss the "last time," if it is not for these latter days? We have only "minutes" left to do God's work of warning the world. **GOD IS TRYING HARD TO FILL OUR LIVES WITH URGENCY!**

## Pray In the Spirit

"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (Jude 19). The *Companion Bible* reads "are separating themselves." These individuals had it and lost it, or they never had it. The RSV reads, "It is these who set up divisions."

**Our president has said that "we are good people." But God disagrees! We are the most sinful, lawless people ever on the Earth!**



The *International Critical Commentary* states, "These are they that make separations." They try to divide and conquer God's Church! There will always be a few of these people within the Church, trying to destroy the harmony.

Some people who don't have God's Spirit are leading God's Spirit-begotten people astray. How condemning!

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your *most holy faith, praying in the Holy [Spirit]*" (v. 20). We need that most holy faith of Jesus Christ, who lives in us. Pray *in* the Holy Spirit with that faith—that is truly effective prayer. That prayer will always get results.

Praying *in the Spirit* is not just prayer. It is life-changing prayer that gets through to God. It gets marvelous results. This is how we keep building that *most holy faith*.

Can you discern if you are praying *in the Spirit*? This is a vital question that we all need to answer!

Jude is condemning 95 percent of God's people today. Too many of their prayers have become sinful. Most of the time, they are not praying in the Spirit.

**We have only "minutes" left to do God's work of warning the world. God is trying hard to fill our lives with urgency!**

### Snatch From the Fire

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking [or *waiting*] for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (vv. 21-23). We really can make a difference by helping those in the Church who need it. We all need help from time to time.

We must be spiritual enough to make "a difference" in how we deal with sinners. God's Holy Spirit must guide us. We have to be aware of how much damage we can do to God's people, especially weak people.

We can also do great damage to our own spiritual lives. How many PCG members have been taken away by dissenters? Not just a few. Fear of God must always be with us.

You can't "keep yourselves in the love of God" if you never had it. God warns us to keep ourselves in God's love and all the revelation given through Mr. Armstrong and the PCG today.

"Looking for" reads *waiting for* in the Revised Standard Version. We must wait patiently for God to give us eternal life. That time is coming fast.

I went to Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1967. I graduated in 1970. After working in the editorial department for one year, I was sent to Norwalk, California, as a ministerial trainee. Then, in 1973, I was ordained a local church elder. Shortly after that, our Norwalk church building burned down.

We moved around for months, renting other buildings. For two Sabbaths, we were able to use the Ambassador Auditorium in the morning before their weekly afternoon services.

I was honored to give a sermon in the auditorium on one of those Sabbaths—probably one of the few local elders ever to do so. This building was appropriately called God's House. The only such house on Earth!

I spoke on the subject of God's government. One of the leading ministers heard that sermon and told me it was very good.

Today they have no college and are in the process of selling that campus. Why? Because they didn't "*keep*" themselves "in the love of God." They would still have God's college if they had kept God's family government of love.

I believe God could have had a hand in my speaking in that auditorium. Today God has given us a beautiful college. And hopefully we have all learned how we can easily lose this gift of God. It's not easy to *KEEP* yourself in the love of God. And what a staggering price we have to pay if we don't.

"[S]ave some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (v. 23, RSV). We *MUST* not have close contact with Laodiceans! Their garment is spotted—they are "spiritual lepers." There is a contagion there that you must be so careful about! We have to hate even the garments they are wearing. In some cases, they are spiritual terrorists!

Now, some of those people we may snatch right out of the fire. We may be able to help them by doing this work. You can help the ministry by supporting God's warning message. That is how you reach out

to them and try to get them out of that fire, physically and spiritually. That is an urgent work! We want to save them from a fiery destruction if we can.

Zechariah 3:1-2 talks about Joshua being a brand "plucked out of the fire." That rebellious man started the Laodicean era on fire. He is a type of all Laodiceans. And any of them who turn back to God will be a brand plucked out of the fire. We want to try to help pluck them out, because they are in grave danger. But if we try to do that on our own, we'll be in danger right alongside them! This "fire" is the Tribulation and the lake of fire! We must know what we are dealing with, and be careful we don't get burned—we must "save with fear"! Eternal lives are at stake! We mustn't fall prey to hidden rocks that can wreck our faith. We can easily end up being destroyed by trying to help others.

### Exceeding Joy

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

Don't ever forget that Christ can "keep you from falling"! Look to your Leader, and you'll never fall. He has promised absolutely that one day we will be in His glorious presence with exceeding joy! We will be right there at the marriage supper, ready to assist Him in saving the world.

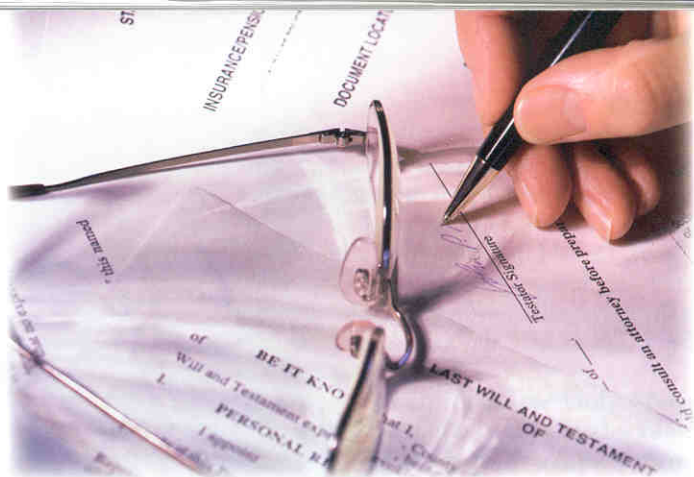
We have a Savior, and He is teaching us to be co-saviors. God is teaching us how to *save* people today and during the Millennium. We are becoming like the Savior God!

What a wonderful life this is! And what a future we have to look forward to. Stay with your Savior, and you will never fall.

This message is real. We are helping to usher in a new civilization. We are going to assist Christ in ruling the Earth and the universe for all eternity! ❖



# Pre-paid Funeral



■ Here's how you can express love to your family and friends by making arrangements well ahead of time for what is to happen should you die.

By Mark Nash

**G**OD COMMANDS US TO HAVE great love toward our family, commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). We should always be watching for opportunities to express greater love toward others.

There is an area where such an opportunity is readily available and rarely considered.

During 2003, in Oklahoma, the average funeral and burial costs totaled between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Included in this price is a casket, funeral, cemetery lot, grave marker, opening and closing the grave and any miscellaneous services. And this is a *moderate* burial. At the lower end of the price scale, a funeral with burial may cost about \$5,000.

There is an even better means of relieving the stresses and confusion that surround the death of a loved one. For many of us, there are steps we can take to reduce the burden placed on our family or friends of arranging a funeral and burial. By prearranging our own burial and funeral service, we can demonstrate a tremendous love and concern for our family and friends. As a secondary advantage, it usually saves money as well.

By purchasing a prepaid burial program, you prevent those who survive you from facing difficult decisions when they are grieving your death.

So, what is involved in making such arrangements? It is really quite easy. First, locate a reputable funeral home. To do so, ask for references, speak with the different funeral directors in your area and check with the Better Business Bureau, friends and family members.

Once you choose someone to do business with, sit down and *listen carefully* to what services they have to offer. Be sure to ask any questions that come to mind. Things such as, *what happens if I am*

The important thing here is, you decide what will happen after your death. You lift the burden from your family or friends by making the necessary decisions for them. You also eliminate any disagreements your family may have.

Families have been rent into pieces by disagreements about which casket to bury grandma in, or which cemetery. If you make such decisions there should be no arguments.

Generally speaking, you will receive an immediate discount for a prepaid funeral and burial. Somewhere around 10 percent would be a usual discount, although you may be able to negotiate an even greater reduction in costs.

Over the years, as the prices for such services increase, the savings will become even greater. If, as has happened historically, the prices double in 10 years or so and you live 10 or more years, you will have saved 50 percent. Even with the slightly slower increasing prices, the savings over the years will be significant.

Prepaid funeral and burial programs are

**The important thing here is, you decide what will happen after your death. You lift the burden from your family or friends by making the necessary decisions for them.**

Over the past many decades, funeral and burial prices have nearly doubled every 10 years, although the current rate of increase is a bit less than that. Any way you look at it, the costs associated with dying are substantial.

When someone dies, those who are responsible for arranging the details of a funeral and burial can be nearly overwhelmed. Selecting a cemetery lot, a casket, the type of service/funeral wanted can take hours and must be accomplished while grieving over the loss of a loved one. Therefore, it is extremely important to work with a reputable funeral home. They will assist with the burden of making decisions in this time of stress and grief. Knowing what needs to be done and how to do it is their specialty.

*3,000 miles away when I die? What are the arrangements if this particular funeral home is no longer in business?*

There will be several levels of service you can contract for. The simplest of cremations will be the least expensive service. From there you can move up the scale in costs to the most elaborate funeral and burial available. You can pick and choose from the menu to arrive at the precise product and service you are willing to pay for.

Based upon all biblical examples, it is our recommendation that a person opt to simply be buried. However, we should remember that it is not as important what happens to our bodies after death as it is how we live our lives. The Church does not condemn those who, for financial reasons, select cremation.

not for everyone. Many of us simply cannot afford them. But for those who can, they offer one more opportunity to demonstrate our love for our family and friends.

The most important program we must be completing is that of learning to love each other as Christ loves us. We must be growing in outgoing concern for others and becoming more like Jesus Christ.

Prepaying and arranging the details for our own funeral and burial is one option for loving others. Look into it as an act of love. Make your decisions wisely and the peace of mind you will receive for your actions will be a great reward to you. The peace you bring others, in the event of your death, will be deeply appreciated and remembered by those who survive you. ♦



