

# Royal Vision

July-August 2004

## PROPHESY AGAIN

Loading a pallet of literature  
in the warehouse of the  
Mail Processing Center

# ROYAL VISION

JULY-AUGUST 2004 • VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4



**About the cover** A look in the new Mail Processing Center warehouse as it is being stocked with literature relocated from 20 rented storage units in May of this year. Up to 3,000,000 books and booklets can be held in the new facility. (Royal Vision)

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# Loving God and Your Neighbor

**S**ATAN, IN A VERY SUBTLE WAY, DESTROYS THE GOD FAMILY vision. I want to show you how he does that. He is trying with all his being to pervert this teaching.

I want to talk to you about a sermon that was given by one of our ministers. He was confused about love for neighbor and love for God's Family, or the Church. I believe most of our ministers have been confused about this subject, which is why God is teaching it to me more deeply. Satan tries to destroy the God Family by deceiving us about God's love. In fact, he has already destroyed many members of the God Family by confusing them on this subject, the God Family. So please keep that in mind and pray that God would deepen *your* understanding on this important subject.

JOHN REVEALED THAT "GOD IS LOVE" (1 JOHN 4:8, 16). THE LAW is summed up in two great commandments: love toward God and love toward neighbor (Matthew 22:36-39). The second great commandment toward your neighbor is directed at other human beings, but only those unconverted in the world. Though God wants those billions in His Family, He is not working with them at this time—they are not begotten of Him yet.

The confused minister said that our neighbor is *every* human being, including those *inside* the Church. If you understand the Family of God, it is NOT what the Bible terms our *neighbor*. When God says love your neighbor, He's talking about loving those in the world. There is a big difference in how we love God's Family and how we love the world. There is a difference, and there must be until that family in the world *becomes* God's Family.

This minister used the following scripture and said it applied to loving your neighbor: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2). That scripture is directed toward God's Family; it uses the word *brethren*. But this minister applied it to loving your neighbor. That was a mistake.

He said, "Brethren, go to your neighbor and love your neighbor actively." If you are not careful, this gets confusing—because *you* ARE to love your neighbor, but *how*? You could give him physical food, or you could give him \$100 a week—there are a lot of ways. But those won't solve any lasting problems. The *most*

*important* way you love your neighbor is by offering or giving him SPIRITUAL FOOD. None of his problems will ever be solved until he gets his spiritual life correct. If you study the prophecies of God, you understand that those physically hungry nations and people are going to multiply 10-fold and 100-fold if they don't repent and heed this word or receive God's *spiritual* food.

There is a big difference in how we are to love God, which *includes* His converted saints, and how we are to love people in the world.

Notice Matthew 25:34-40: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME."

If you serve someone in the world, that falls under the category of loving your neighbor. But Jesus Christ said that if you serve someone *in the Family of God*, then you are showing that same LOVE TOWARD GOD! When God says that we are His Family, He MEANS that we are His Family! The world is not our family yet, though they will soon have that chance.

Our salvation is at stake. But your neighbor hasn't even been called yet. He is not in danger of eternal death as we are. At the Last Great Day, God will call those people of the world—our neighbors. They will be resurrected and have their day of salvation. But anybody called *today* will either be in God's Family or become ashes under the saints' feet! The stakes couldn't be higher.

God is working so hard to get us to understand FAMILY! Likewise, Satan is working just as hard to distort that understanding. It is so important that we make this distinction between loving God—which includes His Family—and loving the world.

Soon, God will call everyone (1 Timothy 2:4). But He has not yet because the teachers are not ready. We as their teachers

will have to be full of God's love. They will need so much love because they will have just lived through the worst time of suffering ever known to man.

One minister left God's Church saying we should love everybody, mistakenly thinking that meant we should be inviting everybody to Church services—even going to the mental institutions to invite people. That is a sure way to destroy God's Church!

If we don't make a distinction between the God Family and our neighbor, then we can get confused and be in grave spiritual danger.

Here is another strong statement from Jesus Christ about God's Family. "While he [Christ] yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand TOWARD HIS DISCIPLES, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:46-50).

Christ's disciples were His Family! Those who were doing the will of His Father were His Family! That is YOUR family too. That is NOT your neighbor. Your neighbor does not do the will of the Father. Who does? Who talks about the God Family vision? Who is willing to fight about it in court? Who proclaims this revelation to the world? Our neighbor? No—God's Family does.

And if God's Family becomes lukewarm and fails to do it, then there is still a little remnant of this Family who must. This message about the Father—about the God Family—must be declared! We must proclaim what our Father has given us. LOVING THE LAODICEANS AND LOVING THE WORLD IS DONE MAINLY THROUGH THE WORK OF GOD. It is done by supporting this work and this message that declares the Father. It is done by being a light for God's Family. We are sons of God. We don't act like the people of the world. And they can see that we are different, because we represent our Father in heaven.

You can read Matthew 18, where Christ said, "[W]hoso shall receive one such little child in my name *receiveth me*" (verse 5). That teaching applies only to God's Family, or Church. It never applies to our neighbor or the world.

Luke 10:25-27 states, "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the *Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*"

There is the law of God in its two basic principles. Obviously there is a greater love toward God than toward man. You love God "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind"—in other words, MORE THAN YOURSELF. And you love your neighbor "AS THYSELF."

When someone is called into God's Family, he or she moves from the "love toward neighbor" category into the "love toward God" category. That person moves into the GOD CATEGORY—

into the realm of the first great commandment.

## Begotten of the Father

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: *and every one that loveth him that BEGAT* [God the Father] *loveth him also that is BEGOTTEN of him*" (1 John 5:1). That is one of the most beautiful scriptures in the Bible. You are to have the same love toward those who are begotten as you do toward God, the one who begat. You are to have the same love because they are now members of God's Family; they are begotten of the Father. That could never apply to our neighbor.

Of course, we place the Father and our Husband, Christ, at the head of this family of love. Nobody could ever replace them. But when someone enters the God Family, the Father wants that person to receive the *same love* He receives. He wants you to love

that new member with all your heart, soul, strength and mind—*more than you love yourself*. That is what makes a family work!

Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3 to "let each esteem other better than themselves." That is talking about those in the Family of

God. We can love those in the world AS ourselves, but we must love God's Family MORE. What better way to unify God's Family than to grow more deeply in this kind of love?

Satan hates this law of family love. He even got the translators to use the phrase *adopted sons* instead of *begotten sons* in places, because he wants this God Family vision to be hidden from the world.

We are going to be born into the God Family, just as children are born into our physical families. We are not adopted! We are REAL SONS OF GOD! Just as physical sons and daughters are born into our families—our own flesh and blood. Romans 8:14 states, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, THEY ARE the sons of God."

To say that love for neighbor is the same as love for God's Family is a DANGEROUS DECEPTION. That's a gross distortion of God's truth, and anyone who believes that needs to understand God's law of love more deeply!

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 John 4:21). If you love God, you love your brother—the one God begat into His Family. This is so hard to do humanly. We must use God's Spirit as never before to rise above ourselves and serve and love God's Family in this way!

John recorded Christ's prayer the night before His crucifixion. That prayer concludes, "O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the LOVE *wherewith* THOU HAST LOVED ME *may be* IN THEM, and I in them" (John 17:25-26).

Christ asked that the very same love with which the Father loved Him would be in us. The same love the Father had for Jesus Christ is going to be IN YOU! This does not apply to our neighbor, the world. What an opportunity for growth. This is the heart of the God Family vision!

**To say that love for neighbor is the same as love for God's Family is a dangerous deception. That's a gross distortion of God's truth, and anyone who believes that needs to understand God's law of love more deeply!**

# GOD COMMANDS THAT WE AVOID CERTAIN ONES IN LOVE

By Gerald Flurry

I WANT TO GET YOU TO THINK ABOUT something very basic. Both God and Satan are working very urgently to achieve their goals. God, of course, wants to send a final warning to this dying world.

I don't think we always remember how much Satan hates us publishing *Mystery of the Ages*. Chapter Two is about the mystery of angels and evil spirits. It exposes Satan perhaps more than any book on Earth.

Our booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* also helps us understand Satan and how he operates more clearly. It's critical at this time, as we get out God's message, and as God hastens His work, that we see how Satan is also speeding up his work. He hates the revelation we're getting from God, he hates *Mystery of the Ages*, and he hates this great work.

We need to recognize that we are under the greatest attack I think the Church of God has even been under because Satan is cast down. Now, that's not all bad news; in fact, it is good news overall, but still there are some bad results.

But God the Father has a plan, and He has a family, and from time to time He has to disfellowship people. That is never going to change until Jesus Christ gets here. Even then, there will be some problems in the Millennium with human beings, but Satan will be put away.

When God disfellowships somebody, it is an act of love. Love does not mean tolerating sin. We don't tolerate sin because we love—we get sin out because we love, and we keep that atmosphere of love in God's Church.

In the 1970s, ministers would allow people who were serious problems, who should have been disfellowshipped, to continue attending. Many congregations were divided, the people were confused, and it was a huge mess. Herbert W. Armstrong had to close Ambassador College because Satan had destroyed it.

Failing to disfellowship brings a lot of grief into the Church of God. We want to have mercy. God has abundant mercy, but we have to understand that DISFELLOWSHIPING IS AN ACT OF LOVE. I hope I can show this to you. Disfellowshipping expresses God's family love.

## A Family Matter

"Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?" (Malachi 3:13). This is talking about members of God's end-time Church. Their words have been stout against God. They are talking back to God. And yet, they say, *How are we doing that?* They talk back and disagree.

Verse 14: "Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?" These people know and admit that they have served God. But they say, *Well now, what did it PROFIT us?* They exhibit a terrible attitude and have become Laodicean.

Verse 16: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that

thought upon his name." Here is a serious Church split. But a little remnant of people like what God taught them, and they don't forget it. As a result, God says He is going to protect them.

God says "they shall be mine" in verse 17. *This is my Family*, He is saying. *These are mine, to do my work*. Verse 17 continues, "[I]n that day when I make up my [special possession]; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

This is God talking about YOU—this little Philadelphia remnant. Consider HOW MUCH GOD REALLY DOES LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM, and stay in that little remnant, and remember His name, and remember their family relationship with God. Consider the love God has for us because we REMEMBER what we were taught!

Those people who don't remember, God will correct in love. That is how He saves 50 percent of them.

But to us He says, *I'll spare you as a father spares a son, because you are still acting like my son; you're honoring me as a son, and the others are not!* IT'S ALL A MATTER OF FAMILY.

Malachi 4:5-6 talks about what God is going to spare us from. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE."

You could legitimately say that OVER 95 PERCENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY HAVE BEEN DISFELLOWSHIPED! God is telling you here what is going to happen to them. He will not tolerate what they're doing.

THE VERY ELECT TODAY ARE GOD'S GREATEST ENCOURAGEMENT. God is encouraged by us and what we are doing. *You are MINE, He says, and I can get this work done using you. You do what I tell you. You don't talk back; you just do it.* That encourages God. On the other hand, the very elect today are Satan's greatest *discouragement*. He doesn't like what we are doing.

### Damnable Heresies

We see a God Family context in 2 Peter 1:16-17, which mentions the Father and the Son. Then, we read in verse 19, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." The Apostle Peter is talking about prophecy bringing light into your life—the day star arising in your heart. We must be filled with light. Some people can be so excited one day, and then another day they want to leave God's Church. If that day star isn't rising in our heart, IF WE'RE NOT LETTING GOD GIVE US HIS REVELATION SO WE CLEARLY SEE, WE BECOME BLIND! What was once clear becomes very hazy.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (verse 20). This is fundamental. Man does not reveal God's prophecy. Only God can do that. Verse 21: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]." It takes the Spirit of God to understand God's prophecy.

God has given us all kinds of prophecy. Never in the Church have I seen God reveal truth so quickly. I cannot write it down as quickly as God gives it to me today. Why is He giving it so quickly? Because we have so little time to do what He wants us to do. We're running out of time.

And at the same time, you have to expect problems. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among YOU, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1). There will always be false prophets. This prophecy says these people will be destroyed. It's a blistering prophecy against them. If they bring in these damnable heresies, they're going to pay a price. God is very concerned about

this. Remember, God says it's going to happen to YOU, the Family of God. And it's in the context of REVEALED PROPHECY.

The word *damnable* is really strong. This verse contains the only use of this word in the New Testament. *Thayer's Lexicon* says it means utter destruction, or the destruction which consists in the LOSS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

**By disfellowshipping, we show love toward God by obeying Him. We show love toward God's people by saving the Church from destruction. And we even show love toward the disfellowshipped person, because that's the only way he or she is ever going to repent.**

We could talk of disfellowshipping and make it sound not quite so strong, perhaps. But WHAT WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL DEATH. It is not *love* if you let somebody stay in God's Church who will destroy another person's eternal life. That's the worst kind of hate. God says, *You get them out.* The thing that makes these heresies DAMNABLE is the DAMNABLE DESTRUCTION they bring upon you! Look at God's Church today: 95 percent of the people have been deceived. Is that damnable? There isn't anything to compare with it.

It isn't love to keep people around when they start talking about heresies, but they always do it in "love." I don't think I've ever dealt with one of these people who didn't talk about their love for the people. At that point, they don't even know what God's love is.

By disfellowshipping, we show love toward God by obeying Him. We show love toward God's people by saving the Church from destruction. And we even show love toward the disfellowshipped person, because that's the only way he or she is ever going to repent.

We have to realize how Satan can work through people, even ministers at the top, who bring in damnable heresies. It took Satan about five years to destroy 95 percent of God's Church. *Five years!* They bring in damnable heresies; God demands, even commands, that we kick those heresies right back out.

"And *many* shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth

shall be evil spoken of" (verse 2). What are you going to do when the truth is evil spoken of? Many people just sit there and listen to people who are speaking evil of the truth. They follow their *pernicious* ways. That's another adjective that means the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life. Would you say that's a tragedy? And would you say we ought to be urgent about that? We're talking about eternal death!

What do you think when people speak evil of the truth? How do you react? Each one of us has a responsibility. This is a battlefield. We are soldiers. We're defenders of the FAITH! We're fighting for the truth—God's truth. You must realize what your responsibility is; you have a responsibility, just as I do.

Remember, THE LAODICEANS ARE PERISHING BECAUSE THEY DON'T LOVE THE TRUTH (2 Thessalonians

2:10). THEY WON'T FIGHT FOR IT. They just sit there and listen and think, *Oh, is that right? Is that what you believe?* And as a result, they are DYING spiritually! God doesn't even call them sons anymore, because they don't honor Him as a Father.

When a minister is speaking evil of the truth, THAT IS WHEN WE NEED YOU MOST OF ALL. Disfellowshipping is a family matter. *Hey, you're talking about my Father!* we ought to say. *You're defaming my Father!* *You're talking about MY HUSBAND!* *You think I'm going to sit here and listen to that? This is our FAMILY!* Brethren, this is your Family, as well as mine. This is not just a ministerial responsibility; this is a FAMILY responsibility. (Now, the minister has his role, and you have yours, of course.)

Two times in the 1970s, Mr. Armstrong stood up and saved the Church of God. ONE MAN, through the power of God, stood up and SAVED the Church of God. Mr. Armstrong, by his example, taught us how to stand up and fight for the truth. Now God has taken him out of the way. Why? Because He wants to know what you will do! It's an individual matter. He wants to see what His Family will do. If you love your Family, and your Father, and your Husband, you're going to be FIGHTING MAD WHEN SOMEBODY STARTS TALKING AGAINST THEM, OR ELSE YOU'RE NOT FIT TO BE A WIFE! Christ wants to know what His wife is going to do. He wants to know, *Do you really love me?*

Notice 2 Peter 2:3: "And through covetousness shall they with *feigned words*

make merchandise of YOU ....” They’re liars. They talk about love and unity, and it’s just feigned words; in reality they’re making MERCHANDISE of you. THEY’RE GOING TO BUY AND SELL YOU LIKE A PIECE OF FURNITURE! They’re destroying who you are and what you’re about.

God says you are His most special possession. THAT’S THE WAY HE FEELS ABOUT YOU. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM? These opportunities reveal our true feelings. This is OUR MOMENT. Judgment is on the house of God. And that judgment is very condemning to a lot of God’s people. DISFELLOWSHIPING IS A FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY!

### Withdraw Yourself

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us” (2 Thessalonians 3:6). How many times have I heard, “Well I just wanted to love him; I just wanted to be there and see if I could help.” GOD SAYS GET AWAY FROM SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL! He’s talking about a brother, a family member. It’s natural to protect your physical family. God wants it to become natural to protect your spiritual family.

Paul is not saying, “I wish you’d do this.” He says, WE COMMAND YOU TO DO THIS; THIS MUST BE DONE TO SAVE THE CHURCH! I’M TELLING YOU, IF PEOPLE ARE WALKING DISORDERLY, YOU QUIT WALKING WITH THEM, OR ELSE! That’s love. That’s the only way to save the family. How many families have to DIE before we can learn that? I think we’re learning it, but still, we have the frightening specter of the Laodiceans staring us in the face. What a failure that is.

“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, NOTE THAT MAN, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” (verse 14). This is just a letter from Paul. And he says, if any man doesn’t obey this letter I’m writing, you note that man and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed! You have a part to play in making such a person ashamed. That’s your responsibility. If you don’t do YOUR PART, then he’ll think what he’s doing is okay. But it’s not okay. WE’RE TALKING ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL DEATH! It’s so easy for us to forget that. Each of us has a responsibility to make that person ashamed. We’re all kings and priests

IN EMBRYO. Kings and priests make very definite decisions. They’re going to stand up and rule for God if they act like kings and priests today! We have to get prepared for that.

Do I think these problems are going to stop? Of course not. I know they won’t, because we still have people who are too casual about listening to what God commands! God doesn’t command everything, because He wants to know what you’ll do on your own. He’s not making little automatons. He wants people to make decisions. If they don’t have the character to make good decisions, they’re going to get in trouble like these people are doing.

### Founded on Revelation

Notice Revelation 1:1: “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.” God the Father gave a message to His Son. I get excited when I remember where the little book—*Malachi’s Message*—came from. Did it come from an angel? No. From Christ? No. It came from God the Father.

Revelation 10 is also all about family, and family love, and protecting the family. Verse 6 shows how Satan has been cast down and everything is happening at an accelerated pace. Notice verse 7: “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he [is about] to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” There is no more

know anything about the devil. We have to tell them through *Mystery of the Ages*, and the chapter in there devoted to angels, and the devil and his demons. God, in His love, wants people to know.

“And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and EAT IT UP; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey” (verse 9). That is where disfellowshipped ministers make their mistake every time. God is talking specifically about the little book. He wants us to eat it up and digest it. SO THIS IS REVELATION FROM GOD. *Mystery of the Ages* is also revelation. BUT MEN GET AWAY FROM THAT AND THEY GET INTO CRAZY IDEAS OF THEIR OWN. AND THEY WON’T LISTEN TO THE REVELATION OF GOD. These ministers don’t keep people’s minds in the revelation. They have “better” ideas. And it causes them to get disfellowshipped.

If we don’t found our lives on what God has revealed, we’re going to fall away! It’s just that simple. Why does God reveal it? GOD REVEALS IT TO KEEP US FOUNDED. If this powerful God of Revelation 1 reveals it, what does it mean to you? What a SHAME that 95 percent of God’s people SCORN THE REVELATION OF GOD TODAY—not only in *Malachi’s Message*, but also in *Mystery of the Ages* and virtually everything else!

There’s no excuse for falling away. There’s no excuse for being deceived. And so God, out of His love and mercy, disfellowships them, KICKS THEM INTO THE GREAT TRIBULATION, saving 50 percent of them. The rest of them have gone too far.

He can’t even reach them.

This is the bitter reality. It is bitter to see someone you love just turn and walk away. But we bring almost all of it upon ourselves. If people don’t have enough interest to attend Bible study, and they don’t want to watch the *Key of David* telecast, I wonder when their time is coming! We just see people picked off ROUTINELY today! Even after the Laodicean era. ARE WE CRAZY? DON’T WE GET IT? When God reveals something, *get grounded in it!* If God provides a Bible study, ATTEND it! I’ve never seen a fine leader

in this Church who didn’t attend Bible studies. Ministers have to keep themselves grounded.

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein”

**If we don’t found our lives on what God has revealed, we’re going to fall away! It’s just that simple. Why does God reveal it? God reveals it to keep us founded. If this powerful God of Revelation 1 reveals it, what does it mean to you? What a shame that 95 percent of God’s people scorn the revelation of God today!**

delay. God wants us to get the mystery out there. Would it be fair to the world for God to cast down this great spirit being, who is on the rage right now more than ever, and not reveal to the world what Satan’s plan is? I think it would be derelict on God’s part to do that. The people of the world don’t

(Revelation 11:1). Here, God is telling some people, and one person in particular, to rise up and measure the temple and the altar. *Rise up amid all this rebellion. Prophecy again with Mystery of the Ages and Malachi's Message. Measure the people and the ministers. I want you to be able to measure with this truth and know when a minister is going off track.* God's ELITE kings and priests can measure anything or anybody. That's what we have to be doing. The positive side is that God is getting some elite troops out of this if we do our part.

God gave this work and this man a ROD, or government. SOMEONE MUST HAVE THE FINAL WORD HERE. To that man, God says, *If you see a minister getting out of line, KICK HIM OUT.* When I disfellowship somebody, is it because I don't love him? No, it's because I love God, and I love the people, in that order, and then I love the disfellowshipped person.

WHENEVER YOU FIND GOD'S GOVERNMENT, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND HIS LAW! AND WHENEVER YOU FIND THE LAW OF GOD, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND GOD'S GOVERNMENT! You'll not only find it, you'll see it operating the way it should be.

Yes, we have problems, but it's because we *implement* the law. The Laodiceans have problems because they *don't*! They don't have God's government. They're not going anyplace. We're going someplace. We're qualifying for the highest positions God has to offer.

### The Law and Love

The problem is that we get confused about love and law. 1 John 5:3 states that love and law-keeping are the same. Love is law-keeping, and law is love. This is God's Family. You can't say nasty things about your family and still love them, can you? It's like the guy who says horrible things against his wife and children while he's away. Then when he sees her, he tells her, "Honey, I love you and the kids." That's the way this dissident love is. They just talk about love. They don't have any deeds. There aren't any deeds to show that they have love. We must have deeds. The law is love. GOD IS LOVE. The law is just an expression of His love. But in their minds, some of these ministers confuse the law and love. AS THEY'RE BREAKING GOD'S LAW, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.

God tells us to put those people in the outer court. God cast all of the Laodiceans

out of His inner temple. They're no longer there where God is. Just looking at it physically, He says they're going to be trodden underfoot. Look at the value, just physically, of doing God's work. What is it worth not to have to go through a nuclear holocaust? WHAT IS IT WORTH NOT TO BE IN AN AREA WHERE A MOTHER IS EATING HER CHILD? Does that sound bad? That's exactly what the prophecies say. That's what is going to happen. They're going to be right there. I'm going to be right there if I don't stay in that inner temple. People can be casual about it today, but they won't be then.

A great separation from God's Family is not love. Turning away from God's Family is the opposite of love.

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who come in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage" (Galatians 2:4). You're going to have to deal with false brethren from time to time. FALSE BRETHREN HAVE ONE GOAL,

**You must be a very active member. Because there is always somebody around willing to speak evil of the truth—of your Father—of your Husband. And if you are a good wife, they are going to wish they hadn't done that.**

AND THAT IS TO BRING YOU INTO BONDAGE. They want to bring YOU into bondage because they hate God and His work.

When we see people like that, we disfellowship them. Anything wrong with that? Isn't that an act of love? It brings peace and joy. Of course that is a wonderful thing to do.

### Disfellowshipped Thinking

Mr. Armstrong wrote this in a *Pastor General's Report* (PGR), April 17, 1981: "One characteristic that has been noticed, concerning many disfellowshipped, they continue to have more interest in the Church than even many members. They seek diligently every bit of news or information about Church activities. They seek every method to obtain our literature to know what's going on. Why? They seek every bit of information to twist and turn against God's Church, God's people, God's work. They seek it because in their

hearts, *they know they are wrong.*" They can kid themselves now, but in their hearts they know they're wrong. I'm sure that is the reason, when they're cast into the Tribulation, it's going to take them probably five seconds to repent. "[I]n their hearts, they know they are wrong." That is a classic statement. They know it. That is why they don't come to me. They can somehow deceive themselves into thinking, *If I really get busy and work hard, maybe I can convert a lot of people to my way of thinking, and that way I'll somehow be right.* It's crazy reasoning, but that's the way they reason.

Mr. Armstrong continued, "They're trying to justify their REBELLION, and they seek self-justification by finding grounds, by misrepresenting facts, to falsely accuse and condemn the Church of God. Instead of seeking justification of their sinning past by the blood of Christ, they seek self-justification by persecution against, and false accusation of, the body of Christ."

Then Mr. Armstrong exposed the false idea of there being "inactive members." There is no such thing as an inactive member. There's a DISFELLOWSHIPED member. There's a DEAD member, BUT NO INACTIVE MEMBER. If you are a member, YOU GET ACTIVE. But in the 1970s, that is the way Satan was doing it; and it worked, because he could do his dirty work with those people. People would say, *It's all right to see them because they're just inactive.* BUT THAT ISN'T WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS. GOD SAYS YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE PEOPLE. Some people thought they knew more than God, and they're not in God's Church today.

### A Chaste Virgin

Satan wants to have influence in this Church. You as a member must understand that. You must be a very active member. BECAUSE THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEBODY AROUND WILLING TO SPEAK EVIL OF THE TRUTH—OF YOUR FATHER—OF YOUR HUSBAND. AND IF YOU ARE A GOOD WIFE, THAT PERSON IS GOING TO WISH HE OR SHE HADN'T DONE THAT. We must handle it in the right way, of course. We don't want any physical brawls in the Church. But I think you know what God says to do about that. WE ARE IN A WAR. WE DON'T WANT ANY JUDASES IN OUR MIDST.

Once people have reached that state

of mind, HOW LONG SHOULD WE DEAL WITH THEM?

Paul answered that in verse 5: "To whom we gave place by subjection, NO, NOT FOR AN HOUR; THAT THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL MIGHT CONTINUE WITH YOU." PAUL SAID, LOOK, I GOT THEM OUT WITHIN THE HOUR! BECAUSE I WANT THE GOSPEL, OR THE HOPE, TO CONTINUE WITH YOU. That's the only way it will continue. If you destroy the gospel, you destroy your hope. That means they destroy you and make merchandise of you.

Leviticus 5:1 says that if you stand by while somebody else is committing a crime and you don't let it be known, then you are guilty of that crime yourself. That's God's view.

2 Corinthians 11:1-2 state, "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Does that sound like we ought to have some inactive members around? You are a chaste virgin. Christ's blood covered you. You don't have a sin. You don't have one blotch. You're pure and clean and righteous; Christ's blood has made you that way because you continue to repent.

Paul was trying to get them ready for their Husband, their family and their Father. Perhaps the biggest challenge we always have is just remembering who we are. We are the bride of Jesus Christ. Yes, we have to disfellowship people to keep the virgin chaste—to keep her pure. Paul says that Jesus Christ, our Husband, is JEALOUS OVER US.

Verse 3: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." If we just stay with the basics, stay with what God is revealing, stay with our Father and stay with our Husband, it is all so simple. But a few begin to reason and say, *Well, have you considered this? Well, what about this complex problem over here?* And so Satan begins to confuse people.

Verse 4 says, "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." There is no other gospel. There is no other hope. There's a false Christ, but that's something we must avoid at all costs.

## Our Responsibility

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 say, "It is reported com-

monly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you." Paul is condemning the people because of their attitude. They should have alerted Paul a lot sooner than they did. "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed" (verse 3). He responded immediately!

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (verses 4-5). We have a responsibility. Paul wanted to SAVE that person. The only way to help him eliminate his attitude of rebellion was to put him out. But the Corinthians wanted to show their "love" to this man by not saying anything—by tolerating sin. Paul rebuked them for that. And you know what happened when this man finally came back? They didn't want to associate themselves with him because he was so evil! Paul had to rebuke them again. We all have a responsibility to deal with disfellowshipping. We're a part of the process!

Verse 6: "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" Do we really believe this? Do we think we have more love than God? Do we think somehow we can love these people, and it won't hurt the whole Church? Paul says, *Look, if you leave those people there, it's going to leaven the whole Church.* They left this person too long, AND IT WAS ALREADY SPREADING EVIL ALL OVER THE CHURCH. In time, A LITTLE LEAVEN KILLS EVERYBODY SPIRITUALLY! Do you have a responsibility? Of course. If there is a little leaven out there, the minister may not know about it. You need to let him know through the channels that God has established.

Verse 7: "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." Get it out, and save the Church. Remember, Mr. Armstrong said if there was any reason he could think of why God chose him, it was probably because he wouldn't compromise. How about you, brethren? He was an example for you and me. Will you compromise with God's truth? With sin?

Verse 11: "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man

that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." Don't eat with him or even socialize with him if he is that type of person.

Mr. Armstrong wrote in that same PGR, "We must not appear to be more righteous than God. Christ will say, 'Depart from me.' We must not compromise. God does not. Rather than compromise with His law a trillionth of an inch, God gave His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON." You can't even compromise a trillionth of an inch! Christ was perfect. He had to be in order to pay for our sins. So if we're going to do what God tells us, we simply have to put people out of the Church.

Notice Ephesians 4: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (verses 3-6). How can we POSSIBLY remain so perfectly unified if we don't disfellowship? It all goes right back to the Father. One Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one Christ.

Verses 11-12: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." To help us grow, God gave us government. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (verse 13). We have to disfellowship to do that. There simply is no other way.

"But speaking the truth in love [you must have God's love], may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (verses 15-16). Notice, IN LOVE. It all becomes a family of love. When we talk about disfellowshipping, we talk about keeping Satan out of the Family. That's what we need; that's what we must have to function as a family and finish this work.

Disfellowshipping is about eternal life and eternal death. God's way of life is a way of love, and Satan's is a way of hate. That battle will go on and on and on until Satan is put away. Let's make sure we are there when God disfellowships Satan from all mankind. ♦

## PROPHECY AGAIN

### PART ONE

# DECLARING THE MYSTERY

**This commission may even be beyond what our human minds can fully comprehend at this time! The mystery has to be declared today. But this work is also to teach all humanity that the mystery must be dispensed, or declared, to every person ever created.**

**They are not just taught the mystery, but are taught to teach it. Why?**

**Is it possible God will keep expanding His Family throughout the universe forever?**

By Gerald Flurry

**W**HEN JOHN WAS SENT TO THE isle of Patmos, it was a very trying time. He was all alone as far as we know; all the other apostles had been killed! So you might think that John was sad and discouraged—but that's not the case at all. It was under those conditions that John wrote the book of Revelation. It was there that John wrote about our commission to prophesy again.

Down through the centuries, people have talked about prophesying again and wondered about this commission discussed in Revelation 10:11. When you study what people thought it meant, you see how deeply confused they were. But here we are at the end of man's rule on Earth, and God's "little flock" UNDERSTANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER what it means to prophesy again. We are not guessing—we know. God has given us abundant proof.

We have only a tiny span of time to deliver God's message to all the world. In the process, we experience some serious trials. That is not uncommon for God's people. At one time, Jeremiah was very troubled and bogged down by his trials. But he said, *That truth was in my heart like FIRE IN MY BONES, and I couldn't let go* (Jeremiah 20:9). That is the stage God wants us to reach: where this truth is like fire in our bones, and NOTHING can put out the fire—nothing can stop us from delivering this message.

Let's take a closer look at our commission to prophesy again.

#### Overview

The book of Revelation contains spectacular scenery. It is precisely ordered and planned. It discusses seven Church eras, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven plagues, seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire, three woes. The Apostle John wrote about war between Christ and the armies of the Earth. This book describes angels and God's own throne. We see the chronicle of prophecy ushering in the return of Jesus Christ. We see how, after the Millennium, God the Father comes to Earth with New Jerusalem. We see wonderful harmony and unity in God's master plan. The more you study it, the more you understand the mind of God. And as we grow in depth, we marvel at how little we understand about the magnificent and expansive thought processes of the Creator God!

In the midst of these prophecies—some about terrifying world conditions—you find a little group of God's very elect right in the center of the storm. They are there to give meaning and hope to a dying world. Already we are experiencing the outer edges of this unparalleled storm. That's where we are today. Revelation discusses Satan and the fierce opposition that we face from the great false church. And in the middle of these 22 chapters is a prophecy about the little book and *Mystery of the Ages*. God tells us there that we should PROPHECY AGAIN.

THIS IS LIVING DRAMA. God has given us *many revelations* about this commission to prophesy again.

#### The Mystery of God

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, *seven thunders* uttered their voices. And when the *seven thunders* had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the *seven thunders* uttered, and write them not" (Revelation 10:1-4).

The seven thunders of this little book are about God's rebellious people who "cast down the truth to the ground" in this end time. These thunders are about *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong's other works being cast down and destroyed! These thunders are about what is happening to God's truth inside God's Church. God is always most concerned with His people, but the world also must come to understand this calamity.

"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be [no more delay]" (verses 5-6; see the Revised Standard Version).

Notice, verse 6 ends with a colon. The thought continues in verse 7: "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he [is about to] sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

Why does God mention that this mystery is declared to God's servants the prophets? Surely this must imply that God would reveal the little book and other prophecies to a prophet who *must prophesy again* (verse 11). This prophetic work demands that a prophet come on the scene at this specific time.

The seventh angel discussed here is the seventh trumpet angel, not the angel of the Laodicean era. Before that seventh trumpet sounds, something has to happen on Earth. According to *The Companion Bible* and the Greek interlinear, "shall begin to sound" would be better translated "is about to sound." Chapter 11 unfolds as that seventh trumpet *is about* to sound.

Verse 7 dates this prophecy. There isn't much time left. The urgency keeps intensifying. The seventh trumpet is *about to sound*, and there is an accelerated work going on in a short span of time—and it all revolves around the mystery of God.

Here, the angel is talking about prophesying again—in the specific context of a MYSTERY. God is profoundly concerned about the mystery being taught and the message being delivered before He brings the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord upon the world. God conveys the extreme urgency by letting us know that the seventh angel is *about* to sound!

In the midst of that period of "no more delay," God's very elect deliver a message about the mystery of God. This is what God has commissioned us to do: Proclaim this mystery to the world.

The little book, *Malachi's Message*, reveals the great falling away from God's truth and what the very elect's commission is. That work is done amid the worst trouble ever on Earth and, in terms of numbers, probably the most sweeping rebellion ever in God's Church.

The expression "should be finished" correctly reads "shall have been finished" (see *The Companion Bible*). This is a work that *shall have been finished* by God's loyal people before Christ returns. The Laodiceans refused to fulfill the commission God gave to the Philadelphia Church. *Malachi's Message* explains their failure.

Revelation 10 reveals the connection between *Mystery of the Ages* and *Malachi's Message*. They are both rightly bound to the same Elijah work. This chapter shows that the little book and God's work today are directly connected to *Mystery*

## The little book and *Mystery of the Ages* have a direct tie to the seventh trumpet angel—when Jesus Christ will return to Earth!

of the Ages and God's work through Mr. Armstrong.

The work must be finished when the seventh trumpet begins to sound. In other words, the Philadelphia Church of God will not finish God's work unless it fulfills this commission!

That puts a lot of pressure on God's very elect to deliver *Mystery of the Ages* to the world *now*! Under that kind of pressure, our human nature pulls against us. But like Jeremiah, we have to say, *I couldn't falter because that truth was like fire in my bones!*

"And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings" (verse 11). We are to "prophesy again" to the whole world. This commission applies specifically to reaching the largest audience possible with *Mystery of the Ages*.

When God commands us to prophesy again to the world about the mystery, that is a direct command to deliver *Mystery of the Ages*! Revelation 10:7 refers specifically to Mr. Armstrong's final and most important book. No other book on Earth today clearly and fully explains what the mystery of the Bible is. It removes the mystery from the whole Bible, and that's what this world needs to understand right now more than anything else!

And now we own the copyrights to that book and 18 other works by Mr. Armstrong—because a little group of people trusted God, and God delivered them in the court battle! (For more information, request our free reprint article on Habakkuk.) God gave us those works; the courts certainly didn't.

THE LITTLE BOOK AND *MYSTERY OF THE AGES* TIE DIRECTLY TO THE SEVENTH TRUMPET ANGEL—WHEN JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN TO EARTH! THAT TRUTH OUGHT TO ELECTRIFY ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE!

When Christ comes, what is He going to do? He will need kings and priests, and He'll need textbooks to put into colleges and people's homes so they can learn how to live. When Christ gets here, we'll begin to EDUCATE THE WORLD. This world will be God's world very shortly.

IT IS PRIMARILY THROUGH DELIVERING *Mystery of the Ages* THAT WE KEEP THE LAMP OF THE LAODICEAN ERA BURNING—FOR THE WORLD, not the Laodiceans. That is our job. *If the lamp goes out, this world would be in total darkness.* Only the Philadelphia Church gives light to this world. And *Mystery of the Ages* IS THE MAJOR OIL SUPPLY FOR THE LAMP.

### Dispensation of the Mystery

Just what does it mean to prophesy again about the mystery?

Ephesians 3:9 contains some astounding truth about this. "And to make all men see what is the *fellowship of the mystery*, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

The word *fellowship* is not a good translation. *Lange's Commentary* translates it *dispensation*, as do some Bible translations—the *dispensation* of the mystery. *Dispensation* means to *dispense* or *distribute* something: to dispense or distribute the mystery!

*The Companion Bible* also says it's *dispensation*, and adds that "fellowship" came from the translators actually rendering the wrong Greek word!

It also says that that dispensation equals *stewardship*. In other words, for something to be dispensed, somebody has to do it. You must have people who are willing to declare the mystery to the world, not just possess it for themselves. God's very elect have been given that responsibility.

There is a lot in this verse that we need to think about!

The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says the word *fellowship* means "to dispense now ... what heretofore was a mystery hidden in His counsels." God's firstfruits have to proclaim His message *now*. Every time God calls people and brings them into the truth, there is a fantastic work to be done. All seven eras had that responsibility. Most of them failed!

Now, look again at that verse. It doesn't just say we should *deliver this mystery*—something we certainly have been commissioned to do. But it says we should make all people understand that this mystery needs to be DISPENSED, or declared, to all mankind. On the surface, that doesn't seem to make sense. Though it was pretty brazen of them, I'm sure that is why the translators changed that word.

There is more to this verse than we have seen in the past.

### Universe Vision

What is this mystery God is talking about?

What is it God wants us to understand? That HE IS ACTUALLY *RE-CREATING* HIMSELF in mankind. It is a truth so wonderful that the world says, *No—that can't be! That's blasphemy!* But that is what the Bible says, and it's what the mystery is all about.

Revelation 11:1 talks about the temple (Greek *naos*), or INNER TEMPLE, WHERE GOD DWELLS. THAT'S WHERE THE MYSTERY IS. When Christ died, that veil in front of the holy of holies was ripped in two and we gained access to God the Father. That also symbolizes our access to the ENTIRE UNIVERSE! This is what the mystery is about.

Astronomers say that the universe contains some 2 to 3 TRILLION galaxies. How many stars is that? The best they can figure is a 70 with 21 zeroes after it—*probably more than the number of grains of sand on Earth*. And yet, God calls the stars all by name! (Isaiah 40:26).

Light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second. And the light from the other side of the universe hasn't even reached us yet! These numbers give us some insight into how overwhelmingly vast the universe is. It helps us to see what an omnipotent Creator God we have.

And God, in this mystery, is telling us that we are going to rule the vast universe.

Ephesians 3:9 says that all men must see that the mystery of God needs to be declared. Think about that statement. God is going to give all the people of this world a vision like they have never, ever seen before! *Perhaps* He wants to show them that they are going to have to get that mystery out to the universe—and to other men and women that God will create on other planets. Ephesians 3:9 certainly does allow for that. Is God's mystery going to be *dispensed* on and on and on—where men elsewhere in the universe will have this mystery revealed to them, after maybe they go through some experience like we have on Earth? I don't know exactly what God has in mind. But the word *dispensation* has mind-staggering implications! The mystery must be *dispensed*, or declared, to every son who enters God's Family.

It shouldn't surprise us if the awesome God had some stupendous plan that we haven't fully understood. Is He conditioning our minds more and more to understand what we are going to do in those 2 to 3 trillion galaxies? That's a lot of real estate! Is it possible that God really is, after Operation Earth, going to create more sons of God?

Suppose God does intend to put more inhabitants out there in those 2 to 3 trillion galaxies. That almost sounds unbelievable, but let's not limit God. His mind is a creative power to put you in awe! That's

## This transcendental truth was in God's mind before and during His creation of the angels, but He didn't reveal it to the angels.

why it is such a terrible sin for little men to stand up and defy Him!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder .... *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*, upon the throne of David .... The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). We have speculated as to what these two verses mean, but if you just look at WHAT THE PASSAGE SAYS, it says a lot. It says there will be NO END to the increase of God's government and peace.

First, you must have God's government which brings peace. You don't need to bring peace to an empty planet or galaxy, do you? You need to bring peace to where *there are inhabitants*—maybe angels, maybe men. *If there's nothing out there but a wilderness, why would you need to increase the government and the peace forever and ever?* God has a purpose for every inch of His creation.

The *Good News* of June 1974 said this: "God the Father and Jesus Christ are reproducing themselves. They are enlarging their God Family. They are begetting sons, real sons, literal members of the God Family. That's the purpose of human life; that's the purpose for this Earth, AND THAT VERY WELL COULD BE THE PURPOSE FOR THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE. So we cannot be dogmatic. WE ARE JOURNEYING, AT LEAST IN PART, INTO THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY" (emphasis mine).

We have speculated—as Mr. Armstrong did—that this verse may mean GOD'S FAMILY WILL EXPAND FOREVER. If that's true, it gives you some idea of the work ahead of us.

The Bible does say there will be an end to sorrow, crying and pain. That *could* apply to God's work on this Earth *only*. Again, this is speculation, but I believe these two verses in Ephesians and Isaiah strengthen that speculation.

Whatever God has in store, you can be sure it will be phenomenal.

### Hidden for Eons

Notice something else about Ephesians 3:9:

"And to make all men see what is the [dispensation] of the mystery, which *from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God*, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

The expression "hath been hid in God" is a weak translation. The *Anchor Bible* says, "hidden *from the ages* in God," and *ages* actually means *eons*—literally, eons and eons of time, an immeasurable or indefinitely long period of time. It is talking not just about this world's time, but a time when God dealt with only the angels.

You can see that the translators didn't understand very much about this verse!

From eons and eons of time, this mystery has been hid in God's mind. *This is not speculation*. God's plan to re-create Himself wasn't something He threw together haphazardly. This mystery could have been hidden for millions and millions of years!

*Lange's Commentary* says, "Since there were men and angels, it has been revealed to none of them." This is correct to a point. It helps us see the meaning "hidden from the ages in God." However, after one third of the angels rebelled, then God revealed His plan for man to the angels. And this mystery has been hidden from this world to this day. It has been revealed *only* to God's "little flock" throughout the ages. That's exactly what this verse is saying. At the time God created them, THE ANGELS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS GOING TO RE-CREATE HIMSELF IN HUMAN BEINGS IF HIS PLAN WITH ANGELS DIDN'T WORK OUT! God created the angels with a backup plan. They didn't learn about Plan B, God re-creating Himself in man, until God saw that Plan A did not work. *This transcendental truth was in God's mind before and during His creation of the angels, but He didn't reveal it to the angels*; perhaps He thought it would distract or discourage them.

This gives us some insight into God's deep, deep mind. He doesn't reveal everything to us. We are given all of the essential truth, but some knowledge would not be good for us at this time. God knows what to reveal to us and what to withhold for the time being, and what He withholds can be astounding!

Just imagine what God may still have to reveal to us when the time is right!

"Unto [the prophets] it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy [Spirit] sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:12). The word *desire* is present tense. THE ANGELS ARE *STILL* FERVENTLY IMPASSIONED TO LEARN MORE DEEPLY

ABOUT GOD RE-CREATING HIMSELF IN MANKIND AS THE PLAN UNFOLDS.

This is God's ultimate master plan.

If the angels, who will never be gods, have this intense interest, shouldn't the depth of our passion at least match theirs? We are going to be gods!

The word translated *look* implies that the angels are bending over, stretching and straining, trying to figure out what God is doing. They are asking and answering the big questions: *What is God doing? We just want to learn about this. What does this mean, that God is re-creating Himself in men?*

The angels are mighty and powerful beings—so we don't have to feel sorry for them—but they are absolutely DAZZLED by what God is doing with man! They're excited and exhilarated, and they want to know what this profound mystery is all about!

And yet, *most of God's people today are not even INTERESTED in this mystery because they are SO BLIND!*

God is evaluating our level of interest in this mind-staggering plan.

From eons of time, this idea has been hidden in the mind of God. He knew there would be great risk; the one who became His Son risked everything and suffered as no man ever has because God and the Word wanted a family. Jesus Christ had to endure a lot of trouble on this Earth. He had to be perfect. One sin and it would have been over for all of us—there wouldn't be a Family of God! Man would shortly destroy all human life and that would be the end.

Sometimes we suffer and have problems and difficulties as we try to follow in Christ's footsteps. It's rough at times to obey God. But realize WHY: God wants to give us this incredibly awesome future as sons of God! Of course it isn't easy! God is not trying to save us physically. He wants us in His Family for ALL ETERNITY! He'll give us some tough trials.

Instead of pitying ourselves when we face trials, we need to get this vision into our minds and get it so deeply that we would never give it up, no matter what! That's exactly the thinking God wants in our minds. That's character. You and I must choose to rejoice in our trials even when it gets awfully hard.

This vision ought to get our attention. You will never, ever have another opportunity like this. Even the angels, as brilliant and as fiery as they are, don't have this opportunity. Some of the scholars know there's something extremely deep in these verses, but they don't know what.

Is Earth going to be a launching pad into the infinite universe for growth

**This prophecy again  
commission, this  
job of dispensing the  
mystery, is building  
a mindset in us  
that God will use  
throughout eternity.**

in God's Family forever? I don't know. But when I see scriptures like Ephesians 3:9 and Isaiah 9:6-7, I have to say that something wonderfully majestic is on the horizon—something out of this world—something hard to even imagine!

"THE LARGEST AUDIENCE POSSIBLE" could be our battle cry forever.

### Prophecy Again the Mystery

This *prophecy again* commission, this job of dispensing the mystery, IS BUILDING A MINDSET IN US THAT GOD WILL USE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY. And what we are doing on Earth is a very small beginning.

This is why it is so important for us to think deeply about our commission. We need to realize just what we're talking about when we say that we PROPHECY AGAIN. It is about the mystery that's tied directly to that seventh trump when Jesus Christ returns.

We live in the midst of an intense period. However, *getting our minds into this mystery removes negative thinking.* We all become negative at times, and understanding this mystery is the way to deal with that. THIS IS THE BEST AGE EVER TO BE CALLED. People can scoff, but Christ's return is almost here. MOST MEN ON EARTH TODAY ARE GOING TO EXPERIENCE THE TRIBULATION—and the return of Jesus Christ, if they're still alive. And when people in the World Tomorrow look back, they're going to say, *What an opportunity it would have been to have been called just before the return of Jesus Christ to this world!*

We are about to be exalted to the God level! Revelation 10:1 describes the appearance of a mighty angel—"clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." An awesome being! And yet, GOD NEVER CALLED ANY ANGEL HIS SON, OR SAID THAT HE WOULD BE THEIR FATHER (Hebrews 1:5). HERE WE ARE, MADE OF DIRT—AND GOD IS RE-CREATING HIMSELF IN US! That is truly something to be excited about! That is the message that

God wants us to PROPHECY AGAIN!

If Lucifer and one third of the angels had succeeded, we can only believe that this mystery would still be hidden in God's mind! God might never have revealed His master plan to re-create Himself in man. So when you think about this mystery, think about the *history* of this plan—especially the time it resided *only* in the mind of God.

### No More Delay

Revelation 10:6 says that there should be *no more delay*. We entered that period after Mr. Armstrong died and Satan was cast down (Revelation 12:12-13).

In the January 1984 *Good News*, Mr. Armstrong wrote about what lies ahead. "So Revelation 10 shows that when our work appeared to be close to finished more than a decade ago, God held up world events, and I was commissioned to now go with the Kingdom message to many kings (or many nations) speaking different languages (Revelation 10:11). That is what, as I now look back, I have been doing, especially since 1972."

Think about that for a moment. Mr. Armstrong had the remarkable insight in 1984 that events were being delayed—and had been for about 12 years. He knew that God was, for some reason, holding things back. But he also saw that there was about to be an end to that delay—and there was, when he died!

Today God may, in some way, slow down one leader or put another one in power to stabilize the Middle East or other areas for a little while. God may use a world leader to open doors so that we can get this message out. But still, there is NO MORE DELAY. Have you noticed how quickly the king of the south and the king of the north are skyrocketing to power? God will not hold back world events again. Events are moving ahead with lightning speed!

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein" (Revelation 11:1). A prophet will arise and be used by God to measure the *altar*, or ministry, and the members. One lady reminded me of how all of my messages are sent directly to the churches and played. This was not done when Mr. Armstrong was alive. His tapes were only sent out occasionally. But now God's people are scattered and need this measuring as never before.

Also, we send out the sermons given at headquarters. The ministers assist Christ and me in the measuring of the members. Still, Christ does all the measuring.

## The Times of the Gentiles

It is interesting that when Mr. Armstrong traveled the world giving testimonial dinners, he mostly went to Gentile rulers. The first of those visits occurred on Sept. 26, 1973, on the feast of Trumpets. Mr. Armstrong's commission was to preach the gospel, but he also warned the Gentiles. He had a shockingly strong trumpet-warning message for some of those leaders!

Today we still have the gospel message, the *mystery* that Mr. Armstrong emphasized, but our emphasis is on the *warning* because we are in the time of no more delay. We have only a short span of time to warn the world.

We preach the gospel, but only secondarily. The gospel has already been proclaimed to the world by Mr. Armstrong (Matthew 24:14). He also warned the world, but in a secondary way.

However, Mr. Armstrong did give strong warnings to the Gentile leaders. That was near the end of his work and the beginning of our warning message. He introduced our warning message that way.

Revelation 10:11 leads right into chapter 11, which discusses the Church split in the context of the TIMES OF THE GENTILES: "... it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (verse 2). MR. ARMSTRONG PLAYED A KEY PART IN WITNESSING TO THE GENTILES ABOUT THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES.

Was it just happenstance that Mr. Armstrong's first testimonial dinner was on the feast of Trumpets? I don't think so! He had a feast of Trumpets message—just like we have a Trumpets message today, a warning message where God says, *Cry alarm! Human survival is at stake!*

Only nine days after the feast of Trumpets testimonial dinner, the Yom Kippur War exploded on the world scene!

The Arabs also declared an oil embargo that rocked the world.

Such an embargo today could destroy America and Europe's economies in months! This would be even more threatening if terror-sponsoring Iran gets control of Iraq's oil.

Here is the key point. There is a direct connection between that Trumpets warning by Mr. Armstrong and the terrifying times of the Gentiles he was warning us about—the times we can see so clearly today. The Great Tribulation is inflicted directly by the ruling Gentiles on America, Britain and the little nation called Israel. These three nations are prophesied to fall together (Hosea 5:5). (Request our free booklet on Hosea for a more detailed

**Can you feel the  
times of the Gentiles  
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The worst suffering  
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explanation.) All this will be concluded by the Day of the Lord and Christ's return.

Mr. Armstrong's testimonial dinners were carefully orchestrated by the great God.

The world must be warned about what is coming. Then they have no excuse for ushering in the world's worst catastrophe ever.

There will probably never be another such warning to the Gentile leaders as the one given to them by Mr. Armstrong. These leaders will be held accountable for getting the same message to their people.

WHY would a small church like the Worldwide Church of God have a man traveling around the world and meeting top leaders—and warning them about the times of the Gentiles and Christ's return? Other leaders often can't even get in to see those men! Can you explain how that could happen? There is only one way to explain that. God opened those doors, and He did indeed hold up world events.

Now, today, we are to PROPHECY AGAIN and warn God's own Church, Israel and, to a lesser degree, the Gentiles. CAN YOU FEEL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES PRESSING UPON US? The worst suffering ever to afflict humanity is almost here!

The king of the south is flourishing in the Middle East. On Sept. 11, 2003, Iran's former president, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency as saying, "Even though the United States has a physical presence in the countries that surround us, the reality is that the United States is, in fact, surrounded by Iran." Notice that he said that the U.S. was surrounded by Iran—not Arab nations! THAT GIVES YOU SOME INSIGHT ABOUT WHO THE KING OF THE SOUTH IS. Iran is orchestrating the attacks on the U.S. All the Arab nations fear Iran.

Rafsanjani also said, "God has pushed the Americans into a quagmire in Iraq. If they stay, they will be victims every day, and if they leave it will be a loss of honor" (ibid.).

This man is taunting the United States! And America is too divided to confront

Iran. President Bush and Prime Minister Blair could both lose their offices over what has happened in Iraq. RAFSANJANI IS ESSENTIALLY TELLING THE WORLD THAT IRAN IS THE KING OF THE SOUTH! He is confirming what we have said for years. Iran is the number-one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world. It has America surrounded in Iraq, and it has the Jews surrounded in Jerusalem. Iran leads the world in state-sponsored terrorism, and the Middle East nations know it, even if the West doesn't. Terrorism is spreading mainly because of Iran. It is a way of life in Jerusalem today.

The Middle East Jews are in despair. An annual survey reported in London's *Daily Telegraph* (Sept. 30, 2003) revealed that "ISRAELIS ARE IN A STATE OF OPEN DESPAIR ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY'S FUTURE ..." (emphasis mine throughout).

This article continued, "With the collapse of the American-backed 'road map' peace plan, the chances of the Palestinian *intifada* coming to an end have never seemed lower. Two thirds of those questioned predicted the *intifada* would continue or worsen in the coming year. ASKED WHETHER THEIR CHILDREN WOULD ENJOY A BETTER FUTURE, 73 PERCENT REPLIED 'NO.' Asked to describe their feelings about the country's situation, 43 percent said they were in 'despair.'"

THE ISRAELIS LIVE WITH TERRORISM EVERY DAY. THEY ARE EXPERIENCING THE GATHERING STORM—THE STORM THAT THE BIBLE CALLS "THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES"! YOU CAN FEEL IT AND SEE THAT THE PERFECT STORM OF WAR IS COMING!

America and Britain are fighting terrorism the way the Jews are: failing to attack the head, or source, of terrorism—led by Iran and secondarily by Syria. And the Jews are clearly losing that war. America and Britain will lose too, unless they repent of their sins and regain the will to use their power more than they do today (Leviticus 26:19).

That pressure is going to intensify. The *times of the Gentiles* are aimed primarily at Britain, America and the little nation called Israel. Most of that pressure will be coming from both radical Islam, or the king of the south, and the Holy Roman Empire, or the king of the north.

And we are to PROPHECY AGAIN in this last hour. There isn't much time. The Gentiles are rising, and their hatred for America and Britain is intensifying daily. The king of the south has a stranglehold on the Middle East, and the king of the north has a stranglehold on Europe, and God's people are in the midst of a massive Church crisis.

We must proclaim God's message into Israel and Jerusalem. "O [you] that bringest good tidings [to Zion], get thee up into the high mountain ..." —that is how Isaiah 40:9 should read (see the King James Version margin reference). Zion is God's people. "... O [you] that bringest good tidings [to Jerusalem] ...." The Philadelphia Church of God does have GOOD NEWS for Jerusalem! "[L]ift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" We must get this message out, using television and publishing: *Behold, your God! He is coming!*

We have delivered this message to the Jews only in a small way. I believe there is yet to be a powerful message going to Israel, which is the tribe of biblical Judah. They are in despair and hopeless. They need a warning and our message of hope. *Only we* can and will deliver it, through faith.

### Ministers Fail to Prophecy

In 1984, Mr. Armstrong said about the WCG ministers, *I wish I could get our ministers to talk about these prophecies! These prophecies need to be explained and proclaimed to our people!* His words disturbed me. I became more determined to prophecy as God commanded. But the Laodiceans wouldn't prophesy. They didn't like the bad news, and they had lost the mind-staggering vision about the mystery, so they wouldn't proclaim what God prophesied. And look what happened! A catastrophe in the Church on an overwhelming scale! After Mr. Armstrong died, they stopped talking about prophecy almost completely!

Those ministers and people who would not prophesy as they should in 1984 are *dying* today. We must let their bad example motivate us to avoid their deadly sin.

Now we can see the catastrophe coming so much more clearly. Today we could find even more excuses not to prophesy. It's not easy to deliver God's message. But we *must*—our salvation and reward depend on it!

We must realize that there is **INSPIRATION BEYOND WORDS TO DESCRIBE** when people **REPENT OF THEIR SINS!** That is where the real inspiration is!

How much do we love God's truth? Do we love it enough to tell people what God says even when it contains **BAD NEWS?** Are we really willing to **PROPHESY AGAIN?**

### The Head of the Church

Revelation 1 will give us some background on our *prophecy again* commission.

**We must realize that  
there is inspiration  
beyond words to  
describe when people  
repent of their sins!  
That is where the  
real inspiration is!**

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John" (verse 1). The revelation was given to Christ from God the Father, and Christ gave it to an angel, and the angel gave it to John. This book comes from God the Father, and there is no other quite like it in the Bible. It talks about a number of monumental events that are going to come to pass very shortly.

Verse 4 says this book has a message from "him which is, and which was, and which is to come." **GOD IS!** He is alive today!

Verse 11 talks about the seven eras of God's Church. Now notice verse 13: "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle." God is right in the midst of His Church. Deuteronomy 23:14 says God would walk in the midst of the camp of Israel. But it gives a condition: The people had to be holy, or God would turn away and correct them severely. So it is with us today, only more so.

"His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars [the angels over the Church eras]; and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Revelation 1:14-16).

God holds the seven angels, who are over the Church eras, in His hand. The *International Critical Commentary* says this about that statement: "This clause has no organic connection with the letter to the Church in Ephesus." It doesn't? The person who wrote that comment doesn't know the Head of God's Church! *Organic* means that it forms an integral element or part of the whole. This commentary is saying that Christ has no organic connection to the Ephesus era or, for that matter, any of

the other eras! But Christ is the **HEAD OF THE CHURCH!** The Church is a spiritual organism.

The Laodiceans have lost the Head described in Revelation 1 (Colossians 2:19). They don't see any organic connection between Revelation 1 and the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. That is because Christ no longer leads them. The truth is that Christ is right in the midst of His very elect! He holds those seven angels in His hand! No puny little man can head the Church of God!

When I was being deposed by the WCG in connection with the court case over *Mystery of the Ages*, the first question both times was, "Are you the head of the Philadelphia Church?" Both times I answered, "No." Who is the Head of this Church? If it's a puny little man, then you have a very black future. Revelation 1 puts it in proper order. First, before you get into the eras and the body of the Church, **UNDERSTAND THE HEAD!** OUR SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON DEEPLY UNDERSTANDING WHO THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH IS! Where does the revelation come from? Where does the power to do the work come from? Satan has taken 95 percent of God's people away from the truth today. Many of the Laodiceans apparently only saw *Mr. Armstrong* as the head, and when he died the Church spiraled out of control.

Satan destroyed their faith by getting their minds off the real Head of this Church. They no longer looked to *the Lord God Almighty!*

Satan was trying to get our focus off our Head in the deposition question. That is the only way he can win. Let's not forget that Satan asks questions and works through men and women. God told the people of Smyrna that Satan would throw some of them in jail. Of course, men were used to do this evil deed. How many times does Satan get us off track by asking a question? Satan started working on Eve by asking, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). It all started with a simple question that should have been ignored or met with a biblical rebuke. Instead, Eve engaged Satan in conversation—and all mankind has followed that deadly tradition!

Satan is far more subtle and powerful than we are. It is a terminal mistake to even engage him in a conversation.

The Head of this Church has a face that shines like the sun in its **FULL STRENGTH!** His face is so illuminating that He would make an H-bomb explosion look dark. If you can't see that Head, you can't see the

true history of this Church! How can you lose your Head, described in Revelation 1? There is no true Church history apart from the Head.

### Lord God Almighty

The *International Critical Commentary* got it wrong about the organic connection between the first few chapters of Revelation. But let me share with you something it got very right. I think this was a beautiful analysis in just a few words.

"John uses the expression *Lord God Almighty*. This divine title occurs 10 times elsewhere [in the book of Revelation], and only twice in the rest of the New Testament, except in passages quoted from the Old Testament." Why was John so consistent about saying *Lord God Almighty*? Let's look at a few of these verses:

"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, *Lord God Almighty*, which was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8).

"Saying, We give thee thanks, O *Lord God Almighty*, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned" (Revelation 11:17).

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, *Lord God Almighty*; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" (Revelation 15:3).

"And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, *Lord God Almighty*, true and righteous are thy judgments" (Revelation 16:7).

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the *Lord God omnipotent* [Almighty—same Greek word] reigneth" (Revelation 19:6).

AFTER JOHN SAW THE VISION IN THE FIRST CHAPTER OF REVELATION, IT APPEARS THAT HE BECAME A DIFFERENT MAN. He had this vision of God in his mind. In the rest of the New Testament this expression is used twice—but after John saw this, he used *Lord God Almighty* 10 more times!

IF WE BEGIN TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND THIS GREAT GOD OF REVELATION 1, IT IS GOING TO CHANGE EACH ONE OF US. That means *you* and me. We will really see the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY! He is not weak! He has omnipotent, all-powerful sovereignty. That is the God we serve. We should fear to break His law, because that will take us

**Why does the lamp reside in the Church that is doing God's work? Because we let the light shine by getting this message out. There is no lamp in the Laodicean churches.**

away from this beautiful vision He gave us in Revelation 10 and 11.

When John saw this vision, he understood profoundly that this is the Church of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY of Revelation 1! He is the Head of this Church! "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am HE THAT LIVETH, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:17-18). John was given this vision, and in response he fell over as if he were dead! What a vision he was given on the isle of Patmos.

John was alone physically. But he wasn't lonely, discouraged or sad. He knew he was serving the Lord God Almighty! He didn't use that expression lightly.

DO WE LIVE LIKE WE KNOW THIS FIERY GOD? DO WE REALLY FEAR HIM?

Your future will be determined by how deeply you understand this God.

This is the great and wonderful God that you and I serve. If you are a part of this, and you have the Lord God Almighty looking over you and protecting you, then you are blessed far beyond most people on Earth! Because you are realizing your potential, God is re-creating Himself in you! How blessed we are. I don't care if we're two minutes from death—how blessed we are.

This vision and this understanding makes an impact on your life. It changes your thinking and your attitude. The deeper we embed this vision into our minds, the more influence we will have in this world. Just a little group of people will have an amazing impact. You will truly get behind this commission and support it.

### Seven Lamps

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having *seven horns* ..." (Revela-

tion 5:6). A horn is a symbol of government. The Lamb had seven horns. Jesus Christ's government has led each of the seven eras, when they have done the work. And you and I must be childlike and submit to His government in this Laodicean era unlike most of God's people.

"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" (Revelation 1:19). And John did write it down.

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks [or lamps]. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches" (verse 20). Why does the lamp reside in the Church that is doing God's work? Because we LET THE LIGHT SHINE by getting this message out. There is no lamp in the Laodicean churches. The PCG shows the world what this mystery is. No matter how HORRENDOUS the world's problems are, we are right on the edge of the greatest news man could ever imagine! But mankind will have to learn some lessons the hard way. Can we let this light shine out into the world?

The lamps are also seven spirits. God's Spirit needs to motivate and animate us! There is power there to animate the people of the Lord God Almighty!

Christ says He holds, or governs, the seven angels. He governs the head of all those eras as they submit to Him. That's why it doesn't take a lot of people to do the work of God. All we have to do is have this omnipotent God behind us, providing us with the power to do this work, and NOBODY can stop us!

If we don't have this big overview of Church history, we won't truly understand what it means to PROPHECY AGAIN.

There were seven lamps, which are seven eyes. We SEE what's going on in the world—in Europe and the Middle East. God gives us His overview.

GOD IS GOING TO CHANNEL EVERYTHING THROUGH THE STRUCTURE OF REVELATION 1, 2 AND 3. The Head, the bride, the children who come into the family, will go on and on for eons and eons of time, out into the universe, with that family structure, forever! And Revelation 1:1 traces it all back to the Father—the Head of the Family!

We are to PROPHECY AGAIN! And the one who gave us that commission is the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY! He gave us that commission, and now we have to go out and fulfill it. ❖

*To be continued*

# MAIL PROCESSING CENTER HUB OF



ROYAL VISION

## PROPHESYING AGAIN

**I**N THIS END TIME, AS WORLD EVENTS continue to spiral toward certain ruin, there is one voice that offers hope—announcing the good news of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. As stated in Revelation 10:11, God's Church is now commissioned to support a work that prophesies again before many people, nations, tongues and kings. This prophetic message, in both the spoken and written word, is being proclaimed by Gerald Flurry and the Philadelphia Church of God. Through television, magazines, books and booklets, this message reaches over a million people each month.

Just recently, to support this message more effectively the Philadelphia Church of God began use of its new Mail Processing Center (MPC). The MPC serves as a conduit through which God's message is delivered to the world—acting as a distribution center for the commission to prophesy again.

Though it is named the Mail Processing Center, the building accommodates so much more than just mail operations. At 17,400 square feet, the MPC is large enough to serve a multitude of functions.

The *Key of David* television program is a valuable tool in proclaiming God's message. The program commenced a new beginning when it began using a new 1,300 square foot studio, control room and production office. The new studio has already been used to record numerous programs, which are being aired around the world.

As a direct support to the *Key of David*, the toll-free call center is also located in the MPC. The call center hosts 21 operator terminals and a supervisor station. Operators take literature and ministerial visit requests from those who call as a result of the *Key of David* program or advertisements seen in the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. Thousands of calls are received

and processed each month.

The CD and audio tape department is also housed within the MPC. The department is responsible for taking select audio messages, reproducing them and distributing them to Church members scattered worldwide.

The information services department also resides in the MPC. This department is responsible for developing and maintaining the Church's information databases and websites.

Finally, the mail operations department makes up the largest department using the MPC. All of the Church's available literature is stored within the MPC's 9,000 square foot warehouse. The warehouse is large enough to store at least 35,000 copies of the Church's 55 books and booklets, plus books written by Herbert W. Armstrong, some of which have yet to be printed. In total, the warehouse can maintain between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 books, plus a

multitude of magazines.

The actual mail processing takes place in the MPC's fulfillment center. When processing literature requests, the desired books or booklets are taken from the warehouse to the fulfillment center where recipient information is pulled from the database and processed through mailing

software. Packing slips are produced, and the books are packaged and delivered to the local post office.

The Mail Processing Center is truly a hub of activity—acting as a main distribution center for God's message in this end time. The television department, call center, information services depart-

ment and mail operations department all play a vital role in supporting Mr. Flurry in his commission to prophesy again. With all of these departments under one roof, interaction and cooperation is at a high level, creating a smoothly working support structure to deliver God's message of hope to the world. ♦

# PROCESSING LITERATURE REQUESTS

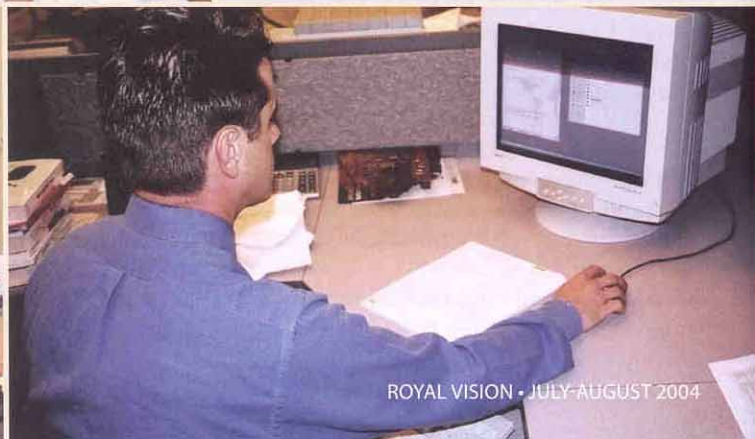
## Call Center

Following each *Key of David* telecast, as well as during regular office hours, the literature request lines are staffed to take requests for the literature offered on the program or in one of the Church's magazines.



## ◀ Fulfillment Center

Here literature requests that have come in by phone, mail or via one of our websites are collated, processed and packaged. Daily drop-offs at the Edmond post office are organized from here.





#### A View From the Control Room ▲

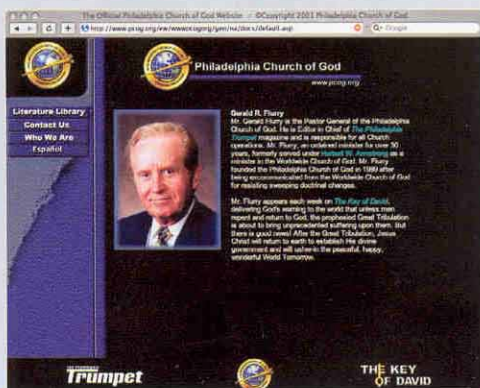
A control room is directly facing the presenter in the new studio, providing better control over the lighting, camera angles and other variables during the taping of the program.

## TELEVISION STUDIO

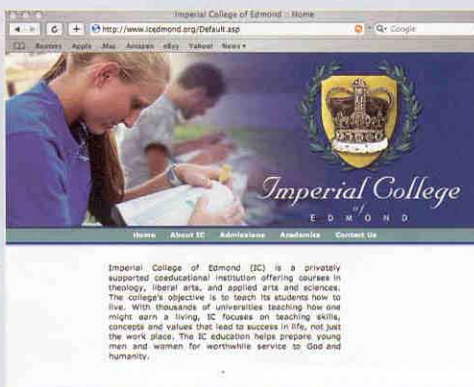
#### All Set ▼

Presenter Gerald Flurry records a program. The considerably larger studio allows for more variety in camera depth.





# INFORMATION SERVICES



## The Largest Media Possible

Worldwide access to the Internet brings a major avenue in carrying out the commission to prophesy again to the largest audience possible. It also calls for continual development and maintenance to the websites of the Church, Imperial College and the Philadelphia Foundation.



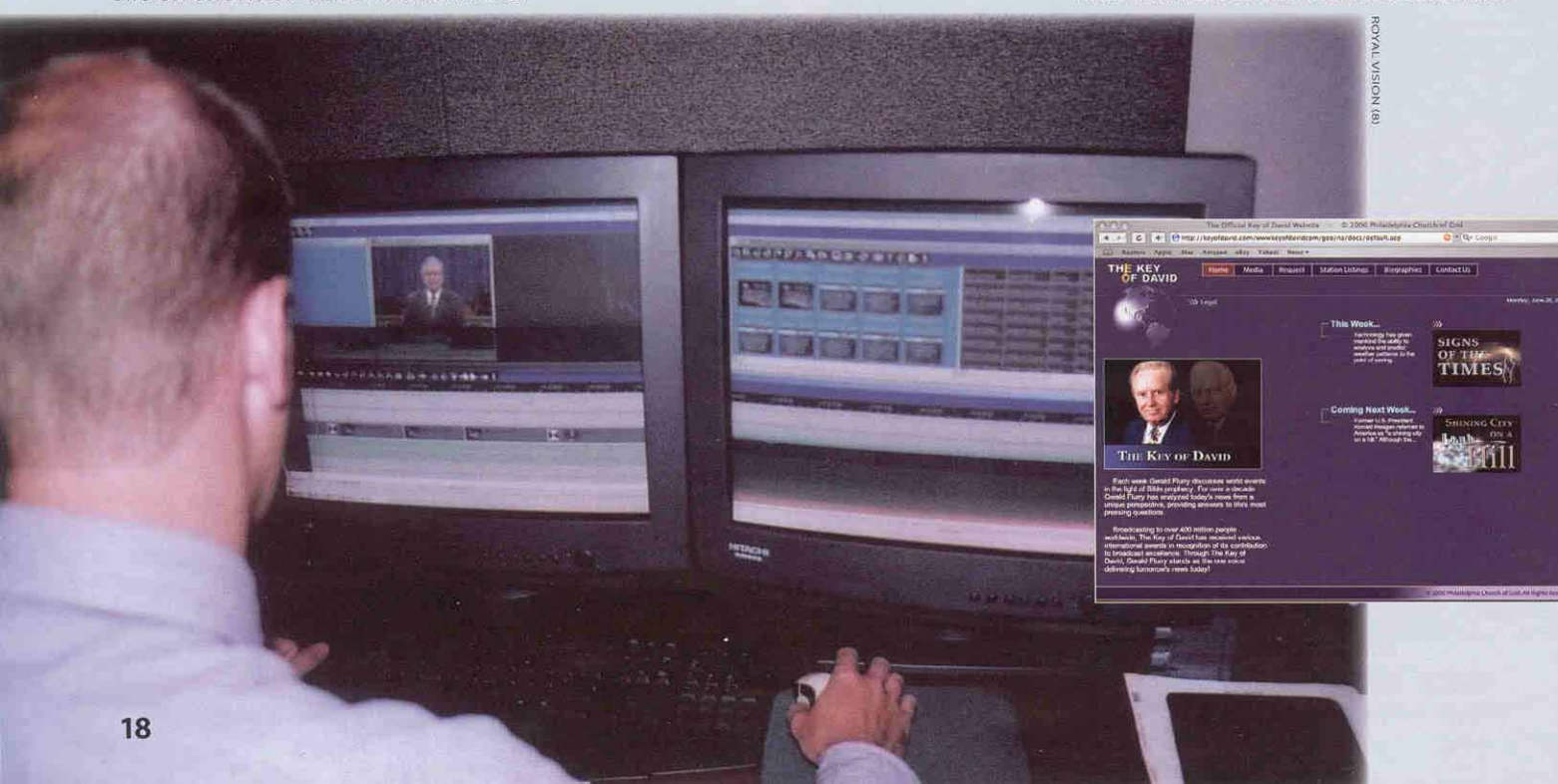
# READY TO AIR

## ▼ Post Production

Following the taping of the *Key of David*, the television department incorporates video footage, audio and graphics to prepare a professional output, which airs on television stations worldwide.

## Inset

Video of the *Key of David* is offered on demand on our website, so viewers worldwide can access it at their convenience.



# PROVE ALL THINGS

## Is Having Insurance a Lack of Faith?

**What does the Bible say about obtaining insurance?**

**By Frank Borg**

**M**ANY OFTEN WONDER WHETHER it would be showing a lack of faith in God if they had to pay into one, or various, insurance programs. Some say that they have never claimed any sort of compensation from their insurance company and argue it is a waste of money.

What does the Bible say about insurance? Is it wrong to have life insurance, for example? Is it wrong to have any other type of insurance? Is insurance a waste of money? Answers to these questions can be found in the pages of your Bible!

However, before we see what the Bible has to say about the principle of insurance, let us understand what insurance really is. Insurance is a structured program by which many individuals pay relatively small premiums into a company so that in case of accident, fire or death, the party suffering the loss receives sufficient money as compensation for the loss. It is a pool in which people save and share the burdens of one another.

Essentially, insurance encompasses two points; the first is saving and the second is sharing the burdens of others.

In searching the Scriptures to see what the Bible has to say about insurance, we need to recognize what it specifically teaches about these two areas. The Bible discusses both the importance of saving enough to be able to face the future as well as saving to share the burdens of others.

### **Saving for the Future**

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler: Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her

food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8). The ant gathers enough food in the summer months, when it is warm and dry, to see it through the following winter months. It does not wait until it is too late. So these scriptures demonstrate that the wise thing to do is to prepare for hard times in advance. The head of every household has the responsibility to provide for his family and to save for the future.

Paul tells us that any man who does not provide for his household is worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8). Providing for one's household goes hand in hand with saving.

Most are familiar with the story of Joseph. While he was in Egypt, he saved grain during times of plenty. When drought and famine fell on the land, he was well prepared to face the hardship. Joseph had provided for his household, for the nation in which he lived and even the entire region. God expects us to provide for our families the same way.

So, one should make arrangements so that if an accident such as a fire or early death were to occur, it would not impoverish the family. Insurance is one way of saving for the future.

What does the Bible say about sharing the burdens of others?

### **God's Insurance System**

"At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest" (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

We are here commanded by God to

save to help others who have a need. This is a principle of insurance! These verses tell us that in every third and sixth year in every seven-year period, we are to pay an extra tithe of our increase. In the Church of God, this is commonly known as the third tithe. Third tithe is a pool of funds that Church members pay into. It is essentially the Church's insurance program for the widows and the fatherless. It is how God teaches us to provide for our spiritual family.

If the head of a household dies prematurely, his family may face economic hardship unless some sort of financial provision has been previously made. In this case, the third tithe is there as an insurance program to help the widows and the fatherless.

Wherever possible however, the head of household should make provisions for his family in the event of death. We shouldn't rely on or burden the Church because of a lack of proper family financial planning. We need to remember that the Church's primary goal is to get the warning message out and do the work of God. Providing for the future of our family will certainly be a relief to the Church's third tithe system. This is all a part of family financial planning. But the third tithe is there as an insurance program that has been endorsed and ordained by God to help the widows and the fatherless if the need arises.

Herbert W. Armstrong endorsed the fact that the third tithe system is similar to insurance. "The basic purpose of insurance is to alleviate financial disaster suffered by an individual because of time and chance" (*Good News*, May-June 1972).

Ecclesiastes 9:11 tells us that "time and chance happeneth to them all." We will face trials and tests; they are promised to us so we can build righteous character! Since God tells us that we will face trials and tests, we should be ready to face the unexpected.

Having insurance is not showing a lack of faith in God. No one can claim that paying third tithe or accepting third tithe assistance is a sign of a lack of faith. Insurance does not mean that we are not going to rely on God's intervention to help us during those tests and trials. Insurance does not prevent trials and tests from coming upon us. It cannot protect us! No insurance policy will do that! Only God can protect His people. The only thing an insurance policy will do is help us gain economic stability if something bad and unforeseen happens.

## Motivated By Love

One must use wisdom in choosing the right type of insurance. There are a variety of health insurances, for example. However, these types of insurance could cause us to rely on man's system instead of looking to God for divine healing and would thus be of limited use to those of us in the Church of God. (For a more detailed explanation, write for our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Healing*.)

Other types of insurance include accident, travel, earthquake and life. Some of these are no doubt more useful than others, so one does need to use prudence and wisdom in deciding the types and amounts of insurance to carry. This choice will depend on our needs, circumstances and finances.

The Bible clearly shows us that our motives behind buying insurance should not be fueled by a get attitude. Many people in the world have devised a number of ways to connive and defraud insurance companies with the sole purpose of getting money from them. As we have seen, the Bible admonishes us to have right, godly motives in buying insurance. These motives include saving for any future financial loss we or our family may experience, and also saving to help others in any financial loss that they may experience. These motives show an attitude of thinking about others, giving and providing for the family.

It is therefore not wrong for Christians to purchase insurance as long as it is done in the right attitude and out of right motives. Hopefully we will never have to claim monies from insurance companies. But in the event that some misfortune does happen to us, our families will not face economic hardships unnecessarily! ❖

After Mr. Armstrong's death, we all wanted to remain loyal to the work, and we did so until changes began to appear from the new headquarters leaders—subtle, little changes at first, but drastic changes later on.

That's when some remembered Mr. Armstrong's warnings. We began to realize we were in the Laodicean Church just as he warned. But what could we do about it?

Then came *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*, written by Gerald Flurry but inspired by God. Those of us who wanted to hold fast to the truths God had placed in the Church knew now that God was moving His lamp to the PCG. We were ridiculed by many. Crude statements were made against us, and some poked fun at us. Other groups began to break away from the WCG, claiming to follow Mr. Armstrong but falling short in many areas.

Most of us found ourselves in the Laodicean Church, not knowing exactly what to do until *Malachi's Message* was printed. Then we knew the lamp had been moved, and we wanted to be with those who had a strong love of the truth and held fast to what we were taught. The PCG was where God's truth was still being taught.

We wanted others to come out also, but most wanted no part of us, and for the first seven years of the PCG we admonished them to read *Malachi's Message*. Many Laodiceans accused us of bashing when in reality our message to them was sent in love.

We have continued the warning Mr. Armstrong gave them for years. Some responded, but most haven't. If they do not repent, they will be forced to endure the Great Tribulation for the purpose of bringing them to repentance and salvation. Time is running out as the minutes of the last hour tick away.

We will continue to encourage the Laodiceans to follow Mr. Armstrong's admonition—to wake up before it's too late.

They have been warned, and they will be without excuse if they do not wake up. Pray they do. ❖

## CORRECTION

In our May-June issue we quoted from a 1979 *Good News* magazine, which stated that the "spirit in man ... is in him (or her) from birth ...." Later in his ministry, Mr. Armstrong saw that this was not the case and taught emphatically that the spirit in man enters the human embryo AT CONCEPTION (*Mystery of the Ages*, p. 110).

I'D JUST LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE magnificent article on "Honoring Your Mother." What a mind-splitting, awe-inspiring vision of the future we have to look forward to—serving Jesus Christ for all eternity as His wife and helpmeet; bringing in and raising billions of children in God's royal Family. What an honor to be the second Eve and a member of God's true Church. More than that, to have the inconceivable honor to marry Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. The human mind has a hard time grasping the future vision God has planned for His Church. This article really shows, in vivid detail, how Satan is the god of this world and how he has deceived the entire world about the mother's role in the family.

**Picayune, Miss.**

PLEASE THANK THE WRITERS FOR ALL your publications but especially for the *Royal Vision*. The articles have really zeroed in on preparing us for the Passover season. How can we not be inspired to work harder on our sins and our commitment to doing God's work? A sense of urgency and excitement fills our local church—God bless you all for your part in that.

**California**

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LITERATURE that we are receiving. The depth of the articles in both the *Trumpet* and *Royal Vision* are so exciting. But we are living in such scary times, and we have such a big job to do. I'm understanding more and more how angry Satan is and how much he hates all human beings. It's so scary to realize that he can even deceive the elect, if we don't love and obey God's truth.

**Alberta, Canada**

IT WAS VERY ENLIGHTENING TO READ a copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, which you recently sent in hardcopy. It is very essential to get back to the original trunk of the tree after hearing all the double-speak of the many Church of God leaders who try to get a following. It is very much appreciated to read the original message from the end-time Elijah, Mr. Herbert Armstrong.

**Slagelse, Denmark**

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