

THE PROPHECY OF HABAKKUK

"AT THE END IT SHALL SPEAK"



THE PROPHECY OF HABAKKUK

"AT THE END IT SHALL SPEAK"

By Gerald Flurry

This booklet is not to be sold. It is
a free educational service in the
public interest, published by the
Philadelphia Church of God

© 1995, Philadelphia Church of God
All Rights Reserved
Printed in the United States of America

Editorial Assistance provided by
Dennis Leap

The biggest puzzle in God's end-time Church is solved by Habakkuk's vision. What Habakkuk experienced was only a type of an end-time fulfillment. There was a massive rebellion in God's temple and nation. Habakkuk appealed to God for help. It appeared that God didn't respond. But He did, in a way that was totally unexpected. When Habakkuk saw God's response, he was terrified and inspired. The bad news was the worst ever. And it was for God's Church and Israel in this end time. But the good news to follow was so inspiring that Habakkuk felt as though he could leap like a deer!

You desperately need to understand why this prophet was so stirred by these prophecies.

Table of Contents

Chapter One

God Raises up a new Work	1
---------------------------------------	----------

Chapter Two

God's Glorious Ending	12
------------------------------------	-----------

Chapter Three

Nuclear Holocaust	21
--------------------------------	-----------

God Raises up a new Work

The key to understanding the book of Habakkuk is in seeing what Habakkuk saw in *person* and in *vision*. Primarily, we must see his message FOR US TODAY. What did the prophet see? His times were not that much different than our times today. It was a time of great national sinning in Judah. At the time this book was being written, he saw Nebuchadnezzar on the rise—ready to destroy Judah. Unlike other prophets before him whose visions were centered on nations and kings, Habakkuk's vision was related to a *division in the Jewish religion*. The religious leaders of Habakkuk's day were "off track" with God's law and were violently attacking the relatively few righteous Jews who were striving to uphold God's law. Habakkuk was deeply concerned about the situation. He prayed fervently for understanding about the situation. He prayed that God would do something about it. God would not! Habakkuk was very disturbed that God would do nothing.

The Jews traditionally read the book of Habakkuk on the day of Pentecost. Anciently, this book would have been *sung* (Hab. 3:19). The prophet Habakkuk was a professional musician. We know that music can be used to uplift or sober God's people. Once you fully understand the book, it is not hard to see a Pentecost

✓ theme. The Feast of Pentecost pictures the firstfruits' future marriage to Christ. The prophet Habakkuk's name means "to embrace." His name pictures a marriage-type relationship. This message has a very special meaning for Christ's bride today.

God sent Habakkuk to ancient Judah (and recorded the book for *our time*) to teach God's people that either we fully love and strongly embrace God as a devoted wife would her husband—or we will depart from God, God's nation, or a truly converted person, must stay very close to God or ultimately face a horrible destruction.

This book was originally delivered to the Jews just prior to the Babylonian captivity and destruction of Solomon's temple. It was meant to be a sober warning of their imminent destruction and captivity! The message of Habakkuk carries great meaning for both the Philadelphia and Laodicean Churches, God's *spiritual* Jews today (Rom. 2:29). When you see the ancient Assyrians (or modern Germany) on the rise and a division within God's Church—DESTRUCTION and CAPTIVITY are at our doorstep! Is Germany on the rise? Yes! Has there been a split in God's Church? For those willing to see, *yes!* Let's look more closely into God's revealed, *new understanding*, from the book of Habakkuk.

A Vision for the End Time

"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that HE MAY RUN THAT READETH IT. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but AT THE END IT SHALL SPEAK, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Hab. 2:2-3). God wanted Habakkuk to write his vision down on tables. He was to make it *plain*. It was not to be confusing or concealed—but so simple that a child could understand it! The message was also to be so clear that anyone who reads it would be able to run with it. IT IS AN URGENT MESSAGE! The *Soncino Commentary* (p. 219) says this verse "pants toward the end" like a runner making a dash for the finish line. This is an end-time book—"at the end it shall speak." This vision will not lie to you. The expression "it will not tarry" is translated "it will not delay" if you look into the Jewish translation. "At the end," according to the JFB commentary (p. 628), "is expressed by Daniel in an expanded form, 'at the time of the end.'" The word *speak* could also read, "break forth as a

blast.” This vision is like a great verbal blast to God’s people at the time of the end. We should expect God to reveal this book to the Church doing His Work in the latter day. When God’s people read it, they need to be prepared to RUN. As time goes on, the message will become *more* urgent. God is going to reveal to us more about the coming destruction just on the horizon.

All of God’s people must realize that the vision is “for an appointed time.” We should not get upset and think that God is not working things out. God is in complete control of events. The vision will speak according to God’s *appointed time*. What is the

vision? “The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!” (Hab. 1:1-2). Habakkuk’s vision was a burden for him. It was so distressing that it caused him to CRY OUT to God. But it did not appear that God was listening. Habakkuk saw very violent acts being done. But God would not stop it—“thou wilt not save.” What was the violence all about? The

real violence was SPIRITUAL! It was the *spiritual* violence that Habakkuk felt God would do nothing about!

“Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the LAW is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth” (Hab. 1:3-4). The violence involves strife and contention between people—RELIGIOUS PEOPLE! There were some very violent arguments. Over what? Verse 4 shows us it was over the LAW! This verse cannot be referring to people in the world today. They have never really kept God’s law. Habakkuk sees a division in religion over God’s law. We need to remember this book is primarily for the end time. If you look around and see strife and contention about God’s law or doctrines, such as healing, born again, prophecy, or

*It did not appear that God was listening. Habakkuk saw very violent acts being done. But God would not stop it—
“thou wilt not save.”*

discontinuing *all* of Mr. Armstrong's major books, etc., then that is what Habakkuk is talking about.

He saw two groups of people contending over the law—"the wicked compass about the righteous." This verse can only refer to God's people in this END TIME. We need to notice that Habakkuk saw those leaders making *judgments*. The majority turns away from God's law. They were making wrong judgments. We can see the same condition in God's Laodicean Church today. Many of us were in that Church praying fervently that God would straighten the problems out and get the Church back "on track." It seemed that God did not answer. But it just *seemed* that way.

Law Becomes Lukewarm

The term "slacked" means to become cool or numbed. Those in power in Habakkuk's time were causing the law to become "lukewarm" to borrow the language from Revelation 3. But again, this book is primarily for the end time. This verse is the same story as Revelation 3:17—those in power are rich and increased with goods, but impoverished spiritually; as Zechariah 3; as II Thessalonians 2 and the entire book of Malachi. All these verses refer to the same end-time problem.

The phrase "for the wicked doth compass about the righteous" in verse 4 literally means TO SURROUND. You have some righteous people, but the wicked have surrounded and overwhelmed them. This is not a vision of the nation of Israel. But this is a vision of a religious group that is causing people to "stumble" at the law as also described in Malachi 2:8. But, one of the strangest occurrences in all Bible prophecy is happening here. Habakkuk and his followers were praying that God would get their religion back on track. Historically, certain kings, like Josiah, did get God's people back on track. But in Habakkuk's time, God *didn't* get His people back on track. Because God turned His Church back to the truth through Mr. Armstrong in the 1970s, many people in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) have been praying and waiting for God to straighten it all out. THERE IS NO HERBERT ARMSTRONG TO PUT THE CHURCH BACK ON TRACK THIS TIME! God is telling us that He is not going to correct present Church errors as He did before. Ultimately, God will correct the Church in the Tribulation. But He is also working out something unique in Church history.

Many righteous people in the WCG are deeply disturbed by

the many changes in doctrine that have taken place in the Church since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong. They are confused as to what to do about the changes. Many truly converted brethren are fasting and praying that God will put the Church back "on track" as He did through Mr. Armstrong in the 1970s. And yet, there are many others who welcome and applaud the liberalism that has been ushered in by the present Pasadena leadership! These people want the WCG to become more like the world's churches.

A very important question to ask yourself during this crisis is: Will God *stop* the Worldwide Church from its "GREAT" and fatal "falling away" from the teachings instilled in the Church by Jesus Christ? Historically, God put the Church back on track twice using Mr. Armstrong. But, Mr. Armstrong died on January 16, 1986, and is now awaiting his resurrection at Christ's Second Coming. Is there someone in the Church today, like Mr. Armstrong, who can make right the errors now riddled through WCG doctrines?

The book of Habakkuk shows that God is NOT GOING to put the WCG and the other Laodicean groups who have left the WCG back on track! In fact, God is going to allow the Laodiceans to get so totally entangled in doctrinal error that only the Great Tribulation will be able to bring them to repentance! Are YOU disturbed by all the WCG doctrinal changes? Are you confused as to what to do about them?

Remember, the big Laodicean problem is God's LAW. God's GOVERNMENT is based on His LAW. So those people who keep the law also keep the same government that Mr. Armstrong taught. After all, God used him to do the greatest work—in terms of numbers—that had been done since the Church was established by Christ! It was a work that never could have been accomplished without God's LAW and GOVERNMENT. Mr. Armstrong said "government is everything." Without God's government, the law cannot be implemented.

The Global Church has been established by former WCG members. They also have rejected the government God established through Mr. Armstrong. They even refuse to believe that Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the prophesied end-time role of Elijah (Matt. 17:10-11). That is tantamount to calling Mr. Armstrong a fraud. It all revolves around a problem with God's law and government. (For more information, write for a free copy of our booklet, *God's Family Government*.)

The book of Habakkuk shows that God is doing something about the Laodiceans' GREAT FALLING AWAY from the truth. In the midst of all the doctrinal turmoil and confusion, God is raising up a WONDERFUL WORK of which *you* can become a part! This booklet will reveal to you *new understanding* from Habakkuk that will help you make a positive step back into God's Work!

An Unbelievable Work

• ✓ "Behold ye among the *heathen*, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you" (Hab. 1:5). *Clarke's Commentary* says the the word *heathen* would be better translated as *transgressors*. This is correct because of the context of verse 4 about the *wicked*. In other words, God has a very specific message for the *wicked* or Laodicean Church. God tells them to "regard and wonder marvelously" because He is going to raise up a different work when they are in power. The phrase "work a work" could be translated "raise up a work." Even though God's Laodicean Church does not want to do His Work, God *is* going to do *a Work* they won't even believe! Wonder of wonders! That is exactly what is happening within the Laodicean and Philadelphia Churches of God today. Verse 5 is a prophecy about the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG)! The Philadelphia Church is growing in numbers worldwide. Yet, WCG leaders stated the Church wouldn't last two months. In June of 1991, a WCG evangelist said the Philadelphia Church wasn't doing a work. "They're not on radio," he proclaimed. Yet, unknown to them, God was opening the door for our first radio broadcast on June 30, 1991. And much to their amazement, by the end of 1994, we were on *50 television stations* worldwide. That happens to be *50 more* stations than *they* are on. We have only been on television since *January 1993*. Television now gives us access to about 300 million people worldwide. That is phenomenal growth. Even the casual observer should see God's hand in this Work.

Do we really get God's message for us today? Many WCG members know that what is happening in the Church is wrong. But they insist, "We are not supposed to leave God's Church." But God says to them, "That Church is *wicked* and I am going to raise up another work." Separating yourself from a Church entangled in a Laodicean condition IS NOT LEAVING GOD'S TRUE CHURCH! It is

exactly what God wants His righteous people to do! The sad part of this prophecy is that many of God's own people WILL NOT BELIEVE GOD HAS RAISED UP A NEW WORK, even though IT IS "TOLD" TO THEM! They have a serious faith crisis. Are the Laodiceans being *told* about a new Work? The Philadelphia Church of God is *telling* them. PCG members are an active part of this *telling* by providing addresses and writing and talking to friends about the Work of the Philadelphia Church.

The Coming Chaldeans

If you truly understand the book of Habakkuk, it is so clear that God is doing a new Work through the Philadelphia Church. The main thrust of the PCG's Work is a *call to repentance*. The majority of the Laodiceans will refuse to listen. But sooner or later God will get their attention—if not now, then in the Tribulation. You see, there is another part to this story. God has never allowed His nation or Church to reject Him without severe punishment. If the people of God will not believe God's call to repentance through the Philadelphia Church of God, then He'll add another piece to the puzzle.

"For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs" (Hab. 1:6). Who is God talking about? He is going to bring back a Babylonian power to get people's attention. We know this is referring to the new Babylonian system rising up in Europe, led by modern Germany—the "bitter and hasty nation" (singular). For those willing to hear, God is showing that when the split in the Church occurs, He will also raise up the beast power (write for our free reprint article, "The Holy Roman Empire").

The split in God's Church occurred in December 1989, one month after the wall came down in Germany, paving the way for Germany's reunification. Germany is now the financial powerhouse of the world along with Japan. The Holy Roman Empire is ready to burst on the world scene. The ten nations are almost in place. All that has to happen is for *someone* to tie it all together. When that happens, the greatest time of human suffering will begin!

The United States has become the largest debtor nation in the world. America and Britain are going down fast. Soon they will be

enslaved if they don't repent.

When you see this *split* in God's own Church, IT IS THE VERY STRONGEST KIND OF WARNING TO GOD'S PEOPLE! It is a time to shift from *walking* to *running*. Time is running out!

God is working things out according to His appointed time. God is very upset with the deceit going on within His Laodicean Church. He is going to deal with those who are making wrong judgments. God has made a very difficult decision. Instead of putting the Church back on track through some faithful man, He has raised up another Work to warn them. If they don't hear, God will go to the next stage of His plan.

Evening Wolves

"They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the EVENING WOLVES: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat" (Hab. 1:7-8). To those of us in the Philadelphia Church, God is saying, "Don't worry about those Church leaders who are making

wrong judgments! Don't worry, I'll take care of them and deal with them!" God is going to eventually correct His Church that is going astray. The same punishment God will place on the U.S. and Britain (biblical Israel) will be inflicted upon all of God's own Church members who accept a "slacked law."

Habakkuk sees the Chaldeans as wolves. Wolves are interesting creatures. They will sleep and fast all day in order to be ready for the hunt at night.

When you see this *split* in God's own Church, it is the very strongest kind of warning to God's people! It is a time to shift from *walking* to *running*.

The prophet Isaiah also saw Israel being attacked *at night*. So God's Laodicean Church will become the prey of "evening wolves." A fierce, hungry nation is now rising on the world scene that will destroy and plunder the U.S. and Britain—and GOD'S CHURCH that has gone off track. Laodicean leaders can say

repeatedly, “the end-time Elijah has not come,” or “my lord delays His coming,” or “forget about prophecy,” but that WILL NOT CHANGE THE TERROR THAT IS COMING! WCG leaders have rejected the prophecies Mr. Armstrong taught the Church for decades. BUT THAT WILL NOT STOP THE CHALDEANS FROM RISING AND CONQUERING!

This vicious nation is about ready to move. “They shall come for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every stronghold; for they shall heap dust, and take it” (Hab. 1:9-10). The beast power, with modern Germany at the helm, will come against the U.S. and Britain for one purpose—VIOLENCE! They will ignore and scoff at other kings or princes. They won’t have mercy or compassion. God will also bring this nation against the Laodicean people to show them how lacking in compassion they became with God’s people who strove to uphold His law!

A Change of Mind

“Then shall *his mind change*, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god” (Hab. 1:11). The Chaldean leader’s mind changes. But changes from what? Mr. Armstrong taught the Church for decades that the United States of Europe will be led by a great religious power. Notice that Habakkuk saw “his mind change.”

Let’s look at another similar scripture. “O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an HYPOCRITICAL NATION, and AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF MY WRATH will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit *he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so*; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few” (Isa. 10:5-7). Even though the beast power is made up of ten nations, God looks at the major power as residing in Assyria which is *Germany* today. Notice that God plans to use them to punish two groups of people. God will send modern Germany against “an hypocritical nation,” and “against the people of my wrath.” The hypocritical nation is Israel and the people of His wrath are God’s Laodicean Church. They had God’s truth and rebelled against it.

If you would go to the leaders that are now shaping Europe

and tell them that they are building a war machine that is about to "cut off nations," they would not believe it! They believe that what they are accomplishing in Europe will be for the good of many people. But God reveals through Isaiah, that EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT IN THEIR PRESENT PLANS TO DESTROY, there will be a mind change BECAUSE SATAN IS GOING TO GET A HOLD ON THEM! Modern Germany has a history of cutting off nations. God refers to them as the "rod of mine anger" and "mine indignation." God is angry

S*atan will gain control of these two leaders and cause the worst time of horror and suffering in human history!*

with the nations of Israel and His Church. He is going to give them concentration camps, torture and miseries far worse than the holocaust of World War II! You can read for yourself in Revelation 13 about the two beasts, one *political* and one *religious*, and how they "lead into captivity" and "kill with the sword" (Rev. 13:10).

Habakkuk 1:11 shows that this political leader in Assyria, after his mind changes, imputes his war-making power unto his

god, which is Satan. There is much power—but it comes from Satan—though he will think it's from God! (Rev. 13:4). Satan will gain control of these two leaders (political and religious; Rev. 13) and cause the worst time of horror and suffering in human history! He hates Israel and God's Church and intends to do VIOLENCE! Satan has no compassion or mercy.

Chaldeans Ordained for Judgment

"Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he" (Hab. 1:12-13). At this point, Habakkuk began to receive understanding. He knew that God is pure and does not put up with iniquity. He realized that

God was aware of the treachery going on within the religion of his time. Just as we must realize that God is aware of what is happening within His Church today. Habakkuk realized that God was going to use the Chaldeans to execute judgment and correction on the nation of Judah and its religion. God is going to use the modern Chaldeans to correct His Church today. He is not going to put the Church "back on track" as He did in the past. God is going to allow His Church to be subject to much cruelty to get them to return to Him.

"And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad. Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous. Shall they therefore empty their net, and NOT SPARE CONTINUALLY TO SLAY THE NATIONS?" (Hab. 1:14-17). These verses give gory details about the rising Chaldeans. They look upon men as fish of the sea or insects. They have no regard for human life! They are cruel! They will have the power to capture whole nations as a fisherman catches entire schools of fish in his nets. With all the events taking place in Europe, God's people should be aware and warned about what is coming. God's Laodicean Church should be warning the nations about what is coming. Yet Pasadena leaders are saying, "Don't be concerned about prophecy!" ARE SOME PEOPLE FOOLISH ENOUGH SPIRITUALLY TO BELIEVE THAT IGNORING PROPHECY WILL MAKE IT ALL GO AWAY?

Habakkuk saw this nation as having never-ending power. He asks God if their destruction will ever end (v. 17). God will stop the Chaldeans this time! But it will be *after* God has used them to correct Israel and the Laodicean Church.

God's Glorious Ending

Habakkuk had a problem with the way God was doing things. He questioned God, then waited for God to correct him. Habakkuk humbled himself and God showed him what He was doing. He will do the same for you today. This formula always works! God will take our questions and answer them. We do not need to fear God in a *negative* way as Satan would like us to! "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd" (Hab. 2:1). Human beings are not as pure as God. We can look on iniquity and accept it! We need to be corrected. Habakkuk went to God and asked him to put Judah's religion back on track. God did not, so Habakkuk went to God and asked him to show him where he was wrong.

That is the test for the Laodicean Church. God will show them what He is doing if they will humble themselves and go to God and ask Him to show them where they are wrong. If a member of any Laodicean Church is willing to go to God and repent—**THEY WILL COME TO THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD!** God is using the PCG to *knock* on the Laodiceans' door (Rev. 3:20). God doesn't want any of His people to suffer the cruelty of the old Babylonian system.

Members of the PCG must also be sure to be in a repentant attitude. Do we have a sense of urgency in our spiritual lives or are we lukewarm? It is our job to deliver the message of Habakkuk. Are we spiritually ready to help deliver the message? Remember, Habakkuk 2:2 says we must make the message plain and publish it, that HE MAY RUN THAT READS IT. The message is going out through *Malachi's Message*, our many booklets, the *Philadelphia Trumpet*, and the *Key of David* television program. Are you, as a Philadelphian, fully supporting it! It is our job to deliver an urgent message—that *he may run that reads it*. It will not *tarry*! (Hab. 2:3). These events are moving with lightning speed and nothing can stop them.

Walk by your Faith

“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH” (Hab. 2:4). The spiritual condition predominant in the Laodicean Church is one of self-righteous pride. Their soul is lifted up and is not upright. Many know that there have been many serious doctrinal changes made by WCG and other Laodicean leaders. But they don't know what to do about it. They say, “Things are wrong, but how can you leave God's Church?” God has raised up a new work in the Philadelphia Church of God. If *you* are to avoid the Tribulation, YOU WILL HAVE TO SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM LAODICEA! God doesn't want us to walk by sight, and follow a sinning Church! God says a REPENTANT PERSON WILL WALK BY HIS FAITH! That means each individual's faith is being severely tested, whether you realize that or not! It takes strong faith to separate yourself from the Laodicean Church. God's very elect need to be sensitive to where God is working and then STEP OUT IN FAITH AND FOLLOW THAT WORK.

The book of Habakkuk is a special revelation from God to both His Philadelphia and Laodicean Churches. For the Philadelphians it is meant to encourage us in the tough times immediately ahead of us. Christ will be returning soon. The *message* for the Laodicean Church IS ONE OF GRAVE WARNING! THE CHALDEANS ARE ABOUT READY TO STRIKE AGAINST ISRAEL AND GOD'S LUKE-WARM CHURCH!

The book of Habakkuk is an urgent message from God for His two end-time Churches. God's Church is split over doctrine

established in the Church by an end-time Elijah. The book contains a message of hope for God's Philadelphia Church because God reveals to us that there is "no more delay" in end-time events culminating in the dramatic return of Jesus Christ (Hab. 2:2-3). However, it is a dire warning for God's Laodicean Church because God is calling them to repentance—but they are not listening (Hab. 1:5). Soon God will use modern Germany at the helm of the beast power to bring them to repentance.

Habakkuk also reveals that God has raised up the Philadelphia Church to warn both the Laodicean Church and the world of the major events SOON TO BRING OUR MODERN CIVILIZATION TO A VIOLENT END.

The Work of the Philadelphia Church of God

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by HIS FAITH" (Hab. 2:4). God is testing EACH member's faith. EVERY INDIVIDUAL must walk by "his faith"—not a group or church faith. His own faith must bring him

out of the Laodicean Church. And his own faith must lead him to find and support the Philadelphia Work that God has raised up (Hab. 1:5). MANY will not believe or have the faith to recognize and support God's new Work! That is because they are following a man or a church and not Jesus Christ. The primary work of the Philadelphia Church is to call the Laodicean Church to repentance. But repentance from what? The main weakness within the Laodicean

God is testing
each member's faith.
Every individual must
walk by "his faith"—
not a group or church
faith. His own faith
must bring him out of
the Laodicean Church.

Churches today is self-righteousness. Collectively their *soul* is *lifted up* within them. In the terms of Revelation 3:17, the majority of the ministers and people are saying that "they are rich and increased with goods." They feel "they have need of nothing." But, Christ says they are "wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." As Habakkuk states, their soul "is not upright."

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: IF ANY MAN [or

any individual] hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). Our work is to help Jesus Christ *knock* on ANY INDIVIDUAL Church member's door who is willing to hear and hopefully have the faith to follow Christ. Jesus Christ has been pushed out of God's Laodicean Church. He will not force Himself back into the ministry or the Church. But He does want YOU to repent. Many who are upset about the changes think they can remain in God's Laodicean Church and uphold the Philadelphia Standard. The apostle Paul corrected the Corinthian Church for this wrong attitude. He wrote, "be not misled: BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER" (I Cor. 15:33, NIV). A true Christian with even the best intentions will finally wear down when surrounded by evil doers.

It appears that the majority of the Laodicean ministers and members *want* what is happening today. But you must come to understand that you will not be able to uphold the Philadelphia Standard and remain in the Laodicean Church. The Philadelphia Church of God is here to give you the right alternative to live God's way of life as Mr. Armstrong instructed us. But it will take real FAITH in Jesus Christ to make such a monumental decision to separate yourself from the Laodicean Church. We cannot be impressed with names or great numbers of members. You must walk by YOUR FAITH—not by sight (II Cor. 5:7). The faith of all God's people is now on trial. If you are in the WCG, do you have the faith to read *Malachi's Message*—hear its knock—and separate yourself from a Church that is turning away from God's truth? If you are in the Philadelphia Church of God, do you have the faith to see Habakkuk's vision and run with it no matter how difficult the ridicule and persecution becomes? (Hab. 2:2).

Those who have already come into the Philadelphia Church of God are not perfect yet. We also must stay in an attitude of repentance or our fate will be to suffer in the Great Tribulation. God has called upon the small Philadelphia Church to preach a very big and bold message. It is, and must be, a work of faith—not a work of vanity or self-righteousness. The term *Laodicean* should never be used as an epithet, but as an apt description of a spiritual condition we all have to repent of! Those in the Laodicean Church must have the repentant attitude of Habakkuk to see what and how God is correcting the Laodicean problem. Too many in the

Laodicean Church say they are "WAITING FOR GOD TO CORRECT THE CHURCH." GOD IS GOING TO *CORRECT THAT ATTITUDE* IN THE TRIBULATION! The ideal way that God wants to correct the lukewarm Church is to have the faithful members leave and join His Work being done in the PCG.

Do we go to our prayer tower as Habakkuk did and ask God to show us where we are wrong? There is something seriously wrong in the Laodicean Church, as there was with Israel in Habakkuk's time. However, many people *then and now* failed to see God's solution.

The Chaldeans also to be Corrected

God shows us that Assyria, or modern Germany, is the *rod* of His *anger* and *indignation*. God intends to use them to severely correct His sinning nation and Church. The Chaldeans fail to see their own transgressions. They too will be corrected, but by the Russian and Chinese hordes (Rev. 9:15-18). God, in His justice, is going to allow the Assyrian nation that became so cruel, to be treated with the same cruelty. It will be their turn to be subjected

to merciless nations. There are many horror stories from World War II that speak of the cruelty the Russian soldiers showed to the conquered Germans. History will repeat itself—only for this last time it will be far worse. "Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein" (Hab. 2:8). All those left alive who were hurt by modern

***Do we go to
our prayer tower as
Habakkuk did and ask
God to show us where
we are wrong? There
is something seriously
wrong in the
Laodicean Church.***

Germany will turn and do violence to them. The truly good news in all of these tragic events is that God will eventually correct all the people remaining on the earth, including the Assyrians.

Habakkuk 2:9-13, is a warning to the future United States of Europe, now quickly assuming superpower status in the world. This combine of nations will see to the destruction of many other

nations. But they too will also suffer destruction. All of these end-time events though are leading to the most astounding good news. By the time mankind brings itself to the brink of annihilation, Jesus Christ is going to break onto the world scene and save the earth from total destruction. All people will finally be ready to hear what Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints have to teach them. Our greatest job as the firstfruits of God's spirit-born Family is *yet to come*. We will finally be revealed openly to the world, when mankind has been humbled enough to pay attention.

Good News in the midst of Tragedy

After Jesus Christ intervenes to stop the earth's self-destruction, the greatest news in human history will then come to pass. "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). Finally, the entire world will receive the true Gospel. They will be shown the "knowledge of the glory of the Lord," not man's knowledge *about the person of Christ*.

The knowledge that will eventually be given to the world was established in God's Church in the Philadelphia era through Herbert W. Armstrong. Before he died, Mr. Armstrong passed the baton to today's leaders in Pasadena, expecting them to preserve this knowledge. **THEY HAVE FAILED TO DO SO!** In fact, they have rejected it by removing from print all of Mr. Armstrong's major works. Jesus Christ has now transferred the responsibility of guarding His truth to the Philadelphia Church of God. The major way we preserve this truth is by believing and living it! We in the Philadelphia Church of God have been given a big job. We must faithfully preserve God's truth if we are to escape the violence of the Great Tribulation.

"What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a TEACHER OF LIES, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it" (Hab. 2:18-19). In all frankness, the Worldwide Church of God has become a *teacher of lies*. Any Church leader who would say that they believe in the "full divinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" is teaching lies. Any of God's own ministers who would teach that a Christian is born again *now*

is a teacher of lies. These verses are related to the same story outlined in II Thessalonians 2:10-12. The men now in charge in Pasadena do not love God's truth or they would not have made the serious doctrinal changes they have made. Pasadena headquarters is teaching lies and if you remain a part of their government, God

says you will be deluded by those lies yourself. As Habakkuk states, there is no profit in remaining with a Church organization that will teach you lies. They are like dumb idols. They have no positive usefulness! And the negative impact can be great.

Read Habakkuk 2:17. It describes the destruction that is coming upon our nation and the Church. Our cities will become like Beirut! Our Israelitish countries will become like Lebanon! Can you imagine New York, Los

Lebanon was once considered the jewel of the Middle East. But now it is a war torn reminder of what is going to happen to the nations of Israel!

Angeles, London, Sydney or Johannesburg ravaged by war? Lebanon was once considered the jewel of the Middle East. But now it is a war torn reminder of what is going to happen to the nations of Israel! Great destruction is on the horizon, and yet the Worldwide Church of God refuses to warn the world of its impending doom! Pasadena Church leaders have not only betrayed Christ and Mr. Armstrong—they have also betrayed the world! WCG leaders think they can please the world by donating to disaster relief funds. Wouldn't it be far better to give the world the truth? Even world leaders talk today of "donation fatigue." They see no end to the world's problems. But God's truth shows the world *hope*. Even though the WCG has the power to warn the world—give it *hope*—they are more concerned with their image before a few "cult" watching groups who know very little about true Christianity!

Look to Jesus Christ

"But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (Hab. 2:20). Habakkuk gives us the key to solving our decision as to whether we need to separate ourselves

from the WCG or not. Jesus Christ is in His temple—the Church that He is leading. If we see where Christ is leading, then we should humble ourselves and follow. Jesus Christ has raised up a new Work in this very end time. MANY of God's own people won't BELIEVE it! There is a MAJOR FAITH CRISIS in God's Laodicean Church. But the Philadelphia Church does BELIEVE God and support His Work. God rewards them with the highest positions in His Kingdom for all eternity!

“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon *Shigionoth*. O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, REVIVE THY WORK in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy” (Hab. 3:1-2). *Shigionoth* is a musical expression that means *a mourning ode or song about a terrible time*. Habakkuk warns about the perverted judgment coming out of the Laodicean ministry which forced a split in God's Church. He relates the message about the coming horrible tyranny and captivity of the Chaldeans. He teaches the message about the return of Jesus Christ and the destruction of modern Babylon.

God wants His *two* Churches to understand those messages today! Habakkuk had an attitude that God could work with. He heard God speak—then he acted on it! Do we have that same faith? Are *you* getting the message? If you are, ARE YOU WILLING TO ACT ON IT?

Although Habakkuk saw God's anger allowing massive destruction in the immediate future, he boldly asked God to “REVIVE THY WORK in the midst of the years,” which is better translated in the *Old Testament Interlinear Bible* as “give new life to *your work* in the midst of calamity.” We know how God has revived His Work during the final dying days of this world. The PCG is delivering God's message. Only fifty percent of the Laodiceans will be saved through martyrdom in the Great Tribulation (Matt. 25:1-10; Rev. 6:9-11). The innumerable multitude will come to repentance and be spared from the “day of the Lord” (Rev. 7:9). We know that even God's wrath will have a positive outcome—people will be saved as a result of it!

Remember the Law of Moses

“God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. And his brightness was as the light; he had horns

coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power" (Hab. 3:3-4). Just like the prophet Malachi (Mal. 4:4), Habakkuk takes us back to the beginning of Israel as a nation. He forces us to remember the time when God gave His LAW. Mount Paran is the same as Horeb or Sinai. "And he said, the Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them" (Deut. 33:2). God will revive His work through His law. Jesus Christ will restore the government of God on the earth by teaching the LAW! We in God's Church cannot take His law lightly. If we are going to go to a "place of safety," we must hold fast to God's law!

What's really wrong with the Laodiceans today? It all revolves around the law. Church leaders can reason around their changes. They can call it growth, when in reality, it is perverted judgment. The great law of God has been *slacked* or slandered by them. Unless they repent soon, the Laodicean ministry and members will have to face Satan's wrath!

Nuclear Holocaust

Habakkuk 3:5-15 is a vivid description of what is coming upon Israel and God's Church. There will be famine and pestilence and massive destruction! It is real! The vision was so real to Habakkuk that it made him sick physically (v. 16). Verse 17 shows that what he witnessed was in reality NUCLEAR WINTER! Is our understanding of the coming end-time events so real to us that we tremble? It should not only make us tremble—but repent—and pray for it all to be over soon!

Nuclear Winter

The experts tell us that a nuclear winter will result from a nuclear war. That means the climate will be chilled because of a prolonged blockage of sunlight by dust clouds from the exploding bombs. Of course, there will also be heavy nuclear fallout. Men, animals and plants will be exposed to deadly radiation.

The problems are almost too horrifying to even contemplate. But God's prophets knew man had to face his own sins. The prophet Habakkuk wrote about nuclear winter. He discussed a "bitter and hasty nation" attacking Israel (Hab. 1:6-17). The people are treated like fish in a net. They are shown no mercy. That is not the worst part though. "When I heard, my belly

trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops" (Hab. 3:16). He wrote about "the day of trouble" for Israel—or the Great Tribulation. His main vision was about the

W*hy won't the
fig trees even
blossom? Because the
Chaldeans attacked
Israel with nuclear
weapons!*

end time. Habakkuk had never envisioned anything so completely terrifying! His "belly trembled" and his "lips quivered"! He was having a difficult time fulfilling his prophetic office. Still, the problem grew worse. Rottenness entered into his bones. INDESCRIBABLE TERROR KEPT HIS BONES FROM HOLDING HIS BODY TOGETHER! The bones are man's strongest parts. They keep the frame of the body together. Habakkuk almost became like a shapeless blob!

This was the effect of the shattering alarm and acute pain he suffered because of the nuclear devastation!

God revealed to Habakkuk THE MOST TERRIFYING VISION EVER, TO AFFLICT THIS EARTH! He saw nuclear war and the consequences very vividly! Just seeing it in a vision awakened him. What will it do to people who *experience* it? "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls" (v. 17). Why won't the fig trees even blossom? BECAUSE THE CHALDEANS ATTACKED ISRAEL WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS! (Hab. 1:6-17). Even conventional warfare would not prevent the fig trees from blossoming. This is clearly discussing a massive nuclear attack!

There are no grapes on the vines. Even if the vineyards are unattended, they still would produce some grapes. ONLY nuclear fallout could prevent these trees from producing any fruit at all! There are no olives on the olive trees. Invading armies, prior to the nuclear bomb, could never have so totally devastated an area! THIS IS A NEW AND UNPARALLELED KIND OF TERROR! The fields yield no crops. Total failure. Why? Nuclear fallout and nuclear winter is

the only explanation! Bombs are dropped on the cities, but the farms are also affected.

There are no sheep in the pens or cattle in the stalls. None! ONLY nuclear power could inflict such grotesque damage! It's just as bad as Christ said it would be (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). IF ONLY WE COULD GET PEOPLE TO AWAKEN! Nothing can prevent these prophecies from being fulfilled—except godly repentance!

“Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel. The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up. For thus saith the Lord God; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that [the same city of 1000] which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel” (Amos 5:1-3). The *city* is a target. NUCLEAR BOMBS ARE GOING TO BE DROPPED ON CITIES! A TEN PERCENT loss in a military campaign is disastrous. Here, 90 percent of the people in a city die immediately! Then only 10 percent of the survivors remain alive. Only 10 out of 1000 are left—10,000 out of a million. This is speaking of 99 percent DESTRUCTION OF THE POPULATION OF OUR MAJOR CITIES!

“And it shall come to pass, if there remain ten men in one house, that they shall die. And a man's uncle shall take him up, and he that burneth him, to bring out the bones out of the house, and shall say unto him that is by the sides of the house, Is there yet any with thee? and he shall say, No. Then shall he say, Hold thy tongue: for we may not make mention of the name of the Lord” (Amos 6:9-10). This is talking about nuclear holocaust, as it does in other scriptures (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). This WILL BE THE WORST TROUBLE EVER KNOWN TO MAN!

So it is here in Amos. An uncle comes in and burns the bodies and takes some bones out of the house. Undoubtedly, because of the radiation, everybody was dead in the house. There is no indication of an army invading. Still, death fills the *cities*.

“For, behold, the Lord commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts” (v. 11). The word *breaches* is rare. The *Anchor Bible Commentary* says there is “no other occurrence of any word with the same root.” The *Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* defines this word *breaches* as “DROPS OF DEW.” If you carefully read the *context* there seems to

be no doubt that this is referring to NUCLEAR FALLOUT!

The word *clefts* means *fissures*. That is "a break or lesion in the tissue, usually at the junction of skin and mucous membrane" according to *Webster's Dictionary*. The root word means "to tear in pieces."

"Drops of dew," or nuclear fallout certainly will "tear in pieces" human flesh. NUCLEAR WARFARE IS COMING! MANY Bible scriptures tell us that! We can't hide from it.

"Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words" (Amos 7:10). This is a hard message to receive. THE LAND COULD NOT BEAR THE WORDS OF AMOS!

Tradition indicates that Amos was killed for delivering God's message. The Philadelphia Church of God must deliver a far stronger warning today. Our job is not an easy one.

Although Habakkuk vividly saw the coming nuclear horror, he was not depressed. He realized the final outcome was all very positive. He knew the government of God was finally going to be restored to the earth. "Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in

the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places" (Hab. 3:18-19). He became so excited by that knowledge that it was as if he could walk on air. Habakkuk could leap like a deer.

Those of us in the Philadelphia Church of God must strive to be like Habakkuk! Even though we are going through the toughest trials of our lives, it is for a great purpose. We are now

Tradition indicates that Amos was killed for delivering God's message. The Philadelphia Church of God must deliver a far stronger warning today.

in the final testing, being prepared for our reward as a *pillar* in the temple of God. God is preparing us as firstfruits so we can help Him harvest the world in the near future. God wants you and anyone who will heed to avoid the coming catastrophe.

The book of Habakkuk was to be given to the chief singer

(Hab. 3:19). It was to be sung on the day of Pentecost. In his day, this song would have been like a lone voice receiving little attention. But if heard, the book of Habakkuk would have been a message of great hope in a society about to gasp its last breath. It is not unlike the work of the Philadelphia Church of God today. Though we are small, and partly unheard, we have a beautiful song to sing. Our message is one of great hope. Our work is *marvelous*. Though the immediate future is dark, Jesus Christ will return soon and a new day will dawn for all of mankind. Let us all rejoice and finish the WORK!

ADDITIONAL READING

The Philadelphia Church of God produces many informative and interesting publications that you may want to request. Following are just a couple you might consider:

The Ezekiel Watchman

This 71-page booklet explains the meaning of many powerful prophecies contained within the book of Ezekiel in the Bible. The book of Ezekiel is clearly an end-time message. It reveals specific prophetic events that are happening right now in the United States, Britain, and many other English-speaking nations. Every human being on earth is going to be deeply affected by these prophecies.

Jeremiah—Prophet of Doom—or Hope?

The book of Jeremiah was written to Israel over 100 years after they had gone into captivity. Think about that! Why would God cause Jeremiah to do such a thing? Because the book of Jeremiah is primarily for Israel in the *end time*! And that includes spiritual Israel, or God's Church.

You can write for your own *free* copies of all the literature listed above. They are provided free of charge as an educational service in the public interest. Locate the address of the office nearest you on the next page and write for your free copies today!

MAILING ADDRESSES WORLDWIDE

United States: Philadelphia Church of God, PO Box 3700,
Edmond, OK 73083

Canada: Philadelphia Church of God, PO Box 61541, Fennel
Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ONT L8T 5A1

New Zealand and the Pacific Isles: Philadelphia Church of God,
PO Box 6076, Christchurch, New Zealand

Australia: Philadelphia Church of God, PO Box 6626, Upper
Mount Gravatt, Queensland 4122 Australia

Britain, Europe and Africa: Philadelphia Church of God, PO Box
1, Abbots Langley, Herts, WD5 OBS England

