Royal Vision

January–February 2026

SPECIAL ISSUE

REMEMBERING *Herbert W. Armstrong*

God's partnership with His end-time Elijah

A father figure

36 years of raising ruins

FROM THE EDITOR
A Father Figure 1
God's Partnership With His End-Time Elijah 2
Why God Praised Levi 4
Zerubbabel the Signet 8

TIMELINE
Milestones in the Life of Mr. Armstrong 10
'A Wonderful Discovery' 12
40—A Sign From God 14
Sending Elijah Again 16

INFOGRAPHIC
Raising the Ruins for 36 Years 18
Look to the Head 20
Our Most Thrilling Victory 22
Why God Revealed Prophecy to Herbert W. Armstrong 24

INSIGHTS
Sacrifice, traps and assumptions 28
Charting Sacred Seas 30

BIBLE LESSONS
How Joshua Gave God Victories 33

COMMENTARY
Where Is the God of Elijah? 37

January–February 2026 — Vol. 29, No. 1

Royal Vision

Connecting You to the Throne of God

EDITOR IN CHIEF GERALD FLURRY **EXECUTIVE EDITOR** STEPHEN FLURRY **MANAGING EDITOR** JOEL HILLIKER **ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR** STEVE HERCUS **CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** WIK HEERMA, JASON HENSLEY, MARK JENKINS, BRAD MACDONALD, RYAN MALONE **EDITORS** NICHOLAS IRWIN, JEREMIAH JACQUES, PHILIP NICE **PROOFREADER** AUBREY MERCADO **DESIGN** STEVE HERCUS, KASSANDRA VERBOUT, REESE ZOELLNER **ARTISTS** MELISSA BARREIRO, GARY DORNING, JULIA GODDARD **CIRCULATION** DEEPIKA AZARIAH

ROYAL VISION (ISSN10979808) IS PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD, 14400A SOUTH BRYANT ROAD, EDMOND, OK 73034. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EDMOND, OK, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

© 2025 PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

U.S. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ROYAL VISION, P.O. BOX 3700, EDMOND, OK 73083. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** ARE SENT FREE UPON REQUEST. ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD, P.O. BOX 3700, EDMOND, OK 73083 USA. **NOTICE** ROYAL VISION CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RETURN OF UNSOLICITED ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS. **BIBLE** UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED ALL SCRIPTURES ARE QUOTED FROM THE KING JAMES VERSION. **WEBSITE** PCG.CHURCH **FACEBOOK.COM**/PHILADELPHIACHURCHOFGOD **YOUTUBE.COM**/USER/@PCGCHURCH **TWITTER.COM**/PCG_NEWS

COVER: GARY DORNING/ROYAL VISION TOC: JULIA GODDARD/ROYAL VISION

PERSONAL

Gerald Flurry

A Father Figure

Reflections on my experience with Herbert W. Armstrong

In early 1961, I was 25 years old and living in St. Louis, Missouri, when God called me into His Church. At that time, I was a spiritual *mess*—a failure. My life was so off course, I'm sure I wouldn't have lasted to age 40! I really needed *somebody* to give me direction.

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

God had brought me to the point where I just wanted help. I was desperate, and maybe that was good for me. When God called me, I took advantage of His help. I was thankful He reached out to help me.

I didn't know how to rear children. My parents didn't know. My mom was too easy; my dad was too hard. So where was I to learn how to train my children? There is only one way we are going to learn how to make life work, and that is to have our heavenly Father show us.

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

I noticed how Mr. Armstrong was always there keeping the Church going, keeping the truth alive. I had proved deeply, without doubt, that he was God's man. He was the only person who gave me what it took to make my life meaningful and happy. He taught me how to love God, and I had never experienced anything like that before.

If you get the help you need from God, you will have a real impact on God's Work and Church. God makes us promises, and He will keep every single one of them. But He does require that we do our part.

Sometimes you have experiences where you know God has performed a miracle. You never want to forget those miracles! There are times when we simply must have a miracle, and we get it. We get it every single time we really need it. An event like that is stirring and moving when you look back and think about it.

For me, one of those miracles was God sending me to Ambassador College. To this day I still thank God for that. I don't thank Him enough, but I do thank Him.

This was really fulfilling to me. Here I was going out to where God's end-time Elijah was! Can you imagine how much Elisha appreciated being with the original Elijah? Scriptures show that he considered it quite an honor (e.g. 2 Kings 2).

It certainly was an honor for me to go to Ambassador College. Being able to attend classes there was one of the great blessings of my life—to

learn God's wonderful revelation and truth from men who really were teaching the right thing in those days! And I got to hear personally from Mr. Armstrong, God's Elijah.

If you truly love God's law, you will love God's government and the men who implement that law. I tried to follow the ministers' examples as best I could, and it helped me tremendously.

Every time a minister corrected me, I benefited from it. That correction helped me build more godly ambition. Isn't that just like a Father? He always wants to give to His sons and show you in every way possible how much He loves you. I marvel when I think about all the work and attention He has had to invest in my life to bring me to where I am today. And He still is very much on the job, because I depend on Him totally and solely—God help me if I fail to do that. I need God's correction, and I want it. If I don't get it, I am finished. If I don't receive God's correction, I will cause nothing but trouble for God's people.

Oh, how I love the law, Jeremiah wrote. *It makes me wiser than all my teachers!* (Psalm 119:97, 99). That has certainly been true in my life and the life of many others. The men who instructed me at college taught me so much of God's truth—what happened to them? Ninety-nine percent of God's ministers have fallen away! As Jeremiah said, if you stick with God, you will know more than your teachers.

After those men began to depart from the truth, I came to appreciate Mr. Armstrong's leadership even more deeply! I began to see the value of that man to God's Church. When he died, the Church was left essentially headless. It was the most terrible emotional and spiritual experience I have ever gone through.

The Laodiceans began talking about "the evils of one-man rule." Those words are straight from the mind of the devil! What about the *blessings* of one-man rule when that man follows God? I don't care what any carnal-minded rebel says—I know that Mr. Armstrong's rule was wonderful. It almost drove me crazy after he died, when we no longer had that wonderful gift. I have to say my experience with one-man rule was absolutely splendid! I exalt the office, not the man. Mr. Armstrong was a wonderful blessing all my adult life. I know; I experienced it.

Herbert W. Armstrong was a wonderful father figure to me, like the Apostle Paul was in his day (1 Corinthians 4:15). Mr. Armstrong turned my heart to God the Father (Malachi 4:5-6). Study his life, follow his example, and he will do the same for you.

GARY DORNING/ROYAL VISION

The prophecies God fulfilled through this man show His unparalleled vision and wisdom, and Mr. Armstrong's wholehearted submission.

By Joel Hilliker

"Mr. Armstrong's life is one of the highlights in the history of man," Gerald Flurry writes in *The New Throne of David.* That is a bold statement! Human history has a lot of highlights. Why would Mr. Armstrong's life be one?

Because of what it points to: Mr. Armstrong's life was direct preparation by God for the greatest event in the history of the universe—the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

God recorded several detailed prophecies about an individual role that He would use to prepare for that event. The fact that God recorded so much detail in advance shows how important this job really was.

Yet God never *forced* Mr. Armstrong to carry out these responsibilities. This man had his own will, which he had to voluntarily, repeatedly, wholeheartedly submit to his Maker. And for more than 50 years, that is what he did!

This was a remarkable partnership between a mortal man and the great God. It's one that we should not only marvel at but also emulate.

God's Partnership With His End-Time Elijah

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S COMING

Christ's first coming was one of the epochal events in history. God prepared the way for that coming as well.

Mark 1:1 speaks of "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ," then immediately quotes the prophecy of Malachi 3:1: "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall *prepare thy way before thee.*" Then comes the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, *Prepare ye the way of the* LORD ...." God emphasized that He would send a messenger to *prepare* people and announce His Son's coming.

For Christ's first coming, John the Baptist fulfilled that prophecy (Mark 1:4). He preached repentance, the need for people to turn from their sins. He was a mighty messenger, readying people for Christ's arrival (verses 7-8).

However, Malachi 3 and Isaiah 40 are both clearly *end-time* prophecies. One says the day of Christ's coming will be like a blazing refiner's fire. The other says every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill shall be made low, GOD'S GLORY shall be revealed, and ALL FLESH shall see it together! It prophesies of a voice saying, "Behold your God!" and says that God "will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule." These foretell Christ's coming in power and glory, which happens not at His first coming but at His *return!*

Yes, as Jesus Himself directly revealed in Matthew 17, John the Baptist prepared for the first coming, but there would also be a messenger, and a voice crying in the wilderness, before His Second Coming.

When the archangel Gabriel spoke with John the Baptist's father, Zechariah, he said that John "shall be great in the sight of the Lord .... And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God" (Luke 1:15-16). John truly was a powerful servant of God.

"And he [John] shall go before him [Christ] *in the spirit and power of Elias* ..." (verse 17). *Elijah* in Hebrew (*Elias* in Greek) means "my God is God." The original Elijah represented the true God in a nation full of false gods. He was a prophet who called Israel to repentance, and John did the same. Elijah rebuked the corrupt leaders of his day, as John did. John came in the spirit of Elijah's boldness and authority.

You could also say all these things about the messenger in the end time. Herbert W. Armstrong came in the spirit and power of Elijah. He called for repentance. He rebuked sin. He spoke with boldness and authority. This is what Christ expected in the herald who prepared for His coming.

A PEOPLE PREPARED

Gabriel's prophecy continued: "... to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17).

Those first words recall the prophecy of Malachi 4:6, also to be fulfilled nearly 2,000 years *after* John—"before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD" (verse 5). "John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, but he never turned the hearts of the fathers to the children," Gerald Flurry writes in *Malachi's Message*. "Those people following John did not yet have God's Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, this would have been spiritually impossible. It says 'he' (end-time John) would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and prepare the way for Christ's Second Coming."

John made ready a people prepared for the Lord's first coming. For about 400 years between the Prophet Malachi and John the Baptist, there had been *no prophetic voice* in Israel. The nation's religion was sick. Then John came with fiery preaching and trumpeted, "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand"! It was a jolt. It shocked people out of their spiritual lethargy. It was crucial for them to be able to recognize the significance of Christ's coming.

Yet all that was merely a *type* of the preparations God would make before Christ's Second Coming. In this modern day, God truly needs "a people prepared for the Lord." *We* are the generation that will announce His return: "Behold your God!" *We* will be working with the first generation of

mortals in the Millennium, when Christ rules Earth. Those people will be refugees of the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord; they will have experienced the modern world, with all its technology and luxury as well as its cataclysmic destruction. God needs a people PREPARED for that massive job: to be spirit beings at the start of the Millennium!

Most of those who arise in the first resurrection will be from the Philadelphia and Laodicean Church eras, having lived in modern times. Among the saints through the ages will be the sealed saints from the sixth era, as well as the 144,000 repentant Laodiceans and the entire faithful Philadelphia remnant.

And a large majority of those God beings will be there because of the work of Herbert W. Armstrong. That end-time Elijah really did "make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

To qualify in this Laodicean era, you also need the revelation God has given through Gerald Flurry. But as we will see, Mr. Armstrong *restored all things*—all foundational truth, including the gospel, the advance good news of the coming Kingdom of God. He truly prepared the way. Mr. Flurry learned all that truth from him. Mr. Armstrong was a spiritual *father* to Mr. Flurry. There is no Philadelphia remnant without a Philadelphia era.

CONFIDENCE IN HIS MESSENGER

Consider that first prophecy Mark pointed to: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me ..." (Malachi 3:1). The context shows this refers to the Second Coming: "But who will be able to endure it when

Why God Praised Levi

GOD THOUGHT HIGHLY OF HERbert W. Armstrong. The tremendous spiritual fruits in Mr. Armstrong's life prove it. An extraordinary prophecy shows us exactly what impressed God about the life of this end-time apostle.

In Malachi 2:4-6, Mr. Armstrong is compared to Levi, the father of the Levites, which equates to the ministers. "My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity [lawlessness] was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity [lawfulness], and did turn many away from [lawlessness]." How awesome to receive such commendation from God! This was recorded 2,500 years before God called Mr. Armstrong, yet it perfectly describes him.

Here God praises five specific qualities—a list we can learn from and emulate.

1) "The fear wherewith he feared me."

Mentioned *three times* in this verse in connection with Mr. Armstrong, godly fear is surely the most important quality God was looking for in His end-time Elijah. "We must learn to fear God as Levi did," Mr. Flurry writes. "Study this man's life. God sent him as an example because He knows we learn best by example. Mr. Armstrong was a great example of a man who feared God" (*The God Family Vision*).

Godly fear is supremely important in all of us. It is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10). It means truly living in *reverence* and *respect* for God, for His power and nature, recognizing our obligations to Him in light of all He has done for us. This is exactly what those who turn away from God *lack* (Malachi 1:6). A lack of godly fear creates many problems in our lives: We lose perspective; we exalt the self; we abuse others (e.g. Matthew 24:48-49). Having godly fear means always standing and living under the shadow of God, aware of His presence, respectful of our insignificance by comparison, and eager to please Him.

"Do you fear God as Levi did?" Mr. Flurry writes. "Do you fear when your marriage might be failing? Do you fear when your children are not doing what they should? Do you fear whether you are lukewarm toward God's Work? ... Do you fear division in the Church? Most of God's people in this end time don't fear God. Levi did.

"Do you fear competing with God's government? Can you get on your knees and just say, *God, I know that there are some areas here where I hate your government, and I don't want to change my marriage*—or, *I don't want to work with my children the way I should. God, please help me to fear you the way Levi did!"* (ibid). That is wonderful advice.

2) "The law of truth was in his mouth."

Mr. Armstrong studied the law of truth. He was, like Ezra, "a ready scribe in the law" (Ezra 7:6) right from the beginning, with his six-month, night-and-day study. He *studied* the law of truth, *remembered* it, *obeyed* it, *held it fast,* and *spoke* on it. God was able to write that law of truth in his mind and heart, so it could then be in his mouth. He shared it with millions of people around the world.

he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes" (verse 2; New Living Translation). This "messenger" has a message about Christ returning in power and glory.

Proclaiming these momentous prophecies is a crucial responsibility. God knew it would take considerable dedication and character to fulfill it. He stated these prophecies in detail and in confidence, and He needed *confidence* that the man He chose to do the job would carry it out.

"God makes a blanket statement here: '[H]e shall prepare the way before me.' Period! No caveats or qualifications," Mr. Flurry writes. "What an endorsement of this man! God made a COVENANT with Mr. Armstrong, and He *knew* that Mr. Armstrong would do the job. Did he ever! What a messenger!" (op cit).

What must a man do for God to have such confidence in him? How can *we* inspire that kind of certainty in God?

God recorded this prophecy about 2½ millenniums before Herbert Armstrong was born. How is that possible? Mr. Armstrong had free will. He could have refused God's call or gone astray. Perhaps God considered other individuals to fulfill this role, and they just couldn't or didn't fulfill it. *Mr. Armstrong did.*

The life of the end-time Elijah illuminates a beautiful partnership between God and a man. God didn't force him. Mr. Armstrong had to yield himself.

In the *Good News* of August 1979, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "In all this world's history God has never started an important

That is a wonderful example. Is the law of truth in our mouth? What comes out of our mouth? We really need to study the truth God revealed through that man—and know it well enough that we can *speak it*—so God can rely on us to give people right answers on questions about the law of truth.

3) "Lawlessness was not found in his lips."

Right to the end of his life, Mr. Armstrong never advocated compromise with God's law. He worked tirelessly to keep the standard in the Church at *God's* standard. He worked to keep himself and the Church unspotted from the world, sanctified, separate and holy. That is what God needed for this man to fulfill this role of preparing the way before Christ—and making ready a people prepared for the Lord. What comes out of our lips? God doesn't want a false word coming from any of us.

4) "He walked with me in peace and lawfulness."

Mr. Armstrong *walked with God*, like Enoch, Noah and Abraham (Genesis 5:24; 6:9; 17:1). This is a beautiful description of their relationship—the same relationship God wants to build with all of us. Mr. Armstrong looked to see where God was walking, and he *walked with Him,* joining himself with God in *peace* and *law-keeping.* This is how Jesus Christ structured His life in the flesh: He watched His Father and copied Him exactly (John 5:19). That is how we get close to God: We follow Him and align ourselves with Him.

Mr. Armstrong described his daily prayer and study as a "fellowship and friendship" with Christ and the Father. "When I read and studied the Bible, God was talking to me, and now I loved to listen! [I]n prayer I was talking with God," he wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. "[O]ne gets to be better acquainted with another by constant contact and continuous conversation." That is walking with God! His whole work started with his prayers at his prayer rock, getting on his knees, bowing before God, and pleading for help.

5) "And did turn many away from lawlessness."

Mr. Armstrong's relationship with God was not selfish. He was inspired to share the blessings of godly fellowship and obedience with others, to help them turn from wickedness and come into God's presence. And God really empowered him. Visible spiritual fruits emerged from that effort: *Many* people turned from lawlessness! The work Mr. Armstrong did in this regard increased the brightness of his future glory (Daniel 12:3). Think of all the people who will arise in the first resurrection because of what that man did! He really will be shining brightly.

This is also a great example. As we work with our children, we need to actively turn them from lawlessness. In our families, our friendships and our relationships with other Church members, we can exert strong influences in helping people stay on the right track. We need to support this Work that is turning people from lawlessness, and we need to set an example that has a positive impact on the people around us.

Malachi 2:7 concludes, "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his [Levi's] mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts." This is directed specifically to ministers who have turned away from God, but we can all heed the advice: Seek the law at Mr. Armstrong's mouth. That man was the messenger of the powerful God of armies! We should all be seeking the law at his mouth. Get grounded in his teachings. That is a crucial command from God for us to survive spiritually in this Laodicean era. That is why the PCG fought for all his major writings and why we publish them today.

"What a blessing the end-time Levi, our spiritual father, was to us!" Mr. Flurry writes (op cit). "If you honor that office, the father Levi office, you also honor God the Father! The number one way God has arranged for us to honor God the Father is to honor our father Levi's family message."

Joel Hilliker

Work or special activity through a chosen human, and then, after that special accomplishment is well advanced, allowed His chosen human leader to be overthrown by Satan—or in any way to turn false!" He then spoke of Moses, Joshua, Paul and Peter, and also referred to himself. Those examples tell you a lot about God. Throughout human history, He has accomplished many critical jobs through fallible human beings and with astounding success.

Mr. Armstrong concluded, "God never yet has let one through whom He started a great project turn wrong—and He has never yet let such an appointed leader of His die until his job was finished!"

Quoting this in *Who Is 'That Prophet'?*, Mr. Flurry writes, "How inspiring it is to think about that! God will carry on with His Work and will really do everything He can to help that leader. His success has been 100 percent throughout the ages."

God gets most of the credit, but He must be *very selective,* choosing a man who will work with Him. Jude 1 speaks of all God's saints being sanctified by the Father and preserved by Christ before we are called. Surely that vetting process is even more intensive for a momentous role like the end-time Elijah!

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote this about Abraham, the man through whom He would start His chosen nation: "God was calling him because he had seen in this man the potentialities of obedience to God and of leadership." Not only did God see such potential, He was deeply involved in that man's life, helping and guiding him, shaping the father of physical and spiritual Israel.

Now consider Mr. Armstrong's life and think on how many details and events God orchestrated to guide, shape and perfect that man. We have his 900-page *Autobiography* that gives us all the details! It shows how God shaped his formative years before He even called him, how He provided extensive experience in publishing and mass communications, blessed him by allowing him to build career success, then built his character by tearing down that career. God brought specific people into his life to plant seeds of the truth, then carefully measured his response. He brought many tests, including 28 years of poverty, pressures and even crushing trials in doing God's Work, losing his firstborn son, and then his wife.

God's hand was heavy on Mr. Armstrong, teaching him, correcting him, keeping him on track. And Mr. Armstrong subjected himself to that. He allowed God to shape and direct his life. This is a lesson, recorded in detail, that we can all learn from!

God's hand was heavy on Mr. Armstrong, teaching him, correcting him, keeping him on track. And Mr. Armstrong subjected himself to that. He allowed God to shape and direct his life.

THE ELIJAH WORK

One of the main prophecies about the end-time Elijah is Malachi 4:5-6: "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."

The end-time focus of this passage is plain: It occurs right before Christ's Second Coming. In fact, Mr. Flurry has explained how the entire book of Malachi unfolds during the Laodicean rebellion. This "I will send" and the "I will send my messenger" of Malachi 3:1 are a promise that God would send that message again *during the Laodicean era.*

"God is telling us in strong language that we must declare what Mr. Armstrong taught; he was God's messenger. And we live in a time when the very prophecies he taught are now coming to pass in an amazing fashion," Mr. Flurry writes. "There is somewhat of a gap, however, between the end-time Elijah and the Day of the Lord. It originally seemed that the Day of the Lord would come immediately after Elijah came. Some say that Mr. Armstrong's death proves he was not the Elijah. But look at it spiritually: *Elijah is still here!* Because the group that held fast is bringing Elijah's message back! That work will continue right into the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord" (*The God Family Vision*).

Malachi 4:6 is the most profound description of that Elijah work. In continuing the Elijah work (article, page 16), the PCG comes back to this continually. This is about physical families and relationships between physical fathers and their children—and about the spiritual Family and all of us relating to our spiritual Father. It describes the God Family vision that God revealed through Mr. Armstrong—and the terrible consequences of losing that vision.

God must have a people PREPARED to teach this family vision and way of life to the world! This is at the heart of what Mr. Armstrong taught and of the Elijah work we carry on today.

'RESTORE ALL THINGS'

During His first coming, Jesus Christ pointed His disciples to this very prophecy. He brought three of them up a high mountain and was transfigured before them in a vision of His Second Coming. This got them thinking about Christ coming in glory, and about Malachi's prophecy. As they descended the mountain, the disciples asked, "Why then say the scribes that [Elijah] must first come?" (Matthew 17:10). *Explain the meaning of Malachi's prophecy,* they said. *Tell us about this man who would prepare the way before the Day of the Lord and the coming of the Savior.*

Christ confirmed that a man like Elijah would definitely come to prepare the way before Christ's glorious return, then added this prophecy: This man would "restore all things" (verse 11).

In a sermon on Dec. 17, 1983, Mr. Armstrong described how John the Baptist fulfilled much of this as a forerunner of an end-time fulfillment. He then said, "Now John the Baptist

didn't restore anything. They already knew about the law, and he called them to repentance; but he didn't have to give them sermons about what all the law is. They knew that. He just called them to repent and turn to another way, and baptized them."

As Jesus Christ specifically said in Matthew 17, this "restoration" is unique to this end-time Elijah. "This is a sign to the world that Jesus Christ's return is imminent. When 'all things' are restored, that is the beginning of the end!" Mr. Flurry writes in *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope.* This is an extraordinary prophecy of what God planned to do with that end-time Elijah!

When Christ returns, He will "restore all things"—including His truth, law and government—to all peoples and nations (Acts 3:19-21). Mr. Armstrong restored all things *to the Church*—a crucial part of ensuring there would be a people prepared for the Lord. Over the eras between Jesus Christ's resurrection and the modern age, the truth was largely lost, particularly during the fifth era of the Church, which died spiritually (Revelation 3:1). God planned to *restore* all that truth through this end-time Elijah!

It's true that God is the one who restored that truth, but that is not how Christ expressed it: "Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Here, as in other prophecies about the Elijah, God highlights the role *Mr. Armstrong played* in restoring the truth to the Church.

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping greets Mr. Armstrong.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit takes Mr. Armstrong on a tour among the hill tribes of northern Thailand.

Mr. Armstrong climbs aboard the Grumman Gulfstream on one of his visits to world leaders.

Mr. Armstrong addresses more than 4,500 people in the Philippines.

How did God actually do this? He didn't just hand him all the foundational truth: He made Mr. Armstrong *work*—for decades! Again, it was a *partnership.* Mr. Armstrong had to submit to God and work extremely hard. He began with six months of intensive study, and that study continued throughout his life. In his 90s, just before he died, he was still learning!

Mr. Armstrong wrote *Mystery of the Ages,* his great summation of the truths God had restored through him, when he was 92. And that project began because he had gained a deeper understanding of how God cut mankind off from the tree of life. That book includes many details you don't find anywhere else in his many books, articles, letters and broadcasts. Study *Mystery of the Ages* carefully, and you will see clearly that God inspired that book! A blind 92-year-old man who couldn't even look up scriptures anymore didn't do that. It truly is a masterful work because it was inspired by God and put to paper by a feeble old man who *pushed himself* to yield to God and to serve God!

GOSPEL IN ALL THE WORLD

Another end-time prophecy further shows the momentous job God had for Mr. Armstrong. While describing conditions signaling the end of the world, Christ said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). This stunning prophecy shows that the gospel was not broadly preached for 1,900 years after Christ spoke these words! All the "Christian" evangelizing and proselytizing for all those centuries was not preaching "the gospel of the kingdom" that Christ preached. This prophecy wasn't fulfilled until God revealed the full truth about the true gospel so it could be preached in this end time—by Mr. Armstrong.

Though he was born in 1892, he, unlike many young people his age, was exposed to mass media his whole life. When he was 8 years old, he got a job selling the *Saturday Evening Post* magazine each week. As a youth, he spent hours in the city library reading biographies and books on philosophy and business administration. At age 18, a self-analysis showed he was suited for a profession in journalism or advertising. He subscribed to two leading trade journals, *Printers Ink* and *Advertising and Selling.* He got a job with the Des Moines *Daily Capital* writing want-ads. He later moved into making display ads and was tasked with designing and laying out the *Merchants Trade Journal.* He learned about magazine production and printing presses. He became the "idea man" for this paper and undertook a public opinion poll—now a regular feature in mass media—for the town of Richmond, Kentucky. His report was so sensational, it became his first published magazine article. And on it goes.

It was as early as 1933 when God opened the door for Mr. Armstrong to give his first radio broadcast, speaking to a few hundred people in the Eugene, Oregon, area. A few months later, he began the *Plain Truth* magazine with 250 mimeographed copies. He forayed into television broadcasting as early as 1955. Mr. Armstrong truly was a pioneer in mass media, publishing and broadcasting.

Then God opened giant doors for him to reach all nations with the true gospel. Through the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, Mr. Armstrong supported cultural, charitable and humanitarian projects in the Bahamas, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, England, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait,

Lebanon, Monaco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Guinea, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania and Thailand.

Mr. Armstrong personally met over 500 heads of state: prime ministers, presidents, kings and queens, emperors, princes and princesses, as well as legislators, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, first ladies, governors, mayors, generals, judges, chief executives, college presidents, musicians, artists, athletes, Nobel Prize winners and other leaders of government, industry and culture, as well as many everyday people and many who were in poverty. He obtained personal audiences with those world leaders in their government offices and in their homes, some of them repeatedly, sometimes covered by national news media.

When someone is willing to become pliable clay in hands of the Master Potter, God can shape that person into a spiritual giant.

These leaders referred to Mr. Armstrong as an "ambassador without portfolio" and "an unofficial ambassador for world peace." Six months before his death, at the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Convention of the 1945 signing of the United Nations Charter, Mr. Armstrong was honored with a standing ovation from the ambassadors of 101 countries as the individual who had met with more world leaders than any other man alive.

This history and these prophecies show how important it was to God to preach the true gospel "in all the world for a witness unto all nations."

ZERUBBABEL THE BUILDER

Another prophetic role Mr. Armstrong fulfilled was that of an end-time Zerubbabel. The original Zerubbabel was a descendant of King David, the grandson of King Jehoiachin, who had been exiled to Babylon. He led the Jews' return to Jerusalem, rebuilt the altar, restored sacrifices, and laid the foundation of the second temple. This impressive man persevered in this work against serious opposition.

"[P]rophetically, this Zerubbabel was the type of one to come in the last days of this world," Mr. Armstrong wrote, "whom Christ would use in building the temple to which the glorified all-powerful Christ shall come at His second appearing" (*Good News,* Nov. 20, 1978).

"... This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). That was how Mr. Armstrong built. He was an expert at building with the Spirit of God. Look at what he accomplished, even into his 90s. That leadership, revelation and building was not done by physical might or power!

Zerubbabel the Signet

"IN THAT DAY, SAITH THE LORD OF hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a *signet:* for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:23). This book has a prophetic, end-time setting. The expression "in that day" means we must look for a man IN OUR TIME—a type of Zerubbabel—to be established as God's signet.

This verse tells us that Haggai holds vital understanding about God's Work in this end time. In fact, once fully understood in all of its significance, this verse is proof of where God's Work is today!

Who is this end-time Zerubbabel? The fruits of Herbert W. Armstrong's life prove it was him. He realized this himself toward the end of his life, and he preached and wrote about it. Yet most of God's people disagree with that truth today.

Why does God say He made this end-time Zerubbabel a signet? *Unger's Bible Dictionary* defines *signet* as an "impression made therewith had the same LEGAL VALIDITY as an actual signature" (emphasis mine). The law is what makes a signature valid. People must submit to that law or everything breaks down. So the LAW AND GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THROUGH A TYPE OF ZERUBBABEL IS LIKE GOD'S OWN SIGNATURE TODAY!

The whole idea of the signet is about God and His government. God reveals the signet's meaning ONLY to those who submit to His government. The *signet* is an emblem, or seal, of AUTHORITY—*God's authority.* Zerubbabel is the signet, but he is *God's* signet. We use that signet, or seal, to establish what God taught through Mr. Armstrong. THE ONLY REASON YOU NEED THE SIGNET IS IF THE PERSON IN AUTHORITY IS NOT THERE. The seal represents God's authority or government. Christ is the Head of God's true Church. Those people who have the signet have Jesus Christ as the Head of their Church.

Mr. Armstrong died 40 years ago. God's Work today has the same government and foundational doctrines that God established through him. Verses 11-14 indicate that the majority of God's OWN MINISTRY has a problem with that LAW or GOVERNMENT! Malachi 2:8 tells us that they stumble at the law. That is why they fail to offer a clean offering to God. They are part of what the Bible calls the Laodicean, or lukewarm, era (Revelation 3:14-22).

Haggai 2:23 is one of the most revealing verses in the entire Bible. The Work of God today revolves around an end-time Zerubbabel—a man. If you understand the Zerubbabel *type* and his work, you will know what God is doing today! That is how important verse 23 is. Christ prophesied that we should look for and follow the teachings of a specific man who *restored all things* (Matthew 17:10-11). Spiritually, that is a massive work. Anybody should be able to see it. God

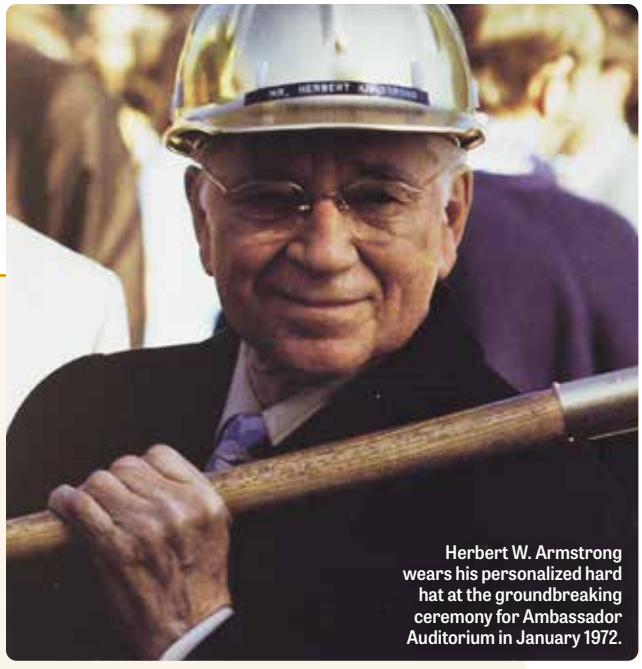
"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it …" (verse 9). In *Zechariah—The Sign of Christ's Imminent Return*, Mr. Flurry explains how "house" here refers to the Church's sixth era. "Mr. Armstrong not only laid the foundation, as we often say today—he built the whole house," he writes. "When he died, the Philadelphia era was completed."

What an accomplishment! Truly, Mr. Armstrong's life is one of the highlights in the history of man! Remember this wonderful man and what he accomplished with submission to God and with the power of God.

Then act on it.

YIELD TO THE MASTER POTTER

Mr. Armstrong responded to God's direction in his life. It wasn't easy; he faced repeated trials and tests. But through that one human life, God was certainly able to fulfill the prophesied role of an Elijah, a Levi, a Hilkiah and a Zerubbabel. God obviously gives Mr. Armstrong tremendous honor. But we must not forget the challenges this man had to endure.



Herbert W. Armstrong wears his personalized hard hat at the groundbreaking ceremony for Ambassador Auditorium in January 1972.

Mr. Armstrong wrote this about his initial repentance: "… I told God that I was now ready to give my self and my life over to Him. It was worthless, now, to me. If He could use it, I told Him He could have it! I didn't think, then, it was usable—even in God's hands!

"But let me say to the reader, if God could take that completely defeated, worthless, self-confessed failure to which I had been reduced, and use that life to develop and build what He has done, He can take your life, too, and use it in a manner you simply cannot now dream—if you will turn it over to Him without reservation and leave it in His hands!" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*).

That is a towering lesson. Will we subject ourselves to God's perfecting process in our lives, even when that means heavy trials, to attain the spiritual heights God wants for us?

God knows what He is doing. He knows what it takes to help us succeed, but we must submit ourselves to Him as Mr. Armstrong did. He is the almighty Architect and Artist, and creating His holy, righteous character in human beings is the *pinnacle* of His creative accomplishment! He is the Author and Finisher of the faith of Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, John and so many more. This requires enormous power and effort on His part, and it requires sacrifice, trial and struggle on our part.

Think of Moses, who would lead Israel from slavery, record the law, build the tabernacle, write the first five books of the Bible, and lead the nation to the Promised Land. That was a monumental job, but God was with him from birth. He saved Moses from death, made him a prince of Egypt for 40 years, drove him into the wilderness to be a shepherd for 40 years—all before calling him. By the time God gave him that responsibility, Moses had become the meekest man on Earth! (Numbers 12:3).

When someone is willing to become pliable clay in the hands of the Master Potter, God can shape that person into a spiritual giant. He can create a prophet, an apostle, a king, a king-priest.

The prophecies we have studied show that God knew in detail what He wanted to accomplish with a man in the end time in preparation for His Son to come—and He did it. God was able to fulfill exactly what He intended to do, with confidence. That is because Mr. Armstrong submitted himself to God so completely and beautifully. What a beautiful partnership God had with His end-time Elijah!

What does God want to accomplish in *your* life? You can be sure it is awesome. Don't fight God. Don't be willful. Don't get distracted. When you fail God, get back up and fight to become submissive and obedient again. Seek His will and submit to it the way Mr. Armstrong did. He can take your life, too, and use it in a manner you simply cannot now dream.

leaves us without excuse. God's *signature* is on all things restored, because He did that work through Mr. Armstrong.

It is important to understand Haggai 2:23 about this signet, because it is foundational revelation for this end time. GOD CHOSE A MAN TO BE AN AUTHORITY TODAY THROUGH HIS TEACHINGS. GOD COULD ONLY USE A MAN AS HIS *SIGNET* IF HE HAD A POWERFUL WORK PRECEDING HIS DEATH. We can take all of the truth that he taught and use it with the stamp of God's *authority* today.

Gerald Flurry

Milestones in the Life of Mr. Armstrong

• July 31, 1892

Herbert W. Armstrong is born in Des Moines, Iowa, the eldest son of Horace and Eva Armstrong.

• Jan. 7, 1934

The *World Tomorrow* radio program goes on the air.

• February 1934

The first *Plain Truth* is published.

• Oct. 8, 1947

Ambassador College in Pasadena begins with eight faculty members and four students.

• Jan. 7, 1953

The World Tomorrow program, broadcast from Radio Luxembourg, reaches Europe.

• July 1955

The World Tomorrow appears on television.

• 1969

Mr. Armstrong receives Franz Josef Strauss at his home and gives the European leader a tour of Ambassador College in Pasadena.

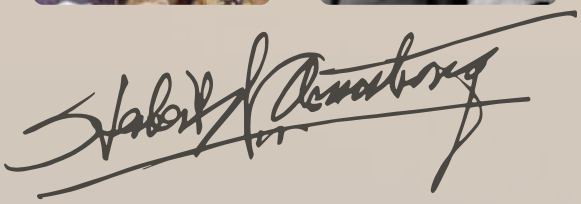
BUNDESWEHR-FOTOS WIR.DIENEN.DEUTSCHLAND.

• Dec. 1, 1968

Partnership between Herbert W. Armstrong and Prof. Benjamin Mazar to begin the Temple Mount Excavations was formalized at the presidential palace in Jerusalem.

• 1968

Mr. Armstrong meets Belgium's King Leopold III, who helps to arrange many of Mr. Armstrong's meetings with heads of state.



• June 7, 1967

The World Tomorrow is first aired from Jerusalem.

• April 15, 1967

Mrs. Armstrong dies three months before she and Mr. Armstrong would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

• Sept. 16, 1985

Mr. Armstrong gives the sermon during the afternoon service on the Feast of Trumpets in Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena. It is his last public address.

• Jan. 10, 1986

Mr. Armstrong appoints Joseph W. Tkach as deputy pastor general.

• Jan. 16, 1986

Mr. Armstrong, age 93, dies at 5:59 a.m. at his home in Pasadena while resting in the favorite armchair of his late wife, Loma.

• Jan. 19, 1986

Mr. Armstrong is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California, next to his wife, Loma, his son Richard and his mother, Eva.

• Jan. 26, 1986

A memorial tribute to Mr. Armstrong, broadcast on the *World Tomorrow* program, draws more than 100,000 requests for *Mystery of the Ages.*

Summer 1908

An employer's encouragement stirs ambition and the will to succeed in 16-year-old Herbert.

July 31, 1917

Mr. Armstrong and Loma Dillon are married in Chicago, Illinois.

Fall 1920

A flash depression wipes out Mr. Armstrong's advertising business.

Fall 1926

Mr. Armstrong is challenged into a diligent study of the Bible.

Oct. 9, 1933

Mr. Armstrong preaches on KORE, a 100-watt radio station in Eugene.

July 1933

Mr. Armstrong gives a series of lectures in Eugene, Oregon, that lead to the formation of God's worldwide Work.

June 1931

Mr. Armstrong is ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ on Pentecost.

May or June 1927

Mr. Armstrong is baptized and continues with years of intensive study and training.

Jan. 14, 1972

Mr. Armstrong breaks ground to begin construction on Ambassador Auditorium.

March 18, 1975

Mr. Armstrong starts the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation to conduct cultural, humanitarian, charitable and educational activities of the Church.

August 1977

After a grueling overseas trip and an extended period of writing, Mr. Armstrong suffers congestive heart failure at his home in Tucson, Arizona. God intervenes to bring him back from death.

Jan. 3, 1979

Representatives of the attorney general of California attempt to take control of the Worldwide Church of God.

Jan. 22 to 24, 1979

Nearly 5,000 Southern California church members pack the Hall of Administration and college grounds to prevent a court-appointed receiver from entering Church facilities.

Dec. 17, 1979

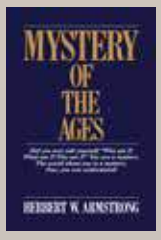
Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek arranges a special inauguration of Liberty Bell Park to honor Mr. Armstrong's role in making the facility possible.

Sept. 9, 1985

Mr. Armstrong presents *Mystery of the Ages* to the sophomore Fundamentals of Theology class.

July 29, 1985

Mr. Armstrong's last book, *Mystery of the Ages,* goes to press.



July 1983

Otto von Habsburg visits Mr. Armstrong at the headquarters campus in Pasadena.

OSERLAJOS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Oct. 14, 1980

Attorney General George Deukmejian announces the dismissal of California's suit against the Church.

BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Steve Hercus

'A Wonderful Discovery'

A lasting lesson from Loma's first exposure to the truth

Loma Dillon made an emphatic impact on the mind of Herbert W. Armstrong when he first met her. He quickly discerned her sound-minded good sense, high ideals and superior intellect. He treasured their scintillating conversation. With Loma, the innocent country girl lacking citified sophistication, he could discuss serious and deep things intelligently. Along with her alert and active mind, she was energetic, outgoing and wholesome. And the quality he regarded as most important of all was her strength of character.

Such an assessment from an unconverted mind is uncommonly mature. Their seven-month courtship is delightful and significant history in the context of God's Church.

"If it be true, as it definitely appears now in retrospect," Mr. Armstrong wrote, "that the Eternal God knew He would call me to the important activity now in progress with progressively increasing power of impact, and that this early training of formative years had some measure of unseen and unrealized divine guidance, then it is true, also, that the selection of my wife and life partner was providential.

"It was through her, years later, that circumstances impelled my conversion and induction into the great commission. This commission, from its beginning, had been a *team* activity commission in which Mrs. Armstrong shared equally—even though it may not have been evident to many" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*).

Mr. Armstrong publicly recognized the roles both God and his wife had in his conversion. "God started His Work for this time through my wife. He used her to bring me to Him," he wrote in a co-worker letter (Feb. 27, 1967).

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were a highly compatible couple, but their personal reactions to their first encounter with God's truth expose a drastic disparity between them. It's an important story. Loma's example demonstrates a crucial attitude God wants us to maintain toward His truth: "[T]o this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

EXPOSURE

Early in their marriage, the Armstrongs' religious experiences were patchy. Loma had a particular interest in Bible study and had been an active Methodist, but after marriage she lacked the opportunity to participate in religious fellowship. While living in Chicago, the two had attended a local church, but that experience was more social than spiritual.

The fall of 1926 was a turning point. Having moved to Oregon, Mrs. Armstrong became acquainted with Ora Runcorn, an elderly neighbor of Mr. Armstrong's parents and an avid student of the Bible.

"One day Mrs. Runcorn gave her a Bible study," Mr. Armstrong wrote. This experience reawakened her biblical interest to an unprecedented degree. "She asked my wife to turn to a certain passage and read it. Then a second, then a third, and so on for about an hour. Mrs. Runcorn made no comment—gave no explanation or argument—just asked my wife to read aloud a series of biblical passages" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*).

Notice her humble attitude in the discourse that follows.

"'Why!' exclaimed Mrs. Armstrong in amazement. 'Do all these scriptures say that I've been keeping the wrong *day* as the Sabbath all my life?'

"'Well, *do they?*' asked Mrs. Runcorn. "Don't ask *me* whether you have been wrong—you shouldn't believe what any *person* tells you, but only what God tells you through the Bible. What does He tell you, *there?* What do you see *there* with your own eyes?'

"'Why, it's as plain as anything could be!' exclaimed Mrs. Armstrong. 'Why, this is a *wonderful* discovery.'"

Jesus Christ made plain that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Mrs. Armstrong accepted the truth as it was laid before her. This attitude indicates that the Bible had real authority in her life. She was delighted not only to learn the truth but also to unlearn error. Her humble attitude made that process much easier. Accepting the truth allowed her to see the falsehoods in traditional Christianity.

Loma Armstrong wholeheartedly believed God. She had a "we ought to obey God rather than men" mindset (Acts 5:29). She was willing to submit herself to live by the clear teachings in Scripture.

Think about this experience from God's perspective. It took Him only one hour to make this connection with Mrs. Armstrong. He brought about this circumstance, and it could not have gone any better.

Mrs. Armstrong felt the same way, which is why she said, "I must rush back to tell my husband the good news. I know he'll be overjoyed!"

That was a little naive. It would take God a lot more than one hour to bring Mr. Armstrong to the same level of submission to the Bible's authority. But in a way, God was also able to use Mr. Armstrong's stubbornness to test his wife.

CONTENTION

"A minute or so later, Mrs. Armstrong came running into my parents' home, with the 'good news.'

"My jaw dropped!

"This was the *worst* news I had ever heard! My wife gone into religious fanaticism!

"'Have you gone crazy?' I asked, incredulously.

"'Of course not! I was never more sure of anything in my life,' responded my wife with enthusiasm" (ibid).

What a beautiful statement. Loma's conviction was real and sincere.

Keeping Saturday instead of Sunday was preposterous to Mr. Armstrong. And what made this situation extra perplexing to him was how he had always thought his wife had sound-mindedness, balance and depth. This sudden change in thinking undermined his perspective of her.

As readily as Mrs. Armstrong accepted the truth, God allowed that belief to be tested.

"'Loma,' I said sternly, 'this is simply too ridiculous to believe! I am certainly not going to tolerate any such religious fanaticism in our family! You'll have to give that up right here and now!'

"But she wouldn't!" (ibid).

The conversation grew more intense than any they had ever experienced with each other. Every logical argument, accusation and contention he threw at her, she rebutted with a sober and earnest reliance on the Bible! She used the same authority that she had subjected herself to earlier that day to now defend the truth. The Bible was a two-edged sword in the hands of Mrs. Armstrong (Hebrews 4:12). What a spiritual warrior!

This instance was another blow to Mr. Armstrong's vanity. Her sudden "religious fanaticism" humiliated him. He wouldn't tolerate it. *What would my friends say?* he thought. "What would former business acquaintances think? Nothing had ever hit me where it hurt so much—right smack in the heart of all my pride and vanity and conceit!" (ibid).

That is an interesting aside. How often do people walk away from the truth because they fear what their family, friends or associates might think?

This heated conversation shows us that Mrs. Armstrong could see through the hypocrisy in religion. Her husband asked her, "Loma, you can't tell me that all these churches have been wrong all these hundreds of years! Why, aren't these all CHRIST'S churches?"

She responded, "Then *why* do they all disagree on so many doctrines? Why does each one teach differently than the others?"

Back and forth they went, until Mrs. Armstrong laid down a challenge. God had Mr. Armstrong right where He wanted him. "If you can prove by the Bible that Christians are commanded to observe Sunday," she said, "then of course I'll do what I see in the Bible!"

He accepted.

"For six months I had struggled night and day, with a carnal mind, to learn the truth about one single doctrine in the Bible" he wrote. Then came a breakthrough: He came to see real authority in the Bible and the hypocrisy in religion. The rest is history.

ACCEPTANCE

What drastically contrasting initial experiences these two spiritual giants had.

Can we accept truth with a ready mind like Loma Armstrong did? (Acts 17:11). Or does God have to contend with prejudice, indifference or worldliness in you? If we are humble and teachable, God can use us powerfully for His purpose.

We are the clay in the Potter's hand. We need to be soft enough that God can shape us. Yet we also must be strong enough that if others challenge our belief, we won't crumble. Mrs. Armstrong demonstrated both attitudes beautifully.

"If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from the Lord, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, the Work of the Lord would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!" Mr. Armstrong wrote in the August 1934 *Plain Truth.* "Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom, and material needs shall be ADDED. Try it. Take God at His Word!"

She used the same authority she had subjected herself to earlier that day to now defend the truth. The Bible was a two-edged sword in her hands. What a spiritual warrior.

Loma Armstrong held fast and endured to her physical end on April 15, 1967. Mr. Armstrong continued to praise her strength. In a 1982 Feast of Tabernacles sermon, he lamented the wives of ministers who followed their husbands out of the Church. "Let me tell you, Loma D. Armstrong would never have done that," he said. "She stayed with God ...." Her legacy was and is a powerful example.

God used Mrs. Armstrong powerfully. She was a trusted and sure support for her husband. "[God] gave her to me to be my help," he wrote in that 1967 co-worker letter. "She has been my partner—the other half of this team God called and has used in building His great Work."

A SIGN FROM GOD

The Bible reveals this powerful sign for His people and for all humanity.

By Gerald Flurry

It has been 40 years since Herbert W. Armstrong died. Also, there are 40 days between December 7, the date I was fired from the Worldwide Church of God in 1989, and January 16, the date Mr. Armstrong died in 1986.

The number 40 occurs often in the Bible. Have you ever wondered why? It is significant in the lives of the biblical prophets, kings and judges. It occurs repeatedly in the lives of spiritual giants. The significance of this number helps us understand why the Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness; why Moses, Elijah and even Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days; and why this number is a sign for us today.

Study the number 40 in the Bible and you see that only God could have inspired the use of this number throughout the millenniums. This number is an important sign that brings God into events to show His presence. This should be very encouraging for us—especially when you consider that 40 is emphasized in the lives of Moses, David and the *end-time* Elijah—Herbert W. Armstrong.

MOSES

God urges us in Malachi 4:4 to remember "the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb." That is a crucial prophecy for us today. It is in the context of an end-time Elijah (verses 5-6). Moses was on Horeb, also called Sinai, for 40 days and nights fasting (Exodus 34:28). (You can also see in 1 Kings 19:8 that the Prophet Elijah traveled "forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God" without food or water. Matthew 4:2 shows that Jesus Christ also fasted 40 days and nights.) Fasting brings us close to God, and the fact that these men fasted 40 days is a miraculous sign that God was truly with them!

The account of Moses in the book of Acts really emphasizes this number in his life. "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full *forty years old,* it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel" (Acts 7:22-23). Moses spent 40 years in Egypt, then fled to the land of Midian, where he spent another 40 years. "And when *forty years were expired,* there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush" (verse 30). This is impressive: God draws our attention again to the number 40 through a "flame of fire."

At that bush, God spoke to Moses, saying "I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground" (verses 32-33). God was *personally there,* and the ground around Him became holy. This is in the context of those 40 years.

Exodus 7:7 also emphasizes 40: "And Moses was *fourscore years old,* and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh." When God called Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, he was 80 years old—two 40s.

The account in Acts 7 continues: "He [Moses] brought them [the Israelites] out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and *in the wilderness forty years"* (verse 36). Here is another 40 years—the time Israel spent wandering through the wilderness. God showed the Israelites wonders and signs of His presence. He wanted them to see that He is involved. The number 40 signals that. It is wonderful to have wonders and signs, but those only impressed the Israelites for a short time. This history is recorded especially for us in this end time! (1 Corinthians 10:11).

"Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of *forty years* in the wilderness?" (Acts 7:42). God led them for those 40 years, but they didn't want to obey Him.

What God did through Moses is most relevant for us today. Moses had much to say about law and what God wants from us; he laid the foundation of the law and the truth of the first five books of the Bible. Many today *reject* these foundational truths, claiming that the law has been done away.

Today, people don't really know who God is and where He is working. They don't know what the number 40 is all about. But we ought to know! God wants us to recognize His presence.

JUDGES

The book of Judges is part of the former prophets, which are also primarily for this end time. It gives several examples of how God punished Israel and how He delivered Israel. Again, it is linked to 40 years, showing God's presence in the punishment—and the deliverance.

Ambassador College in Pasadena, California

The original 40 acres on the Herbert W. Armstrong College campus in Edmond, Oklahoma

Judges 3:8 shows God's anger with Israel, sending them into captivity for eight years to the king of Mesopotamia. When the Israelites cried to Him, He delivered them through Othniel. The account concludes, "And *the land had rest forty years*" (verse 11). God brought safety because, at that point, they had God's presence. They were looking to God in a way that they hadn't before.

Judges 5:31 has a similar example: "So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And *the land had rest forty years.*" If you love God, you will be as the sun! God loves to see that. He wants us to SHINE like the sun! You will have abundant light and wonderful blessings.

That is a prophecy for today, the end time we now live in. God is really calling men in this end time as never before. IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO HAVE GOD IN YOUR PRESENCE AND TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN BECAUSE YOU LOVE GOD SO MUCH AND YOU OBEY HIM. HE LOVES THAT!

Judges 8:28 says that Gideon, another judge, also brought Israel 40 years of quietness, peace, joy and happiness. He obeyed God for 40 years, and God loved what he did.

A final example, from Judges 13:1: "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines *forty years.*" Again God was angry with them because of their sins, and so He cursed them for 40 years! You don't want God's presence in that way. Remember, this is all prophecy primarily for the end time.

KING DAVID

The number 40 occurs again in the book of Kings, in association with King David. "So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the days that David reigned over Israel were *forty years* ..." (1 Kings 2:10-11).

God counted those years out. He had a plan to let this man be king over Israel for 40 years. That tells you that God was with David in a powerful way—again, because he OBEYED God! He had his problems, like we all do, but he was a man after God's own heart. His 40-year rule was a sign that God was with him.

1 Kings 11:42 says that David's son, Solomon, also reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for 40 years. He did some amazing things: He built the most beautiful temple ever in the world, and there was great prosperity and happiness, as it will be worldwide in the near future. Solomon's reign was a type of the wonderful World Tomorrow—and he ruled 40 years. God was with him, guiding him—though he did at times rebel and do some terrible things.

A GODLY EDUCATION

Herbert W. Armstrong, the end-time Elijah, died 40 years ago. Today we need to ask, where is God working now? Where is God's sign today? We really need to know about these 40s to help us see what God is doing in our life.

When John Amos and I were fired from the WCG on Dec. 7, 1989, it was just 40 days before the anniversary of Mr. Armstrong's death on January 16. We found that significant, and I believe it showed God's presence was with us because we were obeying God when we got fired. In fact, that is *why* we were fired! The WCG leaders were forsaking God and what Mr. Armstrong taught them.

The number 40 is tied to God. These 40s are not the work of man but of God! It shows that God is involved here. What could be more important than that?

We started our campus in Edmond, Oklahoma, with 40 acres—just like the Pasadena campus under Mr. Armstrong. Both campuses were associated with the number 40.

Why is God so concerned about being there at the very beginning? We considered our 40 acres to be a sign of God's

presence with His people. He wants to be with us: He is our Father; Christ is His Son. It's all about Family! WE ARE BECOMING SONS! HE IS "BRINGING MANY SONS UNTO GLORY" (Hebrews 2:10). That should be our goal and passion in life!

From both these 40 acres sprang colleges to educate people in God's truth. Both places contained a wonderful vision about what God is about to do for the world. He is preparing people to see how to build a place like the World Tomorrow. As much as we can, we try to give insight into what the wonderful World Tomorrow will be like!

Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1978, "I have traveled into all parts of the world. In China and India millions are starving. The filth, squalor and wretchedness is simply indescribable. This same degenerate condition of degradation and suffering fills many parts of Central and South America, and of Egypt and others parts of Africa. Two thirds of the people on Earth live in such destitution. I thought of the joyous World Tomorrow that is coming, and immediately the question came to mind: How can abundant well-being be brought to these teeming, impoverished millions?

"And the answer was obvious. Correct the CAUSE—lack of right education" (*Plain Truth,* September 1978).

That is the problem today: a lack of right education. There is something wrong with education in this world: We simply don't bring God into it. Right education is everything. If God is in a college, it will revolve around the truth of God and the great future of Jesus Christ's Second Coming to rule this Earth under the direction of His Father!

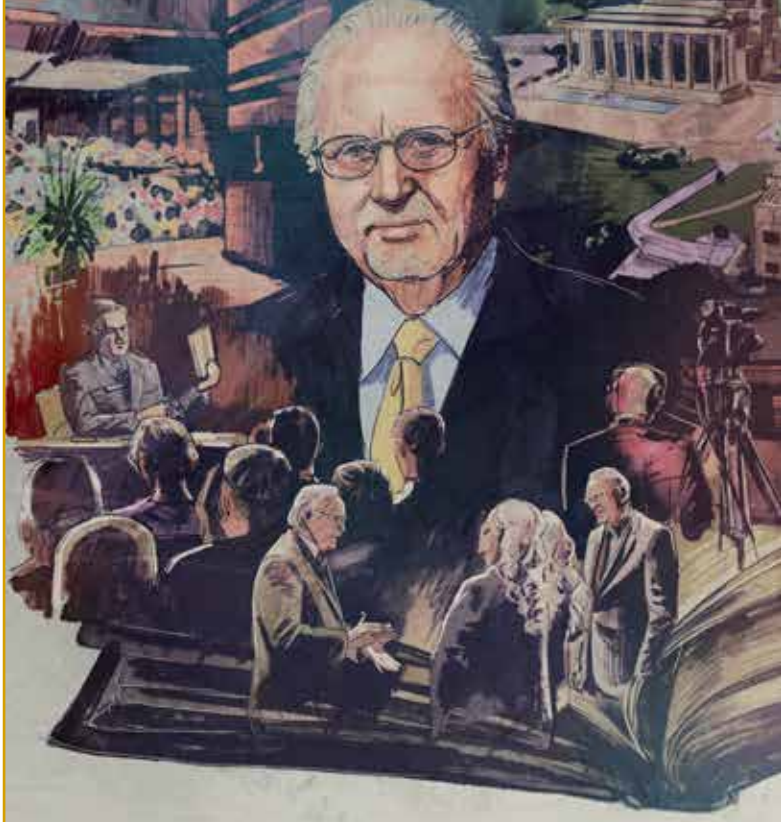
Seeing those 40s brings you into God's view, and God's education. God knows how to have peace; man does not. God's education is going to bring this world into THE GREATEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL PARADISE YOU COULD IMAGINE! The truth of God will be taught to every human being who has ever lived! As soon as Christ returns to Earth, He will begin doing that, and that is going to happen very soon!

After those 1,000 years, that education will be taken out into the whole universe to teach the truth of God about the Family of God and about many sons being brought to glory!

What a wonderful time that will be! And the education starts here on this Earth! God will give it to us if we will just obey Him and live that truth today.

Just think about all those 40s, and think about God's presence. He does sometimes curse or correct us if we get away from Him and forsake Him; He *must* do that! But God is re-creating Himself in man—that is His goal. We are going to be sons of God—not adopted sons but REAL SONS OF GOD!

What a beautiful picture this is, and how important the number 40 is!



JULIA GODDARD/ROYAL VISION

Sending Elijah Again

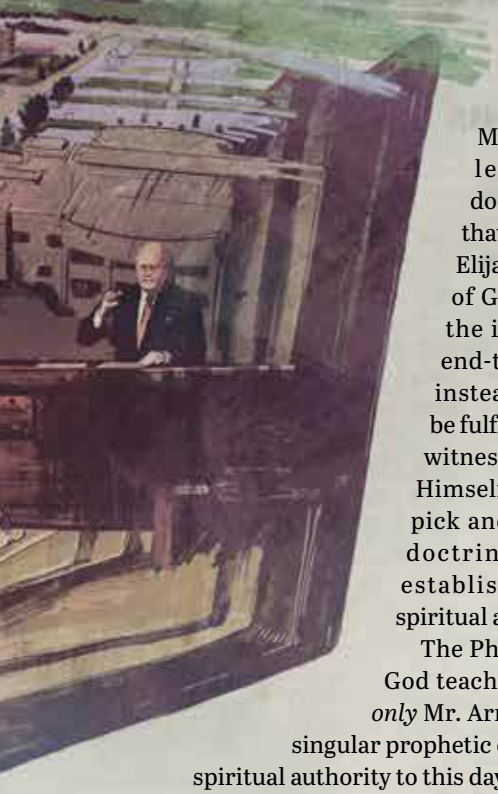
Finishing the vital work of preparing for the Second Coming

By Joel Hilliker and Philip Nice

GOD PROMISED, "BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Jesus Christ confirmed that this Elijah would prepare the way for His Second Coming. This issue of *Royal Vision* shows how this prophecy was fulfilled by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. The Day of the Lord has not yet arrived, nor has Christ returned. For this reason, *most* of the people who, to one degree or another, believe the doctrines Mr. Armstrong taught, do not believe this man could have been this "Elijah."

The main church groups that emerged from what was once the Worldwide Church of God *reject* Mr. Armstrong's teaching that he fulfilled that role. The United Church of God views him as having done an Elijah-type work but does not teach that he personally was this prophesied Elijah; it says the church collectively participates in an ongoing Elijah-like role of preparing people for Christ's return. The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, acknowledges



Mr. Armstrong's major leadership role but does not officially teach that he was the end-time Elijah. The Living Church of God explicitly rejects the idea that he was the end-time Elijah, teaching instead that this role may be fulfilled by one of the two witnesses or even by Christ Himself. Thus these groups pick and choose among the doctrines Mr. Armstrong established and reject his spiritual authority over them.

The Philadelphia Church of God teaches emphatically that *only* Mr. Armstrong fulfilled this singular prophetic office, and honors his spiritual authority to this day.

Yet the question remains: Why is there a 40-plus-year gap between his death and the Day of the Lord and return of Jesus Christ?

The answer: God is *still sending Elijah* through the remnant still carrying on Mr. Armstrong's work: the Philadelphia Church of God.

The man is gone, but the work God did through him continues.

LAODICEAN ERA

Mr. Armstrong taught that Revelation 2 and 3 are a *prophecy* of seven successive eras of God's Church. The first era, Ephesus, was started by Jesus Christ Himself. The sixth, Philadelphia, was led by Mr. Armstrong.

Read Christ's description of Laodicea, the seventh and final era before His Second Coming, in Revelation 3:14-22. This church era is spiritually lukewarm, materialistic, complacent, and, in Christ's view, "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." In the final years of his life, Mr. Armstrong repeatedly warned that the Church was in danger of descending into this wretched spiritual state.

The major groups that came from the Church of God under Mr. Armstrong all recognize the seven churches as prophetic eras and agree we are now in the Laodicean era, or at least that Laodicean conditions dominate, though many of them view this as a general warning against Laodiceanism rather than a blanket condemnation of the Church of God today.

Gerald Flurry, however, has been clear from the first book he wrote back in 1989—*Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*—that once Mr. Armstrong died, the Church entered the Laodicean era. After Mr. Armstrong's successors in the WCG subverted his teaching, Mr. Flurry and his assistant remained faithful, and they were fired for doing so on Dec. 7, 1989.

The first two chapters of *Malachi's Message* are "A Call to Remembrance," a reminder of the doctrines Mr. Armstrong taught, and "Hold Fast," an admonition to cling to them. Chapter 3, "Laodicean Era," shows how God prophesied of the Church's falling away from the truth, and Chapter 4, "Following Elijah," proves that Mr. Armstrong did, in fact, fulfill that prophetic office. The entire book exposes exactly what happened to God's Church, boldly corrects not only those who perpetrated these errors but also those who blindly followed along, and provides clear, Bible-based direction on how to repent of Laodiceanism and return to carrying on the Work of God as Mr. Armstrong had done.

Now, think deeply about how Jesus Christ's message to the Laodiceans concludes: "As many as I love, I REBUKE and CHASTEN: be zealous therefore, and REPENT. Behold, *I stand at the door, and knock:* if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:19-21).

What a loving message to a wayward people! It is rebuke springing from LOVE. It is correction from God who is *knocking on the door* and hoping to come and SUP with "any man," any individual, who hears and opens! And it is a promise of a spectacular reward, amid appalling spiritual betrayal by God's people, to those who OVERCOME.

How would Christ rebuke and knock? As He always has throughout history: He would WORK THROUGH A MAN. In this case, *one man,* supported by faithful followers, who held fast what he had been taught by God's end-time Elijah.

Malachi's Message IS that message of *rebuke!* It is a clarion call to the Laodiceans, inspired by Jesus Christ, to *repent.* Christ knocked on the Laodiceans' door THROUGH GERALD FLURRY, supported by the newly formed Philadelphia Church of God!

This provides a vital key to answering the question regarding the gap between Mr. Armstrong's death and "the great and dreadful day of the LORD" in Malachi 4:5.

MALACHI'S MESSAGE

The last chapter of Mr. Flurry's first book, "Malachi's Message," explains how God's correction for the priesthood in the prophetic book of Malachi, like the condemnation of the Laodiceans in Revelation, applies to the WCG after Mr. Armstrong's death—specifically to the *rebellious ministers* of the Laodicean era. That is the context of Malachi's entire prophecy.

This context is crucial to fully understanding the Elijah prophecy that concludes the book of Malachi, as well as other references to Mr. Armstrong earlier in that prophecy.

Malachi 3 begins with Jesus Christ speaking about the preparation for His Second Coming: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me ...." In his booklet *The God Family Vision,* Mr. Flurry writes about this verse: "There is all this chaos in God's Church; many are stumbling at the law [Malachi 2:8]—THEN God says, 'I

See SENDING ELIJAH AGAIN page 20 »

RAISING THE RUINS FOR 36 YEARS

BROADCASTING

The *Key of David* television program debuted in January 1993 with a program titled "The Elijah." The program is patterned after Herbert W. Armstrong's *The World Tomorrow* in format and in focusing on Bible prophecy and the truths of the Bible.

Now, 33 seasons later, *The Key of David* broadcasts from Armstrong Auditorium on dozens of network stations across the United States and beyond, as well as online. Mr. Flurry has presented over 1,040 unique episodes both in studio and at locations around the world, explaining the meaning behind geopolitical events while delivering the warning of Bible prophecy, and a hope-filled vision of the future.

The broadcasting department also produces *Trumpet Daily* and *Trumpet World,* and the Church's radio station, KPCG, broadcasts 13 programs. Listen at *theTrumpet.com/radio.*

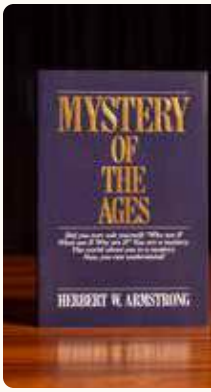
BUILDING PROGRAM

The PCG's 170-acre headquarters campus in Edmond is dedicated to presenting God's way of life in action.

Purchased as completely undeveloped pastureland in 2000, it now consists of 32 acres of landscaping, and seven buildings totaling 117,000 square feet. In late 2024, the PCG acquired an additional 159 acres of ranch land to facilitate a growing agricultural program.

The Church owns a 22-acre campus in the United Kingdom and leases office space in Australia, Canada, Israel and the Philippines. The work in Israel also expanded with the long-term lease of a building in Jerusalem to house the Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology.

PUBLISHING



In January 1990, nearly 1,000 copies of Gerald Flurry's first book, *Malachi's Message,* were mailed. Today, the Philadelphia Church of God distributes over 1 million pieces of literature worldwide every year. Translators convert the literature into 10 languages.

Mr. Flurry has authored nearly 70 books and booklets. He is editor in chief of four periodicals—the *Philadelphia Trumpet* newsmagazine, *Royal Vision, Let*

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The PCG offers abundant opportunities for the Church's youth. The K-12 local and online school Imperial Academy offers a full curriculum to dozens of students in Oklahoma, but most of its students attend online from homes across the country and several other countries. In May, IA will hold its 17th graduation.

Herbert W. Armstrong College began in 2001 with eight students and is now in its 25th year. Hundreds of students have graduated

CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Armstrong International Cultural Foundation promotes "the best of the human spirit," principally through a performing arts series in Edmond and biblical archaeology in Jerusalem.

Originally named the Philadelphia Foundation, its first project was teaching handicapped children in Amman, Jordan, continuing a project that had been started by the Ambassador

the Stones Speak (covering biblical archaeology) and *True Education* youth magazine—producing a total of 28 magazine issues annually. Editorial staff add daily content to three websites: *theTrumpet.com, pcg.church* and *ArmstrongInstitute.org.*

The PCG publishes 19 of Herbert W. Armstrong's main books and booklets, including *Mystery of the Ages, The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and a 36-lesson Bible correspondence course. It also prints a *Bible Story* series, Bible lessons for grade school children and the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Envoy.* In 36 years, the PCG has distributed 7.3 million pieces of literature, all completely free of charge.

from its two- and four-year programs, 150 of whom have been hired to work for the Church, 13 of whom have been ordained into the ministry, and seven of whom have become deacons.

Each summer, PCG teenagers from around the world travel to Edmond for the three-week Summer Educational Program. Herbert W. Armstrong College students serve as counselors, sports instructors and other staff members. PCG staff and Armstrong students and graduates also staff summer youth camps in England, Australia and the Philippines.

International Cultural Foundation.

In 1998, the foundation started a concert series. In 2010, those concerts moved to Armstrong Auditorium. Audiences have delighted in over 130 events by world-class performers, including Joshua Bell, The King's Singers, Branford Marsalis, the Vienna Boys Choir, Canadian Brass, The Chieftains, Band of Scots Guards and Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Renée Fleming and Moscow Festival Ballet.

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

God's Work in Israel revived in 2006 when Mr. Flurry sent the first college students to an archaeological excavation in the City of David in Jerusalem under the guidance of the late Dr. Eilat Mazar. This revived a relationship Mr. Armstrong had established with Mazar's grandfather Prof. Benjamin Mazar and with Hebrew University more than 50 years ago.

The Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology collaborates with esteemed academic institutions including the City of David Foundation, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Israel Exploration Society. It has been involved in the discovery, uncovering, publication and exhibition of such biblical artifacts and ruins as King David's palace, Nehemiah's wall, Solomon's wall, the Isaiah and Hezekiah bullae and more. For more information, including virtual archaeological tours, visit *ArmstrongInstitute.org.*

CELTIC THRONE

The PCG's Irish dance show, *Celtic Throne,* debuted in the summer of 2020, and the troupe performed six tours in 44 cities and 22 states across the United States. *Celtic Throne II: The Psalter of Ireland* premiered in 2025, with shows in 11 cities in the United States, the United Kingdom and Israel. *Celtic Throne* has grown into a world-class production providing a throne-of-David vision. A documentary about the making of the production is currently in progress.

Since 2006, the foundation has provided manpower from Armstrong College and financial support for 11 archaeological digs in Jerusalem, Israel, the most recent of which occurred this past summer on the Ophel.

EXHIBITS

The PCG has hosted three archaeological exhibits in Armstrong Auditorium showcasing biblical artifacts that prove the veracity of the Bible's historical record. "Seals of Jeremiah's Captors Discovered" (2012–2015) displayed clay seal impressions that once belonged to princes Gedaliah and Jehucal (Jeremiah 37-38). "Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered" (2018–2019) featured the seal impressions of one of Judah's greatest kings and of the Prophet Isaiah.

From February 2024 through May 2025, "Kingdom of David and Solomon Discovered" showcased over three dozen artifacts from 10th-century B.C. Israel and displayed the Ophel Pithos Inscription and a selection of artifacts discovered by Eilat Mazar in the City of David. The exhibit also featured elements of monumental Jerusalem, including a Phoenician-style capital discovered in Jerusalem. The centerpiece of the exhibit was the Tel Dan Stele, perhaps the greatest artifact confirming King David's existence and prominence.

» SENDING ELIJAH AGAIN FROM PAGE 17

will send my messenger.' Why didn't God say, 'I *have sent*'? It's as if Mr. Armstrong was sent *after* or even *during* this crisis. Of course, we know the Bible presents things 'here a little, and there a little' (Isaiah 28:10), and we understand that everything is not in a precise chronology. But *the book of Malachi does have a clear chronology.* It is discussing the Laodicean era and an end-time Elijah, or Levi, whom God has already sent. Then He says here, *I will send him.*

"What does God mean? This is a definite message to the *Malachi remnant.* Two messengers are mentioned in Malachi 3:1: the end-time Elijah and Jesus Christ. We already know that the Elijah messenger has come and gone."

"The Bible is a coded book," Mr. Flurry continues. "If we see this as God sees it, we realize that God wants this very elect remnant to *resurrect* the work of Elijah and SEND HIM AGAIN! It says that to the Malachi group—those people with *Malachi's Message.* It is telling them to 'prophesy again' (Revelation 10:11) in the context of the great MYSTERY (verse 7). God wants us to get the same prophecy out there again—including some new revelation, like what you are reading right now."

With this context, these bold pronouncements in Malachi's prophecy take on even richer potency. Even amid a terrible betrayal by God's ministry and people—which occurred *after* Elijah had come and gone—GOD WILL SEND ELIJAH AGAIN ANYWAY. "If the Laodiceans don't do their job, and they pollute or destroy the Elijah work, God just *sends him again through His loyal remnant,"* Mr. Flurry explains (emphasis added).

You must view God's promise at the end of the book of Malachi in this same context: "Behold, I WILL SEND you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Again, this is in the midst of the Laodicean crisis.

The fact that this Elijah work is still happening while the Laodiceans are rebelling is *punctuated* by the terrifying warning that concludes Malachi's prophecy: "lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." "And if they don't heed this warning, they—God's own people—are under 'THE curse' of losing their eternal lives," Mr. Flurry explains. That is the worst possible outcome for God's Spirit-begotten saints! Everything is at stake! We either make it into God's Family or we die forever—to be as though we've never lived" (ibid).

This is the urgent, life-and-death Work being done by this remnant of the Philadelphia era of God's Church. These verses give a clear directive: "God is telling us in strong language that we must declare what Mr. Armstrong taught; he was *God's* messenger," Mr. Flurry concludes. "And we live in

Look to the Head

IN MATTHEW 16:18, JESUS CHRIST told Simon Peter: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This is an absolute promise that God's Church would never die because it was built on Christ, the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). The Greek word used for *rock* here is *petra,* which Christ contrasts with the Greek word for *Peter, petros,* which means pebble.

Matthew 16:19 shows that Christ did give authority to Peter who assumed the role of chief apostle at the beginning of the Church (Acts 2:14). But "the head of the body, the church" was and is Christ (Colossians 1:18).

The word *church* (*ekklesia*) means "called-out ones." Being in the Church means being a follower of Christ, signified by having God's Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). More specifically, the Church is a united body of members that follows Jesus Christ and God's government (1 Corinthians 12:27-28). Members only follow human leaders if those leaders follow Christ, who follows God the Father (1 Corinthians 11:1-3).

After Peter's death, John assumed the role as "the elder" replacing Peter (3 John 1), but Christ continued to be the Head of the Church. Those who followed John followed Christ.

Notice John's shocking statement: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. ... neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church" (verses 9-10).

"Were these members who were 'cast out' still in God's Church?" Gerald Flurry asks in *Malachi's Message.* "Actually, they were the *only* ones who constituted the *true* Church of God! They *were* the Church because they were joined to Christ through God's Holy Spirit."

Herman L. Hoeh put it this way: "The true Christians, who alone comprised the true Church, were being put out of the visible, organized congregations" (*Tomorrow's World,* April 1972).

The Church of God is not a building. It is not even a congregation composed of those who have *once* been called. It is the body of members *who follow their Head*—Jesus Christ.

Even during Diotrephes's rebellion, Christ kept the Church of God alive by working with a faithful few. While the Church was prophesied to never die, Revelation 2 and 3 show that there would be consecutive church eras.

The seven churches (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea) were located along one of the mail routes of the old Roman Empire. But the messages to them recorded in the book of Revelation are "a series of remarkable prophecies, by which the future of the true Church was foretold in outline form, from the day it began on Pentecost, A.D. 31, until the Second Coming of Christ," Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages.* "The history of the Church would fall into seven distinct

a time when the very prophecies he taught *are now coming to pass* in an amazing fashion." Through this Work, God is SENDING ELIJAH AGAIN.

As bold as this claim sounds, the PCG now has decades of work, sacrifice, risk and faith to support it, along with numerous Bible verses to back it up.

SUCCESSION

For more than three decades, PCG Pastor General Gerald Flurry has remained loyal to the truth God restored through the Elijah and has painstakingly raised the ruins of the Elijah work, piece by piece. God has blessed this effort, giving physical growth and additional truth and revelation.

The PCG has continued Mr. Armstrong's work in turning "the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers," not only with youth programs and biblical emphasis on moral physical families but also with the biblical revelation that God *is* a Family.

Mr. Flurry and the PCG retained the truths restored through Mr. Armstrong on everything from who God is to Sabbath-keeping to holy days to Church history to meats to makeup and dress to tithing to Church government to healing to resurrections to Bible prophecy. Mr. Flurry has quoted, cited and consulted the writings, sermons and judgments made by Mr. Armstrong—thousands of times.

Mr. Flurry started the PCG with abundant loyalty to the teachings established through Mr. Armstrong but extremely meager resources and almost no members. Yet he pressed ahead, following the pattern God had used in Mr. Armstrong's life of stepping out in faith to publish, broadcast, make personal appearances, answer personal correspondence, establish regional offices, start a youth program, create a cultural foundation, institute a college and a school, develop a campus, build an auditorium as a house for God, and support biblical archaeology.

Like the work God did through Mr. Armstrong, the work of the PCG has grown from virtual nothingness to an active, extensive, positive and urgent force, all while never soliciting the public for donations. Several of the ruins raised up by the PCG literally bear the name of Herbert W. Armstrong: the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation, Herbert W. Armstrong College, *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course,* Armstrong Auditorium, the Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology.

Perhaps the clearest proof that the Elijah work continues through the Philadelphia Church of God is the fight for *Mystery of the Ages.* Mr. Armstrong's successors subtly edited, then significantly edited, then suspended, then finally terminated the publication of that book, which summarizes all things restored to the Church through Mr. Armstrong. They destroyed inventory and lied to members about their intent.

In 1997, Mr. Flurry began printing and distributing for free *Mystery of the Ages.* The WCG sued for copyright infringement, setting off a six-year legal battle (article, page 22). Mr. Flurry was willing to face litigation, deposition, fines and worse for the sake of those teachings. No other church that came out of the WCG supported this fight! This made them complicit in the effort to suppress God's truth. In 2003, however, the WCG miraculously capitulated, selling the PCG the full copyrights to *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong's other major works.

Ever since, the PCG has been sending Elijah, in a direct physical sense, by printing

eras—each with its own strengths and weaknesses and its own special trials and problems. Just as a message could pass along the mail route from Ephesus to Laodicea, so would the truth of God be passed from era to era."

The faithful remnant in John's time became the beginning of the "church in Smyrna," and John's disciple Polycarp who resided in the city became its human leader (see *The True History of God's True Church*).

God called Mr. Armstrong during the time of the Sardis era. However, at this point, the work of the Sardis Church was dying (Revelation 3:1). God didn't call Mr. Armstrong into a dead church but to start the Philadelphia era.

Mr. Armstrong's death marked the end of the Philadelphia era and the beginning of the Laodicean era. This last era, however, was prophesied to reject Christ (verses 14-18). Indeed, the church Mr. Armstrong founded began to reject the truth God restored through him and to kick out those who remained faithful.

Christ today is outside the congregations of Laodicean churches, knocking at their doors with a call to repentance (verses 19-20). Once again, God works through human beings. After Mr. Armstrong's death, God raised up Gerald Flurry as pastor general of the Philadelphia Church of God to lead those who are faithful to God the Father and His Son.

Today, only a small group of faithful Philadelphians are overcoming the devil during the Laodicean era (verse 21). The larger group, the Laodiceans, rejects the Philadelphian standard established by Mr. Armstrong (verses 14-20). Those who leave the Laodicean churches and join the faithful Philadelphians will be protected during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:14); the Laodiceans will not (verse 17).

Both of these groups consist of members who were called by God. However, only one group and one human leader continues to follow Christ. Jesus Christ today is in their midst, present when they congregate and actively involved in their lives. They are the ones who have responded to Christ's knock. They are the ones who follow the Head of the Church.

Josué Michels

and mailing thousands of copies of *Mystery of the Ages, The United States and Britain in Prophecy, The Incredible Human Potential, The Missing Dimension in Sex* and more than a dozen other works by Herbert W. Armstrong.

These facts are true of the Philadelphia Church of God, and of no other church.

COMPLETING THE ELIJAH WORK

Mr. Flurry has written for decades about the truths God restored through Mr. Armstrong, and he has received revelation that builds on those truths.

He writes in *John's Gospel—The Love of God:* "The original Elijah revealed the true God to Israel. John the Baptist introduced the true Christ at His first coming—continuing the Elijah work. Mr. Armstrong prepared the way for Christ's Second Coming. We finish the Elijah work that he did and introduce the all-powerful Christ to this deceived world. ...

"The Apostle John gets very specific about how we finish the Elijah work.

"In verses 21 and 25 of John 1, the religious leaders mention a prophesied individual called 'that prophet.' *Lange's Commentary* says it was '*the* well-known prophet; a personage in their messianic theology presumed to be familiar.' This prophet was familiar to them because of their knowledge of prophecy. 'This particular prophet, therefore, is meant, WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE FORERUNNING OFFICE OF ELIJAH ....' "This is a prophecy of our work today!" Mr. Flurry concludes. In other words, *that prophet* and those people supporting him would FINISH THE ELIJAH WORK. (This passage is thoroughly explained in our free booklet *Who Is 'That Prophet'?*) ...

"There is somewhat of a gap, however, between the end-time Elijah and the Day of the Lord," Mr. Flurry writes. "It originally seemed that the Day of the Lord would come immediately after Elijah came. Some say that Mr. Armstrong's death proves he was not the Elijah. But look at it spiritually: Elijah is still here! Because the group that held fast is bringing Elijah's message back! That work will continue right into the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord."

Through *The Key of David,* the *Trumpet Daily,* the *Philadelphia Trumpet, Royal Vision,* the correspondence course, KPCG.fm, the Armstrong foundation, college, Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology and dozens of other broadcasts, publications and other projects highlighting old and new biblical revelation, the Philadelphia Church of God continues to warn, raising up the ruins and prophesying again (Amos 9:11; Revelation 10:11). You urgently need to examine the Bible and other evidence so you *know* whether Herbert W. Armstrong was indeed the end-time Elijah—and from where God is sending Elijah right now.

In the homes of many Worldwide Church of God members, the cancellation of *Mystery of the Ages* in early 1989 was a traumatic event. I remember well the outrage in my home upon receipt of WCG Pastor General Joseph Tkach's "Personal." Though *Mystery of the Ages* contained the "fundamental truths of God's Word," Mr. Tkach claimed, "we must realize that some of the peripheral or incidental points it contains give occasion to critics to fault the whole book. Some of these areas also tend to inadvertently mislead readers on a few points" (*Worldwide News,* Feb. 20, 1989).

PCG representatives meet with attorneys to discuss court strategy.

This moment ultimately led to a six-year court battle over this very decision and the subsequent attempt by Herbert W. Armstrong's successors to keep his final book out of readers' hands. Yet in many ways, the Church was already in chaos, and in less than a year, the Philadelphia Church of God would form.

In a meeting with Joe Tkach Jr. on Dec. 7, 1989, Gerald Flurry and John Amos were fired for Mr. Flurry's manuscript *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today.* In Mr. Flurry's account of that meeting, one moment stands out to me: Mr. Tkach Jr.'s claim that *Mystery of the Ages* had been discontinued not because of cost and the availability of its message in other literature as they had claimed in a letter to the ministry, but because it was "riddled with error." He would later confirm that view during the court case.

This was quite a change from what his father had said in 1986: that it was Mr. Armstrong's "most powerful and effective book," and that "Mr. Armstrong did not

Our Most Thrilling Victory

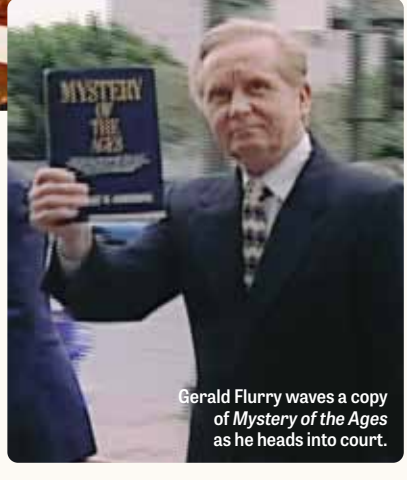
By Mark Jenkins

The 19 works won by the Philadelphia Church of God in the six-year court case

underestimate the importance of this last work."

That is certainly true. Mr. Armstrong told his readers he wanted this book to reach "the largest audience possible." Yet just three years after his death, it was discontinued when his successors determined to keep it out of circulation entirely.

In 1997, Pastor General Gerald Flurry determined that the PCG must publish *Mystery of the Ages.* The response from the WCG's in-house lawyer, Ralph Helge, was immediate: "We would appreciate you advising us by what authority you are, without the permission of the Church, copying and publishing [*Mystery of the Ages*]?" (Jan. 21, 1997). On February 10, the WCG filed suit.



Gerald Flurry waves a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* as he heads into court.

Despite the WCG's claim that they had suffered monetary damage and that they had intended to distribute *Mystery of the Ages* again, Joe Tkach Jr. eventually exposed his real motives in his book, *Transformed by Truth:* "We feel it is OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY to keep this book out of print … because we believe Mr. Armstrong's doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation" (emphasis added). This put WCG's legal teams in a real bind. WCG leaders had claimed they would have considered licensing the works to the PCG, not that they would actively work to ensure Mr. Armstrong's writings never saw daylight again. Mr. Tkach Jr., they claimed, was sharing his personal views, not the views of the organization.

These sorts of hypocritical statements and actions continued throughout the litigation, perhaps reaching their height with the infamous claims of publishing an annotated version of *Mystery of the Ages.* In an e-publishing scheme, WCG posted 19 of Mr. Armstrong's works—the very 19 listed in the litigation. "Due to the 'additional benefit' of the WCG's 'good faith' e-publishing offer," Stephen Flurry wrote, "we could now direct prospective members, who might know nothing about Herbert W. Armstrong, to download a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* (at a substantial cost) with a 1,500-word preface denouncing the author as an uneducated hack who taught heretical doctrines and wielded dictatorial control over the Worldwide Church of God. Of course, we failed to see how this would truly benefit the spiritual needs of our Church" (May 2003, *Philadelphia Trumpet*).

Meanwhile, the lawsuit was revealing where everyone stood. On one side, some of God's own people were literally fighting against Him, while on the other side, those who remained loyal to the truth restored through the end-time Elijah fought for the right to deliver God's message. On the sidelines, another group was revealed, consisting of those who had left the WCG but lacked the courage to come forward in support of the cause—they just *watched.* Meanwhile, Mr. Flurry showed PCG members that Habakkuk had already revealed the outcome of the court case.

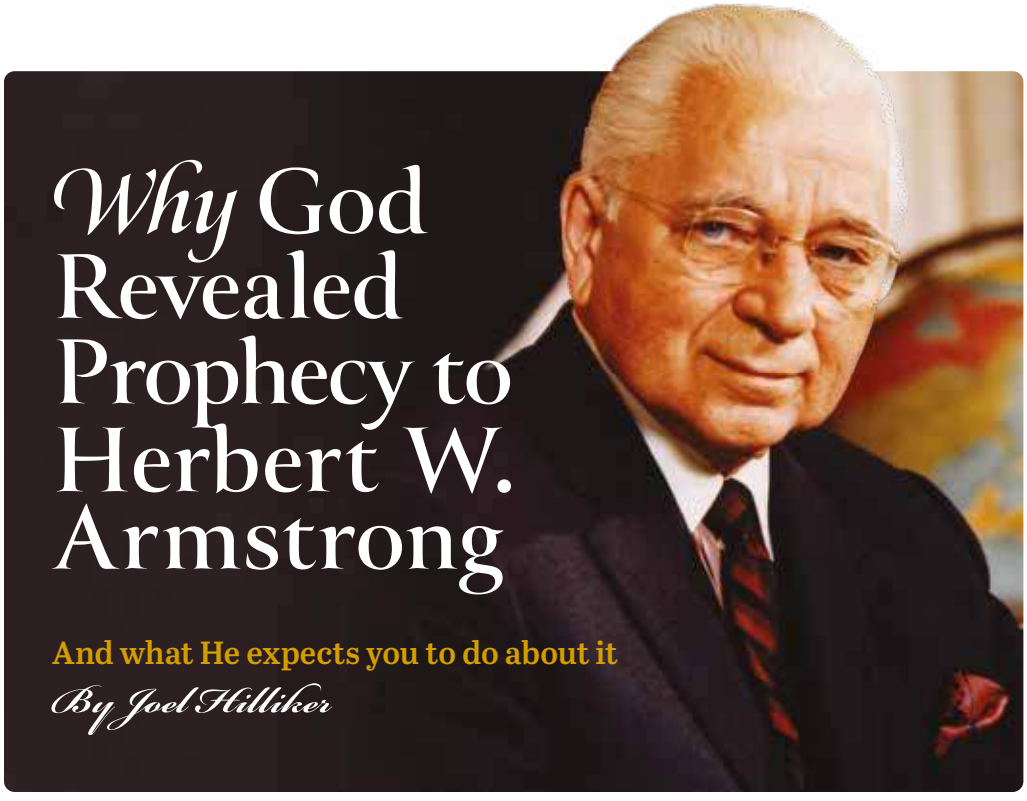
There isn't space here to detail all the twists and turns, but ultimately, while awaiting a damages trial after our appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court, Jesus Christ personally intervened and gave us what no court could have: The WCG agreed to sell *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 additional works to the PCG on Jan. 16, 2003—the 17-year anniversary of Mr. Armstrong's death. The total cost to the PCG after insurance contributions was $2 million.

The best the courts could have done is allow us to print and distribute the book under a licensing agreement, but God gave the PCG ownership of *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong's other works. And so, *Mystery of the Ages,* the most important work of Herbert W. Armstrong's life, along with the other 18 works remain freely available to anyone who requests them, because Mr. Flurry, following Jesus Christ's direction and supported by the Philadelphian remnant, was willing to fight for God's truth.

"We have just won the greatest victory ever in the Philadelphia Church of God!" Mr. Flurry wrote in the May 2003 *Philadelphia Trumpet.* "It will probably be our most thrilling victory in this entire end-time work."

You can read the gripping details about the court case in Stephen Flurry's book, *Raising the Ruins,* which we will be happy to send for free upon request. Alternatively, you can read the e-version, which contains no preface.

Why God Revealed Prophecy to Herbert W. Armstrong



And what He expects you to do about it

By Joel Hilliker

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of God's existence and of the inspiration of the Bible. Prophecies uttered thousands of years ago and canonized in the Bible are now coming to pass before our astonished eyes. No *man* could possibly bring those things about.

Many people claim to know God. But how many really know the Almighty God of prophecy? Most people pay little attention to this crucial third of the Bible. But if you ignore prophecy, *you do not really know the true God.*

Understanding how and why God reveals prophecy teaches you a lot about Him. God doesn't give prophecy to entertain us or merely to reveal His power and supremacy. Bible prophecy is God's warning to you about *your* future. Will you listen and respond?

THE ULTIMATE AUTHOR OF PROPHECY

The source of true prophecy is not any man, no righteous prophet, not an angel. It is not even Jesus Christ. Matthew 24:36 shows that Christ does not know the timing of His own return, which is at the center of all end-time prophecies.

The ultimate source of true prophecy is God the Father.

Read the first verse of the book of Revelation, the greatest book of prophecy in the Bible: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, *which God gave unto him,* to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

This verse clearly says "the Revelation of Jesus Christ" was given to Him by God—God the Father! The Father gave it to His Son, who delivered it to an angel, who gave it to a man, the Apostle John. Yet most Bible publishers title the book "The Revelation of St. John the Divine," introducing confusion and entirely ignoring the divine Source. This is one clear example of why, in the world today—full of evangelists, preachers and self-proclaimed prophets—none truly understands Bible prophecy.

The fact that prophecy originates with the Most High God is deeply inspiring. It shows the weight God places on prophecy. And very few understand this, but it also highlights the *government structure* of the God Family. It all points back to God the Father.

Though traditional Christianity asserts that Jesus is the center of the gospel message, Jesus Himself said: "[M]y Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). He came to Earth to declare the Father (John 1:18). The Father is the God Being who is and always will be the Head of the entire God Family. We can only truly understand prophecy when we keep the Father in the picture. Read more about this in the first chapter of Mr. Flurry's booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation,* titled "The Father Focus in Prophecy" (request a free copy).

Bible prophecy reveals God the Father, His love for you and His plans for your future. This is the prism through which we must consider the prophecies revealed through Herbert W. Armstrong. God has introduced Himself to you. Will you reciprocate?

GOD MUST REVEAL HIS TRUTH

How does God reveal His truth? Again we must look to the Bible. In Revelation 1:1, we saw God revealed that prophecy through Christ, through an angel, to a man named John.

Here is another towering lesson we must learn: God specifically reveals the *meaning* of His prophecies through individuals of His choosing.

Matthew 11:25 says God the Father *hides* His truth "from the wise and prudent." Among the world's scholars, you will scarcely find anyone willing to *humble himself before God* to receive revelation. We cannot look to them to understand God's Word and His prophecies.

Throughout the Bible, we see God revealing His truth to *specific human leaders.* God worked with Noah, Abraham, Moses, the prophets and the apostles. If people wanted to know God's revelation, they had to seek it from these men. This truth is reinforced in multiple passages. Consider:

- **Amos 3:7**: "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."
- **Ephesians 3:3-5**: "[B]y revelation he [God] made known unto me [the Apostle Paul] the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."
- **1 Corinthians 2:7-10**: "[W]e speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."
- **2 Peter 1:19-21**: "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: Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* 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]."

The Bible is unlike any other text in the world. Every word was directly inspired by God, and *cannot* be understood without God revealing it—and He does that through "his servants the prophets." 1 Peter 1:12 shows that *even angels* do not understand Bible prophecy until God the Father reveals it to human beings.

That is why Bible prophecy is not of any "private interpretation."

Thus we see TWO significant reasons why our world of religion does not understand Bible prophecy: First, people do not honor God the Father, the Source of revelation; and second, they reject His human messenger.

"God's revealed word doesn't come from men," explains Gerald Flurry in *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope.* "The word *prophet* in the Old Testament means 'an interpreter of God.' In other words, God revealed Himself to these men, and they taught what He revealed! They would have been powerless without the Holy Spirit moving them. They were moved by the Holy Spirit. This is how God speaks to mankind. God gives each person on Earth the responsibility to know when men are moved by the Holy Spirit."

Once you have proved that God exists, that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, you must prove who God's human messenger is.

All this can be done through Bible prophecy. Prophecy is a significant means by which God reveals both Himself AND the men through whom He is working.

Recognizing the truth in Mr. Armstrong's explanations shows that GOD WAS BEHIND THAT MAN. You aren't simply reading the teachings of an astute Bible scholar—you are reading *revelation* given to a man by the living Creator God, who is communicating those prophecies for specific reasons!

Fulfilled prophecy powerfully proves Herbert Armstrong was God's prophet. This reality ought to inspire further important questions: What other biblical truths and teachings did Mr. Armstrong teach? Wouldn't these also be revealed truth from God?

Here is another crucial question: When Herbert Armstrong died in 1986, through whom did the living God continue to communicate?

ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE

Look once more at Revelation 1:1: It tells us that God gives us prophecy "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass." God gave this prophetic message to show us things that are *about* to happen—BEFORE THEY DO. Only the omnipotent God can do that. No false god would be capable. (Read God's challenge to impotent idols in Isaiah 41:21-24; also Psalm 33:10-15.)

God says through the Prophet Isaiah, "Remember the former things of old: for I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:9-10). When God says something, He ensures it happens. He follows through. This is the foundation of our faith. We can have absolute confidence in the God of prophecy. Like Abraham, we can be "fully persuaded that, what he [God] had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21). *That is faith.*

Why would God want us to know *in advance* that certain things will happen?

There are times when we only recognize the accuracy of a prophecy after it comes true. Christ specifically told His disciples that as we see prophecies fulfilled, it should vindicate God in our minds and strengthen our faith: "And now I have told you *before* it come to pass, that, *when* it is come to pass, *ye might believe"* (John 14:29).

Often, however, God gives prophecy as a warning to the rebellious and a motivator to the righteous (2 Peter 3:10-12).

Jesus Christ, in His great Olivet prophecy, gave His disciples several signs to watch for in advance of His Second Coming, and said, "[W]hen ye shall see all these things, know that it [the day of His return] is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33). Like many of the Bible's prophecies, these were advance warnings that should keep us attuned to the urgency of the time we live in.

It is through prophecy that God warns us of the consequences of disobedience to Him. Many prophecies foretell of judgment that is coming on the wicked and terrifying punishments that will befall rebellious people. God gives them for the same reason a loving parent warns his disobedient child before disciplining him: It is a prod to correct our behavior and to turn us to Him. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the

Consider the prophecies God revealed to Mr. Armstrong to forewarn of the future of America and Britain, of Europe, of the Middle East, of Asia, and to show where today's momentous events are taking this world.

wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

Prophecy is an expression of God's mercy. He wants to help us avoid punishment and receive blessings. Bible prophecy is a warning.

We must take these invaluable warnings seriously—*believe God*—and ACT.

When we come to understand there is a God orchestrating events and bringing His prophecies to pass, we see the seriousness of His warnings, and we recognize our responsibility to OBEY Him. It is highly motivating spiritually! As Christ said after giving the signs of His return, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ... Therefore BE YE ALSO READY: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42, 44). Knowing the shortness of time incites us to be ready by following after righteousness.

THE BEAUTY OF REPENTANCE

Consider the prophecies God revealed to Mr. Armstrong to forewarn of the future of America and Britain, of Europe, of the Middle East, of Asia, and to show where today's momentous events are taking this world.

What effect has prophecy had on you? Has it made a spiritual impact? Has it proved the existence of the living God to you? Has it built your faith in the God who inspired and revealed these prophecies? Has it shown you where God is working?

There are many people who have heard what Mr. Armstrong taught and say, *If this or that prophecy comes to pass, THEN I will believe God sent him.* Thus they dismiss *all* the prophecies that *have already* been accomplished.

And then, all too often, when the prophecy *does* come to pass, they *still* do not act!

If that is your attitude, then heed Jesus Christ's admonition in Matthew 12:39-40: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

What is the connection to Jonah the prophet? Mr. Flurry explains: "The Jews could observe and prove that Christ was in the grave three days and three nights. By this sign, they could prove that Jesus Christ truly was the Son of the living God—their very Creator, who is far greater than the Prophet Jonah.

"Then if they understood and believed this sign, they could learn a vital lesson. The people of Nineveh REPENTED when Jonah warned them" (*Jonah: A Strong Warning to God's Church;* emphasis added).

You can read this inspiring story in the book of Jonah. God's prophet delivered a warning: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). That is a *prophecy.* Here was the reaction: "So THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH BELIEVED GOD, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them" (verse 5). The king proclaimed that the people should "turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?" (verses 8-9).

How did God respond? "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (verse 10). He withheld His punishment!

What a powerful illustration of the power of prophecy—and the beauty of responding to it as God intends!

When Jesus brought up this example to the faithless people of His day, He concluded with this fierce condemnation: "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because *they repented at the preaching of Jonas;* and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Matthew 12:41).

The people to whom Christ was speaking *refused* to repent—and they ended up *killing Him.*

God wants us to react to a great many of His prophecies the same way the Ninevites did: by simply believing Him, having faith that what He says is true—*before* the words of the prophet come to pass—and REPENTING.

If we reject all the evidence God lays before us, if we cling to our skepticism and, as Christ said, are always "seeking after a sign" that God's prophecies are sure, we will find ourselves in the middle of the prophesied Great Tribulation before we repent!

BELIEVE HIS PROPHETS

What does God expect us to do instead? The answer is simple: "... Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; BELIEVE HIS PROPHETS, so shall ye prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20). We need not only to believe God but also *believe His prophets.* This leads us to *repent* of our evil ways, to follow God and honor the Father—and to support the man He has chosen.

Yet here is the tragedy. Tens of thousands of dedicated members of the Worldwide Church of God did support Mr. Armstrong, but after his death, they fell away.

Astoundingly, none of those who departed from what Mr. Armstrong taught understands Bible prophecy today! They have lost the testimony of Jesus, which is the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY (Revelation 19:10). In fact, many of them today say, *Prophesy not!* (Amos 2:12; Isaiah 30:10).

These lukewarm Christians have proved by their actions that they failed to understand WHY God revealed His prophecies to Mr. Armstrong.

Because they failed to understand, they rejected this pivotal prophecy from Jesus Christ Himself in Matthew 17:10-13: "And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Indeed, ELIJAH IS COMING FIRST AND WILL RESTORE ALL THINGS. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist" (New King James Version).

This points back to God's prophecy that He would send an end-time Elijah just before the Second Coming of Christ (Malachi 4:5-6). John the Baptist was a forerunner who prepared the way for Christ's *first coming.* But the ultimate fulfillment occurred in this end time, in the days before Christ's return: God sent a prophet in the spirit of Elijah.

This man has come and gone already. That shows how near the end of this age we are—how close we are to the fulfillment of all the other end-time prophecies.

God expects us to know who this man was, though the world as a whole does not. It was the man this issue of *Royal Vision* has spotlighted: Herbert W. Armstrong.

"People didn't recognize who John the Baptist was. And people today didn't recognize the office of Mr. Armstrong," Mr. Flurry notes. "But what is more shocking, even most members in Mr. Armstrong's own Church failed to recognize who he really was! That is why they are Laodicean! All of the Laodiceans reject Mr. Armstrong as fulfilling this end-time Elijah role! Christ prophesied that they would be *blind* (Revelation 3:17). They are blind beyond belief! But notice, the true disciples understood—just as God's Philadelphian disciples understand today" (*Isaiah's End-Time Vision*).

Just as Christ's disciples understood who John the Baptist was, His disciples today understand who Mr. Armstrong was.

"Christ is the Head of His Church, but He also uses a man to be the physical head. He has done that throughout the ages," Mr. Flurry continues. "... It is through the man that Christ implements His government. Satan, the god of this world, and rebels hate that government and always work to demonize that man. This is not about following a man—it's about following *God's* man." There is a clear structure from God the Father to Christ to His human messenger, who is supported by a group of people, the Church, to get God's message to the world.

God the Father is about to send His Son to this Earth a second time—this time in power and glory! What is uppermost in God's mind is the restoration of His government on Earth (Acts 3:19-21). By revealing the prophecies of the Bible *to one man,* God begins this restoration process. Prophecy thus not only shows where God is working but also impels us to come under this government and to accept God's wonderful way of life that it teaches and administers.

In the decades since Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, God has continued to reveal His secrets to one man, an apostle. Today God's warning message of the coming events, as well as the good news of the wonderful World Tomorrow—the work started through Mr. Armstrong—continues to be trumpeted around the world by this work as a witness.

You can escape the horror of the next few years by heeding that witness. Prove the prophecies of the Bible. Recognize the *Author* behind those prophecies, the all-powerful God who inspired them and is now bringing them to pass. Honor the Father by turning your heart to Him. Believe in Him, so shall you be established. And find and support the man He is using and the Work that man is leading. Believe His prophets, so shall you prosper!

Request a free copy of our newly updated booklet *He Was Right* to learn more about Mr. Armstrong's prophecies.

Commitment

A heart-touching sacrifice

Herbert W. Armstrong delivers a broadcast from his office in Eugene, Oregon.

In May 1940, God began to show Herbert W. Armstrong the need to preach the gospel of God's Kingdom to all the world. However, at the time of this expanded vision, the broadcast was limited to a few small stations in Oregon. He became intensely focused on reaching new territory. Seattle was the logical area for expansion, but at that time it was financially impossible.

God always provides a way. The Seattle broadcast was started by an unusual sacrifice from a family who listened to the radio broadcast in Clarke County, Washington. This family had lost everything in the great drought of 1934-1935. After that, they had migrated from South Dakota to Washington and had made a down payment on a farm a few miles outside of Vancouver.

They managed to build a shell of a house with the intention to complete it later. Their home had no interior walls, no real flooring—just a subfloor, no siding and no stairs to the second story. With no interior walls, they had just one large room on each level. The children had to climb a ladder each night to sleep in the upstairs room as the parents stayed downstairs.

Naturally the man was working hard to improve their living conditions. Over a few years he had saved up $40 to purchase lumber for interior walls. But when the family heard of the urgent need to expand God's Work, and of Mr. Armstrong's drive to broadcast in Seattle, they sent in all their savings to support the new initiative.

Stunned by their sacrifice and feeling it was too weighty an offering to accept, Mr. Armstrong personally drove out to their home to return the money. But they refused. Tears filled the woman's eyes as she explained: "Mr. Armstrong, of course it would be nice for us to get up partitions and have separate rooms—but that is not an absolute *need.* We just *could not* use this money for a *temporary material home,* when it will help get Christ's message of a home for all eternity in God's Kingdom to *many thousands* of people!" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*). This family was seeking the Kingdom first, and they trusted God to provide for them in return (Matthew 6:31-33).

Incidentally, soon after this family gave their hard-earned $40, they were blessed financially and were able to finish their home.

Throughout his ministry, stunning sacrifices such as this moved the Work forward. Later, other supporters mortgaged homes, sold properties, gave up wants, and delayed needs so the Work could grow. God often used personal sacrifices from members and co-workers to save the Work from disaster.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "God Almighty will back financially—to an extent almost beyond human belief—any person or institution that will place himself or itself unreservedly and vigorously under His direction! ... We have to learn that God does most things *with* us, and *through* us as His instruments. He only does for us what we are utterly unable to do ourselves" (ibid).

Our Father is still giving us the opportunity to sacrifice for His Work. If we are willing and remember to *seek first the Kingdom of God,* He will always provide and bless us, and His Work, beyond what we can imagine.

Reese Zoellner

Calling

CAUGHT IN A TRAP

In 1931, five months after being ordained and employed full time in the ministry by the Church of God headquartered in Stanberry, Missouri, Herbert W. Armstrong lost his job. The Oregon Conference treasury was running dry, and the conference needed to let two of its three ministers go; Mr. Armstrong was one of them. He had a young family to provide for, so losing his $20 a week salary was a big blow.

But Mr. Armstrong wasn't worried. Through previous answered prayers in tests and trials, he had learned to trust God. He knew that God promised to provide their needs, but he still needed to learn about *how* God provides.

Ministerial License
Certificate.

An ordination certificate issued to Mr. Armstrong

As he wrote in his autobiography, he "had *not yet learned* that everything that happens is not, necessarily, from God." Sometimes it's hard to differentiate between an open door and a trap.

After he prayed for God to provide, it seemed that opportunity came knocking. An old associate from his former career in advertising showed up at Mr. Armstrong's door with a proposition. The

NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING

Herbert W. Armstrong taught that there are three basic ways by which people acquire their beliefs and convictions. The most common is that they carelessly believe, without proof, that which they have read or heard. The second most common way is to prejudicially accept any evidence that supports what they want to believe while rejecting any contrary evidence. The least common way is by sifting through all the facts, seeking full information, and considering the question objectively.

In *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?,* Mr. Armstrong noted, "I learned years ago that it can be very dangerous to carelessly *assume,* or just take for granted. It's much wiser and safer to *get all the facts,* and then decide."

When Mr. Armstrong's wife, Loma, told him in 1926 that she had found in the Bible that Christians are bound to keep the seventh-day Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, Mr. Armstrong did not want to believe her. Yet after a six-month stint in the Portland library studying Bible commentaries, lexicons, encyclopedias and historical works like Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, he came to see that his wife was right.

Around the same time, Mr. Armstrong's sister-in-law told him he was ignorant for not believing in evolution. He did not want to believe her either. So reading first the works of Charles Darwin, Ernst Haeckel, Herbert Spencer, Thomas Huxley, Karl Vogt and more recent and modern authorities, he delved into science. He learned how radioactivity proves there has been no past eternity of matter. He even visited the darkroom of an X-ray laboratory so he could see firsthand that when a tiny portion of radium was placed on a mirror at the far end of a hollow tube, the radium emitted tiny particles as it slowly decayed into lead. He left no stone unturned until he had found conclusive proof that the universe was created and that his sister-in-law was wrong.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong read together at home.

While he was studying, Mr. Armstrong contacted a minister in Florida who told him that unless he knew that the people of the United States and Great Britain were descended from the so-called lost 10 tribes of Israel, he was ignorant. So Mr. Armstrong obtained all the literature he could find on the subject, and compared every point he read with the Bible. He found significant errors in every book or pamphlet, yet he still had to acknowledge that the American and British peoples had in fact descended from ancient Israel. He soon started writing his own book on the topic that was free from the errors he found in the existing British-Israelite literature. More importantly, his book contained a vital new dimension of revelation: showing these end-time nations *in prophecy.*

Mr. Armstrong grew in grace and knowledge throughout his life because he refused to assume anything. As he explained in a June 1969 *Plain Truth* personal, he always arrived at his conclusions "by careful sifting of all the facts, actively seeking full information, insisting on *proof,* and considering the question objectively and without prejudice. But *most* of the beliefs held by most of the people have not been arrived at by this process."

Andrew Müller

associate had started a newspaper in Astoria and he was having a terrible time selling advertising space. The newspaper was failing, and he begged Mr. Armstrong to come work as their advertising manager for $25 a week.

Mr. Armstrong knew he couldn't accept the job permanently since God had called him into the ministry. But this *seemed* to be an answered prayer, a way to make ends meet until the Oregon Conference could pay him again. He agreed to come out to Astoria and help for *one month only.*

It turned out the situation in Astoria was far worse than he thought. Selling ad space was nearly impossible due to unfair practices of a larger competing newspaper. Even with all his resourcefulness, Mr. Armstrong couldn't break the newspaper out of the predicament in one month. Making matters worse, the newspaper employed 23 men who would lose their jobs if he left. Having stepped away from his true calling for a moment, Mr. Armstrong found himself trapped in Astoria. His one-month deviation turned into a grueling 15-month detour.

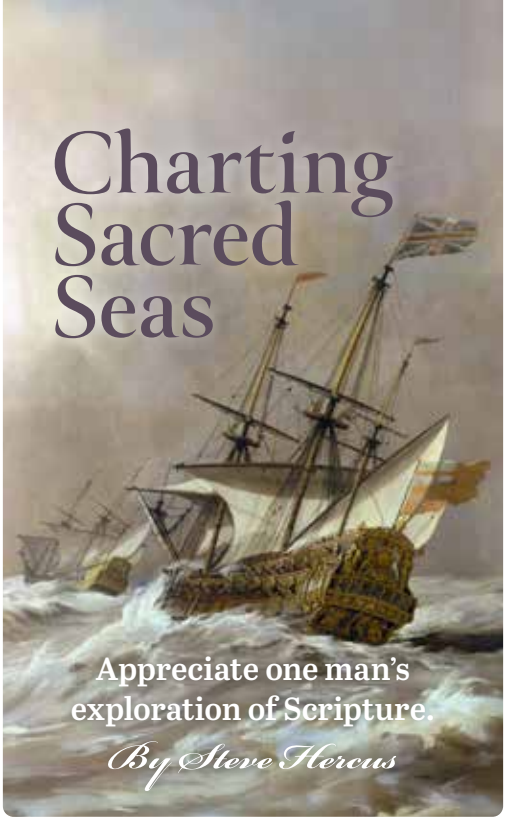
Thankfully, God can use even our mistakes to teach us invaluable lessons.

"I was to have to learn two basic requirements of God before He can use one for an important commission in His great master plan working out His purpose here below," he later wrote: "1) Not only must God's instrument 'preach the Word faithfully,' but having been plunged by Christ into God's Work, he must never turn back (Luke 9:62). And 2) he must rely on God, and not man, for his *need—in,* not *out* of God's Work. The *real work* started only *after* I learned these lessons!"

"... No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). With any opportunity, we need to ask ourselves: *If I do this, am I keeping my hand on the plow? Am I still working toward God's purpose for me? Am I still doing God's Work?* If the answer is yes, we can have confidence it's an open door from God. If no, then put your head back down and keep working where God has placed you.

Mr. Armstrong had to learn the hard way not to let anything distract him from the Work. We need to learn this lesson too and keep our hand on the plow.

Reese Zoellner



Recently I flew over the Pacific Ocean. Despite the incredible distance, the nighttime flying and the absence of landmarks, the pilots had no problem navigating to the far side of the world—on time and on location. It's astonishing to think about, sitting inside a slender metal tube 40,000 feet above the massive expanse of Earth, cruising at 550 miles per hour for 15 hours on that 7,500-mile journey.

Imagine explaining this present-day reality to a bedraggled sailor on the high seas from 250 years ago. To him, it would be incomprehensible. For us, such commonplace travel is easily taken for granted. Every day, 1,800 flights crisscross that vast ocean.

What made this flying experience more meaningful for me was the book perched on my tray table. I was reading about Capt. James Cook and his adventures 250 years earlier sailing the same ocean below. That man traversed the globe by boat to explore and expand the limits of the known world. Through masterful seamanship, navigation and cartography, Cook transformed mankind's understanding of world geography.

Modern air travel is easily underappreciated. So is the colossal work of a great explorer like Cook who helped enable global travel today.

As I was reading, Cook's exploration experiences evoked thoughts of another great explorer: Herbert W. Armstrong. He was an explorer of another expansive, deep and mysterious world: the Holy Bible. In this case, God had to open his mind to understand the Bible's mysteries. But Mr. Armstrong also had to study diligently. We can easily take for granted his Spirit-led exploratory work that enables our clear biblical understanding today.

Let's consider some fascinating comparisons between the explorations of these two great men.

EARLY EXPERIENCE

James Cook had a modest beginning. Born in 1728, he was raised in a cottage of mud and thatch in Great Ayton, a village near England's east coast. His father was a farm manager, and James received little formal education. In his teen years, Cook moved to Whitby, a town of seagoing industries facing the North Sea. "There, starting as an apprentice, he worked his way up through the merchant navy, serving on sturdy vessels ... designed to haul coal and timber. He learned how to manage the collier ships [which he would later use to traverse the globe], how to read the mercurial storms of the North Sea, how to use dead reckoning and trigonometry to plot his location along complicated shorelines" (Hampton Sides, *The Wide Wide Sea*).

Cook was ambitious, curious and adventurous. He saw limitations in the merchant navy, whereas the Royal Navy offered new opportunities and the potential for loftier career advancement.

"But at the not-so-young age of 27, on the verge of promotion to become commander of a merchant vessel, he quit the coal ships and volunteered for the Royal Navy. He started all the way back down the ladder as an ordinary seaman, but quickly climbed the ranks" (ibid).

Abilities and experience acquired during his merchant days readily translated to his naval career. He was a genius surveyor, hydrographer and mapmaker. "Cook's cartographic prowess, aided by his growing talent as an astronomer and mathematician, caught the attention of high officials within the Admiralty, especially after he earned the title of king's surveyor and produced, during several summer seasons, an elegant and painstaking map of Newfoundland, a glacier-carved island with one of the most intricate shorelines in the world. Comparing it against modern satellite images of Newfoundland, one can see his chart was a cartographic masterpiece of almost chilling precision."

Herbert W. Armstrong also had a modest beginning, with little formal education. But with Cook-like ambition and curiosity, he charted his own course of education with the aim of becoming a prominent advertising man. "These years of self-assigned study, enforced mental activity, contacts with successful men in many varied fields, coupled with the practical experience that had been mine, had produced an education and training superior to the average college education," he wrote in his autobiography.

When God introduced Mr. Armstrong to the truth, He was exposing it to a man who had previously demonstrated discipline, drive and focus in his studies, with the ability to research and record his findings. Like Cook, abilities and experience acquired in his younger years readily translated to a new adventure of biblical exploration (2 Timothy 2:15).

EXHAUSTIVE EXPLORATION

By 1768, Cook's value was widely recognized, and he was rewarded with his first round-the-world voyage of exploration. During the three-year journey, he covered more than 100,000 nautical miles, witnessed and documented the transit of Venus—an important development in the search for exoplanets today—and "explored the broad expanses of

WILLEM VAN DE VELDE THE YOUNGER

the South Pacific, charting the east coast of Australia and both islands of New Zealand, among other lands virtually unknown to Europe," Sides explains.

After returning home for a year, he set out on a second three-year global circumnavigation. By the time of his return, Cook had "become a very important figure, a celebrity, a champion, a hero," Sides wrote. "He had ventured into the frozen basement of the world and come back with important findings and magnificent maps of unfamiliar realms." This voyage "sealed his reputation and catapulted him into the pantheon of English explorers."

After another 12-month respite at home, Cook couldn't pass on the opportunity for a third voyage. It would be his last, cut short by his untimely death during a skirmish with Hawaiian natives in 1779.

What lay in the uncharted portions of the planet stoked Cook's curiosity and motivated exploration. The land masses of Earth were parts of a jigsaw puzzle he had to piece together one island at a time.

When Cook saw land, every detail caught his attention: the orientation of headlands, the behavior of tides and currents, the depth of the sea, and the specifications of shoals, rocks and cliffs. He recorded information about bays, harbors and coastal features useful for navigation. He studied local flora and fauna and collected samples for further analysis.

He did this exhaustively, all over the globe. The world map became clear in Cook's wake.

Similarly, following a challenge about Sabbath-keeping from his wife in 1926, Mr. Armstrong entered a six-month night-and-day study of the Bible to prove her wrong. She was right, and he came to see real authority in the Bible. With his mind opened to the truth, coupled with curiosity and motivation to learn more, the night-and-day study continued for another three years. It was a voyage of exploration—biblical exploration.

Mr. Armstrong related in his autobiography, "I delved into intensive research in the commentaries, Bible encyclopedias, Bible dictionaries, comparing various translations of the Bible, examining Greek and Hebrew texts of doubtful or questionable passages, checking with lexicons and Robertson's *Grammar of the Greek New Testament.* I made an intensive study of ancient history in connection with biblical history and prophecy."

His studies were thorough and tireless. His research was objective, he didn't cut corners, and no stone was left unturned. He studied the Bible the way Isaiah 28:10 says it should be studied.

"As this study of the Bible continued," Mr. Armstrong wrote, "I was forced to come out of the fog of religious Babylon *a single doctrine at a time.* It was years later before I came to see the WHOLE picture—to understand God's PURPOSE being worked out here below, and why, and how, He is working it out. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the many single doctrinal parts ultimately fit together, and then, for the first time, the WHOLE picture burst joyfully into view" (ibid).

EXPOSING ERROR

The main goal of Cook's second voyage had been to "prowl the southern oceans and determine the existence, or nonexistence, of a hypothetical continent known as Terra Australis Incognita" (op cit). Scientists had assumed this landmass existed to counterbalance the Northern Hemisphere's terrain. Cook's voyage disproved this idea. Sides explains that "Cook had made an important contribution to 'negative discovery'—that is, finding nothing where something was widely presumed to be."

False ideas about the world's geography were ubiquitous. One objective for his third voyage was a renewed search for the Northwest Passage, a navigable channel across the northern part of Canada that would connect the Atlantic to the Pacific. The search was another futile endeavor. One biographer said Cook had become an "executioner of misbegotten hypotheses" (ibid).

Cook couldn't use guesswork, opinions or theories to chart supposed locations. For geographic verification, he ventured directly to the source. Where he discovered and explored land, he meticulously added the details to his maps.

Mr. Armstrong's experience was similar. While God taught him the plain truth of the Bible, he simultaneously disproved the false religious ideas of man's imagination. "I had to examine every doctrinal tree in the religious forest," he continued in his autobiography. "Many, as I had been brought up to believe them, were felled on close examination IN THE BIBLE. New doctrinal trees came into view. But finally, after years, I was able to see the whole forest of TRUTH, with dead doctrinal trees removed."

What lay in the uncharted portions of the planet stoked Cook's curiosity and motivated exploration. The land masses of Earth were parts of a jigsaw puzzle he had to piece together one island at a time.

Thereafter, anyone whose mind is opened by God to His precious truth doesn't have to study the false ideas of man to learn what is truth. The truth frees us from the deceit and dangers of religious deception (John 8:31-32). Proving God's truth is a personal necessity, but doing so is far easier because of Mr. Armstrong's exploration.

EXPEDIENT EDUCATION

In Cook's time, determining the precise location of his ship had its challenges. Latitude—his position north or south—could be calculated with standard tools in conjunction with the precise angle of the sun in the sky. "Longitude—how far west or east one was—was significantly harder to measure, especially while tossing about at sea," Sides explains. "Geographers, thinkers, and inventors had been trying for centuries to come up with a method, or an instrument, that could reliably fix this elusive but all-important piece of data."

NATHANIEL DANCE-HOLLAND

How this conundrum was solved is a fascinating slice of history. On Cook's second journey he carried an instrument that transformed maritime navigation. It was a seagoing clock, known as a marine chronometer today, that kept an accurate reference time set at a predetermined location, which could be compared with the current time at the ship's location based off the position of the sun. This clock, called K1, could "endure the unusual shocks and stresses a long ocean voyage entailed." With it, Cook could figure out longitude, and "lands and features could now be placed on maps with a facility and precision unknown before" (ibid).

This compact little clock in the hands of a master explorer contains a powerful lesson for us. "For something so small and compact, the implications of this practical seagoing clock were immense. The device allowed Cook, *or any future voyager,* to know exactly where he was on the globe. More importantly, it enabled him to pinpoint the locations of all the new lands and features he has encountered, SO THAT THE NEXT NAVIGATOR COULD QUICKLY AND RELIABLY RELOCATE THEM" (ibid; emphasis added).

In the 40 years since Mr. Armstrong's death, more has been added to what he taught—but only for those who have held fast to what he taught.

The comparison to our biblical education today is plain. "That is why students at Ambassador College today are able to learn the TRUTH much more rapidly than I could," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "That is why the readers of the *Plain Truth,* the regular listeners of the *World Tomorrow* program and the students of the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* are able to come to mature knowledge of the truth so quickly. The pioneer work has been done" (op cit).

It is so easy to take the history of this great Bible explorer for granted. Never forget that Mr. Armstrong mapped the Bible. What he did is an incredible personal blessing. Our spiritual survival and growth in the understanding of God's Word stem from his exploration.

The Apostle Paul admonished us to be thankful for receiving such understanding. To the congregation in Colosse he wrote, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7). Notice the connection Paul makes: To remain rooted, built up and established in what we have been taught, we must always be *thankful* for the truth. "Paul warned us to give God thanks *all* the time, because we've been taught so much," Gerald Flurry writes. "We must love this teaching so much that we become rooted and grounded in it" (*The God Family Vision*). The more thankful we are for those truths, the more firmly we will hold them fast.

EXTRA EDIFICATION

We must look to the Source of truth and align our thinking with how He instills truth into His Church. Mr. Armstrong directed our attention to that Source. "But thanks and praise to God, He HAS restored knowledge," he said in a 1983 sermon. "That is all God's doing. None of us can be anything more than human instruments. If I have been willing to do anything, it is only because God Himself brought about circumstances to compel me and make me willing, whether I wanted to be or not; and even then I can take no credit whatsoever. It was all the doing of God, through Jesus Christ."

Realize, Jesus Christ didn't just hand these truths over on a platter. Mr. Armstrong had to explore his Bible to learn them. Appreciating his meticulous process of biblical exploration should also deepen our gratitude for the truth.

Since the era of Cook's exploits, mankind has learned more from the vast ocean of knowledge about the geographic world. That post-Cook reality contains a vital lesson for us spiritually. In the 40 years since Mr. Armstrong's death, more has been added to what he taught—but only for those who have held fast to what he taught.

The Apostle Peter tells us, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12). "We have the same truth God gave Mr. Armstrong, and, just as with him, that truth has grown, deepened, widened, multiplied," Mr. Flurry wrote. "God has continued to bless us, as He did Mr. Armstrong, with new revelation. The living God did not stop speaking to His people when Mr. Armstrong died. He continued to give His people 'present truth' (2 Peter 1:12) that builds on the foundation of the truth He restored through Mr. Armstrong" (*Philadelphia Trumpet,* February 2020).

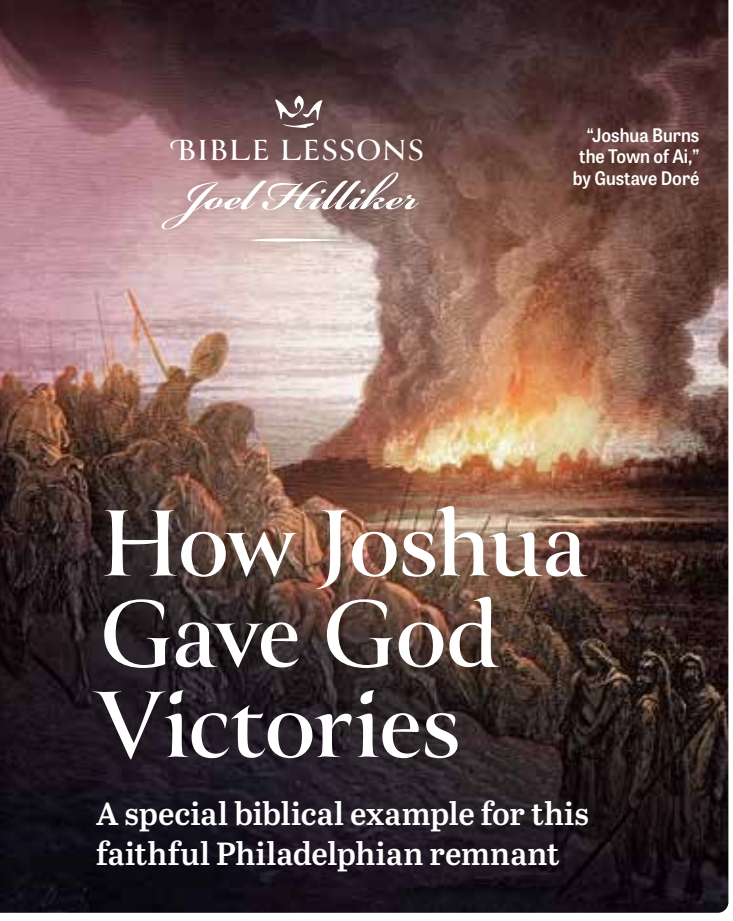
Receiving present truth, new revelation, through God's apostle today is further reason to be thankful for Mr. Armstrong's biblical exploration.

EXHILARATING ENDEAVOR

Where are you on your spiritual voyage? Hopefully you are at full sail and enjoying steady winds. But maybe not. Are you drifting listlessly on a still sea with meager provisions and low morale? Are you moored at a distant, secluded port, captivated by the culture of a foreign land? Are you shipwrecked on rocks that caught you off guard after ignoring the charts and advice from those around you? Are you lost at sea, in a dense fog hiding the sun and stars as tools of navigation? In any of these circumstances, you need a map to get back on course.

Just as the sailors who followed Cook relied upon his maps, we all need the map charted by Herbert W. Armstrong. It's God's map, really.

God's map will clearly indicate the dangers to avoid on your voyage. It will lift your spirits for an exciting adventure of ongoing exploration. It will align your course with the loftiest aims of God's imperial ambition. And it will leave a wake for others to follow. Let God fill your sails and lead you in your most exhilarating endeavor.



"Joshua Burns the Town of Ai," by Gustave Doré

How Joshua Gave God Victories

A special biblical example for this faithful Philadelphian remnant

"Give God victories" is a rallying cry Pastor General Gerald Flurry has given us in recent years. Perhaps the most victorious warrior in the Bible is Joshua. He led Israel into the Promised Land, achieved spectacular, miraculous triumphs in battle, and conquered 31 kings. God recorded this man's life for us in dramatic detail. We need to follow Joshua's example and *give God victories.*

Joshua has a special place in the Philadelphia Church of God's history. Mr. Flurry wrote much about him in his first book, *Malachi's Message.* The man God had used to lead His true Church, Herbert W. Armstrong, had died, and his successors waged a spiritual attack. "The Joshua story tells us how to lead when a great man like Moses dies," Mr. Flurry writes. "By studying this example, the leaders in Pasadena would have known how to lead—and how not to lead—when Mr. Armstrong died, and the consequences of each. That MAKES THESE BOOKS VERY PROPHETIC!"

Long after Moses had died and Joshua had been in charge for years, Joshua kept Moses alive in the Israelites' eyes. Mr. Flurry has followed that example in an extraordinary way. God began using Mr. Flurry to lead His true Church when he was 54 years old. In the decades since, he has stood up to the deceit of treasonous church leaders, fought for the truth, and raised up one ruin after another from the Work of God that had been destroyed. He continues working, fighting and pointing to Mr. Armstrong and to the *God* of Mr. Armstrong on into his 90s. In the spiritual realm, Mr. Flurry is a Joshua-like figure: loyal, obedient, faithful, uncompromising, willing to fight.

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

Joshua was born a slave. His early life was shaped by oppression, threats, deprivation and bondage. For obvious reasons, slaves have subservient, fearful mindsets. Yet something special existed in the mind of this son of Nun. We are introduced to it as the Bible first introduces us to him.

"Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek …" (Exodus 17:8-9). Shortly after their departure from slavery, this throng of newly freed slaves faced an attacking *army,* and Moses delegated the life-and-death physical defense of millions of people *to Joshua.* This young man, in his late 20s to mid-30s, must have already stood out among men because of his mindset, his spirit, his character. He did not have the mindset of a slave but of a captain!

Israel's men lacked the weapons and training to withstand this coming army. But Joshua was well armed with the memory of what he had witnessed weeks before. God had struck Egypt with miraculous plagues and protected the Israelites. He had delivered His people and led the march by a pillar of cloud and fire. Others forgot those miracles—but not Joshua.

Commanded by Moses, he responded with a "yes, sir" attitude. He mustered men, scrounged weapons, made formations, and gave orders. Among a people prone to murmuring, this man of action commanded respect.

God was with Israel, but He allowed the Amalekites to attack and engage. The men of Israel had to *fight.* Above the melee, Moses appealed to and lifted his arms to God. And on the ground, amid the thrusts and slashing and cries of battle, the soldiers experienced the difference—pressing forward as the human leader of Israel raised his arms to the spiritual Leader, falling backward as his arms fell from exhaustion (verses 9-11). Aaron and Hur upheld Moses's hands, and Joshua prevailed against Amalek (verses 12-16).

What a powerful lesson this was for Joshua: He learned to lead by action, he learned war by fighting, he learned to look to God's government, and he learned to win by drawing strength from God and taking the victory.

God shapes warriors through war. He sometimes shields us from hardships we cannot handle (Exodus 13:17). Yet He often drops us into hardships we *think* we CANNOT handle but can *with His help* (1 Corinthians 10:13). In those challenges, we need to study and believe, then *act* on that faith. We all need challenges and difficulties: That is the only way to trust God and give Him victories!

FAITH IN ADVERSITY

God saw to Joshua's training through tests and experience and through Moses's direct teaching. Joshua soaked up those experiences. He was with Moses during key events, like ascending Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:13). He saw God's government in action. He was trained in God's law. God had a leadership position in mind for Joshua—as He does for *you,* and He is shaping your experiences.

GUSTAVE DORÉ

When Israel reached the Promised Land, Moses sent this young man as one of 12 spies. The spies returned with high praise for the land but a fearful, "evil report" of its inhabitants (Numbers 13:32-33). Joshua and Caleb had seen these same inhabitants and other obstacles, but they reacted with faith. In an inspiring speech, they spoke of eagerly meeting those threats and hardships with God's help (Numbers 14:6-9). This is the positive, passionate, faith-filled attitude we need for spiritual victories.

The faithless people wanted to *stone* Joshua and Caleb for speaking out (verse 10). But these two men obeyed God's law that we not fear the face of man (Deuteronomy 1:17). Still, God decided the faithless nation must wait 40 years to enter the Promised Land. Watching that reward slip away and accepting that decision would have been tough for Joshua, but he did not let it ruin him. That adversity forged him into an even stronger leader—one who could succeed Moses and finally lead the people into Canaan.

Even after Moses died, Joshua was "Moses' minister" (Joshua 1:1). In a sense, Joshua fulfilled that role until he himself died nearly four decades later!

GOD'S ADVICE TO WARRIORS

The book of Joshua, documenting the conquest of Canaan, begins when Joshua is an old man—probably in his 70s! This man knew how to push himself and to rely on God for strength. Even as an old man, he gave God many victories! The lessons we can take from him apply to all of us, old and young.

In Joshua 1, God instructed him on how to achieve victories. He didn't teach him battle tactics, formations, strategy, weapons, rigorous physical training to endure combat demands, mental exercises to build resilience, critical thinking, stress management, skills in intelligence gathering, or logistics and resource management. What God taught him, more than anything else, was *faith.*

God directed the whole operation. He told Joshua where to go and what to do, and He said: "... I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (verse 5).

"Only be thou strong and very [or *wholly*] courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee ..." (verse 7). These precious verses are God's direct instruction to a warrior on how to fight and win victories! We must be *all in,* fighting heart and soul. Action goes a long way! (Matthew 11:12).

It takes COURAGE to obey God and to follow every word of the instructions from God's man. But this is how to achieve victory: Don't deviate from those instructions. Make sure every step is in line with that standard God has established. We naturally think we have a better way. It is especially easy to think that when the person you have to submit to is dead! But God said, *No! Those instructions came from me—and I'm still here!* Obey them, and you will prosper and gain victories. Mr. Flurry is an excellent example. To this day, in addition to consulting God and His Word, he continually asks, *How did Mr. Armstrong handle this?*

Joshua was a strong warrior, yet God warned him not to be timid or discouraged (Joshua 1:9). He knew that conquering the Promised Land would be hard. Our natural response to trial is fear and dismay. But remember: "the LORD thy God is with thee." That makes life, even when challenging, meaningful and exhilarating! God wants our whole life to be a challenging, strengthening, inspiring struggle—rewarding warfare, a good fight, leading into the Promised Land!

"Joshua's book shows why he won battle after battle going into the Promised Land—how he was able to defeat 31 kings and finish his job," Mr. Flurry writes. "Above all, it shows how he exalted God. This is the *only way* for us to reach the Promised Land, God's Kingdom!" (*The Former Prophets*). That is key: Exalt God, and you will win your battles.

PUT GOD FIRST

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, Joshua ordered them to follow the ark of the covenant and to "go after it" (Joshua 3:3). He was teaching the people the key to victory: *Follow God.* Joshua didn't put the best warriors in front—he put the ark, the symbol of God's throne and God's presence, up front.

The most important word in the phrase "give God victories" is *God.* We need Him to lead us in battle.

"Joshua *loved* working for God. He knew that when you truly serve God, God works wonderful miracles for you," Mr. Flurry writes. "Joshua called Him 'the living God [who] is among you' (verse 10). As a result of this approach, Joshua and the nation enjoyed wonder after wonder!" God can give *you* "wonder after wonder"—victories and miracles of energy, health, weather, finances, relationships, understanding, growth.

With the ark leading the procession, the river's waters stopped, as if dammed by a wall of glass, and the Israelites crossed on dry ground! (verse 17). Follow this example and put God first in your life, and you can expect miracles! "We must rely on the God of miracles to accomplish this Work! We have to make sure we are putting Him out in the front where *everybody* can see Him. ... We must always be exalting God. [W]e *absolutely must* PUT GOD IN THE SPOTLIGHT! He must be center stage! That is what makes everything really click" (ibid).

Joshua knew the Israelites would forget this tremendous experience, much as their fathers forgot the Red Sea miracle. He commanded one man from each tribe to take a stone from the dry riverbed and carry it to the other side. He built a memorial on the bank to serve as a perpetual reminder of this miracle (Joshua 4:6-8). He also commanded a separate memorial be made on the riverbed, which was then covered with water (verse 9). As Mr. Flurry explains in *The Former Prophets,* this shows how much depth there is in God's actions and miracles when we dive in.

God wants His people to *remember* the miracles He performs for us! (verses 22-24). When we forget, we drift from God, from walking by faith, from fighting on the battlefield with Him. To gain more victories, we must remember those miracles and act on them.

'WHAT SAYS MY LORD?'

Joshua was tough, willing to do hard things for God. God commanded him to "circumcise again the children of Israel the second time" (Joshua 5:2). As unpopular as this would have been, Joshua had a "yes, sir" attitude. He had earned the people's respect and was able to command, inspire and unify them, even in doing something so personal, difficult and painful (verses 3-8).

In another extraordinary episode, a menacing figure approached Joshua, sword in hand. This 75-year-old man marched straight up to him, demanding, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" (verse 13). Without realizing it, he had just confronted a God Being—"the Captain of the host of the LORD," who later became Jesus Christ! Christ identified Himself here as a military commander. As soon as Joshua realized this, he showed deep respect, bowing before his Captain (verses 14-15).

Joshua was a bold, aggressive warrior, yet at the same time a model of submission—to Moses, long after he was gone, and more importantly, to the God of Moses. That is the attitude we need to give God victories. We must be deeply humble, seeking God's will: "What says my lord unto His servant?" Each of us must be very responsive to our Captain, seeking His direction every day.

TAKING JERICHO

Israel's battles of conquest began with Jericho, a formidable city. God instructed Joshua to place the priests, carrying the ark, in front of all the people and to march around the city silently for seven days. Joshua ensured they followed these strange instructions precisely (Joshua 6:6-16). Their *actions* did the talking, and they vividly put the focus on God.

What happened next was undeniable proof—to the Israelites *and* to their enemies—that *God* was fighting their battles! On the seventh day, these people who crossed the Jordan River without even getting mud on their feet, circled the city seven times. The priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted, and God *flattened* the fortress walls! (verse 20).

God asks us to do things we don't understand at times. If we trust and obey Him, He will take care of us. What made Joshua such a successful warrior wasn't his battle tactics—it was his faith and his obedience. Connect to God, then put all your effort in!

"Give God victories" is about *God being our Commander.* You don't have to devise your own battle plan. You're not giving *yourself* victories. You are implementing what GOD directs you to do.

DEFEAT, THEN VICTORY, AT AI

One Israelite, Achan, had disobeyed God's instructions for the conquest of Jericho (Joshua 7:1). He coveted some wealth and took it, thinking he could hide it without repercussions. We too are tempted to disobey, to covet, to act on our selfish impulses and dismiss it as if it were inconsequential. But there *are* consequences! God knows. Sin creates problems for your family, for a church, for a nation. It is, in fact, a national security threat!

Joshua was unaware of the sin and sent men to scout out the next city to conquer, Ai (verses 2-3). These verses do not mention God; the Israelites made no effort to obtain God's instructions for the battle. Perhaps they had grown complacent after Jericho. After winning a victory, it is easy to become self-reliant and to take credit for what God did.

Shockingly, the men of Ai, who were "but few," routed the Israelites and succeeded in killing 36 men! (verses 4-5). This was the first battle Joshua had ever lost, and he was devastated. He went straight to God and sought an explanation (verses 6-9).

Mr. Flurry makes this crucial point: "[R]ealize: If you're going to be a great man like Joshua, you have to learn how to COME BACK from a lost battle now and then! Just because you lose a battle doesn't mean you've lost the war!" (ibid). When you experience a loss, or perhaps God corrects you for something you did wrong, do not lose heart! Fight that tendency, or you will never win victories! *Most* of the battles we face and the victories we must win are against our own human nature.

Dealing with sin halfheartedly leads to defeat. Joshua shows that an uncompromising warrior spirit leads to victory.

God told Joshua: "Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned …" (verses 10-11). God sorely corrected him. The problem wasn't human strength, resources, intelligence, strategies or tactics—but obedience. The threat wasn't a foreign spy in their midst but *a disobedient brother.*

"There is a giant lesson here. When we stop winning our battles, SIN IS THE CAUSE! And even though only one person had done it, there were probably others who knew and who thought it wasn't their problem. But even if only one person sins, *there is sin in the congregation*—and it needs to be GOTTEN OUT!" (ibid). Spiritual victories require *action* in our faith and *purity* in our obedience.

God told Joshua exactly how to handle this. When Joshua received those instructions, he repented deeply. He obeyed instantly, carrying out those instructions without compromise (verses 16-26). Joshua feared God, not man. He "rose up early in the morning," addressed the guilty man directly, sent men who literally ran to the tent where the forbidden goods were hidden, then executed Achan, apparently all on the same day.

To give God victories, we must be tough. We cannot be timid about fulfilling God's instructions, even when they are severe. One of Israel's biggest weaknesses, then and now, is softheadedness, being unwilling to confront evil with sufficient force. Dealing with sin halfheartedly leads to defeat. Joshua shows that an uncompromising warrior spirit leads to victory.

After this sin was addressed, God gave Joshua a detailed battle plan (Joshua 8). He ordered Joshua and the men of war to go, then fought their battle for them, and they did not lose a single soldier!

One more lesson from Joshua's example: After this victory, Joshua read the law, including the blessings and curses, before the whole congregation (verses 34-35). Again, after a victory, it is easy to take credit and to become complacent. Joshua ensured that didn't happen as it had after Jericho: He reminded them of every word!

BOLDNESS IN BATTLE!

Soon after, five kings came against Israel at once (Joshua 10:5). Joshua's response showed his fighting spirit more than any other single episode.

Joshua rose up with all his warriors, and God told him victory was theirs. In faith, then, Joshua took action, launching a surprise attack! All night they fought. They slaughtered many enemy soldiers, then pursued those who escaped. God was winning the victory, but He was doing it through the Israelites' belief, obedience and action. He even added a miraculous hailstorm to His intervention, wiping out even more enemy soldiers than the Israelites did (verses 7-11).

Yet the greatest miraculous intervention during the battle with the Amorites was still to come.

As the day wore on, Joshua feared that the setting sun would give cover to the remaining soldiers who were fleeing. He boldly said before his whole army, "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon"! (verse 12). Yes, he effectively issued orders to halt the sun so the Israelites could keep fighting and finish the task God had commanded. What a warrior!

How do you act when the battle gets tough? God wants you to press on! Finish the job!

God loved this spirit in Joshua. He responded: "And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. ... And there was no day like that before it or after it, that *the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man:* for the LORD fought for Israel" (verses 13-14). God took orders from Joshua! Nothing is too hard for our great Creator!

Afterward, Joshua told the Israelites, "Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight" (verse 25). What a lesson! In our warfare, we should not hold back. Don't be timid! Be strong; be confident!

Verses 28-43 record victory after victory after victory. And they all follow this same formula: Follow God's lead, obey Him completely, act boldly in faith, and look to Him for the triumph.

TOTAL VICTORY

In those areas Joshua conquered, he achieved *total* victory: "So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded" (Joshua 10:40). As Mr. Flurry has emphasized, *partial victories are not enough.*

"When Joshua waged war, HE ANNIHILATED THE ENEMY," Mr. Flurry writes. "... God *did* command Israel to remove those people from the Promised Land because He knew that if they remained, they would draw the Israelites away from God. He knew that Satan would use those people as a weapon to destroy what God was building within Israel—the nation through which He intended eventually to save the world!" (ibid).

This is a crucial lesson in separating from the world. We must let it go, give it up completely!

The first 12 chapters of this book record five to seven years of fighting, putting Joshua in his late 70s or early 80s when the land was divided.

FAITHFUL TO THE END

Joshua lived a long, bold, action-oriented, faith-filled life (Joshua 24:29). Decades after entering the Promised Land, and just before he died, Joshua gave his last sermons to the Israelites (Joshua 23-24). The people were all a full generation or more younger than him; he was at or approaching 110. These are the words of a much older, mighty spiritual warrior. The Israelites needed to cling to God by clinging to these words! (Joshua 23:8).

Right to the end, Joshua was still faithfully emphasizing the instructions of his predecessor Moses (verse 6). Mr. Flurry highlighted this example in his first book, *Malachi's Message.* And he has continued to direct all of us to his predecessor—throughout the decades since until this present day! It is a stirring, Joshua-like example. Those passages in *Malachi's Message* are all the more meaningful as a result.

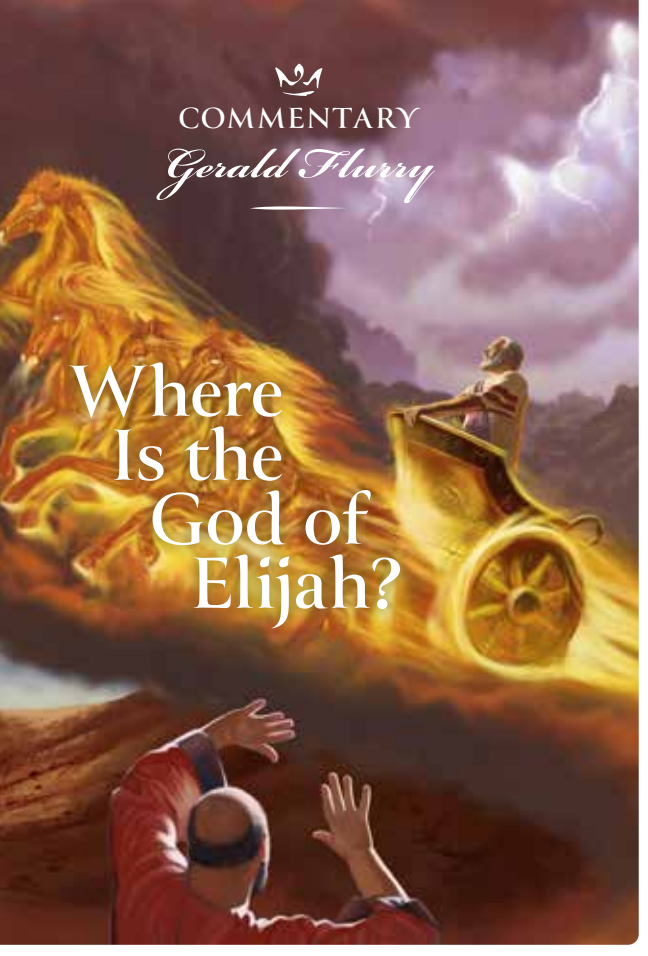
Joshua warned about getting entangled with the pagans still left in the land (verses 11-13). We must love God and vigilantly guard our minds to hold on to the inheritance God gives us. Joshua directly warned them—and us—against the influence of the world. We are so susceptible, but if we go along with the world, we will suffer its fate (verses 15-16).

Joshua concluded with this powerful admonition: "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:14-15). Absolutely *nothing* could turn Joshua away from God. His attitude was, *I will obey and serve God even if I have to do it alone!* Each of us must be able to stand alone for God if necessary!

That is what our pastor general has done from the beginning of the Philadelphia Church of God to today. It is a Joshua-like example that we all need to emulate if we are to give God victories in our lives.

The Israelites responded that they were all in (verses 16-18). But the book of Judges and the rest of the history of the Israelites in the Promised Land show that they didn't live up to this commitment.

What about you?



COMMENTARY

Gerald Flurry

Where Is the God of Elijah?

When the Prophet Elijah was carried away in a whirlwind, his student Elisha was moved with emotion. "And Elisha saw it, and he cried, *My father, my father,* the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces" (2 Kings 2:12).

Elijah was not Elisha's physical father, but he was his *spiritual* father because Elisha and the sons of the prophets came to God *through* Elijah. In that sense, they were all his sons.

Some people didn't see the importance of Elijah's office, but Elisha saw that it was the only office that could lead and carry Israel forward! It was Israel's only hope—then and now! He saw that, ultimately, all Israel would be governed by the teachings of Elijah. His cry of "My father, my father" revealed a deep understanding and a beautiful attitude. This wholehearted devotion showed why God used Elisha to succeed Elijah. God loved his attitude.

The original Elijah and the end-time Elijah held extremely important "father" offices for God. Like Elisha, the Philadelphia Church of God recognizes this fact. This is the foundational issue that sets the PCG apart from any other Church of God group. If you follow the Elisha example in this respect, God will make you a king with a headquarters position forever. Why? Because this foundational truth points us to God the Father.

Do you view Mr. Armstrong the way God does?

After Elijah was gone, Elisha learned an important lesson. "He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, *Where is the Lord God of Elijah?* and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over" (verses 13-14).

If you study this account in the original Hebrew, you will see that the first time Elisha came up to the Jordan, he smote the water but didn't speak—and nothing happened. Then he asked the important question, "*Where is the Lord God of Elijah?*" and smote the water again, and the river opened up and he walked across!

Do you want to know how to do the Work of God today? How to have doors open for you—even parting rivers, if necessary? Here is the formula. Elisha knew where the God of Elijah was, and he was following his spiritual father. So God parted the waters of the river for him, just as He did for Elijah.

Where is the God of Elijah today? Where is the great Almighty God who did that powerful work?

Can you answer that question? Far too many of God's people aren't even *asking it!*

God did not die with Mr. Armstrong! Yet none of the scattered churches of God have that kind of power. They don't receive and proclaim God's revelation. They don't have God's government. And their works are, frankly, devoid of the kind of miracles and wonders that were almost *routine* when the Work was led by Mr. Armstrong.

We must find and remain with the God of Elijah!

All baptized members of the Church of God during the Philadelphia era will be held accountable for the fact that they were with that God for so long. The tragic fact is this: Not only have most of God's people left Him—most of them are not even *interested* in where He is! If they wanted to know, they would submit to God's government and end up in God's true Church.

I challenge you to examine the miraculous Work God is doing today through the Philadelphia Church of God.

God has continued to bless us, as He did Mr. Armstrong, with new revelation. The living God did not stop speaking to His people when Mr. Armstrong died. He has continued to give us "present truth" (2 Peter 1:12) that builds on the foundation of the truth He restored through Mr. Armstrong. The PCG produces over 100 books and booklets, the large majority of which contain new biblical understanding from the great God.

That is the single greatest proof that the God who inspired Mr. Armstrong is behind our work.

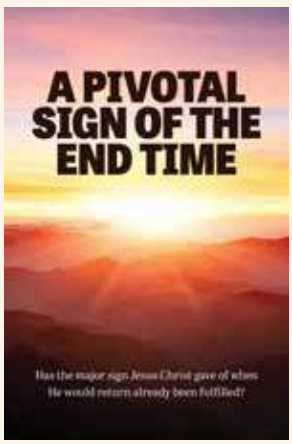
We hope you can clearly identify the same miracles and blessings that built Mr. Armstrong's work. Most of all, we hope and pray that you can recognize the Work of the God of Elijah!

Our time in this age of man is fast running out. God is growing much more urgent in trying to reach His sons who have turned away from Him, because eternal life hangs in the balance. We urge you to respond to Him!

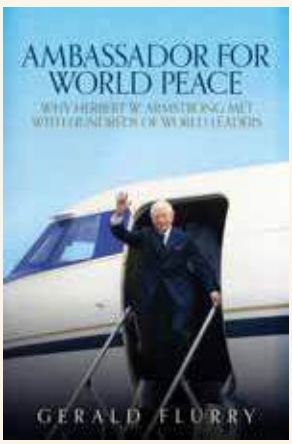
GARY DORNING/ROYAL VISION

A HIGHLIGHT OF HISTORY

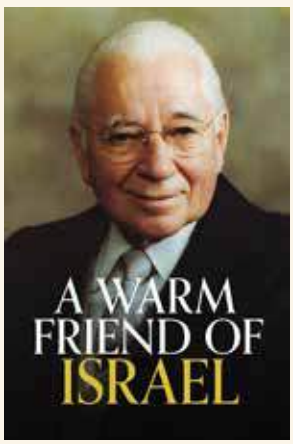
Herbert W. Armstrong's life and teachings offer many invaluable lessons. The Philadelphia Church of God has been built following his example. Over the years we have produced several books and booklets expounding on various aspects of his work. For more information about any of the material in this special *Royal Vision* edition, request a free copy of any of the titles below (which are accompanied by page references to the related articles in this issue).



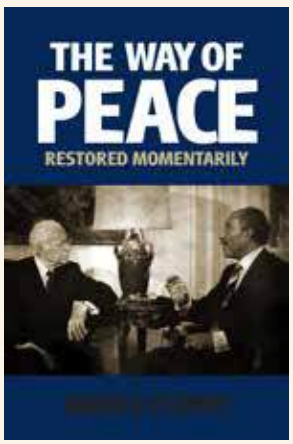
PAGE 2



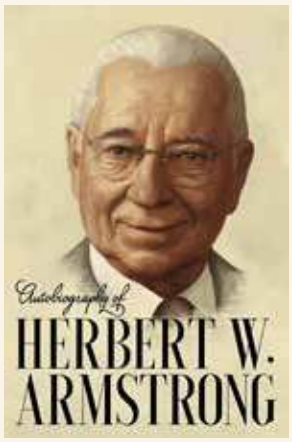
PAGE 2



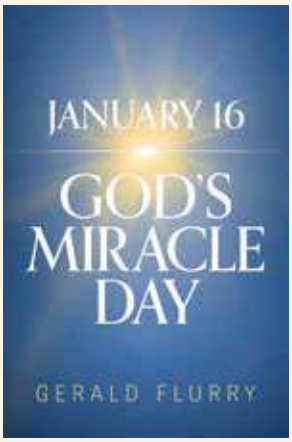
PAGE 2



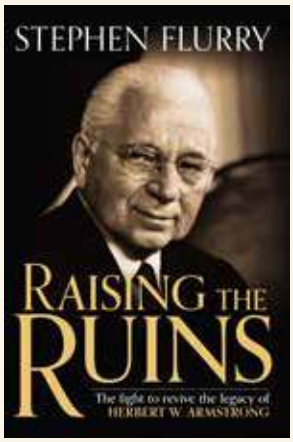
PAGE 2



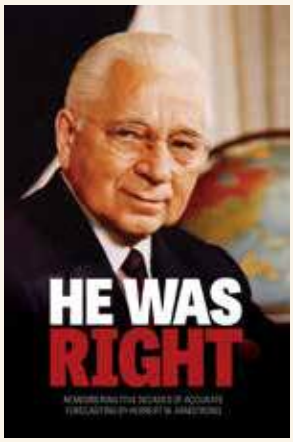
PAGES 10, 12, 28



PAGE 14



PAGE 22



PAGE 24

HOW TO ORDER THE LITERATURE OFFERED IN THIS MAGAZINE

U.S. AND CANADA
1-800-772-8577

UNITED KINGDOM
0800 756 6724

E-MAIL
REQUEST@PCOG.ORG

MAIL
PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD
P.O. BOX 3700 EDMOND, OK 73083

AUSTRALIA
1-800-22-333-0

THE PHILIPPINES
+63 915-339-7087

ONLINE
PCG.CHURCH