

The Good News

The National Magazine of
AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

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A NEW Good News!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

HERE is a *new* GOOD NEWS! With this issue, the GOOD NEWS becomes exclusively the official publication of God's True Church in these closing days of this world.

With this issue a new policy is adopted. *The Good News* will hereafter be sent *only* to those recognized as MEMBERS of the true Church of God—those in whom we can see evidence, by the fruits borne, that GOD has added them to His Church. It is a holy Church which no man can "join." We are inducted into it by God, thru receiving, and being led by, the Holy Spirit.

The PLAIN TRUTH to the World

The *Plain Truth* now becomes, as it was from its first issue in February, 1934, the general evangelistic magazine of this Church, sent freely to all who request it for themselves. It is edited for the public—for the world, as many as request it for themselves. But of course it is edited, too, for God's own children, and so you will, of course, continue to receive *The Plain Truth* each month, in addition, now, to *The Good News*.

In other words, you whom God has made members of the true Body of Christ will hereafter receive *both* magazines every month, instead of only one as formerly. But radio listeners will be told, henceforth, only about *The Plain Truth*, and *only The Plain Truth* will be mailed to them, unless we have evidence that God has added them to that consecrated, obedient, faithful inner circle who have been baptized by the

Holy Spirit into the one Body of Christ, the true Church of God.

ONLY for Active MEMBERS

We ask you to help us *keep* *The Good News* exclusively a paper for real members *only*. Do not give or loan a copy to anybody, whether friends or relatives. If they have been made members of the true begotten family of God, they will be on the list and receive their own copy each month. If not, we ask you not to pass it on to them. *The Plain Truth* is the magazine we send freely, and without charge, to all who request it. But in *The Good News* we wish to be free to say things to you, as our inner family of God's children, which we cannot say to the world. We wish to be free to feed you, thru the columns of *The Good News*, the truly "strong meat" of spiritual food which might choke the carnal minded or prove a stumbling block to the unconverted, and those not wholly yielded to OBEDIENCE to God.

The Good News, hereafter, is the medium in print thru which God's truly called ministers FEED THE FLOCK. *The Plain Truth*, as it started out originally, becomes the medium thru which God's called ministers publish the Gospel of the Kingdom of God TO ALL THE WORLD.

For the time being *The Plain Truth* will continue to be a 16-page magazine. For the present we shall be able to print only 8 pages each issue of *The Good News*. As God makes possible, thru the tithes and offerings of His people, we hope to enlarge *The Good*

News to 16 pages, and we also hope some of these days to enlarge *The Plain Truth* to 32 pages, well illustrated. All this costs money, and we shall do whatever God makes possible thru our Co-Workers.

God Adds Daily to Church

Let us be glad and rejoice in the fact that there are many loyal Co-Workers who are not, as yet, so far as we are able to know, actually members of God's own begotten family. They have progressed far enough in the Truth to recognize it, and want to have a part in spreading it—but perhaps have not, as yet, let it take full root in their own lives. Month by month, however, — hundreds every year—more and more of these do come to full repentance toward God, and surrender fully to Him, accepting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and as their LORD AND MASTER and HEAD. And so, brethren, I call on you in Jesus' name to PRAY for all these, that God will convict them, and thru His Spirit draw them to Jesus Christ, grant them repentance, and bring them into this glorious family of God to become our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As this initial issue of the *NEW Good News* goes to press, it finds me very tired from the stress and strain of overwork. I carry a very heavy load of responsibility. I presume you understand it still is necessary for me to carry several different jobs, each of which is a heavy full time job—that of Editor of
(Please continue on page 8)

Amazing 2000-Year History of the Church of God

How much do you really know about OUR CHURCH—YOUR CHURCH? Have you supposed it was founded by or through the efforts of Herbert W. Armstrong? IT WAS NOT! Hundreds of you will be ASTONISHED to see the true history of this, our Church—GOD'S Church. This actual true and authentically documented history is breathtaking. Here, then, are the astounding facts! This surprising truth is bound up in the real meaning, revealed at last, of the seven churches in Revelation!

by Herman L. Hoeh

HERE is the TRUTH about our church! Almost two thousand years ago a messenger came to this earth bringing startling news of a coming world government!

That messenger was Jesus Christ. His message was the good news or gospel of the kingdom—the coming world-ruling government of God (Mark 1:14)—the very family of God into which we must be born to gain eternal life (John 3:3-5).

Jesus came to *deliver* this message from God to man. He did *not* come to preach it *personally* to the whole world. Instead, Jesus spent his ministry *preparing the foundation for THE CHURCH* which would carry his gospel of the kingdom to all nations.

Why Jesus Promised to Build Church

Jesus devoted his ministry to calling out disciples, teaching them the gospel, setting them an example by his own ministry. He authorized them with the greatest commission ever given to human beings—to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God in the whole world (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15).

Before Jesus ascended to the throne of God, he commanded the apostles and disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they were imbued with the Holy Spirit, which made them the begotten sons of God and endowed them with the POWER OF GOD to carry out His work.

Jesus founded his church by sending the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Monday, June 18, 31 A.D.

It was an inspired church, a church in which Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, was living his life and THROUGH WHICH JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH AND PUBLISH HIS GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

What Is the True Church?

The true church is the collective body of individuals, called out from the ways

of this present world, who have *totally* surrendered themselves to the rule of God, and who, through the Holy Spirit, become the begotten sons of God (Rom. 8:9).

Jesus purchased *the church* by shedding his own blood for it (Acts 20:28). The true church is not some *politically organized denomination* which one joins or becomes a member of in order to be "saved." Jesus did not die for some one *organization* called a church.

You can't *join* the true church; *only God can put you into it!*

The church is called the body of Christ because it is a *spiritual organism* whose LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD is Jesus Christ, in the same sense that the husband is head of the wife (Eph. 5:23,31).

Church Subject to Government of God

Notice that from the very beginning the church was subject to the rule of God. It was not a government by the will of man or boards of men. Jesus is the head of the church. He rules the church.

Directly under Jesus, *God set the apostles* first in positions of authority to carry out God's will, to be instruments in His hand, through which He could spread the gospel and lead the church (I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). Paul the apostle was such a man. He was subject to Christ, so yielded to God that Jesus could make His will known to him and could use him in directing the work of the church and in preaching the gospel to the nations. Notice Acts 16, verse 6, where Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, made known to Paul that he was not "to preach the word in Asia." Paul was not free to go and to act as he pleased.

Under Paul in authority were the evangelists, such as Timothy and Titus, who assisted the apostles by carrying out the will of God as Jesus revealed it to the apostles. Under the authority of the

apostles and evangelists were the pastors and reaching elders in local congregations (Titus 1:5).

This was the government of God. The Father manifested His will to Jesus. Jesus revealed the Father's will to the apostles, who, in turn, revealed it to the evangelists. Through the apostles and evangelists, God's will was manifested to the local churches.

Church Grows in Truth

Before He ascended to the Father, Jesus prayed that His church would be kept ONE in the Father's name. "Holy Father, *keep through thine own name* those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are" (John 17:11).

The true church—the "church of God" (I Cor. 1:2)—is not many divided quarreling denominations, but ONE church, composed of many scattered members, ONE church united in Spirit, mind, attitude and heart because its members have totally surrendered their wills to God and have yielded to correction and reproof from the Word of God.

No denomination could be the true church, because none has been willing to admit where it has been wrong, none has received God's correction, none has allowed the Holy Spirit to guide it into truth. The church which Jesus is building is composed of those *scattered* individuals who have God's Holy Spirit, who admit it when they are wrong, as the apostle Peter did when he made a serious mistake (Gal. 2:11).

Now notice Jesus' promise in John 16:13. He would send the Spirit of truth who "will GUIDE you INTO all truth."

Here is the KEY which proves who are in God's church. It is composed *only* of those who are *growing into truth* as God reveals it. The moment anyone

ceases to GROW, but wants to retain only what he had five or ten years ago, from that moment on the Holy Spirit ceases to live in him.

False Teachers Prophesied

Now let's notice what was prophesied to happen to the church.

Jesus warned that there would be a great falling away—MANY false ministers deceiving the MANY (Mat. 24:4,5). Paul earnestly warned the elders that from their own number some would depart from the faith (Acts 20:29,30). False apostles and false brethren arose within local church assemblies (II Cor. 11:13-15,26). Soon they outnumbered the faithful who alone made up the TRUE Church of GOD.

Several years before the apostle John died he had to write his third letter about the fact that the few faithful brethren that were left were being put out of the local assembly (III John 9,10). Yet they, only, constituted the real Church of God!

Not only did Jesus prophesy that false ministers would deceive the many,

but he also said his church would be scattered and persecuted. The church first became scattered in the days of the apostles (Acts 8:1).

But that did not mean the scattered individuals were not part of the church. They were the church because they were joined to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Those who drove them out became the false Church—the Church of the god of this world—"the synagogue of Satan."

Notice what Daniel says about the church: "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge them, and to make them white, even to the time of the end" (Dan. 11:33-35).

How plain! The true church was forced out of the local organized congregations and scattered. False churches would arise professing to be the churches

of Christ. False brethren would betray God's people.

But Jesus promised to be with the faithful remnant to the end of the age—to guide His people into truth.

Where has His church been these 1900 years?

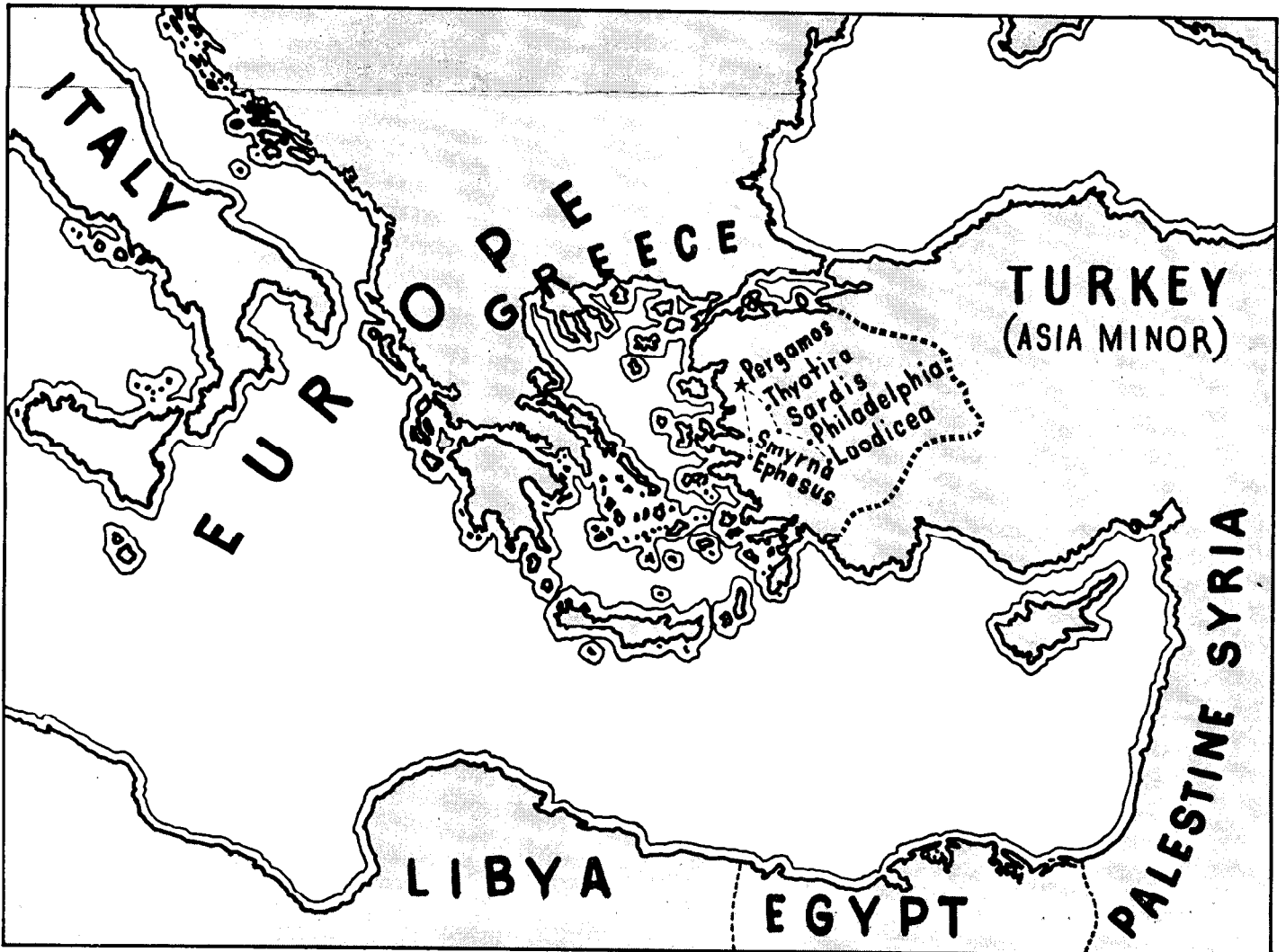
An Amazing Prophecy!

In the book of Revelation is an amazing prophecy. Almost no one understands it, yet it is so very plain. It is the seven churches of Revelation.

Notice Revelation 1:12-13. John sees a vision of seven candlesticks and Jesus in their midst. The Bible interprets the seven candlesticks to mean seven particular church congregations (verse 20). Jesus Christ is pictured as dwelling among the seven churches AS THOUGH THEY WERE A TYPE OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH.

There is the answer. Jesus dwells in the entire church. Since this vision pictures Him dwelling only in seven churches, those seven churches represent the entire church!

(Please continue on next page)



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The national magazine of
AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
*ministering to The Church of God
 scattered abroad, and
 reporting on campus happenings*

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Jesus chose the seven because *they formed a perfect two-fold pattern.*

First, they were typical of general conditions among God's people anywhere. That is why we today are admonished to hear what the Holy Spirit says to *all the seven churches.*

Second, those seven churches, each with its own particular characteristics, were chosen because their location *in successive order* on a long mail route WAS TYPICAL OF SEVEN SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD THROUGH ALL AGES.

Who ARE the Seven Churches?

WHY have all Bible students, until NOW, been unable to identify these churches? It is due to the fact that everyone has ASSUMED, erroneously, that these picture the seven stages of the visible, organized churches which have called themselves "Christian." In other words, it has been assumed that the churches of *this world* are pictured in Revelation 2 and 3 as continuations of the true church in apostolic days.

Everyone, it seems, has *supposed* that, following the apostolic Church, these seven churches picture the course of history in the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches—the churches of the god of *this world!*

This is not true!

These two chapters of Revelation picture, and convey God's message to THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD—the Church in which CHRIST lives and works—the Church which is HIS BODY—His instrumentality—the Church HE USES! It is the Church that was scattered, persecuted, unorganized—many of whose members have been martyred. This Church is composed of members who, even though begotten by and led by the Holy Spirit, yet are human and

therefore not perfect. In the message to each of these seven Churches Jesus has a word of correction. In every case He points out things they need to overcome. But they are the people who have and are led by His Spirit, who put themselves under GOD's government instead of human traditions or self desire or the way that seems right to a man, and who have in the main THE TRUE GOSPEL, even though they often lost vital portions of it.

Notice, chapter 2, verse 1: "These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars (the angels of the TRUE church) in His right hand, *who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks*" (*these seven churches*). Jesus Christ is IN these churches. They are HIS churches, NOT Satan's churches which falsely masquerade as "Christian."

And remember, the TRUE Church has not been politically organized, powerful and recognized by the world—but scattered, persecuted, *seldom noticed* by the world, and even then regarded as heretics.

Now let's UNDERSTAND who they are, one by one.

The Apostolic Age

The church at Ephesus pictured the *apostolic church*, a church which patiently labored in the gospel, which met many false apostles but remained nearly steadfast to the truth (Rev. 2:1-7).

THERE WERE TWO 19-YEAR CYCLES IN THE HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH DURING WHICH THE GOSPEL WAS CARRIED TO THE OLD WORLD. It was exactly 19 years from A.D. 31, when the church was founded, to the time that Paul received the vision to go into Europe! In Acts 16:9 Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia (in Greece) who shouted "Help us!" Paul described this event in II Cor. 2:12-13 where he wrote that "a door was opened unto me of the Lord" by which he

meant that a way was opened to preach the gospel in Europe.

Paul went into Europe in the late spring of 50 A.D. After a few months of preaching, he arrived in Corinth in the fall of that year (Acts 18:1) where he remained for *a year and six months* (verse 11). It was now the beginning of 52 A.D. An insurrection broke out against Paul when Gallio was deputy or procounsul of Achaia (verse 12). A recently discovered inscription in Greece states that Gallio held this position during 52 A.D., which proves that the gospel went to Europe in 50 A.D., just 19 years after the church was founded!

From 50 A.D. it was another 19 years until the fleeing of the mother church at Jerusalem, when that city was surrounded for the last time by Roman armies in 69 A.D. From that time forward the *united* power of the church of God to spread the gospel of the Kingdom ceased. No longer was there a mother church at Jerusalem to whom all churches could look as the standard of TRUTH. It now became a *struggle to strive for the faith once delivered* (Jude 3). The church had left its first love.

Soon after John finished the book of Revelation, the remnant of the true church, which kept the commandments and believed the gospel of the kingdom, was cast out and scattered over the length and breadth of the whole Roman Empire. This fulfilled Jesus' warning: "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place" (Rev. 2:5). Jesus *removed*, or took out, the true church—the light-giving candlestick—from the unrepentant local congregations where they had assembled (Rev. 2:5).

Thus ended the Apostolic Age typified by the church of Ephesus.

The church at Smyrna arises next. It appeared to be dead—non-existent—yet it was alive, *suffering persecution*. This pictures God's church during more than four centuries under the persecuting Old Roman Empire. Beside the true church there was also a "Synagogue of Satan" developing during this period.

The Synagogue of Satan—What Is It?

Now read Revelation 2:9. "I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Notice, this is a synagogue of Satan. A synagogue is merely the Hebrew word for church. Then Jesus is not speaking of a *race*, but of a *church* that belongs to the devil!

This church claims they are Jews. Why? Because Jesus said, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). "To the Jew first, then also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of THE WORLD TOMORROW!

TO ALL OF EUROPE:
 RADIO LUXEMBOURG—4:15 P.M.
 —Thursdays Luxembourg time.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:
 SUNDAYS ONLY
 DURING SUMMER

XEG—1050 on dial, new time,
 8:30 P.M. Central Standard
 time.

Other stations at usual time.

In Romans 11:16-27 Paul explains that Israel and the Jews to whom salvation belonged were broken off because of unbelief. Gentiles were grafted in their place. But once grafted in they were no longer Gentiles—"being in time past Gentiles in the flesh" (Eph. 2:11). Now they were all one in Christ Jesus, "no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints" (Eph. 2:19).

"He is a Jew," says Paul, "which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:29).

So here was a church made up of Gentiles, claiming salvation, claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading itself as a "Christian" church.

This synagogue of Satan is the Catholic Church which developed immediately after the Apostolic Age. That church has had many daughters which are also Satan's churches.

The True Church Persecuted

The world at this time did not recognize which was the true church. "The world knoweth us not" (1 John 3:1). It is from the enemies of God's church that we have scanty records of God's people, who were now maligned as heretics.

For centuries, Catholic writers mention remnants of the true church within the bounds of the Roman Empire. Sometimes they were individuals, sometimes scattered families, and especially in the Near East there were still a few local congregations preaching the gospel and keeping the commandments. As late as the beginning of the fifth century in Asia Minor, the bishop Chrysostom bewailed members of the Catholic Church, who, upon learning the truth from the scattered remnants of the true church, repented of their ways and began to observe "the feast of trumpets, the feast of tabernacles, and the feast of the great day of expiation" (Bingham's *Antiquities of the Christian Church*, bk. XVI, ch. VI).

With the restoration of the Roman Empire in the West under Justinian in 554, the true church fled into the valleys and mountains in Europe. John describes this flight for over a thousand years in the twelfth chapter of Revelation where he pictures the true church as a woman fleeing from persecution.

A Miracle Occurs

Now notice what John writes to the church at Pergamos: "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and has not denied my faith" (Rev. 2:13).

The local church to which John wrote was situated in Pergamos, the capital of the Roman province of Asia in Asia Minor—Pergamos was Satan's seat of worldly human government for that province. Just as the local church at Pergamos was situated in a city where Satan swayed human politics, so the next stage in the expansion of God's church occurred *within* the bounds of Satan's government—the Eastern Roman Empire—where the main body of God's people were still found.

It was about 650 A.D. that God, as if by miracle, raised up among the scattered remnants of his church in Cappadocia and Armenia a man who revitalized his people and spread the gospel. This well-educated man, by the name of Constantine of Manales, was given a gift of portions of the Bible. He was utterly amazed by the truth he found revealed in it after study. Soon he began preaching and with the help of trained evangelists found such a fruitful harvest that there were tens of thousands converted to the truth.

After twenty-seven years of ministry, he was stoned to death in 684, but an officer, Simeon, sent to destroy him, was so stirred by his death that he became converted and carried forth the gospel until he was burned at the stake six years later! Within another hundred years God raised up a third minister, Sergius, to guide his people who were allowing many false teachings to grow in their midst.

The name given to these people of God by their enemies was the *Paulicians*. The reports circulated about these people were slanderous and false. It was not till almost the beginning of the twentieth century that a book called *The Key of Truth*, containing many of their teachings, was translated into English by Fred C. Conybeare.

This partially preserved record of God's people proves that *they preached the gospel of the Kingdom; that they believed the church was founded not only upon Jesus Christ, but also upon the apostles and prophets* (Eph. 2:20); *that they baptized by immersion; that they laid on hands for the "reception of the Spirit"* (p. CXXIV). *They not only "continued to keep the Passover on the fourteenth of Nisan," but they also observed the sabbath and the festival of unleavened bread* (pages CLXII and CLII of *The Key of Truth*).

The devil was angry with these people who understood the gospel and kept the commandments. Knowing that he could not overthrow their faith by force, he corrupted them by introducing false teachers who taught the "doctrine of Balaam" (Rev. 2:14). In turning to Numbers 31:16, you will see that

Balaam induced the Israelites to practice idolatry and commit fornication.

Once again Satan, in his wiles to overthrow the church, introduced false teachers among God's people. These teachers induced many in the church to celebrate certain *idolatrous* pagan holidays, particularly Epiphany, in honor of Christ's birth and baptism.

Satan also caused many in the church to take part in worldly politics in the hope of safeguarding themselves. Mixing with the politics of this world is called "fornication" in Revelation 17:2. God's church is to be a virgin and remain pure and *separate from the world*, waiting for the marriage to Christ (II Cor. 11:2).

As a result of these sins, Jesus warned his church: "Repent; or else I will fight against thee with the sword of my mouth" (Rev. 2:16). Most took the warning lightly until it was too late. Trusting in their worldly political alliances with neighboring Arabs, instead of relying on Jesus' protection, they were betrayed and slaughtered—one hundred thousand of them! The faithful few who escaped were driven to Southeastern Europe and called Bogomils. "There they thrived for centuries, and . . . spread . . . their tenets into Bohemia, Poland, Germany, Italy, France, and even into . . . England" (p. CIV).

The church in the wilderness

John was inspired to commend the church at Thyatira because *the last works* of the church were *more than the first*. But in the local church there was a false teacher who taught some to practice idolatry. Jesus warned them that He would cast them into great tribulation and "kill her children with death" unless they repented (Rev. 2:18-29).

Now let us notice how this description fits exactly the next great expansion of God's people.

As a result of the evangelization of the Alpine regions by the Paulicians and Bogomils of Bulgaria, as God's people were called, there arose numerous ministers and faithful congregations. One of these men was Peter de Bruys who preached the gospel of the kingdom in the south of France (Jones' *Church History*, ch. 4, sect. 3). Two other preachers of the time were Arnold and Henri. They were charged by the Catholic Church with remaining faithful to the whole law of God and of observing the sabbath (*Ecclesiastical History*, by Peter Allix, pp. 168-169).

The Lutheran historian Mosheim says of another branch of the church of God in the twelfth century that they held "a notion that the observance of law of Moses, in everything except the offering of sacrifices, was obligatory upon

Christians . . . they abstained from those meats the use of which was prohibited under the Mosaic economy, and celebrated the Jewish Sabbath. The second tenet which distinguished this sect was advanced in opposition to the doctrine of three persons in the divine nature."

Yes, they knew that God was not a trinity, but a family!

A crusade was instituted against many of these people in Southern France. Thousands perished. But when it seemed that the *first work would soon be ended*, there arose an even *greater* leader among God's people.

It was the close of the twelfth century. In Lyons, France, lived an astonishingly successful and wealthy merchant, Peter Waldo. "One day, while in the company of some of the leading citizens, one of his friends fell lifeless at his side. Terrified by the event, he said to himself: If death had stricken me, what would have become of my soul?"

Being a Catholic, Waldo asked one of these theologians what is the *perfect* way. "Ah! answered the theologian . . . here is Christ's precept: 'If thou wilt be perfect, go, sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come take up thy cross and follow me.'" (Comba, *History of the Waldenses*, p. 21).

Waldo disposed of his property by distributing to the poor. But from his wealth he also had a translation of the Scriptures made. In this translation he noticed the command to the apostles to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. His mind began to understand the Scriptures.

God was using Peter Waldo.

Comba says that "he brought to the study of the Scriptures that practical common sense which had guided him in his business transactions . . . The word of Christ was clear enough; for Waldo it was simply a question of furnishing a literal translation" (p. 243 of Comba's *History*).

The humble remnant of the church of God listened to him. Soon many new disciples were coming to repentance. "His disciples became almost as many *co-workers* for him" (p. 26).

Called the "Church of God"

God's church was once again spreading the gospel! *A school for ministers was established to provide the trained help to carry the gospel.*

Here is a marvelous record from these people, dated 1404: "We do not find anywhere in the writings of the Old Testament that the light of truth and of holiness was at any time completely extinguished. There have always been men who walked faithfully in the

paths of righteousness. Their number has been at times reduced to a few; but has never been altogether lost. We believe that the same has been the case from the time of Jesus Christ until now; and that it will be so unto the end. *For if the Church of God was founded, it was in order that she might remain until the end of time . . .* We do not believe that the Church of God, absolutely departed from the way of truth; but one portion yielded, and, as is commonly seen, the majority was led away to evil." (Quoted in Comba's *History*, pp. 10-11.)

Catholics admit that these people proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom of God, that they baptized repentant believers and obeyed the *whole* law of God.

But just as there was a false teacher, Jezebel, in the local church at Thyatira, so now there were many *false* teachers and *false* brethren among God's people who taught that it was all right to have Catholics baptize their children or to attend *idolatrous* mass once in a while. Others committed spiritual fornication by meddling in politics in the hope of avoiding persecution.

To correct his people God caused a frightful crusade to pass over them 300 years after the death of Waldo. Only a faithful remnant escaped.

Once again we see the repeated fact that after a few generations, the local congregations are no longer composed of truly converted brethren, but of unconverted children and halfhearted believers who either go aside into total error in the face of persecution or else give up their lives for the faith, as Daniel prophesied.

But in 1315, long before the crusade against the Waldenses occurred, the truth of God was carried to England by a German Waldensian preacher, Walter Lollard.

Now let's notice what John wrote to the Church at Sardis.

The church in England and America

The church at Sardis had a name that it was alive but it was dead (Rev. 3:1). Only a minute fraction of its people were really surrendered to God and holding to the faith once delivered. This is just the picture of the church of God for over 600 years after the preaching of Walter Lollard.

Through the preaching of Lollard and other helpers, hundreds were repenting. Thousands were learning for the first time that Catholic religious holidays came from paganism and that Sunday was not the Sabbath.

But within sixty years after the coming of Walter Lollard, a reform movement under John Wyclif arose in Eng-

land and nearly engulfed the teachings of the original Waldensian preachers. After a period of persecution, there remained only a few who kept the faith and observed the Sabbath and the annual festivals. When confronted with imprisonment for their faith, several ministers gave up the faith even though some of their followers remained steadfast (Cox's *Sabbath Literature*, Vol. 1, p. 162).

It was not until about 1650 that there were enough sabbath keepers to establish local congregations. They called themselves the churches of God, but the world termed them Sabbatarians and Sabbatarian Baptists.

From England the churches of God spread to America. In 1664, Stephen Mumford, sent to Newport, Rhode Island, raised up a small church mainly from Baptist converts. One by one new churches were established through continued help of the churches in England.

But as always happens, after several generations the children take truth for granted and never really surrender their wills and their lives to God. In less than one hundred and fifty years, the English churches almost disappeared, having cut themselves off from God by *turning from* his truth, and by adopting the name "Seventh-day Baptists."

In America the number of churches gradually increased as the gospel was spread from state to state. But so nearly dead were these congregations that in 1802 many began to ORGANIZE THEMSELVES together into a General Conference instead of submitting to the government of God for the carrying out of the gospel. At this serious juncture, *most* of the local churches *joined themselves together* to form the Seventh-day Baptist General Conference. Some of the ministers began teaching the Trinity doctrine and the immortality of human souls.

Several congregations did not become members of the Conference. For another half century they maintained the truth they possessed, although most of them did not go all the way in obedience to God. John aptly described this period: "Be watchful, and establish the things remaining, *which are about to die*: for I have found thy works perfected before my God."

The Adventist Movement

During this time the advent movement among Sunday-observing churches was begun by William Miller. In 1843 several followers of Miller in Washington, New Hampshire, became acquainted with the truth of the sabbath. It was not until after the miserable disappointment of 1844, however, that the general body of adventists had the sab-

bath called to their attention. A small number accepted the truth and soon united with the few remaining church of God brethren who refused to be affiliated with the Seventh-day Baptist Conference.

They called themselves the "Church of God" and began publishing "The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald." Their first songbook was dedicated to "The Church of God scattered abroad."

With each passing year, new and different doctrines were being introduced to explain away the adventist failure of October 22, 1844. Finally, a meeting was held in Battle Creek, Michigan, September 28 through October 1, 1860.

"This conference also took into consideration the subject of a name by which our people should be called," wrote Loughborough on page 351 of the *Great Second Advent Movement*. "This again called forth a diversity of opinions, some pleading for one name and some for another. The "Church of God" being proposed, it was objected to on the ground that it gave none of the distinctive features of our faith, while the name "Seventh-day Adventist" would not only set forth our faith in the near coming of Christ, but would also show that we were observers of the Seventh-day Sabbath. So unanimous was the assembly in favor of the latter name that when *put to vote* only one man voted against it, and he soon afterward withdrew his objection."

In the spring of 1861 another conference was held in an unscriptural effort to reorganize local congregations. The following covenant was recommended for this new church organization: "We, the undersigned, hereby ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS A CHURCH, taking the name of Seventh-Day Adventist . . ."

Once again men forgot that they can not organize themselves *into* the church of God. They can only organize themselves *out* of the church of God!

A Remnant Remains!

When this new name was being forced on the churches, there appeared an article in the April 9, 1861 issue of the "Review and Herald" in which a few brethren from Ohio wrote that they would not give their offerings for any other purpose "than the advancement and extension of the truth and the 'Church of God.'"

Within the space of sixty years, two major departures from the church of God occurred. *The ministers would not strengthen that which was ready to perish!*

For another seventy years conditions remained almost unchanged. The remaining brethren retained the name

"Church of God." Among local congregations only a few individuals repented and strengthened the truth that was ready to perish in their midst. But most of the ministers resorted to organizing evangelistic work on the pattern of state conferences rather than yielding themselves to God's government and direction in the carrying of the gospel. In fact, instead of the true gospel, most ministers taught a "third angel's message," which they had accepted from the adventist people.

Today's Church Prophesied!

Notice the amazing description of the next event in the history of God's people. John writes to the church of Philadelphia: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word and hast not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8).

Here is a church with little strength, few in numbers, but which has kept the word of God; one which has not denied the truth. Here is a church which is preaching the gospel because Jesus promises to set before it *an open door* until the work of the church is completed.

Here is a church which Jesus loves! Here is a church to which He says: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience (which Jesus interprets in Revelation 14:12 as *keeping the commandments* and the faith), I also will keep thee FROM THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION, WHICH SHALL COME UPON ALL THE WORLD, TO TRY THEM THAT DWELL UPON THE EARTH" (Rev. 3:10).

This verse pictures a church which is carrying the gospel just prior to the last great time of trouble that will engulf all the world. *This is the church of God TODAY!*

The Gospel Goes to All the World

Jesus chose Paul, who was highly educated, for spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. He later raised up Peter Waldo, a successful businessman, to keep his truth alive during the Middle Ages. In these last days WHEN THE GOSPEL MUST GO AROUND THE WORLD Jesus chose a man amply trained in the advertising and business fields to shoulder this mission—Herbert W. Armstrong.

Paul was struck down. Waldo was shocked by the sudden death of his friend. In like manner God three times swept away Mr. Armstrong's business in order that he might come to understand the truth.

Shortly before this event, God had opened the mind of Mrs. Armstrong to understand the sabbath truth from an elderly church of God woman. After six

months of study, in a persistent effort to prove Sabbath-keeping unscriptural, Mr. Armstrong also surrendered his will to God and accepted the sabbath.

From this moment forward, God opened the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong to understand one truth after another. The church of God brethren with whom they associated became so intensely interested that Mr. Armstrong soon found himself speaking at their insistence, —then *preaching* to small groups in Oregon!

Not long after his ordination, a momentous juncture occurred. A movement was under foot to organize the local churches of God under human government—a financial board of seven men. By 1933 certain leading ministers demanded that no more *new* truth be preached to the brethren. They were refusing to repent and allow the Holy Spirit to work through them to establish the truth that was ready to perish!

Most of the congregations succumbed to error. The age of the church of Sardis was over. *The church period of Philadelphia was to begin!*

A DOOR Opens

The time had come for the gospel TO GO AROUND THE WORLD! Having tested and proven that Herbert and Loma Armstrong would remain faithful and subject to His government, God opened before them and a few faithful brethren the marvelous DOOR of radio and the printing press to carry the gospel. From a minute beginning in Oregon, the work of God spread to cover most of North America in 19 years, and now it is leaping to Europe and the world!

This is very significant.

God gave the Apostolic Church *just two* nineteen-year cycles to carry the gospel to the Old World. He opened a DOOR to the apostle Paul at the *beginning of the second nineteen-year cycle* by which the gospel went to Europe (Acts 16:9; II Cor. 2:12-13).

So now, just before the second coming of Jesus Christ, God has given His Church—THIS CHURCH—*just two* nineteen-year cycles in which to carry the gospel to the world!

The first cycle *has already passed*. God opened the door for the second cycle seven months ago, and the gospel is going to all Europe.

Do you really catch the significance of this?

It means that this work, this MISSION to which God has called us *all*, is a DIVINE work, a DIVINE mission!—not the work of some one man. WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD to whom Jesus committed the *greatest* task ever to fall upon mortal man—the carrying of His

gospel, the good news of the kingdom of God, to *all* nations.

We are a people with "little strength," but God has set before us an OPEN DOOR WHICH NO MAN CAN SHUT. We must use that door. We must become zealous, working, praying, studying, giving tithes and offerings as we have never given before, so that this gospel can go *in power* around the world.

Future Is Dangerous

This is the time of the end when prophecies hidden for ages are being revealed. TRUTH is being restored, knowledge is rapidly increasing. But knowledge brings *responsibility*; it becomes *dangerous* if not rightly handled.

Now notice Jesus' LAST WARNING to the church. At the *very close* of this age, when the work of spreading the gospel is almost finished, Jesus addressed the church at Laodicea: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: . . . I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH" (Rev. 15, 16).

This frightful condition *will happen* to most of God's people at the very end because they will become *spiritually proud* of the knowledge God is revealing. Yes, *some of you* will say, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." And Jesus will reply: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be ZEALOUS therefore, and *repent*."

It is time we WAKE UP! If we become complacent, lacking in zeal, looking upon our local church as a social club, instead of having our hearts in the gospel, Jesus will *not* deliver us from the tribulation.

Notice Jesus' admonition in Luke 21:36. "WATCH ye therefore and PRAY *always*, that ye may be accounted worthy

to escape *all* these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the "Son of Man."

Let's take these things to heart. Let's *pray* and *work* together to carry this gospel to all nations so Jesus will say to each of us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A NEW Good News!

(Continued from page 1)

these TWO national monthly magazines (tho I now have wonderful help); as God's minister by radio to 30 million people in all parts of North America and Europe with a broadcast daily, seven days a week (except for this summer for rest and recuperation which became imperative); as Pastor general of all our Churches, now increasing rapidly; as President of Ambassador college, and also president of The Radio Church of God—a business-executive responsibility that should have my entire time; as head and professor of our Graduate School of Theology, responsible for directing the studies of, and teaching, in advanced study and experience, our own ordained ministers and college graduates; as professor of religion and theology, and head of the department on the faculty of the undergraduate school of Ambassador College. And besides all this, thousands look to me as their personal pastor, come to me for private interviews or write private and confidential letters about their personal problems, looking to me for personal counsel and advice. I find I have to carry the troubles and the problems of hundreds of people—a weight that would weigh down any strong man under the load!

Much More Later

Frankly, one man alone is simply not able to do justice to all this, and I can only confess that I have never found myself able to acquit myself as I know I ought, and as I so earnestly desire to do. For one thing, hundreds of letters have simply had to be neglected, hard as I try to get to them.

This summer I MUST rest and fast, and rejuvenate my blood stream, and again recharge these frayed and frought over-worked nerve batteries, so that by next fall I may come back fresh and strong, attempting once again to set you all an example in zeal, and in concentrated, earnest, determined effort to give this, God's work, our very ALL! And meantime, I NEED YOUR PRAYERS! *Oh, how I need them!*

What I wanted to say is, I have MANY things to say to you, but I am too tired now. I shall have MUCH to say to you, our own dear brethren—actual begotten BROTHERS and SISTERS in Christ and in God—in future numbers. Meanwhile, read, and then re-read, and then read it over again—AND PRAYERFULLY—the amazing article by Herman L. Hoeh in this issue on the REAL HISTORY of OUR CHURCH. Yes, read it and REJOICE in the knowledge that we are the ORIGINAL TRUE CHURCH which has continued unbroken from Christ and the apostles—the CHURCH WHICH JESUS IS BUILDING!

Read it, and pray, and THANK GOD—asking Him to fill you with the POWER of His Spirit—to fill you with ZEAL and ENTHUSIASM for His work; and get BEHIND this true work of God with your prayers, your tithes and generous offerings, and with your FAITH, as you never did before.

TIME . . . *races on!*

The GOOD NEWS

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