

# The Good News

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## THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT THE COVENANTS

**By Herbert W. Armstrong**  
One of the most important doctrines Jesus Christ has put in His Church is that of the "Old" and "New Covenants." WHY should these be misunderstood? For that matter, WHY should the Sabbath truth, the annual Holy Days and festivals, tithing, healing or even salvation? Yet they are misunderstood.

God has made a number of covenants, among them the Noachian covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, what we call the old covenant with the nation Israel, the separate Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-18, the Davidic covenant, etc.

In fact it might be of passing interest to know that my first "sermon," if it could have been called that, was a message to Church of God people near Jefferson, Ore., on a covenant that appeared to be new to them — the separate Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-18. Whether worthy to be called a sermon or not, it was enthusiastically received with joy — for those people loved the Sabbath and rejoiced in receiving new light concerning it.

However, I am concerned here only about the "Old Covenant and the New Covenant."

### Covenant defined

Let me first define *covenant*. Webster defines the word as "a usually formal, solemn and binding agreement: compact." In the biblical usage a covenant is a contract or agreement, solemnly binding, under which God promises certain rewards or blessings,

conditioned on man's promise of performance.

A grave mistake very often carelessly made is to confuse the word *covenant* with *testament*. We speak of the New Testament and the Old Testament Scriptures.

A testament is not a covenant, and a covenant is not a testament. Yet common usage seems to confuse them. It is important, at the outset, to understand the difference.

The word *testament* is defined as an act or written instrument by which a person bequeaths or wills certain of his possessions to another. It may or may not be a conditioned will. It is not necessarily payment or reward for work or obligation performed.

The old covenant between God and the nation Israel was *NOT* a testament or will. It was an agreement by which the children of Israel covenanted with God to obey Him, and God promised material and national blessings and dominance. *But He did NOT give — or promise to give — the Holy Spirit and eternal salvation.*

Before proceeding further, let's get everything in its proper setting.

### Adam had to choose

The first man, Adam, was required to make a choice. The super archangel Lucifer, having become Satan the devil, an immortal spirit being of tremendous supernatural power, was there when Adam and Eve were created. In order to QUALIFY to receive God's Holy Spirit — symbolized by the tree of life — and also to restore the government of God to earth, Adam had to make the choice of whether to reject Satan and Satan's attitude and way and choose to obey God and the government of God.

But Adam chose to reject God and believe Satan. He made the fateful decision — for himself and his posterity, which is the whole world. God drove out the man from the Garden of Eden and shut mankind off from access to the Holy Spirit — except such as God should specially call.

We need the above background to understand. Too often people start viewing biblical teaching in a manner comparable to tuning in a movie two-thirds of the way through. We need this background of what went before.

But God had called Noah and saved humanity alive through his family. God had called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel), fathers of the PROMISES. One of the promises to Abraham was multiple "seed" — nations, the promised land — *material-national greatness.*

Four hundred thirty years after Abraham God called the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to be a special people of God and to inherit the promised land. Other nations were still CUT OFF from God. God had specially prepared and called Moses. Through Moses God made the proposition to the Israelites. He gave them their choice.

### God's proposal to Israel

God proposed to the Israelites: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians . . . Now, therefore, IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people . . ." (Exodus 19:4-5).

There was a very large IF in this covenant agreement. But the people glibly agreed. ". . . All that the Eternal hath spoken we will do . . ." they promised.

So the covenant was ratified by blood (Exodus 24:4-8). It was also a marriage covenant by which Israel promised to obey her Husband. It made them a separate NATION. Its basic law was the spiritual Law — the Ten Commandments. He gave them His civil law of statutes and judgments to govern them as a nation. He also gave them, as a CHURCH or Congregation, the law of Moses — a sacrificial law as a substitute for the sacrifice of Christ to remind them of sin and a ceremonial law of physical works (Greek, *ergon* in New Testament), rituals, and things to do morning, noon and night — a

temporary substitute for the Holy Spirit.

But something was wrong with that covenant. Religionists generally seem to blame the wrong on God. What was wrong was the flagrant disobedience of the people.

### New covenant prophesied

The prophet Jeremiah summed it up: "Behold the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers . . . which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Eternal: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Eternal, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

This prophecy was inspired by one of God's holy prophets to become part of the FOUNDATION of the Church of God under the New Testament. And so, in teaching the Church, this was quoted in Hebrews 8:6-10.

Most Protestant churches teach that the fault with the old covenant was God's law, and that as the old covenant was made with Israel the new will be made with GENTILES — and as the old had law, the new abolishes God's Ten Commandments and is based wholly on PROMISES. Our ministers need to know how to meet that erroneous teaching.

The new covenant is made also with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Hebrews 8:8). A Spirit-begotten gentile becomes one of Israel spiritually, of the household of GOD (Ephesians 2:19).

It will remedy the fault of the old covenant (disobedience of the people) and will be made with those in whose hearts is the spiritual law of God, as these scriptures say.

### Old covenant a marriage contract

The old covenant was made with the carnal children of Israel and was a *marriage contract* in which Israel engaged in whoredom exceeding individual human harlots.

The old covenant was made with a people on their PROMISE to obey. They disobeyed. The

new shall be made only with a Spirit-born Church, a people who, in this mortal lifetime, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, have OVERCOME Satan (as Jesus did, and as the first Adam failed to do), have been begotten of the Holy Spirit, have already PROVED their obedience. The old covenant was made with sinning mortals. The new will be made with righteous immortals!

Now, where are we, today?

Both Israel and Judah violated their solemn agreement with God (actually who became Christ). As a wife, they spiritually ran off. Finally God gave Israel a bill of divorce. Yet, even after that He entreated Israel to return to Him — but she wouldn't.

To make that Old Testament marriage finally end, Christ, her Husband, died, so that she might be cleansed of her sins and become party to the New Testament. In Romans 11 we read of how converted gentiles are like branches of a wild olive tree, broken off and grafted into the natural olive tree of Israel. But it shows how the natural branches broken off because of sin may also be grafted back into the Israel tree.

### What are we under TODAY?

Then WHAT ARE WE UNDER TODAY?

The old covenant is ENDED. The apostle Paul said, ". . . God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (II Corinthians 3:6).

Yet the new covenant HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE! Its terms and conditions have been revealed to us through Christ. We ministers preach it. And even though as a final MARRIAGE COVENANT it has not been made — that is, in contract language, signed, sealed and delivered, those whom God has called are privileged to have God's law written in our hearts, to have the life-begetting sin-overcoming Holy Spirit to open our minds to spiritual UNDERSTANDING, to guide us in God's ways, and, within us, to EMPOWER us to overcome Satan and DO THE WORK OF GOD!

### Some have misunderstood

But some have seriously MISUNDERSTOOD — hopefully not any of our ministers. Seeing (See COVENANTS, page 8)

Shortly after most of you receive this issue of the tabloid *Good News* you will be receiving your first copy of the new *Good News* magazine, reborn after a two-year absence. It will be filled with encouraging and timely articles as well as a number of new features to give all of you a rich diet of spiritual food. We hope it is as inspiring to you as it was to us during its preparation.

You will also be receiving *The Worldwide News* on a regular biweekly schedule beginning Jan. 2. We look forward to serving you through both publications and welcome your comments.

Dexter H. Faulkner  
Managing editor



# IS GOD'S CHURCH COMPOSED OF MANY SEPARATE 'GROUPS'?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

I HAVE HEARD many small religious groups, usually following one human leader, speak of "our Group," fully believing that their little unit or assemblage is A PART of the BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH OF GOD.

Some have left God's Church saying, "I have not left Christ — I've only left that organization. I worship Christ in my own way."

## Are they really IN Christ?

Time is now short. We are in the very last days! Christ is coming soon — to MARRY God's Church. In Revelation 19:7 the Church is called "His WIFE." This verse says, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and HIS WIFE hath made herself ready."

We are in sobering times — the last days when "HIS WIFE" must be MADE READY for Christ's coming.

Will these "loner" individual "Christians," or these many little isolated "GROUPS" constitute part of the wife made ready?

In Matthew 25 it is written, "... the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut" (Matthew 25:10).

The very eternal LIFE AND DEATH QUESTION right now is: "JUST WHAT is the wife that has made herself ready? Is it one united, organized, compacted,

## There are many individual and separate 'Groups' differing in belief and organization, yet supposing they are a PART of the BODY OF CHRIST. Are they?

Spiritual organism — all speaking the same thing — all joined to the one Vine and bearing fruit — all in the organized Church built upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone, having grown into a BUILDING — a HOLY TEMPLE, in the LORD, FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER and COMPACTED in that which every joint supplieth? OR, will it be a conglomeration of disunited "GROUPS" and denominations and a number of isolated individual "Christians," who have followed Christ in their own way?

Those who have gone off, either alone or in a small isolated group, will say: "We have not gone away from CHRIST — we have only left that organization. We no longer have a part in what it is doing, but we worship Christ in our own way."

They might refer to Mark 9:38-40: "And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out demons in thy name, and he followeth not with us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part."

Notice, these people were per-

forming miracles in Christ's name — by His authority — Jesus did not say they shall enter God's Kingdom. He merely said, "Let them alone." Now put this together with other scriptures on the same theme. Again Jesus said, "Let them alone," in Matthew 15:14. But He also said (verse 13), "... Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

And again, Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

Again, "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Luke 11:23). Those not WITH CHRIST, WHERE HE LEADS IN HIS CHURCH, are scattering and against Him.

But consider FURTHER:

### Body of Christ is united

Jesus Christ is going to marry GOD'S CHURCH — called THE BODY OF CHRIST. Now is that Body united, organized on a united and firm FOUNDATION, or an assortment of "loner" individuals and various "groups"?

I was awakened this morning

thinking on this sober question. Often it seems God puts things in my mind on first awakening in the morning.

This morning God was leading my mind in thinking about the BODY OF CHRIST, which is the one and only TRUE Church of God.

WHY is the Church called "the BODY of Christ"? God the Father sent Jesus into this world with a MESSAGE from GOD. That message concerned the now soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus taught it to His original apostles — He proclaimed it in the synagogues and in public. Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing ..." (John 5:30). But "... the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

Jesus came to DO SOMETHING! Every one God has ever called since Adam has been called for a DUTY — to DO SOMETHING — and that something always has had to do with PREPARING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.

Jesus taught the KINGDOM OF GOD. It was the Holy Spirit IN Him that did "the works." After He had finished the work the Father had assigned Him, personally, to do in His human life, He was crucified, resurrected and then ascended into heaven. Then He sent the SAME HOLY SPIRIT that had worked in Him, to work

in His apostles and in His Church.

The Holy Spirit had WORKED in Jesus' body. Now it worked in the collective BODY of the Church. Therefore the Church now became the BODY of Christ — the BODY in which God's Spirit was "doing the work."

### Christ organized Church

And Christ organized that Body — the begotten children of God, and therefore "... the household of God ... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19-21). This is the TEMPLE to which Christ is coming (Malachi 3:1). The Church is here called a TEMPLE — fitly framed together and compacted — closely knit TOGETHER.

The only PURPOSE of the Church is to CARRY ON THE WORK WHICH CHRIST STARTED! It is now the BODY in which the Holy Spirit is working. And God set in the Church, to ORGANIZE it, apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers.

THE CHURCH is the BODY OF CHRIST. And Jesus pictured Himself as THE VINE, and we of His Church are the BRANCHES on that vine. Notice it — study it — in John 15. Jesus is not SEVERAL SEPARATED VINES — He is one vine! The members of the BODY OF CHRIST are the BRANCHES! — but not separated, isolated branches. ALL ARE JOINED TO

(See SEPARATE, page 8)

# CHRIST IS THE LIVING HEAD OF ONLY ONE CHURCH—NOT TWO

By Herbert W. Armstrong

In an effort to mislead and draw away God's people and tithes, the misleading idea is now being circulated that this MAN (not Church) also preaches the Gospel. So, why not divide your tithe, sending half to the man and half to God's Church — or else send it alternately to each.

Satan is subtle, and he does deceive even the greatest of men. Let's honestly consider that crafty suggestion.

1) The tithe is GOD'S tithe, not yours, and is to be sent to GOD'S CHURCH, where Christ, alive and well, is actively working, directing and blessing.

2) God has only ONE Church, and that Church has a few hundred local congregations worldwide, all a PART — and an integral working part — of the ONE spiritual organism, the Worldwide Church of God,

which is "built upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom ALL THE BUILDING [with its many local congregations] FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER growth unto an holy temple in the Lord." Its whole body (with its many local congregations worldwide) "FITLY JOINED TOGETHER AND COMPACTED by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working [together] ... of every part ..."

(Ephesians 2:20-21, 4:16). Jesus Christ does not HEAD, guide and work in any competing man or church. Christ is NOT DIVIDED! Christ's Body is led on earth, UNDER HIM, by His chosen apostle whom he appointed and used in BUILDING His Church in our time. God's TRUE Church is performing the FUNCTION of the Church — carrying Christ's Gospel message to all the world.

3) The man who wants half of God's tithe does not speak the same thing. On the one hand he attempts to draw your support

saying, "I preach the Gospel too — so give me half the tithe." (The Baptists, Lutherans, Catholics, all profess to preach the Gospel — but it's not the same Gospel.) Then on the other hand he contradicts himself — speaks out of the other side of his mouth — saying he does not agree with God's Church about Church eras, about this and about that!

No, brethren, he does NOT preach the same Gospel. He was attempting to water down God's true doctrines and oppose its doctrines and its apostle and to become the self-appointed head of God's Church.

That's why he was DISFELLOWSHIPED from God's Church. He WAS NOT speaking the same thing. GOD'S CHURCH cannot speak with an UNCERTAIN SOUND!

4) This man is NOT a Church of God. A man can incorporate himself, under man's law, using the NAME of a Church — and he came as close to the name "Worldwide Church of God" as possible, TO DECEIVE and mis-

lead brethren into thinking he is THE SAME CHURCH. Any "Tom, Dick or Harry" can incorporate himself, with the signatures of a couple other men as "directors" in the name of a church. BUT THAT DOES NOT make him a church! This effort to deceive, by using a name so close to "Worldwide" Church of God, is possibly subject to civil prosecution as an attempt to defraud and receive money under false pretenses.

Of course, God's Church will rely on Christ for protection. However, since he intentionally incorporated under a name so close to "Worldwide Church of God," and it tends to confuse and harm God's Church, steps have been taken to prohibit his incorporating or operating under that name in any other states.

5) This disfellowshipped man is not preaching any "gospel" into all the world for a witness unto all nations. His preaching is aimed only at you in God's Church, to draw you away from the Church headed by Jesus

Christ. He does not preach any gospel to the world to teach those who know not Christ's Gospel. He seeks only to unsettle you who have already accepted Christ's true Gospel. His whole effort is a resentful and bitter one to "GET" — not to "GIVE."

One member wrote, stating clearly which is GOD'S Church. It is:

1) Where God's TRUTH is. Not with one disfellowshipped for trying to water down that TRUTH.

2) Where God's true Work is going out to the WHOLE WORLD.

3) Where Christ's chosen apostle is.

God's tithe is to be PAID to GOD'S Church, where CHRIST is working. Jesus Christ does not work in two "churches," one competing against and trying to draw members from the other. Christ is NOT DIVIDED!

God does not have two churches — only the ONE Church that Jesus Christ founded in A.D. 31 and raised up to carry on in OUR time through His own chosen apostle.

# SEVEN PROOFS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

The first six proofs of the true Church appeared in *The Good News*, Nov. 20 and Dec. 4. This installment concludes with Proof No. 7.  
By Herbert W. Armstrong

## PROOF NO. 7 THE REIGN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**H**OW INCONGRUOUS! The churches calling themselves "Christian" do not know that the true Gospel is the GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. They know nothing of what the earth will be like under the rule of the KINGDOM OF GOD!

They know nothing of the only GOOD NEWS in today's world — of the WORLD'S ONLY and SURE HOPE!

Don't laugh at the word UTOPIA! It is regarded in today's troubled world as an impractical, impossible JOKE! Webster's dictionary defines it: "an imaginary and indefinitely remote place; a place of ideal perfection, especially in laws, government and social conditions; an impractical scheme for social improvement."

Jesus Christ was no impractical dreamer. His Gospel was the GOOD NEWS that a coming UTOPIA is REAL — it is SURE!

Stop and THINK! WHY should it be impossible to have ideal perfection — in laws, government and social conditions? WHY?

"Human nature," you answer? Yes, but as shown earlier, human nature was NOT created in us by GOD — was NOT born in us. It has been injected into humans by the "prince of the POWER OF THE AIR," Satan, who is so powerful that he surcharges the air with his morbid attitude of gloom, resentment, rebellion, selfishness, vanity, strife. Satan broadcasts in self-centered attitudes, and the "human" spirit in every human is tuned in on his wavelength! Thus Satan is now actually WORKING IN the people of this disobedience (Ephesians 2:2).

But when the glorified CHRIST comes in supreme POWER and GLORY to rule all nations, Satan will be totally restrained from humanity. ALL will be called to salvation and eternal life — and, as God's people now are, will become partakers of the DIVINE NATURE! (II Peter 1:4).

"Human nature" will be GONE! The earth will be as full of the knowledge of the Eternal as the ocean beds are full of water (Isaiah 11:9).

### Science's postulate of the FUTURE

World-famous scientists foresee three possibilities for the future.

1) Some optimists think we

## WHERE is the one and only true Church today — the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.

shall soon have the magic push-button century 21 — with such an array of gadgetry produced by technology that human labor will be all but eliminated, and the world shall be entranced and bedazzled by material technology. But, of course, this would not rid us of human nature. Crime would escalate, family life would break down completely, morals would sink even lower — if possible!

2) We shall have more and more evils, and, with nuclear power and other means of mass destruction, humanity will soon be erased from the earth.

3) Some say the world's only hope, now, to escape cosmocide is to form one gigantic world government, controlling the only military power and weaponry — yet in the same breath they admit the impossibility of it. WHO would sit on the throne RULING the world? The United States and Europe would never accept a Communist in supreme command. The Communists would never accept an American or Western European.

WHY? — yes, WHY should we have a world where more than half of all its people live in illiteracy, abject poverty, filth and squalor, racked with diseases and pains and without hope? WHY? — when the human mind can produce the marvels of technology, the computer, send men to the moon and back, transmit photographs from the surface of Mars to the earth?

Can't we realize there has to be a CAUSE for all these evils — and that the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD has power to eradicate the causes and usher in a REAL utopia? Don't sell God short!

### The two alternatives

Let's face it! Right now there are two alternatives. Either there does exist the living almighty GOD of supreme mind and power, who will very soon intervene and SAVE HUMANITY FROM ITSELF, or else HUMAN EXTINCTION is now imminent!

There is no other alternative! But thank God, there is the GOOD NEWS of the soon-coming PEACEFUL, HAPPY WORLD TOMORROW!

When the supreme Creator-RULER comes again to earth, already crowned as KING of kings, in supreme POWER and GLORY and all the holy angels with Him, the gentile nations actually will FIGHT to resist Him!

But "... their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth" (Zechariah 14:12).

The living CHRIST is coming to RULE WITH DIVINE FORCE! And one of His first acts will be to depose Satan! THE CAUSE of the world's evils will be removed!

Jesus, after His resurrection, ascended to heaven, in clouds taking Him up out of sight. He shall return in clouds.

The mighty Lord shall descend with a SHOUT! — with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ shall rise in a glorious resurrection to SPIRIT IMMORTALITY! The living in Christ shall then be caught up in the air with them, changed to spirit immortality — to MEET the descending Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Christ's feet shall stand that same day on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:4). The immortal saints shall be continually with the Lord — reigning with and under Him from Jerusalem over all nations!

With Satan gone, the KINGDOM OF GOD shall be set up in power. Everyone whom God has called out of this world of Satan's has been called to a special mission preparing for this Kingdom!

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD will be restored, worldwide! The humans left on earth will be ruled over. No mortal humans will rule — only those who PREPARED and QUALIFIED to rule during their earthly life after receiving God's Spirit.

### The government organization

God has not revealed in specific detail how His government will be organized. He does reveal that it shall be government from the TOP DOWN. Christ will be KING of kings over all nations. It is specifically revealed that King David of ancient Judah, resurrected, shall be king over the nations descended from the 12 tribes of ancient Israel (Ezekiel 34:23; 27:24-25; Jeremiah 30:9). Jesus Himself revealed that the 12 original apostles shall sit on 12 thrones, each ruling one of these nations (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

As a theocracy, with government from the top down, it also is revealed that God the Father is the supreme LAWGIVER, and head over Christ and therefore ABOVE ALL. The Kingdom of God is the FAMILY OF GOD — and the Father is supreme head over His family!

Jesus Christ is coming as KING of kings and LORD of lords, so the Kingdom of God shall combine Church and state, as did ancient Israel — with Christ earthly King and LORD.

NOTE WELL THIS PRINCIPLE: In a world cut off from God, God has called out of the world those pre-

destinated. And in every instance the call has been to a definite DUTY, and also in every case that duty has been one PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

God called Abraham. All the PROMISES of our eternal salvation were given to Abraham, and we inherit them from the fact Abraham is the "father of the faithful." This reveals that Abraham will have higher position in the Kingdom than David. He will be NEXT UNDER CHRIST.

Then again, the Scriptures use the phrase "Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," grouping them together as a team. All the PROMISES were repromised also to Isaac and to Jacob. This indicates they shall be a headquarters TEAM — next under Christ — over both Church and state, with Abraham chairman of the team. In Luke 13:28, Jesus said definitely that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob shall be in that glorified Kingdom.

### One government over all

When the KINGDOM — the divine FAMILY of God — reigns on earth, it shall be the ONE GOVERNMENT over ALL NATIONS. There shall be ONE God, ONE government, ONE religion.

In the transfiguration vision, Peter, James and John saw Christ transformed into the GLORIFIED Christ, His face shining as the sun (Matthew 17:1-7), and with Him in the Kingdom Moses and Elijah. These two, in the vision, represented the offices of Church and state.

Both Moses and Elijah, in their human lifetime, qualified for chief positions in Church and state, respectively, next under Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — Moses over all national GOVERNMENTS — Elijah over Church. It was Elijah who restored KNOWLEDGE of the worship of the true God.

All these men, who were CALLED to special missions by God during their physical human life, were prepared and qualified for these positions in the KINGDOM.

Actually, the preaching of the Gospel and spread of religion in THE KINGDOM, will be primarily RELIGIOUS EDUCATION — since ALL shall be called, and the decision will be made individually by each person. It is significant that Elijah had founded THREE COLLEGES (II Kings 2:3, 5; 4:38) at Bethel, Jericho and Gilgal, teaching God's TRUTH in a world corrupted by false paganzed education.

For further details of the organization in the KINGDOM OF GOD, see our book, *Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. This will be

available in bookstores, beginning spring, 1979.

### When ALL shall be called

The one original true Church of God is UNIQUE in the knowledge that THIS WORLD HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM GOD — its inhabitants who were uncalled are therefore NOT BEING JUDGED — YET! They have been neither "saved" nor "lost." But THEY HAVE BEEN DECEIVED!

As Jesus said, many would go out claiming to represent Him, proclaiming that Jesus was the CHRIST (Messiah) — yet DECEIVING THE MANY! (Matthew 24:4-5, II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Millions have been deceived into a FALSE SALVATION. What about all these sincere people — are they "LOST"? Of course not. But neither did they receive the "salvation" they were deceived into expecting. They simply were not — YET — judged. THEY SHALL BE — all who have died — in the resurrection of the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-13).

Salvation shall surely come to all who — once the TRUTH is revealed, and they are undeceived — are as willing as they thought they were in the false salvation they were deceived into accepting! This will include many whom our readers may have supposed were "lost." It is a GLORIOUS HOPE!

Now notice Matthew 25:31 on.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory." Combine that with other scriptures already covered. When Jesus comes in His glory, He will come as He went to heaven — in clouds. The dead shall rise — in a resurrection — first, then the living in Christ shall be instantly changed to spirit immortality and be caught up in the air with them to meet the descending Lord. His feet shall stand that same day on the Mount of Olives. The resurrected and changed saints shall be continually from then with Him. Then He shall sit on the throne of His glory — in the City of David, Jerusalem.

All the holy angels will be with Him. In Revelation 12 we find that a third of the angels followed Lucifer into rebellion. But what about all these HOLY angels — the other two-thirds? I have said angel creation was not COMPLETE until by their own decision CHARACTER — either righteous or evil — had been formed in them. What about this two-thirds of angels, here called HOLY! God does not reveal how their character and therefore their creation, was completed. But, in some manner not revealed, it is apparent the two-thirds had formed holy and righteous character, for here they are called HOLY angels, and in many parts of both Old and New Testaments they are

(See SEVEN PROOFS, page 5)



# SEVEN PROOFS

(Continued from page 4)

described as definitely holy and in God's service.

## All nations gathered

Now continue, Matthew 25:32, "And before him [Christ] shall be gathered all nations . . ." This can refer only to the people in all nations still remaining alive at that time — all MORTAL, human, flesh-and-blood people.

Remember, many who had been called and truly converted will then be sitting with Christ in His throne at Jerusalem. Con-

tinued: ". . . and he shall separate them one from another . . ." (remember the dead and living IN Christ had already been separated and risen to meet Christ in the air. This separation refers to the still-living MORTALS — who had not previously been called — who had, up to now, been cut off from God and from salvation. But now, with Christ on the throne and Satan gone, ALL are spiritually called! Now continue, still verse 32: ". . . as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on his right

hand, but the goats on the left. Then [verse 34] shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

All then still living will be called. Those who decide for God's Kingdom — with Satan then out of the way — will INHERIT the Kingdom of God — be BORN INTO IT!

"Then [verse 41] shall he say also unto them on his left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels [demons]." That fire has been described

above — the face of the earth becoming a molten inferno — burning up the mortal incorrigible. However, this fire will not take place until the end of the millennium.

Verse 46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." That "everlasting punishment" has been construed by the deceived to mean "everlasting punishing" — but it is PUNISHMENT — and the wages of sin is DEATH (Romans 6:23). True, some few scriptures speak of the fire NOT BEING QUENCHED — and the deceived misconstrue this to mean an eternally burning

hell. Often I have illustrated this before audiences by placing a small piece of paper in a metal pan and lighting it. I say to the audience, "Now watch! This fire shall not be quenched!" Then I put the remaining ash on the floor, step on it and quote Malachi 4:3, ". . . they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet . . ."

WHAT A FABULOUS POTENTIAL lies ahead of all humans willing to BELIEVE when called!

WHAT WONDERFUL TRUTH God has revealed to His one and only true original Church, small and persecuted, yet vigorously ALIVE with GOD'S WONDERFUL TRUTH!

# THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

## TODAY

**We have covered seven major proofs to identify the one and only true Church founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. We come now to the true story of that Church TODAY — the only voice in the wilderness of today's religious Babylon giving a hopeless world its ONLY and SURE HOPE!**

THE VISITOR, to put it mildly, was astonished! He was witnessing something he had never hoped to see.

He was professor of Comparative Religions at one of the world's great universities, visiting a Canadian Festival site of the world's largest annual Church convocation. This, however, was one of the smaller of scores of such convention sites encompassing the earth. Seven thousand were here assembled for the eight-day Festival.

At once the visitor was impressed by an atmosphere refreshingly different. And he had visited many church conventions in many countries.

Had these people been odd or fanatical it would have been no new experience. He was well aware of religious groups who generated a temporary emotional fervor in meetings. He was familiar, too, with those that were stiffly formal — and unhappy. But here he was experiencing something unique to his knowledge.

The professor happened to be sitting next to one of the ministers of the Worldwide Church of God.

"These members," he volunteered, "obviously are stable and solid people, and they seem to radiate an inner happiness that is genuine. Life to them seems to have purpose and meaning. It's an enjoyable and healthy experience I can't quite find words to describe."

"Yes," smiled the minister, "life does have meaning to our people. And they do radiate the inner joy you have observed, because their lives have been changed by God's Holy Spirit, and they are participating in and prayerfully backing the spreading worldwide of Christ's true Gospel message — the same message originally proclaimed by Christ Himself."

"But," continued the minister, "we now are living in the very generation that shall see that message fulfilled. It is God's time for that message of world HOPE to be again proclaimed in power, worldwide. When one knows he is having a part in giving a dying world its ONLY HOPE, it is, indeed, a

gratifying experience. We don't preach a gospel of DOOM — but of joyous HOPE — coming in our generation!"

### The story of a unique commission

The true story of today's Worldwide Church of God is the story of the appearance on earth of the real Jesus Christ more than 1,900 years ago. It's the story of His message from God to mankind. And it's the story of God's rejuvenating His people with His Spirit and vitality to carry that message of SURE HOPE to this world's last generation.

It is axiomatic that for every effect there has to be a cause.

There has to be a CAUSE for all the evils in the world today — the widespread immorality, the revolt of youth, the trend toward drugs, the broken homes and rising divorce rate, the escalating crime, the almost general unrest, the rioting, violence, wars.

By the same token, there has to be a CAUSE for the condition of peace, harmony and general radiant happiness the visiting professor experienced.

Isn't it pertinent to ask WHY science and technology seem unable to point the way to such a desired state for all human society? To ask WHY education does not teach THE WAY to a better life — WHY religion has failed so dismally to make this a better world — WHY governments, committed to bettering the lot of their peoples, have never found THE WAY to peace?

There has to be a cause!

There is a cause. There is something refreshingly different. And it shines forth from multiple thousands of homes

scattered around the world.

### WHY unique

These people are members of the Church of God, known in our day as the "Worldwide Church of God. This Church is unique in practicing Christianity as a WAY OF LIFE as well as a faith — even as it did originally in the days of the first-century apostles.

Its members are motivated with PURPOSE, inspired by knowing the transcendent human potential. They know the true values. They have found THE WAY that makes life truly meaningful, rewarding, abundant!

It is the way the whole world ought to be living. And what is that WAY OF LIFE?

It is the WAY OF LOVE — the wholesome WAY of outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to self-concern. It is the way of cooperating, serving, helping, sharing — of consideration and patience.

More important, it is the way of humility, and of obedience to, reliance on and worship solely toward God. It is the GOD-centered way.

The other road travels the SELF-centered way of vanity, selfishness, greed, lust, unconcern for others, competition, envy, jealousy, strife, resentment against authority, bitterness, even hatred. It seeks self-advantage in every deal.

The Church of God has believed, from the days of Christ's original apostles, that the Christian religion is that of Christ — of His teachings and of the example He set. Jesus taught this giving way. He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Also He said, "Man

shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." The Bible is the Word of God in writing. Its entire teachings are based on this God-centered way of life — the spiritual law.

The Church of God knew, in the days of the first-century apostles — as it knows today — that the God-centered way of LOVE is an inexorable spiritual LAW in active motion. It is a law as real — as inflexibly relentless even though as invisible — as the laws of gravity and inertia. It is a law that governs all relationships between man and man and between man and God.

This law of LOVE is summarized scripturally by the Ten Commandments. It may be divided into the two "Great Laws" — love to God and love toward man. It was set in living motion by our Maker as the CAUSE of all GOOD. Its transgression is the CAUSE of all EVILS!

This God-centered way of life — the way of outgoing concern — inspired and empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God — is the CAUSE of the fresh, sparkling happiness the visiting professor sensed at the Church convention in Canada. It does not produce a temporary and artificial exhilaration or pseudo-spiritual jag, but a permanent inner peace, and a faith that is a unique confidence, and stability, which reassures when there are trials and even persecutions. This is a sorely needed but sadly scarce commodity in this confused world today. This WAY OF LIFE is *paying off among Church of God people in joyous happiness, successful living and abundant well-being!*

This GOD-centered way

broadens and expands one's horizons. Self-centeredness constantly shrinks one's mental and spiritual outlook inwardly.

It is, to man today, astonishing to learn that Jesus, Peter, Paul and all the first-century apostles taught obedience to this inexorable spiritual law — the WAY OF LOVE. It is surprising to most to learn that the Bible plainly shows that the religion of Christ is a WAY OF LIFE as well as a living FAITH.

This spiritual law was set in living motion as the loving gift of humanity's Maker to CAUSE every desired GOOD.

### Pinpoint Church history

Jesus Christ was sent into this world as a messenger bearing the most vital and important message ever sent from God to mankind. This was foretold by the prophet Malachi. His message was the greatest NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT ever to fall on human ears. It should have rocked this world and shaken it to its foundations. The word *Gospel* means *good NEWS!* It was news of an earthshaking future event.

Jesus' Gospel — the message He brought to humanity from God — was the good NEWS of the Kingdom of God — the soon-coming WORLD GOVERNMENT of the almighty God to rule all nations and bring us PEACE at last! Also, His stupendous announcement included the fact that humans, on repentance and faith, could become actual begotten children of God, could be BORN AGAIN — born of God, entering that Kingdom when set up.

That message was LIGHT shining in a dark world. But it is recorded, "And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Jesus Christ was sent into this world, the Son of God, born of the virgin Mary in the likeness of human flesh, to start this WORK OF GOD.

### Church empowered by Spirit of God

He came with the tremendous announcement of the Kingdom of God. He came also to conquer the god of this world, Satan the devil, and thus qualify

(See THE WORLDWIDE, page 6)



# Rumors and their mongers

By Bob Fahey

PASADENA — Talk about rumor is usually too simplistic. Communication people know that rumor can be a good sign because it shows interest. Somebody *cares* about the person being discussed. His actions are important and significant.

People talk about what is of interest to them. We have given our lives to this Work. We are concerned about every facet of its operations. We *care* about the triumphs and the troubles. We discuss them both. We want to know particularly about the leadership — what they are doing, thinking, planning or even dreading. Because those activities will affect the Work and us.

We do not discuss what is of no interest to us.

If our hearts (and treasure) are in the Work, we will surely talk about it. And so we should. The problem, of course, is *how* we talk about it. As Herbert Armstrong has said about everything from shotguns to sex, it is not the thing, but the misuse of the thing, that is wrong.

And talking about the Work and the people in it has been misused — badly.

Why?

## The demand for news

First we must remember the old marketplace principle of supply and demand. If demand for news exceeds the supply in normal channels, interested parties begin to rely on each other for information. So any barriers that hinder the rapid dissemination of news such as censorship (in a government or a boardroom) or physical barriers arising in catastrophes (earthquakes, war, etc.) encourage rumors.

Investigators, in studying rumors,

have found that people deprived of authoritative news tend to speculate. Either individually or with other interested parties, they pool what information they have to form reasonable estimates of the whole story.

There are other reasons. Events are discussed for purely entertainment value. Just to keep life and the conversation interesting.

Another common reason is to bestow status on the teller. But the specialists who study these things tell us that people who give information outside of official channels usually distort the news by distilling it ("leveling" in rumor argot) because of 1) time considerations (long distance calls are costly), or 2) the conversation is on a tact that only involves the news in part (on a tangent) or 3) the bits that support the teller's own opinion are highlighted while those that conflict are diminished. Shaky at best.

## An ego trip for some

For some it is an ego trip to know something others don't. Of course, if those around them are unaware of their ignorance, the joy of knowing is diminished. So, a bit of baiting is called for. The techniques vary from silly to stupid. They are never sophisticated. This bait becomes the whole morsel to the one who receives it; unless he can pump more out. But if not, that will have to be his meal for that day. He will add that piece to others from different sources in an attempt to form a more complete picture. In doing so, he will share his bit (a kind of barter) in discussions with others. The more "others" the better. Additional pieces of information are added or discarded as seems best.

Both the baiter and the baited are

in the wrong. Together they create rumor and spread it. All to satisfy both their quests for self-esteem. Christ's prophecy that "he that exalts himself shall be abased" seems to have been overlooked. Their goal is to be exalted in the eyes of those around them. That may be their only reward.

Or, it may not. When the blind lead the blind in this way, it is not only they who fall into the ditch. Hundreds may fall with them, because the conclusions they arrive at and spread usually have an ugliness and a viciousness about them that could make a "little one" stumble. If that happens, another reward may be the promised millstone.

People appear to have an ungodly fascination with the negative and ignoble. The worse the rumor, the faster it travels. Presumably more want to hear it and tell it.

To God, builders and suppliers of ugly rumors reveal more about themselves than they do about the truth of the people and events they seek to report. He said He will have a little chat with them about it in the future. Matthew 12:36.

## The age of cynicism

There is still another reason. This is the age of cynicism. So many cover-ups have been uncovered, so many "facts" have been proved fraudulent, so many stories demonstrated to be specious, that we of this age are forced to view everything with doubt and disbelief. There is no innocence.

But that outlook does not belong in the Church. If it is, we are not overcoming the world, it is overcoming us. We would be accepting the attitudes of a dying society instead of the way of God that leads to life. If we infer that Church leadership is suspect or evil, that they willingly deceive us and are selfishly motivated, we are actually saying that Christ is not ruling His Church as He should.

Christ pictured Himself to John (Revelation 1) as standing in the middle of His churches with the angels completely in His control — totally involved! He wanted the Church to know that He is aware, active and in charge.

## Responsibility demands accountability

When something or someone needs correcting, He can and does correct. He waits. He is criticized for delay. He acts. He is censured for severity. Part of the "living by faith" is trusting Him to govern His own Body. Especially the leadership who bear the responsibility of their office. Responsibility demands accountability.

If we believe He is the Head, our words should show it. If we do not, there is no reason to belong to this Church.

Remember, the Church is His bride. With all our flaws, He is making us into a clean, righteous and faultless bride to marry forever at His return. You would not view with favor anyone who bismirched the reputation of your bride-to-be. Nor does He. Revelation 12:9-11.

Our thinking should not be determined by the hostile, wrathful, distrustful and unforgiving world in which we live. We have been called out of it. Our minds must be transformed into the truly converted Christian mind that in an open and honest way follows Christ and the leadership He puts over us.

Perhaps the greatest problem is the way many feel free to speak about or listen to critical words about a brother in the Church or in the ministry. The basic Bible teaching on

brotherly relations is found in Leviticus 19:18: "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but *thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*: I am the Lord."

The Jewish scholars expound the famous last phrase by saying, "Let the honor and the property of your fellowman be as dear to you as your own." Frankly, the honor and name of our brothers hasn't been as "dear" to us as God's law says it should be. And that is the basic yardstick He uses in judging us in human relations. That should be a sobering thought.

## Jesus prayed for unity

Jesus Christ's last night on earth as a human being was an emotion-etched event. He knew He would not be physically present with His Church till His return. He knew the weaknesses, sins, faults, power struggles and selfish attitudes of those around the table with Him — and of those who would come later. He also knew they all had *pride*, that ancient adversary of peace and harmony in the Church of God. So He prayed.

If you examine the theme of that prayer in John 17, you will find it is unity. . . . Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one. . . . He asked for God's special help to keep us together. That the wills, wants and pride of the members of Christ's Body would not cause disharmony. And in case anyone wanted to argue about what unity is (as surely many would) He added "as we are." As close and mutually respectful as the Father and the Son. There is no finer example or standard for measuring unity.

With all that has happened over the last several years, the answer to Jesus Christ's prayer is probably the most pressing need for the Church today. We should all be praying for oneness — especially now.

Most things take action as well as prayer before they are accomplished. Unity is no exception. It takes positive action to produce unity — by everybody.

## Words can bring us together

If words have divided us, words, coming from a right spirit, can help bring us together.

To begin, every member of the Body of Christ should let the honor of his fellows be as dear to him as his own.

When someone's name comes up in conversation, make your words

convey the love and respect due a brother in Christ. I am not suggesting we all become Pollyannas. You can disagree with someone respectfully. (The British have developed this into an art form. For the French, it is a duty of civilized men!) The key is to assume that if he were present he would put forward sound reasons for his actions or words that are at least as valid as yours.

Next, the supply of news from official sources must come closer to the demand. Not that the supply will ever equal the demand. That is impossible. But for years there has been room for improvement.

Many rumors involve finance, Stanley Rader and even Mr. Armstrong himself. So Mr. Rader, as Mr. Armstrong's assistant and treasurer for the Work, is holding forums for employees at Pasadena. He asks for any question on any subject from the floor. The enquirers have been candid in their questions. Mr. Rader has been equally candid in his replies.

So that everyone can benefit from these forums, the transcripts are published in *The Good News*. Regular forums of this type are planned for the future. This openness and candor will help to stop the rumor mill.

## Keep division out

Finally, the seditious practice of fracturing into camps within the Church must stop. That is what Satan did; he got all those around him to view with suspicion and malice those that were not members of their "sphere" group!

There should not be "we" and "they" within the Body of Christ. We should all be "us."

Christ gave clear commands to keep division out of His Church. He said, "if your brother shall trespass against you" (Matthew 18:15) or if "thy brother has ought against thee" (Matthew 5:23), go to him directly and get it solved. That instruction was given by Christ personally.

How many reasons can most of us give for not doing it? Regardless of the excuse, we are not doing what God says. Disunity is the result.

God's Church has gone through an extremely trying, sorrowful time. If we can learn and grow from it, as a Body, God can use us more effectively.

Words, conversations, fellowship will always be a part of the Church of God. If those words are of a spirit that helps Christ's final prayer to be fulfilled, God can put us in a position to bring light to all who are in the house. If not, we deserve to be hidden under a bushel.

# SEPARATE GROUPS

(Continued from page 3)

THE ONE VINE — the BODY OF CHRIST.

Separated "Christians," or "groups" are branches *broken off* from the VINE — the BODY OF CHRIST!

The Father is the Husbandman — the Vinedresser. Every branch of this grapevine (the Church) that does not bear fruit for the Kingdom, the Father prunes it — cuts it off — that the organized, united vine may bear MORE FRUIT.

When there are some in the Church who cause division or sow the seeds of discord, God says, ". . . mark them . . . and AVOID THEM" (Romans 16:17; see also II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15). The Church will bear more fruit when the dissidents, those who obey not the Work, those who cause division and discord, are PRUNED OFF!

Also branches of a grapevine cut off cannot bear fruit. They DIE SPIRITUALLY.

To the Church of God at Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote that all in the Church must SPEAK THE SAME THING, that there be no divisions among us (see I Corinthians 1:10).

NOW FROM WHERE does the Church receive the doctrines and teachings they must all speak? THINK ON THIS! The Church, as Christ organized it, RECEIVED ITS BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS AND EVEN ITS CUSTOMS FROM THE APOSTLES!

And the apostles had been taught by CHRIST.

## Apostles held responsible

But the various individuals did not decide for themselves what to say, believe or speak — nor did they individually receive the truths from Christ. But God taught the apostles, and He HOLDS THE APOSTLES RESPONSIBLE for the doctrines given to the Church, that there be no divisions. We must all speak the SAME THING, but God holds the apostle responsible that what they all speak and believe is the RIGHT thing!

But there was no "Doctrinal Committee" nor group of other ministers or lay members who voted on doctrine, and practice. Christ gave all that to His Church THROUGH HIS APOSTLES!

When Christ comes — SOON NOW — His WIFE shall have made herself ready and will enter in with Him to the marriage — the NEW COVENANT — and the DOOR WILL THEN BE SHUT (Matthew 25:10). Others who were alone, or various "groups" will then come and knock on the door — but Christ will say, ". . . I KNOW YOU NOT" (verse 12).

God's Church has sorely needed a spiritual reawakening and revival. But the recent Feast of Tabernacles gave evidence that the needed revival is well *under way*. IT MUST CONTINUE, for very soon, now, the Church will have to have MADE HERSELF READY!

# THE COVENANTS

(Continued from page 1)

that the old covenant has ended and supposing the old *covenant* and the old *testament* are one and the same thing, they reject, for example, Malachi 3:8-12, which makes failure to PAY the tithe each OWES to God the SIN of STEALING — and the HEINOUS SIN of stealing from GOD at that!

In the days of Jesus' ministry, the writings we now call "the Old Testament," were *not called that*. In fact the old covenant was NOT A TESTAMENT AT ALL! Those writings then were called "the law, the prophets and the writings," or the "Psalms."

When Jesus said, "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets," He was saying that He did not come to end the Old Testament (as we now call them) *Scriptures*. God's CHURCH is built on the very FOUNDATION of the apostles AND THE PROPHETS, Jesus Christ,

being the chief cornerstone!

Much of the Church's doctrine and teaching comes from the prophets, as their writings are recorded in what today we call Old Testament Scriptures.

The Old Testament Scriptures record for us, today, all the history of ancient Israel, the old covenant and God's dealings under that covenant.

The Worldwide Church of God is based on the *WHOLE BIBLE*.

Those CALLED of God are privileged to live according to the conditions of the NEW covenant, though the actual covenant has not been, as we might say today, yet "signed, sealed and delivered." Those NOT called specially by God are, as were all outside Israel in Old Testament times, cut off from God — not being now judged — neither lost nor saved. Their time is yet to come!