

Prophecy – No Longer a Dirty Word

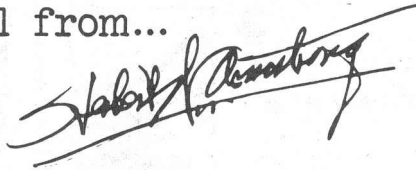
The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL

How Liberated Can You Get?

Who Will Feed the Hungry Millions?



Personal from...



41st Anniversary Issue

the world's great religions, the intellectual institutions of higher learning, and great governments.

And yet modern science cannot find the ANSWERS nor solve our fatal problems. All religion has failed utterly to make this a better, happier world or show us the way to world peace. Higher education, intent on constant knowledge production, does not know and cannot teach us the answers! Governments, supposed to be the benefactors of their peoples, are more and more being overthrown, because dissenters conclude that they have failed.

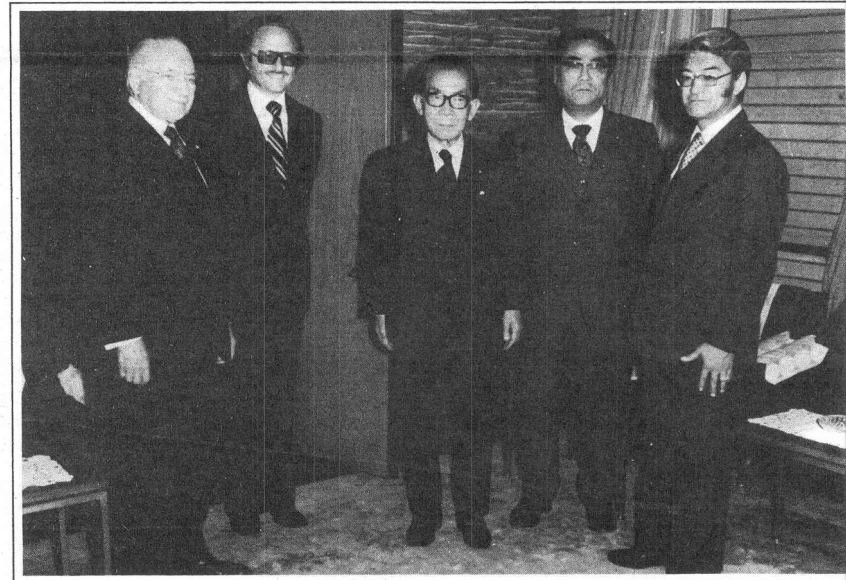
What is wrong? Where are the answers?
Could this whole world have been DECEIVED?

Is it possible that even the BEST MINDS, being deceived, have REJECTED or ignored the right answers and the TRUTH?

The true ANSWERS do exist. But they have not been given by religion. Science has never discovered them. Higher education has never known nor taught them. And they are even further from the field of politics and human government.

Forty-eight years ago I was challenged — both on a point in religion and on the theory of evolution. I was then certainly a "biblical illiterate." But this dual intensive research took me not only into the writings of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley

(Continued on page 11, col. 1)



THIS is the 41st anniversary number of the *Plain Truth*. The previous format was used for forty years! During that time, the *Plain Truth* grew from a small-circulation mimeographed "magazine" to one of the finest full-color magazines ever printed, in excess of 3,000,000 copies circulation.

Fantastic changes have taken place in the world during that 40 years. Many proud mass-circulation magazines in the United States were forced to cease publication — among them the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, and *Look*. While they were going to the wall, the *Plain Truth* continued growing in circulation, increasing in number of pages, improving in quality and appearance.

The time has come when the editors of the *Plain Truth* feel we must produce a less costly type of magazine, in keeping with the times, but twice as often and with increasing circulation — reaching more people more often.

With this 41st anniversary number, I personally start my second forty years as its Editor-in-Chief.

And beginning with this second forty, I start, serially, what I believe to be one of the most important books ever written.

Today we are heading straight into the intolerable paradox of a world-cataclysmic collision course:

On the one hand, the human mind has proved so superbly capable that it can produce the incredible computer and send men safely to the moon and back, among other marvels.

But on the other hand, the same human mind has proved utterly HELPLESS before our human problems, troubles and evils here on earth.

Human leaders for six thousand years have striven in vain to bring about world peace. But at the same time science, technology and industry have produced nuclear and other awesome weapons capable of blasting all life off the earth. And this will happen — unless supernatural intervention prevents it.

Today more than HALF of all humanity is illiterate or nearly so, existing in abject poverty and starvation, wracked with disease, living in filth and squalor.

I want to ask my readers, does this unthinkable paradox of human greatness and human impotence make sense to YOU?

This world is hurtling head-on with increasing momentum toward the final blast of human extinction!

The world has produced modern science,

Herbert W. Armstrong, left, is received by Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki, center. Others, from left, are Stanley R. Rader, Diet member Yamashita; and Osamu Gotoh, Ambassador College Director of Asian Studies.

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The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

It's positively astounding! It has remained undiscovered by science! No religion has revealed it! Higher education has never taught it! Is it possible the whole world has been deceived — as to the awesome PURPOSE of human life — as to the WAY to world peace and how it will come? And could it be true that the real gospel message Christ brought from heaven REVEALED this missing dimension — but was suppressed? This is the eye-opening story of the real gospel message of Jesus Christ — of how this missing dimension was withheld, and the whole world deceived.

PART I

DOES it come as an astonishing shock to learn that the most important dimension in all knowledge was sent by God the Father to this earth by Jesus Christ — but that message was suppressed by those living in the very first century? That Jesus himself was put to death for revealing it? That his apostles, with one possible exception, were also martyred for proclaiming it?

Yet this message from the living God, if humanity had received and heeded it, would have saved this world from nearly all of its troubles, sufferings and evils.

The very word "gospel" means "good news." That message, when fully understood, reveals a human potential so stupendous — so awesome — it appears at first to be totally beyond belief!

That message reveals facts about humanity: what man is, the purpose for which mankind was put on earth, where we are going, what is the way to world peace, happiness and universal prosperity, what are the true values, what is the awesome human potential, and how may it be achieved.

Answers to these questions form the most important knowledge ever made accessible to man. Yet man spurned and rejected it.

Christ's gospel message, when fully grasped, reveals what science has been utterly unable to discover. It reveals what religion in this world knows nothing of. It reveals what this world's higher education has never known or taught.

It reveals the most wonderful TRUTH a human mind could ever come to know! It reveals what I call the missing dimension in knowledge, the knowledge most vitally necessary to know.

It was the most monumental good news ever revealed by our Maker to mankind! Why would men have wanted to reject it — hate it — put to death the messenger who brought it?

Yes, why? The answer is that men were DECEIVED! And all nations are deceived today!

The purpose of this article is to reveal how men were deceived and to make plain WHAT that good news really was, and is.

Nevertheless, it was suppressed. And that all-important revelation from the living God was not again proclaimed to the world until our present century.

Even today, most of humanity has never heard the glorious true gospel. And even those millions who do hear it have been so drugged and stupefied by false religions and false "gospels" that they

only become confused. The TRUTH, indeed, is stranger than any fiction! Prepare yourself to read *astounding* truth — hard to believe, yet TRUE!

The Arch-Deceiver

It is not intellectually fashionable today to believe in the actual existence of a devil. Biblical revelation explains this.

Biblical prophecies say plainly that in our time, today, the WHOLE WORLD would be deceived. Notice one such prophecy in the book of Revelation, chapter 12, verse 9:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."

This Satan is revealed as the arch-deceiver who has deceived the whole world. But how did he manage to deceive the human race?

In the third chapter of Genesis he is shown as the deceiver of mother Eve. Through her, he caused the first man, Adam, to commit the first sin by a human.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Satan was still here on earth as the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He is also the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), holding sway over the whole of mankind.

Christ's message revealed the advance news of the total abolition of Satan's power over the world and his banishment from the earth. It revealed that Christ was coming as his successor to take over the RULE of all nations. In Satan's mind, it was necessary for him to go all out to prevent that message from going to the world.

But how could he do it?

First, he moved to destroy the Christ child and thus prevent his growing up to proclaim that message. He influenced King Herod, the Roman provincial ruler over the land of Israel, and Herod caused all infants in Bethlehem and surrounding areas two years old or under to be put to death. But God warned Joseph and Mary, moving them to flee to Egypt with the infant Jesus until Herod was dead.

Again, when Jesus was about thirty years old, Satan sought to destroy him spiritually before he qualified to preach a word of his message. But the supreme temptation with which Satan planned to ensnare Jesus became the very test which qualified Christ to depose Satan and to become ruler over all nations. Jesus thus qualified to restore the government of God on the earth and to set up the kingdom of God. However it was not in God's master plan for Christ to be

inducted into that office until the end of mankind's first 6,000 years on earth.

Nevertheless, Jesus proceeded with the mission for which he had come to earth at that time. He proclaimed his message and taught it to his disciples.

Satan, however, still was in power to sway the world. Even though many of the Jews to whom Jesus preached believed on him as the promised Messiah, they were swayed against believing his message — his gospel.

How did, and does, Satan deceive, move, and sway humanity? The amazing answer will be given later.

His Gospel Rejected

Notice how it happened.

In the 8th chapter of John, verses 30 through 46, you will read: "As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [his message] then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. . . . but ye seek to kill me, because my word [his gospel message] hath no place in you. . . . But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God. . . . for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. . . . And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. . . . And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

In due time, the Romans crucified Jesus. But he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. From there, he sent God's Holy Spirit for his disciples.

Christ's apostles went out, as he commissioned them, to proclaim his message to the world. God's church was raised up (A.D. 31) to back the proclaiming of the message. The church began to grow, then caught "fire," and multiplied.

Satan connived to set up a powerful Gentile religious leader with a counterfeit religion — the ancient Babylonian mystery religion. He hatched a counterfeit "gospel." He even appropriated the name of Christ, calling his religion "Christianity."

That, I know, is a breath-taking revelation, difficult today, 1900 years later, to believe. But none the less, it is true!

The Counterfeit "Gospel"

In Samaria, north of Jerusalem, lived a Gentile people whom the Jews of Christ's day spurned, calling them "dogs." They had been moved there from areas of the Babylonian Empire about 700 B.C. by Shalmaneser of Assyria (II Kings 17:18, 21-24). They had brought with them into the land of Samaria their own Babylonian mystery religion. In the 8th chapter of Acts you'll read of their religious leader in the time of Christ, Simon the sorcerer.

Christ raised up the church of God to stand back of the proclaiming of his gospel message by his apostles in A.D. 31. By A.D. 33,

after a most amazing initial growth, a great persecution set in against God's church (Acts 8:1). At that time, A.D. 33, this Simon the sorcerer had himself baptized along with multitudes of others. He then tried to buy an apostleship in God's church from the apostles Peter and John with money — but of course was refused and rebuked.

Thereupon this Simon appropriated the NAME of Christ, calling his Babylonian mystery religion "Christianity." Satan swayed this man and used this instrument to persecute and all but destroy the true church of God. Before the end of the first century — probably by A.D. 70, he managed to suppress the message Christ had brought from God.

There ensued "the lost century" in the history of the true church of God. There was a well-organized conspiracy to blot out all record of church history during that period. A hundred years later, history reveals a "Christianity" utterly unlike the church Christ founded.

It had taken the NAME of Christ and applied it to the Babylonian mystery religion. It had replaced the MESSAGE Jesus brought from God with a "gospel" about the person of Christ — proclaiming the messenger but suppressing the entire missing dimension from his message.

And for at least 18½ centuries the true gospel was not proclaimed to the world.

"Another Gospel" Gains Acceptance

By about A.D. 58, when the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians, many already were turning to this now new counterfeit "gospel."

Paul wrote: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another [it was not good news]; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

To the Thessalonians, about A.D. 54, Paul wrote, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work. . . ." (II Thes. 2:7) It was the Babylonian mystery religion, started by this Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8), a religion of iniquity — lawlessness — a religion rejecting the law of God. Much more of this later.

The True and The False Church

In Revelation are pictured two churches, each of which go under the NAME of Christ. One, pictured in the 12th chapter, portrays the true church of God, small in number, reduced through persecution and martyrdom, but obedient to God's law, hated by Satan. The other, in the 17th chapter, called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" (verse 5). In other words, the Babylonian mystery religion steeped in "iniquity" — abolishing God's law.

During the time of Paul's ministry, these same Simon Magus ministers were troubling the Corinthians. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I

may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ [the true church] in the resurrection, to be married to Christ, spiritually). But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he [a minister of Simon Magus] that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit [of rebellion and disobedience] which ye have not received, or another gospel. . . ." (II Cor. 11:2-4). More, later, about the connection with the deception of the first woman, Eve.

But notice, they were proclaiming another Jesus — as well as another gospel — and they followed another spirit — of rebellion and no obedience. That deception has continued through the centuries and is the state today. They took the NAME of Christ. They called their Babylonian religion "Christianity. . ." But they not only presented a counterfeit spirit of self-centeredness and a counterfeit Jesus. It is suggested the reader request our free booklet, *The Real Jesus*.

Of these false ministers, Paul wrote further to the Corinthians: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness. . ." (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Peter, John and Jude Expose Them

Peter wrote of these deceivers: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. . . . And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you. . ." (II Peter 2:1-3).

John wrote of these same perverters of the true gospel, denying obedience to the way of God. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us" (I John 2:19).

Jude warned us that we should "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness [license to disobey]. . . . Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion [government], and speak evil of dignities. . . . Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity. . . clouds they are without water, carried about of [Continued on page 11]

Personal from...



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and the supporters of evolution, but also into Genesis and other books of the Bible.

I was ASTOUNDED at what I saw in these books.

In Genesis I was intrigued with the incident of the "forbidden fruit." There I read of a Creator God revealing basic knowledge to the first two humans he had just created. Connecting the Genesis account with additions revealed elsewhere in the Bible, I saw that their Maker was revealing to this man and woman *what* they were, *why* humanity was put on earth, and the way to peace, happiness and joy in material and spiritual abundance. What he taught them, strangely, seems to have been entirely overlooked by all religions. I saw there, also, the CAUSE of *all* humanity's troubles, evils, sufferings and woes.

Then, in the first four books of the New Testament, I saw where Jesus Christ came with a MESSAGE from the great God in heaven. That message, scattered all through those four books, the writings of Paul, James, Peter and John, as well as much of the Old Testament, was the same revelation of truth that their Maker had been teaching Adam and Eve:

That message covered the WAY TO WORLD PEACE — and how it actually will yet come. It revealed the CAUSE of all human troubles and evils. It revealed the incredible, awesome human potential. It revealed the PURPOSE for which humanity was put here on earth. It revealed where we are going and what is the way. It revealed the MISSING DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE! Yet all this revealed truth appears to have been completely outside of and apart from the field of any religion, as taught.

But also I saw that even those who BELIEVED on Jesus as the messenger refused to believe his message. Just as our first parents disbelieved what their Maker said, so those who lived in Jesus' day (except 120 believers, including his disciples) disbelieved what he said (John 8:30-45).

Our first parents, instead of believing what their Maker revealed in basic vital knowledge, took to themselves the knowledge of good and evil — began to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. And all humanity has followed in their example. Thus humanity cut itself off from revelation as the source of basic knowledge.

Notwithstanding, an all-wise, benevolent and loving God caused that basic revelation to be committed to writing, in the Holy Scriptures. Yet that "missing dimension in knowledge" somehow seems never to have found its way into any of the world's religions — even that called Christianity!

As stated, in Jesus' day none but a handful of faithful disciples believed the message the great God sent by him from heaven, although many believed on the messenger — that is, that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah.

WEEK ENDING FEB. 8, 1975



In Brief

by Stanley R. Rader

During the past seven years Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has traveled as extensively as any man in the entire history of the world, and during that same period I have been privileged to accompany him in his worldwide efforts to bring to the people of all nations the Announcement and to establish and develop programs that are meaningful, relevant and important to the nation and the people involved that they may live more full and abundant lives. Each year has been one of increased activity, and as we look ahead into 1975 we realize that we will be in other countries with other people more than 75 percent of our time — spending more time in an aircraft than a professional commercial pilot.

People often ask me: "How does Mr. Armstrong do it? How can he keep up such a pace? How can a man approaching 83 years have the vitality and energy of one half his age?" In the Philippines recently, where Mr. Armstrong was interviewed by the national media and a live radio conference in Iloilo just prior to receiving an honorary doctorate degree, Mr. Armstrong admitted that perhaps the one determining factor in his vitality and comparative youth was the fact that he always had a mission to fulfill, and it was that determination to fulfill his duty that had permitted him to maintain the vigor and strength necessary for its accomplishment.

Still, it was very gratifying and inspiring to meet Maestro Artur Rubinstein recently in New York. Seldom, if ever, does Mr. Armstrong spend time with a man five years senior to him, and, in fact, the Maestro jokingly referred to Mr. Armstrong as a youngster, mere child, and reminded him that when he was 13 and Mr. Armstrong was 8 he would not have even spoken to Mr. Armstrong, the difference in their age being so vast. Mr. Rubinstein is another man who has kept his vitality and youth by dedicating his life not only to music, but also to its humanitarian aspects, using music, the universal language, as an inspiration to peoples everywhere and for bringing people happiness. Maestro Rubinstein visited Pasadena and gave a special recital at Ambassador College on January 15. If circumstances permit, plans are being readied for a television production which will show how both the Maestro and Mr. Armstrong have, in their separate spheres and in their own ways, brought so much to mankind, and are making daily important contributions to peace and better understanding among peoples everywhere.

Immediately after the concert Mr. Armstrong and I departed for our first extensive trip of 1975, a year that will include public appearances in major cities around the world before thousands of people, as well as important interviews with world leaders in these troubled capitals. In this column I will endeavor to give you the benefit of my personal observations of these world leaders and Mr. Armstrong, as well as my comments from time to time on the significance of events as they have occurred and seemingly will occur in the near future. Our first meeting of 1975 will be with King Hussein of Jordan and will take place immediately after both the Shah of Iran and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia have paid official state visits to Amman.

Then a Satan-inspired conspiracy arose among Gentiles living in that very first century in the country of Samaria, north of Jerusalem, to SUPPRESS the message Christ had brought. Instead, they preached "another gospel" (see Galatians 1:6-7, II Corinthians 11:4) about the *person* of the messenger, Jesus Christ.

It is true, what is called "the gos-

pel" has been preached ever since — Christ has been preached to the world and is so being preached today — but *his message* is not, except in the *Plain Truth* and the literature of the Worldwide Church of God.

Actually, Jesus' message — that revelation of the missing dimension in knowledge — was the original true gospel. But men living in the very first cen-

tury suppressed it, and others, each generation deceived and following the tradition taught them by the preceding generation, have followed their deception ever since! But they did not *know* they were deceived — else they could not have been deceived.

So it is, even as foretold in the Bible (Revelation 12:9), that ALL NATIONS ARE DECEIVED today.

It's absolutely amazing! It's astounding! But it seems that each generation since the first century, taught and indoctrinated by those of the preceding generation, have followed in the deceptive tradition. Those in the Christian religion who have looked into the Bible have tried to make their inherited tradition square with the Bible. So it has become common to think the Bible must not be taken literally. They do not believe *what it says*.

How often have others looked askance at me, shaking their heads and saying, astonished, "Why, you surely don't take the Bible *literally*, do you?" Why should it not be taken literally, just like every other book? Why? I have found that, if not bound by prejudiced tradition and indoctrinated by the traditional "Christianity," it MAKES SENSE and supplies the only answers to humanity's problems and evils today.

In this first issue of the new *Plain Truth* appears the first installment of the book I am writing, culling out from the Bible this revealed MISSING DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE — revealing the INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. It MAKES SENSE — and no other explanation or revelation does! It will continue, serially, once each month.

Meanwhile I continue proclaiming this same MESSAGE in major public appearance campaigns in capitals around the world. □

The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

(Continued from page 6)

winds...twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 3-13).

The Word "Gospel" Misleading Today

Even the very word "gospel" is misleading today, especially as used by evangelical Protestants, their missionaries, their evangelists and their literature. The word has been, and is, full of "gospel programs" on television, on radio, in print, and in personal evangelism.

Say to almost any person, "The gospel was not proclaimed to the world for 18½ centuries," and he will think you are crazy. Certainly, what is the counterfeit "gospel" has been vociferously proclaimed. But it is a "gospel" *about the person* of the messenger, while IGNORING his message or a "gospel" of salvation, offering and describing a *false* "salvation."

It is based on the assumption that this is the time, and the ONLY time, when God is trying to "get the whole world saved." But they do not know even *what* salvation is, or how it is obtained.

What then is the true gospel? Be sure to read part two in the next issue. □