


October-November 1979

# The Good News

**'Teach Them  
to Your  
Children'**

DEUT. 11:19



Europe and Our Prophetic Message • When  
Money Fails • Does God Ever Forsake Us?

# How Did You Come to Know the Truth?

**D**o you really THANK GOD that He has opened your mind to HIS TRUTH? Is it precious — of SUPER value to you? Or do you feel like trampling it underfoot, as a sow would trample pearls or diamonds into the mud?

This thought came while reading a letter from a member in England. It is a VERY RARE THING for my eyes to see a letter like this, though there are many THOUSANDS who have received the SAME TRUTHS as this member.

It is a rather long letter, so I shall reprint here certain pertinent portions.

He writes: "Dear Mr. Armstrong: I very much appreciate the opportunity to write directly to Christ's apostle, and in just a little way to *thank you* for the tremendous example you are setting us and, above all, to thank you for *God's truth*."

"Mr. Armstrong, it becomes clearer with every passing month what an enormous debt we owe you!" (He owes it to GOD.)

"When I reflect on the *precious truths* of God's Word — the knowledge of what man's future is, the coming Kingdom of God, the spirit in man, the history of the angels, the origin of human nature, what *God* is, and on and on, then I am truly grateful that God has called me into *HIS Church* — the *only* church on this earth that has *the truth*."

"But, Mr. Armstrong, this Church has the truth only because" Christ gave it to us through "you. *You* are Christ's chosen and ordained apostle, and

it is through *you* that I have learned and understood all these things.

"How *well* Christ chose, trained and prepared you for your present responsibilities — and how glad I am that you are now directly involved in running the Church day to day under Jesus Christ.

"When I look back over the past three or four years I am *appalled* at what happened in your absence from Pasadena, of how the doctrines of God the Father — taught *by* Jesus Christ *to* His apostle — were so watered down and changed that this was scarcely God's Church anymore.

"When I consider *healing*, which the Head of this Church Jesus Christ considered *so important* that it was one of the *earliest* doctrines that He taught you (within a year of your picking up a Bible), then I am amazed at how effectively Christ's doctrine was rejected (and even to *this very day* it seems that many in the church here locally are unable to really accept healing as an *unbreakable PROMISE* of God; the POISON of STP has done its work too well, sir, and seems to have destroyed the living *FAITH* which was present in the Church when I first started attending).

"So, Mr. Armstrong, I daily thank God for your restoration to good health and DYNAMIC POWER. *Please*, keep writing powerful articles setting us straight doctrinally; we *need* to hear from you. I totally believe that Christ puts His truth into this Church through you, and so I

am *looking* to you more and more now than I ever have before.

"How often the apostle Paul wrote to his converts that they should IMITATE *him*, learn from *him*, follow *his* example, observe *his* faith and so on. Well, the apostle Paul is now dead — but there is a *living apostle* of Jesus Christ!

"And I hope — and pray — that God will give me the understanding and strength to *follow*, and to imitate, His apostle in this day and age. How useful is your autobiography in this regard! Thank you for writing it; it is a goldmine of advice and examples in practical living and Christianity!

"Mr. Armstrong, I find that the articles you write have a *ring* of truth to them. When I read them, I just know that they are right; and I am not exaggerating when I say that I literally *EXULT* when I read them — I really do rejoice at God's truth (although sometimes it hurts)!

"And so I tend to *study* your articles *VERY CAREFULLY*; I am often surprised at how much I miss the *first* time I read them — you pack *so much* into your articles! As I study, much is committed to memory (at least in general terms); my purpose is to see things as you see them — to have *your* mind (and hence Christ's mind) on various issues.

"And that brings me to the main purpose of writing this letter.

"Three or four months ago I was intensively studying your article on "How Christ Gives the Church Its Beliefs," which ap-

(Continued on page 28)

# SPELLING OUT THE OFFICIAL DOCTRINE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

*It seems we never did "spell out" the details of how the 1974 decision on D&R should be applied in various cases. Result: There has been a grievous watering down.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**HERE IS ONE great difference between the law of God and the laws made by human government. God has given us His law in form of general principles to be applied in various cases, whereas in national laws, state laws and city ordinances, MAN tries to make multiple thousands of laws, "spelling out" every little detail in a separate law.

It is made clear for us in the third chapter of II Corinthians. "[God] also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit" (verse 6).

God's law is given in one single word — LOVE. God *is* love, His law is love — that word sums up God's CHARACTER. The law then is amplified into the two Great Laws, love toward God, and love toward neighbor. God amplifies it a little further in the Ten Commandments — the first four giving the broad principles of how to love God and the last six how to love neighbor. But God intended us to understand the PRINCIPLE involved and apply it honestly.

Now it comes to my attention that many are finding gray areas in the D&R law. I will try to spell out a little further in a general way, and those who seek the WAY OF

GOD instead of their own way will have, I hope, no difficulty in applying God's law properly according to its intended spirit. Otherwise, those who try to reason around God's law to have their own way will stand condemned in the sight of God.

GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE WITH OR WATER DOWN HIS LAW. Rather than that He GAVE His only begotten Son Jesus to pay the penalty of repented sin in our stead.

## Two major categories

Actually what happened in 1974 was not a CHANGE in the Church's definition of God's law, but the ADDITION of a second reason for divorce and remarriage we should have, but did not see before — so now we have the TWO categories.

First, just as we understood it in the Church before, Jesus gave fornication (prior to marriage) as the grounds for nullifying a marriage. This clearly was a form of fraud. When discovered (in nearly all cases) immediately after marriage, it simply meant God, knowing of this fraud, had actually not bound the marriage — and what followed therefore was actually an annulment, not a divorce.

However this did not apply in cases of marriage by unconverted people. God never bound them anyway — they were bound by man's law, and any divorce and/or remarriage would be according to man's civil law. But the Church would not

apply this annulment if the couple had continued living together for a period of time. There could be other types of fraud — such as a marriage enforced at the point of a gun.

The second cause for divorce, affirmed by the Church through Christ's apostle in 1974, was based on I Corinthians 7.

This matter of D&R was the biggest, most troublesome problem in the Church. One day my son, Garner Ted, came to me saying it did not appear to be a problem in the early Church at all — according to the book of Acts and Paul's epistles. He asked why. Dr. Herman Hoeh then added something to the problem, and we discovered this teaching in I Corinthians 7. We had been very familiar with I Corinthians 7 before, but had not recognized this D&R teaching in it.

Paul there speaks, verses 8-9, to the unmarried and widows. In verses 10-11 he speaks to the married. Beginning verse 12 he speaks to "the rest." If a converted man has a wife who is an unbeliever, causing trouble and disrupting the marriage because of the man's religion (NOTICE IT CAREFULLY), if she is pleased to live with him, he *must not divorce her* — he has NO GROUNDS for divorce and remarriage.

Likewise the woman in God's Church, if she has an unbelieving husband, and he is willing to live with her despite her religion, *she shall not leave him* (verse 13).

But if the unbelieving one leaves — cuts off the marriage because of the Church member's religion — let him or her depart. Now NOTICE THIS! The believing Church member is not given grounds for breaking off the marriage. It is only *IF* the unbelieving one leaves — severs the marriage relationship — then and *only then* is the believer (Church member) no longer bound and free to obtain a divorce (verse 15).

I conceive of this occurring in at least two ways. 1) The believing Church member has been newly converted, and the mate refuses to live with him or her because of the religion. 2) Both had been in the Church, but one falls away, turns bitter against the Church, refuses to live as husband or wife with the still loyal member. In this case the embittered one, leaving the Church, has become an unbeliever.

### **Sanctified by the converted mate**

Now Paul gives an important REASON for the converted mate CONTINUING in the marriage, IF the unbelieving one is willing. Notice verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now they are holy."

"Sanctified" does NOT mean made sanctimonious or holy. "Sanctified" means "set apart" or put in a separate category.

To thoroughly understand this we need to go clear back to Adam and Eve. When God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, and with sword-flaming angels barred anyone from going back in — or having access to the tree of life (the HOLY SPIRIT) — God said, in effect:

"You have made your decision. You have rebelled against me, denied me as your GOD, your Revealer of knowledge, your Ruler. Therefore I sentence you and the WORLD that shall be born from you to 6,000 years of being CUT OFF from me — except for the VERY FEW I shall specially call into my service to prepare for the KINGDOM OF GOD."

Jesus confirmed this when He said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44).

Now the nation of ancient Israel was specially called by God the Father for a special purpose — even though they were still cut off from receiving the Holy Spirit.

But the unconverted mate is put in a special category — NOT CALLED NECESSARILY TO RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT OR SPIRITUAL CONVERSION — but simply NOT CUT OFF from God. They are free to seek God, IF THEY WILL, and to become converted. They are placed in a special category, neither converted, or CALLED for God's special duty in conversion — but, on the other hand, NOT actually CUT OFF — not in the category Jesus spoke of, saying no such unbeliever CAN come to Jesus, except by special call to salvation by God the Father. They are free to SEEK GOD and to SEEK conversion IF THEY WILL — *not* CUT OFF!

### **Applies to children also**

This same status applies to the children of the converted mate. They are neither CALLED to salvation NOR cut off from God. They may be taught by the believing parent, and, reaching maturity, IF they will, to SEEK CONVERSION. They are free to seek it — no longer CUT OFF from Christ.

Notice I Corinthians 7, verse 16: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"

If the husband or wife who is IN the Church divorces the unbelieving non-member who is willing to continue the marriage, that Church member puts the unconverted mate in the CUTOFF category — whereas such nonmember mate might have been saved for eternal life in God's Kingdom.

### **Don't twist God's truth**

Now WHY — OH WHY? — do professing members of God's Church seek to reason their way around God's plain teaching, and those in the Church who are NOT eligible for divorce, seek to use human reason to TWIST these scriptures into allowing a divorce and remarriage that GOD'S WORD DOES NOT ALLOW?

Yet many, professing to be converted members of God's Church, have done just that! Brethren, have I labored IN VAIN to open your minds

to GOD'S GLORIOUS TRUTH, and yet you despise the Word of God and twist a gray area situation by your own faulty reasons to HAVE YOUR OWN WAY, contrary to God's Word? Have I labored so long among you IN VAIN?

Some have falsely claimed theirs is a borderline case, and used their own selfish and erroneous REASON to enter into a D&R situation CONTRARY TO GOD'S WORD!

Even after the 1974 D&R ruling, my son Garner Ted Armstrong frowned upon D&R decisions made by the Church or its ministers. I am informed that Wayne Cole and Ron Dart, in offices of Pastoral Administration, tried to avoid committing themselves in any such case.

In cases where a man and wife have been married for almost a quarter of a century, human reason has been used by Church members to allow divorce and both parties to remarry! In one case, the wife of nearly 25 years, who had actually "pursued" her husband prior to marriage, claimed she just didn't love him anymore. Both she and her husband are now remarried!

Such cases are a STENCH in the nostrils of a just GOD! They are a disgrace to a church calling itself GOD'S CHURCH! Such liberal decisions and actions SHALL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED in the Church of GOD, preparing now for Christ's second coming!

The matter of fornication or other fraud prior to marriage CANNOT BE USED AS GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE, after the couple have gone on living together. Unless such fraud is acted on at once — as soon as discovered, IT IS NO GROUNDS for divorce and remarriage!

Jesus said plainly, "whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matt. 5:32).

We are living in the LAST DAYS! Jesus Christ is COMING AGAIN — SOON! When He comes His Church shall have made herself READY for the one SUPREME MARRIAGE TO CHRIST! We are NOT yet ready! We are full of spiritual blemishes, spots and wrinkles. We have been allowing lust, coveting and serious SINS to invade this Church!

I am now calling on this Church to CLEAN UP! □

# Now God Speaks to You Ministers

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**Y**ears ago I proclaimed on the air a great deal from the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives of the 604 to 585 B.C. captivity by Babylon of the kingdom of Judah. This was more than 125 years after the kingdom of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered and moved from Palestine to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

But both the Assyrians and their slave Israelites had long since migrated northwest into western Europe and Britain when JUDAH was made captive by Babylon.

When Ezekiel wrote as God inspired, he was among the Jewish slaves beside the river Chebar. Yet the message Ezekiel was inspired by God to write was written primarily to ISRAEL, not Judah.

Ezekiel's message is NOT to the Jewish slaves among whom Ezekiel was living. It was to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL (Ezek. 2:3 and 3:1). The prophet Ezekiel was never able to break loose from Babylonish slavery and proclaim his message to the kingdom of Israel, by then dwelling in western Europe and Britain.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO US TODAY — FOR WE ARE THE PEOPLE of the ancient house of ISRAEL, of the tribe of Manasseh. (See — and you'd better BELIEVE — our booklet on the U.S. in prophecy.)

## A modern Ezekiel raised up

Since the original writer, Ezekiel, was not able to go to the people of the house of ISRAEL, God showed me

years ago that it remained for God to raise up "modern Ezekiel" to carry this prophetic message to the modern Israel of today — and that means, primarily, the English-speaking people.

I have proclaimed the Ezekiel messages to our peoples by radio, television and by personal appearance and in print for more than 40 years. *NO ONE ELSE HAS!*

The Church of God is founded on the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. The PROPHETS upon whom the Church is founded are NOT New Testament prophets. Only four are mentioned — and NOT ONE OF THEM contributed any doctrines or beliefs to the Church — but the apostles did, and they quoted at great length from so-called "Old Testament" prophets.

THEREFORE EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE IS FOR US TODAY! That is, for GOD'S CHURCH to proclaim to the English-speaking nations.

First, God prepared me in a special way, then called me in a manner to wipe my mind clean of every other or previous belief, and to come to HIS TRUTH in a manner experienced by none other in recent times, CONQUERING ME, completely submissive to HIM and His Word.

He started His Work and His Church in a very small way — BUT IT GREW AND GREW and became a large WORLDWIDE Church.

God in due time added you ministers to 1) feed the local flocks, and 2) to stand staunchly and loyally WITH ME in carrying Christ's Gospel to the world.

Now the largest nation in the world has made plans for my OFFICIAL visit with their top-ranking men of the People's Republic of China, shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles.

I constantly THANK GOD for you loyal ministers and your faithful wives, and for the way Christ is using you in furthering HIS WORK! God has called us, that we must all "SPEAK THE SAME THING" (I Cor. 1:10) in perfect harmony and love, that we be of ONE MIND — the MIND OF CHRIST!

But now I do feel we must seriously consider God's warning message to our nations and to the ministry of HIS CHURCH through Ezekiel. This is of CRISIS importance right now.

## A message to the lost 10 tribes

Ezekiel starts his book saying, "I was among the captives [slaves] by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God" (Ezek. 1:1) . . . "in the land of the Chaldeans [Babylon]" (verse 3).

The first chapter merely records what Ezekiel first saw IN THE VISION. It contains no message he is to deliver. He seemed to be taken to heaven IN VISION, preparing him to receive the message — which is to the "lost" house (or kingdom) of ISRAEL. It is NOT a message to Judah — the Jews — but to the by then "lost" house of Israel — the 10 TRIBES.

I proclaimed much of Ezekiel's message to Manasseh and Ephraim during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. But I was ahead of my time — or else God has deliberately slowed down prophesied world events. We are now coming into the TIME for proclaiming Ezekiel's message.

When Ezekiel saw, in vision, this first chapter whirlwind, and the glory of the Lord, he fell forward upon his face — and then heard a voice speaking to him, saying (chapter 2, verses 1-3): "Stand upon thy feet unto me and I will speak unto thee . . . and he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee

to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me . . . *even unto THIS VERY DAY*" (our day now, last half of the 20th century).

And (3:4-5): "GO, get thee unto the house of ISRAEL, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of strange speech." The "lost" house of Israel in the three or four generations since their removal from northern Palestine had "LOST" their Hebrew language. They had "LOST" God's Sabbath and thereby their knowledge of God and their identity.

But TODAY, God has raised up this Work of His Church to carry this message to the "lost" Israelites,

whose true identity God has revealed to us — and to us they are not a people of strange speech.

"But the HOUSE OF ISRAEL will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me" (verse 7). Our peoples today will not listen to nor heed GOD'S WARNING MESSAGE!

Verse 17, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel" (today the English-speaking peoples).

In chapter 4, verse 13, "And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them" — a forewarning for the U.S. and British peoples NOW!

Continue, speaking of the Ameri-

can and British peoples: "Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord Eternal . . . A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword [the sword of nuclear destruction in our day] round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds . . . Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause MY FURY to rest upon them" (5:11-13).

God's FURY is an expression used many times in prophecies to indicate the troubles soon to strike us — great tribulation and first phase of the "day of the Lord" — which shall climax in CHRIST'S SECOND COMING!



Illustration by G. Dore

The prophet Ezekiel was not able to go to Israel in his day because he was among the captive Jews in Babylon. Today God has raised up His Work to carry Ezekiel's message to the "lost" house of Israel, whose identity He has revealed.

It is clearly evident that this prophecy is for our peoples and for OUR TIME — latter half of the 20th century.

This prophecy NEVER TOOK PLACE IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES! Continuing into chapter 6, "In all your dwellingplaces THE CITIES SHALL BE LAID WASTE" (verse 6). This could be accomplished only by NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION. The TIME of this prophecy is now JUST AHEAD OF US!

Verse 7, "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD." This latter is an expression many times used by Ezekiel referring to the second coming of Christ. Our peoples as a whole do not really know that Christ is LORD. The State of California does not — their invasion of God's property shows they think "CAESAR" is lord. So there is no mistaking the TIMING of this prophecy. It is to happen in the approximate NEAR FUTURE — but we cannot set dates.

### Speaking to the clergy

To continue through Ezekiel, expounding it, would take a hundred pages. But, speaking especially to the ministry of God's Church, I want to include some of chapter 34, where it speaks of the clergy of the American and British peoples.

LET US BE CAREFUL LEST ANY OF THIS APPLY TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S CHURCH!

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? [with the Word of God] . . . The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick" (verses 2-4). Some of our ministry wanted to do away with healing. God put HEALING in His Church. He put it in 1,900 years ago through the original apostles. He put it in today's era of the Church through me, His apostle. DO NOT BE GUILTY OF NEGLECT IN THIS IMPORTANT DOCTRINE. But the Catholic and Protestant ministers RELY ON HUMAN DOCTORS AND MEDICINES! And God here upbraids them for this!

Continue, verse 4, "neither have ye sought that which was lost" — here

speaking of the "LOST" 10 TRIBES. Certainly the clergy of "traditional Christianity" have not sought to locate the "LOST" house of Israel. God revealed their identity and location to me before the present era of God's Church was started, and it has always been a PRIMARY DOCTRINE of this Church. Yet some few of our ministers have rejected this TRUTH, and even tried to destroy it from the Church.

While I was overseas and did not know they were doing it, some, under my son Garner Ted, REDUCED the booklet *U.S. in Prophecy*, eliminating vitally important parts of it. A new full edition of this important book is now in process of being published, full size. This book was one of the two or three that did more to BUILD THIS CHURCH than any others.

Continue in Ezekiel 34:4-11:

"But [even though you did not seek to locate the lost house of Israel, you were ministers AMONG THEM, unknown to yourselves, and] with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered [spiritually into many sects and denominations] because there is no shepherd . . . my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD . . . Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold I am against the shepherds [be careful this does not apply to any of you]; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more . . .

"For thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out [at Christ's second coming]."

### Dire punishment is ahead

I will break off there, for lack of space. But chapters 5 and 6 of Ezekiel, combined with Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, and other scriptures such as Matthew 24:21-22, Jeremiah 30, show the United States and Britain are going down, *down DOWN*, into utter defeat, slavery and dire punishment for our national SINS.

Beginning 1800 to 1803, we inherited the vast national promises of ma-

terial wealth, power and prestige that God promised our father Abraham. We have enjoyed a living standard higher than any nation in history.

Yet what have we done with these blessings? We have turned from our GOD, and in all our educational process have taught instead the godless theory of EVOLUTION. We have allowed our FAMILY LIFE to be destroyed. Our morals have sunk into the cesspool. We have endorsed and given our national blessing to SODOMISM. We have been unethical and dishonest in our business and commercial dealings. We have rejected God's Sabbath (not this Church), and God's ways, and turned to Satan's ways.

The sun already has set on the British Empire, which as an empire exists no longer. The United States is now caught in the vise of INFLATION, and an economic situation where our high living standard is being swept from us. Down, DOWN, we go!

And soon God will send such drought that it will bring disease epidemics that will take the lives of a third of our people! After that, our CITIES shall be destroyed — which never could have happened before WE first invented and produced NUCLEAR MASS DESTRUCTION. The remaining third of our proud people will be REMOVED from this country into SLAVERY!

Those left of us finally will repent. God says He will not make a FULL END of us!

Finally (Ezek. 20:33, 42-44): "As I live, saith the Lord ETERNAL, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury [the last plagues] poured out, will I RULE over you . . . And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you [not Judah, the Jews, but our people ISRAEL] into the land of Israel . . . And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves . . . And ye shall know that I am the LORD . . . O ye HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (not Judah, the Jews). Then shall come the KINGDOM OF GOD! Satan shall be abolished. Christ with the Church converted to spirit immortality shall rule! Those still living shall have learned their lesson.

And PEACE, and HAPPINESS and JOY shall flood the earth! □

their antagonisms and hang together to maintain (through economic union and cooperation) a new, consumer-oriented life-style.

After centuries of enmity, galling pain and distrust of Europeans by other Europeans, this is nothing short of a miracle! As late as 1960, such a possibility would have been scoffed at. Now the groundwork has been laid, and Europe is moving swiftly toward the other stages of unity (religious and political) described by Daniel and John in Revelation.

### A fragile union

Of necessity this European union will never be a natural federation. Their inherent differences will weaken the fiber of unity. Even those leaders who are now furiously trying to push a United States of Europe realize that their arguments, based on economic realities, create at best a superficial tie. Daniel described this fragile union clearly:

"And the fourth kingdom [the revived Roman Empire] shall be strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things . . . shall it break in pieces and bruise [dominate other nations, to begin with economically, then spiritually and politically].

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay and part of iron [does this refer to character and

cultural differences?], the kingdom shall [become] be divided [not really united, indicating a fragile union] . . . and whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay [different areas of Europe coming together], they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall *not cleave* to one another" (Dan. 2:40-44).

The union described is both strong and fragile. Economic survival and growth has forged the Europeans into an impressive new entity, but their national rivalries and the memories of their many wars will never permit "cleaving together" in the totally cohesive way that could lead to long-term political union.

### Religious factor necessary

This is why the Bible explains there must also be a religious factor that will provide a *spiritual impetus* toward full political union. In Revelation 17, John describes a "great whore" (i.e., a large, powerful false church, headquartered in Europe) who sits upon (dominates) the beast (the revived Europe).

We are told that 10 kings (European leaders) are to be given "power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind [not now the case], and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb [Christ at His return], and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of

Lord and King of Kings" (Rev. 17:12-14).

Verse 17 is also significant: "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, *and to agree*, and give their kingdom [political authority] unto the Beast [a pan-European leader], until the words of God shall be fulfilled." This indicates the complete political unification of Europe will be fairly short-lived.

Momentous events in the final years of this age will create a *revival* of traditional, conservative religion, accompanied by strong leadership whose goal will be to recreate past European subservience to one great "mother church." It will be successful. The present economic union — though it does and will have some political overtones — will not be galvanized into full, complete and aggressive political union until religious revival of an apostate variety has reached a point of frenzy across Europe.

The seeds of such a revival have been sown. The spiritual hunger of millions of Europeans is evident, and their vulnerability to strong, charismatic, traditional leadership is clear. Thus, stage two — apostate religious revival — could begin soon.

Dramatic events are transforming the face of Europe and the entire world. Rejoice that God's Church has given us insight into the future and hope to sustain us in these end times. □

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## PERSONAL

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(Continued from page 1)

appeared in the November 20th, 1978, *Good News*. I memorized its main points, and thoroughly marked up my Bible — especially at Matthew 16:18, on the subject of binding and loosing.

"I was then *staggered* — left literally *speechless* — when I read an article in the March, 1979, *Good News*, which, in my eyes at least, just plainly *CONTRADICTS* what Christ is saying through you! Whereas *Christ* teaches, through you, that binding and loosing is given *only to His apostles*, the author of this

particular article states that *the ministry* have the authority to make binding and loosing decisions."

Let me add here that the particular article in question was a "REPEAT" article, which had appeared several years ago in *The Good News*. At that time no official doctrine had been made in the Church about "binding and loosing." I did not reread the article prior to republication in the March, 1979, *Good News*, and I am sure the author of the article did not recheck it, either.

I made the doctrine of "binding and loosing" official only a few months ago. I do not remember catching anything in this article

that should have been edited when it first appeared several years ago. So I will personally assume any blame for this discrepancy.

I should have reread this article prior to its being reprinted in the March, 1979, *Good News* — but since I knew it was a repeated article from several years ago, I neglected doing so. With all the day-to-day administration responsibilities over the entire globe-girding Work, it is difficult for me to read every article in *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth* before publication. I trust our brother in Christ in England, who wrote the above letter, will forgive me. □