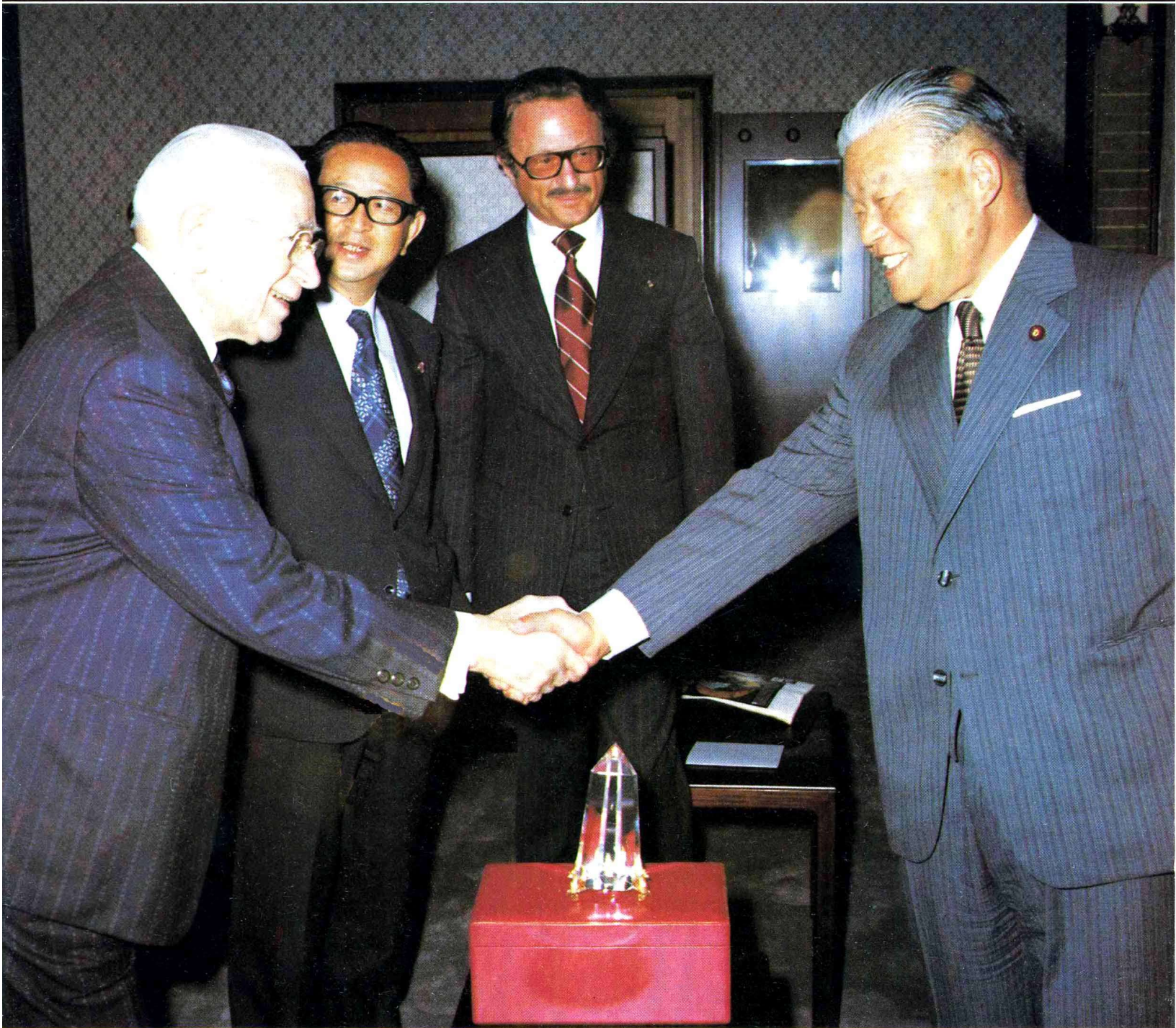


THE
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



**HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
MEETS JAPAN PRIME MINISTER
MASAYOSHI OHIRA**



Personal from...

Gospel to Japanese Leaders

For some 20 months, due to total heart failure in August 1977, I was prevented from proclaiming Christ's gospel in person in the far-flung nations around the world.

But God has been with me. There has been NO diminishing of the vital faculties, especially of mind. And while I was having for the time to defer the ORDEAL of physically demanding worldwide travel, I have been able to WRITE and to continue FULL LEADERSHIP of God's Work here on earth.

I want to mention a point we were discussing here in the hotel suite yesterday afternoon. I have not realized it before. Probably *you* have not realized it. But the United States is the ONLY nation on earth that retires people at age 60 or 65. In the United States most have come to suppose that people naturally begin to lose their mental faculties even as early as 55.

WHY?

This general national assumption is NOT TRUE! Many large corporations have adopted a RETIREMENT POLICY that all employees, and even executives, *must* retire at age 65—and some at age 60. The same is true of schoolteachers.

I even retired one man at age 55 on his urgent request, although in a manner that did not increase the Work's expenses, even though we had to hire another to take his place. But he had worked for us 25 years. I remember he wanted to travel—not to other parts of the world—but to see other parts of the United States, as he phrased it, "before I have to meet my Maker." In other words, even at age 55 this man was THINKING, in his mind, that he was approaching "the age of death."

WHY do Americans think that way? Here in Japan, where I am writing this "Personal," a man of 65 is just coming into the age of the BEGINNING of wisdom! A man in his 80s is not regarded as old or senile, but as more mature—of higher stature—of having a BETTER mind, of attaining to the "age of wisdom."

But I remember one of my grandmothers at age 55. In those days, when I was probably 5 or 6 years old, all women wore hats outdoors. Young women had rather

decorative hats, with artificial roses, or objects of bright colors and with a sophisticated STYLE. Hats were not intended to cover or keep warm the head—but to be an added DECORATION. But by 55 or maybe younger, all women wore "old ladies" bonnets. They were shaped like an old covered wagon and always black, as were their clothes. They dressed in the style that all "old women" dressed. By their dress as well as their manner, they proclaimed loudly, I am OLD. I expect to die right away. My days of usefulness are over.

But times did change. Although I remember that both my grandmothers wore old-ladies bonnets and dressed like old women, my mother did not. My mother was 95½ when she died, and right up to the day of her death she dressed like a younger woman (or at least like a middle-aged woman). Many of our readers will remember her. And at age 95 she was still happy, jolly and had a good sense of humor.

Somehow, between the generation of her mother and her own generation, women had at least begun to dispose of the custom of wearing old-ladies bonnets and somber and unattractive clothes.

But back to what I started. There must have been 250 or 300 or more at the banquet last night. It was held in a large banquet room at this hotel (The Imperial), and this is a large hotel with several private dining rooms. Many of the elite congressmen (members of the Diet—the Japanese congress or parliament) who call themselves my "Japanese sons" were there. The speakers' table seated at least a dozen, some of whom spoke briefly, all of whom stood one at a time to be introduced. All others, including wives, were seated at many round tables—10 or 12 seated at each table.

All who spoke were saying complimentary things about me. During the evening a few other members of the Japanese Diet said they wanted to be counted as one of my Japanese sons, all of whom are important Diet members—the number of my Japanese sons in the Diet is now 12.

All speeches were translated. If a Japanese official spoke briefly, he spoke, *(Continued on page 44)*

Part Six:

7 PROOFS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

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.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The first five proofs of the true Church appeared in the February, March, April and May Plain Truths. The first installment of proof number six appeared in the June/July issue. In this article—part six of the series—proof number six continues.

Proof Six (Continued):

WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

Now let's get our bearings and understand the PURPOSE of the Church—its function.

Remember, the Church was called out of a world CUT OFF from God—a world, as Jesus said, in which “NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father draw him.” The Church was the “called-out ones”—called out from the world. “Wherefore come out from among them [of the world], and be ye separate, saith the Lord . . .” (II Corinthians 6:17).

REMEMBER, too, that from Adam

God had called out of this world *only* those He chose to USE in a mission PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM!

The archangel Lucifer and his angels had been disqualified—changed into Satan and demons. Adam had chosen Satan's WAY of “GET” and rejected God as Source of basic knowledge, as Ruler and as Savior. According to Adam's decision, God cut THE WORLD *off* from access to Him. BUT, since God cut them off before they were born, God does not hold them responsible—they have not been judged; the responsibility is GOD's—not theirs—for that which has been hidden from their minds.

But now the time had come when the “second Adam”—Jesus Christ—had overcome Satan and QUALIFIED to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth and establish the KINGDOM OF GOD—which is the divine FAMILY OF GOD, ruling the world—and ultimately the UNIVERSE!

Jesus DID NOT come on a soul-saving crusade. Those uncalled and unsaved were NOT “lost.” Just NOT JUDGED—*yet!* They shall be in the

millennium and great white throne resurrection and judgment.

Jesus came 1) to overcome Satan and QUALIFY to establish the KINGDOM OF GOD; 2) to call and teach His future apostles; 3) to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the coming Kingdom of God; 4) to pay the penalty of the sins of the world by His death on the cross with His shed blood, thus reconciling *those called* to God the Father; 5) to be resurrected from the dead after three days and three nights in the tomb, making the resurrection to IMMORTAL LIFE possible for those who are God's; 6) to ascend to the throne of God in heaven, and there, as the HIGH PRIEST of the Church and ITS LIVING HEAD, to direct the Church and intercede for it with God; and 7) having received the Kingdom from God, to COME AGAIN as the KING of kings and LORD of lords, in supreme almighty POWER and GLORY, to set up and rule THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Jesus ANNOUNCED the fact of the coming Kingdom, which, by His overcoming Satan, was ASSURED!

He specially called and trained His apostles, started the Church with them and the 120, and then ADDED to the Church such as He needed to back up the apostles' ministry to THE WHOLE WORLD.

To those He called, upon complete repentance and faith, He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thus they became partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4).

The PURPOSE and FUNCTION of the Church is: 1) to back up with loyal support the apostles, as *their part* in the GREAT COMMISSION—and as GOD'S MEANS of, allowing them 2) to overcome Satan, developing God's holy, righteous CHARACTER within them through the Holy Spirit, thus qualifying *them* also to sit with Christ in His throne in Jerusalem, with power for ruling the whole earth (Revelation 3:21; 2:26-27). This latter promise applies to those CALLED OUT OF THE PRESENT WORLD—not to those who shall be called (as ALL will) during the millennium!

Church a Spiritual Organism— Yet Well Organized

At this point a bit of personal experience will help the reader to UNDERSTAND.

Jesus had called His apostles and taught them IN PERSON. Jesus Christ is the WORD OF GOD in person. The Bible is the Word of God IN WRITING!

As the personal Word of God taught the original apostles, so He called and taught His modern-day apostle by the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD—the same TEACHING—the SAME TRUTH!

After calling, giving His apostle the initial teaching, having him ordained, God added the 19 members that started His Church of this Philadelphia era. Then Christ had opened before His apostle, as one "SENT FORTH" with the gospel message, the means of MASS COMMUNICATION of the printed word, radio and later television.

With such vast mass communication facilities, *one* apostle could reach *many times more* people with the gospel message than the original twelve, plus the apostle Paul and others sent to Gentile nations. I soon saw the need, as God's Word sets

forth for the CHURCH, of evangelists, pastors, other elders and teachers—as well as people trained in ADMINISTRATIVE responsibilities.

So God raised up Ambassador College to provide training for the supportive functions behind the apostle in the GREAT COMMISSION.

Remember, the Church is still in the six-millennia era of this PRESENT EVIL WORLD. We are "called-out ones"—called to be SEPARATE!

Just as the angels on earth (pre-Adamic) needed the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to synchronize the various functions into a team unit, so was this necessary in God's Church.

The operation of the GREAT COMMISSION, especially in this twentieth century, requires, as the New Testament clearly states, organization.

So God set HIS GOVERNMENT in His Church. And God's government is authority from the TOP down. God the Father is in supreme authority over all. Next in authority under Him is Jesus Christ, living *Head* of the Church. On the human and earthly level, next in authority under Christ is His chosen apostle. God organized ancient Israel, under Moses, with captains over thousands next under Moses, then under them captains over hundreds, over fifties, etc., as God led Moses to choose.

I will here inject an incident in point. Christ had led His apostle to appoint the apostle's son next under him, because he was the best qualified, in the office of executive vice president. Perhaps it was a mistake to use such a modern business title. Nevertheless the son, like David's sons, Absalom and Adonijah, began to simply take over. He initiated policies he was not authorized to set. He wanted to secularize the college, the magazine (*The Plain Truth*), and even the Church. He wanted this world's accreditation for the college. He demoted or shanghaied the top-ranking ministers who had been trained under and were loyal to Christ's apostle.

Meanwhile, the apostle, as "one sent forth" with Christ's gospel message, was going into all the world—and was away from headquarters up to 300 out of the 365 days in the year. As the son departed from the ways of

his father and of God (as did the sons of Eli and of King David), he SHUT OFF ALL AUTHORITY ABOVE HIM. He *threatened* with loss of their positions in the Work any under him who in any manner contacted or revealed to his father how he was departing from God's ways, watering down doctrines and teachings—first in the college, then starting also in the Church. Cowed with fear, those who knew how the son was destroying the Work of the living GOD kept silent.

Finally, four leaders under him took courage and came to God's apostle, saying, "God forgive us for keeping silent so long, but we were afraid for our jobs. But now we have to report to you that your son is systematically destroying all that Christ has built through His apostle and is building something for himself. Like a spoiled child, he wants his own way."

God's apostle, to be not guilty of Eli's sin, removed his son from all authority and disfellowshipped him from the Church.

The son had represented that no one dare "take it over his head" by going to Christ's apostle—that ALL authority in a then great worldwide Work of God *stopped with him!*—that he had SHUT OFF all authority above himself.

But even Christ's apostle has no authority to SHUT OFF the authority above him. In God's government, the one in lesser authority is still UNDER the authority of those over him. Authority does not END at any point under God the Father.

The end of this incident in point is that all in God's Church now know that the door to Christ's apostle is always open to ALL under him!

God's Church is NOT a worldly ORGANIZATION—it is a SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATION, called out of this world and its ways by Christ. Yet it is WELL ORGANIZED—it must be to function. The Church consists of the begotten children of God—the DIVINE FAMILY-TO-BE!

The Household of God

Actually the Church is, on the human level, the BEGOTTEN FAMILY OF GOD. To the Gentile converts at Ephesus, God inspired Paul to write:

(Continued on page 38)

PART NINE:



THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY

What is to happen—now—to America and her closest and most dependable ally, Britain? Are there prophecies that go on from here? Believe it or not, there is good news in the final outcome, just after our people have learned some spiritual lessons in tribulation and have returned to their God!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

God has bestowed on us such material blessings as *never before* came to any nations. Now to correct us so we may enjoy such blessings, He is going to bring upon our peoples such national disaster as has *never before* struck any nation! Many prophecies describe this!

The Tremendous Prophecy of Micah

An important additional proof of modern Israel's identity is found in a fantastic, detailed and *most specific* prophecy found in Micah 5:7-15. It is speaking specifically about the "remnant" of Israel—modern Israel *today*—wherever it is. It describes the *wealth*, the beneficent dominance among nations; and then the coming *downfall* of the American and British Commonwealth peoples in detail!

Notice: "And the *remnant of Jacob* shall be in the midst of many people [nations] as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men" (verse 7). Remember that dew and showers are *absolutely necessary* to agricultural productivity and are a symbol of national BLESSING and WEALTH from God.

Continue: "And the *remnant of Jacob* shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among

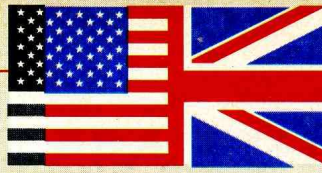
the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver" (verse 8).

Again, this symbolism describes the *last generation* of Israel as a GREAT POWER—as a lion among the other nations of the earth.

"Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off" (verse 9). They WERE cut off from the beginning of God's birthright blessing on America and Britain starting about 1803, through the First World War, the Second World War, until the turning point of the Korean War at the end of 1950.

Since that time, however, these blessings are surely being *taken away*—and neither America nor Britain has come out on top in any major skirmish since that time!

So this prophecy shows that *at the very time* we were receiving God's blessings, we were a tremendous BLESSING to the other nations of the earth—for it is *our peoples* who have rescued the other nations of the world time and again through the Marshall Plan, the Point Four program, the Alliance for Progress, the hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat for India and other starving nations, etc. The Hoover Program saved up vast food supplies after World



War I. It saved millions in *other* nations from starvation!

Anciently Joseph saved up the wheat and food and made it available to others. MODERN Joseph did also. But—we are stiff-necked and rebellious toward God and His law, while our ancient forefather Joseph served and obeyed God with a whole heart.

It is *our peoples* who have been like a “lion” among the other nations of the earth—*preserving* in two great world wars the peace of the world and stability for all human life on this planet!

Sudden Destruction

Yet, in this detailed prophecy, God says: “And it shall come to pass IN THAT DAY, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses” [“war-horses,” Moffatt translation]—tanks, ships, rockets—“out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: and I will *cut off the cities* [by hydrogen bombs?] of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds” (verses 10, 11).

God says He will do this! GOD determines the outcome of wars (Ps. 33:10-19).

How plain can you get? Here God identifies the GREAT peoples of the earth who are the most wealthy and beneficent, the most POWERFUL—yet *at the very time* their power reaches its zenith, He suddenly “breaks” the pride of their power (see Leviticus 26:19), *cuts off* their implements of war and destroys their cities! Why?

Because, as the prophet continues to explain, we have too much “witchcraft” and too many “soothsayers”—false ministers—in our lands who refuse to preach with authority the commandments and ways of the living God!

Therefore, God will punish and *destroy us—unless we repent*—just before and leading up to the utter destruction to come “*upon the heathen*” (Micah 5:15), which will take place at the very END of this age and at the second return of Jesus Christ as King of kings!

There is no other people that even remotely fulfills this great prophecy! But the American and British Commonwealth peoples fulfill it precisely!

As the “pride of our power” continues to be BROKEN, as the British continue to lose their foreign sea gates and possessions around the earth, as America signs away ownership of the Panama Canal—control over this vital sea gate—as our gold supply drains away from this nation, weather upsets increase, this focal prophecy alone represents giant PROOF as to where the modern “remnant” of the peoples of Israel resides today!

Punishment on All Nations

It will now be made plain—from God’s own warning prophecies—that this greatest multiplied *intensity* of corrective punishment will fall on Britain and America—including British peoples in Commonwealth countries. And it will strike them down *first!*

But they are not the only nations to suffer corrective disaster. God is Creator of all other nations, too! God is concerned about the people and races we have called “heathen.” They, too, are human. They, too, are made in God’s own likeness, with the potential of being molded into God’s spiritual and character IMAGE! God sent the apostle Paul to Gentile nations!

All mankind has rebelled against, rejected, and turned from God and His ways! There can never be peace on earth until all nations have been turned to God and His ways, ruled by His supreme government!

All mankind, right now, is caught in the vortex of the swiftly accelerating crisis marking the utter destruction of this world’s man-built, Satan-inspired civilization.

Through Jeremiah God says: “A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Eternal hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh”—HOW? Right now *The World Tomorrow* program carries His *peaceful* pleading worldwide, but the world, except for scattered individuals, does not heed *this* kind of “pleading.” The next words tell HOW God is now about to plead: “. . . he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Eternal. . . Behold, EVIL shall go forth *from nation to nation*, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth” (Jer. 25:31-32).

God will use a Nazi-Fascist Europe to punish Britain-America. Then He will use the Communist hordes to wipe out the Roman Europe.

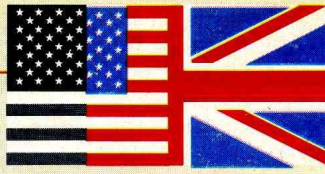
In passing on the birthright to the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:16), Jacob said, “Let my name be named on them”—on Ephraim and Manasseh—who today are Britain and America.

We are entering a time of world trouble—utter WORLD chaos! There is war, strife, violence in Asia, Africa, South America—as well as Europe and North America. The population explosion is a worldwide threat to human existence. Crime, violence, sickness, disease, inequality, poverty, filth, squalor, degeneration, suffering—these infest ALL nations!

But, as salvation is given *first* to Israel, so is corrective punishment!

Our Great Tribulation

Notice Jeremiah’s prophecy: “For thus saith the Eternal; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?”



Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's TROUBLE" (Jer. 30:5-7).

Remember—in passing on the birthright to the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:16), Jacob said, "Let MY NAME be named on them"—on Ephraim and Manasseh—who today are Britain and America. This tells ON WHOM this most terrible of national calamities is to fall—on Britain and America!

But now when is it to fall? Do not assume this is referring to anything that did happen to ancient Israel. Read right on—see WHEN this prophecy is to be fulfilled!

Continue: "... it is even the time of JACOB'S trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." (After he has learned his lesson IN it!) Continuing from RSV, "And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Eternal of hosts, that I will break the YOKE from off their neck [yoke of slavery], and I will burst their bonds, and strangers shall no more make servants of them. But they shall serve the Eternal their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them." (David, at the time of the RESURRECTION—at the very time of Christ's COMING!)

So the time is just prior to Christ's COMING—coming to liberate our peoples—even as Moses liberated ancient Israel from Egyptian slavery.

Jesus Foretold It

Other prophecies speak of this same time of national calamity greater than any before.

The pivotal New Testament prophecy is that of Jesus on the Mount of Olives—recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

The apostles had asked Jesus privately WHEN His second coming would occur—and the END of *this* world and the beginning of the happy world tomorrow. Jesus said the SIGN by which we might know when this is very NEAR would be that His original gospel of the Kingdom of God would be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14). But what else—just before His coming?

Jesus continued: "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22).

Here is described the greatest time of TROUBLE—TRIBULATION—in all history, or ever to be. Jeremiah described it as "Jacob's trouble," so great "that none is like it."

Daniel described the same most severe trouble of all history. Speaking of a time now in our immediate future, Daniel foretold: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince [archangel] which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time . . ." (Dan. 12:1).

The same *most intense punishment* on Britain and America. And WHEN? Continue, same verse, "... and at that time thy people shall be delivered [from this enslaved trouble], every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep [are dead] in the dust of the earth shall awake [RESURRECTION], some to everlasting life . . ." (verses 1-2).

The time is just before the RESURRECTION of the just, at Christ's coming. As Moses delivered the ancient Israelites from Egyptian slavery, so CHRIST is coming to deliver modern Britain and America from the now-impending *Babylonish* slavery. (See Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 7:37; Jeremiah 23:5-8.)

Jeremiah described it as a "YOKE" on the necks of our peoples. WHOSE "YOKE" of slavery? Isaiah tells us!

In verse 1 of Isaiah 47 the prophetic message is addressed to the *daughter* of Babylon. *Not* the Babylon of ancient days. Not Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon of 600 years before Christ—but a DAUGHTER of that Babylon, now, in our twentieth century. In prophecy a woman, or a daughter, means a CHURCH—a religious organization.

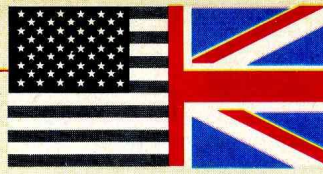
This particular "lady" of this prophecy is pictured as a lewd harlot and "a lady of kingdoms." That is, a great CHURCH ruling over nations. This *same* modern "female" Babylon is pictured also in the 17th chapter of Revelation—there called a "great whore," sitting on or ruling over "many waters," which are interpreted in verse 15 as "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Her name is there given as "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." In other words, the Babylonian mystery religion—the same religion of the ancient Babylon—but now grown GREAT and ruling over many nations of different languages.

Her KINGDOMS over which she ruled were called "the Holy Roman Empire" of A.D. 554 to 1814, briefly revived by Mussolini and SOON to have a last and final "resurrection" by a political-military union of ten nations in Europe (Rev. 17:8-14).

And at the TIME of this "great whore" sitting astride the political-military "beast," they shall fight in war against the glorified CHRIST at His second coming (Rev. 17:14).

Now back to Isaiah 47. God says to this mistress of kingdoms: "I was wroth with my people [Israel—Britain-America], I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them *into thine hand* [in tortured slavery]: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke" (verse 6).

That YOKE of SLAVERY without mercy is to be laid on the U.S.-Britain by the coming united nations of Europe! It has started already, through the economic Common Market and the recently implemented EMS (European Monetary System). Its leaders talk continually of POLITICAL union—which means, also, military union. So far they have been unable to bring about full political union. This will be made possible by the "good offices" of the Vatican, that alone can be the symbol of unity to which they can



look. Two popes already have offered their “good offices” toward such union.

The prophecy does not literally say so, but in all probability, by present indications, GERMANY will head this new WORLD POWER. And Germany will try it once again—World War III. And this time, it will be allowed to succeed!

The ancient Assyrians migrated NORTHWEST from their ancient land south of the Caspian Sea—and settled in GERMANY! The Germans of today are the same people—the very descendants—of the ancient ASSYRIANS. So when you read about Assyria in prophecies pertaining to NOW, they refer to GERMANY!

So, history is to repeat! It was ancient Assyria which invaded the house of Israel, and carried them out of Samaria into the Assyrian’s own land.

And where, today, are the ancient BABYLONIANS—the Chaldeans? They migrated west and settled in ITALY. Their religion was the Assyrian-Babylonian MYSTERY religion. It is going to come as a breathtaking, awesome, shocking surprise when the world learns that one Simon, the sorcerer of Samaria in the time of the original apostles, leader of the BABYLONIAN MYSTERY religion having the title of PATER or PETER, meaning PAPA, actually appropriated the NAME of *Christ* and the Christian principle of GRACE, which he turned into LICENSE, doing away with GOD’S LAW (Jude 4) and started what is today called “Christianity.” How astonished the world will be to discover that it is NOT, and never was, the outgrowth of the CHURCH OF GOD, founded by Jesus Christ and His apostles!

This knowledge will soon burst on an incredulous world as a BOMBSHELL! People will be SHOCKED to learn how they have been DECEIVED!

What Is the Great Tribulation?

Now it becomes painfully clear! The Great Tribulation is this sevenfold intensity of corrective punishment which God is now soon going to lay on Britain-America!

Notice a few brief excerpts from Ezekiel’s description of it!

“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 round about thee; and I will scatter a third part [the remainder] into all the winds [slavery], and I will draw out a sword after them. THUS shall MINE ANGER be accomplished, and I will cause MY FURY [last PLAGUES] to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and *they shall know* that I the Eternal have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them” (Ezek. 5:12-13).

Further: “In all your dwelling places the CITIES shall be laid waste” (Ezek. 6:6). This could never have happened until the hydrogen bomb! Cities laid completely WASTE. ALL of them—“in all your dwelling places.”

Drought—Famine, First

Now let the prophet Joel add more.

Joel’s prophecy was for the far, far future—verses 1-3 of chapter 1. Then he shows a plague of different kinds of

locusts, devouring the fruits and food crops—stripping off bark from fruit trees. “He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white” (Joel 1:7).

Continue—now comes devastating DROUGHT: “The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth . . . because the harvest of the field is perished. . . all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men” (verses 10-12). This is to happen just prior to the terrible plagues of “the DAY OF THE LORD” (verses 14-15).

Continue the prophecy: “The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire [hot sun] hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up . . .” (verses 17-20).

Next—Military Invasion and Defeat

Next in time order, beginning chapter 2, the alarm of WAR: “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion [alarm of WAR], and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land *tremble*: for the DAY OF THE LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand” (verse 1).

“Therefore also now, saith the Eternal, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Eternal your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil” (verses 12-13).

At Last!—Repentance in Tribulation

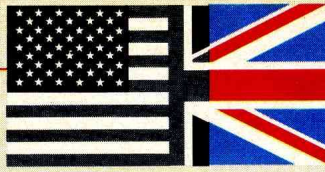
Once God does add these repeated SEVENFOLD-INTENSITY of corrective punishments on our peoples—when they have had their wealth, prosperity, their land—the birthright and everything they possessed and set their hearts on taken away from them—at last they will be humbled and will cry out to God for mercy and deliverance!

Right now GOD’S WARNING MESSAGE of this terrifying greatest trouble of history is being THUNDERED over *The World Tomorrow* program into ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD—as a witness! Some two and a half million are reading it in *The Plain Truth*!

We know only too well that the people as a whole will not heed! We are grateful that God is laying it on the hearts of a few thousand every year to LISTEN (hearken—to use biblical Authorized Version language) and to take it seriously—to REPENT and come to God through Jesus Christ as Savior.

Yes, a few thousand every year—thousands PRECIOUS beyond estimate! But NOT the people as a whole. Not NOW!

We know full well that the real HARVEST of our labors in GOD’S WORK, preparing the way for Christ’s coming, is NOT NOW! But when everything these peoples have has been



taken from them—when they are slaves in foreign lands—when they are cruelly treated, beaten, unmercifully even martyred and put to death—THEN millions of those who remain alive WILL cry out to God—WILL repent—WILL turn to live GOD’S WAY. *That* is when the real harvest from this present Work of God will be reaped.

Millions then will remember they *heard* Christ’s TRUE message over *The World Tomorrow*—read it in *The Plain Truth!*

Then they will say: “That *was* the true message sent by GOD after all!” Many will take it lightly now—just as the

The pitiful tragedy of it! This realization will come too late to save the many from this repeated sevenfold punishment! But, for millions, not too late for their salvation—for God’s gift of eternal life!

Israelites of old took God’s message to them through His prophets. But when these things really HAPPEN—when people realize NO ONE ELSE warned them—then they will KNOW just WHO are the real FALSE prophets today! *Then* they will KNOW which is God’s truth!

The pitiful, pitiful tragedy of it! This realization will come TOO LATE to save the *many* from this repeated *sevenfold* punishment! BUT, for millions, *not* too late for their salvation—for God’s GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE!

Millions Finally Converted

Notice the prophecies of this very thing! Return for a moment to Jeremiah’s prophecy. The 30th chapter, from which I quoted, ends with these words: “. . . in the *latter days* ye shall consider it.” The prophecy is for OUR TIME, now!

Read right on in chapter 31: “At the same time, saith the Eternal, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the Eternal, The people which were left of the sword [those still then alive] found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when he went to find him rest” (marginal rendering). Or, as in the RSV, “. . . when Israel *sought for* rest, the Eternal appeared to him from afar.” Or, as in the Moffatt translation: “. . . Those who survive the sword shall find grace in the dungeon.” That is, in captivity and in slavery!

Continue, “Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry. . . . They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters *in a straight way* [God’s law!], where-

in they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn [birthright-holder]. Hear the word of the Eternal, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jer. 31:4, 9-10).

Later Jeremiah was inspired to write: “In those days, and in that time, saith the Eternal, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Eternal their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Eternal in a perpetual covenant [the NEW Covenant] that shall not be forgotten. My people hath been LOST SHEEP: their shepherds [professing Christian ministers] have caused them to go astray. . . .” (Jer. 50:4-6).

Later in this chapter: “In those days, and in that time, saith the Eternal, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve [leave as a remnant]” (verse 20).

Hosea Summarizes It

This whole matter of Israel’s rebellion against RIGHT WAYS, of God’s driving them out, divorcing them, withholding the bestowal of the birthright for 2520 years—and of Israel’s final redemption *after* the three additional sevenfold more *intense* corrective punishments—is summarized by the prophet Hosea.

But Hosea also becomes very concise, direct, and specific in detailing Britain-America’s national ATTITUDE right now!

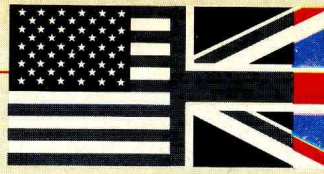
To picture this whole course of infidelity, rejection, withholding of blessing, extreme correction, and final awakening of Israel, God directed the prophet to marry a whore—to picture what Israel was to God. She bore him a son. God instructed Hosea to name the son *Jezeel*, meaning “God will disperse.” For God said, “. . . I will. . . cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. . . . I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezeel” (Hos. 1:4-5). The kingdom—the government—did cease at the Assyrian captivity—721-718 B.C.

Hosea’s harlot wife conceived again, and bore a daughter. God instructed that she be named *Lo-ruhamah*, meaning “no mercy,” for, said God, “. . . I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away” (verse 6).

Later this lewd wife had another son. “Call his name,” said God, “*Lo-ammi* [meaning “not my people”]: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God” (verse 9).

Yet to Find the True Riches

“Yet,” continued the Eternal, “the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of (Continued on page 36)



PROPHECY

(Continued from page 11)

the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. Then shall the children of Judah [the Jews] and the children of Israel ["Lost Ten Tribes"] be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land ["spread out far beyond their land"—Moffatt translation]: for great shall be the day of Jezreel" (Hos. 1:10-11).

There, in brief, is a picture of the whole course of God's dealing with Israel. Today, our people say they are NOT "Israel." That is, NOT God's people! They think that the Jews, and the Jews *only*, are Israel. But very soon, now, they are going to KNOW their identity. Thousands will learn it from this very series you are now reading. The MILLIONS will learn it at Christ's coming!

In Hosea 2, God says, in regard to our now having possessed the unprecedented WEALTH of the birthright promise: "For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and MULTIPLIED her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal. Therefore will I return, and TAKE AWAY my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness [her SIN]" (verses 8-9).

But finally, when the correction becomes INTENSE enough, our peoples will acknowledge their transgressions, will repent, will seek their God!

God's People—At Last!

"And it shall be at that day, saith the Eternal, that thou shalt call me *Ishi* ["MY HUSBAND"]; and shalt call me no more *Baali* ["MY LORD"]" (verse 16).

"And," concludes this second chapter, "I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, *Thou art my people*; and they shall say, *Thou art MY GOD*" (verse 23).

Then begins GOD'S MESSAGE TO OUR PEOPLES TODAY—especially to the British peoples!

"Hear the word of the Eternal, ye children of Israel [you people of the British Commonwealth and the United States!]: for the Eternal hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, *nor knowledge of God in the land*. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land [of America and Britain] mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish . . ." (Hos. 4:1-3).

To the modern ministers in the churches of Britain and America, God says: "My people are destroyed for lack of

knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten *the law of thy God*, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame" (verses 6-7).

Speaking of the coming manifold INTENSITY of corrective PUNISHMENT, God says, ". . . in their affliction *they will seek me early*" (Hos. 5:15).

To Britain Today

Speaking of modern Britain, God says: "Israel [Britain] indeed is STUBBORN as a restive heifer; how can the Eternal feed them now?" (Hos. 4:16, Moffatt translation.) God "feeds" His people today with His WORD—HIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD—His WARNING of what is quickly to come! The British government *would not allow* any broadcasting facilities within its jurisdiction that might be used by God's servants to proclaim GOD'S MESSAGE OF THIS HOUR to the British peoples!

But GOD was determined to get His message to the British!

So, the first week in 1953, God's message started getting into Britain *from Europe*—when *The World Tomorrow* program began going out on the superpowered voice of Radio Luxembourg!

When Radio Luxembourg was no longer effective for this message, God raised up broadcasting stations on *ships*, anchored just outside Britain's jurisdiction. *The World Tomorrow* was then THUNDERED over all of Britain DAILY, from SEVEN of these ships. They were not illegal. They violated no law of man. They DID proclaim faithfully *the law of God!* But the British authorities falsely called them "pirate" ships. They were NOT pirates. They were not marauders. They did not invade the land and pillage or steal. They harmed no one!

But most governments of MAN would like to CONTROL what their PEOPLE hear or do not hear! They want to CONTROL your thinking for you!

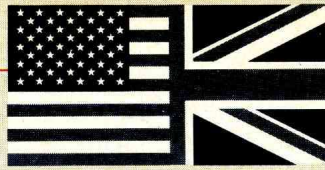
The British government and the national Church of England would LEGALIZE the revolting perversion of homosexuality! They would CONDONE heinous SINS, but no door inside the U.K. is open to broadcasting GOD'S MESSAGE!

But God DID get His message to Britain.

God Said It! God Did It

God has said, "Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7), and in the verse just before this, "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid?"

God has said, IN YOUR BIBLE, that He would get the warning to His people Ephraim-BRITAIN. He has foretold: "Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke [and



Britain is rapidly headed toward that prophesied desolation now]: among the tribes of Israel *have I made known* that which shall surely be” (Hosea 5:9).

Also, God said of Britain and America: “Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned [half-baked]. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not. And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the Eternal their God, nor seek him for all this. Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria [Germany]. When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; *I will chastise them, AS THEIR CONGREGATION HATH HEARD*”—from *The World Tomorrow* broadcast warning! (Hos. 7:8-12.)

They Will Realize

Some day, people will wake up to REALIZE this is the Work of GOD!

Of British churchianity, God says: “The Ephraimites are wedded to idolatry; LET THEM ALONE!—a drunken band, a lustful company, in love *with shameful worship*, not with my glory. When the whirlwind sweeps them off, they shall feel shame for their altars” (Hos. 4:17-19—Moffatt translation).

God says, “I withdraw to my own place, *till* they feel their iniquity and seek my face, searching for me in their distress, crying, ‘Let us return to the Eternal, for he has torn us, he will heal us, he has wounded, he will bind us up: in a day or two [Authorized Version—after two days] he will revive us, and on the third day he will raise us to live under his care” (Hos. 5:15-6:2, Moffatt translation). The coming Great Tribulation probably will last about 2½ years—the “Day of the Lord” about one year—then comes the RESURRECTION and second coming of Christ!

The entire book of Hosea carries a blistering message and warning to the BRITISH PEOPLE TODAY!

You Can Escape This Punishment

God warns us through prophecy that our sins are fast increasing. And now the *day of reckoning* is here! The foreign sword already has attacked us. In this fearful, awesome atomic age, World War III will *start* with nuclear devastation unleashed on London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Pittsburgh, without warning! God help our nations to wake up before it's too late!

Yes, we are God's chosen people ISRAEL! *Think what that means!* Chosen not for favors while we defy our God, but chosen for SERVICE we have failed to perform.

We should shout for joy at the discovery of our true identity—and we should be brought to REPENT—and to TURN TO GOD—and to get back of this crusade by radio and by printed word to WARN our people, and to call

upon God in REAL heartrending prayer for divine deliverance.

The sevenfold INTENSITY of punishment now soon to come upon the American and British peoples is simply the prophesied GREAT TRIBULATION! It will be the most frightfully intense PUNISHMENT, and time of TROUBLE, ever suffered by any people!

Yet YOU need not suffer in it.

This terrifyingly severe PUNISHMENT is simply the CORRECTION our peoples have made necessary to bring them to the ways of living which cause desired blessings, instead of terrible curses. It is CORRECTION—for the peoples' GOOD!

As GOD LIVES, this punishment is soon to strike! This series has given the WARNING from God and His Word!

Will the U.S. and British nations HEED? They could yet avert this colossal national tragedy, IF they would!

But if *you—you* now reading this, *you* as an individual—will be corrected, voluntarily, before God lets this indescribably horrendous chastening strike; if YOU come to real REPENTANCE, realizing HOW TERRIBLY WRONG *you* have been; if you can see yourself as you really are—as a rebellious wrong, evil person; and if you can SURRENDER to the loving, all-merciful, yet all-POWERFUL God—and make it an UNCONDITIONAL surrender, coming to Almighty GOD through the living Jesus Christ as personal Savior—then NO PLAGUE shall come near you (Ps. 91:8-11), but you shall be accounted worthy to *escape* all these frightful things and to STAND before Christ at His return (Luke 21:35-36).

Those in the true Body of Christ shall be taken to a place of SAFETY, until this tribulation be over (Rev. 3:10-11, applying to those faithful in GOD'S WORK now going to the world; Rev. 12:14; Isa. 26:20).

But you must make your own decision—and to NEGLECT doing so is to have *made* the WRONG decision!

Most people, we know only too well, will take this SERIOUS WARNING lightly—put it out of mind—turn to other immediate interests of no importance by comparison! That is why a loving, just, all-wise, all-POWERFUL GOD is going to *take away from them* these unimportant counter-interests, and apply such intensified CORRECTION that they *shall*, finally, come to their senses, and turn to Him and His WAY which will bring them eternal happiness and abundant blessings!

But YOU *need not* have to suffer this intensified correction, greater than any trouble ever suffered by humans.

By God's direction and authority, I have laid the TRUTH before you! To neglect it will be tragic beyond imagination! To heed it will bring blessings, happiness and GLORY beyond description!

The decision is now YOURS! □

CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of *the household of God*” (Ephesians 2:19). In other words, of the begotten FAMILY of God. Continue:

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles [New Testament] and prophets [Old Testament], Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy TEMPLE in the Lord” (verses 20-21). So God reveals here that the Church is:

1) the HOUSEHOLD or begotten FAMILY of God; 2) a building—a HOLY TEMPLE—fitly joined together—that is, *well organized* (and, of course, on GOD’S pattern).

As a building—the HOLY TEMPLE to which Christ will come—it is built on a FIRM FOUNDATION: the apostles, chosen by Christ, and the prophets. MUCH of the New Testament is simply quotations, or citations, from the writings of the prophets of the Old Testament. The things written in the Old Testament were “written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (I Corinthians 10:11).

Again the apostle Paul reminded Timothy: “. . . from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures [the only Scriptures Timothy could have known from a child were those written by Old Testament prophets], which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15). The writings of the Old Testament prophets are part of the FOUNDATION of the Church of God!

And, of course, Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone—the very HEAD of the Church.

The Temple to Which Christ Will Come

There has been much perplexity and discussion as to *when* the temple will be built to which Christ shall come.

Malachi’s prophecy speaks of Christ’s second coming to His temple (Malachi 3:1-6).

In Haggai’s prophecy it is referred to prophetically. Zerubbabel had

been sent as governor of a colony to build the second temple 70 years after the destruction of Solomon’s temple. He built the temple to which Jesus came, though it had been enlarged and embellished by the Roman Herod. But speaking of this temple, as a type and forerunner of the temple to which Christ shall come at His *second* coming, it is written, “The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts” (Haggai 2:9).

It is inconceivable that the Israelis, in the present international turmoil over their possession of old Jerusalem, could ever demolish the Arab Moslem Dome of the Rock—now

“

Jesus announced the fact of the coming Kingdom, which, by His overcoming Satan, was assured!

”

standing on the site of Solomon’s temple—and build a new one there of greater splendor and glory than Solomon’s! However, as the second temple Zerubbabel was building was a typical forerunner of the temple to which Christ shall come, even so Zerubbabel was the typical forerunner of one Christ would use in building the far more glorious temple to which Christ shall come in His GLORY!

Zechariah 4:9: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it. . . .” And as Zerubbabel’s hands *did* finish that second temple, so shall the one Christ uses in building the temple to which He shall come in His GLORY!

And the Church of God of the present day shall be a “building fitly framed together [and growing] unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:21).

Church the Bride of Christ

The one and only true Church, a spiritual organism well organized by

Christ, is the affianced Bride of Christ—to MARRY Christ, after His coming and after the resurrection and change of the Church into immortality.

In Ephesians 5 this is shown by analogy. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. . . . For we are members of HIS BODY, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:25-32).

The Church is made up of the BODY of Christ. More on that a little later. But the BODY presented to Christ *will not be a dismembered* body, with an arm, a leg or other parts being separated! It is ONE Church—*fitly framed together*—not dismembered into many parts following many different men seeking to draw away disciples after them.

This coming marriage is again referred to in II Corinthians 11:2: “For 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 New-Covenant MARRIAGE will take place at Christ’s coming in GLORY: “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, ALLELUIA: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb [Christ] is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (Revelation 19:6-7).

It is enlightening at this point to remember Jesus came as “the messenger of the covenant” (Malachi 3:1). He came as the Messenger of the NEW Covenant.

The Old Covenant was a CONTRACT entered into between the children of Israel and the Word (who was to become Christ)—the God of the Old Testament. It was a MARRIAGE covenant. God “proposed” and

Israel "accepted" (Exodus 19:6, 8). That "marriage covenant" also set up the kingdom of Israel as one of earth's nations.

The New Covenant also will be a MARRIAGE covenant marrying the Church, then changed to spirit immortality, to Christ. But that covenant *also* will set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, ruling all nations with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

The Old Covenant was made with a carnal-minded people on their PROMISE to obey. The New Covenant will be made with a Spirit-begotten and Spirit-born people who have ALREADY PROVED THEIR OBEDIENCE!

Modern Facilities for Mass Communication Today

The Church members, as a whole, are not called to "GO FORTH" with the gospel message, but to back up, help, support the apostle in carrying the message into all the world.

I mentioned that one apostle today, with modern facilities for mass communication—the printing press, radio, television, even the telephone by which one may reach another in any part of the world in a matter of minutes or less—can reach more people by far than all of the first century apostles combined.

But this use of modern facilities in our day necessitates a considerable organization of people in various administrative capacities, besides evangelists, pastors and assistants, elders, deacons and deaconesses in local churches worldwide.

In Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25), He pictured Himself as giving talents to various ones left here on earth while He was in heaven.

"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability..." (verse 15). These "talents"—pieces of money—symbolized spiritual gifts and a measure of the Holy Spirit given each. He gave according to the natural ability of each.

The twelfth chapter of I Corinthians reveals that there are various offices of administration in the Church—and that God gives various spiritual gifts for those various functions. The SAME PRINCIPLE holds, since God is consistent and never changes. He *gives*, through the Holy

Spirit, special abilities, according to one's own natural abilities.

I have often talked about "fitting the square peg into the round hole" to illustrate human failure because so many are NOT doing what by natural ability they are fitted to do.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:4). All these various *special* talents, abilities or aptitudes, though several, are all given by the same Holy Spirit.

"And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all" (verses 5-6). It is GOD working *in us*.

"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are ONE BODY: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into ONE BODY..." (verses 11-13).

"And now are they many members, yet BUT ONE BODY" (verse 20).


What about those who follow a MAN, outside that ONE BODY? God says we are not to follow a MAN. Paul said that "of your own selves shall men arise... to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:30).

The apostle Paul had to correct the Corinthian church because they were following individual MEN: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing..."—and *where* did the Church receive that one *same thing* they were all to believe? From THE APOSTLES! And the apostles received it from CHRIST. And Jesus Christ received it from God the Father! Continue: "... that there be *no divisions among you*; but that ye *be perfectly joined together in the same mind* and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10).

The apostle reproved them, saying, "... there are contentions among you" (verse 11).


"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (verse 12). CHRIST IS NOT divided (verse 13). □

(To Be Continued)



ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

For centuries, prophets, evangelists and assorted religious gurus have been launching impassioned warnings about the end of the world. Every natural or unnatural disaster has been seen as a sure sign of the end. Because so many harebrained predictions have been made in the past, people have become skeptical. The religious prophets have cried "Wolf!" once too often. But today, a whole new "school of prophets" is raising a collective voice of warning about a number of human problems that appear to be reaching "critical mass." The population explosion, the energy crisis, global pollution, and the potential for nuclear war are only a few of the gigantic problems that currently plague mankind. Is doomsday at our door? The free booklet *Are We Living in the Last Days?* gives the answer. To receive your copy, write to *The Plain Truth*. (See inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.) Request your free copy today.



Are We Living in the Last Days?
Anick-Rogers

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

of course, in Japanese, but after every sentence the interpreter translated the sentence into English. And vice versa. Of course the whole thing was in my honor, so I was the chief speaker. Both Stanley Rader and Osamo Gotoh spoke briefly.

I had said earlier that I was not going to plan ahead what to say, or speak from any notes. I knew the living Christ would put into my mind what I should say—and He did!

There were at least a half dozen ambassadors representing other nations present (with their wives). So I knew that a number of different religions were represented.

Suppose you were to be asked to stand up and speak to some 300 highly distinguished people, some believing the Buddhist, Shintoist, Islamic or Taoist religions, not knowing anything about the true GOD, and you knew that Jesus Christ wanted you to proclaim to them the good news of the KINGDOM OF GOD. And you had to get this gospel message over to these important people.

Just how would you go about it? If you had two or three days beforehand to think and plan what to say, what would you say?

I think all of you ought to KNOW a little about how Jesus Christ leads His chosen apostle to do it.

I KNEW the living Christ *would* guide me. Like you, I am only human—but I TRUSTED the living Jesus. He did put in my mind what to say.

I mentioned that I do have private meetings with many heads of nations—that I talk with them about their problems and world problems. That their problems are greater than any of them have power to solve. I then said I had read an editorial in one of the world's leading news magazines that said our "world problems and evils are now so great it would seem that the world's ONLY HOPE lies in the intervention of a GREAT HAND FROM SOMEPLACE." In this manner I brought to the attention of these many government officials of different religions the supreme GOD—and I then explained that this great

"Unseen Hand" was the unseen Creator who made of one blood all of the nations represented in this banquet.

I did not know until I stood up before the loudspeaker microphone that I would say that. But you see, Jesus Christ put words in my mouth that showed them I was speaking of the SUPREME CREATOR, regardless of their religion. Jesus gave me the words to show GOD'S POWER without offense to any because of his religious belief.

I then said many consider me an ambassador without portfolio (that is, no official political authority). But in fact, I told them, I was an official ambassador of the GREAT GOD who created us all. And I brought them from Him GOOD NEWS—news of the world's *only hope*—that we are now in the very LAST DAYS of this present man-made civilization, with more problems and evils than mankind CAN SOLVE—and that SOON NOW—in OUR GENERATION—God will *intervene*, and set up the WORLD RULING KINGDOM OF GOD—that we shall then have world peace, happiness, JOY—and economic ABUNDANCE for ALL in ALL NATIONS.

I said: "I don't ask you to BELIEVE what I say. We humans won't bring this about—it will be done to us—and in spite of us—whether we believe it or not—whether we want it or not. But I have just announced it to you, and it definitely shall happen!"

Thus, in few words, and even waiting at every sentence for the interpreter to repeat it in the Japanese language, Jesus Christ through me delivered the gospel of the Kingdom to some 300 of the leaders of Japan and several other nations.

And I might mention THIS is what the attorney general's office in California is trying to call "siphoning off millions of dollars every year for my own use." In the past two years we have not spent one tenth of \$1 million on this important Work of carrying the GOSPEL into nations worldwide.

For the past 10 years, this part of the Work has cost less than \$1 million a year—whereas our budget calls for SEVERAL million dollars per year for SALARIES to ministers and the staff at headquarters—several

million for radio, for TV, for printing.

I must break off now and hurry into a business suit—for I am to have a meeting in less than two hours with Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. I have met and visited with every Japanese prime minister in the past 10 years—Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister Takeo Miki, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and now Prime Minister Ohira. I have been highly honored in Japan.

There's the saying that a prophet is not honored in his own country. That's where the PERSECUTION comes from. But here, I am honored above *any* unofficial non-Japanese.

Perhaps the most important news of all that I can give you of this trip is that definite plans are under way for me to make an official visit to COMMUNIST CHINA—officially the People's Republic of China, in company with two or three of the highest members of the Japanese Diet. Two of the high-ranking members of Japan's law-making Diet are definitely working on arrangements. The trip will be made in our own G-II jet, and probably in August. Private meetings are being set up with the Communist Party Chairman and Prime Minister Huo Guofeng and the deputy prime minister, Deng Xiaoping.

As you know, I have been waiting a long time for Jesus Christ to open doors—IF He wanted His apostle to go to the LEADERS of China and the Soviet Union. Of course, I can't know yet what Christ may have in mind, but He is able to open doors wherever He wants me to go as His ambassador and apostle.

Plans are now being made for a visit with the government heads and many other leaders in a country I have not yet visited—Tunisia, on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, west of Egypt. And, of course, I already have had a personal meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Before leaving Japan on this present trip, I will have further meetings with a few other Japanese leaders. This has certainly been a very successful trip.

I close asking you to continue your earnest and fervent prayers for me and the Work. □