

PASTOR'S REPORT

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WHAT GOD NEVER DID--NEVER WILL-- ALLOW TO HAPPEN

by Herbert W. Armstrong

This thought came to me as I was eating breakfast this morning: In all this world's history God has never started an important Work, or Special Activity through a chosen human, and then, after that Special accomplishment is well-advanced, ALLOWED His chosen human leader to be overthrown by Satan--or in any way to turn false!

Yet those promoted high within that Work or special activity for God, have been allowed to turn false, against God's chosen leader.

Start with Moses--specially called and chosen by God to lead the Israelite slaves out of Egypt and to the promised land. Moses was human. He had human faults and weaknesses--but he also had human strengths, and God gave him the extra strength needed.

Moses' brother, Aaron, had been elevated high as Moses' spokesman (since Moses had a speech impediment--he stuttered). Aaron, with his sister Miriam, did once turn false and say to Moses, in effect: "Who do you think you are? We are just as high--on a level with you." God punished.

Then there was Korah. He and others associated with him in a rebellion had been raised to high position in the nation Israel--a nation emigrating from Egypt with 2½ or more million people (600,000 men age 20 and above, plus women and children).

There was real organization within that nomadic nation, but none equal to Moses in top authority under God--and no "number two" man, in authority over all except Moses.

Yet Korah and his fellow-dissidents were not satisfied with their already lofty positions--they wanted to "GET"--take to themselves MORE AUTHORITY, EQUAL TO MOSES. God caused the earth to swallow them up.

But the man God had prepared in advance, the man God chose as His instrument in STARTING the tremendous project of moving some 2½ million people to the promised land--was never allowed by God to go wrong.

Yet Moses was abused, accused, criticized.

The same with Joshua, the man God chose to take over after Moses' job was completed, and pilot God's people across the Jordan river into the promised land. Joshua remained FAITHFUL!

Jesus Christ appointed Peter chief apostle to Israel, and Paul chief apostle to the Gentiles. They were falsely accused, opposed, criticized--but neither was allowed by CHRIST to turn wrong--though some under them did turn wrong.

In our time, God first prepared, then called me unmistakably, to raise up the Philadelphia era of God's Church--at this END-TIME just before the end of this world--and to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the World Tomorrow and the Kingdom of God. That was 46 years ago--though God called and chose me 52 years ago.

But what has happened in that 46 years? My elder son, Richard David, was taken in death--dying "in harness" on a baptizing tour--the most loved of the ministers in God's church, because he exuded so much LOVE! But then my second son came along, "prepared" in all the evils of enlisted men in the U.S. Navy, and made number two man (this was MY mistake, not yet then realizing God has never used a "number two" man in authority). I delegated considerable authority to Ted, but he went way beyond what I delegated, and assumed TOTAL AUTHORITY, trying to cut me off completely--which meant also cutting off all above him (which meant cutting off Jesus Christ and God Almighty). There were also others that were either POWER-hungry, or money-hungry (probably mostly the former).

I came to LOVE, to ENTRUST AUTHORITY to, to honor and respect Albert Portune, David Antion, C. Wayne Cole, Raymond Cole, Ron Dart--all men high in God's Work today, as Korah and his fellows were in Moses' day. And now WHERE ARE THEY? All are trying to DESTROY the very WORK OF GOD they once sought to climb the ladder in its SUPPORT. Today the living Christ, Head of the Church, is SETTING IT BACK ON GOD'S TRACK, yet these dissidents would have you think Christ's apostle and even the Church has gone sour--and, like vultures of the sky, they figuratively hover over it, waiting for this that and the other member to DIE SPIRITUALLY, so they may gobble up the remains! They no longer seek to build--they seek to DESTROY!

Well Brethren, just where do we stand AT THE MOMENT? During the past year this Church of the living GOD has been at least 75% set back on God's track. We are getting frighteningly close to the END of this age. This church was drifting into a Laodicean condition. (Incidentally, both the "Sardis" and the "Laodicean" eras of the church were GOD'S CHURCHES--NOT SATAN'S!) Someone spread the false rumor that I have said these others were or will be Satan's churches. The Sardis era in the main had become spiritually dead--had rejected too much of GOD'S TRUTH--was accomplishing virtually NOTHING in spreading the true Gospel to the world (indeed had no clear conception of what that Gospel is). The Laodicean church will be characterized by spiritual lukewarmness--half of its membership (Matt. 25: 1-13) will be shut out of the Kingdom of God.

But, the BAD NEWS, as it appears today, my dear brethren, is that we, undoubtedly of the "Philadelphia" era--my son's ridicule notwithstanding--are in serious danger of BECOMING also the "Laodicean era." I am personally much concerned about that. If YOU are NOT concerned, then indeed we are in mortal DANGER!

Satan is pulling out ALL STOPS now to DESTROY THIS CHURCH OF GOD! No matter how angrily and vehemently they deny it, SATAN is USING these former

leaders, and they are yielding completely to Satan's will! I no longer hesitate to call a spade a spade!

But what Jesus Christ raised up is the CHURCH OF GOD. Today it encompasses the earth, so we call it The WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! Garner Ted bragged to me that HE built this Church. It was BUILT when he was 3 years old! Much, much later, my son was allowed to have microphones before him that went out on hundreds of stations. But what CHRIST BUILT through his father placed those microphones before him. He STARTED nothing! He pioneered NOTHING! But a letter from one woman member illustrates what happened. She first heard of us through one of my son's TV programs and wrote for literature. She read booklets that I wrote, on what is Salvation, what is the Kingdom of God, What Do You Mean, "BORN AGAIN?" etc. And THESE BOOKLETS led to her conversion. There have to be many like that.

Let me close with one thought. It is now a little late in life for me to turn to Satan's way, as so many others in high places have done.

God never yet has let one through whom He STARTED a great project turn wrong--and He has never yet let such an appointed leader of His die until his job was FINISHED!

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The PLAIN TRUTH
About Stanley R. Rader

WHY I keep Mr. Rader on as my assistant, in spite of the biggest character assassination campaign in God's Church.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

W H Y, I ask, WHY has Stanley R. Rader been persecuted, with a bitter campaign of character assassination against him as no other man in or associated with the Church.

Those who have HATED Mr. Rader could not tell you WHY. I think it's time the Church membership and pastors come to grips with this question.

The fountain source that has spewed out this bitter hatred is my own son, Garner Ted Armstrong.

But if I ask this, that, or the other minister or church member, "WHY?" They can't answer! Much of this character assassination has taken place in the faculty locker room in Pasadena, guzzling beer. Little personal snide remarks have built up a giant wall against Stanley Rader.

I look at the "fruits" and they are virtually all VERY GOOD!

There's an old saying to the effect that "He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who besmears my character steals the most precious and valuable thing I have."

But, even though snide remarks and character assassination statements have been freely spued out, I still have to ask, "W H Y" HAVE SO MANY IN GOD'S CHURCH BEEN WILLING TO BELIEVE THE WORST against Stan Rader? I want to answer that, and once for all set the record straight.

I have to go back fifty years or more, to explain, because there is a resemblance to this unfortunate situation in my early experience with the Sardis people in Oregon.

Jesus Christ called His people "sheep" who seriously need leadership and protection from competent and honest shepherds.

Jesus said, "the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). Those of this world know better how to deal with others of this world than God's sheep.

In the autumn of 1926, when my life-changing challenge came, I was one of the "wise of this world." I had been in business. From age 18 to age 34 I had no interest in religion. I think I was upright and honest and sincere--yet very much a part of this world. I had not neglected education and did possess the equivalent of post graduate degrees.

The brethren in Oregon began immediately to look to me for leadership --especially in giving the Gospel Message to the world. The ministers worked against me every way they could. They were jealous. Wherever God used me in speaking, FRUIT WAS BORN--THERE WERE CONVERSIONS, newly baptized members brought in. Yet, of the Sardis ministers of that time there was not one single conversion brought about that I could find, and I specifically asked at least two of their oldest and most loyal members if they knew of any conversions brought about by their church ministers.

The brethren knew that I was newly converted out of the world. I KNEW THIS WORLD! I KNEW HOW TO APPROACH AND REACH THIS WORLD. The Sardis ministers did not. They appeared as just so much "ignoramus foolishness" to the world.

The church NEEDED the leadership of one who had the "know how" to reach the world.

When I was completely converted, spring of 1927, I did not try to change my personality. I, with my wife, ABHORED any "put on" mannerism that could have made me APPEAR "religious."

I remember once when one or both of my sons brought to our house a neighbor boy. He later said to them, "Why your Dad does not seem like a preacher." I seemed just like any business man. I did change my attitude and basic interests and concerns with values--I did eradicate all slang words such as "darn," but I did not "PUT ON" any new sanctimonious appearance, I was just NATURAL--myself--although Jesus Christ was CHANGING that self.

Just as, in order to get God's Work moving, in GOING TO THE WORLD, the Work then needed one who could effectively reach the world, so in the early sixties, I came to realize God's Work needed the services of one who had expertise in finance, banking, borrowing and legal matters. We had started using Mr. Rader to a limited extent, on a professional fee basis, in certain

legal matters, and contacts with radio stations. He was distinctly the most brilliant of the men we had used in these areas. In due time, later, we discussed with Mr. Rader the matter of giving up his CPA and legal clients, and devoting full time to us. The Work needed him.

In 1972, when Garner Ted Armstrong was banished from the Church and College, and living in Colorado, all top-ranking ministers had turned against Ted--but Stanley Rader stood loyally with me as TED'S ONLY FRIEND, in working to bring Ted back into the Work.

But once back, Ted started a campaign of persecution and character assassination against Mr. Rader such as I have never witnessed, and have never found chronicled in Biblical history.

W H Y, I ask again, WHY do some ministers and even some brethren lay members, think EVIL of Stanley Rader?

Could it be because he is "worldly-wise" and therefore able to give the Work a help none of us can give? Is it because he has not tried to "PUT ON" a religious or sanctimonious personality and appearance, and appears "more worldly" than we--even though I know for a fact some well recognized members or ministers are, in fact--especially Garner Ted--more "worldly" in ATTITUDE and WAYS than Mr. Rader.

I do not want Mr. Rader to "PUT ON" a sanctimonious or religious-type bearing.

To sum up briefly, when I look at the RECORD--at the FRUITS--I find them mostly GOOD--the GOOD far outweighing the bad. This Work could not have come to the state of success in God's eyes that it has otherwise.

Mr. Rader is not perfect--nor am I--nor are YOU! But maybe now, all of you who have GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT will have a little more KINDLINESS in your attitude toward the one my son would paint as Satan incarnate. "Judge NOT that ye be not judged!"

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HOW SATAN INJECTS FALSE

D O C T R I N E S

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In God's Church in our time I have seen how Satan cleverly and without their knowledge uses humans to destroy GOD'S TRUTH and inject false or counterfeit doctrines instead.

The record, in our time, has been written. And the record has been written of how it was done in the first-three centuries of the church.

The Church of God started out, 31 A.D., under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

Yet by about 58 A.D., the Apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the

grace of Christ unto another gospel. ...but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Jesus Christ " (Gal. 1:6-7).

To the church at Corinth the same thing was happening. To them Paul wrote: "But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted" (II Cor. 11:3). Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectedly been led in any degree by Satan, he will rise up in furious indignation and angrily retort that Satan can't influence him! That is to say, "I am stronger and more firm and righteous than Satan--Satan never could deceive me!"

But listen, dear brethren of God's Church. Satan is MORE POWERFUL, MORE CUNNING, MORE SUBTLE, than any human being on earth! Unless you and I are constantly on guard--close to God, in constant heart-rending prayer--constantly close to God and His Truth through Bible study--Satan CAN deceive you, blind your eyes to God's truth, and USE YOU! Satan has used and led, without their knowing it, even some of our ministers in past years.

Paul continues, in his letter to those at Corinth, "for such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS"--mark you, it is speaking of those who unwittingly become SATAN'S MINISTERS!--"also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;..." (II Cor. 11:13-15).

In God's church in our day, self-appointed "scholars" rose up in what they called a "doctrinal committee," devoting themselves, NOT to discovering any NEW TRUTH--but trying to DISprove the TRUE DOCTRINES Jesus Christ put into His Church through His Apostle, and inject false doctrines into the Church of God.

This very thing happened in the days of the Apostle Paul and the original Apostles. And SATAN DID BLIND AND DECEIVE THOSE WHO, WITH HONEST HEARTS HAD ACCEPTED GOD'S TRUTH!

It happened again in the next two centuries. After the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation in the 90's A.D., Satan was using those at Rome to inject the pagan Easter instead of the Lord's PASSOVER! A disciple of John--Polycarp--engaged in a heated controversy on this question with the Bishop of Rome. Later, Polycrates entered into an even more heated controversy with a later Roman Bishop on the question--referred to as the "Quarto-Deciman Controversy." About the same time, Satan was using ministers in the Church to completely do away with the real work and function of the Holy Spirit, by calling the Holy Spirit a "Ghost"--a third Person in the Godhead--calling God a TRINITY; Father, Son and Holy "Ghost."

Brethren, do we think we are so superior to those of the first, second and third centuries that Satan could not have tried to pervert God's TRUTH today?

But praise be to God--even though so much of GOD'S TRUTH was distorted, changed and replaced with false doctrines in the very first three centuries, and remained hidden from God's Church until our twentieth century, God's original TRUTH was preserved IN HIS WORD!

And, beginning in the fall of 1927 A.D., God began an absolutely UNIQUE WORK in the one the living Christ had chosen to be His Apostle. He put me through the wringer that squeezed out all former misconcepts and untrue beliefs, using me to put His TRUTH into His Church that is to rise and meet the glorified Christ in the clouds as He returns to establish the Kingdom of God!

The END-TIME has come! God has restored original TRUTH! HOW PRECIOUS IS IT TO YOU?--or do you trample it underfoot as swine would trample into the mud the most precious diamonds, rubies, and precious stones, and go for the slop?

Yes, Satan has tried to WATER DOWN true doctrine--to turn God's Church to false truths. Apparently it is unhappily true that some willingly fall by the wayside, and shall not continue on to enter into the KINGDOM OF GOD! But I have not retired--I am still vigorously active. Jesus Christ is still on God's Throne, as the dynamic living HEAD of God's Church!

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The MOST FRIGHTFUL OF EARTH'S HISTORY

by Herbert W. Armstrong

TV NEWS and DOCUMENTARIES right now, inspired by the signing of SALT-II by President Carter and Brezhnev are picturing the imminent possibility of a war so FRIGHTFUL words cannot express it. Brezhnev was quoted as saying those left alive, in such a war, would envy the dead!

This OUGHT TO WAKE US UP!

There is no prophecy of such a war between the U.S. and the SOVIET UNION, but there is such an over-kill, super-frightful war in prophecy with a UNITED EUROPE destroying the United States.

Fellow ministers and wives, God called me and prepared me in a most unusual way. I know of nothing to match it in Biblical history. He SWEPT MY MIND CLEAN of all contrary religious beliefs and worldly beliefs, gave me HIS TRUTH, and raised up HIS CHURCH through me.

We have had, and survived, self-appointed doctrinal committees of self-professed "scholars" who were searching diligently, NOT to discover TRUTH or add new truth, but to try to prove these truths GOD GAVE ME AND PLACED IN HIS CHURCH to be false, and get rid of them. Instead the living Christ, HEAD of God's Church, has ridded His Church of those would-be scholars, and the original TRUTHS are being REemphasized!

The UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY booklet was one. There were originally a few isolated small errors in the original printing. I have been more willing to change and remove them than the "scholars" trying to destroy the MAJOR TRUTHS in that booklet. It will soon come out IN FULL (with those few errors corrected, of course) in book stores around the world where the English language is read. And perhaps within the year, that and other books I am putting on the market, may be translated and put into book stores in other languages.

But the U.S. in P., as we called it, does picture what is prophesied to HAPPEN to our United States.

Let's not kid ourselves! We are in the LAST DAYS! Frightful times are ahead. SO, let us work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work!

Let me add that the Russians make treaties ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BREAKING THEM! Yes, we shall find it is a united EUROPE, not USSR, that will inflict the frightening blow, killing one third of our population, after another third has died of disease epidemics resulting from a soon-coming MAJOR DROUGHT!

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! We are all fine here and I just got a fine report on the Shreveport campaign.

We have cut the campaign format to two nights as it is more effective. So in Shreveport they had 576 people--with 71 new attendees--Friday night; and 333 total people--with 51 new--attending Saturday night. Mr. Ron Kelly, who acted as master of ceremonies, said everything went well, Mr. McMichael did a fine job and the brethren were very enthusiastic and much helped by the campaign in addition to a good response from the new people. We will be letting you know the follow-up Bible study statistics as we get them all compiled and will be planning more of these campaigns for the fall season after the Feast of Tabernacles.

Mr. Armstrong had a busy week last week and had long meetings with a number of our executives and administrators from Pasadena--plus talking to several of us here in Pasadena on many matters by phone. So he is certainly keeping on top of things.

By the way, following Raymond McNair's example in the British churches while he was in charge there, I would like to ask ALL of you ministers around the world to have a talk with your elders, deacons and leading men in each church area who lead in prayer. Remind them of Paul's instruction in I Tim. 2:1-2, and ask that the one who opens the church service in prayer specifically--as part of his prayer--lead the congregation in asking for God's blessing, guidance, wisdom, strength, etc., to be with Mr. Armstrong--the human leader and apostle whom he has placed over his Church and Work. Then, if the man who opens in prayer should by some chance forget to do this, be sure the man who closes with prayer does do it.

I sincerely feel God will be well pleased with this as we should especially pray for Mr. Armstrong in the high office God has entrusted to him. Doing this will help focus our brethren around the world on this fact, and tend to cause them to think more about the worldwide Work and so help all of us to be more unified in our thoughts and in our personal prayers to our Creator.

Also, I would like all of us, worldwide, to become far more acutely aware of the DANGERS of alcoholism in our midst. I have had two or three