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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 run false, against God's chosen leader.

The example of Moses

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 No. 2 men, 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 prom-

ised 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.

The Philadelphia era

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 excluded so much LOVE!

But then my second son came along, "prepared" in all the evils of enlisted men in the U.S. Navy, and (this was MY mistake, not yet then realizing God has never used a No. 2 man in authority) I delegated a 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 others who 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 once 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 support, as they climbed the ladder of success!

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!

Close to the END of the age

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 percent 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 (Matthew 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!

Attempt to destroy Church

Satan is pulling out ALL STOPS now to DESTROY THIS CHURCH OF GOD! No matter how angry 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 been 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!

HOW SATAN INJECTS FALSE DOCTRINES

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, A.D. 31, under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

Yet by about A.D. 58, 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" (Galatians 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 Corinthians 11:3). Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectingly 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 heartrending 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 Corinthians 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 90s, 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 Quartodecimani 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?

(See SATAN, page 3)

The PLAIN TRUTH About Stanley R. Rader

By Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY, 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, character-assassination statements have been freely spewed out, I still have to ask, "**WHY HAVE SO MANY IN GOD'S CHURCH BEEN WILLING TO BELIEVE THE WORST AGAINST STAN RADER?**" I want to answer that, and once and for all set the record straight.

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

I have to go back 50 years or more to explain, because there is a resemblance to this unfortunate situation in my early experience with the Sardis people in Oregon.

God's sheep need protection

Jesus Christ called His people "sheep" who seriously need the leadership and protection of 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 postgraduate 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 church ministers.

"I knew this world"

The brethren knew that I was newly converted out of the world. I **KNEW THIS WORLD**. The Sardis ministers did not. They appeared as just so much "ignorant 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, **ABHORRED** any put-on mannerisms 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 businessman. 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.

Going to the world

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 1960s, 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 in 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.

Judge not

WHY, 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 point as Satan incarnate. "Judge **NOT** that ye be not judged!"

FORUM WITH STANLEY R. RADER

This issue's "Forum" is the result of a question-and-answer session held by Stanley R. Rader, the Work's treasurer and general counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong, in Pasadena June 15. Mr. Rader's comments cover various aspects of the present state of the Church.

I have a few announcements to make before we open the session up for questions. First of all, vis-a-vis the Arthur Andersen audit. The audit is just about finished. Mr. [Jack] Kessler advises me that for all practical purposes it is finished, and within the next two weeks at the latest the statements will issue.

The auditors have already, at our request, met with some of our bankers and Mr. Kessler as well as Mr. [Jack] Bicket in the strength of the informal representations that they have made about our statements. I'm happy to announce that the banks have already extended us lines of credit — new banks.

We're not doing business with UCB [United California Bank] anymore. It's unfortunate, but those things occur. Some people lose their heads when crisis, such as confronted us Jan. 3, occurs, and that's exactly what happened. But the new banks are prepared to extend us the credit that we want.

Unfortunately, we are not prepared at this point to accept the credit, the loans, because we're still waiting precise clarification of one point in the court order that was finally signed, as you recall, by the Honorable Julius Title.

In that court order, as it was ultimately handed down, he said that before we borrow money or hypothecate our assets or something of that nature, we should give the attorney general 30 days notice, not the court, nothing else vis-a-vis the suggested condition. But we will not do that. We're not about to give the attorney general notice of anything that we do, other than to serve him formally with bits and pieces of the lawsuit filings as they are required.

For us to give notice to the attorney general would be to admit that he has jurisdiction over us. The very issue that we're concerned about is that he doesn't have any jurisdiction. So we're going to go back before Judge Title and ask him to clarify the point, which we believe was automatically stayed anyway, by reason of the appeal, because it's stated in mandatory language, which I think I described once before. It says, You shall do this. That's mandatory, rather than prohibitory language that says, You shall not do such and such. The former is automatically stayed by an appeal.

But unfortunately even these bankers, who are friendly and are waiting eagerly to lend us the money — they want our account, they know

our statement's good, they know we're good clients now. In the future — their lawyers don't want to be on the spot six months, or a year or two years from now, or something of that nature, if the opinion that we have submitted through our lawyers should not suffice. To wit that we should have given notice and didn't, and they extended the money and therefore they weren't able to perfect their security interest.

So if we do not get the kind of ruling we want from Judge Title, we will go up immediately on a writ and seek clarification on that very narrow point in the appellate court, and we feel that we'll have the matter resolved.

But at any rate, the audit, we think, is just about finished. We've given complete cooperation, total access to everything that we have, to our auditors. They're supposed to get that everywhere, of course.

But I know that the degree of cooperation they've received here as compared to the degree of cooperation they've received elsewhere is such that if they were able to announce, which of course they can't, they would be very, very proud to say that we have cooperated with them in every conceivable way — given them total access to everything.

There's nothing that they have requested that we have that we haven't given them. So I'm pleased to make that announcement.

To just summarize where we are, so you don't think that the lawsuit has been won, or that there's a complete lull, I prepared a short statement that Mr. [Ron] Nelson, I'm sure, will repeat in the *Pastor's Report*, and Mr. [Dexter] Faulkner will pick up in *The Worldwide News*.

I state simply that the war rages on. The last few months have wit-

nessed a new effort by the attorney general to establish his dominion and control over the Church. The attorney general claims that the State owns Church property. He stated that again. And he has said the Church has no proprietary interest in its own assets and its own records, all of which, of course, is patently absurd.

He has claimed that he may require us to justify our expenditures at his whim, without probable cause, and attempted to bolster these desperate claims through waves of legal maneuverers all designed to force us to surrender our constitutional rights, which we will not do. Mr. Armstrong has said, there will be no compromise. He will not succeed.

Two days ago, the dissident ex-member who originally instigated, or was one of the parties who instigated this travesty, admitted under oath that he, as a member, was aware of all of the facts that the State claims that we concealed from the members, and that he had become unhappy and acted as he did only after Ted Armstrong, and Ted Armstrong's son, spoke to him and bitterly condemned us.

Other dissident instigators have been compelled to testify and shortly will do so, which I expect will result in further admissions that the charges made against us are baseless and, as Mr. Armstrong has thought for some time, and as a matter of fact from the very beginning, it was always a result of Ted Armstrong's efforts.

His son, as you recall, stood over him in Tucson back in July and said, I will destroy you, words to that effect, threatening him with a fist in his face. So Mr. Armstrong has never forgotten those words. He doesn't forget much anyway, but he would certainly not forget those words. But (See **FORUM**, page 4)

SATAN

(Continued from page 1)

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 20th century, God's original **TRUTH** was preserved in **HIS WORD!**

And, beginning in the fall of A.D. 1927, God began an absolutely **UNIQUE WORK** on the one the living Christ had chosen to be His apostle. He put me through the wringer that squeezed out all former misconceptions 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!