



SYDNEY

June 7, 1961

LETTER

SUMMARY OF SERMONETTE

By Mr. Hughes

WHY IS GOD'S CHURCH PERSECUTED

The persecution that is increasingly being brought to bear upon the Church of God by the modern day Pharisees is no different from that brought on Jesus Christ in His day (Jn. 15:18-21).

Christ said "all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake" (Jn. 15:21). These hypocritical false prophets deny His name in works (Titus 1:16; II Tim. 2:19) claiming to be Christian, but actually living UN-Christian lives.

For obedience, Christ promises strength for the Philadelphian Church -- because it has not denied His name (Rev. 3:8).

Our attitudes should not be one of offense as a result of these attacks, realizing that these tools of Satan are to be rewarded according to their works (Mat. 16:27; II Tim. 4:14).

In the end, all those taking part in the persecution of God's Church are going to be forced to acknowledge their error (Rev. 3:9).

SUMMARY OF SERMON

By Mr. Waterhouse

DAVID -- A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART -- SUFFERED MANY TRIALS -- WHY?

God said in David He had found a man after His own heart WHO WOULD DO ALL OF HIS WILL (Acts 13:22). Why then did David suffer so many trials and face so many enemies? The Book of Psalms is filled with accounts of what David experienced in fulfilling ALL OF GOD'S WILL. Through these accounts, it is clearly shown that God was teaching David to recognize ALL INFRACTIONS OF HIS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY LAW. Too, David was forced to recognize human nature in all its many carnal aspects. His understanding of both is vitally necessary in fulfilling his office as King over Israel in the future -- when he must enforce God's laws in their every application and understand the human tendencies and pulls of the fleshly human beings with which he will be dealing. David was learning some vital lessons but he thoroughly realized that to remain faithful under such stress and strain, he had to stay close to God in earnest, fervent and continued prayer.

The first forty-one Psalms compose one of the FIVE DIVISIONS of the Book of Psalms. It depicts the trials and tribulations experienced in this life by a Christian and also the JOYS of a rich life lived in accordance with God's commandments in an evil world. As well the PRAISES we ought to be offering up to God as we see Him intervene to deliver and bless us. Throughout this division one notices the many trials David encountered but always followed by an abundance of PRAISES to God. For this reason, the Hebrew meaning of the Psalms is "PRAISES" -- the many praises David and others offered up to God through prayers, recorded for our learning.

The SECOND DIVISION -- Psalms 42 through 72 -- depicts the time just before the return of Christ, as we anxiously look forward to the return of Christ and what immediately follows His return. The THIRD DIVISION -- Psalms 73 through 89 -- describes our relationship with Christ after His return and looking back on the results. The FOURTH DIVISION -- 90-106 -- pictures the millennium and that the world is established and cannot be moved. And the FIFTH DIVISION includes the remainder of the Psalms and pictures God through Christ and the resurrected saints ruling the world through the millennium and Great White Throne Judgment period to the very end when God's plan will have been worked out. By that time, all will have come to know God, qualified to enter the Kingdom, are born of God and ALL THAT HAS LIFE praising God (Ps. 150).

The first TWO Psalms give the over-all summary of the entire Book. In Psalm One we find a contrast between the righteous and the wicked to clearly show it doesn't pay to live contrary to God's laws. This is elaborated on in the Book of Psalms,

clearly revealing what the wicked do and why it is that God will have to intervene and punish them. On the other hand, we are shown that to live righteous in this present life means trials and tribulations but that God always intervenes to help His servants. Psalm Two is depicting the climatic END RESULT of what human rule has brought on the world, that God is going to have to intervene in world affairs by setting up a Kingdom through His Son as King, why Christ is qualified to assume such a responsibility, that He is going to punish and subdue wicked rulers and peoples until they are willing to be instructed -- THEN, all will learn to love and serve Jesus Christ as King over the whole earth. Notice Psalm 2:1, "The heathen rage" -- speaking of the terrible chaos existing about us today when nations are about to destroy one another and "the people imagine a vain thing" -- they imagine they are to conquer space, break into God's domain, do what only God can do and feel that through medical science, etc. they will be able to bring about unlimited life expectancy. Verses 2-3 reveal how haughty man has become in thinking that God can't keep him restricted to this planet earth -- mankind is confident that nothing will now prevent space travel! Verse 4 shows God is still ruling and laughs at the ridiculous vanity of mankind in thinking he can carry out space travel -- when he can't even solve his many problems on the earth -- and bring about eternal life through medical science (some of you probably don't know how feverishly mankind is working on this, feeling he can invent "spare parts" to replace a defective heart, lungs, etc. when complications arise). God realizes that unless He does intervene, mankind is going to bring about such conditions that NO FLESH WOULD BE SAVED ALIVE (Mat. 24:21-22). He reveals that Christ is to be sent back to punish these wicked nations and the false ministers who have deceived the world (Jer. 25:29-37). Christ will be sent back to mount Zion to establish world government and bring about PEACE (Psalm 2:6). Verse 7 shows that as a result of what Christ has done, He is qualified to become King over the entire earth. And as King He is promised all nations as an inheritance (verse 8). He will have to rule them with a rod of iron until they finally come to see why it is best to obey and serve God (verse 9 and Rev. 12:5; Rev. 19:15; Dan. 2:34-44; Dan. 7:13, 14, 27; Micah 4:1-3). After this has come about, the leaders will realize how much better it is to live God's way than "the way which seemeth right unto a man" and will seek instruction from Christ (verse 10-11). Finally men will learn to put their trust in God and serve Him faithfully (verse 12). From Psalm 3 through 40, David -- as a type of all Christians -- had to learn through patience to trust God to deliver him from his many trials, tribulations and enemies. But as we progress through this division, one sees that the PRAISES increased as David learned to trust God more implicitly. And in Psalm 41 we are clearly shown that the ENEMY will never triumph over us, that God will uphold us and teach us to be more JOYFUL in our Christian lives, as we continue to put our absolute TRUST in HIM. Throughout this section, one can clearly see David had many things which forced Him to go before the THRONE OF GRACE to obtain mercy and help in the time of need. BUT WOULD DAVID HAVE APPROACHED GOD SO OFTEN AND SO FERVENTLY HAD NOT GOD LET MANY ENEMIES TROUBLE HIM AND NUMEROUS TRIALS CONTINUALLY CONFRONT HIM? NO!!!! NEITHER WOULD WE!!!! Let us, therefore, rejoice that God has given us a sure guide in the Book of Psalms. LET US STRIVE IN THE SAME MANNER THAT GOD MAY FIND US AFTER HIS OWN HEART AND WANTING TO FULFILL ALL HIS WILL!!!!

CHURCH NEWS

The brethren have certainly missed having Mr. Hammer and Mr. Faulkner with them recently. They have been visiting in the Sydney area during all available time -- apart from their office responsibilities -- in preparation to a baptizing tour which they will conduct through southern New South Wales and Victoria, leaving Thursday June 8th. Our loss means gain for so many who have been waiting for many months, some for years, to be counseled about baptism. And it is planned that a church be raised up in Melbourne by Mr. Hammer in the very near future.

Mr. Hammer and Mr. Faulkner will look for a suitable auditorium for church services while they are in Melbourne on this baptizing tour. After returning to Sydney arrangements will be made for their moving to Melbourne in early July to establish the church. Let's rejoice that God is making possible such a needed step in the expansion of His Work here in Australia.

In that Mr. Hammer will be leaving, God is making it possible for others to take an active part in church services in Sydney. The brethren have been thrilled to see Mr. Gene Hughes giving sermonettes and Mr. Don Abraham leading the singing the past two Sabbaths.

OTHER TOURS ARE PLANNED. Mr. Waterhouse is hoping a much-delayed baptizing tour can be taken to Western Australia within a few weeks. Following this tour, it

is planned that he and Mr. Frank Simpkins take a tour through northern New South Wales and into southern Queensland. Afterward, they plan to raise up a church in Brisbane making THREE CHURCHES in Australia Brethren, this is only the beginning! Let us never forget we are a part of God's Work which is prophesied to become so large that the whole world will come to know about it. Remember our job is to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of God's soon-coming Government to this earth AS A WITNESS, not to convert the world. Christ will do that after He returns. But Christ promises they will have to come to us to be taught and admit that He was behind the Work being done THROUGH US -- a Work with which many are now becoming familiar (Jn. 17:23; Rev. 3:9; Isa. 30:20-21).

BIBLE STUDY

A record 72 people were in attendance last Wednesday! Just imagine, not many months ago this number was not even attending Sabbath services. God is surely giving increase to His Church in every way.

Many of the plans for expanding God's Work in Australia were explained last Wednesday, world news was covered -- clearly demonstrating that prophecy is rapidly being fulfilled all around us -- and our study in the first Epistle to the Corinthians was continued.

NORTH SYDNEY OFFICE

Mr. Ronald Lyons is now with us. In assuming some of Mr. Abraham's responsibilities, he is coming to realize just how much work is involved in carrying out God's Work in Australia. We rejoice that he is with us and thank God for the marvelous way He has of supplying our needs.

One thing which will greatly help in conducting the work here and insure speedy responses to your requests is that you address all mail to MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG instead of to any individual UNLESS, of course, it is a strictly personal letter. For instance, if a letter is addressed to Mr. Waterhouse, requesting an anointed cloth, while he is out of the office on business or away from Sydney for some reason, it will not be opened and the request fulfilled until he returns. Therefore, to insure every letter pertaining to the Church or Work receives speedy attention, it should be addressed to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

SPOKESMAN CLUB

A very profitable meeting was held Saturday night in which the club members listened to a taped recording of an Ambassador Club in session at Pasadena. This familiarized each member with the procedure of a speaking club and stimulated many profitable questions about various aspects of such a club which were answered by Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Hughes. Next Saturday night the first formal Spokesman Club meeting will be conducted. All of us should fervently pray for the success of this club and that much vital training and experience will be received, enabling others to take a more active part in God's Work in future months and years.

God has blessed us with a superb meeting place -- the Boardroom in which the directors of the Australian Institute of Builders conduct their meetings. Finer facilities could not be acquired elsewhere in Sydney, I am sure, and the privilege to use such a fine room has been extended to us at a very moderate fee.

