

HERMAN L HOEH (1928 - 2004)

by

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Dr Herman L Hoeh, a remarkable scholar of ancient and Biblical history, died November 21, 2004 at age 75 in Tujunga, California, a town located 15 miles northwest of Pasadena. He was a minister of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) founded by Herbert W Armstrong, a professor at Ambassador College in Pasadena, CA, editor of the WCG magazine *The Plain Truth*, and a Board Member of the WCG.

According to the published WCG obituary,¹ Herman Hoeh was born December 3, 1928 in Santa Rosa, California and had Austrian heritage. He was one of the first students to attend WCG's Ambassador College when it opened in 1947. He graduated in 1951 and was ordained into the WCG ministry in 1952. Thus he was a WCG minister for over 50 years, and that is undoubtedly the organizational record.

Hoeh married Isabell Kunkel in 1953. She graduated from Ambassador College in 1955. Their children are Karlina Hoeh Ellis, Anneliese Hoeh Roemer, Manfred Hoeh, and Gilda Hoeh Brockmeier. There are nine grandchildren.

He developed quite rapidly as a scholar and was soon teaching courses in English, German, and History at Ambassador College. WCG Founder Herbert W Armstrong turned the Theology Department over to Hoeh and RC Meredith in 1953. His class research notes in Ancient History² give some indication of his interest, organization, and dedication.

In the late 1950s Herman Hoeh initiated studies in ancient history at Ambassador College that led to his remarkable PhD Thesis³ on ancient world history. He was an enthusiast for church teachings and concluded that modern history had shortcomings requiring a new look at the sources. With the help of his students, he dug into the oldest texts and gave a history of the ancient world that began in 2254 BCE. The result was an impressive revelation of kings, countries, tribes, and dates from the post-diluvial era.

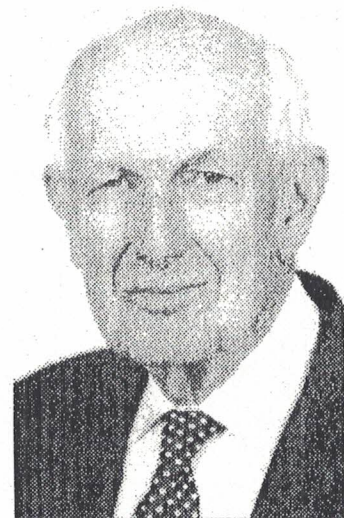
Although it allowed some of the arguments to be published in *The Plain Truth*,⁴ the WCG elected to pursue its objectives with less emphasis on Bible literalism. Thus we heard little from Herman Hoeh's scholarship during the second half of his career. Not too surprisingly, glowing tributes were written about Herman Hoeh the Minister and teacher, but few of his admirers chose to mention his ideas on ancient history.

One of the exceptions was Robert Macdonald,⁵ a student at Ambassador College between 1958 and 1961. He writes: "His [Hoeh's] 'reconstruction of history' was published in 1962 as a two volume *Compendium of World History* which was his

doctoral dissertation at Ambassador College.³ Later, perhaps in the late 70's he came to see that much of his 'reconstruction' was wrong, and he publicly so stated. It says a lot about Herman Hoeh that he had the intellectual honesty to repudiate a large portion of his life work including his PhD dissertation."

While Macdonald's testimony possibly explains some of the reluctance to advertise Hoeh's research widely, it underrates the value of his work greatly. Hoeh was dedicated to the investigation of History with God Included [Ref. 3, Vol I, pp 1-18]. Thus he was interested to resolve some historical problems with the chronologies of Egypt, in particular, and the Middle East in general. But this work is a form of analysis. His numerous reports on the recorded histories of ancient countries and their kings is a monument to truth, because it tells you what he and his dedicated students found out about many of our ancestors. Bravo Hoeh!

1. TC Hanson, "Herman L Hoeh (1928-2004)", WCG Today 1(1), 3-8 (2005).
2. HL Hoeh, *Classical Research Notes*, Pasadena, CA, ca 1960, 40p.
3. HL Hoeh, *Compendium of World History*, PhD Dissertation, Ambassador College, Pasadena, CA, 1962, Vol I, 504p; Vol II, 370p.
4. See, eg, HL Hoeh, "Truth About the Race Question," *The Plain Truth* 22(7), 3-8, 12-14, 17-23 (1957).
5. Robert Macdonald, "Our Family's Remembrances of Herman L. Hoeh", 3p, December 24, 2004, downloaded from Tributes to Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, www.kubik.org/prayer/hoehtributes.html, March 13, 2005.



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