

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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The TIME WE ARE IN, NOW

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Just where are we, now, in the prophesied panorama of events leading to the END of this age?

Both world events and occurrences in the Church indicate we are in the time mentioned in Daniel 12.

In verse 2, Daniel speaks of the resurrection of saints at the time of Christ's coming. Then he speaks of events leading up to that crowning event of history. He says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Verse 4).

We have come to that time--the TIME OF THE END! Rapid travel, to and fro, at high speed! We are definitely in the END TIME! Knowledge has been increased on earth amazingly. We have been going with increasing momentum through the age of invention, the age of science and technology, the air age, the space age, and now the NUCLEAR age. Now, for the first time in human history, the weapons of mass destruction have been produced that can erase all humanity from the earth!

In the one decade of the 60s, the fund of human knowledge DOUBLED. Also the world's troubles and evils DOUBLED!

In verse 7 it is stated, "...and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

It seems indefinite as to the antecedent of the pronoun "he," above. Other translations use the word "they." But surely Satan is now endeavoring to scatter and even totally nullify the power God has given to His Church. There has been a falling away, though compared to the total number, it has been minimal. And the attack of the State of California was an action calculated to DESTROY the Church of the living GOD! Yet Jesus Christ our living HEAD has used it to draw us much closer to HIM and to one another.

Our Work in the hands of Christ is NOT YET FINISHED, and He will not allow the Work to stop until it is finished! And when will that be? It surely can't be much longer. We are certainly on the final lap, if not the home stretch--but no definite date can, of course, be set.

But when Daniel writes, in verse 7, "all these things shall be finished," he refers back to the subject of this 12th chapter mentioned at the beginning--when the archangel Michael shall stand up (verse 1, as also mentioned in Revelation 12:7) and Satan shall be cast down--and the GREAT TRIBULATION (Verse 1 and Matthew 24:21-22, Mark 13:19-20, Luke 21:22) from the beginning will be 3½ years.

Daniel did not understand, but the angel said, "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Dan. 12:9).

And then what--in the TIME OF THE END, into which we have entered? "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried,...but the wise shall understand" (Verse 10). WE ARE IN THAT TIME OF TRYING AND TESTING, TO BRING US CLOSER TO GOD--TO PREPARE US FOR CHRIST'S COMING--NOW!

Many of us are being tried and tested as NEVER BEFORE--and for our own good!

But, verse 11, "from the time the daily sacrifice shall be taken away...." Consider this a moment. This does NOT imply a material temple to be built in our time in Jerusalem. It does seem to imply the Israelis may restore the daily (twice daily) sacrifice--possibly at the wailing wall. The indication is the armies of the "beast" of Revelation 17, entering Jerusalem (Dan. 11:41, Zech. 14:2), will stop this daily sacrifice. "...And the abomination that maketh desolate set up." What is this abomination?

This refers to Daniel 11:31 and Matthew 24:15. In Daniel 11:31, the armies of Antiochus Euphianes were at Jerusalem, and some commentators have interpreted it as Antiochus placing a statue of Jupiter in the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Not only does Matthew 24:15 also refer to this, but in a parallel New Testament scripture, Luke 21:20 speaks of the same thing as "Jerusalem compassed with armies." This is the correct meaning of this "abomination." It is the armies--not a statue--that make Jerusalem desolate.

From this time (Dan. 12:11) to Christ's coming will be 1290 days.

Now, verse 12, "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the 1335 days."

Never before have we understood these periods of 1260, 1290, and 1335 days. But it seems evident, now, a blessing is pronounced on us--GOD'S CHURCH--who wait and endure until the 1335 days--approximately 1335 days prior to Christ's coming. But since no one can know the day or the hour of His coming, we probably shall not be able to know the exact day that this 1335 days begins. But apparently that is the time when OUR WORK SHALL END. That will be a time when the UNITED EUROPE shall appear--the revival of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire." We shall then be warned, and readied to be taken to a place of refuge and safety from the Great Tribulation. Forty-five days later "the beast's" armies will surround Jerusalem. Thirty days later the Great Tribulation will probably start with a nuclear attack on London and Britain--and possibly the same day or immediately after, on United States and Canadian cities.

The GREAT TRIBULATION, we shall then fully realize, is the time of "Jacob's Trouble," spoken of in Jeremiah 30:7. And Jacob's name was named on Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:16). At that time a third of the people in our nations will die, or shall have died, by famine and disease epidemics; another third will die of the war--our cities being destroyed (Ezek. 6:6), and the remaining third will be carried to the land of our enemies as slaves (Ezek. 5:12).

But while this most terrible TRIBULATION is happening to our people, shall we of God's Church be protected? My son Garner Ted is now scoffing in derision at our being taken to a place of safety during the Great Tribulation.

Does Revelation 3:10 mean what it says? The Unger's Bible Dictionary under article on the Great Tribulation, refers to Revelation 3:10, showing the Great Tribulation covers the whole earth. No other such time of worldwide trial and trouble is prophesied. A Bible I formerly used had in the marginal reference of Rev. 3:10 "or, the Great Tribulation."

Also Revelation 12:14 shows the church being FLOWN into a place of safety in the wilderness. After this, Rev. 12:17, Satan will make war with the remnant, or Laodicean Church. That leads up to Christ's coming.

So, where are we NOW, in the panorama of prophecy?

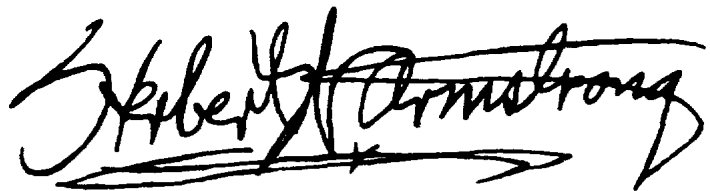
We have reached the time just before a "U.S. of Europe" restores the "Holy Roman Empire," under the Papacy, in a union of Church and State.

The present Pope, John Paul II, could very well be the Pope that will trigger this and bring it into reality. Gene Hogberg's articles in The PLAIN TRUTH shed much light on this very likely possibility. Once that third great world power is formed, our work will soon be over. That could happen in a year, two years, or five years. It could happen SUD-DENLY, leaving the whole world aghast in WONDER.

Right now the Iranian crisis is the BIG NEWS. Their Moslem present head, Khomaini, is today threatening to try the remaining U.S. Embassy hostages as spies, which would mean they would be executed. That could provoke a WAR--unless President Carter is too weak.

The WHOLE WORLD is now ON FIRE! This is not the GREAT TRIBULATION, but is certainly preliminary to it.

It's time for intensive FASTING AND PRAYER!



TOP STATE COURT DENIES HEARING

Editor's Note: Mr. Rader comments about last Friday's (November 16) decision by the California Supreme Court which denied a special hearing on our six petitions. It did so despite the urging of the fifteen different organizations which we listed in the last issue.

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The California Supreme Court turned down the Church's request for a hearing. This was done "without prejudice," meaning that no decision was made on the matters submitted and does not preclude our petitioning

the same court again in the future. The feeling is that since the receivership was stayed by the bond, there is not a feeling of urgency at the Supreme Court to hear the matter right now. The court accepts very few cases for hearing but the vote was a very close 4-3. Justices Bird, Mosk and Newman voted for the hearing. Since last spring when a similar church petition was denied by a 4-3 vote, we lost the vote of Justice Richardson and picked up the vote of Justice Newman.

We have always felt that any relief we would receive would be from the federal courts, and it has been proven that we are not getting relief from the California courts. We already have an appeal pending in the federal district court.

You must realize that it is very hard for one area of the California courts to overrule another court or department of this state, i.e. the Attorney General's Office. We will prevail, but most likely not in the state courts.

--Stanley R. Rader

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Expense Allotment Year-end Review

Now is the time to review your expense allotment. When your allotment check is mailed it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income.

Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments sent you, you will end up having to pay the tax on it. In order to prevent this from happening you may want to review the record-keeping requirements of the IRS and make sure that you have the proper receipts and documentation.

The allotment check is only to be used for church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. We will need to receive the check no later than the middle of December in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If we don't have it by then we can't be sure the necessary processing will get done. What this means is that you will need to approximate the balance of expenses in the rest of the year.

If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by very much, you may want to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with the check when you send it.

Anyone who needs an increase in his allotment should send a memo to Ministerial Services explaining the needed change. These requests are reviewed and evaluated both by Ministerial Services and the Regional Assistants.

--Joe Tkach

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Here's some feedback on the Sunday Newspaper insert offering a subscription to the Plain Truth: The test we did a few weeks ago in the Lexington area has given us some useful results. We are still getting a return of

about one percent which equates to about five dollars per response. Comparisons of the two different size brochures tested showed that the smaller, less expensive Reader's Digest size insert pulled just as well as the larger Plain Truth size brochure. This smaller brochure is about half the cost of the larger one so we now have the information available for a final decision to be made regarding expansion of the program across the United States.

One last piece of good news is that our latest Plain Truth reader renewal package is being returned at a rate of 47%. This means that 47% of those readers want to keep the Plain Truth coming into their lives. This compares with a traditional average for the Plain Truth of only 37%. This figure of 47% may sound low, but the national average for a free magazine is only 20 to 30%. A free magazine generally renews at a rate less than one which you have to pay for, which comes in at around 45% to 50%. We therefore feel encouraged by such a good response.

--Roger G. Lippross

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Netherlands

We had one of the best Feasts ever with a total registered attendance of 318. Our first and last Holy Day offerings showed a 36.5% increase over last year. The Dutch brethren enjoyed very much having Mr. and Mrs. Piet Michielsen from Calgary, Canada here.

On October 31 we had our campaign in the city of Zwolle. Twenty-seven thousand Plain Truth readers were invited and 65 people attended the lecture of which 30 were first time contacts. Twenty people out of the 30 indicated that they would be interested in followup lectures which are scheduled for November 21 and December 12.

We are continuing our regional newspaper advertising campaign. We have a lower than expected initial response but we also believe that we do attract a better type of reader. One thing it also does is stimulate renewals from these areas. New requests for subscriptions for October totaled 432, and new requests for the Correspondence Course equaled 41. Requests for new visits for October totaled seven.

The income for October has a month-to-month increase of 18.1%. September was an exceptionally good month with a 117.07% increase over the same month last year.

We are looking forward to the regional ministerial conference in England on November 26 and 27 and the visit to the Netherlands by Mr. Leslie McCullough on December 13-16.

Philippines

Another Feast of Tabernacles is over and by all accounts it was once again the "best ever." At all feast sites we had record attendances and here are the figures: Baguio, 1200; Naga City, 306; Mambucal, 311; Don Carlos, 581 and Davao, 370. The overall total was 2,768--an increase of 33.7%.

It was also the most memorable Feast season in the history of the Philippine Work. We had 25 ordinations--14 deacons, 9 local elders (8 of them not in our employ) and two preaching elders.

Reports coming back from the various sites show that cooperation and togetherness was at a high level this year.

Also during the Feast, God added 48 new members to His Church.

The month of October concluded with an above-average incoming mail total of 7,183 letters: this figure was well above the monthly mail average of 6800 letters we've been having since January this year. New requests for Plain Truth subscriptions totalled 716. Latest statistics showed a total circulation of 44,685.

We received the following letter last month showing the impact of the Plain Truth:

I have the honour to request from your good office a copy of "What a New War in Korea Would Mean" which is now available at your office.

May I inform you that this book will be used as reference materials in our office. Furthermore, your unceasing cooperation would surely enrich our information office and help build friendship, unity and understanding among our peoples.

Enclosed herewith is the coupon with my name and complete mailing address. Anticipating your warm response and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

--Ricardo R. Alcaraz, Press & Culture Asst.,
Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Philippines

Fiji

October brought in the highest ever monthly mail count for the Pacific Islands. This was due mainly to thousands of responses pouring in from our recent advertising campaign in Fiji, which was the first major newspaper advertising campaign we have ever conducted in Fiji. It consisted of daily ads for The Plain Truth magazine alternating between Fiji's two leading newspapers for a month, beginning September 20th. Over 3200 responses have so far come in, already pushing us well past our target of doubling the P.T. mailing list in Fiji.

The Fiji P.T. list has risen to 188% higher than for October 1978. We have also been able to increase the size of the magazine from 32 to 48 pages.

Responses in Fiji have been boosted by our opening of a Post Office Box in Suva, and we're also beginning to advertise a local box number in Tonga. It's much cheaper for readers to post locally in those countries than to send a letter overseas to New Zealand. Our ministers in Fiji and Tonga collect the mail and send it on to the Auckland office for processing.

At the end of October our contract for the World Tomorrow broadcast in Fiji expired. The local Council of Churches has been agitating very strongly

to have the programme discontinued. We're praying for God to give us favour and are waiting for the decision on whether or not the contract will be renewed.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

MAIL COMMENTS

With the renewed thrust and direction of the Church as outlined and directed by Mr. Armstrong, mail response reflects the enthusiasm of members and nonmembers alike.

Members and co-workers are commenting about the blessings of tithing. Members also continue to express gratitude over having received a clear understanding of the relationship between God and unconverted mates and children. And a fresh view of long-standing church publications and the impact in the lives of nonmembers is highlighted from their comments.

Blessings of Tithing

I have to tell you about a blessing that God gave me. You know that I got my four hundred dollars out of the bank (that I had saved for the winter to help me make it through) and sent it all in to you and do you know that in the mail I got \$511.00 and I don't know where or who it was from or what for. Just look what God gave me. He gave me back a hundred more than I sent in to you.

--Mary Ellen Harshman (Knoxville, MD)

Enclosed please find a draft for \$120.00 to be used as first tithe. My unconverted husband has willingly been giving a part of his income these past few months, and God has blessed us accordingly it seems. There have been many "favors in men's eyes" in the business he's in, cutting cedar bolts. And we know where the blessings come from, and are very thankful to be able to contribute to the Work of God.

--Judith Argue (Vernonia, OR)

You probably wonder why I send you 8 to 10 hundred dollars a year since I'm not a church member. I like what you teach-- I don't agree completely, but I think it's best of all religions for future generations.

--Mr. Harry L. Gass (Chattanooga, TN)

I write this letter in response to my reading of the tithing booklet and the plain truth about it. This booklet opened my mind and answered some very important issues concerning tithes, and tithe paying.

In response to reading this very enlightening booklet, I have enclosed my very first tithe to our heavenly Father and His good church, which has been blessed by God! It is very clear to me that without this support from faithful members, it would certainly be a problem in proclaiming God's great truths, and good news to the world.

--Charles Bottoms (Dayton, OH)

About Unconverted Mates and Children Being Set Apart

Thank you from the heart for revealing to us that our unconverted mates and children are not cut off from God. My husband and son are in this group and it was the best news I've heard in some time.

--Mrs. Charles E. McIntyre (Jamestown, NY)

Your tape revealing the new knowledge that our children and unconverted mates are set apart was most uplifting and exhilarating! How wonderful that God continues to open your mind to understand His word deeper and deeper. Truly, we are most blessed to live at this time and to be called now!

--Cynthia C. Cook (Corrigan, TX)

I must express my appreciation to you concerning the service at the Y.O.U. camp at Orr, Minnesota. I am the only church member in my family and I have always wondered about the relationship between God and the other members of my family. God bless you for revealing this relationship to the church--and those of us whose mates and children are not church members.

--Robert E. Faris (Birmingham, AL)

Thank you so much for sharing with us via tape your sermons at Orr, Minnesota--most especially the wonderfully exciting new understanding of I Corinthians 7. My husband, though unconverted, has been pleased to dwell with me in peace. Of course, we have our conflicts of priorities at times, but God has wonderfully blessed our home for which we are both thankful. And now, through you, Christ has added the blessing of knowing my husband and our sons are not cut off from God and attuned only to Satan's broadcasting. Instead they can have some understanding of how to fight the influences of Satan and his world. In this end time, that is very encouraging, uplifting, exciting, good news! Again, thank you very much.

--Betsy Cutshall (Centerville, OH)

Response to Church Publications

I have had so many questions and your booklets have answered them all, and better than that have shown me where to find the answers in my own Bible. Thanks so much for opening closed doors for me.

--Barbara Elam (Ceres, CA)

I wish to express my appreciation for all the free literature you've sent me. If it wasn't for all these articles, I wouldn't know very much of what's right and wrong with all us people in this time of the end.

--Violet Seltzer (Glendale, CA)

I am half way through Mr. Armstrong's Autobiography. It is becoming so inspiring to me. If one does not constantly think of the book to be factual, it's as if you are reading a best-

selling novel of fiction. It's definitely not fiction, but I feel it should be a best seller. He reveals so much that helps one to find the loving and kind God.

--Alice Canterbury (Naugatuck, WV)

I really appreciate and enjoy the endless amounts of literature you've been sending me. They have opened my eyes and understanding so much to God's Word. I have never before experienced learning such a pure and truthful clear-cut understanding of God's Word. Surely He is returning soon!!

--Linda Canary (Adrian, MI)

I have increased my knowledge tremendously by reading and studying your literature. At first I was very apprehensive, but through prayer I've found your works are scriptural. There have been many unanswered questions in my mind that you have shed light upon. Thank you!

--Margaret Pannell (Youngstown, OH)

Unusual Literature Request

I was married for 10 weeks and my wife had me arrested over an argument and I am in jail. I would please appreciate it very much if you would send me and my wife the book: "Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?"

--W. C. (Scranton, PA)