

The LANTERN



II Peter 1:19

OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL

“So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts.”

(II Peter 1:19 - GW)

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OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL



II Peter 1:19

AUGUST 2025

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**Prophetic Events
and the
Feast of Trumpets**
(See page 14)

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All scriptures used in *The LANTERN* magazine are from the New King James version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

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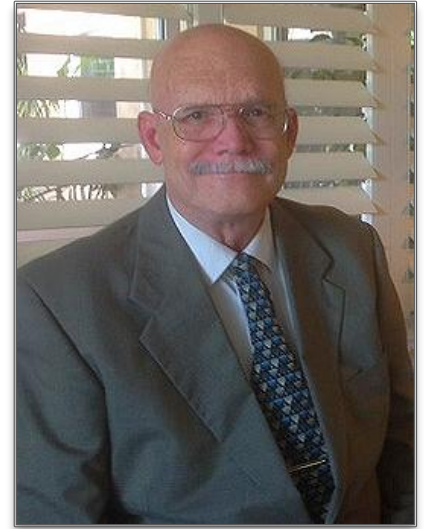
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Personal from the editor



WATCHING AND PRAYING

When I was in high school, I had a teacher that was well-known for being an avid reader of the newspaper, and was extremely knowledgeable about current events. At the very beginning of the school year, he even asked my parents if their son liked to read the newspaper. Most of his students ended up liking to read the paper after they found out the teacher would give a weekly quiz about the articles in it. If a student didn't read the newspaper, they probably didn't do very well on the quiz. It was that simple! Answers like, "I **don't keep up with world events**" wouldn't have made either a delighted teacher or a happy student!

We in the Church of God DO keep up with world events, not to pass a weekly quiz, but to have a better understanding of where we are timewise in prophecy. **"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).**

The following excerpts were in a "Brethren, Co-Worker" letter that Mr. Armstrong wrote in June 1985, in connection with our "watching," all in the context of Bible prophecy...

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers with Christ:

You are helping fulfill Bible prophecy. As Winston Churchill said before the U.S. Congress during World War II, a PURPOSE is being worked out here below. The events working out that purpose of God are recorded in the history of the past and the prophecy of the present and future, in the Bible.

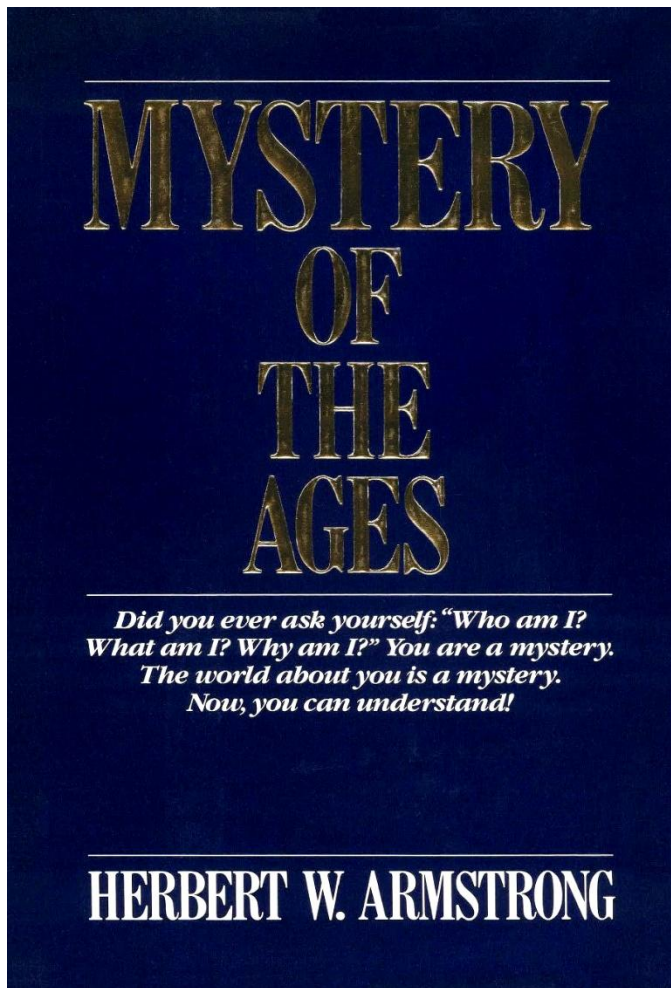
Jesus told you and me to WATCH these world events.

...The prophecy of Daniel 2:44 ... shows the 10 toes representing these 10 nations as five in Eastern and five in Western Europe. Apparently they must come together before the prophecy of Revelation 17 and Daniel 2:44 can be fulfilled. The stone cut without hands (verse 34) represents Christ returning as King of kings to set up the Kingdom of God on earth.

...Brethren, I have not been using these prophecies in vain. The united Europe must and will come. YOU and I are involved -- DEEPLY! God's Church must first be made ready for Christ's coming. I call on you in Jesus' name to pray as never before that God's Church will heed and draw closer to him.

Even though some events did not go as quickly as Mr. Armstrong thought they would, it doesn't negate the reality of revealed Bible prophecy. Christ will return to this earth, and the BRIDE (the Church), will have made herself ready (**Revelation 19:7**). The "BRIDE" will have been WATCHING, PRAYING and growing in GODLY CHARACTER, leading up to the return of Jesus Christ! His TRUE BRIDE will not be blind-sided!

Gary R. Liebold



OVERVIEW SERIES: MYSTERY OF THE AGES

(PART THREE)

THE MYSTERY OF MAN

The book "Mystery of the Ages" by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong comprises 363 pages, excluding the references found in

*the index at the conclusion of the book. To encourage reading **Mystery of the Ages** fully, **The Lantern** magazine is publishing articles covering each of the book's seven main chapters. These chapters delve into the seven mysteries of the Bible and are meant to serve as a supplement to the book, not a replacement of it. We recommend that you review **Mystery of the Ages** to confirm these truths.*

Gary Liebold

In the February 2025 issue of **The Lantern** Magazine, we gave an overview of the first chapter of **Mystery of the Ages**, which covered the mystery of who and what God is. God is quite real, and more than a single personage. God is a family. God is the Creator of all that is and has a purpose for man which involves the creation of perfect, holy, righteous, character, eventually becoming part of God's divine family. The presence of man on the earth, then, is in definite relation to the purpose of God the Creator.

The second installment of this series of articles of **Mystery of The Ages** was about angels and evil spirits, found in the May 2025 **Lantern** magazine. God created all the angels, and He created them before He created the physical world. The angels are composed solely of spirit, inhabiting this earth before the creation of man. God designed the potential of angels to be able to take over the entire universe and to improve and finish the billions of physical planets surrounding the stars and suns. He intended angels to have a vital part in the final

creation of the endless universe. However, one third of all angels God created fell prey to ungodly attitudes broadcast to them by their appointed leader on earth, Lucifer, thus becoming the evil spirits, we know of today as Satan and his demons. The result of this was a disastrous rebellion of these angry and evil beings against God, ending with war in heaven and a ruined world.

CHAPTER THREE: **THE MYSTERY OF MAN**

The third chapter of *Mystery of the Ages, The Mystery of Man*, continues with the events following the falling away of these angels and what God intends for man. Starting In **Genesis 1:1**, it is revealed to us that, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** The original Hebrew text describes this as a perfect creation. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of each completed phase of God’s creation as “very good.” But while this first verse of the Bible speaks of the original physical creation, including the earth and the entire universe, from **Genesis 1:2** onward, the remainder of this first chapter of the Bible describes a renewing of the face of the earth after it had become waste and empty due to the sinning angels.

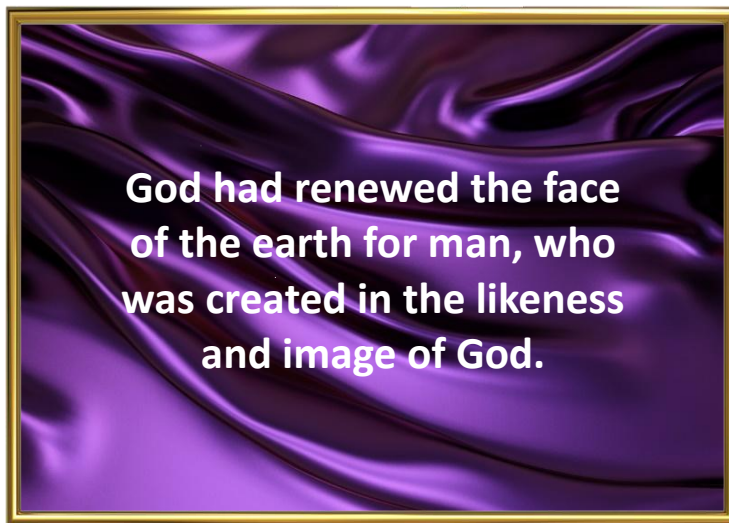
The verses that follow in this first chapter of the Bible describe the renewing of the face of the earth, bringing forth beautiful greenery, trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetation followed by the creation of fish, fowl, animal life, and finally man. Consider now what has been covered about God’s purpose for the angels that sinned on earth. For that angelic rebellion leads directly to God’s purpose for man to the centuries old question of what and why is man.

MAN IN GOD’S IMAGE **WITH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE**

To move forward after the angels’ rebellion, God was undeterred in His goal to accomplish the supreme creative feat of reproducing

Himself, and He was determined to accomplish this through man! God knew that His plan must be brought about through physical matter, so to prepare the earth for the creation of man, God renewed the face of the earth. This is explained in **Psalm 104:30**, **“You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.”**

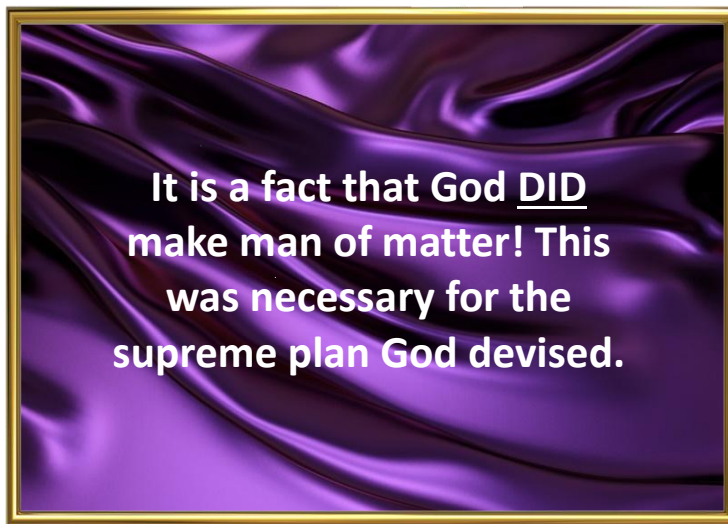
Once again, the earth was a perfect, yet unfinished, creation, lacking only the final touches. God had renewed the face of the earth for man, who was created in the likeness and image of God. He intended man to complete the finishing touches on the earth by improving and beautifying the earth, as He had given the opportunity to the angels to do originally.



Instead, man has ruined, polluted, defiled, and caused deterioration of almost every portion of the earth his hands have touched.

God basically put man here on earth for His ultimate purpose of reproducing Himself, with the supreme objective of creating the divine, righteous character in millions of begotten and eventually born children who will become God beings, actual members of God’s own family! Ultimately, God desires to restore the Government of God, complete with God’s way of life, on this earth, and in the process of doing so, He will finish the creation of man by the development of God’s holy righteous character,

with man's own cooperation and effort. Once this perfect and righteous character is instilled in man, man will then be converted from mortal flesh to immortal spirit to become an active member of God's Family after the return of Jesus Christ. He will take part in the implementation of the government of God to the earth and will then participate in the completion of the creation over the entire endless expanse of the planets in the universe! God shall have reproduced himself untold millions of times over!



THE SOUL IS MORTAL

Currently, man is made of matter, with a physical body susceptible to disease, injury and death. Traditional religions of the world talk at great length about the soul of the man, what it is composed of and what happens to it when a man dies. How much of this is true and how much is a complicated invention or blend of traditions and myths?

It is a fact that God DID make man of matter! This was necessary for the supreme plan God devised. **"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7 - KJV).** Man, formed from material dust of the ground, became a living soul upon breathing air. Nowhere in Genesis or anywhere else in the Bible does it

state that man is, or has, an IMMORTAL soul. Simply, what God formed from material ground became a soul. The translation of the word "soul" is from the word "nephesh" in the Hebrew language, which was the language Moses used. This core definition of the word nephesh in Strong's Concordance merely means **"a breathing creature."**

The word "NEPHESE" can be found in three main scriptures in Genesis. It is used three times in the first chapter of Genesis. The first is in **Genesis 1:20**, where the word is defined as a "moving creature;" the second is in **verse 21**, defined as "great whales, and every living creature;" and the third is in **verse 24**, where nephesh refers to a "living creature."

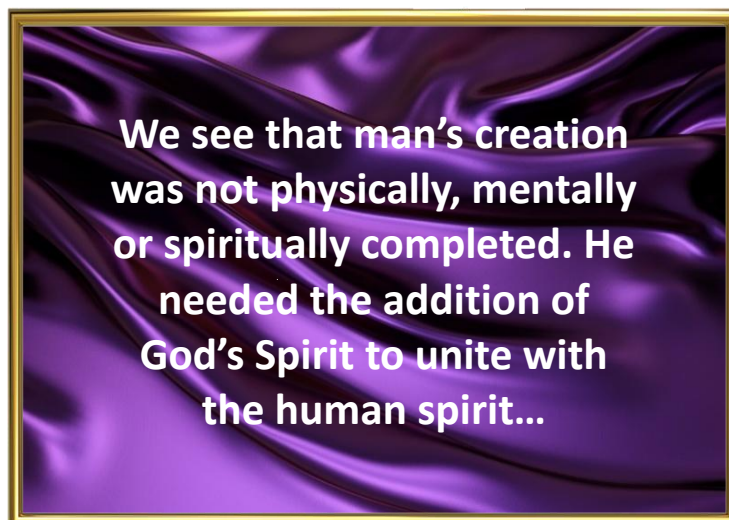
Continuing into **Genesis 2**, in **verse 7** the translators then translated the same word nephesh into the English word "soul" due to the context of the usage. Thus, we see where in this verse (**Genesis 2:7**), man became a "living soul." The conclusion, therefore, is that the soul refers to a physical state. It is strictly physical, composed fully of matter, and can die. A man IS a living soul ... he doesn't HAVE a soul. This is a truth believed by very few denominations, and probably by no other religions, a sign or proof that identifies the one true Church of God!

THE REAL VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Have we ever wondered just what is the real value of a human life? Is it worth untold millions of dollars? Or is it only worth the value of the weight of the materials the human body is composed of? What is the truth concerning human worth? It is grossly overestimated in physical reality and considerations and astoundingly undervalued in its supreme spiritual potential. The truth indeed is amazing.

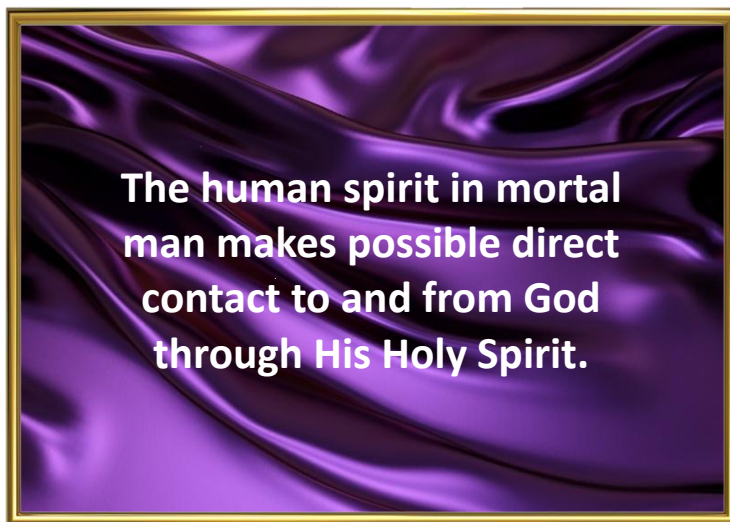
Philosophers throughout the ages have spoken of human worth as being of supreme spiritual value in and of itself. They have taught of

self-reliance and self-glorification, and the psychology of tapping into the innate hidden resources within us, all the while ignorant and unaware of the true values and the incredible but real human potential God has planned for us. Truth concerning mankind is revealed by God in the Bible to God's elect, and if it were not revealed, it would remain a mystery, utterly unknown to all. Jesus said in prayer: **"I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes"** (Matthew 11:25).



The human spirit in mortal man makes possible direct contact to and from God through His Holy Spirit. There is no direct channel of communication between the animal brain and the mind of God, but there is between God and man.

Meditate on this: we humans sometimes speak of how wonderfully God made man, with his brain and the physical components of his body all functioning together. But without God's Holy Spirit imparting the power of intellect to the brain, to the human spirit in man, man would be of no more importance than the dumb animals. With the spirit in man, man's creation becomes more awesome to contemplate.

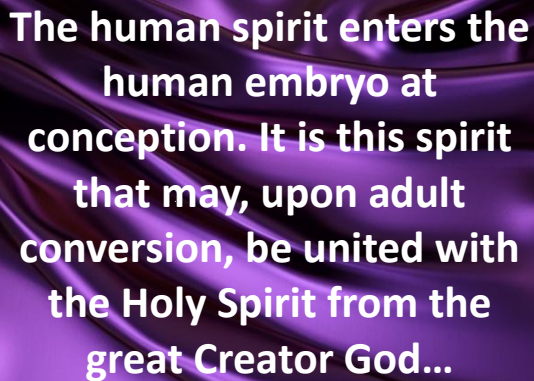


It is this human spirit within individuals that allows for unity with God. By God's Spirit joining with the human spirit, a person can be begotten of God, to become a child of the Supreme Creator. So, the real value of a human life lies solely within the human spirit combined with the human brain. The human spirit is not perceived by the most highly educated psychologists, yet it is the very essence of the human mind. In summary, then, the sole value of human life lies in the human spirit and the potential of being begotten of God, later to be born into the God Family. Man is not "GOD" within himself, only mortal flesh and blood with brain empowered intellect by the human spirit.

Therefore, man of himself is of great deal less value than the self-professed wise of this world think, until he is once begotten by the Supreme God through the very life and Spirit of the living God dwelling in him. Then a human being's potential is of infinitely greater value than the world has understood.

MAN'S CREATION **NOT YET COMPLETED**

So, we see that man's creation was not physically, mentally or spiritually completed. He needed the addition of God's Spirit to unite with the human spirit, begetting him



The human spirit enters the human embryo at conception. It is this spirit that may, upon adult conversion, be united with the Holy Spirit from the great Creator God...

as a child of God, uniting him with God to enable him to be born into the very God Family. Once again, we need to notice the duality in God's creative process, which can be seen all throughout the Bible. God creates by the principle of duality, as He did with the creation of man. This creation is accomplished in two stages: 1) the physical phase, which began with the first man, Adam; and 2) the spiritual state, which begins with the "last Adam," Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 15:45-46**).

Again, man was made from his creation (and birth) with the one human spirit that became an integral part of him. But he is mentally and spiritually incomplete because he was made to need the Holy Spirit of God. When that gift of God is received, God's **"Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God:" (Romans 8:16 - KJV)**. Man has the potential to become God's children! This is most clearly explained in **I Corinthians 2:9**. **"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"**

Furthermore, in duality, the human spirit enters the human embryo at conception. It is this spirit that may, upon adult conversion, be united with the Holy Spirit from the great Creator God, spiritually impregnating that human with God-

life as a child of the living God. Just as in a state of physical gestation, though yet unborn. To destroy an embryo or a fetus in a mother's uterus, an embryo or fetus that has already received that human spirit, is to murder a potential future God being.

The natural mind can receive knowledge of material and physical things. It can also have a sense of morality, ethics, art, and culture not possessed by animals. But in the realm of good and evil it can know and perform what is understood to be good only on the human level, made possible by the human spirit within man. It can only possess and express love on the human level but without the Holy Spirit of God, it cannot possess or express love on the God level, nor can it acquire knowledge of that which is spiritual, as revealed in **I Corinthians 2**. Man's creation is not yet completed until he is granted the gift of God's Holy Spirit to blend with his human spirit and then remain faithful to God's laws and truth until he becomes a part of God's Family in the Kingdom of God.

Remember God's purpose in creating man was to restore the government of God on earth, and by regulating human life through that government, to complete the creation of man by developing righteous spiritual character. This supreme purpose requires that man reject Satan's way and embrace God's way of love based on God's spiritual law, and be changed, or converted to God's way of love! The incredible human potential is that our great God is in man, reproducing himself. Man can be born into the God family!

THE TWO SYMBOLIC TREES

God placed Adam and Eve into a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. Within this garden were two very special symbolic trees: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life (**Genesis 2:9**). These two symbolic trees explain the very foundation of

the world, and in them is the answer to the great mystery of our time of the modern twenty-first century. We live in a world of tremendous progress and advanced developments, but one also full of appalling evils. The question we face today is: Why can't the minds that developed space travel, transplant organs, and produce technological marvels solve their own problems? Why is there no peace in the world?

We must go back to Adam and examine the past to understand more about the human condition today. Adam did have a human spirit that could be united with God's Holy Spirit to beget him with eternal life. God offered him immortal life through the symbolic Tree of Life, but God also did not urge or force him to take it. He simply made it freely accessible. He educated Adam about the two trees and their meaning, warning that Adam could eat of all the trees of the garden except the one forbidden tree, the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil."

Of course, if Adam had taken the Tree of Life, he would have rejected the way of Satan. Then, he could have received the Holy Spirit of God to join with his human spirit, begetting him as a son of God, making him AT ONE with God. But the mind and attitude of Satan entered him and worked in him instead. This has been evident in all their descendants.

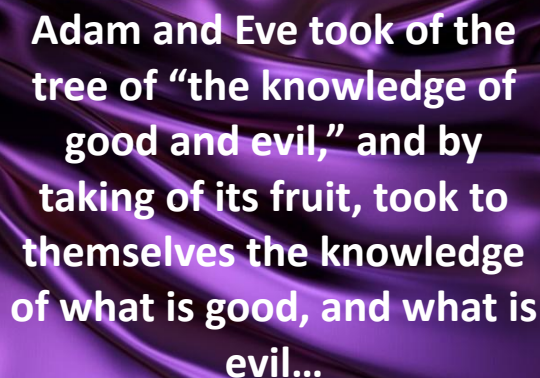
We read in **Ephesians 2:2** that Satan, the prince of the power of the air, does indeed actually work within humans. He started with Eve, who was deceived by the temptation of Satan in the form of a serpent. However, we need to remember that Adam was NOT deceived (**I Timothy 2:13-14**). Adam disobeyed God and sinned deliberately.

Through his deliberate disobedience of God's explicit command, he was cut off from God, which produced a state of mental

perversion and opened his mind to the deceptions of Satan. From that moment onward, Adam and all his descendants after him were receptive to the pulls and suggestions of Satan. Once Adam rejected God's law and government, Satan began to work in the mind of Adam, even as God would have worked in his mind had he taken of the Tree of Life.

Adam chose a different kind of knowledge for all of mankind. He rejected reliance on God and chose the course of self-reliance, which was the only righteousness he could acquire. Adam and Eve took of the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil," and by taking of its fruit, took to themselves the knowledge of what is good, and what is evil, deciding for themselves what is right and what is wrong, or sin. Adam and Eve rejected God's Law, which defined for them, physically and often incorrectly, right and wrong.

The closing of the tree of life from the human family marked the foundation of the present world still ruled invisibly by Satan, but God was determined to accomplish His purpose, His great Master Plan for mankind. At that very foundation of this world, God had laid the plans for the Word, Jesus Christ, to be born on earth as the sacrificial Lamb of God to redeem mankind from the rule of Satan on this earth (**Revelation 13:8**).



Adam and Eve took of the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil," and by taking of its fruit, took to themselves the knowledge of what is good, and what is evil...



**It's important to understand
that those cut off from God
now, are not yet judged!**

SALVATION THROUGH A RESURRECTION

God decreed, at the very foundation of the world, that all humans should die once, and after that, by resurrection from the dead, would come the judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**). Meanwhile, mankind would not yet be brought to judgment -- neither condemned nor saved.

I Corinthians 15:22 explains that as with Adam, all humans should die, so in Christ the same "all" will be brought back to life by a resurrection to judgment. There is more to this life than living for the present life. The Great God put humans here on this earth for a monumental, eternal purpose, a purpose not even understood by this world's humanly devised religions.

We are on this earth for a wonderful reason, which involves the answer to why we humans were made mortal and suffer through a vast range of emotions, including the ability to experience both the good times and the troubles of human life. Even though when we die, we are dead, we will not remain dead forever. The dead in their graves will live again!

Read what Jesus says: **"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the**

resurrection of condemnation" (**John 5:28-29**). We are required to account to God for EVERY thought and behavior in this life! Everyone who has ever lived will ultimately give an accounting and be in a resurrection. The human spirit is the depository of memory and character, and like a mold, it retains even the human form and shape of the deceased. In the resurrection to judgment, those who have died shall look as they did in life, retain whatever character they established in life, and remember everything that was stored in their memory. But as they wait for that resurrection, in death there is no consciousness, **"...the dead know nothing..."** (**Ecclesiastes 9:5**).

It's important to understand that those cut off from God now, are not yet judged! We know that Jesus Christ was the Person in the God Family who spoke with Adam, the Logos or "Word." When the Word closed the Tree of Life, all mankind would be cut off from God the Father until Christ returns to earth in supreme power and glory to take the throne of rulership from Satan and to restore the government of God over the entire earth.

EVERY HUMAN SHALL BE CALLED

God raised up prophets to become part of the foundation of the Church while Jesus called disciples out of this world to be educated to teach others and to rule under Him in the coming millennium of the restored Kingdom of God. Under Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the Tree of Life will be opened to all flesh. Likewise, the Church of God was called to be trained to become rulers and teachers in the kingdom of God, again, when the Tree of Life shall be opened to everyone.

Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit has been closed to all but the prophets and those called out from this world. The prophet Joel foretold that it shall come to pass that God will pour out of his Spirit upon all flesh (**Joel 2:28**) after this world

of Satan's rule is transformed. In calling out the Church, Jesus said plainly, **"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him"** (John 6:44). The Church is merely the "first-fruits" of salvation. When Christ comes as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He will reign for the next thousand years. Everybody living after His coming will be called. Next, after those thousand years, the **"Great White Throne Judgment"** of Revelation 20:11-12 shall occur.

All who ever lived, from Adam onward, who were not called and chosen by God, shall be resurrected to be mortal, in human flesh and blood as they were in their first life. Then they shall give an accounting for the sins of their former life, for which the penalty is death, but then they shall learn that Jesus Christ had paid that death penalty in their stead. On real repentance and faith, these people shall be forgiven. They shall then receive God's Holy Spirit, begetting them to eternal life. God's wonderful Master Plan will call everyone who ever lived to receive eternal salvation on their real repentance and belief of God's truth.

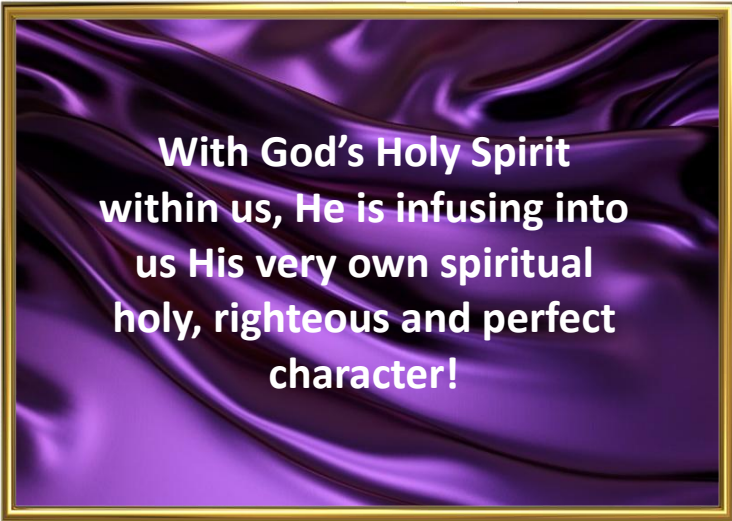
However, there is a time order to these resurrections (I Corinthians. 15:22-23). **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward..."** While there are three resurrection periods described in the

Bible, only the first is described in I Corinthians 15. Two other resurrections are revealed in Revelation 20:11-13. For those individuals called in the millennium, and those in the Great White Throne resurrection and judgment, there shall be no need to battle and overcome the influence of Satan. Even though hidden now from most of humanity, bringing so much suffering on themselves, God's plan for mankind is wonderful! As the apostle Paul exclaimed: **"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"** (Romans 11:33). In man, God is reproducing himself! God truly is a family into which we, literally, may be born!

So again, we ask -- what and why is man? He is a living being made from the dust of the ground. Man, and that means us, is clay and God is the Master Potter, who molds and shapes us, forming our character if we respond when He calls and draws us to Him. With God's Holy Spirit within us, He is infusing into us His very own spiritual holy, righteous and perfect character!

God created man on the earth to build this perfect character in us, the same character the sinning angels refused to let God build in them! He is, on His own timetable and method, developing us to become God as He is God, and to complete the creation of the unfinished universe!

In the next issue of *The Lantern* magazine, we will continue to summarize **Mystery of the Ages**, covering chapter four, the **Mystery of Civilization**. Once again, please remember that each of these articles are not meant to take the place of actually reading the book itself on our own, but to serve as an overview of each chapter concerning the mysteries of the Bible, and to be used as a tool to encourage us to read, or re-read, the book and study it on our own. ♦



**With God's Holy Spirit
within us, He is infusing into
us His very own spiritual
holy, righteous and perfect
character!**



David was a KING, musician, and writer of several of the Psalms. He is perhaps one of the most famous figures in the Bible, renowned for his courage and many victories. Despite all his noble deeds, his story was also marked by terrible sins that he deeply repented of. Due to his repentance, God viewed him as a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22).



According to **I Samuel**, David was the youngest son of Jesse, a man of Bethlehem, and served as a shepherd for his father before beginning his career as an aide at the court of Saul, Israel's first king. He became a favorite of Saul but was forced to go into hiding when Saul suspected him of plotting to take his throne. After Saul and his son Jonathan are killed in battle, David became king over all the tribes of Israel. He conquered Jerusalem, making it the capital of Israel and brought the Ark of the Covenant to the city. The primary evidence for David's life history consists of several chapters in the two books of Samuel, and many of the Psalms, some of the most touching, beautiful poetry ever written, are also attributed to him. Of all the people who have lived, God has given David a special place in His heart and has appointed him to rule over all Israel in the Kingdom of God (**Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24**).

There are several specific areas of David's character that made him especially pleasing to God, that made him a man after God's own heart. Other than the physical attributes of David, such as his courage, good looks, and leadership abilities, he possessed the type of spiritual character God looks for in His people. David was patient -- despite being pursued by Saul, David did not seek revenge or attempt to take his life. He waited for the right time until the Eternal placed him on the throne. Even after he was crowned king, David continued to reflect Godly humility (**II Samuel 7:18**). Another vital aspect of David's life was the wisdom he developed. Even as a youth, he was **"...behaved wisely in all his ways..."** (**I Samuel 18:14**). Wisdom began for David by having a deep reverence for God.

Finally, David recognized God in his life and praised Him continually. Despite his sins, he always repented and confessed his shortcomings to God. He was close to God, with active faith to help him overcome many obstacles. He had complete loyalty and respect for God's government, was full of zeal, always exhibiting an enthusiastic devotion to God. David gave himself completely to the ways of God! Through faith, humility, and loyalty to God's government, patience, zeal, wisdom and real repentance, David overcame his human nature, developed godly character and qualified for a high position in God's coming Kingdom. He was genuinely a man after God's own heart. ♦

WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE?

Geary Whiting

When God first created human life on earth, He said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). And God did just that (verse 27). But does that mean we really look like God? What, after all, does God look like?

Recently, during a conversation I was having, the topic of what God looks like came up. This is quite interesting because there are a lot of philosophies out there among religious organizations about this subject. For example, some people feel He is just a gassy substance without a shape. Many Christian religions focus only on the personality of God, rather than His physical appearance, while others describe God as a spiritual being with no physical attributes because He is invisible. Some experts say that we don't have a definition of God's appearance because He doesn't have one. It all boils down to the case that all these wonderful experts out in the world have theories, but can't really seem to give an answer to the question... **What does God look like?**

While it's true that no one has ever actually seen God the Father (**John 1:18**), He has left details about His appearance, as well as His character, throughout His Word, the Bible. We might be thinking that it's more important to understand the character of God, and to focus on learning and emulating God's character traits in our lives, and this is very true. However,

the Bible still gives us information about God's appearance and it's easy for us to address the issue today through the truth revealed in the scriptures. Piecing together the views we're given throughout the Bible can give us a real glimpse of what God looks like!

THE IMAGE OF GOD

We do not need to be confused about what God looks like, because He tells us plainly in the Bible. God called our first ancestor, Adam, a man. Eve was called a woman. Together, they were called "man" (**Genesis 1:26-27**). Adam and Eve looked like we do, only they were perfect physical specimens of human beings, as God created them to be. Later in history, when Ezekiel saw a vision of God on His throne, God had **"the appearance of a man"** (**Ezekiel 1:26-28**).

From these scriptures, we can know that God looks like a human. Many other scriptures tell us that God always has the form and features of a normal man. Referencing the Bible, we can know God looks like a human. But let's take a closer look, item by item, feature by feature. God has one head with one face. The God of

the Old Testament, the one who later became Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 10:1-4**), talked face to face with Jacob and with Moses (**Genesis 32:30; Exodus 33:11; Deuteronomy 34:10**). He also has eyes on that head, which is a fitting place to put those eyes, don't you think? His eyes are always upon the land that He personally cares for (**Deuteronomy 11:12**), even as His eyes are upon the righteous and His ears are open to their cry (**Psalms 34:15**). (Notice here that He has ears, too). **Hebrews 4:13** shows us... **"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."** The Bible also describes His eyes as **"flames of fire"** (**Revelation 19:12**).

Next, we see that God has a mouth, and we are to live by every word that proceeds from it (**Matthew 4:4**). God has a voice with a wide range of volume. He simply spoke to Moses (**Numbers 12:8**); but occasionally He thunders with a mighty voice (**Psalms 68:33**). Zophar the Naamathite speaks of the lips of God in **Job 11:5**, and Isaiah tells us that when God becomes angry, **"His lips are full of indignation, And His tongue like a devouring fire"** (**Isaiah 30:27**). God even laughs! With His voice God laughs (**Psalms 2:4**).

God has a nose with nostrils, too. He smelled the sacrifice Noah offered on the altar (**Genesis 8:21**), and with a blast from His nostrils He divided the Red Sea (**Exodus 15:8**). In **II Samuel 22:9**, more description is given of God's nostrils and mouth: **"Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it."**

It's clear that the physical aspects of God's face look like ours, only more strong and powerful, and with abilities we can't achieve as mere humans! God has body as well, complete with arms, hands, and fingers like we do. In **Psalms 44:3**, God's arms and hands are described as strong and mighty. Further in **Psalms 44:3**, we

see where the Israelites did not gain possession of the promised land by their own sword or strength, **"...But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them."** There are more descriptions of God's hands, but two favorites include the points that Jesus Christ is now sitting at the right hand of the God on high (**Hebrews 1:3**), and all the host of heaven stand on His right hand and on His left (**II Chronicles 18:18**). Furthermore, with His own finger God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone for Moses to give to the Israelites. (**Exodus 31:18**), and on two more tablets after Moses broke the first set. (**Deuteronomy 10:1-2**). Even more exciting to understand is that all the heavens are the work of God's fingers (**Psalms 8:3**), and soon, when God restores all things, the government shall be upon His shoulder (**Isaiah 9:6**).

Isn't it incredible as well as humbling for us to understand that we were created in the image of the Great God, and not as some animal, with paws and claws? God has feet, too, and even a footstool to rest His feet upon! (**Psalms 99:5**). This makes me think that there must be legs attached to those feet, and there must be hips, too. In **Revelation 1:15**, His feet are described for us to be **"...like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace,"** and David speaks of a time when God shook the earth. **"He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet."** (**Psalms 18:9**).

Hebrews 4:13 shows us... "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

God also has a back, which He permitted Moses to see as He walked by in His glory (**Exodus 33:23**) and finally, He also has a waist (**Ezekiel 1:27**). Jesus Christ said, “...**He who has seen Me has seen the Father;**” (**John 14:9**), indicating that both God the Father and Christ have the same form and shape, and undoubtedly much the same looks and features. Again, God created man in His own image (**Genesis 1:26**)!

God has a voice with a wide range of volume. He simply spoke to Moses (**Numbers 12:8**); but occasionally He thunders with a mighty voice (**Psalm 68:33**).

MAN IN GOD’S LIKENESS REVEALS HIS TRUE POTENTIAL

Man is indeed made in God's shape, form and image. The definition of the word “image” includes “**a visual representation of something**” (*Merriam Webster Dictionary*), “**A sculptured likeness**” (*American Heritage Dictionary*), or “**a description of something or someone**” (*The Cambridge Dictionary*). So, brethren, we can clearly see that, if we think about it, we are the visual representation of God!

By contrast, the living creatures who serve God around His throne have multiple faces and wings (**Ezekiel 10:1-22**), and features of animals like a lion, an ox, or an eagle (**Ezekiel 1:4-10**). Satan, the former archangel Lucifer, appears as a dragon or serpent (**Revelation 12:9**). Only human beings are made in God’s likeness, with a mind similar to God’s. And why is man made in God's image? The answer is more astonishing than we have ever dreamed! The truth is that we, as physical humans, have the incredible

potential to be born into God's own Family as immortal, spirit-composed beings like God Himself, as actual children of God! At the return of Jesus Christ, God 's servants throughout history will be resurrected and, with the true Christians still alive, will be changed in the twinkling of an eye into the exact form and composition God has now (**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**). There will no longer be any confusion as to who or what God is, how He looks, or what His plan is! Everyone will see!

GOD IN ALL HIS GLORY

The book of **Revelation** reveals what the glorified Jesus Christ looks like now. This is the image we ourselves shall share if we overcome and endure to the end (**Revelation 21 :7**). So to all these religious experts that we might run into or read about, we can give them a comprehensive answer to the age-old question, “**What does God look like?**” We can begin by quoting **Genesis 1:26** and expound on the details from there! The Bible is full of scriptures about who and what God is, and how He looks. He has feet! He has eyes! He has a mouth with a distinct and individually powerful voice -- a “**voice as the sound of many waters**” (**Revelation 1:15**)! He has features just as us, and we have features just like Him!

The apostle John was shown, in vision, God the Father sitting upon His throne (**Revelation 4:1-11**). God is the ever-living God who inhabits eternity (**Isaiah 57:15**). We already have His physical image! If we take the time we are blessed with now to develop our character, to pray and study and work, with the help of His Holy Spirit, at becoming like **GOD** in character, we can become part of God’s Family when Jesus Christ returns!

God truly made us in His own image, and with determination and focus, with God’s help and guidance, we can someday soon share completely In His eternal glory and power as part of His very own Family of God! ♦

PROPHETIC EVENTS AND THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS



Jesus said His appearance would be accompanied by the sound of an incredible trumpet blast. The coming of Christ, His return to this earth, is pictured by the observance of The Feast of Trumpets, one of the annual fall holy days we observe. The coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, occurring at the end of the "Day of the Lord", will be an extraordinary sight, startling all the nations. Jesus explained: "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

Gary Liebold

Preceding the return of Jesus Christ, we can see the series of awesome Biblical events Jesus warned about, also listed in the prophetic book of **Matthew 24**. Christ warned that the "last days" would experience the greatest time of trouble ever to occur in man's history -- the Great Tribulation. **"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved**

[alive]; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22). The Great Tribulation -- those words are sobering, and perhaps even frightening words to consider. However, Jesus held out hope for humanity. He said, **"...but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).** He made it clear that this terrible time of turmoil called the Great Tribulation will be stopped by God's intervention in the affairs of man and by the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Jesus explained that the Great Tribulation would be punctuated by unusual natural calamities, including a series of atmospheric disturbances and heavenly signs, and even, in **Revelation 5**, famine and death. Jesus said, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken”** (Matthew 24:29).

These awesome occurrences precede the actual **"Day of the Lord,"** the return of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of prophetic events detailed about the Great Tribulation and The Day of The Lord in God's Word, which comprise the period ahead leading up to Christ's return as pictured by the Feast of Trumpets, and it would benefit us greatly to examine them in detail.

THE TIME OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

For many years, we have been in the time of a shaky, turbulent lull between major world wars. Natural disasters, disease epidemics, including a worldwide pandemic, and famines have increased in number during recent years. But the final great worldwide famine and disease epidemic described in **Revelation 5** has not yet come to pass. We have been experiencing these events in some degree, but we haven't reached the final scope of them yet.

Jesus explained that the Great Tribulation would be punctuated by unusual natural calamities, including a series of atmospheric disturbances and heavenly signs...

There are a lot of prophetic events detailed about the Great Tribulation and The Day of The Lord in God's Word...

Remember, from **Matthew 24:8**, that these things are only the beginning of sorrows. When we finally come to the full onset of disasters -- intense famine and disease epidemics, along with what will undoubtedly be a final, great world war -- we will experience the effects of the Great Tribulation! This will be the major event warning that Christ is coming back to this earth to take the throne of rulership from Satan and establish God's Kingdom!

The time setting of these prophetic events of the Great Tribulation is described as the fifth seal, out of seven seals total, which are detailed in both **Matthew 24** and **Revelation 5-6**. These events are followed by the sounding of the seventh trumpet in **Revelation 8** to announce the Day of the Lord, at which time Christ shall come. In **Matthew 24:3**, we can see that the disciples met with Jesus and asked Him what the signs of the end of the age and His second coming would be. **“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'"**

Continuing in **Matthew 24:4-8**, Christ then proceeded to tell them what signs to watch for to understand when that time was near, **“And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will**



deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows."

FOUR SEALS AND THE HORSES

In **Revelation 5:1-5**, scripture explains that Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God, was the only one qualified to open the scroll to reveal these seven seals. "And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah,

the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.""

Revelation 6 proceeds to provide clarification about the signs Christ revealed to his disciples in **Matthew 24**. The first four seals listed in **Revelation 6** are compared to four horses or commonly known as the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer" (**Revelation 6:1-2**).

The first horse, shown as a white horse, pictures religious deception. In **Matthew 24:4-5**, this deception is expounded. "And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." The deception that God speaks of here is that of false ministers, FALSE

Christianity, preaching false doctrines, and the preaching of a false Christ.

The second seal of **Revelation 6** shows us a second horse, a red horse, representing WAR. "When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword" (verses 3-4). Again, **Matthew 24** presents a cross reference to these scriptures, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..." (**Matthew 24:6-7**).

In recent years we have witnessed the rise of bitter wars in hot spots around the world, but this prophetic time speaks of catastrophic wars taking place ALL over. While that time is not quite here yet, the evidence before our eyes proclaims that it will be coming soon. Next, we see a black horse described in **Revelation 6:5-6**: "When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a

**"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet."
(Matthew 24:6)**

The final horse among these "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (the fourth seal), is described as a pale horse, a horse of death by pestilence.

denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." This black horse portrays the usual event following a war -- FAMINE. The latter half of **Matthew 24:7** is the corresponding scripture to point out that next catastrophe following these terrible wars to hit the earth is famine.

The final horse among these "**Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**," also known as the fourth seal, is described as a pale horse, a horse of death by PESTILENCE. In the pandemic of COVID-19, we saw the first wide-spread effects of a disease epidemic, but the pestilence to come will be unlike anything ever seen before. "When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth" (**Revelation 6:7-8**).

When reading these scriptures in **Matthew 24** and **Revelation 6** that describe these seals, a natural progression of catastrophic events from one to the next can be seen. As is always the way with mankind, deception, leading to war, then leads to shortages of food, resulting in famine, disease and death. Only this time it will be a progression of events leading to a terrible time so overwhelming it's almost impossible to perceive.







The Seven Seals of Revelation

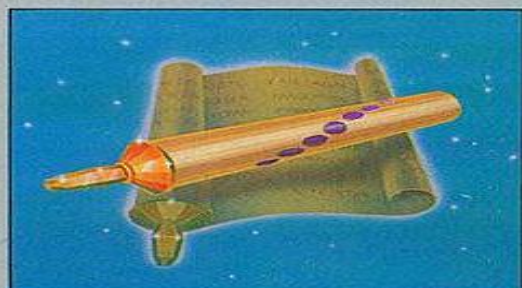
Sacrifices start at some point

2½ years

1 year

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

First Seal	Second Seal	Third Seal	Fourth Seal	Fifth Seal	Sixth Seal		
White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Great Tribulation	Heavenly Signs	First Trumpet	Second Trumpet
						One third of trees and all grass burned	One third of sea becomes blood, one third of sea creatures die, one third of ships destroyed
Deception	War	Famine	Pestilence	National Captivity			
Matthew 24:4-5	Matthew 24:6-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:9, 21-22, Luke 21:23-24	Matthew 24:29-30, Joel 2:30-31		
Revelation 6:1-2	Revelation 6:3-4	Revelation 6:5-6	Revelation 6:7-8	Revelation 6:9-11	Revelation 6:12-17	Silence in heaven (Revelation 8:1-6)	



Sealing of God's People

Revelation 7, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ezekiel 9:4

1,335 days
(Daniel 12:12)

Organized efforts of God's Work to proclaim the Gospel to the

1,290 days
(Daniel 12:11)

Sacrifices end, abomination of desolation set up, Church goes

1,260 days
(Daniel 12:7)

Jerusalem surrounded, gentiles overrun city, two witnesses proph (Matthew 24:15, Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, 14, 13:5)

THE FIFTH SEAL PICTURES THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Revelation 6:9-11 speaks in detail of the fifth seal, and the prophetic meaning of the events portrayed by it. The apostle John states, "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while Longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed." Here is the Great Tribulation! This fifth seal pictures it "...killed as they were, was completed." Here is the Great Tribulation! This fifth seal pictures it as a time of the martyrdom of saints -- of the truly converted, begotten children of God!

In **Revelation 6:10**, the Bible pictures many of the saints who were slain for holding fast to the truth of God many centuries ago as crying out, "...How long, O Lord, ... until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" It's as if these martyrs, killed centuries ago, are asking how long it is before the second coming of Christ and the end of this age. The answer is that it shall not occur until after the upcoming Great Tribulation -- which will also include another martyrdom of saints.

The final Great Tribulation will be a time of war, national invasion, and captivity of the nations of Israel! This martyrdom of saints must occur and be completed before God pours out the vials of His wrath -- His plagues-- before the second coming of Christ. Notice exactly how Jesus explained this fifth seal in **Matthew 24:21-22** in clear and simple terms. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were

The Day of the Lord — Time of God's Wrath

(Joel 2:1, Revelation 6:15-17, 11:18, 14:19, 15:1)

Seventh Seal: Seven Trumpet Plagues (Revelation 16:1)

Third Trumpet	Fourth Trumpet	Fifth Trumpet	Sixth Trumpet	Seventh Trumpet: Seven Last Plagues						
One third of rivers become wormwood	One third of sun, moon, stars darkened	Locusts, symbolic of beast's military power (Revelation 17:8-14)	200 million horsemen; one third of humanity killed, humanity refuses to repent	First Plague Sores on people who accepted mark of the beast	Second Plague Sea turns to blood, all sea creatures die	Third Plague Rivers turn to blood	Fourth Plague Sun scorches humanity with great heat, humanity blasphemes God	Fifth Plague Beast's seat of government afflicted	Sixth Plague Euphrates dried up, world's armies gathered to Armageddon (Joel 3:9-17)	Seventh Plague Great earthquake and hail
Revelation 8:10-11	Revelation 8:12	Revelation 9:1-12	Revelation 9:13-21	Revelation 16:2	Revelation 16:3	Revelation 16:4-7	Revelation 16:8-9	Revelation 16:10-11	Revelation 16:12-16	Revelation 16:17-21
		First Woe	Second Woe	Third Woe (Revelation 8:13)						

Return of Jesus Christ

Revelation 10:7, 11:15-19, 19:1-21,
Matthew 24:30-31, I Corinthians 15:51-52,
I Thessalonians 4:16, Zechariah 14:1-4

world end (Amos 8:11, John 9:4)

to place of protection. (Daniel 8:9-12, Matthew 24:15-20, Luke 21:20-23)

acy. Church protected in wilderness, beast power rules earth

WCG Chart

shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

What an earth-shaking event! These martyrs of old knew that in the terrible Day of the Lord that follows the Great Tribulation, God is going to take vengeance by sending His plagues on the persecuting powers that have developed at the end-time! And those plagues of the Day of the Lord, the time of God's vengeance for His people, will precede the second coming of Christ! So, when will the end come? In **Matthew 24:3**, the disciples had asked Jesus when His coming would be, and when would the end of the world -- the end of this age -- occur? FALSE preaching was not the end, neither were WARS and rumors of wars representing the end of this age. Even the GREAT TRIBULATION is not the end.

THE SIXTH SEAL AND
THE DAY OF THE LORD

The sixth seal of **Revelation 6** details the next phase of God's end time events, the "**Day of The Lord**," leading up to the return of Jesus Christ. The sixth seal shows the heavenly signs, the sun and moon becoming dark, and the stars falling, occurring after the Tribulation. **"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth ... Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17).** Furthermore, this event

It is vital to understand the distinction between the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. The heavenly signs occur after the Great Tribulation. (Matthew 24:29)

explained by the sixth seal, is followed by the sign of the coming of Christ. **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30).**

These verses, along with verses in **Revelation 6:14-17**, show that the heavens part as a scroll rolled together, with men hiding themselves in terror in the caves and mountains, crying for rocks and boulders to fall on them and hide them from the face and wrath of Him (Jesus Christ) who is sitting on the throne in heaven, for the great day of His wrath is come! This is **The Day of The Lord**.

It is vital to understand the distinction between the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. The heavenly signs mentioned above do not occur until after the Great Tribulation **(Matthew 24:29)**, but they are to come before the Day of the Lord **(Joel 2:31)**. The two events are different, with the heavenly signs noted in the sixth seal to separate them. To be clear, the Great Tribulation occurs first (the fifth seal), followed by the heavenly signs (the sixth seal), and then the Day of the Lord, which is the seventh seal. Following the prophetic events of

Revelation 6, we see in **Revelation 7:1-3** that just as we come to the time for the terrible Day of The Lord to strike, an angel appears, holding back the four winds of the four corners of the earth. **“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.””**

The winds are held back until the 144,000 servants of God, 12,000 from each of the literal tribes of Israel, are sealed, and the great innumerable multitude of all nations, which came out of the Great Tribulation, turn to God for His protection. These servants of God, saints, if you will, are sealed by the Holy Spirit in their foreheads, or minds, and it is the Father’s name that is sealed there. **“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads” (Revelation 14:1).** The time of this sealing is in the future -- after the Tribulation, the heavenly signs, and after the sign of Christ’s coming appears in heaven.

Then comes the opening of the seventh seal, in **Revelation 8**, which covers the remainder of the prophecy. The seventh seal comes in seven stages; each called a Trumpet. and considered to be plagues **(Revelation 9:20)**. The first four Trumpet plagues are described as winds that blow on the earth, trees, rivers, and seas, while the fifth and sixth Trumpets picture war -- the two phases of the coming World War III. The seventh Trumpet is divided into yet again another set of seven **“Last Plagues.”** All the last three Trumpets, fifth, sixth, and seventh, are called WOES **(Revelation 8:13)**.

THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE THREE WOES

Revelation 8 opens with the introduction into the opening of the seventh seal, beginning with the period known as the Day of The Lord.

“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Reading further within this chapter, we see in **verse 6** that, **“So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”** These seven trumpets represent the seven last plagues that will occur before the actual return of Jesus Christ.

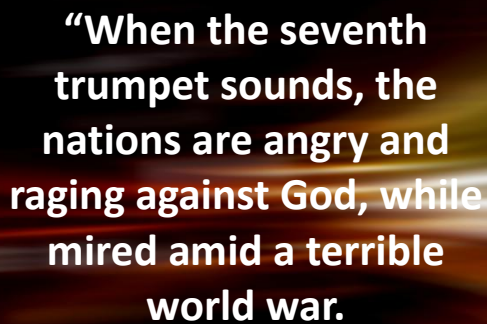
The first four of these trumpet plagues, which are not considered to be part of the **“Three Woes”** of **Revelation chapter 9**, are listed in **verses 7 through 13 of Revelation 8**. **“The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. (Revelation 8:7-12)**

The fifth trumpet begins what is the **“Three Woes.”** This **FIRST WOE**, the fifth Trumpet plague, is described starting in **Revelation 9:1-5**. **“Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a**

star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for five months.*” Note that this power that emerges out of the **“bottomless pit,”** which causes extreme destruction to mankind, is the war-making power of the beast as interpreted in **Revelation 17:8-14**.

Continuing in **Revelation 9**, the **SECOND WOE**, also known as the sixth trumpet plague, is described in **verses 13-20**, again with the symbolism of horses and horsemen, **“Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million ... And thus I saw the horses**

**“So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound” (Revelation 8:6).
These seven trumpets represent the seven last plagues...**



“When the seventh trumpet sounds, the nations are angry and raging against God, while mired amid a terrible world war.

in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed--by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths ... But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these *plagues*, did not repent...” Notice that these horses, or horsemen, are completely different from the four horses of the first four seals (the ones known as the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse”), in **Revelation 5**.

These horsemen are representative of war, totaling around 200 million combatants, or horsemen. And although one third of humanity is killed then, mankind still refuses to turn to God, accept Christ, and repent. (**Revelation 9:20-21**).

Now comes the THIRD WOE, or seventh Trumpet. This is the last part of the seventh seal, which is comprised of seven LAST plagues. Starting in **Revelation 11:15-19**, we read; “**Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God ... Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the**

ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET AND THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

When the seventh trumpet sounds, the nations are angry and raging against God, while mired amidst a terrible world war. At this time, it is proclaimed that “**...Your wrath has come,**” (**Revelation 11:18**), Prophecy cries out that the wrath of God has come, and it comes in the form of the seven last plagues. “**Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete**” (**Revelation 15:1**).

To be clear, the wrath of God occurring at the seventh Trumpet, is in the form of the seven last plagues. Just as the seventh seal is subdivided into the seven trumpets, so the seventh Trumpet is divided into the seven last plagues, which constitute the third Woe. Thus, the seven last plagues, too, are a part of the seventh seal.

The Biblical meaning, God’s interpretation, of the number seven is one of completion. Just as there are seven Days of Unleavened Bread and seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, there are seven seals, with seven trumpets, and seven last plagues that occur in the prophetic book of Revelation, pointing to the dramatic return of Jesus Christ.

The second coming of Christ shall occur at the time of the seventh Trumpet and seven last plagues. So, at this end time, Jesus Christ will return and “**The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!**” (**Revelation 11:15**). Jesus Christ directly intervenes in world affairs at the time of the last Trumpet, or Third Woe. He will come in a time of worldwide war -- when the nations are angry! “**For the Lord Himself will descend from**

heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Christ's direct intervention in world affairs will be the next event in the plan of redemption. Jesus Christ will return in power and resplendent glory to seize control of this world, and the saints will be resurrected to eternal life to rule with Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Revelation 5:10**).

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS PICTURES THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

The book of **Revelation** outlines God's future use of trumpets. This message is for the entire world, and concerns events before, during, and after the return of Jesus Christ, who will soon come to rule this earth with God's Government. In **Revelation 8:2**, seven angels are given seven trumpets to blow, and the blowing of these trumpets represents God's intervention in world affairs just after the world has endured Satan's wrath and the heavenly signs.

Each year the Feast of Trumpets pictures the angelic trumpeters creating a spectacular fanfare for the glorified Christ as He returns to earth! All eyes will be on Him as humanity sees Him coming in the clouds to rule all the earth from His throne in Jerusalem. When that happens, Satan's grip on this world will be broken and the way will be open for all mankind to join the saints in the Kingdom, and eventually, in the Family of God.

It will take the power of the seven last plagues, which compose the seventh trumpet, to complete the job of bringing mankind under the control of God. Then God's government will be established, and those of us who qualify to be born into the Family of God will start the process of reconstructing the world God's way. A trumpet will be blown to gather the people of

Israel from the places in which they have been captive, and they will be brought to the land of Israel to live and worship God (**Isaiah 27:12-13**). A new age will dawn upon mankind -- an age filled with happiness and true peace, which the world has not known since creation.

The meaning of the Feast of Trumpets, which pictures the return of Jesus Christ to establish God's Kingdom on earth, is revealed by the various uses of trumpets throughout the Bible. God has placed great meaning in the Feast of Trumpets, and we need to rehearse that meaning each year by keeping this Festival. By doing so, we show our obedience to God's Word, and proclaim our belief in God's warning message, the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the saints.

In addition, we prepare ourselves for the Family of God. Christ has opened these mysteries to us, His faithful servants! And as terrible and unsettling as the Great Tribulation is to hear about, it is an event, followed by the Day of The Lord, that ushers in the time that we, and all creation, are waiting for -- the return of Jesus Christ!

We need to be about our Father's business, holding fast, so that we, like others who have already qualified, may become a "...glorious church..." (Ephsians 5:27).

We need to be about our Father's business, holding fast, so that we, like others who have already qualified, may become a **"...glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing..." (Ephesians 5:27)**. If we do, we will be able to escape all these terrible events and stand before the Son of man! ♦

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER



Jesus Christ said in John 7:38-39 that if you drink of Him, “**He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive...” Jesus Christ was speaking of the Holy Spirit of God, describing it like living, sparkling water. Not a still or stagnant pool of water, but moving, flowing, crystal clear living water!

Gary Liebold

The Holy Spirit of God is pictured in the Bible as LIVING water. We must go to Christ to receive it, and it comes into us then flows out from us. God’s Holy Spirit flows out in love, peace, and joy, radiating from us like rivers of living water. There is no other way to find this resource, no other way to live a happy life, but to go to God and ask for it!

To understand Christ’s meaning in **John 7:38-39**, and the application of God’s Holy Spirit in the future, we need to first examine the actual power and workings of God’s Holy Spirit within us today.

THE WORKINGS OF WATER

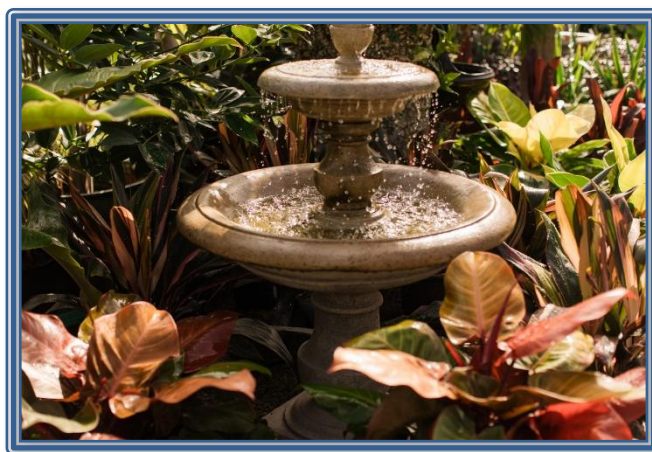
My wife has a small fountain near the entrance of our house, surrounded by pots of flowering plants and ferns, creating a little setting to enjoy from the wicker chair by the front door.

This fountain operates all hours of the day and night, providing peaceful trickling sounds, and a refreshing drink for the birds and squirrels that come through our property. A fountain is a wonderful basic example of how water works, and why God compares His Holy Spirit to water (as one of the representations of His Holy Spirit) in His Word, the Bible.

The water contained in a fountain is circulated by a local power source; in our case, a small pump concealed in the bottom of the main basin. The pump, the power source for this fountain, takes water into itself and distributes the water into the top opening of the fountain, where it flows out into an upper bowl, or receptacle. It continues to overflow outwards from one to another bowl, or catchment, to another, until it trickles into the main basin to start the entire process over again. If the main power source is functioning and water is available for the pump, the fountain will operate continuously, contributing to a tranquil environment that enhances the well-being of those in its vicinity.

There are so many analogies contained in this description of a water fountain! Reminders of just how God's Holy Spirit works within us, how it flows into us through the power of God, and how we must use that Holy Spirit to flow out of us to nourish and distribute the refreshing fruits of that spirit to others in our lives, as water does to the above fountain. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."** (Galatians 5:22-23).

We can see in the example of this fountain what the basic ingredients for this process to operate are. To work correctly, the fountain must have a



power source, water, and a receptacle. Without one component of the trio, it will not function. If the power goes out, no water will flow. If there is no receptacle to receive the water, there is no foundation for the fountain. More importantly, there is no sustenance, no harmonious, soothing, peaceful sound without water -- the flowing of water! In addition, since water evaporates daily, more water must be added daily... or the water dries up and the fountain ceases to operate. In like manner, we must ask for more of God's Holy Spirit daily, or we, too, will run out and will cease to function as the Christian God desires us to be.

RIVERS PRODUCE POWER

The fountain is but a small illustration of the workings of water, and how water can be compared to God's Holy Spirit. But this little fountain lacks something else that God desired to portray to us in the Bible by using another example to compare water to His Holy Spirit, and that is POWER! A small, decorative fountain does not have the level of power that God gives through the Holy Spirit -- but a river illustrates it well!

Take a moment and think about, visualize, a flowing, powerful river. There are many examples of these throughout the United States of America, and, indeed, throughout the world. Rivers with names like the Colorado, Mississippi, or Tennessee Rivers in North





America, the Amazon River in South America, the Nile River in Egypt, the Ganges River in India, and many, many more. All these rivers are famous for their size and strength... their actual power.

Yes, many rivers are extremely large and powerful, containing huge quantities of flowing, swirling water. With the constant addition to their water supply from melting snows of neighboring mountains or rains and runoff from thunderstorms along their path, along with the various creeks, streams, and tributaries that flow into them, rivers are an almost endless supply of both water and the power that water can generate.

Consider the fact that for centuries, mighty rivers have been harnessed by man through various construction efforts to supply power for multiple uses. This form of energy is termed hydropower, which is the use of falling or fast-running water to produce electricity or to power machines, and is considered to be a highly achievable method of sustainable energy production.

Since ancient times, hydropower from watermills has been used as a renewable energy source for irrigation and the operation of mechanical devices, such as gristmills, sawmills, textile and paper mills, and even dock cranes and lifts. Evidence suggests that the fundamentals of hydropower date to the

ancient Greek civilization, with additional evidence showing that the waterwheel, used in watermills, was developed in China about the same time, around the fourth century B.C. Moreover, further proof indicates that the use of hydropower to use irrigation machines for the growing of crops was also taking place in such places as Samaria and Babylonia.

Man learned to generate power from rivers by building dams. The era of large dams began with the construction of the Aswan Low Dam in Egypt in 1902. The Hoover Dam, a massive concrete arch-gravity dam, was built between 1931 and 1936 on the Colorado River. Currently, there are an estimated 800,000 dams worldwide, over 90,000 alone in the US with some 40,000 of them over fifteen meters, or nearly 50 feet, high. Hydropower is now used principally for hydroelectric power generation,

Other forms of hydropower include tidal stream generators using energy from tidal power generated from oceans, rivers, and human-made canal systems to generate electricity, and a trompe, which produces compressed air from falling water to power other machinery. These alternative forms of hydropower are used to drive the mechanical processes of milling, grinding, rolling, or hammering. Such processes are needed in the production of many material goods, including flour, lumber, paper, textiles, and many metal products. However amazing it may be to see the many ways mankind has



devised to harness, or channel, the power of great, living, moving bodies of water to further the development of civilization, it is even more mind boggling to think of how God created this power, the power contained in water, in the first place.

Water is the lifeblood to all living things on this earth, just as God's Holy Spirit is the lifeblood to His people. How marvelous are the living, flowing rivers of water that Jesus Christ used in **John 7** as an example of God's Holy Spirit!

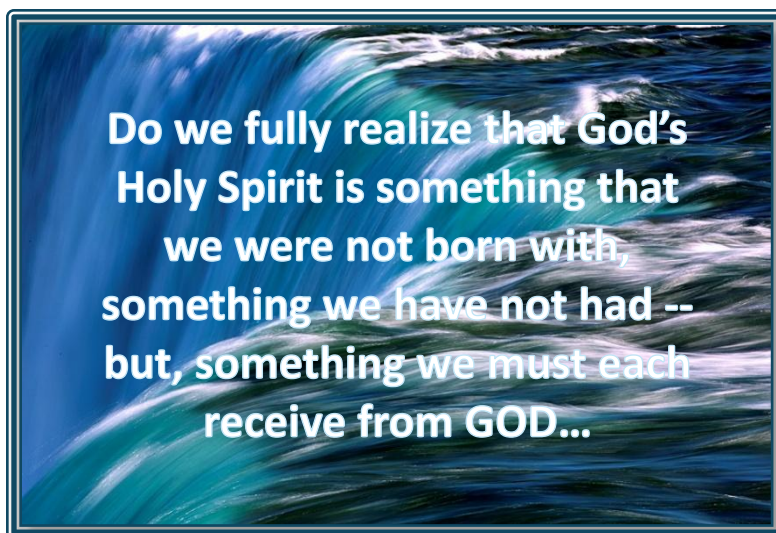
THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPARTS POWER

We might recognize that we must forsake our evil, selfish, carnal ways, and turn to live God's way! Yes, and we may fully understand what Isaiah said in **Isaiah 55:6-7**, **"Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."**

But there is one other critical verse in **Isaiah 55** that precedes these verses yet is necessary for the understanding of them. In **Isaiah 55:1**, we read, **"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters;"** Thirsty? For what? What "waters?" Why, the truth of God and the very "waters" of God's Holy Spirit.

Let us read **John 7:37-39** again, for this is a key scripture we need to understand. **"...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out**

of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But **this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive..."** Do we fully realize that God's Holy Spirit is something that we were not born with, something we have not had -- but something we must each receive from GOD individually if we repent, are baptized, and believe? The Holy Spirit is infinitely greater and more powerful than any other abilities within us. It is the essence, the very life, and the nature of God. It also is something from God, which He gives us from Himself, which is a part of Himself -- and that imparts POWER!



Do we understand just what that power is? Has that power come into us, so that we can use it, and understand how to use it, in our everyday lives? As a professing Christian, we may have come to realize, to see, and to comprehend, the TRUTH of God and

His way of life, but is this power being manifested in our lives? How is it a living power, flowing into and out from us like the rivers of living water? To truly know, we must continue to look to our Bibles!

THE CIRCULATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ is our example, and we find that He put this power from God first in His life. He knew that, even for Him when he was dwelling on earth in a human form, God's Holy Spirit was nothing physical, residing within Him. Christ said: **"I can of Myself do nothing..."** (**John 5:30**). He continued by saying, **"...the Father who dwells in Me does the works"** (**John 14:10**). The Father dwelt IN Jesus by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit imparted power to



God expects us to use His Holy Spirit actively in our lives to guide our conduct and attitudes, and to share the best attributes of that spirit with others.

Him. All through the years, true Christians have had none of this power inherent within themselves. None of us are the source of this dynamic power of ourselves. It does not come from the willpower of a mindset, and we cannot, of ourselves, work it up. It must come from God. And the key point is this: we do not receive enough of this divine power all at once to last forever! Jesus told His disciples, just before He ascended to heaven, that they should receive power upon conversion. **“...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;” (Acts 1:8).**

Remember, Jesus said this power of God shall flow out from our innermost being (**John 7:38**)! This power of God is active and dynamic, not stagnant, or placid. We cannot get a supply of God's Spirit and then bottle it up within us to save for later. This power comes into us from God daily, and it circulates from God into us and then on out from us, producing the fruit of the spirit such as love, joy, faith, patience, and more.

God expects us to use His Holy Spirit actively in our lives to guide our conduct and attitudes, and to share the best attributes of that spirit with others. So, we must understand that we need the gift of God's Holy Spirit DAILY. We might have received a measure of this power today and find we are spiritually depleted of it

by tomorrow! Jesus Christ came to deliver the message about the glorious coming of the Holy Spirit, as shown in **John 7:38-39**. Peter then clearly defined the way to receive this spirit of power: **“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).**

The Holy Spirit, once placed within us, is the only power strong enough to enable us to be able to keep the commandments and unlock the blessings that God desires to bestow upon us in this life and, for all eternity!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE MILLENNIUM

In the booklet written by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, ***“Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days -- Which?”*** the Holy Spirit is referenced in connection with forthcoming events during the Millennium and beyond. On **page 31** of this booklet, it states, **“Then it is that “living waters shall go out from Jerusalem,” and the Gentile nations that have not heard previously “shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles”! (Zech. 14:16.) Then it is that many nations “shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain [nation] of the Lord ...and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares ... neither shall they learn war any more ... In that day, saith the Lord ... the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever” (Micah 4:2-3, 6-7).”**

The **“waters”** mentioned above are literal as well as figurative. God often pictures His spiritual plan by comparing it with material events, using duality. The characteristics of water can be compared to the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. These scriptures detailed on

page 31 in Mr. Armstrong's powerful booklet explaining His appointed Holy Days picture the final culminating events in God's great Master Plan.

During the Millennium, the Kingdom of God into which we may be born will rule the nations. After Christ had died for our sins to redeem humanity and after He has sent the Holy Spirit to us, He picked out a special people to become kings and priests through the thousand years after His Second Coming. Billions of mortal men alive during the Millennium will still be heirs to the Kingdom of God, although they will not yet have inherited it as long as they remain mortal flesh. I **Corinthians 15:50** states, **"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."**

Jesus Christ has stated firmly that one must be born of Spirit to inherit the Kingdom of God. After He has placed all the sins upon the head of Satan, the author of sin, and separated both him and the sins from the presence of God and His people, He finally joined together with us as one to make us ready for that final series of events, the commencement of the **"Marriage of the Lamb."** God's Spirit will be poured out upon the peoples during the Millenium, and upon those who are resurrected from their graves in the future.

THE HOLY SPIRIT PIVOTAL FOR RESURRECTION

The truth about the necessity of the Holy Spirit flows like a river with connecting tributaries throughout all of God's Holy Days, intertwining them in a narrative describing His plan for all humankind. For example, Pentecost pictures the coming of God's Spirit, and the reaping of the first harvest of the elect and chosen first-fruits at the first resurrection. This first resurrection of the elect will occur at the Second

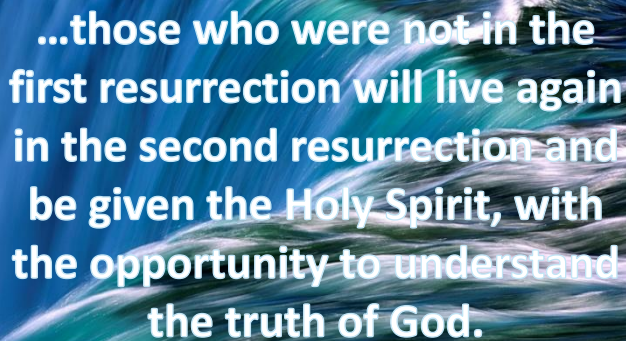
Coming of Jesus Christ when He returns to rule over the nations as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Then, all true Christians who have received God's Holy Spirit, shall be resurrected to immortality, to inherit Christ's world-ruling Kingdom. This first resurrection occurs at the last trumpet and is pictured by the Feast of Trumpets in God's Master Plan.

In **1 Corinthians 15:20-23** we see, **"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming."**

True Christians who have yielded their lives to God's Government and received God's Holy Spirit include the **"elect"** who are raised to immortal life in the first resurrection and those **"elect"** who are living at Christ's Second Coming. It is this small group that will become the "first-fruit" harvest of God's wonderful Master Plan. Christ promises rulership with Him to those who overcome (**Revelation 2:26; 3:21**), which He will give at His return (**1 Corinthians 15:2** and **Philippians 3:20-21**). Jesus Christ also spoke of more than one resurrection! In **Revelation 20:4-5**, it states, **"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was**



Christ promises rulership with Him to those who overcome (Revelation 2:26; 3:21), which He will give at His return (1 Corinthians 15:2 and Philippians 3:20-21).



...those who were not in the first resurrection will live again in the second resurrection and be given the Holy Spirit, with the opportunity to understand the truth of God.

committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished..." The Greek word for "soul" is "**psyche**," which imparts the same meaning as the Hebrew word "**nephesh**," which we find in the Old Testament.

John saw a vision that he spoke of in the above scripture, concerning the resurrection. The "**souls**" John saw in this vision were dead. **Revelation 20:4-5** speaks about both the first and the second resurrection, both occurring at separate times and to different sets of people. **Verse 4** and the first sentence of **verse 5** speaks of the first resurrection (see above paragraph), while the latter sentence of **verse 5** speaks of the second resurrection. **Revelation 20:5**, "**But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.**"

These people will be given access to God's Truth and His Holy Spirit and be able to learn what Christ's sacrifice meant for them, learning about God's Festivals. Their sins will be washed away in Christ's blood, just as ours have, upon their repentance.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

The second resurrection, also known as the "**Great White Throne Judgement**," will occur after the Millenium. Notice **verses 11 through 12** of **Revelation 20**... "**Then I saw a great white throne, and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God; and books were opened: And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**"

At this time, those who were not in the first resurrection will live again in the second resurrection and be given the Holy Spirit, with the opportunity to understand the truth of God. People who died, never knowing or understanding about God, people we may have known in our lives -- family members, friends, and even famous people we may only know of and have never met -- will all be part of the second resurrection. God knows every one of them -- if they died at sea, were buried in the ground, or **EVEN THOSE** whose ashes have been spread on the earth -- He will find them and resurrect them! The resurrected WILL have access to the living waters of God's Holy Spirit. "**Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price**" (Isaiah 55:1).

This will be the time when "**living waters**," the salvation of the Holy Spirit, will go out from Jerusalem to the entire world. God's Spirit will be POURED OUT upon all peoples during the Millenium and His Spirit will also eventually be POURED OUT upon those who are raised from their graves in the second resurrection. They will then be judged, just as **WE** in the Church of

God are being judged now. They will have to repent to receive these rivers of LIVING WATER, God's Holy Spirit. Many will have their names written in the **Book of Life**, a registry of the names of the righteous! This is what the **Last Great Day** is about!

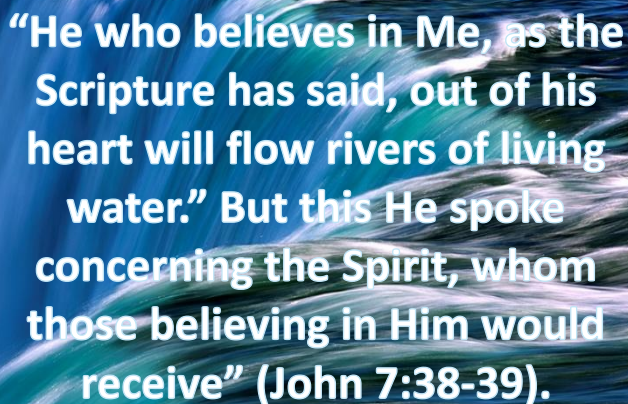
THE SPIRITUAL WATERS **OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

God continues to work out His great plan for mankind, even at this very moment, with His eye on the goal of His coming Kingdom and our roles in that Kingdom. **"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:22-23).** This is so uplifting, it is simply incredible -- but God's plan for man does not end with His firstfruits. In **Isaiah 65:20-25** we read, **"No more shall an infant from there *live but a few days*, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old ... They shall build houses and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit ... For as the days of a tree, so *shall be* the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they *shall be* the descendants of the blessed**

of the LORD, And their offspring with them. "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD."

These visionary verses paint a picture of the kind of utopia that man has longed for over the ages of time -- filled with hope and harmony and only made possible through the joining of God's Holy Spirit with the spirit in man. Man was made material, with a carnal, human nature, but was also made to need the Spirit of God. Without this spiritual life from God, we humans experience a sense of emptiness -- a hunger and thirst for that which will impart to us a sense of satisfaction, of completeness and abundance.

Being incomplete, lacking in the spiritual waters and heavenly food, God's Word, that would fill us to satisfaction, we have a gnawing hunger and a life-threatening thirst that leaves us miserable, empty, and discontented deep inside. Man seeks to quench his thirst and satisfy his hunger in the interests and pursuits and pleasures of this world, but never really finds complete satisfaction or happiness.



"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (John 7:38-39).

Humanity may not know it yet, but the answer to our sense of emptiness is GOD'S Spirit, a sense of God's nature and fullness. **"On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "*...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*"** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (John 7:38-39). God's Holy Spirit WILL quench that thirst for man forever with the RIVERS OF LIVING WATER! ♦

BIBLE STUDY

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles is a special, week-long opportunity for the entire family -- the individual, physical family as well as the spiritual family -- to be together in celebration of the coming wonderful world tomorrow.

1) The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Ingathering in **Exodus 23:16**, begins with a high day, or Holy Day, where all ordinary work is forbidden and on which the people are to gather before God. God commanded that this annual Festival be kept forever. (**Leviticus 23:33-36, 41**). It was designed to be a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings, picturing the Millennium.

2) God intends for everyone, regardless of age or economic level, to rejoice during the Feast (**Deuteronomy 16:14**). He shows us that the Feast of Tabernacles is to be a happy, wonderful time, picturing a foretaste of the prosperity, happiness, joy and universal peace that will come about in the 1,000-year Millennium under the righteous rule of Jesus Christ.

3) In **Deuteronomy 16:15**, God decrees that the Feast of Tabernacles lasts a full seven days, taking place where He chooses it to be by working through the government He has placed in the Church. God **COMMANDS** His people to come together to be taught to fellowship and to rejoice together. Young, old, married or single, we can experience the joy and abundance of this festival with members of God's spiritual family.

4) God's people are to live in temporary dwellings, anciently called "booths", during the Feast. (**Leviticus 23:40-42**). God intends to

separate and free His people from the world by living in temporary dwellings for an entire week away from our everyday surroundings, jobs and most negative influences during the Feast of Tabernacles. By doing so, God's people enjoy a tiny foretaste of the universal freedom, peace, and joy that will exist in the Millennium.

5) Just as the Feast of Tabernacles is a physical feast filled with rejoicing, it is also a spiritual feast of education and preparation. Members of God's Church receive instruction from God's ministers through inspiring sermons to help them further qualify to rule with Christ during the Millennium (**Micah 4:2**). Christians at the Feast demonstrate now, by the way they live together in harmony, what this current unhappy world will be like after Christ returns.

6) After Christ returns and establishes God's government over the earth, the nations of this world will come to Him for instruction in God's way of life at the Feast of Tabernacles in the Millennium. Only then will they finally come to understand God's way to happiness, abundant living, peace and salvation (**Isaiah 11:6-9**).

A civilization based on God's law of love and His way of life, resulting in both spiritual and physical blessings for all, will come to fruition. The world will come to know that God's Master Plan pictures the way to physical blessings and spiritual salvation.◆

Excerpts From the Desk of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong...

For each continuing issue of our magazine, we will post various EXCERPTS from Mr. Armstrong's past writings, sermons, and Bible studies.

The Good News

**Personal from Herbert W. Armstrong
October/November 1980**

HOW CHRIST CHOSE AND EDUCATED HIS APOSTLE

LIKE THE AD said of the Volkswagen -- I am, after all, ONLY HUMAN! At times I have wondered, in retrospect, WHY did the mighty living Jesus Christ call and choose a worm like me as His apostle, to lead His people in our present end time?



King David likewise felt he was unworthy to be God's leader. David cried out, "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people" (Ps. 22:6). David remained small in his own eyes. **MEN** would never have chosen him to be king (see I Sam. 16: 1-12), but God did.

...In the year of 1927, weeks after my conversion, I wrote for the future magazine God had put in my mind, *The Plain Truth*, an article on THIS WORLD'S EDUCATION. It is primarily a process of memory training -- the injecting into unsuspecting plastic young minds ready-made and largely false propaganda.

...In the Work of God carried on by the Church it became necessary to establish GOD'S OWN COLLEGE for training personnel for various operations and administrations of the Work (I Cor. 12:5-6).

...God has not used a SUPERman as His instrument and servant in building and developing His Church and His Work. But He has chosen and used one who can REPENT of mistakes and sins, CORRECT what has been wrong and SET IT BACK ON THE TRACK.

...What kind of men did Jesus choose as His first apostles and leaders in founding God's CHURCH? Men Christ-EDUCATED, yet considered by the public as "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4: 13).

One may ask, "But wasn't the apostle Paul a man educated in this world?" The answer is **NO!** Paul was privately tutored by Gamaliel, a Jewish Pharisee. Paul had been taught according to the Jewish religious law, and was "zealous toward God" (Acts 22:3). Paul was not indoctrinated in atheistic evolution or anything resembling today's materialistic "higher education." When Jesus struck Paul down and later in Arabia taught him in person, Paul had no poisonous mind-addiction to unfit him. Christ could not use one of such 20th-century educational injection as the spiritual leader over His people.

That's why **Jesus Christ had to choose as His apostle for the present time one UNinoculated with this world's satanic educational poison, but whose SELF-education Christ directed** -- who was finally educated BY JESUS CHRIST as were the original apostles - except by the SAME Word of God in print instead of the Word of God in Person! (**Emphasis** above, by the editor of *The Lantern* magazine)



COMING ARTICLES



II Peter 1:19

◆ Responsibility and the Work Ethic

The Bible has a lot to say about the work ethic. In **II Thessalonians 3:10**, the apostle Paul admonished Christians, **“If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”** In **verses 11-12**, he says, **“For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.”** Paul’s words demonstrate how important God finds it for His people to work and to have the right work ethic!

◆ The Living Lesson of Pando

Mr. Geary Whiting owns and teaches a private school called the **Equine Massage Academy**. Recently, he was surprised when one of his students mentioned the name of “Pando.” He knew that most people have never even heard of this name. It made him wonder: How many of our readers know what Pando is and what kind of spiritual lesson we can learn from it? In this article, we’re going to relate the lesson of the Pando and how it pictures our relationship with God and Jesus Christ.

◆ Biblical Personality Profile: Esther

The book of Esther is named after its central character, Esther, a Jewish girl from the tribe of Benjamin living in exile, who rose to become queen of Persia. Her bravery and wisdom saved her people from annihilation when faced with a decree to exterminate them. The story about Esther demonstrates the importance of courage in the face of difficulty and the power of taking risks for the good of others, and to trust in God even when we can’t Him working. Esther’s life and faith demonstrates that when we walk with God, He can do the impossible in our lives.