

# The Good News

MAY 1980

A Time to Laugh

We Are Ambassadors  
for a Foreign Power!

Should Christians Celebrate  
Birthdays?

Checklist for Christian  
Growth

'Occupy Till I Come'

The Most Common Sin—  
Are You Guilty?



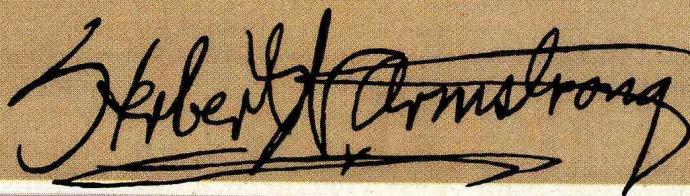
## Prepare Now to Rule

See Page 4

**Let God Fight Your  
Battles!**  
By Herbert W.  
Armstrong



Personal from



## Let God Fight Your Battles!

**B**RETHREN, the world you live in today is a very *troubled* world. You not only have your own *personal* problems, but you also suffer from the deliberate *OPPOSITION* and *ANTAGONISM* of the world around you.

It is time you considered how to conquer these troubles — how to be *FREE* from them — how to let *GOD* fight your battles instead!

### One lesson not yet learned

First, *understand this*: If the *WORLD* today is not happy — if world conditions are in a chaotic state, if lives are empty and purposeless, if minds are filled with fears and worries, bodies wracked with sickness and disease — *THERE IS A REASON!* Conditions are *what we make them!*

Mortal *HUMANS*, groping in the darkness of confusion, have made conditions what they are. Humanity is *REAPING* what it has *SOWN!* Only the direct and all-powerful supernatural intervention of *ALMIGHTY GOD* can deliver this world from *all* its troubles.

What the world doesn't know is that God will not cause *its present ways of wrong living* to bring any *human* utopia. Rather, *GOD ALMIGHTY* WILL SOON HAVE TO STEP IN AND *RULE* OVER THE *WORLD* — bringing it INTO THE *WAYS* of His just laws, which *alone* can produce this happy *TOMORROW!*

Brethren, WE, TOO, HAVE LESSONS TO LEARN. Even though stubborn and rebellious mankind brings upon the world even *DARKER* days in the immediate future, *REMEMBER* — it's

*DARKEST* just before *DAWN*. Take hope in the *SURE* knowledge *that* the *new* world of *GOD's* making — and *RULING* — is *VERY* near today!

But in the meantime, what about YOU and your own private life and problems? Let us consider some of *your own private*, personal *TROUBLES*. I know that you have them! And I want to *tell* you something — I want to tell you *GOOD* news. You are carrying a lot of worries and fears and troubles *that you don't need to carry!*

Life is simply filled with private, personal battles. We have to battle fears and worries. Sometimes it seems we have to battle *PEOPLE* who appear to be enemies — often it's a husband, a wife or a mother-in-law — and whether you realize it or not, YOU also have to battle *YOURSELF!*

It is like having to fight a host of *ENEMIES* — all these *TROUBLES*, these *CIRCUMSTANCES*, these adverse *CONDITIONS*, these *TEMPTATIONS!* But there is a way you may *FREE* yourself from these troubles that confront you. There is a *WAY OUT!* You can be *FREE* from fighting all of these enemies except just *ONE* — your own self, and you can receive a lot of *HELP* and *KNOWLEDGE* and *POWER* in doing that!

Here's where that help can be found!

### Jesus Christ is the Deliverer

The Eternal Creator-RULER of the universe — the God who gives you the very air you breathe — sent His own begotten SON, Jesus Christ, into this world more than 1,900 years ago to *BRING YOU BRETHREN THE WAY OF DELIVERANCE* from all your trials, your worries, your problems. *WHY,*

then, do some of you not *LISTEN* to the way He taught us? And *WHY* do so many people think of Him as a dead Christ hanging on a cross? *GOD ALMIGHTY* RAISED HIM FROM THE *DEAD!* Jesus Christ is our *LIVING* Savior and High Priest, just as the Creator is a *LIVING RULER* OF ALL THE *UNIVERSE!*

DO YOU REALIZE THAT *JESUS CHRIST*, THE *LIVING*, *RESURRECTED* *CHRIST*, TO WHOM IS GIVEN *ALL POWER*, HAS A *PRESENT* MISSION TO PERFORM? Do you realize that His present mission is to *FIGHT YOUR BATTLES* FOR YOU — to *DELIVER YOU* — to *FREE* you from all your fears, your *TROUBLES* and even the *circumstances that beset you?*

*Thousands* of you would come to *me* for help in your troubles if I had time to see and talk to you — you'd come with husband-and-wife troubles, funeral troubles — every kind of trouble. Yes, you'd come to *me* because I'm *human* — one you can *see* — whose voice you *hear*. But *because* I'm only human, I have not the ability, the strength nor the *TIME* to render such a personal ministry to so many brethren in different parts of the world.

Now think this over carefully, and *ANSWER THIS!* *WHY* do you fight your *own* battles, when *HE* — the *LIVING* Savior — is living in *ALL POWER* to fight them for you?

He's *REAL*. He's *DIVINE*. *WHY* do some of you brethren go on worrying, when *HE* is right there in *ALL THE POWER* OF THE *DIVINE* CREATOR to *FREE* you from all your worries?

*WHY?* There is one of two reasons. Either you have not fully *KNOWN* of this great, all-encompassing *DIVINE* *SOURCE* OF *POWER* that YOU can call

(Continued on page 27)



# The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God

---

By Herbert W. Armstrong

---

**T**HE BEGINNING AND growth of this era of the true Church of God is the story of a beginning amid the very depth of the worst economic depression within the memory of man today. Its beginning was humble and small beyond compare. Its growth unmatched among institutions and organizations of our day. Its methods unique in a modern world.

This entire Work has belied human experience. It has reversed accepted procedures. Yet I must hasten to add, none of these were of my devising.

In a word, it is the story of what the living CHRIST can do — has done, and is doing — through a very average human instrument, whom He had brought to humble submission and whose eyes He opened to amazing TRUTHS!

Chapter 1 showed how God always has done whatever He has done with and through mankind by and through ONE MAN at a time. Chapter 1 explained how the living Christ prepared His chosen apostle of this time.

The time was the autumn of 1926 to spring of 1927. My conversion and baptism was in the spring of 1927. But the parent church of the present

Worldwide Church of God was not established until autumn, 1933 — in the very depth of the worst depression of the century.

In my business as a publishers' representative in Chicago, Ill., I had made, while still in my 20s, an annual income equal to \$175,000 based on the 1980 value of the dollar.

He had been preparing me. Now He proceeded in further preparation. I had been vigorous, aggressive, successful. But this had made me self-confident, cocky, conceited. God had to reduce that to humility, and self-confidence had to be supplanted by FAITH in Christ.

So, in the flash depression of 1920, He took away my business — all but a most meager income. Customers such as the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Moline Plow Works, Avery Co., Dalton Adding Machine Co. — others — all went into receivership. All my larger advertising contracts were canceled.

I held on for two more years, then went to Iowa, where I put on surveys of local business conditions for daily newspapers.

In 1924 we moved to Oregon. There I developed a successful advertising service for laundries. Every leading laundry from Eugene, Ore., to Seattle and Everett, Wash., and also in Wenatchee, Spokane, and Walla Walla, Wash., had become clients. The laundry industry was

11th largest in the nation, yet the most backward.

My service, combined with internal efficiency-management service, was doubling and tripling the business volume of clients. Then a cooperative national advertising campaign inaugurated by the Laundryowners' National Association took my business by forces totally beyond my knowledge or control. I came to know later that, in fact, it was God taking away my business, reducing me to poverty and even hunger, preparing me for the dual challenges and intensive biblical studies that resulted in my conversion.

It was while we were visiting my parents in Salem that a neighbor lady, Mrs. Ora J. Runcorn, opened my wife's eyes to the truth of God's Sabbath. I had no love for that neighbor lady at first.

But, once my in-depth study had proved to me that I was wrong, I was converted and baptized, my dislike for that lady turned to an affectionate warmth in which my wife and I looked on her and her husband as almost our "parents-in-the-Lord."

I was so filled with these new biblical truths — and thrilled — that immediately I began writing in article form various truths I had found.

The Runcorns — our "spiritual parents" — were members of the Church of God, Seventh Day, with headquarters at Stanberry, Mo. I had studied completely their *Bible*



*Home Instructor*, and I began submitting some of my articles for publication in their church weekly, *The Bible Advocate*. My articles began to appear, beginning on the front cover.

Through the Runcorns we met other Church of God brethren in Salem and farther south in the Willamette River valley.

However, I did not join with them. They were so small, so uneducated, except for their limited amount of "Sabbath-keeping" Bible knowledge — and their work, as I found, so ineffective and unproductive, I could not believe they could be God's one and only true Church.

I had learned in my biblical studies, how Jesus said the gates of the grave would never prevail against His true Church.

I knew that Church had to exist — but WHERE? I had learned it had to be a Sabbath-keeping Church. That limited it to this Stanberry headquartered Church, the Seventh-day Adventists and the Seventh-day Baptists. But also I had seen the NAME of the true Church 12 times in the New Testament, as the CHURCH OF GOD. And Jesus said He had kept His disciples in the Father's name and prayed the Church would be held together by that name.

Incidentally, I have never been a member of the Seventh-day Adventists — never even attended one of their regular Sabbath services. I mention this only because in the past the rumor had been spread that I formerly was an Adventist.

But my search for the one true Church was now narrowed to this one Church, the Church of God, Seventh Day, with a headquarters small publishing place in Stanberry, Mo. Yet I could not then reconcile myself to believing a church so small, so fruitless, with an uneducated ministry, could be God's one and only true Church. Of course, I was newly converted. I suppose I assumed the true Church would be a large and powerful Church. Yet I had noticed Jesus called His followers "the little flock," and I had seen two different churches depicted in the book of Revelation — one large, powerful, ruling governments and called a "great whore," and the other small and persecuted and having to flee for safety.

I later learned that this, in the late 1920s, was only the remnant of the formerly more effective Church of the "Sardis" era (Rev. 3:1-6).

I think it was in the autumn of 1927 the Runcorns invited us to go with them to a meeting to be held in a schoolhouse south of Salem in the Willamette Valley.

We went with them to this meeting. Lunch was served under a large tree outdoors. I was asked to give the blessing on the food. It was the first time in my life I had ever prayed before others — but God helped me so they did not know it was a first prayer before others.

I had been asked previously to speak before these people, but had declined. Being a preacher was the *last* thing I wanted to be. But now I had discovered a special Sabbath covenant, binding for ever, in Exodus 31:12-18. I knew this, as a binding covenant, was unknown to them. I could not withhold from them what I had discovered, so I accepted their invitation this time.

It was the first "sermon" — if it could be called that — of my life. But it met great enthusiasm from those brethren, and I was invited to another meeting a month later.

This is when the persecution — from their ministers — got into red-hot action. Their brethren all loved me from the first. But not their preachers. This time their nearest minister, stationed in Idaho, was on hand to refute whatever I said. It was an all-day meeting. This minister managed for me to speak in the morning, so he could refute me in the afternoon.

In August that year, 1927, my wife had been suddenly and completely healed by prayer and anointing, of quinsy (a swelled lump in her throat so she could not swallow food or water), blood poisoning, a dog bite and one or two other things. A doctor had said she could not live another 24 hours. She had not had any sleep for 72 hours, or food or water. As a result, I had thoroughly studied what the Bible revealed about healing, and I had the subject well in hand.

At this second meeting with these "Sardis" people, I preached in the morning about God's promise to heal. But in the afternoon, the minister from Idaho vehemently attacked

my sermon. He quoted the scripture saying many would come saying they had done many wonderful works in Jesus' name, but He would reply, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23). Of course he *twisted* this scripture out of context.

My first encounter with a Stanberry minister had been in the spring of 1927 — the first of their ministers I had seen. He, too, had little or no education, but a dominant and argumentative personality. He was staying at the home of another member in Salem, a Mrs. Gross. That was when I was studying the question of baptism. I had completed the Sabbath study, had learned of the annual Holy Days, the preexistence of angels on earth, the presence of Satan as the former Lucifer, the identity of the United States and Britain as the birthright tribes of the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" and other BASIC truths the Stanberry-based church did not know.

But I had been raised in the Quaker church, which does not believe in water baptism. Therefore I was studying the question of baptism, for I was ready to be baptized. I had gone to a minister of the Friends' Church (Quaker), and, with my knowledge of the subject from my very recent study, had caused him to admit his church was teaching contrary to the Bible on the subject.

But now I wanted to talk to a minister of the Church of God about it. I went over to the Gross home and told this minister I was a candidate for baptism and would like to talk with him about it.

"I haven't any time to waste on an unbaptized man," he said, insultingly. "I will be giving a public lecture on baptism at the Seventh-day Adventist church tomorrow afternoon. If you want to know anything about baptism, come to the lecture." I was taken aback at his gruff, insulting manner.

"Why, you talk as if I were some kind of a heathen and not a Christian," I said.

"I *know* you are not a Christian!" he retorted angrily. "Anyone who has not been baptized is not a Christian!"

"Well," I said meekly, "maybe you're right, but I would never say

(Continued on page 22)



brother to Lubang to plead with him. But Lt. Onoda would not come out of hiding and would never drop his defenses for an instant. He had been told, "No surrender," and no one — not even his own brother — would be able to deceive him.

Eventually, however, Lt. Onoda did surrender. A young Japanese photographer made contact with him, and asked him under what circumstances he would give in. Lt. Onoda's answer was simple — send the man who told him *not* to give in. Let him rescind his order.

Back in Japan, Lt. Onoda's commanding officer was located. He was now a middle-aged book dealer. He was issued with copies of the original surrender orders and sent to Lubang, where eventually he was able to contact Lt. Onoda.

And so, March 9, 1974, nearly 29 years after his country had surrendered, Hiroo Onoda emerged from the jungle. In spite of his tattered uniform, he looked every inch a soldier. His weapons were in top-notch condition. He was still a fighting force. And as the last warrior of the second world war surrendered, he at least had the satisfaction of knowing that he had fulfilled his calling — he *occupied till they came*.

You will probably already have begun to see the lessons in Lt. Onoda's story for God's Church today. Like Lt. Onoda, we did not volunteer, but were conscripted or called into this Work of God. Christ sets us in the Body, not perhaps doing what we want to do, but as it pleases Him (I Cor. 12:18). There is a Work to be done that is bigger than a single individual's aspiration.

At present this earth — the territory of the coming Kingdom of God — is occupied by a hostile and alien power — Satan, the god of this world.

But Christ said He would not take us out of the world, but leave us in it *to do the Work*. He told us, "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). Like any commander who understands men, Christ has not left us without a structure or a chain of command. A soldier, fighting for his king and country, must be under the command of a general and other officers. Otherwise, a coordinated effort cannot be made.

The soldier does not appoint the general — the king or president does

that. Christ called Herbert W. Armstrong to be His human leader in this age. Then He called the rest of us to assist Mr. Armstrong.

Like Hiroo Onoda, we are told our life is not our own. We are not to consider surrender or quitting. We are to live in the enemy's territory and bear witness to another way of life. We must tell the good news that deliverance is coming to this unhappy, wretched world.

Christ warned that since we would be in enemy territory, the mission would sometimes be hazardous. The enemy would attack and persecute us and do his best to persuade us to surrender to him. He would try to discourage us and make us feel abandoned. He would try to discredit our leaders. He would try to make us feel that the fight was futile and the weapons inadequate. "The sword of the Spirit? The shield of faith? The breastplate of righteousness? Aw'mon, this is the 20th century. Nobody fights with that stuff anymore."

But the orders are clear, no matter how long it is — occupy till Christ comes back. He promised He will come back, and when He does He expects to find us "so doing" (Matt. 24:46).

Lt. Onoda expected to be on Lubang for only two or three years at the most. The early apostles expected Christ to return for them within weeks of His ascending to heaven. Only later did they come to realize that it was going to be much longer.

Some of us in the Church today may feel we have been waiting a long time. Now we are entering a new decade, and this may be the one. Each week, world events seem to make Christ's return more likely.

Jesus Christ must certainly come soon. But we can't set dates or give Him ultimatums. Whether it is 1990 or 2000 or some other date, it makes no difference. The instruction is still valid.

Fight on. Don't let enemy propaganda wear you down. Stay loyal to your King and His appointed leadership. Do the work of a soldier of Jesus Christ. This is our reasonable service — it is what is expected (Rom. 12:1).

An ordinary soldier, fighting for his physical emperor, showed that he understood this. Hiroo Onoda endured to the end. How much more should we, fighting for the King of kings and the Lord of lords? □

## The History

(Continued from page 3)

such a thing about you or any other man, and I'm glad that you are not my judge."

I attended his lecture, but learned nothing new. I had no occasion to speak to the man at the meeting. The Adventists had given him permission to use their church house for a week-day meeting.

Late in 1927 a young minister came to Oregon from Stanberry. He called on me, since my articles had been appearing as lead cover articles in *The Bible Advocate*. He seemed friendly, yet there was a definite hostility underneath. Soon my articles were rejected at Stanberry.

Meanwhile I had learned of a small group of about 10 members that met together for Sabbath-school study each Sabbath in Oregon City. They were poor, uneducated, except for one man, elderly Mr. G.A. Hobbs, 82 years of age. He was 82, stern and peppery, strict for orderly procedures. Yet despite his peppery exterior, he had a heart of love and became very fond of me.

I had begun attending with this tiny group in Oregon City, and they had asked me to be their teacher. I did not preach, but just in ordinary conversation expounded the Scriptures to them.

When Mr. Hobbs heard *The Bible Advocate* had rejected my articles on recommendation of this young minister, he wrote them a scorching hot letter of protest, and my articles were reinstated.

However, this young minister, Roy Daily, and I did, over the next few years, especially in 1931, work together. He had become more friendly as we got to know each other.

Things continued about as I have described for the next three years.

Our firstborn son, Richard David "Dick," was born Oct. 13, 1928. That was the happiest day of my life. I had waited 12 years for a son, though God had given us two daughters.

Things were getting tougher for me and my family through 1927 and 1928 and 1929. God knew I needed much more humbling, and He did it economically. I had not realized it,



but my false god, from 18 years on, had been to achieve SUCCESS in business. I did not crave money as such. I did want to be a SUCCESS — and this world measures “success” by what a man accumulates, as well as by accomplishment.

But meanwhile, my Bible study continued, and I was accumulating much more knowledge and Bible UNDERSTANDING. The year 1928 had been a year of great progress in my life SPIRITUALLY!

The year 1929 was a crucial year! It was a year of tremendous activity in WORLD EVENTS. On June 7, 1929, the papal state in Rome, extinct since 1870, was revived as a state or nation — the Vatican. The great stock market crash occurred Oct. 29. That was the start of the most severe economic depression the United States had ever experienced. It was a year of going actually HUNGRY for us. It was in late January of 1930 that I learned the lesson of FASTING and prayer, with such miraculous answers to prayer. I have published this before and will not take space for it here.

Our second son, and fourth child, was born Feb. 9. And to THINK! Garner Ted has now passed the HALF-CENTURY mark — past 50 years of age! Unbelievable! And today, as I write, is his 50th birthday. I pray very earnestly for him every day, and God is going to answer my prayers! He was born on a Sunday.

During these years, my FAITH had increased, the faith OF Jesus Christ, which God GAVE me through His Holy Spirit. There were many miraculous answers to prayer, especially just before Ted's birth, and his healing of being born dumb, by prayer and the laying on of my hands after he was past 2 years old.

It was in November, 1930, that the Runcorns asked my wife and me to accompany them to a business meeting of the Church down in the Willamette Valley, at the home of Mrs. Ira E. Curtis. The Church in Oregon was being divided. One group, in which were the Runcorns and Mr. Hobbs, were opposing Andrew N. Dugger, who had been the head minister at Stanberry.

At this meeting, they asked me to act as secretary and take down the minutes of the meeting, though I had never joined the Church.

At this meeting, the strife between the two divisions became heated. Tempers were flaring. It was rapidly moving into an angry fistfight.

Quickly I rose to my feet. In a loud but calm voice I asked if I might say a word. I was but a guest, but I said we were all Sabbath keepers and Satan was angry. I was going to drop to my knees and ask God to restrain Satan from our midst, and said they could kneel too, if they wished. I knelt immediately, and beseeched God to give us peace and rebuke Satan. When I rose, all the fight had gone out of them.

They asked me, before leaving, if I would conduct an evangelistic cam-

---

Plainly, in these  
tumultuous last days,  
God would raise up  
one who would  
KNOW he is  
of THE HOUSE OF  
DAVID, as Christ's chosen  
apostle and messenger  
to the KINGS OF THE  
EARTH, to carry . . .  
Christ's Gospel . . .

---

paign for them in a church at Harrisburg, Ore. I told them I would have 11 nights free beginning Sunday night, Dec. 21. But I had never preached before the public. I said I would do it if they would agree to each spend ONE HOUR in solid prayer for these meetings, beginning then, until the meetings were over.

I don't think they had all spent that much time in prayer daily, but it was too embarrassing for them to refuse.

The ones who wanted to withdraw their tithes from Stanberry proceeded immediately to incorporate as the Oregon Conference. Mr. G.A. Hobbs was president and Mr. Runcorn vice president.

I held the 11-night campaign. The small church they hired for the 11 nights seated about 150, and we had about 100 in attendance. I designed a

good-sized circular, had it printed, and brethren circulated it throughout a 5-mile radius of Harrisburg.

God gave me four new conversions in the 11 nights' meetings.

But what would I do about baptizing them? I was not yet an ordained minister. Yet I knew Jesus had said, in the great commission, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them . . .” Those who did the teaching were to baptize. The young minister, Roy Daily, was at the time in a hospital. I conferred with him, and he agreed I should do the baptizing.

Good old peppery brother Hobbs scolded me real good for the baptizing, saying it should have been taken up “with the authorities.” But my wife silenced him and we all laughed.

That was my first evangelistic effort, and first preaching to the public.

God did not induct me into His ministry as an imposing pompous figure of superior position in the ministry. Rather, I was a good deal like the apostle Paul, who wrote to the Corinthian church: “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom . . . and I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling” (I Cor. 2:1, 3). I was no VIP entering Christ's ministry.

From the very first, in my association with these Sardis brethren, I was treated by their ministers as the greenhorn tail-ender. The Sardis brethren all loved me. But their jealous ministers used every device constantly to humiliate me and persecute. God blessed my efforts to produce “fruit,” but their efforts produced none! But all this was what God knew I needed. I did not come into the seat where God has now put me by playing politics or jerking the rug out from under one higher up than I. Yet I have seen this type of politics played in God's Work ever since my conversion, 53 years ago.

In the early summer of 1931 a former Seventh-day Adventist minister, Robert L. Taylor, moved to Oregon from Southern California. The brethren of the Oregon Conference were swept off their feet by him. They said he was a better speaker than any from Stanberry. The Oregon Conference brethren wanted to team Mr. Taylor



and me together to hold a tent meeting in Eugene. Mr. Taylor welcomed the idea. I had now been preaching for 3½ years and my whole heart was in it. Being ordained by the Oregon Conference was the most momentous occasion of my life.

I was ordained at an all-day meeting in June. I do not remember the date, but it could have been at or very near Pentecost.

This, as I wrote in the *Autobiography*, brings us to a series of almost incredible facts! Certainly this strange chain of circumstances was not of my planning.

First, Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry at about age 30. The year was A.D. 27. That was the time when He began calling and training His first apostles.

When I was 30 Christ began His call to me by taking away my business in Chicago. All my principal clients went into receivership. Christ was to put me into His service later, but He began taking my business life away, in preparation, when I was 30.

Second, Jesus began the actual teaching and training of the original apostles in that year, A.D. 27. Precisely 100 time cycles later, 1927, I was baptized and my intensive study, following baptism, for Christ's ministry, started.

Now what is significant about 100 time cycles? God set the earth, sun and moon in space, among other reasons, *to mark out spaces of time!* One revolution of the earth, measured by the sun, is *a day*. God counts a day as ending at sunset on the earth. One revolution of the moon around the earth is a lunar month, according to God's sacred calendar. One revolution of the earth around the sun is a solar year.

But the earth, moon and sun come into almost exact conjunction every 19 years.

Nineteen years marks off one complete time cycle, as God measures time!

The actual ordination, or endowment of power for the Gospel ministry of the original apostles, occurred after 3½ years, at the time of Pentecost. A.D. 31.

Also, after 3½ years of preliminary ministerial training, 100 time cycles later, A.D. 1931, Jesus Christ had me ordained and for the first

time put full time into the Work of Christ's Gospel, at the very time of Pentecost, June, 1931.

One fact more.

God has said: "The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first [in the latter days — now just ahead of us], that *the glory of the house of David* and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. *In that day [now soon to come] . . . he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God*, as the angel [messenger] of the LORD before them. . . . And I will pour *upon the house of David . . . the spirit of grace*" (Zech. 12:7-10).

Plainly the apostle (one sent forth — or messenger of God) God would use in these perilous last days would be of the HOUSE OF DAVID. The house of David is NOT one of the tribes — but those individuals descended from David.

I have mentioned that some years ago I was contacted by a foundation, formed for the purpose of maintaining the genealogy of a certain family. My great-grandfather Armstrong, who had a biblical name, father of my grandfather Nathan Armstrong, had married into this family. So the foundation has my genealogy back to the kings of France, and King Edward I of England. The genealogy of the royal family of Britain carries every generation back to King David of ancient Israel. THEREFORE GOD HAS PRESERVED MY ANCESTRY EVERY GENERATION FROM DAVID, AND I AM *OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID!*

Plainly, in THESE tumultuous last days, God would raise up one who would KNOW he is of THE HOUSE OF DAVID, as Christ's chosen apostle and messenger to the KINGS OF THE EARTH, to carry the TRUE MESSAGE of Christ's Gospel, which was suppressed from the world from midcentury 1 to the middle of the 20th century.

While I began proclaiming the true Gospel in 1931, it did not reach Europe and Britain until 1953, on Jan. 7.

SO, ONE MORE ASTOUNDING FACT — IT WAS PRECISELY 100 TIME CYCLES — A.D. 53 to A.D. 1953 that THE TRUE GOSPEL WAS SUPPRESSED!

But even that is not all!

In Haggai and Zechariah, Zerubabel was governor and BUILDER of the second temple in Jerusalem to which Christ came at His first coming. But read again in chapters 2 and 3 of Haggai and the first four chapters of Zechariah! The real MESSAGE is about OUR TIME, NOW — the LAST DAYS! The time when God will "shake all nations," Haggai 2:7 and verse 9, "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former" (Solomon's temple). The physical temple built by Zerubbabel was nowhere near as glorious as Solomon's temple. It is speaking of the TEMPLE to which Christ shall come at His SECOND COMING — soon now — the SPIRITUAL Temple, the CHURCH, which Christ shall marry at His coming, when the Church shall be made SPIRIT and IMMORTAL in GLORY!

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' first coming. He was the messenger in the PHYSICAL wilderness of the Jordan River, preparing for the HUMAN Jesus coming to the MATERIAL temple of stone and to the PHYSICAL people of Judah, ANNOUNCING that some 100 time cycles later, He would establish the immortal KINGDOM OF GOD on earth. But read, in Malachi 3, not only verse 1, referring to John the Baptist typically, but verses 1-5, speaking of His SECOND COMING. WHO is to be the messenger in the SPIRITUAL wilderness of the 20th century religious confusion — spiritual confusion — who was to prepare the SPIRITUAL temple, the Church, for the coming of the glorified SPIRITUAL Christ of all POWER AND GLORY — coming to His SPIRITUAL Temple — the Church of God — and not to announce, but to actually ESTABLISH on earth the spiritual KINGDOM OF GOD?

All these things shout a message to God's Church today!

There definitely IS a 19-year time cycle. It CANNOT be used to prognosticate or foretell future events, but it is a *fact that has HAPPENED!*

Read this over again. Think this over soberly! It gives you PROOF that we are the one and only true Church of God for these latter days!

More next month, as I continue with my experiences with the Sardis Church and the foundation of the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! □

(To be continued)



# PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

on at will — you have not REALIZED what ALL-CONQUERING HELP you can have — or else you have, through lack of faith or neglect, FAILED to CALL ON that supernatural HELP in your times of need!

Brethren, CAN I open your eyes to see that God is a God of LOVE — that God in all His supreme power wills above all things for you to PROSPER and BE IN HEALTH and to find the way to the HAPPY, FULL, ABUNDANT LIFE? That Jesus Christ is a LIVING SAVIOR, to whom you can go AT ALL TIMES — a Savior to save you from your present everyday fears and worries, adverse circumstances, troubles, sicknesses and trials, as well as to save you from eternal DEATH at the end?

Notice what Scripture commands, "Let us therefore *come boldly* unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find *grace to help in time of need*" (Heb. 4:16).

## God is interested in your life now

God's salvation is NOT something you collect *only* after you die — IT IS A PRACTICAL, COMMON-SENSE, USEFUL salvation which starts in your everyday life RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

What *needless* pains some have been suffering. What NEEDLESS fears and worries *you* may have been carrying around. What WONDERFUL TIMES — what HAPPINESS you may have cheated yourself out of, just because you have not REALIZED and taken advantage of the very PRESENT and all-powerful HELP of your *LIVING Savior!*

Actually what is happening is that you may have found yourself faced with foes far more powerful than you. These foes may come in forms of troubles, of unforeseen circumstances, of worries, of sicknesses or even of other persons. These foes NEED not make your life unhappy.

## Old Testament illustration

Did you ever really think through the full meaning of I Corinthians 10:11 — that the incidents in the lives of God's people of Old Testa-

ment times were written into the Bible for *OUR* LEARNING AND HELP?

I want now to turn to the experience of a man who lived in that time. This man found that he could RELY on the Almighty GOD. This man was faced with a FAR more terrifying trouble than has ever beset you. He found the HAPPY SOLUTION. His experience will show you what YOU can do, this very day!

Once you UNDERSTAND, you will have to learn to TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD — TO CALL UPON GOD IN PRAYER — you will have to ASK GOD for what you need — and you may have to learn how to PRAY.

The Eternal Creator-  
RULER of the  
universe . . . sent His own  
begotten SON, Jesus  
Christ . . . to BRING YOU  
BRETHREN THE WAY OF  
DELIVERANCE from all  
your trials, your worries,  
your problems. WHY,  
then, do some of you not  
LISTEN to the way He  
taught us?

GOD ALMIGHTY will actually *intervene in your life* and help YOU and fight YOUR battles for you. Remember, God is no respecter of persons. He will not do more for one than another. He will do as much for YOU as for any person who ever lived. He will do as much for *you* — if you obey Him and *rely* on Him — as for any ancient king of Israel or Judah!

You may have a problem that completely overwhelms you. You may be at your wit's end — you may not know where to turn or what to do! It may be a family problem, a personal problem, a financial problem, a problem of sickness or disease.

But let me tell you now as Christ's apostle of a man who came upon a situation probably far more terrifying than yours — one that would throw fright and terror into the stoutest heart. The solution this man used

will solve YOUR problems — put an END to *your* troubles. The same God who heard and delivered him will hear and deliver you — *IF* you will obey Him and trust Him.

The fact that this man was an ancient king makes no difference. God is no respecter of persons — He will do as much for YOU. God is the SAME today and tomorrow as He was yesterday. This man was King Hezekiah of the ancient kingdom of JUDAH. He was an ordinary human mortal, the same as YOU today.

## God intervenes for a man

The vast armies of Assyria were marching westward and southward to invade Judah. The Jews were greatly outnumbered. They had no army or power to stand up against such a powerful foe. They were HELPLESS. They faced certain defeat — just as YOU may feel HELPLESS in the face of your troubles today.

If some of *you* brethren try to solve *your* problem or overcome your bad habits or resist sin in nothing more than your *OWN* power and strength, you, too, will find yourself outnumbered, overpowered and doomed to defeat! You must learn, as this ancient king did, that GOD stands ready and willing to fight your battles for you. Read his experience in II Chronicles 32, from the Moffatt translation: "It was after this, after all this loyal service, that Sancherib king of Assyria invaded Judah, besieging the fortified towns and meaning to seize them. When Hezekiah saw that Sancherib had come determined to attack Jerusalem, he and his nobles and his chiefs agreed to stop the water of the fountains outside the town . . .

"Then appointing officers over the citizens, he gathered them in the open space at the gate of the city, and encouraged them. 'Be firm,' he said, 'be brave, be not daunted nor dismayed for the king of Assyria or for all his host; we have with us One greater than all he has; he has a mortal force, but we have with us the Eternal our God, to help us and to fight our battles'" (verses 1-3; 6-8).

Continuing, "His officers said even worse things against God the Eternal and his servant Hezekiah. (Sancherib also wrote letters, insulting the Eternal the God of Israel and



attacking him thus: 'As the gods of the nations elsewhere in the world have failed to save their folk from me, so shall Hezekiah's God fail to save his folk.') The officers shouted aloud in Hebrew to the citizens of Jerusalem on the walls, to terrify them and scare them, that they might capture the city. They talked about the God of Jerusalem as one of the gods of the nations on earth, mere handmade idols" (verses 16-19).

Now notice what the king of Judah did. "King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz *PRAYED* over this and cried to heaven" (verse 20). They *PRAYED* for help. They did not know *HOW* God would intervene. But they knew God would *ACT*!

Here's what happened: "Then the Eternal sent an angel who swept off all the gallant fighters, the leaders, and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria, till he had to go home in disgrace. He [later] went into the temple of his god, and there his own offspring murdered him with their swords. So the Eternal rescued Hezekiah and the citizens of Jerusalem from Sancherib the king of Assyria as well as from all other foes, *protecting them on every side*" (verses 21-22).

That experience was written into the very *WORD OF GOD* for *your* learning and to *SHOW YOU BRETHREN THE WAY TODAY*!

Perhaps *YOU* are faced with a foe more powerful than you. It may be some *TEMPTATION*. It may be some circumstance or condition or trouble. Some serious *WORRY*. Then let me ask you, "*WHAT ARE YOU RELYING ON* to withstand the siege of this trouble — to deliver you from it?"

### **Rely on God and His power**

What do some of you do, brethren, when some fear, worry, trouble, comes up against you? Do you not first *FEAR AND WORRY*, and then either try to *RUN FROM* this trouble or else try to meet it in your *own* power and strength — with your *own* thinking and planning and doing?

Do *YOU* ever search your *own* heart and life to see if it is *YOUR fault*? In almost every in-law or marital trouble, for example, both are at fault.

Did you never realize that the very *CREATOR* who caused you to be born — who gives you the life you have —

who called you into His Church — is able and anxious to fight all these battles for *you* just as He did Hezekiah's — if you will only turn to Him and ask Him for wisdom and guidance, *RELY* on Him and *TRUST* Him with the result?

### **Two examples**

I know of a lady who, when in her middle 20s, had a problem that was *MOST SERIOUS* in her life. Three times this girl had been disappointed in love. She had at last been tempted to marry a man she had no right to marry. She brought her problem to me, as God's representative. I found she was looking *ONLY AT PHYSICAL*

The very *CREATOR* who  
caused you to  
be born . . . who called  
you into His Church —  
is able and  
anxious to fight  
all these battles for  
you . . . if you will  
only turn to Him . . .  
*RELY* on Him  
and *TRUST* Him with  
the result.

*APPEARANCES*. She reasoned that, so far as she could see, if she obeyed God and refused to marry this man, she might *never* be married. I counseled her to *OBEY GOD* — to stop looking at the material circumstances and using human reason to disobey God. I counseled her to do, first of all, *WHAT GOD INSTRUCTS IN THE BIBLE*, and then to *TRUST HIM* for the outcome.

But that girl did not *RELY ON GOD* — she relied on her human reason. She obeyed impulse and temptation and married the man. He left her to commit adultery with another woman on their very wedding night. Her life became miserable, terribly unhappy.

Then at another time, another similar case was brought to me. *THIS* young woman rejected the temptation — she obeyed God and *RELIED*

*ON THE ETERNAL* to work out circumstances — she *trusted* Him with the result. Her faith was tried and tested. God did not answer *AT ONCE* — but in due time, just the *RIGHT* man came into her life, they fell in love, they were married and *GOD HAS BLESSED THEIR MARRIAGE WITH SUPREME HAPPINESS*.

### **The experience of King Jehoshaphat**

Now I want to bring you one more case history — a *REMARKABLE* experience that will show you the way out of *all your difficulties* and troubles.

Brethren, if you will let *GOD* have His way in *your* life, then you will have begun to learn how to let Him fight *your* battles, solve *your* problems and deliver *you* from *so* many troubles you are suffering.

Now, notice the experience written for *OUR* learning and help today:

"It was after this that the Moabites and Ammonites, with some of the Meunim, made war on Jehoshaphat. Word came to Jehoshaphat that a huge host was moving against him from Edom, over the Dead Sea, and that they were already at Hazazon-tamar (or Engedi). *Jehoshaphat was afraid*" (II Chron. 20:1-3, Moffatt).

Is fear your usual reaction, too? But observe what the king of Judah did.

"He resolved to have recourse to the Eternal, and proclaimed a *fast* all over Judah. So Judah assembled to seek help from the Eternal; people came from every town in Judah to worship the Eternal" (verses 3-4).

Jehoshaphat did exactly what God wants *you* to do today when faced with any temptation or trouble — *HE TOOK IT TO GOD IN PRAYER AND FASTING*!

And as he continued to ask God for help, he said (verses 6-10): "O Eternal, the God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven, and ruler of all realms on earth? Such power and might is thine that no one can resist thee. O our God, didst not thou evict the natives of this land before thy people Israel, giving the land to the offspring of Abraham thy friend, for all time? And they settled in it, they have built a sanctuary in it to thine honour, thinking that if evil befell them, the sword in judgment, or pes-



tilence, or famine, they would stand in front of this temple and before thee (for in this temple is thy presence) and cry to thee in their distress, till thou didst hear and save them. Now here are the Ammonites and Moabites and folk from mount Seir, whom thou didst not allow Israel to invade, when Israel came out of the land of Egypt — no, Israel turned away from them, and did not destroy them!”

There was no reason for these neighbors to be enemies. Sometimes your own neighbors become your enemies, too, don't they?

But notice what the king said to God: “Look how they reward us, coming to eject us from thy very own country which thou hast given us to be ours. O our God, *wilt thou not deal with them? We are helpless against this mighty host* that is attacking us; we know not what to do, but we look to thee” (verses 11-12).

### God answers prayer

Now I want you to notice! — Jehoshaphat cried out for God to come to their aid. Here is God's answer (verses 14-17):

“Jehaziel . . . was inspired by the spirit of the Eternal in the midst of the gathering to cry, ‘Listen, all ye men of Judah, ye citizens of Jerusalem, and you, O king Jehoshaphat; *the Eternal's message to you is this: FEAR NOT, falter not before this vast army; it is for God, not for you, to fight them.* March down against them to-morrow; they are coming up by the ascent of Haziz, and you will come upon them at the end of the ravine in front of the desert of Jeruel. *You will not need to do any fighting;* take up your position, stand still, and watch the victory of the Eternal, who is on your side, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not, falter not. Move out against them to-morrow, for the Eternal is on your side.’”

And notice that Jehoshaphat *obeyed* after God instructed him. Verses 20-23 declare: “Next morning they rose and moved into the open country round Tekoa. As they advanced, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ‘Listen, men of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! Take hold of the Eternal your God and you will keep hold of life; hold by his prophets, and you will prosper.’”

“After this counsel to the nation, he appointed the Eternal's singers to praise him in sacred vestments, marching in front of the army and chanting, Give thanks to the Eternal, for his kindness never fails.

“As they began to sing and praise him, the Eternal set men in ambush against the Ammonites, and Moabites, and the folk from mount Seir, who had attacked Judah, and they were routed. The Ammonites and the Moabites *turned on the natives* of Mt. Seir, determined to wipe them out.”

They turned against one another! That is how God answered Jehoshaphat. “And then, after destroying the natives of mount Seir, they all helped to kill one another. So when the men of Judah reached their post of attack looking over the open country, they saw the host were so many corpses stretched upon the ground; not a man had escaped” (verses 23-24).

Jehoshaphat did not merely leave this trouble with God and then do nothing about it himself. First, he prayed, and asked for wisdom, guidance and HELP. Then he DID WHAT GOD SAID. He had to do HIS PART — but the BATTLE WAS GOD'S, and Jehoshaphat did not try to fight GOD'S battle. He merely did *his own* part. But he BELIEVED God, and RELIED on God.

The point I want you brethren to REMEMBER is that YOUR battles are not really yours, but GOD'S. If you look to Him, He makes them His battles, and HE fights them for you. HOW FUTILE for you to try to fight GOD'S battles for HIM.

God says, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all” (Psalm 34:19).

In the New Testament we read, “By GRACE are ye saved through FAITH” (Eph. 2:8). Yes, but the FAITH that saves us is a *living* faith that is practical — it WORKS — it really RELIES on God! So PUT IT TO PRACTICE!

God does not promise us an EASY time during this life in this world. But He DOES promise to fight our battles for us — to deliver us from EVERY trouble and affliction. WILL YOU LET HIM DO IT, AND LEARN HOW HAPPY YOUR LIFE MAY BECOME? GOD HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND! □

## Born to Be King!

(Continued from page 6)

vert us to dynamic spirit substance at His return.

This supernatural power from God helps us get the true perspective on this human life. It really changes things. God is about to clean up the pitiful mess that is this world, and right now He is busily training a qualified, competent staff who will have the privilege to teach humans after the resurrection (Rev. 20:12). We will be the ones, along with Christ, to ensure that the tragic sadness that has characterized this world will never be repeated.

### Heirs Apparent to God's throne

The Kingdom of God is all about people. Billions of people. People looking for direction and guidance, people looking for healing and physical sustenance, people looking for real, practical help for their personal problems. Are we ready to teach and train the world (Dan. 12:3)? Probably not . . . yet!

Small wonder that Christ reveals the Kingdom will be entered only by violence (Matt. 11:12) — by those who are violent with themselves, forcing their naturally self-concerned and lazy human nature into the paths of true character, helpful wisdom, sparkling warmth, inspiring drive and right leadership, all motivated by God's Spirit of power and service.

Truly, the whole creation, past and present, “waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19). We dare not drift with the rest of this purposeless, confused world. We have a rendezvous with destiny. We were born to be kings, kings who will be servants of the people they rule (Eph. 1:4-5, Matt. 20:25-27).

Our calling is much higher than that of Prince Charles. We will be inheriting the very throne of the universe — a high destiny indeed. We need to strive harder to be worthy Heirs Apparent to the throne of Jesus Christ, at Jerusalem, ruling the earth:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne” (Rev. 3:21). □