"For Many are called, but Few are Chosen"

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain King who arranged a Marriage for His Son. . . when the King came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment (Revelation 3:17-18). . . . Then the King said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness (Revelation 3:16, 19), there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for Many are Called, but Few are Chosen.’” Matthew 22:2, 11-14

By Alton B. (Don) Billingsley
PREFACE—

“For Many are Called, but Few are Chosen”

At the time of the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, January 16, 1986, the Worldwide Church of God numbered approximately 113,000, men, women and children.

The MANY had been CALLED by God to become members of His Church for the purpose of supporting the Work of God. Before, and after 1995 they went their separate ways.

The true Church of God now numbers approximately 7,000 men and women (Romans 11:2, 5, 7); most of them scattered in various places (Ezekiel 34:1-10; Jeremiah 23:1-2).

Jesus Christ chose a bare few from them to be formed as a Congregation that He began using to take His Work, the Gospel and the Ezekiel Warning Messages, to the world. (Matthew 24:14; Ezekiel 33:1-11; Luke 12:32; Habakkuk 1:5; Revelation 3:7-13).

After proving our faithfulness to the FULLNESS OF HIS TRUE TEACHINGS, as restored and taught by Christ’s late apostle (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11), Jesus Christ began using this small flock at the Passover Season in 2006 as His instrument to support His Work.

What is totally unbelievable to all others, Jesus Christ is yet using Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, His apostle and the promised Elijah, to continue taking those messages to Israel and the world via our 14 websites.

The questions beg—“Where are all those large numbers today? Why did they leave? Where did they go? Where are they today?”

The writing in this booklet makes the effort to answer these questions in view of what Jesus Christ Himself said:

“For Many are Called, but Few are Chosen”

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CREDITS—

“Many are Called but Few are Chosen”
By
Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

My sincere appreciation goes to my beloved wife, Peggy, who has helped me much with proof reading and suggested edits for this writing.

I also owe a huge debt of sincere thanks and appreciation to my dear friend, and fellow elder, Mr. Steve Serfontein, who has given me much help with suggested edits while devoting hours to this writing with his many publishing skills and artwork.

It is sincerely hoped this writing that Jesus Christ led me to write will clear up any questions regarding the many corporate churches that have fragmented from the former parent corporate church, the Worldwide Church of God.

At the same time, it is to be understood only the FEW will understand for most will be biased and refuse to accept it due to their own misconceptions and wrong beliefs.

In this day and age where TRUTH is fallen in the street in all areas of society and even in the fragmented corporate churches (Isaiah 59:14-15; Jeremiah 5:3), we pray Jesus Christ will open your mind to understand His truth in this writing and be sincerely thankful to Him for it; it could make a real difference in time.
“For **Many** are Called, but **Few** are Chosen”
This subject, ‘many are called but few are chosen’, has been a perplexing subject over the years while trying to fully understand its meaning.

It is easy to understand the FEW who have been chosen by God to be His begotten sons and daughters, but the perplexity is seeking to understand HOW the MANY CALLED were chosen and used by Jesus Christ to help support His Work from its beginning and overall remain faithful to it until the death of Mr. Armstrong.

To bring this subject into perspective, the Video, 1983, “BEHIND THE WORK” by Mr. Armstrong was viewed by the membership (Church of God Faithful Flock in Utah), during the Feast of Tabernacles, October 12, 2014, in which the contrast of 1983, and after 1995, was made.

While viewing the Video, we were able to see the heads of various departments, and evangelists meeting, one on one, with Mr. Armstrong in his office; each one giving glowing reports of growth: membership, summer camps for the teenagers, 5,000,000 Plain Truth Magazines published, hundreds of members taking care of newsstands, answering the telephones to respond to callers for their requests for literature after each telecast, growth in every area and department.

Where Are They Today?
The question begs—where are all of those department heads, ministers, and members today? The answer: some few years after he died—they fell away—going elsewhere!

Perhaps 60,000 of the membership followed the apostate pastor general into the fullness of Protestantism with their pagan teachings and beliefs!

Another approximate 50,000 of the membership followed the well-known ministers who formed corporate churches, such as:
LCG, PCG, UCG, COGWA, RCG, COG-International Community; and counting the smaller ones, headed by a few preaching elders, local elders, deacons, and even some members, altogether possibly 850 of them could be counted today.

Could there be a parallel with Elijah, Ahab, and Jezebel (I Kings 18:19)?

The large Growth and Faithfulness of the Membership

Another needed question: Though there were internal problems that brought about the loss of some ministers and members during the last few years within the Church, how were the large numbers of the membership held together until the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong? Scripture reveals the answer:

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work (conspiracies and subterfuge); only he who now RESTRAINS will do so UNTIL he is taken out of the way” (II Thessalonians 2:7)

Jesus Christ used Mr. Armstrong to restrain the apostates until his death! In his last sermon in 1985, given on the Feast of Trumpets, he said ravenous wolves were waiting for him to die so they could take over the Church; and they did.

Contrasting his death with the apostate pastor-general, Mr. Armstrong died a peaceful death, at age 93, January 16, 1986, while the apostate pastor-general experienced a damnable and painful death, aged 68. (II Peter 2:1, KJV)

The Apostle Pastor General

The following writings reveal an account of God killing the apostate pastor-general with a horrible death for permitting himself to be used by Satan the devil to destroy the Worldwide Church of God; albeit, God permitted it to fulfill an end-time prophecy that could only take place after the death of Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong often said dualities can be found throughout the Holy Bible. And duality is found in the following Scriptural account of the Man of Sin:

1) An apostate pastor-general minister to devastate the Worldwide Church of God by bringing about the prophesied Falling Away (II Thessalonians 2:1-3).

2) And the false prophet together with the Beast of the Revived Roman Empire will destroy the nations of Israel in the very end-time (Revelation 13; 1-18).

In view of the MANY CALLED who fell away from the Church, it becomes necessary to focus on the Apostle Pastor-General Satan the devil used to destroy it. The Apostle Paul wrote of this end-time prophecy:

“. . . Let no one deceive you by any means for that Day (of Christ’s coming, verse 1), will NOT come UNLESS the Falling Away comes first and the Man of Sin is revealed, the son of perdition (destroyer) “And THEN the lawless one will BE REVEALED” (II Thessalonians 2:1-3).

Please note the following writings from the internet regarding this former Man of Sin:

Internet- excerpts: “Mr. Joseph Tkach, Sr., Pastor General, began his reign over the Worldwide Church of God immediately after the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, January 16, 1986, until his death, September 23, 1995 [nine years and nine months; the number nine having the meaning of finality], in his, as termed,
Christmas Eve sermon, and two days before the Feast of Trumpets.

“The doctrinal changes in the church occurred gradually, but by 1994, most of the concepts of Armstrongism had been largely modified or discontinued.”

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: “However, the major bombshell was dropped during what is now called the Christmas Eve Sermon. [27] Tapes of Tkach’s sermon (dated January 7, 1995) were delivered to local congregations for viewing.

“In this sermon, he publicly declared that the Worldwide Church of God was a New Covenant church and, therefore, not bound by the terms of the Old Covenant.[28] Christian theology defines the Old Covenant as the Mosaic Law embodied in the Torah.

“Hence, by making this statement, Tkach officially dropped all doctrines based on Mosaic Law (i.e., the keeping of the Sabbath, the Holy Days, and the dietary laws), making observance of such practices an individual choice. He also dropped the requirement of tithing, declaring that giving as taught in the New Testament was voluntary. The last change had a significant and rather immediate impact on church finances.[29] “

The Untimely Death of the Apostate Pastor-General

God used the Apostle Paul to write of the horrible deaths these Two Men (the pastor-general in 1995, and the false prophet of the end-time), would experience:

“WHOM the LORD will CONSUME with the breath of His mouth (by a horrible cancerous death),” II Thessalonians 2:8).

Consider the sufferings and death of the Apostle Pastor General:

Internet: “On September 6th, 1995 he was then diagnosed with severe bone cancer. Mr. Tkach wrote, "I must also let you know that recent medical tests have shown that my cancer is worse than we had previously known. A bone scan done with a radioactive isotope revealed some 50 spots on my bones.”

www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC/The%20Apostasy/Apostasy.html “In May of 1995 while undergoing gall bladder surgery it was determined that Tkach had pervasive and inoperable cancer. He appointed his son, Joseph W. Tkach, Jr. to succeed him upon his death which occurred at 2:20 PM PST on the afternoon of Saturday September 23, 1995.

“The astute reader will notice that from the day the senior Tkach publicly repudiated the belief system expounded by [Mr.] Armstrong until he died was exactly 40 weeks, indeed almost to the very hour, given allowance for the time zones.

“One correspondent said of Tkach’s condition, "he died a horrible death. In the end there were horrible sores on his body and legs that could not be stopped from bleeding. People who came in to see him burst into tears at the sight." [emphasis mine.]”

Consider others that God killed: Herod:

After (Herod) having given an oration and the people cried, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” Then immediately an angel of God struck him, BECAUSE he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten with worms and died” (Acts 12:21-23).
Herod died five days later after experiencing a horrible and very painful death, Clarke Commentary!

According to the historian Josephus, Antiochus Epiphanes and Herod the Great also died of the same disease!

Reverent Fear of God
The Apostle Paul wrote: “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . .” (Hebrews 10:31)

Internet: “[In] Tkach’s Atlanta sermon, where he introduced what came to be called the "new understanding", or "NU" of the church's fundamental doctrines. . . . On December 24, 1994, Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. repeated his Atlanta sermon for church cameras and members at the church's college in Big Sandy, Texas. . . .

“Coincidently, it was given on the two dates that also mark the beginning and end of the ancient pagan religious festival of Saturnalia. The editors cannot help but be struck by this, for these dates make a very improbable coincidence especially combined with the coincidence of the exact timing of Tkach's death. Indeed, these events are so improbable as to appear to be pure random chance, except for the utmost seriousness of their spiritual implications.”

The False Prophet of the End-Time
The Apostle Paul wrote further of the latter fulfillment of this Scripture when the false prophet will experience a fiery death:

“. . . and DESTROY at the brightness of His coming (the Pope) . . .” (II Thessalonians 2:8).

The following Scripture details how the false prophet (the final and last Pope) will be destroyed:

Then the Beast was captured, and with him THE FALSE PROPHET who Worked Signs in his presence (Miracles), (Revelation 13:13-14), by which he DECEIVED those who received the Mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20).

The Drawing of the Elect by God
Consider the following Scripture in view of those God calls to Himself to become His begotten sons and daughters:

“No one can come to Me UNLESS the Father who sent Me DRAWS HIM; and I will RAISE him up at the last Day” (John 6:44, 65).

This Scripture also has a dual meaning:

Mr. Armstrong said in that film, “BEHIND THE WORK”, ‘God the Father drew the students to Him by His Holy Spirit.’

At that time Mr. Armstrong was right in what he said about the students, but only in part as we shall see throughout this writing.

What he said at that time about the students also
applies with the majority of the membership (The Many). They were drawn to support the Work – but not for salvation at that time as their departure from the Church of God made known.

Shortly before and after 1995 virtually all of them departed from the True Church of God that Jesus Christ built upon Himself in 31 A.D., either by remaining in the defunct Worldwide Church of God, now calling itself, “Grace Communion,” or into one or the other of the corporate churches, or back into the protestant churches, or nowhere!

Further questions that will be dealt with in this writing: “Why did they leave God’s Church? Did they not have God’s Holy Spirit? Into which of the three resurrections will they come back to life?”

The Duality of Ancient ISRAEL and the Church of God

To aid the understanding of this subject it is needful to show the DUALITY – the contrast – between ancient Israel, a chosen nation from among all of the other nations by the LORD God, and the Church of God from its beginning in 31 A.D. to this time today!

This becomes easy to understand when we consider the parallel regarding their use by Jesus Christ; as to why:—to make possible the fulfillment of His ongoing Plan for the salvation of all mankind that came into place at the foundation of this world. It then moved forward with chosen men used by God each step of the way.

Blindness Removed—Blindness Restored

Both ancient Israel and the MANY called in the Church had the blindness removed from their eyes when God brought them to Him. And God’s Plan of Salvation was made known to them by teaching and preaching.

After they had fulfilled their purpose the BLINDNESS came back over their eyes like a blindfold placed over a person’s eyes to prevent them from being able to further comprehend His Plan.

Ancient ISRAEL Was Given God’s Holy Spirit

A Scripture in the Book of Isaiah speaks of Israel, a carnal nation, having been given God’s Holy Spirit to make possible His use of them:

“Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them . . .?” (Isaiah 63:11). Putting this Scripture together with other Scriptures begins to lead to understanding; not only of God’s use of Israel as His chosen nation from among all of the other nations, but also those who were once considered to be members of the Worldwide Church of God but left it.

1) With this in mind—the needful question arises—“In what manner did God give the Holy Spirit to Israel, and the MANY CALLED, but not chosen?”

2) And considering the CHOSEN FEW – who remained faithful to God – in what manner did God give His Holy Spirit to them?

These questions will be answered in this writing.

In Remembrance of Ancient Israel

God’s prophet, Isaiah wrote (Oxford RSV: Isaiah 63:7-64:12 Psalm of intercession 7-14: Historical prologue recalling Israel’s deliverance from Egypt . . .):
"Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people (Israel), saying: "Where is He that brought them UP out of the Sea with the shepherd of His Flock (Moses)?"

Soncino Commentary: “the words, ‘days of Moses’, which are a repetition from the preceding verse, are implied. But the rendering of A.J. obscures the fact that in the text His people are attached to Moses . . .”

“Where is He who PUT His Holy Spirit WITHIN them (both within them and in their MIDST – to be qualified later), who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting Name (Exodus 9:16; Joshua 4:24), who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?” Isaiah 63:11-13 NKJV.

Questions: Because both Israel and the Members of the Worldwide Church of God had God’s Holy Spirit – does this mean because they rejected God over time they had committed the Unpardonable Sin? If so, how would we square the Scriptures that speak of their being blinded (Romans 11:7-10)?

Further, in time to come — speaking of the MANY – there will be the complete removal of the spiritual blindness from those who survived the Great Tribulation into the Millennium, and later in the resurrection of the Great White Throne Judgment period of time:

“And He will destroy on [or from Mount Zion where Christ will establish His Throne] this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the VEIL that is spread over all nations” (Isaiah 25:7).

This Scripture in addition to others make known though ancient Israel did have God’s Holy Spirit and were used by Him, they were not BEGOTTEN by God’s Holy Spirit. The question then rises – “How did the Holy Spirit work in their lives?” This will be answered throughout this writing.

It becomes necessary to realize, though highly questionable, based on Scripture and fruits, a few who had been in the Worldwide Church of God may have been begotten by God’s Holy Spirit and turned away from Him.

If so, unless they became repentant, they will come back to life in the 3rd Resurrection to be burned up in the Lake of Fire (Malachi 4:1; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 20:13-15).

What is the Correct Translation of this Scripture?
Looking at other translations of the Holy Bible, this Scripture in Isaiah 63:11 uses ‘WITHIN’ Israel, and also in the ‘MIDST’ of Israel; and depending on their usage, both fit as will be made known throughout this writing.

New Jewish Publication Society Bible: “. . . Where is He who put IN THEIR MIDST His Holy Spirit . . .?”

KJV “. . . Where is He that put His Holy Spirit WITHIN him?” (‘him’, a reference to Moses—a parallel to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, as will be seen later in this writing)
NRSV “... Where is the One who put WITHIN them His Holy Spirit?”

Strong’s Concordance #7130 gives the definition of the word, WITHIN: in the centre, among, midst, within self . . .

Young’s Concordance – WITHIN – in the heart, midst, centre of.

Based on many Scriptures, it would appear both translations are correct. And this will become clear in the Scriptures that will be used in this writing.

A Revealing Scripture that has Duality of Meaning
Since this Scripture reveals Israel had God’s Holy Spirit, we can then look into the history of the Worldwide Church of God through the years of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong’s life-time ministry, and ask:

“This is a question that needs to be answered from the Holy Bible.

The Duality of Israel and the Worldwide Church of God
Scripture reveals because Israel and the MANY having received God’s Holy Spirit to be in their MIDST there came to be a very positive effect on their minds. Their minds were opened and became receptive to the teachings of God’s truth and His laws. They paid tithes and offerings to supply the needs of God’s Work during the years of Moses and that of Mr. Armstrong.

Ancient Israel was chosen to fulfill a duality – physical/Spiritual. As the result of becoming the Bride of the LORD God she became the center-piece of God’s Master Plan for the salvation of all of mankind.

They also paid tithes, offerings, and offered sacrifices to God through the Priests and Levites.

This would carry over into the Spiritual for the salvation of all of mankind from the beginning of the Church of God in 31 A. D., to the coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth. The FEW – the truly begotten people of God by His Holy Spirit – would represent His coming Kingdom by becoming the affianced Bride of Jesus Christ in this human life and marry Him when He returns to this earth.

The duality of Physical Israel carries through with the MANY of the members of the Worldwide Church of God prior to the death of Mr. Armstrong in 1986. Both were used to fulfill their purpose in making God’s Master Plan to come to fruition over time.

Scripture reveals God’s Holy Spirit was upon the leadership in both Israel and the Worldwide Church of God to fulfill His will in teaching and supporting His Plan then; and His ongoing Work from 1934 to January 16, 1986.

The Leadership in Israel and the Church
The LORD God chose special men to lead His chosen people Israel; men who walked with God, such as Moses, Joshua, Judges, Prophets, etc. Scripture will also reveal God’s Holy Spirit was only in the MIDST of the overall majority of Israel and a bare few of the selected leadership.
This was also true within the membership of the Worldwide Church of God as will be made plain in this writing.

Though God had blinded Mr. Armstrong from being able to fully see the truth about the very large and growing membership and the ministry, he could partly see the truth of the faithful ministry apart from all the others at times.

As an example: one Friday night he unexpectedly took the Bible Study in Pasadena, California.

While looking at the empty seats usually occupied by the ministry, he made the following strong comment: “I would rather have five true ministers than 500 prophets of Baal.”

Based on the Scripture in Isaiah 63:11, and connecting it with other Scriptures that speak of Israel rejecting God, while reviewing our recent history of the Falling Away from the Worldwide Church of God, the duality becomes very apparent to the unbiased minds.

**The Church Eras**

This would also include those who fell away during the history of God’s Church from the Ephesian Era to the Philadelphia Church Era (Revelation 2 and 3).

By understanding these Parables, along with related prophecies, one can begin seeing the duality of both ancient Israel with the Worldwide Church of God prior to 1986.
In Reflection of the Worldwide Church of God

Writer’s History: My deceased wife and I moved to Pasadena, California in 1953. Just before the Feast of Tabernacles in that same year I became an employee of Ambassador College and served in the Transportation Department for 5 years (1953-1958).

Two years later I was ordained a local elder in Pasadena by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong June 7, 1958. From 1958-1960, I served as the associate director of the Visiting Program serving the members living in that Metropolitan area. Graduating men students, who became ministers later, were used to visit the members. As the result I came to know the ministers and members pretty well.

From that time I was graced by God to serve many years as both an associate pastor (16 years, 1958-1974) pastor (1974 to the present), while serving in various Church areas (altogether 56 years, 2014),

I have had what might be called a front-row seat to largely view enough of the membership of the Churches to see enough of what was in their hearts and minds unto this present time to really know them; not much at the time, but in retrospect while looking back over those years.

Having known the ministers and lay members over the many years there are many fond memories that I cherish. They were and are lovable people.

And based on that personal knowledge along with what God said about the Parable of the Sower, I am fully convinced God’s Holy Spirit was in their midst for there was a positive impact on their minds that led to their acceptance of the beliefs of the true teachings of God and obedience to them.

They obeyed God’s laws and teachings UNTIL they chose to separate themselves for one reason or another from the True Church of God. I will add they are yet lovable people though they have chosen other walks of life.

But—in What Manner— did They Receive God’s Spirit?

To try and understand what began taking place in the minds and hearts of those who came to be members of the Church of God from its very beginning one should review the Autobiography, volume 1, of the life of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

I had little experience with the members of the 1930s, but from those I did come to know from that earlier time, I could see the same spirit in their knowledge – and in their minds for most seemed to believe and obeyed the fullness of the teachings of God taught by His Apostle, Mr. Armstrong. However in retrospect it becomes easy to see the laws and teachings were not rooted deep within their hearts with a passionate love for them.
Example of King Saul of Israel
As God began drawing these people over the years to support His Work a dramatic change began taking place in their minds and hearts. This can best be understood by reading the Scriptures about Saul who was chosen by God to become the first King in Israel:

Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, “Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin and you shall ANOINT him commander over My people Israel that he may SAVE My people from the hand of the Philistines, for I have looked upon My people because their cry has come to Me” (I Samuel 9:15-17).

Scripture reveals Saul was set aside by the Spirit of Jesus Christ (though not begotten by God the Father) by the anointing by God’s prophet Samuel, the equivalent of the laying on of hands of those baptized by the ministry of God’s Church over the years:

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said, “Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?” (I Samuel 10:1).

Samuel further said to Saul after anointing him to be King over Israel:

“When you have departed from me today . . . when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying (singing religious songs).

Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them AND BE TURNED INTO ANOTHER MAN . . . so it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, THAT GOD GAVE HIM ANOTHER HEART; and all those signs came to pass that day. When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him, THEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME UPON HIM, and he prophesied (began singing with them)” (I Samuel 10:2-10).

From this example, we should be able to begin seeing the similarities with the MANY called during the ministry of Mr. Armstrong for they are apparent.

Soncino Commentary: The word prophesying has nothing to do with predictions here, but denotes the expression of religious feeling under the influence of inspiration in hymns and other wise.”

The Chosen People of God of Old
From the beginning of mankind’s creation it can be seen from Scripture God chose particular people for special service for Him in fulfilling His ongoing purpose for the ultimate salvation of mankind.

Enoch walked with God as did Noah. Abraham became the father of the faithful. And to fulfill their responsibilities it goes without question they had God’s Holy Spirit.
Scripture teaches Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:67), also Elizabeth his wife (Luke 1:41). David asked God not to remove His Holy Spirit from him.

The question that needs to be answered is whether they also had been begotten by God’s Holy Spirit?

The answer is no for Scripture further teaches, aside from Jesus Christ, no one from past ages (including Abraham, Moses, etc.,) was begotten by God’s Holy Spirit UNTIL the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. This will be explained a little later.

These were people God specifically used to fulfill particular roles in life, who had God’s Holy Spirit within them, but they were not begotten by God the Father at that time.

However they will be begotten when they are resurrected from their graves, and then they will immediately be changed and become Spirit Beings (explained later).

The Rejection of Saul as King over Israel
A parallel example of the calling of those by God to become members of the Worldwide Church of God and later rejection of Him is found in the life of King Saul.

Saul was used by God as King of Israel, until he rejected (rebelled against) the explicit instructions given to him by the LORD God through Samuel His His prophet at two very important times. God then removed His Spirit from him and was used no longer by God.

God through Samuel said to him:

“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. BECAUSE you have REJECTED the WORD of the LORD, He also has REJECTED YOU from being king” (I Samuel 15:1-23; Hosea 4:6).

Consider that Scripture in view of all those who rejected the fullness of the true teachings of God and made open declaration of this fact in December 1994/January 1995 – close to 60,000 members!

In the early months of 1995, and shortly before, approximately 50,000 other members went off-track by rejecting (rebelled) against a few of the doctrinal teachings instilled within the Church by Jesus Christ while also rejecting Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as God’s late apostle and the promised Elijah of the end-time. They became ministers of Baal!

David Anointed King over Israel
After God rejected Saul as King over Israel He then sent Samuel to anoint David to be the new king over Israel, a man after His own heart (I Samuel 16:7).
Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him (David) in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came UPON David from that day forward (I Samuel 16:13).

“Then the Spirit of the LORD DEPARTED from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him” (I Samuel 16:14).

**The Fruits of the Membership of the Worldwide Church of God**

While continuing to consider the ministers and members prior to 1986, they remained faithful to the true teachings. The members saved all three tithes, believed and trusted in divine healing, many were fired from their jobs because of the Sabbath, and faced hardship while looking elsewhere for employment.

A few fought their way through the court system to try and save their positions of employment with the Post Office and in the School System that required work on God’s Holy Sabbath.

Parents took their children out of school on the Holy Days – refused inoculations. They were very faithful in attending the Holy Days by traveling to the Feast of Tabernacles sites wherever they were located.

The women also obeyed the rule not to use cosmetics.

**The Power and Influence of God’s Holy Spirit**

In view of the Scriptures, they were under the presence of God’s Spirit that was in the MIDST of them similar to ancient Israel being under the cloud overhead and fire by night that represented the LORD God being over and in their midst.

In this manner these people had God’s Holy Spirit as did the ancient Congregation of Israel.

As the result they became different from the world about them and on the surface seemed to have no problem with this difference.

In a sermon given by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong given a year before he died in 1986, entitled: “Are You a True Christian,” he said people surrounding the Feast Areas would see a different people from what they were (similar to the transformation of Saul who came to be the first King of Israel having been chosen by God) – people obeying God’s command to attend His Festivals; people who had a different mind-set due to God’s Holy Spirit than those of the world.

Ministers for the most part gave great sermons during the Feasts and on the Sabbaths up until they left the Church.

This changed afterwards. One high-ranking evangelist who had given great sermons, and preaching elsewhere after leaving the Church was reported as saying, “Somehow my sermons do not seem to come together as they once did.”

**Reflecting on Ancient Israel and the Worldwide Church of God**

Before going further there is the need to take into account what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said in a sermon about this subject and try to understand what he said about those to whom God gave His Holy Spirit.
Endure To The End
By
Mr. Herbert W Armstrong
September 26, 1981
Excerpts from the sermon, ‘Endure to the End’,
by
Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:
“. . . Now He (ELOHIM, the Father) SHUT UP His Spirit after Adam sinned. He SHUT UP the Holy Spirit, and NO MAN had been able to RECEIVE the Holy Spirit. Christ was BORN with the Holy Spirit! But until this time, except the prophets who received it out of due time, beginning with Abraham, no man had ever received the Holy Spirit.

COMMENT: In the above paragraph Mr. Armstrong continued to make it very plain that he was speaking about the seed of begettal for Isaiah (63:11) says they did have God’s Holy Spirit.

“But now I want you to notice something that Jesus said in John 6:44: “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.”

“You see, Jesus was not at that time opening up the Holy Spirit to all flesh, not at all, ONLY TO THE FIRSTFRUITS. That is why we celebrated the Day of Pentecost some few months ago now, in the summer. Pentecost shows that we are only the FIRSTFRUITS of God’s salvation. God has NOT POURED OUT His Spirit on all flesh YET.

“But He BEGAN with a type of people that are a type of all the rest of humanity; and the Holy Spirit was poured out on those 120 on that Day of Pentecost... .”

Sermon: “Are You Really a Christian?”
During a sermon, entitled: “Are You Really a Christian?” Mr. Armstrong stated that no one had been begotten by God’s Spirit until the Day of Pentecost, 31 A. D. He spoke more about this in the following Radio Broadcast.

Radio Broadcast
“Gospel of Government”
by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
The following are excerpts from a Radio Broadcast “Gospel of Government” by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, beginning about 10 minutes inside of it, he said:

“God called ancient Israel, but they did not receive the Holy Spirit. They were not impregnated with immortal life. They were not begotten of God. Except for their prophets, none of them will come up in the resurrection to eternal life at the 2nd coming of Christ, not any of them.
‘The Prophets of Old’

“... Now, God called certain ones - for example - He called Abraham. God must have called Abel because he’s called righteous Abel (Matthew 23:35), and then there was Enoch who walked with God (Genesis 5:24), and Noah.”

But that’s all we find at all until we come to Abraham. And God made all of the promises that we all have to rely on to Abraham. And Abraham’s children were slaves in Egypt 430 years later and God called them out and made Old Testament Israel His chosen nation.

Now they were just one of the nations of this world. He gave them His law - they had His spiritual law - the Ten Commandments, but they also had God’s civil law, for the regulation of man with his neighbor.

Then they had some other religious laws that were only temporary until Christ. But they were a national government, but He did not give them the Holy Spirit. They were cut off from the Holy Spirit but He did give them the knowledge of right and wrong. He did give them the Ten Commandments and His Spiritual Law but they were just one of the governments in this world.

But their prophets were given the Holy Spirit and their prophets were sort of co-founders of the New Testament Church; I wonder if you ever thought of them as that? The Church is founded on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets – Jesus Christ being the Chief Corner Stone. Now that’s in the – what is it – the second chapter, I believe it is, of Ephesians (Ephesians 2:20).

And so it is not speaking of New Testament prophets there at all because there were no New Testament prophets at all that had anything to do with putting doctrine into the Church, with what the Church is to believe or do or with administration of the work of the Church, not a one.

As a matter of fact there are only four prophets mentioned in the New Testament starting with an elderly woman that picked up the Christ child when He was a little tiny infant and blessed Him, she was passed eighty years of age at that time (Luke 2:36).

But, remember now, Satan is still on that throne and still has power. And Adam sold out to Satan. And when we have to redeem the time we have to redeem it from what Satan has been leading us into. That’s the thing we need to realize.

Now to reproduce Himself - which is the purpose of God – God must save humanity from Satan and He must save humanity from rebellion that Satan has led us into and He must save us from death. So it required a Savior to pay our penalty for us so we don’t die, so we don’t have the penalty of death. And He can’t save the whole world until Satan is put away.
The Four 'Untils'

“So in God’s plan there are four important – I call them 'untils' – where it speaks about a certain thing won’t happen 'until' a certain time.

Now first; except for the very few specially and individually called by God all humankind was cut off from access to God – or His Holy Spirit – until – the second Adam, who was Christ, had qualified to restore the government of God; and actually had been restored on the government of God ruling the whole world by the kingdom of God.

And the whole world is cut off until that time. Jesus Himself said plainly; "No man can come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him" (John 6:44): Now they’re cut off from the Father unless the Father draws them and Jesus said "no man can..."

I tell you, these evangelists that go out and preach to the world and say: 'whosoever will may come.' There is even a hymn they sing, 'whosoever will.' You know where that is in the Bible? Back in the very last chapter of the Bible after the thousand years; after the Great White Throne Judgment. But not during this time in the church; not during the time of ancient Israel; whosoever will could not come, no sir, not until then, let’s get the Bible straight.

Now, the second 'until'; The Holy Spirit was not yet given even for the church when Christ was on earth until Jesus – having conquered Satan and having overcome and qualified now to rule in the Kingdom of God - had been glorified in heaven.

You read that in John 7:37-39 and that was on one of the Feast days that was the very last day, the very Great day after the Feast of Tabernacles. Therefore, the Old Testament Israel could not receive God’s Holy Spirit, only their specially called prophets could, and they were specially called.

And I tell you, I think it’s still a question that is not made absolutely clear in the Bible as to whether the Holy Spirit of God was in them or with them [a reference to Isaiah 63:11; John 7:37-39].

However it is made clear they will be in the Kingdom and how could they be begotten and to come into the kingdom unless the Holy Spirit had been in them. So I assume that some way the Holy Spirit was in them.

Now third, there’s a third 'until.' Even the gospel – that is the good news of the coming kingdom of God – the gospel is the good news about a government. But those who go off preaching the gospel they call the gospel only preach about a person, about Christ. Christ was only the messenger who brought the gospel, and that they don’t preach at all, the kingdom of God. Well, even the gospel could not be proclaimed until Jesus – the second Adam – had qualified by overcoming Satan while Jesus was yet a human being. Now you’ll read of that in Mark 1:14-15 when He said the time was now at hand and He began to preach the kingdom of God.

So, during Old Testament Israel, we read in Luke 16:16 "The law and the prophets were until John..." (Luke 16:16). Not the gospel, just the law and the prophets were until John, and since that time the kingdom of God is preached.

Now, there’s a fourth one. Even now today the heavens have received Jesus until the times of restitution of all things. You read that in the third chapter of Acts in verse 21, Acts 3 and verse 21. That is the time of restoration of the government of God over the Earth at Christ’s soon coming, which will be very soon now in our time.

Now Old Testament Israel had a function preparatory to the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God. But the gospel could not be proclaimed to the world, nor could God’s called congregation of people – that is the church – have the Holy Spirit until first Jesus had qualified by
overcoming Satan; and second, had been glorified after He had ascended up to heaven. He had to ascend up to heaven.

But now we come to the Church of the New Testament. The time had come when first the gospel announcement could go to the world after Christ had overcome Satan. And second, they, the congregation – or the church – could receive the Holy Spirit. And that’s when the church really began. So that’s what you find on the Day of Pentecost.

Now, I have been tracing things from the time of Adam on but in due time Jesus was born and He qualified by overcoming Satan. He was put to the very supreme test as you read in the fourth chapter of Matthew. He qualified; He proclaimed the good news of the coming government, the Kingdom of God, the family of God ruling in the government. He taught His disciples and then He died for us and paid the penalty of our sin in our stead.

Now only then could God call a body – the Church – to receive His Holy Spirit, it couldn’t happen until that time and receive the Holy Spirit on repentance and faith. And even now we have to repent and have the faith in Christ to receive the Holy Spirit. So, that was the Day of Pentecost, the third festival.

But now a little further before we come again to this. What is the Church? What is the Church? The Church is the Firstfruits, the first group, or body to have the Holy Spirit of God. To be begotten by God, that can be born of God at the coming of Christ. Now, why the Church? What is its purpose? To be spiritually trained in God’s government.

And it’s a matter of government and most of the evangelists of the world and most of the so-called Christian churches don’t realize anything about the government of God. To be trained in God’s government and to be growing in spiritual character, in order that we can rule with Christ; we’re being trained as people to rule with Christ. When Jesus comes brethren, just stop and think a minute; He is not going to rule all alone by Himself with no one, He’s going to have a very great organization.

You know, old father Abraham’s going to be there, he’s going to be resurrected and he’s going to have a very important position. And I think he’ll be right next to Christ. I may be wrong about that but that’s what I believe. And I don’t say very often what I believe; usually I speak with authority because it’s in the Bible. But we’re to rule with Christ.

Now you read back here in Revelation, the third chapter and verse 21, and this applies only to the Church by the way. It does not apply to people in the kingdom of God later after Christ comes. This did not apply to ancient Israel. Here it says: "To him [these are the words of Jesus Christ Himself] ‘To him that overcometh, will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, [even] as I also overcame, and am sat down with My Father in His throne. (Revelation 3:21) He that has an ear he had better pay attention and hear, He said (verse 22).

Now also in the second chapter of Revelation and the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh verses Jesus said: "To him that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end (now it’s keeping His works - in other words it’s your performance, the way you live, God’s way of living – right to the end of your life) to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron" (Revelation 2:26-27).
We’re going to rule the nations; we’re going to sit with Christ on His throne. Why the Church? WE’RE BEING TRAINED TO RULE WITH CHRIST WHEN HE COMES! GOD IS GOING TO HAVE A GOVERNMENT WHEN HE COMES! But I’m telling you what’s being prepared for that time when Christ comes. And He’s going to have a whole organization.

Now for that He needed a church, and He needed a church that itself would be well organized and well prepared. How was He going to train the church for that kind of thing? Can any individual Christian just say; “Well I’d like to be a lone Christian, I’ll go off and I’ll just simply get into heaven or I’ll get into the kingdom all by myself.” Oh no you won’t, you can’t do it that way. If you ever do you won’t have a very important position when you get there, I’ll tell you that, because we’re to be rewarded according to our works . . .”

End Quotes

Putting the Quotes from Mr. Armstrong in Context with Scripture
By studying carefully what Mr. Armstrong said in the above quotes it can be seen He was talking about the seed of begettal that can only come from God the Father, and it was not given to anyone UNTIL the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D.

Please note a very important Scripture that makes this very plain by what Jesus Christ cried aloud on the Last Great Day after the Feast of Tabernacles had been concluded:

“. . . 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; FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT YET GIVEN, BECAUSE JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED” (John 7:37-39).

When was Jesus Christ glorified? This was made known in His prayer to His Father just before He was crucified in 31 A.D.:

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You. . . . I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory WHICH I HAD WITH YOU before the world was” (John 17:1-5).

These Scriptures strongly indicate the Patriarchs, the Apostles, and all others God used prior to the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. had NOT been begotten by the Father’s seed of begettal.

Though the disciples had been in training with Jesus Christ for three and one-half years, and even ordained as apostles, they had NOT received the SEED of begettal from God the Father. This is made plain by what Jesus Christ said to His disciples just a few days before that very special Day of Pentecost, Sunday, June 17, 31 A.D.:

And being assembled together with them (the disciples), He commanded them NOT to depart from Jerusalem, BUT TO WAIT for the PROMISE of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me . . . you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit . . . you shall RECEIVE POWER when the Holy Spirit has come UPON you . . . .” (Acts 1:4-8).

As commanded by Jesus Christ, the disciples waited and were assembled together on that very special Day:

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place (in a large room within the Temple of God). And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them
divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were ALL FILLED with the Holy Spirit (the seed of begettal as begotten sons and daughters of God the Father) . . . (Acts 2:1-4).

Though the Messiah, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, was filled with the Holy Spirit from conception, Scripture however makes known He was NOT begotten by His Father until immediately after He was baptized (Psalm 2:7; John 1:14, 18; Hebrews 1:5, 5:5), in the beginning of His ministry:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized . . . when He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:13-17).

Jesus Christ set the pattern for each one who would be drawn by God the Father, then to be baptized and followed by receiving the seed of begettal by the Holy Spirit from the Father to become His children (Acts 2:1-4; 37-38; 8:14-20).

What about the Patriarchs and Prophets?

NOTE: (paraphrasing) –In the 1950s, I heard Mr. Armstrong say that when the Patriarchs are resurrected they would be resurrected in their physical bodies and immediately would be begotten and then born into God’s Spirit Family – all this taking place instantaneously!

The Apostle Paul wrote: “. . . in the twinkling of the eye . . .” (I Corinthians 15:51-53)!

With this in mind, we can see from the Old Covenant that the LORD God made with Israel that one who is to be used by God can have His Holy Spirit in his midst—but not be begotten by Him to become His Bride in the First Resurrection. A possible similarity:
. . . He (Jesus) breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit . . .” (John 20:21-22).

Christ breathing on them was a TYPE of a STRONG HURRICANE WIND (Acts 2:1) that with it brought LIFE (as with Adam) by the Holy Spirit and with it POWER from God’s Divine Being that yearns to jealousy (James 4:5).

This was also a PROMISE of what would take place on the Day of Pentecost and it did with the 120 disciples assembled in the Temple. Both Israel and the former members are seeking blindly what they have rejected:

“For they (Israel) being ignorant (blinded) of God’s righteousness, seeking to establish their own righteousness, have NOT submitted to the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

Physical and Spiritual Israel
It must be emphasized it was the Holy Spirit that emanated from Jesus Christ, and not the Holy Spirit of begettal from God the Father (John 6:44), that was given to ancient Israel. Though a bare few of the Philadelphia Church Era did have that seed of begettal as members within the corporate WWCG, the majority of the membership did not.

In view of what took place after God’s Apostle and the Elijah to come died January 16, 1986, it should become abundantly clear Jesus Christ lifted His Holy Spirit from the midst of all but the selected Elect.

It was shortly thereafter the apostate pastor general began speaking lies against God’s apostle regarding divine healing and removing the ruling against makeup. It was all downhill from there until December 1994 – when he declared God’s laws were done away with the Old Covenant.

The Gospel Message Resumed

The Gospel Message Ceased
At the same time the Gospel Message was once again placed on hold until a future date. It should be understood Jesus Christ would NOT use an apostate pastor general nor unconverted ministers to go forward with it. Though the effort was made for a short time Jesus Christ was NOT in it.

There was no one at that time to pick up the mantle of the promised Elijah as did Elisha the original Elijah (II Kings 2 11-14).
It must be realized, and emphasized, it is Jesus Christ who is actually doing His Work while continuing to use His late Apostle and the Promised Elijah, though dead, via of his recorded works (voice and writings) over the 52 years of his mission as His primary instrument while using this Congregation to support the 14 websites He has given us.

“Now Joshua the son of Nun was FULL of the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses has laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses” (Deuteronomy 34:9).

Though Israel had the POWER of the Holy Spirit among them due to being under the Cloud in which was Jesus Christ, we also know from this and other Scriptures they were NOT begotten by God as made very clear by both Scripture and the writings of Mr. Armstrong (Hebrews 8:7-9; John 7:38-39).

Jesus Christ also filled His apostle with wisdom and understanding by gracing him with His Holy Spirit. Having chosen him as His Apostle and the end-time Elijah to be used by Him in this end-time age (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11), he was filled with His Holy Spirit to fulfill his mission.

And because of his having the Holy Spirit, It was in the midst of the Church, as it was with Israel because of Moses being his chosen prophet (Exodus 3:1-18).

Astounding—but true nevertheless. This cannot be understood otherwise.

The Awesome Power of God’s Holy Spirit

God’s Holy Spirit moved their hearts and minds to heed Moses and Mr. Armstrong; for neither Israel, nor the MANY in the Church, did NOT really KNOW God except through the hearing of the ear of His teachings taught by these special chosen men of God.

The Scripture regarding the giving of God’s Holy Spirit to Israel bears this truth out in the King James Version of the Bible:

Then He remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying: “Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He that put His Holy Spirit within him (Moses)? (Isaiah 63:11-12, KJV).
Soncino Commentary: “The days of Moses” The words the days, which are a repetition from the preceding verse, are implied. But the rendering of A. J. obscures the fact that in the text  his people is attached to Moses . . .” (emphasis mine).

The Holy Spirit was only in their midst due to Moses being used by God in that ancient time. The duality has followed through with Mr. Armstrong in this end time.

Both were used to fulfill God’s purpose in that ancient time and also in this age; therefore God inclined their minds and hearts to follow and obey in the letter; more about this later.

The Bountiful Blessings from God
The LORD God only gave the nation of Israel physical promises based on their obedience to Him of bountiful blessings in the Promised Land while being blinded in their use by Him to the Spiritual promises that were reserved for the Elect of God’s Church:

Romans 11:7-9 “. . . Israel has NOT obtained what they seek; but the ELECT have obtained it (God’s righteousness), and the rest were hardened. Just as it is written: God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should NOT see and ears that they should NOT hear to this very day.”

This was also true with the MANY in the Church, a duality and type as can be seen by reflecting on what took place with the 100,000-plus members and ministers falling away from the Worldwide Church of God before and after 1995.

Approximately 60,000 more or less chose completely the way of Protestantism, or other religions, by following the apostate pastor general. But the apostasy did not stop there!

Shortly before 1995, and thereafter, another approximate 50,000 of them began fragmenting into possibly 750 corporate Churches or more over the following years unto now.

And like ancient Israel most of these men and women had been under the power of God’s Holy Spirit and because of it they had received bountiful blessings prior to their falling away for their obedience to God and His laws as promised made known by Moses:

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has CHOSEN you to be a SPECIAL PEOPLE for Himself, A SPECIAL TREASURE above all the peoples on the face of the earth . . . And He will LOVE you and BLESS you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land . . . You shall be blessed above all peoples . . .” (Deuteronomy 7:6-14; 4:1-14).
And as Israel was loved and blessed by God, the MANY in the Church were also loved, and continue to be LOVED by God. By so doing they moved away from the presence of God’s Holy Spirit! As the result they began experiencing the curses from God due to their rejection of Him and His holy righteous laws as these and other Scriptures make known.

**Departure from God’s Church**

The duality continues with the membership of the Worldwide Church of God prior to 1986. They were truly blessed by God with physical blessings in many ways while within God’s service.

However when they began rejecting God’s laws, His doctrinal teachings, and rulings made by God through Mr. Armstrong, they also walked away from any semblance of the Holy Spirit that might have yet remained within the Worldwide Church of God after his death on January 16, 1986.

Once again they came under the POWER of spiritual darkness and were BLINDED to the fullness of God’s TRUTH by following the apostate pastor general into either a few pagan teachings or the fullness of Protestantism; which is Baalism.

This was prophesied to take place by God through the Apostle Peter:

“But there were also false prophets among the people, EVEN as there will be false prophets AMONG YOU (I Timothy 4:1-2), who will SECRETLY bring in destructive heresies who (by their acceptance of false teachings) even deny the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. “And MANY will follow their destructive ways, BECAUSE of whom THE WAY OF TRUTH will be blasphemed. By COVETOUSNESS they will EXPLOIT you with DECEPTIVE words (cunning skilled speech of pretended belief and flatteries); for a long time THEIR JUDGMENT has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber” (II Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4).
The Tree of Good and Evil
They can also be compared to Adam and Eve who had God’s Holy Spirit within them (as stated by Mr. Armstrong in his sermon, “What Is a True Christian”, he said: “God put His Spirit in Adam, but removed it after choosing the wrong tree.” They were then driven out of the Garden of Eden and from the Tree of Life.

Prior to choosing the wrong tree that represented Satan’s way of life, Adam and Eve were also under the presence of the Creator God’s Holy Spirit that emanated from Him. Had they obeyed their Creator God and eaten the fruit from the Tree of Life they would have then been begotten by God the Father.

This is an almost exact analogy of those who rejected their invitation to the Marriage Feast! Up until their departure from the true Church of God, their invitational calling was coupled with the need of supporting Mr. Armstrong with their tithes and offerings to make possible the Work of God to go to the world.

But immediately after his death they began choosing the siren call of Satan the devil through his instruments to accept Satan’s world of pagan teachings and way of life that will in time lead to death – just as it did with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-7). Then the LORD God removed His presence from them.

They became blinded as did Israel.

“Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see . . .” (Romans 11:10).

This has been clearly seen by those who have left this Congregation of God, Faithful Flock in view of the parable of the sower; the angels of God separating those who do not belong from those who do (Matthew 13:41; I John 2:19).

Each elder and member left with a spirit of anger and bitterness while conspiring to destroy me as God’s true pastor and instrument. The door to God’s Spirit and the fullness of the Truth was then closed to them (John 14:16-17)

Within God’s Time table, He will begin making possible entrance to the Tree of Life for them upon godly repentance for their former way of life either during the Millennium or during the Great White Throne Judgment period of time.

Was God Fair?
Some would say this was unfair of God to use people without begetting them to be among His Elect to be in the first resurrection.

The Apostle Paul responds to this accusation:

“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? . . .” (Romans 9:20-24).

This could be compared to Adam and Eve having been driven out of the Garden of Eden by God and cherubim placed at the entrance to guard the Tree of Life from their descendants (Genesis 3:22-24). The lone exception is for the very few God chooses to give access to it in this present age.
It must also be remembered all those people made their individual choices to walk away from Him and His TRUTH!

They were warned many times by God’s apostle and other ministers in sermons and Bible studies against being deceived and following apostates.

The last book Mr. Armstrong wrote was in 1985; and it had a continued warning against deception and rejection of God’s true teachings (MYSTERY OF THE AGES, pages 242, 244, 262). And each member was given a copy of this book while yet in the Church.

The MANY failed to remember those warning words not to follow the apostates. Instead they chose to believe and follow the apostate pastor general into Satan’s strong deception. Eventually they will suffer horrible deaths in the Great Tribulation – unless they repent.

Strong delusion came upon them because of their not having received ‘THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH OF GOD’, therefore they made no real effort to hold fast to it (II Thessalonians 2:9-12; Psalm 119:97.

It should be realized, it is NOT enough to BELIEVE the TRUTH, it also MUST BE LOVED!

The Duality of the Marriage Covenants
Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly said the Holy Bible is filled with DUALITIES. And the Scriptures clearly reveal this to be true. (I Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4). Jesus Christ intends we glean understanding from them.

And with this in mind, we will consider this in view of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant—(both being Marriage Covenants), the Physical being a type of the Spiritual.

The Church in the Wilderness
Numerous Scriptures speak of the nation of Israel as being the Congregation of Israel, both as a nation and also as the Church of God in the wilderness (Exodus 12:3; 15:16-17; 16:1). A nation that had been freed from bondage to Egypt and on their way to the Promised Land. At the same time they would become the Old Testament Congregation of God.

To prepare Israel to have the LORD God’s Holy Spirit in their midst it was necessary for valuable lessons to be taught about God and His way of Life to them; lessons that pertained to God’s laws, His statutes and judgments.

This is what the LORD God did with Adam and Eve before they were TESTED by Satan and REJECTED God (Genesis 3).

In a similar manner they were taught by God and also through Moses.

And it began the Night of the Passover (Exodus 12). It was on this night that Israel learned the life and death lesson that was taught by their observance of the Passover when their lives were spared by the death Angel due to having swabbed the blood of a freshly killed lamb over the doorways of their houses (Exodus 12:1-13).

The following night Israel departed from Egypt under the leadership of the LORD God and by His use of Moses.
This was the Night to be Much Remembered for they had been freed by the LORD God from bondage and at liberty to leave Egypt with great happiness (Exodus 12:8, 42).

God’s presence was continually with Israel hovering over them in the Cloud by day and Fire by night as they fled from Egypt:

And the LORD went before them by day a pillar of cloud to LEAD the way, and by night in a pillar of FIRE to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of FIRE by night from before the people (Exodus 13:21-22).

This was the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread that was to picture to them the vital need of putting sin out of their lives (Exodus 12:14-20; 1 Corinthians 5:6-9). And since SIN is made known by God’s laws (Romans 3:20; 1 John 3:4), it was necessary for His laws to be taught to them by God through Moses and the elders of Israel.

Then they came to the Red Sea. It was there the LORD God opened up a passageway for them to cross over on the dried bottom of the sea leaving Egypt behind them.

The Symbolic Baptism of the Children of Israel

It was through the crossing of the Red Sea the Children of Israel were baptized and became a different people (similar to Saul), the chosen people of God; His chosen children.

The Apostle Paul wrote of this symbolic baptism of the Children of Israel.

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, and passed through the sea. ALL were baptized INTO Moses in the cloud and in the sea . . . ” . . . (I Corinthians 10:1-2).

They were baptized INTO Moses. This is made plain in the following Scripture:

“. . . Now you shall speak to him (Aaron) and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he (Aaron) shall be your spokesman (Moses) to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth (to speak) for you, and you (Moses) shall be to him as God.” (Exodus 4:10-16).

Moses was a TYPE of Jesus Christ, who was a Spokesman (Logos) for God the Father.

“. . . all ate the same Spiritual food (Manna) . . . (I Corinthians 10:3).

This spiritual food, Manna, was a type of the WORD of God which all of God’s people are to ingest (John 6:32-35, 51). The manna from heaven was a physical type of the Spiritual. God used the MANNA to teach them about His Holy Sabbath (Exodus 16:1-5, 14-30):

“You also gave Your Good Spirit to instruct them (regarding the Sabbath, Exodus 16:1-5, 14-30) and did

This is in type of what the true Christian is to do as well while realizing Egypt is symbolic of sin (Revelation 11:8).
NOT withhold your manna from their mouth.” (Nehemiah 9:20).

“. . . and ALL drank the same Spiritual drink” (I Corinthians 10:4)

The Spiritual drink is in type God’s Holy Spirit.

“For they drank of that Spiritual ROCK that followed them, and that ROCK was Christ . . . (I Corinthians 10:5).

This water being a type of God’s Holy Spirit was miraculously given by Jesus Christ to Israel to be in their midst through the striking of the Rock by the rod of Moses (Exodus 17:1-7).

“The Church Jesus Christ Built on Himself
The Church of God in the New Testament was also BUILT ON THE ROCK, Jesus Christ:

He (Christ) asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” . . . “But who do you say that I am?” And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood has NOT revealed this to you, BUT MY FATHER who is in heaven (Matthew 16:13).

This can be understood by studying the context of the following Scriptures when it becomes necessary for the true ministers of Jesus Christ to deal with problems between brethren within the Church of God:

“The Government in God’s Church
“And I also say to you that you are Peter (Greek: petros – little rock), and ON THIS ROCK (Petra – massive rock, symbolizing Jesus Christ) I will BUILD My Church, and the gates of Hades (graves) shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

And I will give you the KEYS of the Kingdom of Heaven (as doorkeeper to open it on Jesus’ terms; God’s government and authority via His laws and doctrinal teachings), and whatever you FORBID on earth must be what is ALREADY forbidden in heaven (things in a state of having already been forbidden), and whatever you PERMIT on earth must be what is ALREADY permitted in heaven (must act in accordance with the will of heaven – God) (Matthew 16:19, 18:18, Williams Translation).

This booklet lays bare the astonishing facts of the ongoing use of MAKEUP, and the harm that come from its use, both physically, and spiritually.

It should be understood the decisions that God will bind are to be within the perimeter of God’s laws and teaching, such as: the use of Makeup. When one studies into its origin and history, it becomes very clear to the unbiased that Mr. Armstrong was led by God to make that decision.

Rather than taking up space in this writing regarding the subject of Makeup, please read our new booklet: “The Origin, History, and Ruling against the Use of Makeup.”
Mount Sinai, Pentecost, Marriage

At Mount Sinai, on the Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, the LORD God proposed to Israel to become His wife. His proposal was based on their acceptance of obeying His laws, 10 commandments, statutes, and judgments (Exodus 19, 20, 21-24). This is a type of God’s Church today. And Israel accepted God’s proposal to become His wife.

When we consider the proposal of God to Israel and their acceptance, and then compare it to the Elect being baptized, the type becomes very clear for it was after this God gave His Holy Spirit to the chosen Elect to be in the first resurrection:

God our Father POURED OUT His Holy Spirit on the chosen 120 people assembled in the Temple of God on the special Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. (Acts 2:1-3). It was given to be in their minds and hearts with a passionate and enduring love for God, His Truth, and Way of life.

Seeing this miracle the assembly of Jews were astounded! They wanted to understand why? The Apostle Peter then gave a sermon to them letting them know they were responsible for the death and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Hearing what he said, they were cut to their hearts and wanted to know what they should do:

Then Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Israel to Become Priests

The physical nation of Israel had been CHOSEN from among all of the other nations on earth to become the centerpiece in God’s Master Plan for the ultimate salvation of all mankind (Deuteronomy 7:7-11).

In type they were as the wife of the LORD God to act as priests to the Gentile nations teaching them His laws (Exodus 19:3-6), as will the ELECT after being born again.

The Duality of Then and Now

Looking back at the Parallel of God’s use of ancient Israel, who had been given His Holy Spirit to be in their MIDST, with the many CALLED to become members in the Worldwide Church of God, the Holy Spirit was given to be in their midst to fulfill the role of duality! It must be emphasized that the Holy Spirit did not reach into the depths of the hearts of Israel or the MANY not chosen by God. (Jeremiah 31:31).
Ancient Israel was used to set the PATTERN as the wife of the LORD God that would be a TYPE of the MANY called to be used by God during the life-time mission of Mr. Armstrong of doing the Work of God of preaching the Gospel.

The parallel use of the ministers of the Worldwide Church of God can be seen by considering the use of the Leadership of ancient Israel.

**The Empowering of the Leadership of Israel**

The LORD God put His Holy Spirit upon the Leadership to give them the needed wisdom and authority through the offices that were given to them to teach and resolve the problems of the people. This can be seen by the following Scripture in which God said to Moses:

So the LORD said to Moses: “Gather to Me 70 men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the Tabernacle of Meeting, that they may stand there with you.

"Then I will come down and talk to you there, I will take of the Spirit that is UPON you and will PUT the same upon them (70 elders); and they shall BEAR the BURDEN (as did with Mr. Armstrong) of the people with you, that you may NOT bear it alone” (Numbers 11:16-17).

This heavy responsibility carried over to Joshua after the death of Moses. Obeying the instructions from God, Moses laid Hands on Joshua to receive the Holy Spirit from God to be within him to bear the burden of leadership for the people of Israel after his death.

And the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua . . . a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand upon him and inaugurate him (commission)” (Numbers 27:18, 23).

Joshua was one of the few selected leaders to be a true patriarch and be in the first resurrection by his loyalty and faithfulness to God. At the close of his life, he said to Israel:

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).
Examples of Changes in People’s Lives

Once again, an example of how leaders or even the people of Israel could be changed into different people than they had been before in life can be seen in the life of Saul who became the first human king to be enthroned over Israel.

“(The Prophet Samuel to Saul) Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be TURNED into ANOTHER Man. . . . God will give you another Heart . . . .” (I Samuel 10:6, 9-10).

This is also what takes place in the life of those who are drawn by God the Father through Jesus Christ to become His begotten people (John 6:44). They repent and are baptized to become new people, a change in life style (Romans 6:4-6), then they are given God’s Holy Spirit to beget them and then become members of God’s true Church.

God Empowers His Leaders at Needed Times

An example of God empowering the minds of His leaders through His Holy Spirit to act at critical times can further be seen in the life of Saul. After having been anointed King of Israel, God stirred up Saul to act in his role as king by bringing His Spirit upon him at a critical time when the Ammonites were to launch an attack on Israel:

Then the Spirit of God came UPON Saul when he heard the news, and his anger was greatly aroused (I Samuel 11:6).

This can also be seen in the life of Samson; a chosen man of God from birth to be given tremendous POWER to work for the glory of God in His ongoing plan at that time:

And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him and he tore the lion apart” (Judges 14:5-6).

Judge Othniel - wisdom:
“The Spirit of the LORD came upon him and he judged Israel (Judges 3:10).

King Solomon:
“I have given you a wise and understanding heart,” (I Kings 3:12; 4:29).
David Anointed King of Israel
After the LORD God had rejected King Saul, He sent Samuel to Jesse the Bethlehemite to choose a King to shepherd His people Israel (I Samuel 16:1-3). One after the other of the seven sons of Jesse came before Samuel and they were rejected (I Samuel 16:7, 10).

David being the youngest and least of his brothers was sent for from where he was tending his family’s sheep to attend a family meeting with the Prophet Samuel present:

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him (David) in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came UPON David from that day forward (I Samuel 16:12-13).

A Lesson Always to Remember
During the reign of King Asa of Judah, an enormous army of over a million men came against Judah from Ethiopia.

And seeing their terrible dilemma, King Asa cried out to God for His help and was blessed because of it (II Chronicles 14:9-15). Afterwards the prophet of God warned King Asa:

Then the Spirit of God came upon Azariah (prophet) . . . and said to Asa, “. . . the LORD is with you WHILE you are with Him . . .” (II Chronicles 15:1-2).

This is a vital KEY Lesson that all of God’s chosen people need to learn and keep in memory.

When members walk away from God’s true Church, Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit will no longer be with them – to be explained later in this writing.

The Removal of God’s Spirit
The example of God removing His Spirit from King Saul can be applied to all those of Israel who rebelled against Him in the wilderness after having spied out the Promised Land and were afraid to enter it for fear of the giants living there.

The Spying of the Land of Promise—

And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a leader among them. . . .”

Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan . . .

And they returned from spying out the land after 40 days . . . and showed the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said, “We went to the land of where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit” (Numbers 13:1-3, 17-27).
Sentenced to Die in the Wilderness

Ten of the spies gave a negative report stating that it was impossible to conquer the people of the land due to its fortifications and giants dwelling there:

So all the Congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in the wilderness!

Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”

So they said to one another, “Let us select A LEADER and return to Egypt.” . . . 

(Numbers 14:1-10).

A Leader Selected by Some to Return to Egypt

Nehemiah makes known some did return to Egypt:

“But they and our fathers acted proudly (Margin: Presumptuously), hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. . . .” 

(Nehemiah 9:16-17).

This is what the former ministers and members did by following the apostate pastor general in 1995!

And the same has been experienced by this little flock – people choosing their leaders and returning to spiritual Egypt and bondage.

God’s Great Anger

Their lack of faith to trust God for conquering these nations made God very angry with them:

Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they NOT believe Me, with all the signs (MIRACLES) which I have performed among them?” . . . 

(Numbers 14:11).

God would have dealt severely with them except for Moses intervening and asking God to relent and pardon them. Nevertheless He did pass a death sentence on the older generation for their continuous rebellion:

And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who COMPLAIN against Me? I have heard the COMPLAINTS which the Children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

“The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb . . . and Joshua . . . you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall KNOW the land which you have DESPISED.

“But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness 40 years . . . according to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, 40 days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely 40 years. And you shall know My rejection. I the LORD have spoken this. . . .” 

(Numbers 14:26-38).

A Historical Note that followed Israel’s rebellion in the wilderness:
Experimental Commentary, volume 1, page 548, Numbers 14:1-4): “They were punished by their wishes being granted to die in that wilderness. A leader to re-conduct them to Egypt is spoke of (Nehemiah 9:17) as actually nominated. . . .

“This rebellion is computed to have occurred on the ninth day of Ab—a day memorable in Jewish history for a series of national calamities; the day of the same month on which Nebuchadnezzar, 900 years after, destroyed the city and the Temple of Jerusalem; on which, at a period long subsequent, Titus, the Roman commander, overthrew the capital of Judea, with its sanctuary, accomplishing the prediction of Micah (3:12); and on which, fifty years later still in punishment of the insurrection of Bar-Kokhba, the city was again besieged and taken by Hadrian, amid a massacre of 600,000 Jews. . . .”

Consider this rebellion of Israel as a proto-type of the ministry that also rebelled against Mr. Armstrong during his life-time and continues with his recorded works! Mr. Armstrong has stated he always prayed for these people as did Moses at that time.

“Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned according to your word (intercession); but truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs (miracles) which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the TEST these TEN TIMES (The same number of plagues God brought on Egypt), and have NOT heeded My voice, they certainly shall NOT see the land of which I swore to their fathers, NOR shall any of those who REJECTED Me see it.

“But My servant Caleb, because he has a DIFFERENT SPIRIT in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it” (Numbers 14:20-24).

As can be seen with Caleb—He also brought His Holy Spirit upon His chosen leadership and placed His Holy Spirit in them.

King David is another example of one who pleaded with God not to take His Spirit from him while pleading with God to create a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within him (Psalm 51:10-11).
At the same time they were NOT begotten by His Holy Spirit. However their day in time will come when Jesus Christ returns to this earth and will resurrect them from their graves.

Scripture reveals all of the faithful men and women of old who were chosen and used by the LORD God, along with all other faithful people of God, prior to the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. (Hebrews 11), will be resurrected in their physical bodies, impregnated, and born again into God’s family – all taking place in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:52; Hebrews 11).

The Death Sentence on the Rebels of Israel
Tragically the bad report given by 10 of the 12 men who spied out the Promised Land that Israel was to inherit was believed by the people of Israel. They then lost faith in God to enable them to conquer the nations occupying the land.

It is sad the members continue to give up on God and His true Church in the heat of the battle when confronted by overwhelming odds in this day and age. They should realize what took place with Israel will also take place with them unless they repent.

The older generation of Israel was doomed to wander in the desert until they were all dead:

This can also be applied to all who were once of the Worldwide Church of God, who either chose to leave or were removed from it by disfellowship just as it took place with King Saul after He rejected God by disobeying Him.

But the Spirit of the LORD DEPARTED from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him (I Samuel 16:14).

Once they began rejecting God’s True Teachings, while accepting Protestant teachings, their attitudes were also affected and became hostile (Romans 8:7), while pursuing their own course apart from God. As the result God’s Holy Spirit was no longer with them.

Another example to consider: What took place with King Saul is a type of what also occurred with the Ephesian elders after having been warned by the Apostle Paul as to what they would do after his death: “... rising up and speaking perverse things to DRAW away disciples after themselves (Acts 20:25-32).

The Effects of Losing God’s Holy Spirit
Though nothing bad normally takes place after one chooses to leave the Church, or has to be put outside of it (Romans 16:17), however Scripture does reveal God’s protection is no longer there and such an individual becomes subject to real problems from Satan the devil as did with King Saul (Psalm 34:7).
This can also be seen when the Apostle Paul ordered the Congregation in Corinth to turn over a man to Satan the devil:

“In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the POWER (authority) of our Lord Jesus Christ, DELIVER such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus” (I Corinthians 5:4-5).

This possibly has the meaning that if his being a Christian and repentance did come he will be in the first resurrection. On the other hand if he fits within the parable of the sower, rocky soil or among the thorns, he will be in the second resurrection.

The Falling Away of Physical Israel

Though Israel had God’s Holy Spirit in their MIDST along with the teachings of His Holy Laws, His Spirit no longer functioned within their minds and hearts, as does the truly converted people of God, due to their being blinded to a real knowing relationship with God.

“For they (Israel) being ignorant (blinded) of God’s righteousness, seeking to establish their own righteousness, have NOT submitted to the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

Israel only knew the LORD God by seeing the cloud above them and through the leadership of Moses. As the result it became easy for them to gripe and complain against him; while failing to realize in reality this was against God and they paid a terrible price – they had no faith in their Husband, the LORD God (Hebrews 3:16-18):

“But with most of them God was NOT well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness” (I Corinthians 10:5).

“For IF that first covenant (Marriage to the LORD God, Exodus 19:4-8; 24:1-8) had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second (covenant, marriage). Because finding fault with them (not the covenant but the people), He says:

“Behold the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— . . . for this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD, I will put MY LAWS in their minds and WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS; and I will be their God and they shall be My people” (Hebrews 8:7-10).

The apostate pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God took away many thousands of members away with him, stating the laws of God were done away with the first covenant, and accepted the fullness of the Protestant teachings; they have since re-named their church: Grace Communion.
In his blindness and by his use of Satan the devil, Mr. Tkach could be compared to King Saul who was rejected by God for he sought to please the people instead of God (I Samuel 15:24).

How would he have dealt with the above Scripture and the new marriage covenant? It reveals God’s laws have never been done away nor will they ever be for they are spiritual laws and point out the way to God and eternal life (Psalm 19:7-14; Romans 7:12, 14; 3:20; 4:15); they are established forever!

**No Fear of God**

Israel did not heed Moses for they had NO FEAR of him! They became disobedient to God and His laws as did the MANY of the corporate Worldwide Church of God after the death of Mr. Armstrong (Exodus 16:20; Romans 16:18).

Unless they come to see where they are wrong and repent they will end up suffering much like Israel of old (II Kings 17:5-23).

The following Scriptures teach that God’s true Church, as Spiritual Israel, should learn from the lessons physical Israel failed to learn:

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4).

**The Falling Away from the Church of God**

‘The Elders in Ephesus’ – While the Apostle Paul was in Ephesus he called for the elders of the Church to come and meet with him, probably in a home, to give them counsel and a cautionary warning that parallels with the corporate Worldwide Church of God:

“For I have NOT shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore TAKE HEED to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the HOLY SPIRIT has made you overseers, to SHEPHERD the Church of God which He purchased with His own BLOOD.

“For I KNOW this, AFTER my departure SAVAGE WOLVES will come in among you, NOT sparing the flock. Also FROM among yourselves men will RISE UP, speaking PERVERSE things, to DRAW AWAY the disciples (learners) AFTER themselves. Therefore WATCH, and remember that for three years I did NOT cease to WARN everyone night and day with tears.

“And, NOW (saying goodbye), brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are SANCTIFIED” (Acts 20:27-32).

**A Parallel of the End-Time**

What the Apostle Paul said here is a direct parallel with Mr. Armstrong’s last sermon in 1985 at the Feast of Trumpets – when he said: “ravenous wolves were waiting for him to die.” Knowing this would happen after his death, he gave the commission to all of the ministers to begin preparing the Church to meet the Bridegroom.
Virtually all of the people who became members of the Radio Church of God (from 1933 to 1986), that later became the Worldwide Church of God, fell away at one time or another through those years following an apostate pastor-general who was used by Satan the devil to fulfill that prophecy.

Though a fairly large number of ministers and members left the Church in 1974 (approximately 3,000), it was climaxed by the greater number of the membership departing from the True Church occurring in 1995 of over 100,000 members and ministers.

These very large numbers of the membership fulfilled the prophecy concerning the Falling Away that was prophesied to take place shortly before the coming of Jesus Christ:

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him (I Thessalonians 4:13-18), we ask you, not to soon be shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the Day of Christ already had come.

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will NOT come UNLESS the Falling Away (Greek: apostacia = deserts, rejects, rebelling against the apostle) COMES-FIRST...” (II Thessalonians 2:1-3).

Virtually all of those many people remained faithful to those true teachings while supporting Christ’s apostle until the time of his death in 1986.

But their leaving was the fulfillment of the MANY called from 1933 to 1986, but only a few chosen from among them were of the True Elect of the Philadelphia Era of God’s Church that had its beginning in 1933 with 19 members who remained faithful to God.

The many who fell away did commit apostacia—deserting God’s apostle; altogether over 100,000 members deserted and rejected the doctrinal teachings Jesus Christ restored through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God’s apostle, and the promised Elijah of the end-time, into the Church of the living God. The desertion began taking place prior to and in the early part of 1995 – fulfilling the following Scriptures:

“Justice is TURNED back, and righteousness stands AFAR off (can only be known by God’s laws- Romans 7:7; 3:20; I John 3:4); for TRUTH is fallen in the street (discarded as an old garment to be trampled on—called by some: The New Norm), and equity cannot enter. SO TRUTH fails, and he who departs from evil (remaining faithful to God and His laws) makes himself a prey (disfellowshipped from WWCG, as many of us were by the apostates and also a prey by society)” (Isaiah 59:14-15).
Former Church Affiliations
Looking back at our former lives before coming to be members of God’s true Church, some of us were members, or attendees now and then of the Protestant churches: Pentecostal, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, etc.; while others had nothing to do with any of them.

Considering which ever church we did attend, the question should be asked of ourselves: How much did we really learn from what was taught from the Holy Bible in those worldly churches?

Reflecting back to those years we would have to say we did not learn anything from the Holy Scriptural Teachings! I know I did not learn anything from the Pentecostal Church, the Church of Christ, Methodist, the Nazarene, and Baptist. And if they are honest they would have to say the same.

Thinking of those past years, it is ironic the many thousands of members of the Worldwide Church of God chose to return to those Protestant Churches while casting aside the true teachings of the Bible – the Pearl of Great Price; preferring to cast their pearls before swine! This brings to pass what is written by the Apostle Peter:

“For it would have been better for them NOT to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to TURN from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire” (II Peter 2:21-22).

The New Teachings
Example: It was the early part of 1995 that one of the local elders serving in the congregation I was pastoring asked me: “Mr. Billingsley, what do you think about these new teachings?” Without answering his question, I asked him, “What do you think about them?” He replied, “I think they are wonderful!” Then I said, Mr. _______ there are many who feel they disproved them.” He then said with all sincerity, “I thought I did too.” Shortly thereafter he returned to the Lutheran Church.

Pagan Teachings: Most of the Protestant Churches believe they have immortal souls, born again now, are going to heaven immediately when they die while ignoring the true teaching of the Resurrections, Hell-Gehenna, Sunday as their Sabbath, Trinity, etc. These are only a few of the pagan teachings most of the former members once again embraced, fully, or in part.

They also believe that Today is the only Day of Salvation whereby man must be saved (II Corinthians 6:2; neglecting that today is A Day of Salvation, Isaiah 49:8 KJV, and in the Hebrew); their belief is also based on the following Scriptures—

“Nor is there SALVATION in any other, for there is NO NAME under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The question then follows: What happens to all humanity who have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ? They have no real answer that fits with Scriptures.

Their lack of understanding denies Jesus Christ was in reality the LORD God of the Old Testament (I Corinthians 10:4, etc.), which they once knew while members of the Worldwide Church of God serving under Mr. Armstrong.
Perhaps some of those members were really zealous in whatever church they were once part of in the world, as many came to be over the years as members of the World Wide Church of God — servicing the News Stands with the Plain Truth Magazines as well as serving diligently in many other areas within the Church, but later walked away turning their backs on what they had zealously embraced at the time.

The Power of Spiritual Darkness
To His disciples, Jesus Christ spoke prophetically of the spiritual blindness that would once again envelop those members blending them in with the rest of mankind of this world:

Jesus said to them (the 12 apostles), “To YOU it has been given TO KNOW the MYSTERY (secret or hidden truths) of the Kingdom of God; but TO THOSE who are OUTSIDE, all things come in parables (like riddles – a means of conveying wonderful hidden truths that can only be understood by God’s Spirit), so that, SEEING they may NOT perceive, and HEARING they may NOT understand; lest they should TURN (be converted) and their sins be forgiven them. . . .” (Mark 4:11-12).

This brought about the very Wide GAP separating those who have been given the true understanding of the TRUTH from those who have been spiritually blinded, as pictured in the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man:

“... between you and us there is A GREAT GULF fixed so that those who want to pass from here to you CANNOT, NOR can those from there pass to us.” (Luke 16:26).

There are the members who are explained further in the Parable of the Sower who were with the Elect, had a superficial understanding but walked away due to not having a real and enduring LOVE for the TRUTH of God (II Thessalonians 2:10-12). The DOOR is NOW closed to them of saving knowledge for they have themselves rejected it.

NOTE: Mr. Armstrong stated the people among the rocks and thorns were converted - had God’s Holy Spirit. He also stated they lacked the depth or capacity to grow spiritually. Further, they lacked the real depth of LOVE for God’s truth.

This was due to their not being begotten by the Father as other Scriptures make known. They had been INVITED to the Wedding Supper, but the pursuit of the cares of the world led them away. It was at this point they departed from God’s Holy Spirit that had been in their lives.
The Parable of the Sower describes the membership and ministers of the Worldwide Church of God before the death of Mr. Armstrong. They had the SEED (the Word of God) that had been sown in the rocky soil and among the thorns.

The Seed is the Word of God (as made known in the following parables) . . . (Luke 8:11-15).

Seed Sown by the Wayside

“Behold a sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. . . . Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom of God, and does not understand it, then the Wicked One (Satan the devil) comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart (John 10:10). This is he who received seed (Word of God) by the way side” (Matthew 13:3-4, 18-19).

Seed Sown on Stony Places

“So some (SEED) fell on STONY PLACES, where they did NOT have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had NO DEPTH of earth (SEED not implanted deeply within their hearts). But WHEN the SUN was up they were SCORCHED, and BECAUSE they had NO ROOT they withered away (fell away here and there from the Church of God) . . . (Matthew 13:5-6)

The Parable of the stony places explained by Christ:

“For when tribulation or persecution ARISES BECAUSE of the Word, immediately he stumbles (times of TESTING, fall away, Luke 8:13)” Matthew 13:20-21).


Seed Sown among the Thorns

“And some (SEED) fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them (and yielded no crop,” Mark 4:7) . . . (Matthew 13:7).

The Parable of the thorns explained by Christ:

“Now he who received SEED among the thorns is he who HEARS THE WORD, and the CARES of this world (“and the desire
for other things entering in choked the Word,” Mark 4:19, appearance, makeup—hair styles and length, etc.) and the DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES CHOKE THE WORD (the pursuit of riches in conjunction with the frugality of giving to the Work, hearts not in it), and he BECOMES unfruitful” (Matthew 13:7, 22).

Most of the membership produced fruit through the years of the ministry of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong while doing the Work of God (1934-1986); but ceased thereafter.

Luke added to what Matthew wrote:

“But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, some a hundred, “Mark 4:8).”

Sowing of Tares among the Good Seed

The TARES sown among the wheat are erroneously believed to be members by the true membership of God’s Church. Among these tares are those of the synagogue of Satan.

Scripture reveals the Synagogue of Satan to be the Catholic Church (Revelation 17:1-2, 6), it also reveals the Protestant Churches are her daughters (Revelation 2:20-23).

And among the true membership of the true Church of God is the synagogue of Satan—ministers and members with pagan beliefs who have been planted by Satan the devil (Revelation 2:9; 3:9).
This can only mean that Satan has not only planted Tares among the membership of the True Church of God but he has also planted men who have come to be ordained ministers who yet believe, or came to believe, the pagan teachings of the Catholic and Protestant Churches.

Example: One evangelist who was in charge of the Letter Answering Department confessed in a sermon given in Pasadena that he had always believed we are born again now. This was after the death of Mr. Armstrong and the acceptance of this teaching by the apostate pastor general.

He echoed the beliefs of other ministers in the Church, including evangelists and lower rank, who came to believe this pagan doctrine along with other pagan doctrines.

While reflecting on the recent history of the cause of the ‘Falling Away’ it can be realized the Synagogue of Satan was primarily made up of unconverted ordained ministers who were also of the Tares – wolves in sheep’s clothing!

This can be understood by what Jesus Christ said in His letter to the Philadelphia Church Era:

“Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know I have LOVED you.” (Revelation 3:9).

They will worship Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong during the Great White Throne Judgment who then will have been born into God’s Family; they will sorrowfully repent of having assassinated his character and use by Jesus Christ.

With this in mind— connect this Scripture with the Parable of the Tares:

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The Kingdom of heaven (God’s true Church in Embryo) is like a man who sowed GOOD SEED in his field; but while MEN SLEPT, his enemy came and sowed TARES among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, the TARES also appeared. . .” (Matthew 13:24-26).

The servants said to Him, ‘Do You want us then to go and gather them up?’ “But He said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the TARES, you also UPROOT the wheat with them (Matthew 13:28-29).

‘Let both (tares and wheat) grow together UNTIL the harvest (the harvest began in the end-time, 1986 – the falling away II Thessalonians 2:1-3), and at the time of (closing part of the) harvest I will say to the REAPERS (angels – verses 41-42), ‘First GATHER TOGETHER the tares and bind them in bundles (corporate churches off-track) to BURN THEM (Great Tribulation), but gather the wheat into my barn (to flee and be protected in the Place of Safety)” (Matthew 13:30).

The Explanation of the Parable of the TARES by Christ:

He (Jesus Christ) answered and said to them (His disciples): “He who sows the GOOD SEED is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom, BUT the Tares are the sons of the Wicked One (deceived instruments of Satan the Devil). The enemy who sowed them is the DEVIL, the harvest is the (closing part of the) end of the age, and the REAPERS are the Angels” (Matthew 13:37-39).

“Therefore as the TARES are gathered and BURNED IN THE FIRE (The tares together with the corporate churches that are off-track) (Great Tribulation) so will it be at the end of the age” (Matthew 13:40).
"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom (His Church) all things that OFFEND (implanted tares), and those who PRACTICE Lawlessness (Romans 16:17-18, such as violating Exodus 16 – eating out on God’s Sabbath instead of preparing for it at home), and will CAST THEM into the furnace of FIRE (Great Tribulation). There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:41-42).

Tasting of God’s Holy Spirit
Putting together the writings of the Apostle Paul about those who fall away can sometimes be misleading to think that KNOWLEDGE ALONE can condemn a person once they fall away as the following Scripture could possibly lead one to believe:

“For if we sin willfully, after we have received the knowledge of the TRUTH, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. . . .” (Hebrews 10:26-31).

However the Apostle Paul qualified that Scripture in an earlier chapter by writing that KNOWLEDGE alone is not enough to condemn a person:

“...For it is impossible for those who were once ENLIGHTENED and have TASTED (Young’s Concordance – to experience) the heavenly gift, and have become PARTAKERS of the Holy Spirit (based on other Scriptures this can only mean those begotten by God the Father), and have TASTED (experienced the Truth) the Good Word, and the POWERS of the Age to Come, IF they (the begotten) fall away, to RENEW them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

To have the correct understanding there is the need of putting these two writings together.

The Harvest
“... The harvest is the (closing part of the) end of the age . . . .” (Matthew 13:39).

The time of the harvest will be when it becomes time for the Good Seed, the Elect people of God from the Philadelphia Church Era, having been tried and proven, to FLEE to the Place Jesus Christ will have prepared for them (Revelation 12:6, 14; 3:10; Luke 21:36).

The other half of the Elect people of God, the Laodiceans, will not be counted worthy to escape with the remnant of the Philadelphia Era due to their self-righteousness (Revelation 3:14-21; 12:17). Tragically, they will only be able to gain their salvation by repenting during the Great Tribulation while experiencing horrible deaths as martyrs (Revelation 6:9-11).

The Righteous Seed Sown in the Good Ground
The righteous SEED will be harvested upon the return of Jesus Christ. He will first resurrect His dead saints from their graves; then He will CHANGE His yet living saints into His likeness (I Thessalonians 4:16-17), who will at that time be dwelling in the Place of safety.

“Then the RIGHTEOUS will SHINE FORTH as the SUN in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear let him hear!” (Matthew 13:43; 24:29-31).
Members Leaving Their First Love
The cause of why members move away from God’s true Church is found in the writings of the Apostle John to the Ephesian Church Era. And it applies to members who have moved away from God’s True Church ever since that time:

“... Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love ...” (Revelation 2:1-5).

The Apostle Peter makes known the contrast between them:

“Therefore to you who believe, He is precious, but to those who are disobedient... they stumble, being disobedient to the Word to which they also were appointed.

“BUT you are a CHOSEN GENERATION, a royal priesthood, His own SPECIAL PEOPLE, that you may proclaim the PRAISES of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His MARVELOUS LIGHT; who once were NOT a people BUT are now the people of God, who had NOT obtained mercy BUT now have obtained mercy” (I Peter 2:7-10).

The Psalmist urges people to come to really know the good and caring God that He is:

“O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who TRUSTS in Him” (Psalm 34:8).

Deliverance from the Power of Darkness
To contrast those who chose to return to the power of darkness with those who are the true begotten Children of God, the Apostle Paul wrote:

“He has delivered us from the POWER of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His LOVE in whom we have redemption through His BLOOD, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

With humility, he further wrote of his heartfelt gratitude and thanks to God:

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom THE WHOLE FAMILY in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14-15).

He also wrote of the trust in God that comes after hearing the TRUTH of God:

“In Him you also TRUSTED, AFTER you heard THE WORD OF TRUTH (Romans 10:8, 17), the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were SEALED with the Holy Spirit of Promise” (Ephesians 1:13; James 1:18).
Resurrection back to Human Life

Those who chose to depart from the true Church did so due to being blinded once again by the power of darkness. It is with sadness to realize these people will experience the horrors of the Great Tribulation. However most, if not all, will be resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgment – to take place shortly after the end of the millennium. This is based on other Scriptures:

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall AWAKE (resurrected back to life), some to everlasting life (first resurrection – I Thessalonians 4:13-18), some to shame (second resurrection, Revelation 20:5), and everlasting contempt (third resurrection, Revelation 20:13-15)” (Daniel 12:2).

Jesus Christ gave an overview of these resurrections by saying:

“How the Elect Know They are of God

There are numerous Scriptures that make known how the truly CHOSEN ELECT people of God can know they are of the true people of God:

1) Their ongoing relationship with God
2) Answers to their prayers
3) Their love for the truth
4) Perseverance
5) Faithfulness to the true teachings
6) Their fruits
7) Involvement with their hearts in the Work of God
The hearts and minds of the true elect know they are truly God’s people – members of the true Church of God that was built by Jesus Christ and further would never die; and led by the Spirit of God, not driven nor forced to make corrective changes, but willingly when found to be wrong:

“For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Revelation 14:4-5). The Spirit itself BEARS witness with our Spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:14, 16).

The Apostle John also wrote:

“We KNOW that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the Wicked One. And we KNOW that the Son of God has come, and has given us UNDERSTANDING, that we MAY know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is TRUE, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the TRUE God and eternal life.” (I John 5:19-20).

Discouragement at Times
Mr. Armstrong has said in the past that at one time or another the truly converted person will question his or her baptism and selection by God. This usually happens when one becomes depressed and discouraged.

But when we thoughtfully ask ourselves, “Did we really repent with heartfelt godly sorrow and then began turning around from the wrong direction we were going in the beginning of our relationship with God?” And if we then say, ‘yes,’ that resolves the question.

Repentance

Those who claim to be Christians, and are not, will rarely, if ever, ask that question of themselves.

Departure from the Fellowship of the Church of God
The following Scripture clearly reveals those who have left are NOT of the Philadelphia Era of the true Church of God. They are identified by the Parable of the Sower, Tares, or even of the Laodiceans:

“They went out from us, but they were NOT of us; for IF they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that NONE of them were of us” (I John 2:19).

The Apostle John further makes known for the safety of God’s true people to keep them from deception to have nothing to do with those who have chosen the wrong way:

“This is LOVE that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning (Matthew 24:4-5), you should walk in it. For MANY deceivers have gone out into the world. . . .

“Look to yourselves, that we do NOT lose those things which we worked for, that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses (margin: goes ahead) and does NOT abide in the DOCTRINE of Christ does NOT have God.

“He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and His Son. If ANYONE comes to you and does NOT bring this DOCTRINE, DO NOT RECEIVE HIM into your house (mail, internet, or person) NOR greet him for he who GREETS him shares in in his evil deeds” (II John 6-11).

This also has the meaning of not attending the FUNERALS, MARRIAGES or any other functions
of those who are no longer in God’s Church. These are the gathering places of the disfellowshipped in addition to others who have chosen to go their own way apart from the true Church of God. Neither should cards of any kind be mailed to them – no contact!

**Is this Showing a Lack of Love for Former Members?**

You might think this is going too far! If so, reconsider what Jesus Christ led the Apostle John to write in the above Scriptures! In addition remember what the Apostle Paul wrote about the disfellowshipped:

“No I urge, brethren (true people of God), note those who cause divisions and offenses, CONTRARY to the doctrine which you learned (from Jesus Christ through His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11), AND AVOID THEM. For those who are such who do NOT serve our Lord Jesus Christ, BUT their own belly, and BY SMOOTH WORDS AND FLATTERING SPEECH DECEIVE the Hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:17-18).

These commands from God through His Apostles should separate the FEW from the MANY who have departed from the fullness of God’s TRUE TEACHINGS.

Do we listen and heed God’s teachings—or reason around them? Further, the Apostle John wrote:

“We are of God. He who KNOWS God (a real relationship) HEARS US. He who is NOT of God does NOT hear us. By this we KNOW the Spirit of TRUTH and the spirit of error” (I John 4:6).

God’s true people, the FEW can be known by what Jesus Christ wrote to the Philadelphia Church Era; also by what He said of the 144,000, they are spiritual virgins and follow Christ wherever He goes (Revelation 3:7-13; 14:1-4).

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**Pentecost/Feast of Weeks /Firstfruits**

To fit within the context of the following writing—the question is repeated: Did God BEGET anyone with His Holy Spirit before the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D? From what Jesus Christ said – no one ever did – except Himself (*John 7:37-39*).

Speaking of Israel, God said through His Prophet:

“According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came up out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains AMONG you (not in them)” (*Haggai 2:5*).

How can we know the difference between the Laodiceans and the Tares?

1) Jesus Christ made known the Tares belong to Satan the devil (*Matthew 13:38*).

2) The Laodiceans are of the true Elect of God having been begotten by God’s Holy Spirit (*Revelation 3:14-22; 12:17*).

However because they are very self-righteous due to the TRUTH of God they have been taught (by Christ through Mr. Armstrong), and unwillingness to grow in revealed knowledge of the end-time, and be corrected by Christ, they will have to endure the horrors of the **Great Tribulation**, hopefully with repentance and faithfulness to death. If so, they will be graced with salvation in the First Resurrection (*Revelation 3:14-22; 6:9-11*).
The LOVE for the TRUTH of God

The acceptance and obedience to the FULLNESS OF THE TRUTH OF GOD separates the true people of God from all those who are not by their having been sanctified by it (set apart, John 17:17). And God through His Holy Spirit OPENS THE minds of His people to receive His Truth.

“However, when It, the Spirit of TRUTH has come, It will guide you into all truth . . .” (John 16:13).

The MANY remove themselves sooner or later from God’s true Church, as the Parable of the Sower reveals. As to why—because they do not have the LOVE OF THE TRUTH as made known by the Apostle Paul:

“The coming of the lawless one (lesser type the apostate pastor-general; the primary one will be the Pope, verses 3-4) is according to the working of Satan, with all power (authority), signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who PERISH, BECAUSE they did NOT receive THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved.

“And for THIS REASON God will SEND them ‘STRONG DELUSION’, that they should BELIEVE THE LIE” (II Thessalonians 2:9-12).

Jesus Christ gave a command to LOVE the truth and also to have GODLY LOVE for each of the true brethren:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you LOVE one another as I loved you (Philadelphia Era – brotherly love), that YOU also love one another. By this all will KNOW that you are MY disciples, IF you have LOVE for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Scripture reveals the contrast between the FEW and the MANY:

“But My servant Caleb, because he had A DIFFERENT SPIRIT in him and followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it” (Numbers 14:24).

God’s ELECT have been given a DIFFERENT SPIRIT from the MANY who only had it in their MIDST; they, and they only, are the true sons of God (Romans 8:9-11, 14).

The ELECT

God calls His begotten people His ELECT. These are men and women who were predestinated and chosen later in life from the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5, 11-14; Romans 8:30), and those chosen by God are drawn to Him at some point in their human lifetime from the darkness of this evil world:

“No one can come to Me UNLESS the Father who sent Me DRAWS him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44, 65).

And God’s ELECT people are called the sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

Realizing duality and patterns in Scripture it would seem God our Father impregnates us with the seed of eternal life in the way that He did with the Virgin Mary:

“The Holy Spirit will come UPON you and the POWER of the HIGHEST will OVERSHADOW you; therefore, also, that HOLY ONE who is to be BORN of you (Mary) will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).
Though this had to do with the Messiah, it would appear this also takes place with those who come to be begotten by God the Father through His Holy Spirit, as was the second Elijah – of the end-time.

Though John the Baptizer was given God’s Holy Spirit he was not begotten at that time for he was executed before the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D.

John filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb (Luke 1:15-17).

God’s Apostle
Partly Blinded to the Many Called
Reflecting on the years of the ministry of Mr. Armstrong: because of the needs for the WORK it was of necessity that he be BLINDED in part to the MANY who had been CALLED to be members of the Worldwide Church of God for it was through their tithes and offerings that made possible the fulfilling of his mission of doing the WORK of God while he lived.

He could see God’s Holy Spirit was there with them, but did not see any real depth of their real conversion that could only come through their begettal from God the Father; this they did not have; nor real Love and Desire for TRUTH. Numerous times he commented about it with wonderment.

The Apostle Paul was also blinded believing all that were in the Churches he began and oversaw that they were true people of God. Toward the end of his mission on earth, he began to understand many were not true members for he wrote all in Asia had left the Church (II Timothy 1:15; 3:1-13; 4:1-15). From the beginning of God’s Church there were the tares as can be seen in the Ephesian Church Era (Revelation 2:1-7).

Jude sought to keep the members faithful in his short letter trying to get the members to contend earnestly for the FAITH once delivered (Jude 3). Sadly, it only helped the truly converted people of God, and the same is true today.

The Seven Church Eras
The apostles Peter, Jude, and John saw the many problems within the Church as well and wrote about them.

Jesus Christ led the Apostle John to write about them in the letters to the Seven Church Eras:

To the angel of the Church of Ephesus write, “These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the MIDST of the seven candlesticks: ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have TESTED those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them LIARS (Synagogue of Satan). . . Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have LEFT your first love . . .” (Revelation 2:1).

Having left their first LOVE continued through the Church Eras until it reached its death in the Sardis Church Era.

The Dead Church
The Sardis Church Era became filled with false ministers and members. Only the FEW survived; God says they are a dead Church:

And to the angel of the Church in Sardis write, “These things says He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: ‘I know your works, that you have A NAME that you are alive, but you are dead” (Revelation 3:1).

The LOVE for God and Jesus Christ was REVIVED, and also among the true membership, within the Philadelphia Era (the Church of brotherly love, Revelation 3:7-13).
Many are Called, Few are Chosen
While concluding this writing it is necessary to repeat that Jesus Christ speaks of the FEW in comparison with the MANY who have been selectively called by Him to be with Him as His wife in the coming Resurrection:

“. . . For MANY are called (invited) but few chosen” (Matthew 20:16)

Experimental Commentary, volume 5, page 100, Matthew 20:16: Called> “It can only mean here INVITED. And so the sense is MANY receive the invitations [sower] of the Gospel whom God has CHOSEN to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit [not begotten] – not chosen] and BELIEF of the TRUTH (LOVE for the TRUTH), (II Thessalonians 2:13). . . .”

The FEW CHOSEN are made known by the beliefs of the heart:

“For with the HEART one believes UNTO righteousness (not superficially), and the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

The last will be the FIRST (Philadelphia Remnant, 7,000) from this end-time, and the FIRST (the MANY who had been the first) shall be the last (GWTJ). “For MANY shall be called, but FEW are CHOSEN.”

So the last generation, along with those called and selected by God the Father from the beginning of Creation, will be among the FIRST to live over into God’s Kingdom offering salvation as the Bride of Jesus Christ to others; the sum total 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5).

The End of This Age
The 144,000 who have been called and chosen by God will be with Him in defeating the armies gathered to do battle against Jesus Christ in the Valley of Jehoshaphat:

“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will OVERCOME them, for He is LORD of Lords and KING of Kings; and those who are with Him are called, Chosen (Greek: kletus), and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).
Drawing a Comparison between Israel and the Elect

The Apostle Paul drew a comparison between Physical Israel and Spiritual Israel, the Chosen Elect of God in the following Scriptures:

“. . . I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal (as did the worldwide church of God under the reign of the apostate pastor general that has since become Grace Communion – together with the Corporate Churches), even so then, at this present time there is A REMNANT according to the election of grace (The remnant of the Philadelphia Era of God’s true Church, Revelation 3:7-13) . . .

“What then? Israel has NOT obtained what it seeks (Romans 10:2); but the ELECT have obtained it, and the rest were BLINDED . . .” (Romans 11:1-8).

“Therefore, brethren (being among the FEW), be even more diligent to make your calling and Election sure” (II Peter 1:10). Never, ever, take this awesome and wonderful calling from God for granted. Jesus Christ cautions His people:

Revelation 3:11 “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have that NO ONE take your Crown.”

The End

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