

## The Atoning Process

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Brethren, here we are at yet another Holy Day on the Day of Atonement. I am going to give you the title of today's sermon right away. The title is *The Atoning Process*.

What does this mean? We are here today to learn how to become at one with God. This is a process we are working on until our change from mortal to immortal or until our change to Elohim.

I am going to start today by reading a truth I have never referenced before, but as with all the truths, all are very important. All truths are a reflection of God. So, let's read Truth #39 - this truth was given to God's Church via the end-time apostle, Ron Weinland. This was after the era of Laodicea.

**39 (18) Herbert W. Armstrong was a "type" of the prophesied "Elijah to come," as he restored all truth essential to salvation to the Church of God during the Philadelphia Era.** Very few in the Church that was scattered teach this today. Mr. Armstrong described himself as a voice crying out in the wilderness and stated in *Mystery of the Ages* that he had fulfilled the prophecies of the Elijah to Come.

Let's concentrate on the statement, "he restored all truth essential to salvation to the Church of God during the Philadelphia Era." I also want to draw attention to the statement, "Very few in the Church that are scattered teach this today."

God inspired His end-time apostle, Mr. Armstrong, to restore 18 truths. The word "essential" means "absolutely necessary; extremely important." So, the 18 truths restored during the Philadelphia Era and the 39 truths given after the Laodicea Era are absolutely necessary and extremely important for our salvation. In other words, without the truths of God, we cannot make it, we cannot achieve our final goal of Elohim.

We are reminded that God's end-time Church, Church of God - PKG is the only church who truly understands who Mr. Armstrong was, the value of what Mr. Armstrong gave us. He was not just a good teacher. Mr. Armstrong was God's apostle, and he gave his life for God's people. Without Mr. Armstrong, none of us, not one, would be sitting here on this Day of Atonement in the year 2024. And why?

**19 (16) The annual festivals.** The plan of God, as shown through the Holy Days, was revealed to the Church of God only through Herbert W. Armstrong. The Passover and Holy Days picture God's plan of salvation for mankind.

God revealed to Mr. Armstrong His plan of salvation for mankind was to be restored to His Church. The Holy Days are what outline God's plan of salvation.

I want to read another truth. The truth goes hand in hand with truth 19.

**20 (17) The authority of the sacred calendar preserved by the Jews.** Through Herbert W. Armstrong, the Church understands the authority God gave to the Jews to preserve the weekly and yearly calendar.

It is through the preservation of this calendar that we know what day we are to be keeping the Holy Days. Today is the Day of Atonement known as Yom Kippur on the calendar.

We cannot get to the Atonement until we have completed the first part of God's plan. We all know it starts with Passover. We all know this is not a Holy Day, but no Holy Day can be understood or kept until we have taken and understand the Passover. This part of the plan has been fulfilled. Joshua the Christ was born of Mary and was flesh and blood just like us, yet never sinned.

Let's turn over to **Hebrews 14:14-16—Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Joshua the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Joshua the Christ is ready and sitting at the right hand of the Father. Joshua, our perfect example, and God our Father are here with us today in spirit. They are keeping the Day of Atonement with us. Now, that should bring tears to your eyes. The Creator of all, the one who sustains life, the one who gives you your next breath, is sitting here with you in spirit, and is He well pleased with His people for doing so.

We understand that the next step is Days of Unleavened Bread. This step in God's plan is being fulfilled daily in our lives if – and that is a big if – we are obeying God, repenting of sin as quickly as we see it.

I'd like to turn over to Leviticus 23. **Leviticus 23:4-6—These are the Feasts of the Eternal, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at sundown is the Eternal's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Eternal; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.**

God tells us the Passover is on the 14<sup>th</sup> – not the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, but the 14<sup>th</sup>. All of Passover was fulfilled on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We eat unleavened bread for seven days because we are to be putting leavening out. Leavening represents sin in our lives that must be removed and repented of so that we are not cut off from God. Our Passover is what makes that possible.

Paul refers to the Days of Unleavened Bread in 1 Corinthians showing that the Church of God has always done this.

Let's turn over to **1 Corinthians 5:6-8—Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

Paul is telling the Corinthians they are to put the leavening out, to put the sin out and become unleavened. If sin is unchecked it will affect the whole Body. We must transform our way of thinking and change who we are so that we can become like our Passover, Joshua. Joshua's sacrifice cannot be in vain. God gave the Passover so we can have the opportunity to be a part of His Family.

Continuing in **verse 8—Therefore, let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.** We are to become without sin. We are to live our lives with sincerity and truth. We are to live our lives glorifying God Almighty.

The next Holy Day is Pentecost. We know we are waiting for the return of Joshua to begin his reign as King of kings ushering in God's Kingdom of equality, a Kingdom that does not show partiality based on race or sex, a Kingdom with one religion and all confusion being gone. We know the 144,000 will return with Christ on a Pentecost to set up that Kingdom.

Let's turn over to **Revelation 19:11-16—Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes were like the flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God.**

**And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his robe and on his thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Joshua came to be the Passover Lamb, willing to lay down his life for us so we could become at one with him and God. When Joshua returns it is not as a lamb. Joshua is returning with the power and might of God Almighty.

You can read the power of God in the scriptures that we just read. Just thinking of God giving that to John to write gives me excitement. John knew Christ as flesh. John understood who Christ was after his resurrection. As he wrote these words describing how Christ was to be when he returned, he had to have felt so motivated, so excited to see the return of Christ.

Pentecost is the next step in God's plan that His people eagerly await, a time when the cesspool of this world will be cleaned up, a time God's people should be crying out for, and a time to see Christ and the 144,000 return to this earth and change it. No more confusion of what you are or who you are. No more confusion at all. There will be one way, and that is God's way, the way that will bring true happiness and fulfillment.

This now leads us up to Trumpets, the day that announced Joshua was referring to as King of kings. We will read Truth #49 to explain this part of God's plan, and it also covers Pentecost.

**49 (28) Joshua the Christ will return to this earth on a Pentecost, along with the 144,000. Pentecost in Old Testament times was the day the Wave Loaves were waved before God to be accepted by Him. These Wave Loaves represented this future group of the 144,000 who return with Christ in the Kingdom of God. They will then be in God's Family—the firstfruits of God's creation of Elohim.** Indeed, this truth concerns the revelation given by God of the actual timing of Joshua the Christ's return to establish the Kingdom of God that will reign over all nations. The Church of God has long believed that Joshua would return as the King of kings on the Feast of Trumpets. This is not true! The Feast of Trumpets is about the sounding of trumpets that lead up to Christ's coming and of finally heralding that he has now become the King of kings over all nations.

When I found out I was to be speaking on Atonement this year, I was a little apprehensive. The subject of Atonement has always been a little scary for me. Not that I don't understand what I read (and I know the meaning of the day), but there is so much. So, where do you start? And then I thought, start with the beginning, asking myself why am I here? Why are we all here? It is a Holy Day, and we are commanded by the Great God to be here.

Let's go back to **Leviticus 23:26-31—And the Eternal spoke to Moses, saying, Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Eternal. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Eternal your God. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person will be destroyed from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.**

We are to keep this Holy Day just like the Sabbath. We are not to work from sundown to sundown. We are to keep a holy convocation or gather with God's people to be taught more about this day and the plan of God. This Holy Day, like the weekly Sabbath and the other Holy Days, is to be a statute forever, having no end.

We also note on this Holy Day, on this Sabbath, something more is commanded than the other Holy Days. We are to afflict our souls, our bodies. God's people know what is expected on this day in regard to that. We are to fast. We are to go without food and water for 24 hours.

We have been given many sermons on fasting, including this past year. We had a five-part series titled, *Made Stronger Through Fasting*. We should all understand what is expected and how it should be handled.

One of the reasons that we fast is to help ourselves to yield to a process, to become humble, to seek a poor and contrite spirit, one that is teachable, one like king David had. And we are to continually ask God for this mindset. We want to learn, and we want to move forward. We want to be as close to God as we can.

I'm going to quote now *Part 4* of the series *Made Stronger Through Fasting*:

As it was mentioned last Sabbath, prayer is an incredibly powerful tool that God has given to us, yet fasting that's coupled with prayer becomes even more powerful so that we can be strengthened in God all that much more. So that should be something that we would all desire, and all want to have, and all want to practice at different times throughout the year.

Fasting empowers our prayers and then the strength of God's spirit in us. So again, something we should all desire to have and want on a regular basis in our life.

There is a scripture that goes hand in hand with fasting for me. I'd like to turn over to **Hebrews 12:12-13** —**Therefore, strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather healed.** This scripture was very important to me in 2002. It helped me get through a trial I was facing at that time. God helped me see the value of that scripture.

When we fast, we are going to God hopefully in a humble spirit. One who is looking for correction because we know we are wrong, and God is right. We should be asking God to strengthen us and to help us to stay on a straight path. We do not want to go right or left, but we want to stay in the middle and sometimes that is the hardest place to stay. We are going before God asking for Him to heal our minds of all the garbage that is in it, to help us to put Him and His Church first in our lives.

I'd like now to turn over to Leviticus 16. I want to touch a couple of scriptures to remind us why we are here today.

**Leviticus 16:2—And the Eternal said to Moses, Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat, which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.** God gave Moses specific instructions, and the reason why was because of what Aaron's two sons did.

I want to back up and read that in verse 1. **Leviticus 16:1—Now the Eternal spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the Eternal and died.** It is very clear that Aaron's sons did not respect God or His instructions.

We should be on guard in our lives too. Do we follow God's instructions? Remember God's instructions not only come from the pages of the Bible, but they come via God's ministry, and more importantly, from God's apostle and prophets. When we are told specific instructions do we follow them?

We have been given things in the past such as “Get a shot” or “If you plan on doing the Feast meal being offered, send in your money.” We know not everyone reacts correctly, or more importantly, quickly.

Let’s just use a simple example that was just addressed again recently. And I say again because it was not the first time we were told this. We have been told if we are going to visit another area other than our own we are to let the ministry know. This is not just so the ministry knows, but there can be location and time changes that an individual may need to be made aware of or there may be a number restriction on where the services are being held. Some meet only occasionally and in very small rooms. And frankly, there doesn’t have to be a reason at all except that God’s apostle gave some pretty simple instructions that should be listened to and acted on.

If you have an attitude with that or you do not do as you are told or you argue with the minister who is explaining it to you, then it is your problem, and you may want to reflect on that. And today is an excellent day to do that.

Let’s continue on now in Leviticus. In Leviticus 16:3-28 we read God has given more specific instructions about the Day of Atonement that Aaron was to complete. Aaron was to come into the Holy Place. He was to make offerings to God.

Let’s drop down to **verse 29—This shall be a statute forever for you. In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Eternal. It is a Sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.**

I want to quote now from the *Bible-Stories Book* from the church website. I love how this is put here and is very simple for the younger members to understand.

We fast to be humble. Remember how important humility is? Which Holy Day did we discuss that talked about humility and pride? To be humble before God is so important. When we fast, we cannot help but be humble. We realize when we are hungry and thirsty how much we need God. We realize how weak and puny we are. We need God for everything. Be thankful God does not ask you to go without breathing for a day. How long can you hold your breath? We even depend on God for the air we breathe.

In order for man to be at one with God, Satan must be gone. Atonement pictures a time when Satan and his demons will be sent away from the earth and all the people. He is a real problem in causing people to disbelieve God.

From the time in the Garden of Eden to now, Satan influences people to make wrong decisions. Even though we are thirsty and hungry on Atonement, it has a very happy meaning.

The following was from a recent sermon given on July 27, 2024, *Teachings—Topics, Part 1* in talking about Atonement.

**Atonement:** Atonement is about the process by which mankind can become reconciled to God. The process is revealed through God’s fifth annual Sabbath called the Day of Atonement.

When someone is called by God into a relationship with Him they can begin a process of spiritual growth. This involves overcoming their own nature and allowing God to transform the way they think ... bringing them into unity and harmony with His one true way of life.

I want to quote **Romans 12:1-2—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable, perfect will of God.**

Now continuing quoting from the sermon:

And those are choices. The harmony, the unity comes as a result of when it’s given to us to see and then we make the choice, “Yes! I love it. I agree with it. I want that.” And that has to come then through different experiences we have, and then being able to come to make choices. Not because of knowledge but because of understanding things that we experience.

“Bringing them into unity and harmony with His one true way of life.” It takes a lifetime to do that. Can’t be done in a few weeks, a few months, or a few years. You have to go through a struggle and a lifetime. Ten, twenty surely the minimum, I don’t know.

Then reading the rest of the topic:

After successfully going through this entire process a person can be made fully at one with God by being changed from mortal to immortal, from physical to spiritual entering the Kingdom of God.

I’d like to now quote from *The Fall of the United States*, which was written by God’s end-time apostle, Ron Weinland. It covers this Day of Atonement.

This annual Sabbath pictures the entire process covered from Passover to the Feast of Trumpets. Much of that process will have been fulfilled when Christ returns and Satan has been removed from the presence of mankind.

This day pictures the atoning process—the process whereby mankind can be reconciled to God. The firstfruits of God, after Trumpets has been fulfilled, are now fully atoned—reconciled—to God. The entire process (revealed through Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Trumpets) shows how the firstfruits were able to be born into God’s Family—becoming a part of the Kingdom of God.

Today I want to spend some time talking about the atoning process, becoming at one with God, and removing all obstacles that come between us and God. What and why are these obstacles?

We know that there is a very ugly being who is doing all in his limited power to come between us and God. And why do I say limited?

Let's turn over to **1 John 4:4-6—You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** And who is in the world? Satan and his cohorts, the demons – sick, vile creatures who love to cause pain and suffering.

Let's continue in **verse 5—They are of the world. Therefore, they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God 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.**

Satan is very much limited. He can only do what God allows him to do. The problem is us. When we sin and do not repent and change, God is not in us. God will not dwell in sin. When that happens, we are open game. And this is a war, and we know it, so if you let the guard down you are in trouble.

I think it would be good for us to review exactly what we are up against. What is stopping us from the atoning process? We need to see who Satan was and what he became, and that this evil influence from Satan is what is trying to keep us from being at one with God. And remember we just read in 1 John 4:4, "Greater is He in us." Keep that in mind as we move forward, and with God's help, we can fight the influence.

I want to start in *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong's simple statement that nails it, "He turned cooperation and harmonious activity into competition, evil, rebellion, and destruction. Light on earth was turned to darkness. Wasteness, decay, and ruin came to the surface of the earth."

Lucifer who became known as Satan caused the earth to become as it is described in **Genesis 1:2**. I'll read that. **The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.**

Before Satan's rebellion, God's creation cooperated, got along with each other, and was in harmony, or in agreement with each other. Think about that. I guess another way to say this is, "All was good." It may be hard for us to imagine this because all we have ever known is the result of Satan's rebellion.

The other things Mr. Armstrong had to say, "competition, evil, rebellion, and destruction." The world becomes more and more of this every day. We could add "confusion" to this too. Has there ever been a time on the face of this earth where we are more confused than today?

We know that Satan did not start off as Satan. We read that in Ezekiel 28. Satan was Lucifer. Lucifer was one of the three archangels mentioned in the Bible. He was in charge of the earth and a third of God's angels. He was to administer God's government, and he did so until his rebellion. It was because of his rebellion he became known as Satan.

I'd like to turn over to **Ezekiel 28:11—Moreover, the word of the Eternal came to me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Eternal God...** This is



talking about Lucifer who became Satan. Going on: **You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.**

As we go through these scriptures, again this is very hard for us to understand. All we have known is Satan. This only validates the Great God. His creation, all He has done is perfect. Lucifer was perfect for a time. Not perfect like God, but there was no wrong in him; he obeyed and did as God commanded. And when God's creation turns on Him it becomes imperfect, not very smart, and ugly.

Continuing now in **verse 13—You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering. The sardius, topaz and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.** Every one of these stones described is beautiful. He was a majestic being. He was the most perfect created spiritual being to this point.

Continuing in **verse 14—You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; and you were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.**

Mr. Armstrong describes Lucifer in the *Mystery of the Ages*, "This Lucifer was a super being of awesome, majestic beauty, dazzling brightness, supreme knowledge, wisdom, and power--perfect as God created him!"

Lucifer was created by God. He was anointed by God for specific responsibilities. God created and established, and put into place Lucifer. Lucifer was perfect until he was not. Iniquity or evil was found in him.

A few synonyms that can be used for the word "iniquity" are "wickedness, sinfulness, immorality, evil, sin, criminality, monstrousness, transgression, wrongdoing, offense, violation, atrocity." And these are just some. I just described mankind without God in their lives.

And then we know that something happened. Let's now turn over to **Isaiah 14:12—How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!** Again, Lucifer was one of the three archangels, and his name meant "shining one," or "light-bearer." He rebelled against God and he then became known as Satan which means "adversary" or the Devil which means "false accuser." He also has another name, Apollyon which means "destroyer."

Continuing in **verse 13—For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; and I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the Most High.** Lucifer, in a delusional state, thought he could take on his creator and take God's throne. The created thought he was greater than the Creator.

And you can see that influence in everything you see today in the world. Satan has influenced the world of science into believing a “big bang” theory or even more absurd beliefs such as Darwinism, which is the stupidity of evolution. Lucifer and the angels had free choice. They chose wrong. Their choices are what caused the earth to be destroyed and made void and empty.

We know that God created the earth into being as we know it today. This creation was not the first time, and we know Satan and the demons are still there trying to destroy the earth and mankind. Satan does not get his part in this. He is assisting God in creating Elohim.

I absolutely love that. Satan is a pawn, and he does not get that. He has no real power. And as long as God is in us he can do nothing except what God tells him he can do. “Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world.” I could say that constantly and smile.

God showed Satan who was in charge. God showed Satan that He is in charge and Satan was cast down to the earth. The Creator showed the creation He was in charge. And we will discuss a little later exactly what God has let Satan know.

Since Lucifer has become Satan he has tried very hard to disrupt God’s plan along the way. I’d like to quote from *The Fall of the United States*:

One cannot fully grasp the thinking of an unsound mind. It is difficult to grasp what Satan is doing except to know that his hatred for God’s plan and his hatred for mankind is so deep that he simply wants to cause and see as much destruction of God’s creation as possible.

Although Satan has consistently fought against God and tried to destroy all that he can, he has never remotely come close to thwarting anything that God has purposed, but still, he tries.

Let’s turn back to the book of Genesis. We will see how Satan from the very beginning tried to thwart God’s plan, how he tried to disrupt the atoning process. He started with the first man and woman. Satan hated this part of God’s plan. He hated it the second he knew of it. He was jealous of what God was offering mankind.

So, let’s go to **Genesis 2:8—The Eternal God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Eternal God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they were created. It is here where God intended them to live and have a family. They were to dress and keep. We were taught a lot about this by God’s apostle while he was falsely imprisoned.

Satan hated the creation of man, and he was ready to stop it from the beginning. He tried to take God’s throne, and that did not work, so he was back to try something else.

Let's drop down now to **Genesis 3:1—Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Eternal God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** Satan had already deceived a third of the angels to follow him. He was now ready to take his hand at Eve. And he was the master of manipulation. He had plenty of practice using it on the third of the angels that rebelled.

Continuing in **verse 2—And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**

Satan basically said, "God, the Creator, the one who gave you life is a liar." He offered her another explanation and she believed it.

**Verse 6—So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. And she also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate.**

Satan's deception with mankind started almost immediately. He lied and distorted the truth and convinced Eve it was okay to eat of the tree God said not to. He convinced Eve God was lying. So, Eve, instead of believing God, ate of the tree, and Adam wasted no time following her.

Satan does this today. He does it with the world every day. We understand that the chaos and confusion is because of Satan. He is the "prince of the power of the air," and he is bombarding the world with his thoughts. But brethren, he tries it with us too. That is why we need to be alert and on guard. Sometimes we fail and give in just like Eve and Adam. That is when we better be repenting of our sins and repenting quickly.

Satan playing his part in God's plan sowed seeds of deception and helped usher in the Apostasy that God had prophesied. An example of how Satan is God's pawn. This had to happen before Joshua could return and establish God's government on the earth.

Let's turn to **2 Thessalonians 2:1—Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Joshua the Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.**

**Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

Some of us sitting here listening lived this. Joe Tkach Sr. told God's people in God's Church that the Sabbath no longer had to be kept. We could be like the protestant world and keep any day we wanted. He told us the annual Holy Days did not need to be kept. Joseph Tkach Sr. ripped our lives apart.

Hindsight is 20/20 they say. Even though this hurt like nothing we had ever experienced, I would say with confidence that there is not one person who would not say they would not trade those times for anything. It made us a stronger and more faithful a Church once established as the Church of God-PKG.

I want to read this account from *The Fall of the United States* that God's apostle was inspired by God to write.

The reason for mentioning these things is because this individual [he's referring to Gerald Flurry], although initially correct in what he stated about Joe Tkach, Sr., was also exceedingly presumptuous and wrong for having made such a declaration about him. Instead, it was God's purpose that He would later reveal who the man of sin was by an unmistakable judgment He would pass on him once he caused the Apostasy.

Nevertheless, there is a being who did know who would become the man of sin before it ever happened. That being was Satan and he was already working through Joe Tkach, Sr. to eventually bring about the Apostasy that God was going to allow to happen in His timing. It clearly states how the man of sin, the son of perdition, was able to exercise the kind of power that he did in order to influence others in the Church in such an adverse manner. It was because of Satan's own power that was working through him.

The revelation that Paul gave about the Apostasy that is recorded in II Thessalonians 2 states this about the man of sin: "whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (Vs. 9).

Well before the Apostasy ever occurred, Satan was working through Joe Tkach, Sr. to give him the kind of power and influence he desired that would in turn come to fulfill his role as the man of sin. Since Satan already knew who this man was, it was an easy thing for Satan to lead another man, Gerald Flurry, to believe that Joe Tkach, Sr. was the man of sin long before he would actually bring about the Apostasy.

Gerald Flurry was easily led by Satan to believe this about Joe Tkach, Sr. because he had already been in strong disagreement and dislike of him anyway. After all, it is that vocal disagreement that led to him to being put out of the ministry and the Church by Joe Tkach, Sr. himself.

The fact that Gerald Flurry made such a proclamation about Joe Tkach, Sr. being the man of sin, before God actually revealed it, was in itself a spiritually deceptive and perverted act. It should come as no wonder since that revelation actually came from Satan himself who is exceedingly deceptive and perverted.

We also know that Satan is the accuser of the brethren; another way he tries to stop the atoning process. We have an example of Satan going to God and accusing Job.

Let's turn to **Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.** Job lived his life fearing to go against God. He obeyed what he was told and he did the best he could not to do anything contrary to what God would want him to do.

Dropping down to **verse 6—Now, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Eternal,** (and this is referring to the angelic realm) **and Satan also came among them. And the Eternal said to Satan, From where do you come?** Satan came into the presence of God and God knew exactly where he had been. God knows everything. God knew what Satan was going to say and he played right into God's hands.

Going on: **So, Satan answered the Eternal and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.** You can just see how smug Satan is towards God. No respect at all.

I will interject here, brethren. Be careful not to do this to the government of God that God has established at this time.

This clearly shows Satan is here on the earth and his influence is readily seen. He is the prince of the power of the air, and he is manipulating everything. Unless God stops him he has free reign here on earth. Remember though, we have nothing to fear from Satan or the demons as long as we are repenting of sins and living a life fearing to go against God. God protects His people from him as long as God is dwelling in us.

Continuing now in **verse 8—Then the Eternal said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?** Satan hates mankind, and we know that he is nothing like Job. Satan is the adversary. He is against all God stands for, especially how God described Job, a blameless and upright man. You can bet that Satan did not like this one bit.

**Verse 9—So, Satan answered the Eternal and said, Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!**

Satan again is showing great disrespect to God. He is basically saying that Job only fears God because Job is getting something out of it. Satan's mind works that way so that is how he is going to perceive it. As the old saying goes, "Perception is everything." Satan is so big in his own eyes he thinks he knows it all.

**Verse 12—And the Eternal said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person. So, Satan went out from the presence of the Eternal.** As I stated before, Satan cannot do anything unless God lets him. So, God is going to allow Satan to do what he wants with Job, but he cannot take his life.

Satan had no idea that God was using him to assist God in teaching Job some very important lessons. No matter what Job is about to lose, it cannot be compared to what he will obtain. We need to remember this as well. No matter what happens in our lives as long as God stays first the outcome will outweigh anything that we may face.

Satan tried to tempt Christ to no avail. We see this example in Matthew 4. Satan thought he would persuade Joshua like he did Adam and Eve. He had no idea what he was up against. Christ knew he was to become the Passover Lamb. Satan was so foolish to think he could tempt the Son of God and stop God's plan.

Let's turn over to **Matthew 4:1—Then Joshua was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward he was hungry. Now when the tempter came to him, he said, If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.** Satan tried to use his master skill of manipulation again thinking he could tempt Christ. He was so wrong.

And Christ responded in **verse 4—But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.** Joshua was the Son of God, and he obeyed His Father. God was dwelling in Christ completely. Christ is the revelatory word of God.

**Verse 5—Then the devil took him up into the holy city, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written, He shall give His angels charge over you, and, In their hands, they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.** Here we see again another feeble attempt.

And then Joshua answered him again in **verse 7—Joshua said to him, It is written again, You shall not tempt the Eternal your God.**

**Again, the devil took him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.**

**Then Joshua said to him, Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Eternal your God, and Him only you shall serve.** Joshua shut Satan down. Christ knew the plan of God, and he knew who he was. He was not about to give up his place in Elohim. Brethren, we cannot either.

Let's turn over now to **John 8:44—You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.** Satan deceives the whole world. If we become deceived then the atoning process stops.

We have two truths that talk about Satan's deception, things that can be on guard of because we are aware.

**12 (9) Only those whom God the Father calls and draws to Him can be converted.** Only those God chooses and calls now can come into the Church of God. Satan has deceived the whole world, and the Church is called out of that world. (John 6:44)

And part of Truth 36:

**36 (15) No one goes to heaven, not even the 144,000.** Of all who have ever lived and died, only Joshua the Christ has ever gone to heaven. Satan has deceived many religions into teaching that mankind will go to heaven. Even many of those scattered from the Church of God believe that the 144,000 will go to heaven for training before Joshua the Christ returns.

Because the spirit of God dwells in us, we are not deceived. However, if the flow stops we are deceived again. Satan is the author of confusion.

Let's turn over to **Revelation 12:10—Then I heard a voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**

Peter describes Satan as a roaring lion. Let's turn over to 1 Peter 5 and read that in verse 8.

**1 Peter 5:8—Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** If you turn your back on the lion or you stumble in front of a lion you are going to be devoured. Satan is here on the earth, and he knows he has a short time. He wants to destroy us and keep us from being reconciled to God. He wants to stop the atoning process.

Satan is our adversary. An adversary is an enemy or nemesis, someone who works to destroy you. When a lion is on the prowl and his prey is not vigilant in watching the lion can and will destroy their prey. If we stumble or fall or if we turn our back on Satan he will destroy us. The sin that so easily ensnares us will take hold. The sin will stop the atoning process.

Let's go back up and read **verse 6—Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

Humble yourselves. We humble ourselves when we fast. When we fast, we are seeking a humble spirit, one that can know it is wrong and then repent, one that can be teachable, and one who relies on God. If we do not, then we are easy prey for the lion; we are easy prey for our adversary, Satan.

I have already mentioned how much Satan hates us. We know that Satan deceives, and again, he is the prince of the power of the air, but God does not leave us out here on our own. In Ephesians 6 we see God has given us His armor to fight against Satan and to move forward ensuring that we can be reconciled to God. With God's armor, the atoning process continues.

Let's turn over to Ephesians 6:10 and let's review the armor of God. **Ephesians 6:10—Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God.** Not just part of it; we need all of it. ...**that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**, our adversary, our accuser.

**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** We fight Satan, Satan's influence, and the demons.

**Verse 13—Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand and in the evil day having done all, to stand.** The only way we will stand is to wear the whole armor of God. **Stand, therefore, having girded your waist with the truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.** The truths would also include all 57 truths.

Continuing in **verse 15—And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.** So, we are protected from the influences and temptation of “the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.”

**Verse 17—And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.** We better be praying daily to God for His protection in this evil world.

**Verse 19—And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to.** Within the present truth we live at this moment in time there is only one possible way to be at one with God, and that is because of Joshua. We can only be atoned when we are clear of sin, and it is only possible with Joshua our Passover.



Turn over to **Hebrews 9:11—But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

**For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your consciousness from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason, he is the mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

Joshua gave his life. He spilled his blood to the ground and did so willingly. We now can go to the Holy of Holies and pray to God. We can ask for forgiveness of our sins when we fall short, and we can continue our atoning process.

Brethren, we are in a spiritual war. Every year at the Feast it is said not all will be with us next year. In a war, someone dies. In a physical war when someone dies they may have the opportunity to be resurrected and given life again and learn of God. In a spiritual war that may not be. Only God knows.

We took hits this year in the Church of God. Some of the hits we may have not seen coming, but God did. God knows what is best for the Body and in His timing. We have been told over and over Christ will return to a clean Body. I live by that. So, if someone has to be removed from the body I have no qualms about it. I want Joshua to return, and I want the Body clean. All are in God's hands and that is the best place for them.

The best thing any of us can do is to keep moving forward in this war. We have to do that for those who remain. This is the best thing we can do for any loved one we may lose. If they have the opportunity to live again, we want them to know we made it. We want to be there for them at that moment.

In 2010, fourteen years ago, in the sermon, *Satan's Confinement and His End, Pt. 1*, Ron started off by talking about how he had run into Joe Tkach, Jr. at the airport in New Zealand. I am going to quote part of that sermon in part. In referencing Joe Tkach, Jr. stopping by and talking he said:

A little bit later he came by and was talking again; he went to get a coffee and stopped by and discussed some things again, and he talked about some of the different church groups that splintered and the like and to me, just an overview... just to let you know, it was kind of a sickening thing because it brings up all the past, all the suffering people went through and he was making some comment about United and Living and Philadelphia and some of the others, and I told him, "Yeah," I said, "It's really been hard on people over the years." I said, "There's so many groups out here splintered off and it's really been hard on people." And he kind of acknowledged that.

And that was just my sentiment, thinking how hard it's been on people because of what we suffered through, what the Church has suffered through, and really what they've caused, and he didn't understand [it].

You think about different ones and what they've gone through because of a being... the very one this sermon is talking about today – Satan...because of that being and all the troubles he's caused through the centuries, over the millenniums to mankind, striving to thwart God's plan, and God allowed him to do some powerful things at the end-time for a great purpose. We've lived through that, many of us have anyway, many of us in this room have, and we saw what happened to the Church.

As I was listening to this I remembered when he spoke that in the sermon. I was thinking of my own personal loss at that moment and how it hurt. I had no idea the hurt I would experience over the next fourteen years. But I also think the truth God gave us at that Feast, not just one but four, and I will say this, I would not change that for anything to know Truth 53.

**53 (32) There is an end to Satan's existence.** His punishment is that of eternal death, never to have life again, once God brings an end to his spirit life.

I have mentioned in the past that the Day of Atonement is my favorite Holy Day because of what it represents. Once this truth was revealed in 2010 it changed everything for me. It was a truth that set me free. The idea that a world could be free of this being and his influences forever meant everything to me!

This has been a harder year than some of the past for me. And with each hit I took I reminded myself of this truth. We all want to see the return of Joshua, to know we are one more step closer to completion of God's plan and the excitement of moving forward to what we do not even know yet. But for me, I am more determined to dig in and hold fast so I can see Satan cease to exist. He has an end, and I hold on to see it through.

This Holy Day is the part of God's plan that lets us know we can be at one with Him. But to be truly at one with God means we must be without sin. We are human, and as long as we are human we will fight our human nature, and we will unfortunately sin. But we can be forgiven of that sin because Joshua our Passover, who made a way for us.

Once we repent of sin we can again have God and Christ flowing in us. We can understand the truths, and look forward to Truth 53. We can become atoned to God.

Quoting from *The Fall of the United States*:

Yes, this Day of Atonement also pictures the removal of Satan and his demons from the presence of God and mankind. They will no longer be able to influence and deceive mankind, except for a very short time at the very end of the 1,100-year reign of the Kingdom of God. At that time, this Day of

Atonement will have even more meaning when Satan and the demons are once again removed, and this time—for all time—for all eternity.

The Day of Atonement pictures a time when Satan and the demons will have no part in God's future plans and the purpose of continuing life. Instead, this annual Sabbath wonderfully pictures this world becoming fully atoned to God.

Brethren, as we leave today remember God's plan and what it means to us. Before sunset tell your God how much you love Him and His plan. Ask Him to make you ready for the Feast, that you may drink in all that He has for us. We are blessed to be where we are, and we know we will have eight days filled with spiritual food to prepare us for what lies ahead.

Brethren, do not let your guard down. Remember, there is a being that wants to take our crown. We have discussed how ugly he is today. He will use anything he can against us to stop our atoning process. Do not give him any ammunition. Do not let that being take you out of your race. Do not become another casualty. I don't want to see another person leave God's Church. It hurts. I want all of us to be in Elohim together for eternity.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Brethren, let us all rejoice before God and live to glorify His name.