

# EXTRAORDINARY 4 1/2 YEARS

by Ronald Weinland

## **Introduction**

God continues to reveal more understanding and clarity to all that the Church experienced for 4 1/2 years (December 14 of 2008 to May 19 of 2013), both in the Church and in the world. The Church has been living through the most intense prophetic times of all human history, yet the world is totally oblivious to what has been taking place. Even the scattered body from the apostasy is in deep darkness to the realities of what God has been working out.

Nearly a third of the Bible contains prophecy and the overwhelming majority of it is about this end-time. We have been living through it, and the closer we come to the return of Jesus Christ as the world's Messiah, the more intense the fulfillment of prophetic events will become. We have learned and are still learning that much of that which is prophetic for this end-time is about God's own Church first and foremost. These events are completely unseen by the world. Yet the major events to occur next and take place in the world will be clearly seen by all. We have already seen most of what has been prophesied about the Church, and we will yet see all that has been prophesied about the world.

As a result of all that we went through during that specific 4 1/2 years, God is continuing to reveal more about **what** and **why** we experienced things as we did during that time. There is more to understand about Daniel's prophecies and about the awesomeness of prophetic events that we lived through in that period of time. First, this article will address the background and basis for understanding what God is now more fully

revealing to us as we move from Pentecost to Pentecost – until Jesus Christ returns. <sup>1</sup>

## **Learning From A Personal Experience**

Shortly after I became baptized into the Church of God, I moved to Wichita, Kansas, for a few months so I could get away from the pulls of my previous friends and the kind of party life I had been living in college up through age 19. So it was right after being baptized in very late summer of 1969, I had returned to college to begin my senior year, but as I started back, I quickly dropped out because I knew I had to get away from that past environment. It was then that I decided to head out to another city in Kansas to find a job and not return to college until I knew I was strong enough to refuse my past.

Right away, I found work and a place to live. Each Sabbath I met with a congregation of the Worldwide Church of God that numbered over 500 people. That in itself was an incredible experience for me, since I had gone through high school in a town of only about 100 people. It was there in Wichita that I was invited to join a unique speaking club that Herbert W. Armstrong had established for the men in the Church who wanted to improve themselves through such an opportunity. The club was fashioned after the manner of other speaking clubs, self-improvement clubs, and the Rotary Clubs, but was designed to the special needs of God's Church at that time. There were 12 speeches that one could give before being able to graduate from the club. There were also many other speaking opportunities, including discussion of topics relating to world news events, family life, scripture, and doctrine.

This Spokesman Club was highly intimidating to a very pride-filled young man at that time, especially when faced with 29 other men (30 max to a club) from all walks of life whom I did not yet know and some of which who would have the responsibility to critique my speaking. The first speech was called an "Ice Breaker" where you were to stand up in front of the group for five to seven minutes and tell them about

your life. When it was my turn to stand and give my speech, I was so nervous, petrified, and scared by the experience that my mouth was so dry that at times my tongue stuck to the roof of my mouth. I did manage to make it through the speech; however, one of the things that stuck out in my mind at that time was how I felt concerning what I could tell about myself. I didn't think there was anything interesting, outstanding, or important that I could share with them. Instead, I felt it would be rather ordinary and boring.

When I look back at that experience now, I think of how much more could have been said and the excitement with which it could have been told. As we live our life, it seems that most of that time we seem to think it is very ordinary and that there isn't anything outstanding one could share with others if we were in such an environment to do so. Yet, we often respond differently to hearing from others and have often been inspired by someone telling us about their **calling**.

As we grow spiritually, we come to see more fully the **extra** ordinary lives God has blessed us to experience in His calling. We come to grasp how rare such an experience has been over the past 6,000 years of all humanity. We become more excited about how blessed we have been to experience **how** God has brought us to where we are in the transformation of our mind since being called. We often marvel at all the wealth of knowledge about God and His plan He has given us, along with the understanding and wisdom we have been blessed to receive from it. We come to see more and more how deprived and in bondage this world is to ignorance and confusion about God.

The process of **how** we change and grow in faith, character, conviction, truth, greater love and caring for others, along with the understanding and wisdom we develop over time **is not** ordinary by any means, but involves the extraordinary experience of the very life of the One Eternal Self-Existing God and His Son dwelling in us. Sometimes that can begin to be taken for granted and seen as ordinary, and that is a very dangerous mindset. Taking such a thing for granted can happen

if a person begins to forget the awesomeness of their calling and of how God has taught them His truth. <sup>2</sup>

I've related all this to you because we do not yet grasp the magnitude of what God's Church experienced over that 4 ½ years, but God is revealing just that to us. That time was difficult and a great struggle at times, especially in that last year. That 4 ½ years was not **designed** by God to be easy, especially over that short time, with the level of difficulty increasing the farther we moved into that period of time. Through a highly sped-up process crammed into a shortened period of time, God's Church has experienced a level of learning, testing, trying, molding, and change that has often taken a life time for others in the past to have experienced.

That which we experience in God's Church once we are called will either **make** us or **break** us, and that is by our own choices that we must make in response to God's offer to make (create) something truly great within us. There have been all kinds of intense trials and testing we have experienced throughout this period of time, but this is beautifully unique to God's Church at this very end-time.

There has NEVER been a time like this one for God's people. We are clearly told that all of God's people have had to go through great tribulation to enter into God's Kingdom. Yet that 4 ½ year period was designed to be a unique witness to God's great power to create Elohim. God has been doing this (creating Elohim) for 6,000 years with the 144,000, but this period is a "unique witness" of a progressive process through time, until now, of His creating power in His quest for Zion — in His **work** concerning the controversy of Zion.

So, what were some of your experiences that raised some doubt, question, or angst over that 4 ½ years concerning **how** God had lead you, through His Church, and what were you taught — or what did you learn as a result? These are the very things that have either made individuals far more spiritually mature or have led to their own spiritual destruction — all as a matter of personal, individual choices.

## God's Work

When we are first called, we simply do not grasp the magnitude and importance of a most unique calling God has given us. As we develop spiritually, we begin to **see** the importance and greatness of being called by the Eternal God Himself. We can then begin to increasingly grow in gratitude and thankfulness the more we see how awesomely blessed we actually are. It is in this manner that we will come to grasp far more deeply what we experienced over that 4 ½ years of God's extraordinary work that He did **in** His Church during that time. Within this article, only a glimpse into that great process will begin to be made, and as we continue to mature we will far more fully come to grasp just how great and awesomely unique that experience was. This will happen precisely in the same manner as to how we are able to grow to more deeply grasp the magnitude and opportunity of our original calling.

So, how can we come to more deeply grasp that experience and its importance in God's plan just before His Son is set up as King of kings? God tells us! He is sharing with us what He has done, and we will increase in our ability to see how exciting an experience we have lived in a very meaningful phase of God's great controversy over Zion.

## Eight Months Previous

Before we begin to focus on that experience of so many in God's Church over that 4 ½ years and those things that God wants us to see more clearly concerning His work in the Church, we are going to back up a little farther to the beginning of February of 2008. It was at this time that the stage began to be set for where God was leading us. At that time, there were important things God was revealing that we needed to learn, but He did not reveal everything all at once. Why? God could have, but there is an important purpose to **why** He didn't. Such is designed to try and test our obedience and faithfulness to God in **the way** He leads us.

As we approached February of 2008, the book *2008 — God's Final Witness* was just beginning to really grow in distribution. At this point

in time, we believed Jesus Christ was going to return in the fall of 2011<sup>3</sup> at the time of the Feast of Trumpets, however, in some sermons before and after this, I stated that there was still a period of six to nine months that were not fully clear as of yet, concerning all this timing — there was still something missing. Although I was given to **know** this, I did not yet understand what it meant.

Starting on Pentecost in 2008, God began revealing more. The timing of everything was about to change as God began to reveal the importance of the timing of the wave loaves being of the same kind of importance as the timing of the Wave Sheaf that Jesus Christ fulfilled perfectly according to God's time.

It was conveyed to me that the importance of this knowledge and the change it would have upon our understanding of timing should be covered in the sermon that would be given on Trumpets that year. This was exciting as it now **fit** into "timing sequences" that did fit into specific important dates, whereas before, it didn't. This will be covered more when we begin to focus on the 1335 days in Daniel.

Therefore, well before we even entered the 3 ½ years of **witness** (Dec. 14, 2008 to May 27, 2012) to be fulfilled by two of God's prophets, this change in dates was causing a stir, questioning, and great doubt in the minds of too many in God's Church, so God gave us mercy and revealed important lessons that needed to be learned at that time, before entering the age of the "final witness." In His mercy, God conveyed to me the importance for the sermon that was designed for Trumpets to then be given late in June instead. That sermon was given early, along with correction God gave concerning such attitudes of doubt and resistance to **how** He was leading His Church. If that sermon had not been given early, God revealed that there would be many who would not have spiritually survived to Trumpets. But God was preparing the Church for an important period of time that it was about to enter.

So in that sermon, "The 50<sup>th</sup> Truth," God revealed that Christ was not going to return on a Feast of Trumpets, but on a Pentecost. This

timing was critical to God's plan concerning the fulfillment of the wave loaves being offered up before God that pictured His acceptance of the 144,000. This was of the same importance as the acceptance of the wave sheaf during the Days of Unleavened Bread that Jesus Christ fulfilled. We then changed the dates of our previous understanding of timing as soon as God revealed the truth of this matter of Christ returning on a Pentecost. As a result of this understanding, the beginning of the 3 1/2 years of witness was pushed back by nearly 8 months to the end, rather than at the beginning, of 2008.

As of February 2, 2008, we were at a point where we believed that the beginning of Daniel's 1335-day prophecy had just begun. As we continue on, some may get a little lost in all the dates that will be mentioned, but the dates are not so important compared to the "big picture" contained in this complete story and what we can and are to learn from it.

### **Two Means by Which God Has Led His Church**

As I continue to explain some of this recent history, there is something of real importance I need to share with you because it is only in recent time that I have come to more deeply understand this process. This involves two issues of **how** God has been working through me. The more you **see** how God has been working to reveal prophecy and how God has been teaching His Church, the more you will come to appreciate the way in which God has led us.

As we were moving through the 3 1/2 years of witness, things were not happening on a level of what we had anticipated for this period. There came a point during this time, due to this anticipation not materializing and our not yet having seen the events of the Second Trumpet come to pass, that I shared my personal conviction in the matter. There were many outsiders who were trying to find fault and error in what God's Church was teaching and they were ridiculing this matter of the events of the Trumpets not occurring. I then stated that **if** nothing were to

come to pass in what was written in the book that I would acknowledge I was not a prophet and I would go before God and throw myself before His mercy seat in repentance and desire for guidance. Yet I believed that what was written in the book was given by God. I did not consider the "if" a reality. <sup>4</sup>

Some time after this, I came to an even deeper conviction regarding my relationship with God and Christ, and I shared this with the Church. It was that even if I was not a prophet, although I still fully believed that I was, I undoubtedly was an apostle. The evidence was contained in all the truths God had given through me. God was strengthening me in my role and the commission He had given to me. God revealed to me and convicted me even more deeply that I was not only a prophet, but more importantly, I was an apostle to His end-time Church.

As a result of these events and God's convicting power, He has led me to more clearly understand how he has been working in and through me. There is a different function and way that God works through a prophet and an apostle. Their job and function is not the same. The only one I can compare this to is the apostle, John. John was an apostle first and foremost. Later in life God used him as a prophet through whom He gave the Book of Revelation. John clearly saw the distinction through what he experienced. He knew from the beginning that he had been chosen as an apostle.

This was nothing like my experience. There was never a time before all this that I would have remotely considered myself an apostle. That would be one of the furthest things from my mind, as I know I would have considered such a thing a horrible presumption. Even when the time came when writing the first book that God was revealing to me that I was to declare I was His prophet for the end-time, I resisted for quite some time and somewhat argued with God over it.

Yet from the moment God had reestablished His remnant Church on Pentecost of 1998, God was using me as His apostle to the Church. However, He kept my eyes closed to that until the later portion of those 3

½ years of **witness** (Dec. 14, 2008 to May 27, 2012). It was then that I announced it to the Church, as being clearly evidenced by all the truths God had now given through me. So I began by seeing first that I was a prophet, when I was actually an apostle well before that time.

The purpose for mentioning all this is because I function differently depending on which role God has given me to do at any moment in time. The function and work of each is different. This is something that I am only now finally coming to clearly see and understand. It is something that God has to **give** in order to see it, and He is now doing so.

Although I wrote the book *2008 — God's Final Witness*, I have not understood all that is written. God inspired me to write about prophetic events, but as with so many of the prophets, I have not understood all that He has given. In God's time and according to His purpose that He is working out, He reveals more and more about the prophetic events He has inspired to be recorded.

It is because of this that I do not always know or understand what God has given me that is prophetic. Then as an apostle and minister, I have taught about these things God has revealed through me as a prophet. A prophet's job (function) is not like that of an apostle. A prophet simply writes or speaks what God has given him and he does not expound or elaborate on it; however, an apostle does teach and expound on "**present truth**," doctrine, and prophecy to the Church.

Herbert W. Armstrong expounded upon truth concerning prophecy about the modern day nations of Israel, as God had given him knowledge of who they were. God began to give him "some" understanding of the "Key of David" (Rev. 3:7), which included the identity of these nations and the identity of the monarchy that has descended from King David to this time and is still upheld as having some rule in Ephraim (United Kingdom). Many of the teachings during that era of Philadelphia about prophetic events for the end-time were centered upon knowledge of the identity of the modern day nations of Israel. Those teachings were based

upon what was known to that point in time of the "**present truth**" Mr. Armstrong had been given by God. 5

God's apostle, Paul, knew of the prophecies and promise of Jesus Christ's return as the Messiah and he spoke in the context of that happening in his lifetime. Yet later, God revealed to him that it would be farther in the future.

This gives some context to better understand how God has been working in His Church. There are people who have rejoiced in what **they** believe proves I am not a prophet as a result of some things I have stated in sermons. Yet these individuals have no understanding of the job and function of a prophet or an apostle. Candidly, these same people would reject me as either anyway without any so-called "proof." It obviously doesn't really matter what others think or believe about such things, but what does matter is that God's people know and understand the differences. Such understanding leads to a better grasp and appreciation of how God is working in His Church.

### **Back to February 2008**

On the first Sabbath of February of 2008, I gave a sermon entitled, "The 144,000 Are Sealed!" This sermon was given and based upon what God had just revealed to me about timing in Daniel's prophecy about the 1335 days. Even now, God continues to reveal more about these verses that we have not known. These things that were revealed back then, and some of those things being revealed in greater detail at the time for writing this article, were done so as a function of being God's prophet.

However, the sermon I gave on that day was fully about my job as an apostle. These differences are being pointed out so you can come to **see** more clearly **how** God has been leading His Church and **why** He has also allowed us to conclude things that were not fully correct — primarily in timing. By design and by purpose the apostle, Paul, was allowed to

believe Jesus Christ was returning in his lifetime. As an aside, what do you think some of that purpose was?

The subject of that sermon was about the sealing of the 144,000, which was based on what God was then revealing concerning some of the meaning of the 1335 days in Daniel. This revelation was given to me as a prophet. It was simple fact! It was about the revelation of the meaning of the 1335 days being about the sealing of the 144,000 in the Book of Revelation.

However, my speaking (preaching) and teaching in the sermon was in the function of an apostle. As an apostle, I based what was given in the sermon on what was given prophetically about the meaning of the 1335-day prophecy and the “present truth” we had at that time. That present truth we had was that Jesus Christ would return on a Feast of Trumpets. An additional present truth was that God had revealed that His final witness was to begin in 2008, which was revealed as a simple fact as a function of a prophet.

There are some direct statements I made in that sermon, as an apostle, that were not correct — not for February 2, 2008. It was stated, “This is given by revelation only and by no other means. Let me say this another way. This is given by prophetic revelation and by no other means.”

Indeed, what was revealed to me concerning Daniel’s 1335 days being about the sealing of the 144,000 was a prophetic revelation given to a prophet. It was simple fact. However, as an apostle whose responsibility it was to preach about this was based on what knowledge we had in the Church to that moment in time — **the present truth**. This revelation of Daniel’s 1335 days being about the 144,000 being sealed was given to me on that Friday evening before the sermon was to be given the following day. My conclusion was based on the belief of Christ returning on Trumpets of 2011 and the fact (prophetically revealed) that 2008 was the year God’s final witness would begin. My conclusion was wrong.

This example is being given to show there is purpose to the process God uses to lead His people and different means by which He does so.

## Faith and Righteous Judgment

God does not give us all truth that there is to know and we do not have the capacity to receive it anyway. We will ever be growing in that. God has been revealing truth to mankind for 6,000 years in a progressive manner **AS** His plan is unfolding. This has been often pointed out over the past few years, as it must become deeply engrained in us. This in itself is an important truth that aids in sharpening righteous judgment and works to build stronger faith.

We are judged by what we **see** — know and understand — at any moment in time. Abraham and Sarah were judged by what God had given to them to know up until that time in God’s unfolding plan. They did not have the teachings Christ gave his disciples and they did not have what was later added as God gave even more through the early apostles that were to be recorded in the New Testament. They did not have what is written in the books of the Kings, nor in Psalms and Proverbs, or what the prophets recorded.

Abraham and Sarah were judged first and foremost by their desire and willingness to live by a “basic way of life” that was founded upon two basic relationships in life — love toward God and love toward fellow man. They sought to live by the laws God had given them regarding how to love both. This is the most important part of one’s spiritual life. If God’s laws about how to have a right relationship toward others and toward God are not what regulates our behavior, then all the rest of the knowledge, understanding and prophetic revelation God can give would have no meaning and purpose whatever (1 Cor. 13).

Although Abraham and Sarah did not have the slightest fraction of all the vastness of knowledge and understanding of God’s greater plan and purpose for mankind that we have available to us today, they will be very great in the Kingdom of God. This knowledge alone should stir people to examine **how** they live toward and treat their fellow man.

God’s desire **in** us is to transform our minds so we can become Elohim. He desires to mold righteous judgment into our thinking

— the mind becoming capable of formulating right conclusions and making righteous decisions. Righteous decisions come from basing our judgment of every matter in life by God’s revealed truth to that moment in time. So God tries and tests us by **how** He leads us and by what He has revealed up to any specific moment in time.

There are different examples of this in the early Church. One important example early on that was difficult for some to receive, was God’s revelation that the gospel was to now go to the gentiles. This was new and it was a great change being required in the **thinking** of most. This put the Church to the test to see if all would continue to follow how God was leading them. The response from each person would determine if they had the ability to judge various situations in a righteous manner involving the gentiles — according to that new truth God had revealed to them.

This example can be likened today to what God has revealed to His Church about true freedom that is being restored to women by removing them from the kind of bondage they have been experiencing in the world for the past 6,000 years. In the Church now, and in the Millennium that is coming, women are not second-class citizens who can be treated as inferior by men or looked upon by men as being in subjection to them. Such subjection would only be the case if it were on a spiritual plane when the need to administer God’s government might arise. In like fashion, there will be women who may also need to administer God’s government toward a man who in turn should be in subjection to God in such a case. In the Church now and into the future, God is removing the “curse” that started in the beginning due to the sins of Adam and Eve, and due to the sins of **all** who have lived selfish lives after that time.

Some in the Church are still battling this and being tried by it, although this truth began to be delivered to the Church in 2009. This affects how husbands sometimes “think” it is permissible to treat a woman in a controlling manner as though they are in subjection to such

demands or in how they might speak in a commanding manner when they have no right to do so. Not only is there no right to do so, but it is also sin. Even a few (a very few) men in God’s ministry are dealing with this newer and “present truth” in how they are responding to a woman who is over them in the administration of the government of God in the Church. In some cases, there is more than one woman over them as a matter of God’s spiritual government. The one whom a few are having a difficulty with is ordained a prophet, as Deborah was a prophet. These few must fight this battle (if it is one for them), just as some in the early Church had to fight their wrong thinking concerning the gentiles. A person must change in their **thinking** as God reveals more truth to them in order for them to come into greater unity and oneness with Him. Such changes of new revelation of truth often test and try people as to their faithfulness to God and their willingness to follow when, where, and how He leads.

So as God reveals more to us we have to address changes in **how** we think if we desire to truly judge matters of life in a righteous manner — according to the ways, standards, truths, and righteousness of God’s word. We cannot serve God if we rely on our own ability to discern right and wrong, righteousness and unrighteousness, truth and error. After all, that has been the problem from the beginning.

### **Grasping Time and The Present Truth**

As I am writing, it has struck me even more deeply **how** and **why** God reveals His plan and purpose as He does. It is difficult for us, with such a limited human capacity, to grasp much about the concept of “time,” which in turn contains knowledge that can teach much more about God and His incredible greatness.

Today, I turned 64 (at the time or originally writing this). That seems like a long time, and for human life, it is getting close to the basic time God has allotted us to live — 70 years. But in reality, it is so incredibly

short and in no way can be compared to or even worthy to be compared to what God actually offers us in everlasting life. We cannot begin to grasp that concept of time.

In past sermons, the subject of our inability to grasp the magnitude of God's physical creation has been addressed and along with that the concept of time in reference to that creation. How can we grasp the size of our own sun, which would take over 100 earths placed side by side to reach through its diameter? How can we grasp the magnitude of power that created VY Canis Majoris of which it would take over 235,000 earths placed side by side to reach through it?

Now just consider a factor of "time" that the human mind has absolutely no ability to truly grasp concerning the size of this universe that God Almighty created and sustains. Of the guesstimated number of stars in the universe, how long do you think it would take you to visit them all if you could do so at the rate of one million per second? It would take you over 8 trillion years!

The point of all this is that into eons of time God will still be revealing new truth — new knowledge and understanding to us. That process will never end. That is how great God is! As it was stated earlier in this article, "God has been revealing truth to mankind for 6,000 years in a progressive manner AS His plan is unfolding." But this is already what God has been doing from the beginning from eons ago — revealing new truth and new knowledge, ever since He first created angelic beings in a spirit world. He has now been revealing truth for millions of years, as He first began doing in the spirit realm.

This has much to do with how and why God tries and tests those whom He calls by progressively revealing His plan and purpose in the manner that He does. Through this process God can transform the natural way we think (the carnal way) if we faithfully and continually yield to that process of Him molding His "revelatory thought" (logos - His word), His mind, and His character within us.

It was millions of years ago when a being named Lucifer recoiled at a truth God came to reveal to the angelic realm as part of His continual progressive revelation to them. That truth was about His plan and purpose that was being worked out at that time concerning why He was going to create the earth in the unique manner that He was. At this specific moment in time, God revealed His plan to create a spiritual family above that of the angels — the Family of God — Elohim. Lucifer rejected this "new truth."

This rejection of truth by Lucifer was just like what happened to a few in the early Church who rejected the truth that the gospel should go to the gentiles. These few simply did not agree and chose to believe instead that "their" God would not require such a thing, and thereby concluded that this must not be of God. This is also like some in the Church after 2009 who rejected the truth of God's removal of the "curse" from women that has existed since the beginning, or not believing that a woman should ever be ordained into the ministry. Such individuals concluded that this is not of God because "their" God would not do such a thing.

Progressive revelation of new truth, that then becomes our "present truth," is sometimes rejected by God's own people whom He has called. There have been a few who rejected what God gave as His prophetic day "for the Church," from Pentecost of 2012 to Pentecost of 2013. These few believed they were right and that this could not then have been from God. Often times, such carnal thinking just simply rejects what it does not like and/or does not understand. Therefore, individuals must then go about to justify **their** thinking by twisting scripture to fit their disapproval or they seek to find some "perceived" fault in the new truth or in the one teaching it. They are impatient and not will for God to clarify all that He is revealing to His Church. This happened often throughout Herbert W. Armstrong's ministry that spanned more than half a century.

Rejection of the “present truth” is not new, but began eons ago with one of the three most majestic of created angelic beings — Lucifer. Trials, testing, and transformation (molding) of the human mind are essential and absolute necessities of life (requirements) for any to enter Elohim. God will not allow a mind that does not fully agree with Him, as with what happened with Lucifer, to remain in His family in the Church, as such cannot be allowed to become Elohim.

### **Formulating Righteous Judgment**

The following statement was made earlier in this article: “Righteous decisions come from basing our judgment of every matter in life by God’s revealed truth to that moment in time.” This statement was made concerning how the early Church was confronted with a great change in regards to the fact that God was now working directly with gentiles. This example was compared to the present in how some have responded to women being freed from the “curse” and even of how God was now going to begin working through women as part of His ministry.

Changes God reveals as part of His plan and purpose (as part of progressive revelation) can and do put people to the test — to see **how** one thinks and makes judgments in life. A person will either be in agreement with God in doctrine, truth, and prophecy He has revealed to them through His apostles and prophets, or they will not. This is simple and plain knowledge that one should grasp from the beginning of their calling. All righteous judgment that a person can make is based on what they are able to receive of God’s very word (revelatory thought) and then their application of it to life and other revealed truths, rather than relying on their own reasoning to form judgments.

During Philadelphia, there was only one way to come into the Church of God and to receive spiritual knowledge of the 21 Truths that the Church was built upon during that period of time. That one way was through what God revealed and restored to His Church through a single human being — God’s apostle at the time — Herbert W. Armstrong.

There was NO other way for one to enter God’s Church or to have a relationship with God. 9

Once people came into God’s true Church, they entered into judgment and were then being judged by their own judgments — whether such were righteous and based upon God’s word or not. God has given us **one** gigantic example to drive this very point home. This **example** was designed by God to mold — to transform — His Church as part of His ongoing creation within the Church at that time. That example was also designed by God to teach us **now** in this time. It is the example in the change and correction to the actual date for the observance of Pentecost during the era of Philadelphia. We have addressed this before, but as Herbert W. Armstrong often went back to teaching upon the foundational knowledge of the “two trees,” there is much more to grasp and more to be built upon in this incredible teaching **example** that God has given His Church concerning a change that took place in the observance of Pentecost.

After this change had taken place in God’s Church, people did not truly grasp what they had experienced or the true ramifications of what it all meant. For nearly four decades, God’s Church observed Pentecost on the wrong day. When counting for Pentecost, the belief at that time was that it should always be observed on a Monday. In 1973, this subject matter came to Mr. Armstrong’s attention. It was such a serious and important matter that he had the subject thoroughly studied and discussed. It took nearly a year for him to be led to the spiritual conclusion (given by God) that the Church had been wrong and that Pentecost would always fall on a Sunday (the first day of the week). So by Pentecost of 1974, a change was made as God had revealed a new and “present truth” concerning the correct day of the week upon which is would always be observed.

It was a great test and trial for God’s people during this moment in God’s Church in the era of Philadelphia, when a year of study and discussion into this took place amongst the leadership. Nothing of this

magnitude had yet been confronted during Philadelphia. Mr. Armstrong wanted to be most certain of God's guidance in this matter and he knew the final decision on this would have to come through him and he did not take this responsibility lightly before God. Much can be learned from what happened through this period of time.

Before this change, the "present truth" was that Pentecost was to always be observed on a Monday. But where did understanding of Pentecost originate for the Church during Philadelphia? It began when God revealed and restored the truth to Herbert W. Armstrong that the annual Holy Days (annual Sabbaths) should be observed just as the command to observe and keep the weekly Sabbath. Once the truth concerning the observance of the annual Sabbaths were given by (through) God's apostle to the Church, then those in the Church at that time had to **change** their thinking in how to properly worship and obey God. Those in the Church were judged by God on each individual's acceptance of this "present truth" and their judgment to then change in accordance to it or not.

A few decades after God had originally restored the observance of His annual Holy Days, He then revealed that one of those annual Sabbaths had been observed on the wrong day. It threw many brethren (but overall a small percentage) and several ministers (including evangelists) into a tailspin that eventually led to their leaving the organization of the Worldwide Church of God. However, before these people ever made such a move to leave, they had already made judgments, decisions, and choices that had removed them from God's Church — away from any ongoing relationship and fellowship with God and Christ.

So what happened? To understand, it is important to know and understand that God could have given Herbert W. Armstrong the correct timing of Pentecost when He first revealed to him that the annual Sabbaths were a required observance for His Church. It was **always** in God's control to reveal what He did concerning these commanded

observances and it was **only** in His control to hold back the knowledge<sup>10</sup> — the truth — of the correct day of the week for observing Pentecost.

Why would God do such a thing? God desires to mold, create, and transform our mind into a new one — a new heart that is spiritually motivated in nature rather than carnally (selfishly) motivated by itself. God works with those whom He has called who will humbly yield themselves to such a process because they want that kind of change in their life. If at some stage of development a person veers off due to pride then it must be made manifest (revealed) who they are. In this manner, the Body of Christ can be sobered and stirred to greater spiritual watchfulness. God knows the heart and mind of everyone as to whether they are of a spirit, at any moment in time, to continue **in** His ways or not. Rather than just removing such a person by some quick means, God's righteous judgment in such a matter is that if a person (for whatever reason) moves away from Him and will not change (repent) then this **choice** must be made manifest as a true witness to others. It is also to make it clear to the individual that this was **their own** decision to sever their relationship.

Trials and tests designed by God are part of his molding — transforming — process that is likened to heating precious metal to a point that the dross (impurities) are brought to the surface so that they can be clearly seen for what they are. God does this in each individual's life, and as it happens, that person must then address the impurities and repent (change their thinking, which changes life's actions) so that the impurities can be removed. If a person will not face such impurities honestly and faithfully with the spiritual desire to repent and have them removed, then God will use trials and tests to bring any and all who remain impure to the surface so they can be seen and removed from the Body.

God states some of this very process in Deuteronomy: "All the commandments which I command you this day (all truth God gives of His ways to any moment in time — the present truth) shall you observe to

do (to live by and make judgments accordingly), that you may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Eternal promised unto your fathers (so that one can continue to increase spiritually in life and be blessed to receive all that God has called them to receive). You shall remember all the way (to not forget any truths of God's ways that He has revealed to them from the beginning and forward from that time) which the Eternal your God led you these forty years in the wilderness (in whatever time we have been blessed to be led by God as He continues to lead us in a progressive manner — ever revealing more truth of His ways to us), to humble you (through test and trials), to prove you (again, through tests and trials), to know (for all to know) what was in your heart, whether you would keep my commandments (laws, truths, ways), or not" (Deut. 8:1-2).

### **Important Lesson**

So what can be learned from this example of Pentecost having been observed for so long on the wrong day of the week? By bringing this test upon everyone in His Church, God had prepared a means to further advance the process of a continuing creation through the necessary transformation of the mind. This process is always ongoing and the **work** to produce this change is accomplished by God's spirit — by His and His Son's direct participation, and there is NO other way. As part of the spiritual transformation in "this phase" of development (creation) of Elohim, each person must experience trials and tests along with all the other means God has made available for spiritual development and growth. Direct trials and tests from God help speed up and more deeply strengthen spiritual change that produces far greater faith and Godly character in those who faithfully yield and respond to this process.

In this example of Pentecost, people in God's Church were confronted with choices and judgments that they would be forced to make in response to this **new** revelation that was given as a trial and test upon everyone. For the majority of the Church, there wasn't much of a trial in

that year of 1974. The Church was drawing near to the end of Philadelphia, but it did not yet begin to be entrenched by the spirit of Laodicea. That spirit of Laodicea began to develop and grow speedily a few years later. So a relatively strong Church spiritually at this time could quickly **see** what God revealed through Mr. Armstrong. For others, it became a trial that separated them fully from the fellowship of God's Church.

God used this test upon His Church to clean up the Body of Christ. It was after the manner of John 15, where it describes Christ as the true vine and God as the husbandman (vine dresser). All of the vine is described as needing to be pruned, which all of those in the Church did experience at that time, but others who were resisting God's spiritual creation in them were not producing fruit and were as branches that needed to be removed and separated from the vine.

Two primary groups emerged that had to be separated from all fellowship with God's Church. One group of ministers along with other members left, using the "reasoning" (excuse and justification in judgment) that God was not working through Herbert W. Armstrong since he had been wrong about the date of Pentecost. These individuals deluded themselves into believing God was now working through (or with) them. After a short time, some of these went so far as to begin once again (as they had before being called) believing that Sunday was an acceptable day of worship.

The other group rejected the new truth and chose to hold to a Monday observance of Pentecost. They concluded that Mr. Armstrong was in such error that God must have quit working with Him and was now working with and leading them to hold onto what they had always believed about a Monday Pentecost. Through time, these dissolved, dwindled into nothingness, and even died. This is akin to some over the past years who had come to a point where they believed I had left the truth because of new truth God has revealed to and through me. So they conclude that they will hold onto what was given to them from the beginning, and thereby reject what was new.

For any such individuals over the past few years who have rejected additional truth that has been revealed, then if they are being “true” to themselves and others, this means that they must then also reject that there was an apostasy, just as the other scattered groups. They must reject that there was a “man of sin” revealed or that the Church was spewed out of God’s mouth. They must reject that the era of Philadelphia ended with Mr. Armstrong. They must reject that Jesus Christ had a beginning in life once he was born of human birth, and they must return to believing that he has eternally existed as all the other scattered groups believe. To do otherwise is to clearly live a great lie to themselves and to others. If they choose to judge for themselves which of the 36 additional truths they will accept or reject, then they are acknowledging that truth has been revealed through me that has not been revealed through any others. Again, to do this would be to live a great lie to themselves and to others.

There are many lessons that can be learned from the experience of this example regarding Pentecost in 1974. As we continue, it is needful that we always **remember** that such trying and testing from God, as in how it occurred in this example concerning Pentecost, is of major importance to the transformation process of creation in this current age and in the development of this phase of Elohim (for those who will be among the 144,000 and for those who are being prepared for responsibilities in the future). God used a period of nearly half a century to confirm and fully establish 18 great truths in His Church. We should be in awe to grasp the significance of 36 additional truths that had been confirmed and established within less than 15 years. God’s Church has been incredibly blessed to have experienced such a thing.

Again, it is so deeply important to **learn** from all this that only God can reveal His truth to us. It is fully within His own will and purpose what He reveals (or doesn’t reveal) and **when** He will do it. Mr. Armstrong had no ability or choice as to what God revealed about Pentecost or when He revealed it. Mr. Armstrong did not determine by his own study or intellect what was truth and doctrine that was to be taught in

God’s Church. God had to reveal it to him, though He did so as Mr. <sup>12</sup> Armstrong studied, God had to lead and reveal such things all along the way. So it is basic to understand **how** God reveals truth to His Church. It is and always has been through His apostles and prophets and by no other way.

### **February 2, 2008, Sermon**

We will now return to that sermon given on February 2, 2008, that was entitled, “The 144,000 Are Sealed!” Earlier, I mentioned some of what I said in the very beginning of that sermon. At that time I did not know that God had made me an apostle to His Church back on Pentecost of 1998. All that I grasped was that God was working with me as a prophet, but I didn’t fully comprehend how. There was no one to teach me about the job and function of a prophet in God’s ministry. This was because there was no such position used by God through Philadelphia or on into Laodicea until the time God placed me into that position.

We have gone through a lot of background that led up to this period in time in 2008 so that we can better grasp how God had been working in His Church at that specific time and why. The Church was being **prepared** for what it would experience during the prophesied end-times given through Daniel. The content of this sermon was that God had just revealed to me the meaning of the 1335 days **being about the sealing of the 144,000**. That is the context of my introductory statements in that sermon that I gave as an apostle, though I did not understand that at the time.

With understanding it in this context, it is incredible what was said after I gave the title to that sermon: “God gave to me that this was that day! I did not know all that I would be given for this day until yesterday — last night.” The rest of that paragraph will be quoted shortly, but first these two sentences need to be addressed.

What God gave to me, as a prophet, was to know that **the 1335 days of Daniel were about the sealing of the 144,000**. That was it! That day

in February seemed very important due to the process of judging by the truths we had to this moment in time (present truth). The first truth that was part of this judgment was what God had revealed to me, as a prophet, being that 2008 was the beginning of His final witness to this world. It was just a prophetic fact. Secondly, we believed at that moment in time that Christ would return on a Feast of Trumpets. Thirdly, the other truth we had at that time was that the period of God's final witness would be for 1260 days as stated concerning the time God's two witnesses would establish that final witness.

As an apostle and minister to God's Church, it was my responsibility to preach and teach about this to God's people. Based on **how** God had trained me to exercise judgment with all truth we had to that moment in time, I concluded that God was revealing to us that on that specific day in February of 2008 that the 144,000 had been sealed. I was wrong. Yet if God had desired to do so, He could have revealed that it was not on that specific day that the sealing had occurred. God had only revealed that the meaning of the 1335 days was about the sealing of the 144,000. I drew the wrong conclusion from what was revealed, as I only understood **part** of what was being revealed.

God chose to reveal later when the 1335 days would actually begin, which was in late 2008, once He revealed that Christ was going to return on Pentecost and not on Trumpets. This whole experience was designed for the Church by God as a trial and test, just as the example of Pentecost 1974 was also designed by God as a trial and test for His people then.

Now, it is good to read the rest of that paragraph that was quoted from that sermon: "As I sat down and read about the number of days of Daniel (these 1335 days), I pondered and got out my calculator. I wanted to see proof! Today, you want to see proof. But for the order of days, from one point to another, there is none!"

It was obvious by every kind of calculation that nothing fit into any areas of meaning that might be contained in any of God's Holy Days.

However, once God revealed Christ would return on a Pentecost, every-<sup>13</sup> thing changed!

With that new and present truth and the revelation of truth that 2008 was the beginning of God's final witness to mankind, those dates did fall into place in a mathematically and awesomely unique cyclical manner (per calendar dates over years and years of annual Holy Days). That primary date that now fell into place was September 30, 2008 — the Feast of Trumpets. That was simply incredible and awesomely inspiring to see.

We have truly lived through incredible times as we have lived extraordinary experiences as God was preparing us to live through the years of "final witness" (**Dec. 14, 2008 to May 27, 2012**) and on into these times we are now living in.

### **Righteous Judgment and God's Government**

We have been focusing upon the subject of righteous judgment. It was stated that we are judged by what we see — know and understand — at any moment in time. That is why we are to discern and judge every matter in life by the present truth.

Until God revealed in 1974 that Pentecost was to be observed on a Sunday, God's people were judged by what God had revealed to them before that additional truth about Pentecost was given. The timing for when this portion of truth was revealed was totally in God's control. Therefore, up to that change in 1974, God's people were to assemble on a Monday, and they were judged by their response and obedience to what they knew to that moment in time.

This example teaches us much about how and why God works with us as He does (much of which we have already covered). This also teaches a great deal about how God's government works in our lives through the leadership He has established to be upon His apostles and prophets. God has chosen to construct His Church through this exact structure. It is by this way that He is creating Elohim in all who will receive God's

government and God's way of revealing truth to them through these offices He has established: "And (we) are (being) built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, In whom all the building is fitly framed together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord" (Eph. 2:20-21).

Candidly, there is no other structure whereby God leads and directs His Church. That is why what has happened in the 600 plus splinter groups that have formed out of the Apostasy and scattering of the Church after 1994 is so absurd. Only one can be God's Church through whom He works. By definition and teaching, anything else could not be God's structure of government, as it would oppose God's order of unity and singleness of teaching and belief among His people. There cannot be any who are "on their own," who are not led by God's one and only true ministry; for that is simply **how** God works in His Church: "Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular. God has set (word used for order and position in government) some in the Church: first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers..." (1 Cor. 12:27-28).

So the **identity** of God's Church and where He is working is a most basic truth. This has so much to do with the first great truth that is attributed to being reestablished (restored) in God's Church through Herbert W. Armstrong — the truth of God's "government." God tries and tests His Church to manifest those who do and those who do not judge this truth about government righteously. God expects everyone to judge themselves and "their" own group or organization by this most basic truth about His government.

### **Greatest Proof of God's True Church**

During the Feast of Tabernacles in 2005, God mightily separated His Church from all other scattered groups who formed due to the Apostasy. God did this through the 21st Truth that is attributed as being revealed to the Church of God - Preparing for the Kingdom of God through me. No other scattered group believes this truth!

The 21st Truth states, "God the Father is Yahweh Elohim and He <sup>14</sup> alone has eternally existed. The teaching that Jesus Christ had always existed is a holdover from the teaching of traditional Christianity of the Trinity. There is only one Almighty God who has eternal existence" ("The 57 Truths of God").

The purpose for covering this truth in this article is to illuminate more fully that it is this truth above all others revealed after the Apostasy that **proves** where God's true Church is and through whom God is working as His apostle to this end-time. It is this truth that fully established the identity of God's Church! No other group or organization from the Apostasy **believes** or teaches this great truth. It was after God restored this most powerful truth yet, to His Church, that He began to inspire the writing of the book *2008 — God's Final Witness*.

The **identity** and **greatest proof** of God's true Church through the end-time and up to Christ's return can only be received by those to whom God gives it. Once God has revealed such a "present truth," then each to whom it was revealed is judged individually by **their own judgment** of where God is working and their judgment of this specific truth. For those who have left and have been removed from the fellowship in God's true Church, their judgment rests on this truth alone. Anyone who truly judges righteously must judge whether they believe this 21st Truth (42nd overall). If a person has believed this truth and then separates themselves from God's Church (PKG), then they multiply the judgment against themselves because they know no one else believes or teaches this truth. Only God's true Church does!

Do you grasp the magnitude and importance of this great truth being taught and believed by only **one** scattered group of people?

It now needs to be pointed out that there is also another reason of great importance to this truth being revealed when it was. Toward the end of Sardis, only three great truths remained when Herbert W. Armstrong was called to restore truth to the Church during Philadelphia. Satan and the demonic realm had the world so deceived and confused

by this time that the Church was nearly dead, but God began to raise up a new era through Mr. Armstrong. Truth that Satan had worked so hard to destroy was being restored and revived within the era of Philadelphia.

One of the greatest blows that Satan ever dealt to the truth was when he began to deceive the world about God Himself. This was done in 325 AD through the Nicene Council and the establishment of the doctrine of the Trinity. It wasn't until that Feast of 2005 that this false doctrine was finally fully removed from having any influence upon God's Church — the Church of God - PKG.

The restoration of this great truth (21st Truth) removed Satan's last and greatest deception. This lie was having a strong influence upon distorting the truth to God's Church about God's eternal majesty and the profound importance of Christ's beginning in human life as our Passover. The timing of this revelation of truth is so important to events that followed, as this freed God's Church to accelerated spiritual growth, insight, and highly empowered faith. This played a great role in thrusting God's Church into a most unique time of God's final witness.

It has often been told to God's people that they should go back often and review all the truths God has given us. Indeed, the greatest and most profound for God's Church in this end-time is that 21st Truth. God's truths are our power and strength. It is the truth that sets us free. It is by the word of truth that we are begotten. It is by the word of truth that we grow, AND it is **by** this one great truth that God's people should have the greatest boldness, faith, confidence, and strength of where God's true Church is today — of **where** God is working and leading His people. There is **no** other place to go for God's truth that is being taught by God's ministry Sabbath-to-Sabbath.

### **God's Preparation Complete**

Once God had fully reestablished His Church by Pentecost of 1998, He began preparing it for the final witness He would establish for the "cause" or "controversy" of Zion.

Most of the truth that God began to give the Church had to do with the Apostasy and the first three Seals of Revelation that had been opened. These truths were new to the Church, as they had to do with prophecy that had just been fulfilled in this end-time. However, the first great truth that was "restored" since being given many centuries earlier is one that was lost shortly after it had been revealed to the apostle, John. There was no scattered group who understood or taught this truth, and although there is one that has since attempted to address it, it is still far away from grasping it. This truth that was "restored" is the 14th Truth (35th overall).<sup>15</sup>

This truth states, "We understand that Jesus Christ is 'continually coming' in the flesh of those who are in the Church of God" ("The 57 Truths of God"). This of course has to do with John 14 and other similar verses in 1 John 4 and 2 John that the scattered Churches misapply to a past or future **literal** coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. This is the first great truth that was restored in the Church of God - PKG that powerfully separated it from all others. To this point in time, it was the most important truth revealed to PKG that testified and identified where God was working and through whom.

We have already covered what God revealed seven truths later in the 21st Truth (42nd overall), which was the greatest proof of all of the true identity of His Church. This was later followed by another truth, the 50th Truth, which tried and tested God's Church in a very great way as to each person's faithfulness to follow where God leads. It was this truth that launched God's Church into the time of God's final 3 ½ years of witness to this world, about this world. This was also preparing the Church for the year (God's prophetic day for the Church) that would follow that 3 ½ years of God's own witness that He would establish in the righteous avenging of His Church over the "cause" of Zion.

In addition to all the awesome truths God gave His people, He began to call large numbers into His Church through 2007 and 2008. More would be called, but by the time God's final witness would begin, the

Church had been prepared for an awesomely unique experience of God's creative power to bring "transformation" to its greatest pinnacle yet.

God molded and fashioned events, as well as their timing, so that the Church would be made to stand through 4 ½ years of one of the most extraordinary periods ever experienced by God's people.

### God's Work

After healing a man on the Sabbath day and being condemned by the Jews for doing it at that time, Jesus gave them a simple reply: "My Father has been working until now and I have been working" (Jn. 5:17). During that time, God and Christ were working to establish a "witness" of Jesus being the Passover and Messiah of all mankind. That witness was recorded in scripture for the sake of the Church that would follow, for God's great **work** is about the creation of Elohim. After 2,000 years and seven different eras of God's Church, the Church had now been prepared for another important time of witness.

God and Christ worked with a remnant of the Church following the Apostasy to prepare it for an important battle in time. Though we still do not understand the full meaning of the dates and timing of all that followed that period of 4 ½ years, God is continuing to reveal more to us, as He always has. God's Church seeks to judge by the present truth to any moment in time, and if all will do so righteously, they will then live accordingly — in faith, as this is how we are judged.

The Church had no real concept of the great falling away (Apostasy) that would come upon it before December of 1994. Once it did come, however, the Church (brethren and ministry) was to judge righteously what had happened. There were basic issues at hand that had to be addressed. Were we God's Church? If we were God's Church, then how could it be experiencing what it did after December 17, 1994? This led many to **see** more deeply than ever that the organization (WCG) was not the Church, but that the Church was the spiritual Body of Christ. This had not fully sunk into everyone in the Church even though Herbert W.

Armstrong made the point several times before he died in 1986.

16

So what had happened to the spiritual Body of Christ? The answer should have been clear, but it wasn't because of the "spiritual condition" of the Church being lukewarm and so spiritually weak. As God blessed some to be awakened from that spiritual sluggishness and sleep, answers began to be made manifest (revealed) and obvious. God's Church had been scattered; spiritual famine was growing and widespread. An apostasy had occurred; the identity of the man of sin who was the son of perdition for the end-time had been made manifest. However, most of the scattered Body could neither humble themselves enough to acknowledge the Apostasy nor admit their true spiritual state, for to do so would be to acknowledge they were Laodicean. Such people would not judge "righteous judgment" concerning the identity of God's Church, the present truth, or the actual conditions and events that had occurred. Yet God taught people in His remnant Church **how** to judge such matters righteously so that they could have much more truth revealed to them.

Now is a time that this kind of judgment is required of God's people again, just as it was when God allowed and gave way for the Apostasy to be manifested in His own Church. We are to be judging through what God has given His Church to experience, through the present truth, and through the actual events and conditions that have already occurred. **If** we **know** this is God's Church, then we can continue in righteous judgment. If one does **not** know this and is **not** deeply convicted of such truth, then they will judge from their "own beliefs" and views as "they see it" (just as how it happened after the Apostasy). That is why basic understanding that should be gleaned from the 35th, 42nd, and 50th Truth are so important to the **identity** of God's true Church and with who it is through whom God is working in the continuing process of the creation of Elohim. It is also important to know that the 49th Truth (about the Seven Thunders being revealed) will yet drive that point home to God's Church that was scattered after the Apostasy.

## God Establishes the Truth & Reveals Error

As it has previously been covered in this article, the Church was tried and tested in God's present truth throughout 2008. God was establishing those things that would be needed so that the Church could experience what He had been preparing it to fulfill through the 4 ½ years that ended May 19th of 2013. Daniel's 1335 days about the 144,000 being sealed was revealed. Christ returning on Pentecost rather than Trumpets was established. In the midst of all this, God had already revealed who His two end-time witnesses were and that 2008 would be the beginning of His final witness. We just didn't know what it all meant, but we did judge according to the present truth as God had molded and fashioned this within us.

This refinement in judgment and understanding of how we are judged in the present truth had not been given to Herbert W. Armstrong; however, God did use Mr. Armstrong's experience to establish that understanding and revelation for us in this end-time. Upon addressing the significance of 19-year time cycles in God's work and the commission God had given him and the Church, Mr. Armstrong addressed some very important points. He explained how he was not a prophet. He also explained some matters concerning the booklet entitled, *1975 in Prophecy*.

It would be good at this juncture to quote some of what Mr. Armstrong wrote in his "Personal" in "Tomorrows World" magazine of February 1972 (the "Personal" is available on the Church site under Mr. Armstrong's publications). There are several excerpts that will be in quotes in this section of the post, and I will also make some added comments along the way.

"Let me ask you this question. Do you know of any large, established, well-recognized professing Christian denomination which has publicly confessed it had been wrong in what it had been teaching, and which they corrected the error, and turned to the truth?"

In Mr. Armstrong's day, this could only be asked of the difference<sup>17</sup> between God's Church and all those of traditional Christianity. Today, however, it should be asked of all who were scattered after the Apostasy, but it is not. Yet every truth revealed in the Church of God - PKG since the 21st Truth revealed through Mr. Armstrong has revealed error in the Church.

The 22nd Truth revealed that we did have an apostasy. To deny this was to deny God's Church. We were beginning to admit the error of failing to acknowledge what God had prophesied would happen **in** His Church in the end-time. This then led to the acknowledgement of many other truths related to the Apostasy and God's Church that were to become manifest during the prophesied end-time. These all in turn revealed error we needed to correct.

The 33rd Truth was the first that revealed error that had existed before the Apostasy. That truth was about the reality that there was no literal physical place of safety. We now accepted the clear truth of scripture that "Petra" was always about God being our place of safety, just as He is likened to our high tower, defense, shield, fortress, etc., as in Psalms 18. Indeed, God is our rock, our Petra.

After the era of Philadelphia and on into the end-time after the Apostasy, we did not focus or expound upon the "errors" when God revealed new truth to us. Instead, we simply focused on the revelation of truth as a matter of positive change and greater spiritual growth that God was giving. In reality, we were also actually acknowledging error. We were addressing change and new truth in this manner largely due to a continuing growth in spiritual maturity within God's Church and of being led to **see** that God is in charge of what we are able to **see** at any moment in time. The revelation of truth is in His control just as it is of **when** He gives us more truth, and when He gives us more we indeed have less error because He is leading us more and more into the light and farther and farther from the darkness. **Seeing** truth is not a result of

our own ability nor of intellect, but fully of God. Over the past year, God has helped to begin expressing this process as a matter of the “present truth” since He is the one who progressively reveals His truth to His people. We simply have to make the choice to accept and follow it or not.

Let’s continue now with excerpts from that “Personal” of Mr. Armstrong: “But are they **all** perfect and correct in what they teach? If so why do not any two **agree** in all points of doctrine? The **reason** is simply that they **do** teach errors which they are afraid to confess, for fear they would lose members.”

“Thus they have educated the people to suppose that if any leader, any church, and work of God can be found to have been in error in any point, they cannot be trusted. To confess and correct error is to be branded a false prophet!”

Today this kind of scrutiny is even greater upon God’s Church because God has given me to declare that I am both His prophet and His apostle to His Church in this end-time. As a prophet, God has given me a great deal to declare about what will happen in the Thunders and Trumpets of Revelation that lead up to the coming of Jesus Christ. As an apostle, I have worked with what God has revealed up to any moment in time and have taught His Church accordingly within those parameters of judgment.

At the beginning of the 1335 days, there was anticipation of great “physical” tribulation beginning that would come upon the world. Thunders increased and the stage was fully set for the financial collapse of the United States and the world economy, but God’s time for that has not yet come. The Church had been wrong about the basic period of 3 ½ years being about physical destruction. That (destruction) will still come, but within a different time frame than what we have previously believed.

May 27, 2012, was not the date of Christ’s return and neither was May 19, 2013. Those dates are prophetically important and great events did occur within those periods of time, but they were not Christ’s literal return. That is obvious. So as we did after the Apostasy, we seek to judge

what we have experienced by the present truth, and as we do, God will <sup>18</sup> reveal more, just as He has done before, for He uses this process in a powerful way to more deeply convict us of truth He reveals **when** He chooses to do so.

We **know** who we are — we are God’s Church, and the truths God has revealed testify to that truth. No other group or organization teaches and **believes** all of the 57 Truths.

So yes, we too have had error. I have had error. But God is leading us into greater truth and spiritual maturity. God has not only allowed error to exist in His Church through time, but He has also designed and planned it so. Such a statement likely would baffle and bewilder most who are not in our fellowship, but the lesson of Pentecost 1974 should cause righteous reflection and honesty about God’s power to lead His own Church.

We will continue again with the “Personal” excerpts from Mr. Armstrong’s writing: “You may ask, do I, then, feel that we in this Work are full of errors, misleading the people. Most emphatically no! We have not had to correct error many times. But each time we have corrected error, we have had one fewer error left. If we knew of any error still remaining, now, we would change it! If and when we find one in the future, we shall correct it! The one who follows that principle is the most free from error!”

This was indeed what was done later in 1974 with the revelation that Pentecost was to be observed on a Sunday and not a Monday.

“So confessing such an error is one of the surest proofs to identify the people through whom the living Christ is working — and whom he is using!”

### **God Prepared Us**

Through all the experiences and revelation of truth God had given His remnant Church and the inspiration for two important books to be written, the small core of this remnant group had now been prepared by God to enter its final preparation for what was to follow. The years

of 2007 and most of 2008 were the years for this final preparation through trying and testing, as well as giving rapid growth.

We finally arrived at a date that we thought we fully understood concerning a “final countdown” to Christ’s return. It was the Feast of Trumpets of September 30, 2008. Indeed, the countdown of 1335 days did begin then, but we did not grasp where it was leading. Even though I wrote the book *2008 – God’s Final Witness*, I did not grasp the magnitude or importance of that witness.

In the beginning, because of our belief about 3 ½ years of tribulation, there were “expectations” that were very much ingrained in our thinking that would be changed about what was to happen in the world and when. As we moved farther and farther into that 3 ½ year period and it was evident that the 2nd Trumpet had not yet occurred, God began to reveal that the experience of this period of time was focused upon a “witness” and not about end-time tribulation. That understanding has continued to grow even until now.

God had prepared us for the experience of this period of time. What was it all about? What was it that we had been prepared to experience?

We have used this period of 3 ½ years rather loosely to sometimes include the period of the 1335 days and the 1290 days. Much is simply a matter of semantics as long as we grasp the context, but the reality is that these days are fully tied together. The literal period of 3 ½ years, that started when the two witnesses began to fulfill a large part of their roll, was preceded by these two periods of time. These two important events would thrust the Church into a new and important era to God’s planning and purpose being fulfilled before all the Trumpets should be manifest and His Son’s return to establish God’s Kingdom to rule this world.

### **Grasping the 4 ½ Years**

It has been stressed that so often in life, even for those who are called into God’s Church, people tend to see their lives as routine and ordinary.

By knowledge we should grasp that a “calling” from God is far from <sup>19</sup> ordinary and it should never be viewed as such. That would mean we do not grasp the awesomeness of such an event and that we are not nearly as thankful for the blessings poured out upon us as we should be. We truly need to **see** our calling for what it is.

But far beyond just seeing the incredible calling that is given to us, we need to deeply grasp what we experienced over an extraordinary 4 1/2 years that ended May 19th of 2013. God has long worked to fulfill what He had planned and prepared for a very special purpose at this most unique time in the entire history of 6,000 years of mankind. We have been blessed to have been called to be its primary participants.

What we have experienced as a Church all began in what God planned and purposed so long ago and then only revealed as a most basic outline of to Daniel.

### **1335 Days**

As it was earlier mentioned, God revealed to me on that Friday evening of February 1st of 2008, that the 1335 days of Daniel were **about the sealing of the 144,000**. However, God did not reveal what would specifically happen within this span of time that pertained to the 144,000.

Once we had received our course correction about Christ returning on a Pentecost rather than a Trumpets, we then knew that the Feast of Trumpets of 2008 was the beginning of this 1335 days. A countdown had begun which then started on that day of September 30, 2008.

**[Insert of November 2017:** Since this past Feast of Tabernacles, God has revealed that the actual sealing of the 144,000 did not occur during that 1335 days, and that this prophetic period of time mentioned by Daniel “was only **about the sealing of the 144,000.**” At this past Feast, God has made clear that this prophetic period was about the “**final stage**” of time in which God would determine who would be among the final one’s “chosen” to become sealed among the 144,000.]

The verses in Daniel that discuss this period were never meant to be interpreted by anyone by merely reading or studying them; the meaning was fully hidden and closed to understanding until God began to reveal it. Even when God began opening it to understanding, He did not reveal all of it. To reveal everything from the beginning would have been to nullify His purpose being worked out in the Church and in the spirit realm. God's exact manner and timing of the revelation of these verses were strategies He used to fulfill his plan in accomplishing what needed to occur in His Church, which also worked to prepare for the year of recompense that was to follow.

As we go through this in Daniel and all that is covered beyond this, it is important to remember that not only is God preparing to usher in His Kingdom to reign on this earth, but He is also bringing to an end the reign of Satan and the demonic realm in their kingdom. God is not only working to create Elohim and send His Son to be the Messiah of all mankind, but He is also **righteously** bringing an end to Satan's rule within the spirit realm.

Living through end-time events is extraordinary as this is the time of the culmination of so many prophecies. These prophecies that God foretold about the end of man's age of self-rule, the end of Satan's rule, and the transition into a new age of God's rule on earth reveal God's very planning and design from the beginning to bring about Elohim. When we begin to grasp the magnitude of **that**, and that **we** are the major participants in that transition, then it is indeed powerfully humbling, sobering, and just plain awesome!

"After the daily sacrifice shall be [**should be correctly stated as "shall begin to be"**] taken away, and the abomination that is making desolate is finished (is completed), there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the thousand three hundred and thirty-fifth day" (Dan. 12:11-12).

These verses as they are translated into English become even more obscure than they are in Hebrew, but remember that these were not

to be understood in any language. God simply told Daniel to "go his way" and that these prophecies were going to be "closed" and "sealed" until the end. As I mentioned in the sermon given in February of 2008, "This is given by prophetic revelation and by no other means." That was in reference to what God had just revealed about the 1335 days being about the sealing of the 144,000. Everything that comes from these verses must be by prophetic revelation, and God is doing so in the "progressive manner" that He has shown to us that He has been doing through the past 6,000 years. In February of 2008, I **concluded** more than I should have, as I did not realize that God had **much more to reveal later** about these verses.

Since that February of 2008 when God first began to first show that the 1335 days of Daniel was about the sealing of the 144,000, He has continued to progressively reveal more about the specifics of all this. It is really quite profound and exciting, as all this opened a way in which God would reveal more to us, which has everything to do with what we experienced over that 4 1/2 years. These things could not begin to be more fully revealed until the time for the writing of this article, as Satan was not to know what God was going to fulfill. Neither could we know, so that this could accomplish a "work of faith" to refine, mature, and purify the Church.

The Feast of Trumpets 2008 was the day for the beginning of the **final stage** of God **choosing those who were to become sealed** within the complete and final count of all 144,000.

This **final** process of **choosing those** who were yet **to become sealed** to fulfill the complete count of 144,000 began on that Trumpets of 2008, but was not completed until Pentecost of 2012. Obviously, almost all had already been sealed by that day of Trumpets 2008, while the **few remaining to become sealed were chosen** throughout the following 1335 days, including the very last day. During that period of time and into the period of "final witness," some would still be tried and tested to determine the final individuals who were yet to be **chosen**—added—to

be in this specific count of those who would reign with Christ.

### **Daniel 12:11-12**

Those verses in Daniel 12 are indeed “obscure” until God gives His spirit to communicate its truth to the mind of those whom He will. Before more is given concerning what God is now **continuing** to reveal in what these mean, I think it is important to share with you my own excitement and thankfulness for what I am experiencing as I have been writing this article and even more so concerning these verses. I have not experienced this to the degree of this manner since I wrote *2008 – God’s Final Witness*, when God revealed what was to be written **as** I was writing. The same is true now, and in the same manner as it was then, when I thought I knew what was going to be addressed next in writing, but God simply led me into what I did not know and had not known of what **He** wanted written. There is no easy way to explain this, but it is exciting and inspiring when the mind is suddenly **shown** things of God that have not been known before.

The verse, “After the daily sacrifice shall be taken away” is about the fulfillment of how the true sacrifice of our Passover works in our lives on a daily basis through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin” (Col. 1:14). For those who came to a moment in time that they were sealed [**and chosen to become sealed**] as one of the 144,000, the work of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ had accomplished “its work” in them. How? As a person repents of sin and is able to be forgiven through the blood of the Passover sacrifice, then God and Christ will continue **working** in them to transform them. Once this complete transformation process had been completed and they could be sealed [**and even chosen to become sealed for those few remaining**], then the work that the daily sacrifice was doing had fulfilled its purpose in their life and the person was “set” in character and conviction – readied for the change to Elohim. The fact that it shall be taken away as a “saving” process in their life is absolute

– it is done, for they are sealed [and for these final ones chosen to be sealed]. This does not mean that such a person will no longer sin, for they will, but their process for sealing is complete and they are at a stage of spiritual maturity that they will always repent and always be forgiven.

This beginning phase in verse 11 is about the 144,000 who are sealed **and those who were chosen to become sealed** throughout the 1335 days. God is making it clear that this is first in importance, just as it is given first in these final verses of Daniel concerning the final events that must be fulfilled in the end-time so that all can then be “finished” – completed in order to usher in the Millennium. This had to be fulfilled to complete God’s government that will reign under Christ during that time. The complete sealing **and choosing of those to become sealed** was fulfilled by Pentecost, May 27, 2012. This had completed a process revealing God’s greatest power of creation. This was in the creation of Elohim – the first great phase in that which is revealed in the firstfruits. It was a creation of 6,000 years in the making. This is truly awesome!

### **1290 Days**

As it has been covered before concerning the counting recorded in these verses of Daniel, the 1335 days is followed by a second count of 1290 days, with both ending at the same time on May 27, 2012. This marked the opening of the final seal – the Seventh Seal of Revelation. It is apropos that this period is tied directly into the final 1260 days of witness by a prophetic period of “silence” in heaven. This is an interesting word in Greek as it has to do with an expression “to hiss” as in trying to quiet everyone to listen to something special that is about to be given.

God **has** revealed that these 1290 days were about Satan and the demonic world. Although it was not revealed to the angelic realm what this period was all about as it began, God gave them a “sense of knowing” that this period of silence was an incredibly important moment in time that would lead up to the final time of witness in the “1260-day count” that would follow 30 days later.

The time of final witness was about “testimony” that would be established as a matter of God’s righteous judgment of the world. This 3 1/2 year period was about final testimony of what this world has been like for 6,000 years, as God and His ways have continually been rejected by mankind, and that the Church and those specifically sent by God into the world have always been hated, rejected, and persecuted. In a world of modern technology, that witness was powerfully and firmly established.

Once the final witness was established, the world received its final judgment that God will bring upon it when the physical manifestation of all seven trumpets will be revealed (**and then completed**) in the final prophetic “Day of the Eternal” (**which God has now revealed is a final period of 50 days which ends when Christ and the 144,000 are established in the Kingdom of God on earth**).

However, before that physical manifestation of final judgment could begin, there was also another great judgment that had to be established as the result of God’s final witness through His two witnesses and the Church concerning Satan and the demonic realm. Not only must the rule of mankind be righteously brought to an end, but Satan’s rule must also be brought to an end before the Millennium can be established. During that final witness of 3 1/2 years, God established His final testimony and the setting of His righteous judgment against Satan and the demons that will begin to be carried out at the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings.

God began with the revelation of the meaning of the 1335 days for the work of completing the full count of the 144,000 who will be in God’s government that will be established at Christ’s return. The 1260 days was a time of witness to bring an end to man’s self-rule. But the 1290 days is about a count that results in Satan’s final judgment as his government is brought to an end at the same time that man’s self-rule is brought to an end and God’s government is established.

At this point, I am going to return to that sermon of February 2, 2008. There is another statement that needs to be quoted here. It is

about those verses in Daniel 12, but this time it is in reference to the <sup>22</sup> 1290 days: “We have 45 days (from the beginning of the 1335 days) before the work of the abomination of desolation will be ended.”

It was clear that the 1290 days was about the abomination of desolation. As many of us in early 2008 had gone through the experience of the 1994 Apostasy, we knew that it was about the abomination that desolated the Church. Jesus had told us about the commission of Herbert W. Armstrong (which Mr. Armstrong knew was about himself and the Church) that was recorded in Matthew 24:14 of the gospel (good news) “going into all the world as a witness unto all nations.” After that was accomplished, then Christ explained that the end-time would come and that we would then see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place (the Church).

Our understanding of truth to that moment in time (Feb. 2008 and even to now) was Truth #25: “The Abomination of Desolation is about what Joseph Tkach did in the Church.” There is more that now needs to be added to that understanding.

### **The Abomination of Desolation**

The Abomination of Desolation is indeed about what Joseph Tkach, Sr. did in the Church. An “abomination” in the Greek is that which is “detested and abhorred,” specifically concerning idolatry. Due to his giving that infamous sermon of December 17, 1994, Joseph Tkach did become the prophesied “man of sin” and “son of perdition” of 2 Thesalonians 2. In a detestable and most abhorrent act, he turned against God and Christ by seeking to **destroy** the most basic doctrines of God’s Church and sought to replace them with the false doctrines of “traditional Christianity.” On the day that sermon was given, Jesus Christ opened the First Seal of Revelation. This began with Satan’s attempt to destroy God’s Church.

Desolation did come upon God’s Church that had grown spiritually weak and lukewarm. But God’s Church was not destroyed, as a remnant

was quickly brought to repentance and restored. God allowed this event of an apostasy to occur in His Church as part of His purpose to teach some of the greatest lessons yet concerning His purpose and means of creating Elohim.

The actions of Joseph Tkach were an abomination before God and His Church, and those actions **did** bring horrible desolation upon the Church; but the one behind it all was the Adversary of God, the true Destroyer and Desolator, the teacher of abominations – Satan. Paul was inspired to write of this “man of sin”: “whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power, signs, and lying wonders” (2 Thes. 2:9). Christ warned about an “Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet” that would “stand in the holy place” in the end-time. This is about Satan who was made to stand in the midst of God’s own Church once Joseph Tkach gave that sermon which quickly resulted in a third of the Church **receiving** and **accepting** that abhorrent sermon. Another third simply gave up on any kind of “religion” altogether.

It was an abomination that wreaked havoc and devastation upon God’s Church, but it is Satan who is the father of abominations and “his way” is desolation and destruction. Daniel’s prophecy of the 1290 days is about Satan and how God **righteously** established the completion of Satan’s final judgment during the period of God’s final witness.

There is so much more that God will give to us concerning what He gave to be recorded in the final chapters of Daniel. These chapters are about the means and process whereby God will usher in a time of righteous rule upon the earth through His Son. At the same time, this is about God bringing an end to Satan’s rule. God is beginning to give us a “thumbnail overview” of what all this in Daniel entails, and he will then later reveal the complete picture as He fills in the details of the rest of the pieces.

I’ve often wondered in recent years (when considering end-time events recorded in Daniel) why God was not revealing more to us about things like the king of the south and the king of the north. There have

been many interpretations of such things, as people have sought to fit in <sup>23</sup> ideas about Europe, the Middle East, the United States, as well as Russia and China into possible scenarios. But these prophecies have a different purpose and meaning. Much of the context of Chapter 9 in Daniel is about God raising up the Messiah who will be given the reign of God’s new government once He brings Satan’s rule over the earth to an end. The dialogue through all this is about wars (spiritual) that build up to the final end of Satan’s rule and the establishment of the Kingdom of God to rule.

From the beginning of the Book of Daniel to the dream he interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar, this Book works forward to the time of the end (the end of man’s self-rule under the overall reign of Satan) when the great transition of this earth’s government will occur: “Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floor; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote (struck hard) the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Dan. 2:35).

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to others, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Dan. 2:44).

### **Satan’s Judgment Set**

Satan’s rule “has been brought” to an end. As far as God’s judgment and its reality, it is over! We are now in a **final transition** from that rule being brought to an end to that of God’s government being established. All that remains is the humbling of mankind as the Trumpets of Revelation are fulfilled. All that is remaining is the “physical manifestation” of this transition in government on the earth.

That which is recorded in the final chapters of Daniel is incredible and has been hidden – closed and sealed – since Daniel recorded it.

These chapters contain some of the most awesome, astounding, and truly exciting revelation of prophecy yet. It hasn't been long since God gave to us much clearer insight and understanding into the Seventy Weeks Prophecy about Christ in Daniel 9. The last verse, in the context of the transition of earth's government, is truly revealing, but not in most translations. I'm going to quote that verse as given from the translation contained in the margin of a King James Version:

"He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblations to cease, and upon the battlements (highest strongholds of war) shall be the idols of the Desolator with the (his) abominable armies, even until the consummation (completion, fulfillment, conclusion) and that determined shall be poured upon the Desolator" (Dan. 9:27).

Satan is the great Desolator who seeks only to lay waste what God has created. His way is to put everything into a ruinous state of confusion and destruction. Part of the origin of the Hebrew word used to describe this final period of Satan's judgment of his "ways" of an abomination of "desolation" comes from a meaning similar to "zero" in count or "nothingness" in existence. This word in Hebrew is known for its contrast to a word used to describe God's creative power of "something," meaning the creation of "something from nothing." Yet Satan's reference of "his ways," and the only result of "his power," is to bring "something to nothing."

During the period of witness of the 1260 days, God provided a final witness that established a final **righteous** judgment upon mankind. God knew what man would do with the technology and scientific advancements He would give them. God knew what Ephraim and Manasseh would do with their inheritance of promise of the greatest portions of the earth's wealth in the end of the age. God foretold about such events as these, but the time for final judgment to be righteously established was to be done toward the very end of 6,000 years for a specific period of 1260 days. That period of time is even broken down into stages of

judgment based on a measure of "**merciful judgment**" over 280 days, <sup>24</sup> hence the past knowledge of time, times and half a time. It was in this final period of 1260 days that God gave His two witnesses (and the Church who lived it) to be instrumental in bringing out the true spirit, attitude, and responding actions that are witness against mankind and against Satan and his demonic realm.

So God inspired that His two witnesses and the Church should know that this final process began on December 14, 2008, and that it would end by Pentecost of May 27, 2012. It was taken by me, as an apostle, that this could only mean (because of the truth we had to that time) that Jesus Christ was returning on that Pentecost of 2012. I was wrong. My conclusion was in great error. However, God could have given more (revealed more) at any time, for we can only know what we are given by Him. God knew what I would do and what His Church would do with such knowledge "to that time." We knew the job of the two witnesses was to begin and the countdown of the 1335 and 1290 days had begun. We knew Christ would return on a Pentecost. There was even more "present truth" this was based upon, but never-the-less, the stage was set.

God's Church did not know about two periods of time concerning the "Day of the Eternal" that also were to be fulfilled before Christ's return. So God let us experience (by design and purpose) something that no one else ever before has, and it was conducted by most of God's people in spirit and in truth of an absolute **living faith**. This entire process of the full 4 1/2 years worked to produce an accelerated spiritual growth and maturing transformation never lived (experienced) before in God's Church.

Because of all that had been written and the full expectation of a published date for Christ's return, this period of final witness of the 1260 days also amplified the true response of mankind and Satan toward God's people – toward God. Thus their judgment was quickly established and righteously set by God. In man's world and Satan's world,

this period of 1260 days promoted an accelerated response of hate and mockery toward God's people (toward God) that established a clear witness against Satan and mankind and of the judgment that would follow. For the Church however, it accelerated spiritual transformation, spiritual growth, and highly matured faith over a very short period of time.

Although God is revealing so very much right now, you will not (none of you) be able to grasp it fully by one (or even a few) readings of this post. Once you return again, even if in a couple of weeks from now, you will be able to see more. The importance and magnitude of what God's Church experienced and witnessed during the 1260 days of "final witness" is far beyond the basics of it that God revealed to us quite some time after we had already entered into that **final** period. It was given to us that this witness of 3 1/2 years was a final one upon which God would **establish** His final judgment upon mankind. We understood that this judgment would be executed in the fulfilling of the Trumpets of Revelation.

God revealed just before Pentecost of 2013 that He used this time of 3 1/2 years to try and test His Church as He simultaneously worked (in His creating of Elohim) to accelerate the molding and transformation of a maturing faith, godly character, conviction, resolve, and spiritual strength within us (**which was focused primarily for the work of choosing and then sealing the final ones of the 144,000**). This experience we have lived cannot even be fully put into words to describe how extraordinary this has been in all the experiences of mankind over the past 6,000 years!

Finally, God is also revealing to us and the spirit realm how the 3 1/2 years of witness was also about **establishing** His final righteous judgment upon Satan and the demons by their own actions (works) during that period. They were given final judgment that has already begun to be carried out, starting on the first Day of the Eternal. Their power to cause (or persuade) any meaningful abomination within God's Church has been made impotent. The next phase of the

judgment to be carried out against them is their confinement of 1,000<sup>25</sup> years and complete removal from all of God's created life once Christ returns. Judgment was foretold and determined long ago, but it was **righteously established** during that 1260 days of final witness. God inspired Daniel to record that Satan and his abominable armies would continue to uphold their own strong idols in spiritual wars, "even until the consummation (the completion, fulfillment, conclusion) and that determined (decreed, judgment established) shall be poured upon the Desolator (Satan)" (Dan. 9:27).

God has only now (**at the time of this original writing in May and June of 2013**) been revealing all that is written in Daniel concerning these greater matters of judgment that are about Satan and the demons. Little did I know of the far greater magnitude of what God inspired to be written in a recent post:

"Another purpose for God revealing things to us as He does is because of what He is working out in order to bring Satan and the demons to a time of great judgment upon them (concerning that 1260 days), and because of the spiritual wars that are part of this process that include strategies and timing that are critical in great wars" (Post – "Timing and Our Commission" / May 13, 2013).

### **A Time to Finish All**

All that we have covered about Satan's time for judgment in Daniel adds even greater strength, meaning, and purpose to the very unique timing God gave His Church that identifies an end to Satan's power upon the Church. It is this timing that started a count from the opening of the First Seal when the Apostasy occurred on December 17, 1994, to Pentecost on May 27, 2012. That was a time span that identified Satan (13 being a number for "rebellion and apostasy") and his influence of power exerted upon God's Church until God brought him to the time of the execution of His Judgment. We had earlier believed that this would occur when Christ returned and executed the first phase of judgment

of 1,000 years confinement, but that 6,370 days (7 x 70 x 13) was about God's **complete** (7 being a number for completeness) plan to bring Satan to the time of his final judgment, with the execution of it to quickly follow.

God develops a picture that overlaps in timing in the book of Daniel. He began with a final 1335 days that would finish His work in (**determining—choosing—of all who would be in**) the creation of the firstfruits of Elohim by Pentecost of 2012. The next great work that was to be completed was in the 1290 days that established Satan's final judgment by Pentecost 2012, that judgment which will bring Satan's rule to an end. To bring everything to a conclusion so that all could be finished in order for Christ to come, mankind also had to have "final judgment" established. That too was completed by Pentecost 2012, after the 1260 days of final witness.

As we have already covered, Daniel 9:27 refers to this awesomely important date of Pentecost 2012 in terms of Satan's final judgment being established. After that judgment was "set," it would be followed by God finishing "all things" pertaining to Satan's removal and confinement at Christ's return. This is described in the verse as, "even until the consummation" (Heb. - to bring to a full end, to complete and conclude, to finish). This is about the time that judgment is to be administered. This is also the reference given in Daniel 12:11 when "the abomination that is making desolate is finished (is completed)." This is after judgment has been set (established) by God once the 1290 days are concluded. It is "after that" all will be finished – with God's judgment to be executed in order to "finish" it.

God began the first phase of the execution of His judgment against Satan during the first "Day of the Lord," from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013.

What happened during that time? Although God's Church had lived by faith, in truth and in spirit, Christ did not return on Pentecost 2012. In addition, I had to then go before the government for my trial in court

for what was termed as "purposely evading the payment of taxes," which <sup>26</sup> quickly ended in a conviction with the guarantee of a prison sentence. Satan relished in the pickings he thought were before him. Now was his chance, as he viewed it, to again wreak total devastation upon the Church, as he had during the Apostasy. But Satan did not know what God had been molding and creating in a highly accelerated manner during the 1260 days of witness that had just ended. Those days were also evidence, in witness, to God's incredible **creative wisdom** to more powerfully and more quickly than ever transform His people in greater character, oneness, and spiritually maturing faith.

The Church was not weak as it was before the Apostasy. As the "Day of the Lord" drew on, God's people were growing even stronger. Then God challenged Satan about His people, just like what had happened to Job. Satan and his demon army were going to be released with great freedom given to them to "torment" God's people for 5 full months in an effort to turn them against God, just as Satan attempted to do to Job. This challenge came about by design because it was **part** of a beginning fulfillment, yet strictly a spiritual one, of **only** the Fifth Trumpet (as a "type" of the actual physical fulfillment that will be made manifest after the Fourth Trumpet). But again, Satan experienced a "spiritual" punishment from this encounter, as this was part of the beginning of his punishment and of God's avenging His Church with a just vengeance upon Satan. This punishment upon Satan and the demons was a kind of mental punishment and torment – of their spirit. The torment they desired to inflict was instead inflicted upon them. God was being magnified in glory in what He was creating in His Family – over the controversy of Zion.

This was covered in a post previous to writing this article, but we need to understand that the Church had been made to "stand" in an awesomely strong spiritual manner of faith, steadfastness, and character. The attacks from Satan and the demons have always been upon God's people, but not in the kind of widespread manner and constant barrage

as was experienced during those five months. Certainly, there are a lot of lingering after effects and other sporadic attacks that will still occur, but we have been made to stand fast. The overwhelming majority of the Body that has continued on has been **positively and honorably** defined. We indeed experienced a profound and extraordinary 4 1/2 years, and as time goes forward we will learn that this is true, even far more deeply than we can begin to grasp now.

### **What is Left?**

My wife, Laura, was here today, and we discussed various Church matters as we always do. I shared with her the contents of this portion of this article. I'm going to tell you some of what I told her. I explained how this is one of the most exciting things I've ever written and that what God is revealing is so incredible as it explains so much more of what God has been doing over these past several years.

Then I shared with her about how I am so encouraged and inspired by all this, knowing I am John's counterpart as both an apostle and a prophet, but even more than that, we share, as only it should be, the experience of being imprisoned by our government. Yet while imprisoned, God gave great revelations to John to record. It is here in prison that God has given me some of the greatest understanding yet about the process of the manifestation of those revelations. I am truly thankful to "share" such an experience with John – one that will be recorded with him.

So what is left? Now we are at the time when God will conclude, according to His perfect timing, the execution of all judgment that has now been righteously established. God will have His day – the final "Day of the Lord." **By this time** the physical manifestation of the **first six** Trumpets, as well as highly increased Thunders, will have come to pass, **and the final trumpet will become fulfilled in the 50 days that follow.**

There is another exciting verse in Daniel that has now been revealed<sup>27</sup> more fully for what it is actually saying about the timing of all these events. The setting is one where Daniel asks one of the angelic beings a question about all that God has revealed to him, especially in the later chapters about events leading to the coming of the Messiah in God's Kingdom and the end of man's age. He simply asked, "How long to the end of these matters?" (Dan. 12:6). This is then followed by an astounding reply:

"And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and declared an oath from Him who lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when He shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished" (Dan. 12:7).

The timing concerning the "end" of these matters is answered by first stating there will be a period of time, times, and half a time, which we now know fell within the 1260 days of witness as a period that involves God's merciful judgment.

The next to follow is what is described as a time when the "scattering of the power of the holy people" will be accomplished. What we had believed as our "present truth" of such an expression was that the "scattering" related to some phase about the physical scattering of God's people after the Apostasy until the period of time of "time, times, and half a time." But it is not! It is about an event that **follows** the 1260 days of witness. Who are the holy people at that time? We know they can only be referred to as "holy" because of God dwelling **in** them. These "holy people" are His Church.

This word "scatter" is like the example of pottery being dashed on the floor and scattered – dashed into pieces. The word "power" has very broad application and can fit into the expression in several ways. What power was dashed in God's people after the 1260 days? Certainly, hopes

were dashed, especially the hope of Christ's return. But in all this, why would God allow "His power" in us to be dashed and scattered from us? It wasn't, but our **own** power was. The truth and reality is that during this period, which was the "Day of the Lord" upon God's Church, we were made much, much stronger with far greater spiritual power. It was our **own** power – the power of self – that Satan saw and sought to use to destroy us. Such power from self comes in the form of self-reliance, pride, vanity, the use of intellect in determining how we see things, human judgment, etc. Satan attacked us by striving to use "self" (selfish human nature) against us in a similar manner as he tried to appeal to Christ (when he was fasting), just before he began his ministry. But in attacking us in such a manner, we were actually made stronger as a result of the work God was doing **in** us during the time of witness. God had prepared us for this incredible event – to make us stand! This expression in Daniel is not about a negative thing that happened to the holy people, but an incredibly positive one (**and those first and foremost that God was making certain to stand were those final ones "chosen" during the 1335 days**).

As a result of God working with us over that 3 1/2 year period of final witness and then our experience of going into that prophetic day that led to a 5 month assault from Satan and the demonic world, we lived what God told Daniel in that oath (God's promise) about being "scattered" – shattered in power. What an awesome thing to understand that it was our own selfish power that was being shattered so that God could live more fully in us in **His** power. It was in **God's** power living more fully within us that gave us the power over Satan's attacks: "For greater is He who is in you than he (Satan) who is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4).

Then the last thing God "promised" by His oath through the pronouncement made by this angel was that THEN – after all this – that "all things" would be finished. All that is left is exactly where this promise comes into play. It can only be for a very specific moment in

time. Now is that time – it is the time of "God's promise" that He will<sup>28</sup> fulfill. It is the time that is now before us, of all that remains, that is a matter of exercising the judgment upon this world that was "set" after the 1260 days. That which is to be finished is the physical manifestation of the Trumpets of Revelation.

God's time is before us. The final "Day of the Eternal" is God's promise. His promises are true!