



# THE KEY OF DAVID

GERALD FLURRY



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Here is a vision that reaches beyond the Earth  
to new Jerusalem. God wants to give you  
a royal office there that will last forever!

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BY GERALD FLURRY

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The key of David unlocks God's incredible purpose for putting mankind on Earth. We will be a part of God's Family *forever*. This is a position not even the angels were offered. But there is more.

Those who respond now will become Christ's bride. They will be given rule on a throne offered to nobody else through all eternity. The key of David is the greatest vision in the Bible!

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# 1

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## *The Open Door*

**B**E PREPARED FOR YOUR MIND TO BE STRETCHED AND expanded by this magnificent vision—the key of David! There is no vision to compare to it!

When Christ introduced the end-time Philadelphia era, He emphasized this one vision. IT WAS WITH THIS SUBJECT THAT HE BEGAN HIS MESSAGE TO THE PHILADELPHIANS. “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, *he that hath the key of David*, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, *I have set before thee an open door*, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name” (Revelation 3:7-8).

THIS IS THE ONE VISION THAT IDENTIFIES GOD’S END-TIME PHILADELPHIA CHURCH. This is critical understanding. Christ introduces the Philadelphia era by saying He has the key of David. Then He relates how *He opens the door for God’s work*. Today, Christ opens the door *only* for the very elect who have the key of David vision. That clearly implies that CHRIST WANTS THE PHILADELPHIANS TO DELIVER HIS KEY OF DAVID MESSAGE THROUGH THE DOOR HE OPENS. SO WE MUST KNOW WHAT THAT MESSAGE IS!

Why do the Philadelphians understand this vision? Christ

gives three essential points in these two verses. *First*, there is the key of David vision; and *second*, the open door (television airtime, magazines, books and booklets) through which to deliver that message. *Third*, these Philadelphians are given this understanding because they have not denied God's "name."

God praises all the Philadelphians for not denying Christ's name. The Greek word for *name* here is *onoma* and means a name, AUTHORITY or character. The Philadelphia messenger never denied Christ's *authority*, or GOVERNMENT! This is a vital lesson we must learn in this end time. The only way men can be successful in doing God's work is through God's government. We must realize that the key of David vision and the knowledge about God's government are intimately tied together. The key of David vision is all about God's family government.

Those members who do not deny God's government are Philadelphians, in both the Philadelphian and Laodicean eras. The Philadelphians are the only members of God's Church who submit to His *government*, or *rule*. That is *the major characteristic* that sets the Philadelphians apart as God's very elect.

That is why the whole world can see the Philadelphian work—the open door. The message is sent around the globe.

THE OPEN DOOR, OR WORK, IS WHAT IDENTIFIES GOD'S TRUE CHURCH TO THE EARTH'S INHABITANTS!

The Laodicean, or lukewarm, Church (Revelation 3:14-20) has no key of David vision and no open door to the world. That is because they have rejected God's rule, or government, over them.

*Only* the Philadelphians do God's work in the end time. They are God's last Church to be loyal before the Great Tribulation. Christ gives the key of David message to His end-time Philadelphians because they are *ruled by* Him. They will help Christ teach it to all humanity, which will include billions of people!

The end-time Philadelphians have more truth than any other Church ever. They are going to work at headquarters in the World Tomorrow (verse 12). They will be better equipped to teach God's complete vision than any other group. They probably will have more revealed knowledge than all the other Church eras combined.



All of that knowledge is unlocked by the key of David vision! The Philadelphians have a deeper understanding of this vision than members of God's Church in any other era. When you find a Philadelphian, you find the key of David vision!

Christ places *heavy emphasis* on this vision. You and I must know *why*. Our eternal lives depend on this understanding!

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### THRONE OF DAVID

God's own Laodicean Church—95 percent of God's people today—has lost this vision! Revelation 3:17 characterizes the Laodiceans as being blind. This means they have rejected Bible knowledge. A large portion of what they have rejected includes the knowledge about the key of David. The Laodiceans have lost God's greatest vision, if they ever did "get it." Unless they quickly regain that vision, they will lose everything—forever.

The Laodiceans today are disgracefully divided. They don't want Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which reveals the truth about David's throne and is the core teaching within the key of David vision. (Request a free copy if you do not have one.) That knowledge could unite them. In 1987, about a year after Mr. Armstrong died, the Worldwide Church of God (wCG) chopped out 70 percent of that book. A year later wCG leaders shelved it completely while officially saying they were only "reviewing" it. Neither do they want *Mystery of the Ages*, which also talks about the key of David. The real reason is, *they don't want God to rule them!* These books were removed from publication after Mr. Armstrong's death by faithless, liberal ministers.

Mr. Armstrong warned the Church against such liberalism when it had crept into the Church in the 1970s. He wrote, "Gradually, subtilely, systematically, while I was in other parts of the world carrying Christ's gospel message, doctrines were being watered down, the college was being made secular, God and Christ were being cast out and a *conspiracy* was in progress to get rid of Christ's chosen apostle, unless he accommodated the conspirators by dying.

"Church teachings were being changed. The most resultful booklet of all, *The United States and British Commonwealth*

*in Prophecy*, was attacked, greatly deleted and later put out of circulation—the same with a number of other basic and important booklets written by Christ’s apostle.

“This group of liberals assumed the authority of setting Church doctrine. The one who primarily wrote the Systematic Theology Project later wrote, ‘My only goal in coordinating the project was to bring doctrinal consistency, stability and unity to the ministry’—that is, unity in watered-down doctrines that older loyal ministers did not and never would accept! THAT WAS NOT UNITY—IT WAS *DIVISION!*” (*Worldwide News*, Feb. 19, 1979). Today, there is only one Church that fully supports the *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* as written by Mr. Armstrong: the Philadelphia Church! One Laodicean Church has its *own* version, which was not inspired by God. It falls far short of the revealed version published by Mr. Armstrong.

A version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* written in 1945 had no copyright, and was therefore free to reprint. Yet the Philadelphia Church was the only church that did so. We also stood alone in our fight for the 1980 edition, which we have since acquired. God wants this truth revealed, not hidden! Jesus Christ taught the disciples, “freely ye have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). It was Mr. Armstrong’s sincere desire to give this book to all who requested it—free of charge.

The Laodicean Church has casually given up the greatest vision in all the Bible! And look at the confusion in those churches. They are confused about Herbert Armstrong’s work. They are confused about God’s government. They are confused about doctrine. And even though they have a certain amount of wealth and many ministers, they are accomplishing little. They do not have God’s blessing. None of this would have happened to them if they had remained true to the key of David vision established by God.

Some of them ask, *why can’t we all get together?* The only way that would be possible is if we ALL united under the key of David throne. THE KEY OF DAVID VISION WILL UNITE THIS WHOLE WORLD! It will unite America and China, Arab and Jew.

It truly angers Satan when we talk about David’s throne. He knows his reign is about over. He is composed of pure hatred and has nothing to lose. Thus, he is stirring up all kinds of

hatred in this world—racial and other problems that can only be solved with the key of David revelation. The tighter we hold on to that vision, the angrier he gets—but the less he can harm us.

In terms of historical religious tragedy, the present Church crisis far outweighs the destruction of Solomon’s temple. It is the worst crisis in this end time, because so many eternal lives are at stake!

What a serious lesson for us. All those who wish to be true Philadelphians must concentrate their prayers, thoughts and studies toward understanding the key of David vision. You and I must stretch our minds to grasp this greatest of all visions! Please try to focus on this vision as never before. God will deepen our understanding when we faithfully do this.

**NOTHING WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE AS THIS VISION WILL!**

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### ***THE PHILADELPHIAN MESSENGER***

Malachi 4:5-6 show that God planned to send a man in the office of Elijah to this sick world just before Christ’s return. This Elijah would teach about God’s Family. Matthew 17:10-11 also show that this man would restore all things to the Church.

Herbert Armstrong was that man. The many wonderful truths that Christ originally gave to the Church had become lost by the dawn of the 20th century. But God used Mr. Armstrong to restore the truth about government, the Sabbath, the holy days, the Family of God and much more. The pearl of great price was found again. Mr. Armstrong faithfully taught these precious truths to the Church. Yet after he died, only a small remnant preserved them—the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG).

God also used Mr. Armstrong powerfully to preach the gospel of the Kingdom around the world as a witness. That incredible task was prophesied in the Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24:14). Revelation 3:8 shows that he had an “open door” to fulfill this commission. An open door is always synonymous with the preaching of a message. Mr. Armstrong was given an open door to preach this message throughout the world.

Revelation 2 and 3 are special communications from Christ, through John, to His Church. Mr. Armstrong taught that these

letters show the seven eras of God's Church from Christ's first coming to His Second Coming. This prophecy makes clear that one spiritual condition would dominate each era. (At the same time, all seven spiritual characteristics could be extant in any of the seven eras.)

Revelation 3:7-8 are part of the message to the Philadelphia era. Speaking of Himself, Christ states that He is HOLY and TRUE. He holds the key of David. Verse 7 shows that the key of David vision is really *Christ's* vision. He is the one who revealed it to the Philadelphians.

The key of David vision includes the history about Christ's physical family—the lineage of David—and the prophecies concerning His own future rule as King of kings in the world to come. Included in the key of David vision is the knowledge of our own mind-expanding future of sharing Christ's throne. We must realize that the history and prophecy concerning David's throne is the essence of Christ's gospel message, with a weighty emphasis on the God Family royalty. The most royal of all those positions will be given to the firstfruits—those called and chosen before Christ's Second Coming.

Verse 8 shows that Christ opened the door for Mr. Armstrong to reveal and teach the foundation of this incredible knowledge. Mr. Armstrong faithfully walked through the doors Christ opened. When he did this, the work always grew. And Mr. Armstrong always gave God the credit. One of his most quoted scriptures was, "... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

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### ***THE DAILY SACRIFICE***

One of the most important questions we must ask in this end time is, DID THE WORK DIE WITH MR. ARMSTRONG? To answer that question correctly, we must look at the situation from God's perspective. Otherwise, we will fall short every time.

Anciently, God's work was directed from the temple in Jerusalem. The daily sacrifice was offered continually, showing the close connection between God and His people.

Today, the Church is God's temple on Earth (Ephesians 2:21). In this end time, Mr. Armstrong built God's spiritual house. He often used a scripture taken from an end-time prophecy to

teach this truth to the Church: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you” (Zechariah 4:9). Like Zerubbabel of old, Mr. Armstrong built God’s temple. Even in a physical sense there was a modern temple built in our day. Mr. Armstrong always referred to the auditorium on the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College as God’s house. The work flowed from that physical temple. God always has headquarters buildings if there is a thriving work.

The work of the Church represents the “daily sacrifice” *spiritually* today (Daniel 12:11). (I explain this truth in detail in our free booklet *Daniel: Unsealed at Last*.) In Daniel, the words “daily sacrifice” can be translated as *continual*. This should teach us that the work does not stop with the death of a human being. It is *God’s* work. God is ETERNAL. Jesus Christ and God the Father gave Mr. Armstrong authority to do *the continual* in this end time.

The ministers who were taught by Mr. Armstrong should have remembered what God accomplished through that man. He did the Elijah work in this end time. When he died, the Elijah work should have continued. But it stopped temporarily. Those ministers who were to continue Mr. Armstrong’s work instead did away with all of his major writings.

God raised up the Philadelphia Church to continue the work established by Mr. Armstrong. No other ex-WCG group is doing that today, although most of them claim to carry the mantle of Herbert Armstrong. It doesn’t take a scholar to figure out who truly is *continuing* in the traditions of Mr. Armstrong. All one needs to do is examine the magazines and other printed materials of the various groups. Only one has consistently stayed true to what Mr. Armstrong has taught—the Philadelphia Church of God. Only we have the daily, or continual, spiritual sacrifice.

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### DAVID’S HONOR

We must develop a deep understanding of this prophetic key of David. The Laodiceans’ bad example shows that our personal spiritual lives are in grave danger if we do not develop that understanding.

When we work hard to grasp this all-encompassing vision, we learn that we will share in God's royal glory.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him *the throne of his father David*: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33). This prophecy was given to Mary by the archangel Gabriel. It shows what Jesus Christ will be doing throughout eternity. But it also gives us some exciting history.

King David is a great example of the way God works. God bestowed incredible honor upon King David as well. He gave David the honor of actually starting Christ's throne on Earth. **DAVID'S THRONE IS GOING TO DIRECTLY CONNECT ALL MANKIND TO GOD!** That is why it is called David's throne—not Christ's throne, which it is. It is named after an ordinary mortal man.

When we understand the depth and magnitude of these three verses in Luke, it is truly mind-boggling what God plans to do with mankind. David's life is an inspiring example of what God plans to do with all humanity! David—a man—represents all people who will have ever lived.

Verse 31 shows that Mary was to give birth to a son who was to be called Jesus. He was not to be any ordinary son. He was the Son of the HIGHEST! The only Son who was eternal before His birth! Verse 32 shows that He was born to be King. And the throne that He was to ascend was *David's* throne. Verse 33 shows that, once Jesus takes that throne, He will rule over the house of Israel forever.

How did Christ's throne begin? It began with one man—David. And it began in the humblest of ways. David was a shepherd boy and the youngest son of Jesse. He was the least likely to assume the throne. Yet God had the Prophet Samuel anoint him king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). God used this young boy to start revealing His vision for humankind.

God describes David as "a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (Acts 13:22). But he was not perfect. For example, he committed adultery with Bathsheba; she became pregnant; he arranged the murder of her husband,

Uriah, to conceal his own sin. How could God still give him all this honor?

David was an unusually humble individual. He did struggle with many temptations, but he knew how to repent before God. When he sinned, he knew that he was sinning against God (Psalms 51:4). It was God's law that he transgressed. He also recognized that he almost lost it all (Psalms 73:2). This is the great beauty to David's life and the key to his righteousness: DAVID MASTERED REPENTANCE. David made some serious mistakes in his life, but he did not get caught up in foolish human reasoning to avoid repenting! When God sent a prophet to correct him, *David didn't argue. He repented!* TRUE REPENTANCE IS THE MOST NOBLE AND ROYAL ATTITUDE ANY HUMAN BEING CAN LEARN.

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### PRINCES IN ALL THE EARTH

The key of David unlocks the fact that God intends for every human being to become part of His royal Family. Those called now who remain truly Philadelphian will have the opportunity to sit with Christ on His throne—as His bride in the future headquarters at Jerusalem. Jesus Christ stated, “To him that overcometh [conquers] will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame [conquered], and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Revelation 3:21). We must conquer Satan as Christ did! When we do, we become God's precious royalty. This fact should be the inspiration and motivation behind our spiritual lives.

The key of David vision represents God's plan for all mankind. It is not just for the adults of God's Church; it is a message also for the youth. “With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever” (Psalms 45:15-17). Even though our youth are not yet baptized, God's Philadelphia ministers must teach them by example and with words that they are royalty now. Verse 16 shows they will be taking over royal positions in the Millennium. GOD'S MINISTRY MUST BEGIN

NOW TO HELP SHAPE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE INTO PRINCES AND PRINCESSES—GOD’S ROYAL YOUTH! We must help our young people get the key of David vision into their minds.

We must continually remind our young people that they are God’s princes and princesses of the Earth. But they won’t remain princes and princesses. They are TO BECOME GOD’S KINGS OF THE UNIVERSE! THE MOST EXALTED CALLING IN ALL ETERNITY!

They must be taught and encouraged to uphold that royal standard—act like God’s royalty today. That is how they qualify for those supremely exalted offices.

Mr. Armstrong dedicated many resources to help the young people of God’s Church. He fully understood that young people (and adults) must be taught how to be God’s royalty. One of the ways we instruct our young people about being royalty is through our summer camp programs. This was a tradition started by Mr. Armstrong. A session of our summer camp only lasts a couple weeks, however. For the rest of the year, parents and the field ministry must reinforce and teach the key of David vision to the youth. All of us, working together, must make the vision REAL for our precious youth.

How do we all learn to be royalty? “If ye fulfil *the royal law* according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (James 2:8). We learn to be royalty by fulfilling *the royal law*, which is the Ten Commandments. There should be no doubt in our minds about this fact. Jesus Christ stated, “If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). All of our young people should be fully instructed in keeping the Ten Commandments. Just like adults, if our youth want to enter into eternal life and become God’s royalty, they must keep the commandments. The ministry must set the example, but parents hold the major responsibility for this teaching. Each one of us needs to diligently study this message, many times, if we are to truly comprehend it!

The main lesson we need to get across to our young people is how to live the rich and abundant life now. Then they can help teach the whole world. This world is full of glitter and glamour and sinful “fun.” But it is only “fun” temporarily—not truly joyous living. When Jesus Christ returns and



sets up the Kingdom of God, abundant living will begin for the whole world. No human being can truly imagine what life will be like in the Millennium, unless we let God show us through the key of David vision. The ministry and adults of God's Church must grow in understanding this vision. When we do, then we can help our young people also grow in that understanding.

All of this paints such a beautiful picture. Jesus Christ reveals that those who are truly a part of His Church are already royalty. "And HATH MADE us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:6; see also Revelation 5:10). If we as God's Philadelphians continue to do our part, spiritually we are *already* God's royalty! By working to deepen our understanding of the key of David vision, we are not only preparing for our own eternal life, we are preparing to bring real spiritual life to our children and to every person on Earth!

## 2

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# *The Key That Identifies the Church*

**W**HEN CHRIST GIVES THE KEY OF DAVID VISION TO A man, the people supporting that man must hold on to it. If that man dies, the vision must be preserved by those left behind—through another man whom God chooses.

Christ always reveals truth through one man at a time.

Let's look at a companion verse to Revelation 3:7. "And the *key of the house of David* will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open" (Isaiah 22:22). In Bible prophecy, a *key* unlocks knowledge to human understanding. The key of David vision involves a message for all mankind. This verse speaks of laying that key upon the shoulder of *one man*, but the message wasn't meant to be given to only him. It was meant for the whole world. Thus, a work had to be done in order to deliver the message. That one man could not do such a monumental job alone.

Herbert Armstrong was Christ's end-time messenger. Christ used him to raise up a work to deliver the message. It was his responsibility to give Christ's message to the whole world (Matthew 24:14). And this commission was supported by those who worked under him.

As we discussed in the last chapter, Jesus Christ opened the door for Mr. Armstrong to preach His message. Mr.

Armstrong faithfully fulfilled his commission. While he was alive, those underneath him followed his lead. Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. Unfortunately, those leaders left behind began to reject the message.

We ask, if the messenger dies, should the *message* be buried with the messenger? This is the number-one question that must be answered for God's people in this end time. Only a few today understand that the message must be kept alive.

Mr. Armstrong repeated key facts from *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* in his most important book, *Mystery of the Ages*. So *Mystery of the Ages* also teaches the key of David vision. A legal battle took place over this book. THE WCG WANTED TO USE ITS COPYRIGHT TO SUPPRESS AND STOP THE DISTRIBUTION OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOK. THIS IS SOMETHING GOD AND MR. ARMSTRONG NEVER INTENDED. Mr. Armstrong repeatedly warned the Church not to allow his message to be stopped or suppressed. Why? Because it is *Christ's message!* Mr. Armstrong fully understood this fact. The majority of those with him did not.

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### CHRIST'S OWN VISION

Jesus Christ not only owns the message, but He also opens the door for the preaching of the message. Isaiah 22:22 and Revelation 3:7 both state clearly that NO MAN CAN SHUT THE DOOR! If Christ holds the key and then gives that key to a human messenger, should we not also keep the key?

Ever since Jesus Christ walked on the Earth as a human, men have been trying to stop His message. Jesus Christ's own life is proof that the message can't be stopped until God allows it. Christ faithfully preached His message for 3½ years, and then God allowed Him to be killed. Scripture is clear on this fact. "Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me. Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come" (John 7:28-30). Jesus Christ brought God the Father's own message, yet men wanted to stop that message. They even killed Christ. The

message wasn't stopped, however. Through the apostles it spread even wider.

Mr. Armstrong was given Christ's message to deliver. He fulfilled prophecy as the Philadelphia messenger. He did his part, and Christ praises him highly for having done so. "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Revelation 3:8). Mr. Armstrong did a great work, but he always gave God the credit for what was accomplished. When Christ opened a door, Mr. Armstrong walked through it in faith. For some 57 years he lived that way.

He never claimed perfection in his work; he recognized his own human shortcomings. He was known for admitting error when it was proved to him. But one thing was certain, he always kept the message that was delivered to him. Why? He knew Christ was behind the message. Christ's authority always reigned supreme!

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### *ONE VISION OF THE FUTURE*

HOW MANY VISIONS OF THE FUTURE ARE THERE IN THE BIBLE? THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE—THE KEY OF DAVID VISION. IT IS HOLDING TRUE TO THIS VISION THAT MAKES ONE A PHILADELPHIAN. Can you imagine how bleak the future would be without this vision? The key of David vision holds humanity's only hope.

Only God's true Church is willing to teach this vision to the world. Thus, it identifies Christ's very elect. The Laodiceans refuse to teach it. It is an embarrassment to them. Yet the greater evil they commit is that many of them want to *suppress* the knowledge of it! They do not want anyone on Earth to learn about the key of David. That thinking is out of the devil's mind! They are trying to close the door that God has opened.

How does God answer the Laodiceans? "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee" (verse 9). The Laodiceans act like they really have it all together spiritually. They "say they are Jews." This is referring to their

spiritual, not their physical, genealogy. The Apostle Paul stated that “he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God” (Romans 2:29). (We will discuss this subject in detail in this booklet.) Christ says the Laodiceans are liars. They are lying to themselves and others about their true spiritual condition. They are very sick spiritually.

The Laodicean era followed the Philadelphia era in this end time (Revelation 3:14-20). The Laodiceans turned away from God. But there were serious problems in the 1970s, before the Laodicean era. This was a sign that the Laodicean problem was extant before Mr. Armstrong died. **THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN WAS THE LAODICEAN ERA IN EMBRYO!**

God inspired the term *synagogue of Satan* in Revelation 3:9 because **THEY WERE SPIRITUAL JEWS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN LED ASTRAY BY SATAN.** There is still hope for them (Revelation 3:19). They have turned away from the key of David vision. Their only hope is for God to correct them severely. They will go into the Great Tribulation unless they repent soon.

The only hope for today’s Laodiceans is to get back to what Christ revealed to Mr. Armstrong and what He is revealing to God’s very elect today. The key of David vision includes not only a message about the future; it is a message that must be believed now in order to take part in that future! The Laodiceans will have to admit that Mr. Armstrong was Christ’s messenger. And they will have to believe the message the way Mr. Armstrong did. This is the intended meaning of the expression, “I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.” The Laodiceans will have to prove to God that they believe what He revealed through a man. They will have to give up their lives for the message Mr. Armstrong taught and what the Philadelphians are proclaiming today. If they cannot prove that to God, then there is no future for them.

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### **BLIND LAODICEANS**

The key of David vision summarizes the royal gospel. It places special emphasis on the firstfruits’ government role in God’s coming Kingdom. Remember, the true gospel of Christ focuses

on the coming Kingdom of God, which involves a king, a throne, a ruling Family of God, a set of laws, a government to implement those laws, a territory and a people over which the royal government will rule.

SATAN'S GREATEST ATTACK AGAINST THE LAODICEANS INVOLVED TURNING THEM AWAY FROM THIS VISION! This began to happen even while Mr. Armstrong was alive. Satan has now blinded them to this incredible truth.

Jesus Christ says, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and *blind*, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). Christ labels the Laodiceans as spiritually destitute—wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Which group of people is truly connected to Christ? The group that is connected to Christ's *message*.

Several groups today claim to carry the mantle of Herbert W. Armstrong. But the group that is connected to Mr. Armstrong must hold great respect for him and what he taught. That must mean direct quotes and references to the original works by Mr. Armstrong. We fought a six-year court battle to win Mr. Armstrong's writings and we are the *only* church that proclaims and gives these works to the world. The location of Mr. Armstrong's mantle should be clear, even to the casual observer.

For their failure, the Laodiceans are promised rebuke and punishment. "As many as I love, I *rebuke* and *chasten*: be zealous therefore, and repent" (verse 19). The words *rebuke* and *chasten* indicate severe correction and punishment.

The Philadelphians are promised a *royal office*. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (verses 20-21). This is referring to our glorious future as kings and priests—as we share David's throne with our Husband, Christ. More specifically, it refers to the Philadelphians who fully support Christ's message during the Laodicean era.

Those who remain loyal to Christ and His message during this Laodicean crisis will share Christ's throne, which happens

to be the throne of His father David. This is the point where the key of David vision takes on thrilling reality. Christ warns us in verse 11 to never let a man deceive us into giving up our *crown*.

Only the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) is knocking on the Laodicean door for Christ. We are promised a place at Christ's headquarters, on David's throne. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (verse 12). God's temple is His headquarters. The Philadelphians are promised pillar status at God's temple. This means we will be given significant positions in the coming Jerusalem and the new Jerusalem at the end of the Millennium. WE SHALL HAVE THE GLORIOUS HONOR OF SHARING JESUS CHRIST'S RULE AND DIRECTION OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH AND, ULTIMATELY, THE UNIVERSE! This verse says that we "shall go no more out." This means we will hold our positions at headquarters forever. This promise is mind-numbing in its scope and magnitude!

The real spiritual tragedy in all of this is that the Laodiceans could reserve their place on David's throne, but they fail to do so. We know that the Laodiceans who repent in the Tribulation will share Christ's rule, but they will *not* have headquarters positions. Through the PCG, Christ is giving them ample warning. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (verses 14-16).

Christ reveals Himself to the Laodiceans as the "faithful and true witness." This is Christ's way of emphasizing their disloyalty and deceit. They have been unfaithful and untrue! They have fallen into this sad spiritual condition because they have lost the key of David vision.

The Laodicean era is the final era of God's Church. Because of their sins, God has to spew the Laodiceans out of His mouth into the Great Tribulation. This is a prophecy that the majority of God's own people would go astray in this end time!

But why? How could this happen? They lost the vision God revealed FROM THE BEGINNING. Revelation 3:20-21 reveal the vision they have lost.

Remember, these are God's own people. At one time, Christ was inside their lives. THEY HAVE MOVED THE GREAT GOD OUTSIDE THEIR SPIRITUAL HOUSE. IS THERE ANY GREATER TRAGEDY? Spiritually, this is the most colossal tragedy of all! This is why God says the Laodiceans are blind. They are so blind that they don't see the ultimate spiritual disaster that has struck their lives.

Spiritual-sounding talk is all meaningless unless we have this key of David vision inside us. The Laodiceans talk endlessly about Christ and love. But their words have no real substance because they have rejected Christ's own vision. They have rejected Christ. They want to tell Him how to lead His Church.

The Laodiceans are talking back to God. "I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness" (Malachi 1:2-3). These verses are just one example from the book of Malachi of how the Laodiceans talk back to God. Study the entire book. You will find many more examples of Laodicean disrespect (write for a free copy of *Malachi's Message* to fully understand the book of Malachi and the Laodicean rebellion).

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### CHRIST IN YOU

Unless Jesus Christ is living in us, our spiritual talk is empty. Paul taught the Colossians that Christ living in us is one of the greatest mysteries revealed in the Bible. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). How can we expect to have Christ living in us if we reject His message? Any talk of love has a hollow ring unless this great Being is living in us.

When Christ is living in us, we are always growing and changing. Peter expected this of all Christians. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Mr. Armstrong taught emphatically that



*spiritual growth* was one of the signs of the true Church. God's Church would be constantly growing in knowledge and grace. All those who have remained close to what Mr. Armstrong taught have joined the PCG. We are continuing to change and must change deeply. New truth is consistently revealed to us.

What does it mean when we say Christ is in us? It should mean the same thing that Christ meant when speaking of His Father. "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10). Jesus Christ was completely under His Father's authority.

When we personally claim that Christ is in us, we are saying that we have unconditionally surrendered to Jesus Christ and His government. It means that He rules us totally. Having Christ rule our lives is the only way we can truly grow and make the necessary spiritual changes. We must know that our spiritual growth is not meant just for this time. Our spiritual changes now are leading to the ultimate change—from that of mortal man to becoming God—a son of God! This will be a universe-shaking change.

# 3

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## *New Revelation About God's Covenant*

**W**ESTMINSTER ABBEY IN LONDON, ENGLAND, HOLDS the bones of the men and women who have ruled from the British throne. The abbey is a memorial to the British belief that a good king or queen can only be made through understanding the history of the throne. History comes alive when you walk through Westminster. No other nation on Earth holds such a monument! No other nation has such a precious view of history.

But today, it is only written in the memorial, not in the minds of the British people.

The key of David vision teaches us a similar belief. To be a good king or queen for God, we must understand the history and prophecy of David's throne.

The world and many British people wonder why Britain clings to its throne. The amazing answer to that question can only be understood by God's people: *Jesus Christ is keeping the British throne alive.*

Many people, including God's people, wonder why the Philadelphia Church of God is so successful. Many wonder how we are operating on a such a royal level. There is only one reason. As with the throne in Britain, Jesus Christ, the son of David, is behind the PCG.

How real is this truth for God's Philadelphians? Do we see

the royal Christ behind us? This fact should be more real to us than the royal family of Britain is.

How well do we know the history and prophecy of David's throne? We should know the details of this throne intimately. Why? God's very elect are destined to share this throne with Jesus Christ.

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### SON OF DAVID

Jesus Christ was a physical Jew. More importantly, He was a spiritual Jew. "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us" (Matthew 9:27). The expression "son of David" is used 16 times in the gospels. Fifteen of these refer directly to Jesus Christ. He was of the physical house of David, who was one of Israel's most important kings. Christ was a son of David. The Bible shows that He devoted His ministry to His fellow Jews. For 3½ years, He took God's message to that one family.

Even while He walked the Earth, Jesus Christ's primary concern was on the spiritual. His gospel message focused on the time when David's spiritual Family would govern the Earth and the universe. The expression "son of David" contains THE MOST HOPE-FILLED VISION IN ALL THE BIBLE! Why wasn't Christ referred to as the son of Joseph? Because that would have concealed the truth about God's plan for man.

Jesus Christ personally taught that the Messiah was to be called *the Son of David*. "And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David? For David himself said by the Holy [Spirit], THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:35-37). These verses have deep meaning. Let's analyze them carefully.

David said, "The Lord said to my Lord." Who was David's physical Lord? Nobody. What is David talking about then? He is telling us that the Father was speaking to Christ. The Father promised Christ that He would sit at His (the Father's) right hand, "until I make your enemies your footstool." Christ will

sit at God's right hand until Christ becomes King of kings. In Mark 12, Jesus Christ was speaking of the future time when He will rule the Earth. In verse 37, He raised the question, how can the King of kings be David's son? Part of the answer lies in David's physical genealogy. There are some 50 generations listed in Luke's gospel demonstrating that Christ emerged from the physical line of David. But Christ's question was focused more on the spiritual. How can the King of kings be a son of David? To fully understand this question, we must include Christ's *spiritual* genealogy as well.

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### SON OF THE HIGHEST

Jesus Christ is a spiritual Jew. He is destined to rule from David's throne forever. Let's look again at the great prophecy concerning Jesus Christ in Luke 1:31-33.

Those verses describe Jesus Christ's spiritual genealogy. The angel Gabriel brought an astonishing message to Mary. Through the power of God's Holy Spirit she was to conceive a son (verse 35). Her son was to be the Son of the *Highest*—the King of the universe. Can you imagine how this must have impacted Mary's mind? Her son was to be the Son of the one who is the Highest forever. God the Father will always be in charge, ruling over all, forever.

The key of David vision has much to say about Jesus Christ's relationship with God the Father. Jesus Christ came to Earth to reveal the Father. "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him" (Matthew 11:27). Do we know God the Father? IT IS JESUS CHRIST'S JOB TO REVEAL THE FATHER. He did this when He walked on Earth. HE IS DOING THAT SAME WORK EVEN NOW—TODAY. OTHERWISE IT IS NOT GOD'S WORK! IF WE DON'T HAVE THE FATHER REVEALED TO US, THEN THE FAMILY PORTRAIT IS SHATTERED! GOD THE FATHER IS THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN CHRIST'S MESSAGE (John 1:18).

Jesus Christ didn't come to exalt Himself—He came to reveal the Father. Christ is the *Son* of the HIGHEST! God the Father is the living head of the entire Family. Jesus Christ came to make this fact known.

WE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE KEY OF DAVID VISION IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE FATHER! God the Father is the Head of His Family (write for a free copy of my book *The God Family Vision*). If we become guilty of pushing the Father out of the Family picture, it shows that we have a serious government problem. God wants to teach us family government. One man should always head the physical family. This is the kind of family government that will be in force for eternity! God will not use collegial government. He will not use a republic. He will not use a democracy. He will use family government. God the Father will rule over His Family forever. And that Family will rule the universe forever.

The truth that God is a Family is so clear in Scripture. "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy [Spirit] descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22). Jesus Christ was God's beloved Son. God the Father and Jesus Christ shared a perfect family-type relationship before Christ became a man. And they shared a perfect father-son relationship when Jesus lived on the Earth as a human. Christ always did those things that pleased the Father (John 8:29). We must get this point clearly, so we can remain in a close relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. Never forget that within God's plan there is a Father, there is a Son and there is Family.

THE FACT THAT CHRIST IS A SON OF DAVID AND A SON OF THE HIGHEST REAFFIRMS THAT HE IS THE ONE WHO GIVES US THE KEY OF DAVID VISION. THE FATHER GAVE HIM THAT RESPONSIBILITY. It is a vision which Christ will give only to spiritual Jews.

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### KING OF KINGS

The prophecy in Luke 1 shows that the Father, the Highest, plans to give Christ the throne of His father David. This is a throne on *Earth* today. Christ is not returning to a non-existent throne!

But the beauty of the prophecy in Luke 1 does not end with

Christ. We must see that these verses also contain PROPHECIES ABOUT THE GREATEST ROYAL FAMILY IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.

Our future is tied directly to Jesus Christ and David's throne. Revelation 17:13-14 describe Christ as being "Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." The familiarity of this scripture could cause us to overlook its deep, deep meaning. Jesus Christ is going to be the King of the firstfruits, who will become kings under Him. He will be Lord of the firstfruit lords. Can we envision Jesus Christ and the firstfruits ruling on the throne of David?

This prophecy does not apply to just anybody. It is only for the spiritual Jews who are willing to follow Christ before His Second Coming.

In the World Tomorrow, the firstfruits will be ruling with Jesus Christ as kings and lords—ruling both Church and state. We will rule it all! God the Father plans to bestow upon us awesome power, because we will have a big job to do. This is *the* vision of the Bible.

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### THRONE THAT UNITES

In the near future, at Christ's return, a momentous occasion will occur. "And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will BUILD them, as at the first" (Jeremiah 33:7). Before God can build, He must destroy. That is what modern business people would call *creative destruction*. After punishing Israel in the Tribulation, God plans to reunite all of Israel into one powerful nation. The physical nations of Israel are extremely divided today. In fact, most nations of Israel have lost their identity.

Anciently, at the death of Saul, the nation fell into civil war. The nation of Israel was seriously divided. David was crowned king in Hebron and ruled Judah from there for seven years. He was finally able to unite the nation, and he moved the capital to Jerusalem. He ruled from Jerusalem for 33 years, making his total reign 40 years.

When His Kingdom is set up, Christ will reunite the nations of Israel first. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I

will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, *will I cause the Branch of righteousness* [Jesus Christ] *to grow up unto David*; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land” (verses 14-15). God will use Christ, sitting on the throne of David, to shower blessing after blessing upon Israel. Remember that this is God the Father speaking. He is the “I” of verse 15. He is establishing a family throne.

“In those days shall *Judah be saved*, and *Jerusalem shall dwell safely*: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness” (verse 16). When Christ returns, He will go to work immediately. Judah will be saved. Jerusalem, the capital of ancient Israel and a biblical symbol of all Israel today, will dwell safely. Can we see the wonderful parallels here?

DAVID, A JEWISH KING, USED HIS THRONE TO UNITE ALL OF ISRAEL. JESUS CHRIST, THE SPIRITUAL JEW, WILL TAKE DAVID'S THRONE AND UNITE THE WHOLE WORLD!

Christ will accomplish this unity by grafting all of the Gentile nations into Israel. This is spoken about in principle by Paul in the book of Romans. “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree” (Romans 11:17). Paul applied this scripture to the Church—the spiritual nation of Israel (1 Peter 2:9). Christ's Church is not just for natural-born Israelites, it is for all people whom God calls—no matter what nationality or race. All members of God's Church are citizens of spiritual Israel. What is happening in the Church today is a type of what will happen globally in the World Tomorrow.

From David's throne, Jesus Christ will start uniting the whole world beginning with the nations of Israel. God focuses on Christ being a *son of David* because of this truth. Jesus Christ, while sitting on the throne of David, will make all men spiritual Jews. To be in God's Family all men must become spiritual Jews—a spiritually Jewish Family. This is the kind of unity only God can give—the unity God and the Word have had for all eternity! What a mind-opening time that will be for mankind. This glorious unity will then expand into the

Gentile nations and, later, into the limitless universe. This fact is beautifully described in Isaiah 9:6-7. Can we see the incredible future just ahead of us?

Some will be repulsed to think that God expects them to become Jews. But all men will be taught to look beyond this carnal life. Christ will ensure that the focus is not on the flesh but on the spirit. And at that time, no one will be able to lie about being a spiritual Jew. Both David and Christ were physical Jews. And both were spiritual Jews while in the flesh. We must learn to emulate their spiritual example.

Paul even taught this truth to the Philippians. He wrote, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). What unites spiritual Israel today? It is the mind of Christ. That exciting truth will be taught to the entire world from David's throne! **UNDERSTANDING THE KEY OF DAVID VISION IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE UNITY.**

Christ's mind will be extended to the whole world after His return. That is how the world will be united. All people who turn to God will become spiritual Jews. What fantastic unity! The prophecies concerning David's throne hold many wonderful promises for our nations of Israel and this world.

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### ***REVEALED—TWO COVENANTS!***

How well do we understand the covenants made concerning David's throne? "For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want [or lack] a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually" (Jeremiah 33:17-18). These two verses reveal that God made two distinct covenants concerning David's throne. Verse 17 discusses the covenant concerning David's descendants on his throne. God promised that David's throne would be in existence perpetually. This represents a phenomenal covenant from God. Someone would always be sitting on David's throne. His throne exists even today, in London (more on this later).

Verse 18 focuses on a separate covenant: that there would always be true priests, or a ministry, in existence. Logic tells us that since the covenant of the priesthood is directly related



to the covenant concerning David's throne, the covenant priesthood would be teaching about David's throne—the key of David! Why else would these two covenants be tied together? God states there would always be a man to sit on David's throne. So it only makes sense that there would also have to be a ministry to proclaim this awe-inspiring vision to the world.

Mr. Armstrong taught about God's covenant concerning David's throne. There is also a true priesthood in existence today teaching about David's throne. THIS IS AN AMAZING MINISTERIAL COVENANT THAT HAS NOT BEEN REVEALED UNTIL NOW. THIS IS ASTOUNDING NEW TRUTH! God has ensured that there is a spiritual priesthood, comprised of spiritual Jews, teaching about David, a Jew, and Christ, a Jew. Think about this. There have always been Levites to do the work of God and teach about Christ and David and about how to become spiritual Jews. These Levites today are the ministers of the Philadelphia Church of God.

This covenant with the Levites shows the close connection between the work of Herbert Armstrong and that of the PCG. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* gives the world vital knowledge concerning David's throne. Now only the PCG has the book God inspired Mr. Armstrong to write. This is one of many powerful proofs of where God's covenant ministry is today.

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### ***CERTAIN AS DAY AND NIGHT***

A covenant is an official agreement between two parties. When God makes a covenant with man, no man can change or stop what God plans to do. "And the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers" (verses 19-21). God tells us that we can rely on His covenants about David's throne and the Levites, or ministry. They are as certain as day and night. No one but God could change the day from being day or the

night from being night. The same applies to God's covenants concerning David's throne and God's ministers.

It is vital that God's ministers remain focused on this vision, since it was to be preserved until Christ's return. But look at what the Laodicean ministers have done to it. Some have removed it all together. Most have de-emphasized the key of David vision. One Laodicean Church has written its own version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It has nowhere near the power of Mr. Armstrong's version, which was inspired by God. Mr. Armstrong alone was the end-time Elijah to restore all things (Matthew 17:10-11). He alone was the end-time Zerubbabel with Christ's authority (Zechariah 4:9-10).

All of the Laodicean churches are in disarray. They are all suffering from disunity. Satan has dealt them a blow which will be fatal unless they repent. Some are saying that Jesus Christ is working through all of the WCG offshoot groups. But there is only ONE perpetual covenant with God's ministry. There is ONE COVENANT—there is only ONE TRUE MINISTRY! Why? Because there is only one foundational vision in all of the Bible—the key of David vision. Everything in the Bible, including every doctrine, revolves around this vision.

Why was God so careful to make these two covenants? “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me” (Jeremiah 33:22). God plans to multiply the seed of David. He wants you to look out into the universe and observe the innumerable stars. God intends to make His Family of spiritual Jews just like the stars—innumerable! This is man's awesome hope.

God also plans to make the Levites that “minister unto” Him innumerable. God will have a Family that will do His will. Christ, His bride and their Family—all the Family of God—will take over the rule of the universe forever! Do we get the picture?

*God made two covenants. The second one ensured that His message concerning the key of David was taught.* This means there was always a minister to teach the key of David vision! A minister can't minister for God unless he teaches about the throne and seed of David, or about the spiritual Jews.

## THE HOUSE OF DAVID

God's revealed plan for man has family written all over it. Consider how a family theme is deeply woven into Isaiah 22:20-24. Eliakim was a Jew. The Jews were simply one family grown into a great nation. Eliakim was the son of Hilkiyah (verse 20). In verse 21 God reveals that he appointed Eliakim as a father to the "inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house [or family] of Judah."

Remember, these verses apply to the end-time Eliakim as well (which is explained in our book *Who Is "That Prophet"?*). The physical isn't the main concern here. It is the spiritual! In this end time, this Eliakim is a spiritual Jew. Notice verse 22 again: "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open." God laid upon his shoulder *the key of the house, or family, of David*. We know that a key opens up prophetic understanding. But notice that GOD EXPANDS THE MEANING BY LOCKING THAT UNDERSTANDING TO ONE HOUSE, OR ONE FAMILY.

*This is vital revelation.* GOD TIES PROPHETIC UNDERSTANDING TO ONE HOUSE. IT IS NOT JUST ANY HOUSE. IT IS SPECIFICALLY AND ONLY THE HOUSE OF DAVID. Our prophetic understanding must be directly connected to the key of the house of David, or we don't have true prophetic understanding! God's people today are radically divided over this issue. The Laodiceans have greatly diminished and even eliminated the importance of the house of David. All of God's people, or Family, must have this same vision. Our spiritual lives must be united into *one house of David*, or the key of David. *This is family unity. Nothing else will unite us.* Remember that the main focus is on the spiritual.

The "key of the house of David" points us to a Jew. The Hebrew word for *house* here is *bayith* and can mean FAMILY OR DESCENDANTS. In other words, ELIAKIM IS TO REVEAL KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID. This key includes *both* the physical and spiritual descendants of David. However, the main focus in Isaiah is on the spiritual. It is about the spiritual that God's people must be most concerned. Eliakim was to teach God's people how to be spiritual Jews.

The Apostle Paul taught this same concept (see, for example, Romans 2:28-29). This knowledge gives us a deep spiritual unity. It is how the whole world will be united.

THE KEY OF DAVID VISION CARRIES WITH IT DEEP MEANING ABOUT BEING A SPIRITUAL JEW. SPIRITUALLY, GOD'S TRUE CHURCH IS A JEWISH FAMILY! The term *spiritual Jew* is another way of saying *God's very elect*. A spiritual Jew cannot be deceived (Matthew 24:24).

Jesus Christ is not living *inside* the Laodiceans. He is *outside* knocking on their door through the Philadelphia remnant. A TRUE SPIRITUAL JEW HAS CHRIST LIVING INSIDE HIM. THIS IS THE NUMBER-ONE REASON THE PHILADELPHIANS CANNOT BE DECEIVED.

Remember, in God's Family there will only be spiritual Jews. If we don't qualify as a spiritual Jew, we will not be in the Kingdom. We will explore some of the ramifications of this truth in the next chapter.

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# 4

## Satan's Great Wrath

“AND JACOB CALLED UNTO HIS SONS, AND SAID, GATHER yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you *in the last days*” (Genesis 49:1). Jacob’s fantastic prophecy revealed knowledge about his son’s tribes, which have become nations in this end time. It is truly stirring once we let this fact firmly take hold in our minds. Here in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we have a prophecy about what would befall the nations of Israel in this end time!

All 12 tribes, or nations, are named. But who and where are these modern nations today? We are living in “the last days” and must know who these nations are, or we will be blind to God’s end-time prophecies!

The last book of the Bible, Revelation, is also full of prophecies about Israel. So we have prophecies about Israel from the beginning to the end. The key of David vision has been spoken about for thousands of years. And we will be speaking about it forever.

Let’s look at the specific prophecies about Judah. “Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father’s children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?” (verses 8-9). These two

verses give us great insight into the people of Judah, or the Jews in the Middle East. In verse 9, God uses the phases of a lion's life to describe these people. God talks about a whelp, or cub, then a lion which would be best understood as a violent young lion, and then an old lion. The expression *old lion* could be translated *lioness*. The most dangerous lion is a female with a cub.

Historically, and even in our time, the Jewish people have exhibited many lion-like qualities. God warns at the end of verse 9 that all should be careful not to rouse the lion Judah. In other words, leave him alone if he is at rest, or you will rouse his wrath.

Verse 8 states that Judah's brethren would praise him. We know that this verse is primarily talking about the scepter promise (which we will explain later in this chapter). But it is also referring to the many benefits that Judah's war-like qualities brought to the nation. It is a prophecy that Judah would have its hands on the necks of its enemies. Historically, Judah has had a rousing, war-like quality that gave security to the nation. From Numbers 2:3 we learn that while in the wilderness, Judah was assigned to take the lead in all marches. This was an impressive position of honor. Judah received the first lot in the Promised Land. Caleb, a great grandson of Judah and one of the original 12 spies, had skill and mighty strength as a warrior (Joshua 14:11). And of course, the greatest Jewish warrior of all time was King David. There is no doubt he fought like a lion.

In our recent past, when the Jews had more faith, they were a terror in the Middle East. Now it appears they have lost their faith. They are certainly weaker as a nation. Unfortunately, today's Middle East peace process will lead to the tiny nation of Israel's undoing (write for a free copy of *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to know why).

There are many spiritual lessons we can learn from some of the physical characteristics God created in the Jews. For example, we should be lion-like when it comes to preserving the truth. ARE WE LIKE A FEMALE LION PROTECTING HER CUB WHEN IT COMES TO PRESERVING TRUE DOCTRINE? Studying the Jews' lion-like qualities also helps us to better see the qualities of the real Lion of Judah—Jesus Christ. TRUE SPIRITUAL JEWS EXHIBIT THE LION'S QUALITIES.

God does use physical people to teach us lessons. And we must be humble enough to learn these lessons. It should make no difference *through whom* we learn these lessons. Of course, we must put our emphasis on the spiritual, not the physical. But God wants to use the Jewish people for a high purpose. Paul shows us God's goal. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4). Our goal is to become like Jesus Christ—the spiritual Jew. This specifically applies to God's true Church today. But it will apply to all peoples after Jesus Christ's return.

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### **OBEYING FAMILY GOVERNMENT**

This same goal is written throughout the prophecies about Judah in the book of Genesis. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Genesis 49:10). Remember that this verse is prophecy for the end time. We must see the plan of God being worked out now. The word *scepter* is referring to David's throne and Jesus Christ's rule in the World Tomorrow. In addition to the scepter, there is a lawgiver who is a descendant of Judah (this too is explained in *That Prophet*). All of this leads us to Shiloh, or the Messiah.

Notice that there is coming a great gathering of all people to Shiloh. All people will gather to the scepter of Judah, or the rule of Jesus Christ. The Hebrew word translated *gathering* is *yiqqahah* and means obedience, submission. What a wonderful picture! Why are we submitting to and obeying the government of God now? So we can be there when Christ gathers all people unto Himself! This gathering is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles. All people will be gathered to the scepter of Judah and to Christ the Lawgiver.

Matthew 17:10-11 state that an Elijah would come and restore all things. Mr. Armstrong fulfilled this role. But he restored all things only to the Church. Compared to the number of people in this world, very few listened to Mr. Armstrong.

Jesus Christ will return soon and restore all things *to the world*. Christ's return is described as the time of the "restitution of all things" (Acts 3:20-21). Jesus Christ is coming back to restore the government of God over the whole Earth—the

same government that Lucifer established on Earth and then rebelled against. In the near future, all the world will learn to submit to Christ as He sits on David's throne. This will require humility, obedience and submission on everyone's part. The change in this world will be wonderful and truly miraculous.

So why did an Elijah come and restore God's government to the Church? Jesus Christ wants His government here when He returns, so we can help Him implement His law. Only spiritual Jews will have this opportunity to rule with Christ.

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### **JESUS LOOKED LIKE GOD**

In the June 1956 *Plain Truth*, in the article "Was Jesus a Jew?", Herman Hoeh wrote, "Jesus possessed characteristics both of Mary's ancestry and the characteristics of the Father in heaven. Jesus looked like other Jews, yet He had the express facial resemblance of the Father Almighty—'Who hath seen me,' said Jesus, 'hath seen the Father' (John 14:9)." This impressive statement applies both physically and spiritually. Jesus Christ not only had Mary's physical characteristics, He also looked like His Father—God the Father. Joseph was not Christ's father. Mary's pregnancy was from God (Luke 1:35).

"The Jews, then, more than any other race, must resemble the dominant personality of the heavenly Father. God is *Supreme Ruler*. Judah prevailed above his brethren, and the Prince, or *Chief Ruler*, was prophesied to come through him. Judah must have had special physical qualities for rulership. . . .

"The most important truth about this whole question, however, is not the flesh. 'The flesh profiteth nothing' (John 6:63). What is important is what we *do* with our lives. Through the sacrifice of Christ we can all—no matter of what race—become begotten members of the Family, or Kingdom, of God—the NEW MAN, as Paul expressed it—where there is no division . . ." (ibid.).

Jesus Christ is predominantly concerned with the creation and development of spiritual Jews, not physical Jews. He wants to focus our attention on the spiritual Jew who will bring us into the Kingdom, or Family, of God. God's Family will be a Family of spiritual Jews.



## WHY ANTI-SEMITISM

Why is there so much hatred for the Jews in this world?

Dr. Hoeh stated in that same article, "In the case of Jesus, the Logos was transformed into a physical sperm from the Father in heaven and was united with the ovum in the womb of the Jewess Mary. Therefore Jesus partook of the human [characteristics] of the tribe of Judah—Jewish flesh and blood." In unparalleled humility, the Logos was willing to give up His glory and be transformed into a human sperm cell—the tiniest of cells—and impregnate a Jewish woman. Jesus Christ grew up as a Jewish lad. God directly involved the Jews in His plan. From these facts we must assume that God the Father and Jesus Christ have a close connection to the Jewish race—but only to further their spiritual plan.

So why is there so much hatred of the Jews? Look at the Middle East today. The Jews of the tiny nation of Israel are despised by their neighbors. Many Arabs want to see the Jewish nation destroyed. In our time the Jews have been hated in Russia. There is still anti-Semitism in the United States and other countries. And can we forget what Hitler and his Nazi scourge did to the Jews? Where is all of this hate coming from? A thinking person has to wonder! We know the Jews, like all humans, have helped to create some of their own problems. But we must see that there is something deeper behind anti-Semitism.

Satan the devil understands the plan of God. He has a great hatred for God. Because of the plan of God, the word *Jew* can really stir up Satan's wrath. The Jews are a *type* of what all men are to become spiritually. It is God's association with the Jews that has turned Satan even more violently against them! Hatred for the Jews has been inspired by Satan. He knows that he was never offered what has been offered to mankind. He wants nothing more than to destroy the plan of God.

Satan can stir up vicious hatred. He loves to use out-of-control emotions. A religion taken to the extreme—such as radical Islam—gives him a great field to work in. Nazi Germany exhibited fanatical hatred for the Jews. The Nazis also used emotion to stir up a repugnant hatred. The coming beast power will exhibit the same hatred for the Jews as well.

Most people who hate the Jews don't even know why they do. Can we see Satan behind such lies and hatred?

Even more chilling is this fact: As much as Satan hates physical Jews, we must never forget that Satan's hatred runs much deeper for *spiritual* Jews. Realize that Satan is going to go after *spiritual* Jews most of all!

### *SPIRITUAL JEWS*

Read these important words again: “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath *the key of David*, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name [government]. Behold, I will make them of the *synagogue of Satan*, which *say they are Jews*, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee” (Revelation 3:7-9). Notice: Spiritual Jews are mentioned in the same context as the key of David vision. It is their understanding of this vision that makes them spiritual Jews! It is what separates the Philadelphians from the Laodiceans, a group which sprang from the “synagogue of Satan.”

Verses 7 and 8 show that the Philadelphia era was truly a jewel in God's sight. It was given the key of David—the single greatest prophecy and vision in the Bible. Mr. Armstrong and true Philadelphians have always treasured this key. God provided Philadelphia an open door that no man could shut. And though small by this world's standards, the Church kept God's Word and government.

In verse 9, we see that while Philadelphia was doing its great work, the synagogue of Satan was growing within its ranks. GOD HAS REVEALED THAT THIS SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN WAS THE LAODICEAN ERA IN EMBRYO. What is truly amazing about this new revelation is that God did not give it to us until the Laodicean era was already born. There is an important reason *why*. This astounding revelation is vital for God's true Church *today*, in the Laodicean era.

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## SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN

God gave a harsh name to the Laodicean fetus, calling it the synagogue of Satan. This means that some within God's own Church were falling prey to Satan, **GETTING INTO WORSHIP OF THE DEVIL EVEN WHILE MR. ARMSTRONG WAS ALIVE!** In verse 9 God also calls them liars. How did they lie? They were acting like Jews but were not true spiritual Jews at all.

Only the PCG understands Revelation 3:9 today—which means that **MOST OF GOD'S OWN PEOPLE DON'T DEEPLY UNDERSTAND GOD OR THE DEVIL!**

**ONLY THOSE SAINTS WHO HAVE THE KEY OF DAVID VISION TRULY UNDERSTAND GOD AND THE DEVIL!**

The Laodicean era is identified as being blind. **THE OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINANT TRAIT OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY IS BLINDNESS!**

This knowledge leads us to one of the most important questions of our time: Who are the true spiritual Jews? There are members of God's Church who say they are Jews, but whom God calls liars. And there is a group of God's people who are true spiritual Jews—they don't lie! We must know the difference. This knowledge also reveals Satan the devil. A full understanding of the key of David vision must include knowledge of Satan the devil and his attack on God's Church in this end time!

To the Philadelphians, God promises that all those people pretending to be Jews will He make "to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee" (verse 9). Christ uses the expression "I will make" twice in reference to the synagogue of Satan. God will force the lying Jews, today's Laodiceans, to admit that Mr. Armstrong was right. He will make them admit that the Philadelphia Church was right. He will force them to know He loved Mr. Armstrong and the PCG.

Do we doubt God will do this? Christ says, "I will make . . ." This is a very personal statement. If they refuse to admit Mr. Armstrong was right—if they refuse to admit the PCG is right and that God loved Mr. Armstrong and loves us, then there will not be any Family of God for them. How will God force them to do this? Through the terrors of the Tribulation. It would be far better for them to repent and admit this today, which is why warning the Laodiceans is a large part of our work.

In these verses, Christ shows clearly that the true spiritual Jews are DEEPLY LOVED BY GOD. Why? BECAUSE THEY ARE LOYAL TO HIS KEY OF DAVID VISION. They keep God's Word, which includes the astonishing knowledge about David's throne. They maintain God's government and walk through God's open door. How do we determine who are the spiritual Jews? By seeing who holds fast to the key of David. That vision *not only gives us incredible understanding*, IT IDENTIFIES TRUE SPIRITUAL JEWS.

The Laodiceans don't understand God's love. They have fallen prey to Satan's deceit. True spiritual Jews know the meaning behind the key of David and cannot be deceived. Now look at what the Laodiceans are about to face—the Tribulation and the potential loss of eternal life.

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### SATAN IN A RAGE

We have already shown you how deeply Satan hates the physical Jews. The Holocaust of World War II is a testament to that fact. But Satan hates the spiritual Jews most of all.

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Revelation 12:12). Christ warns us that Satan is full of great wrath. He has been cast back to Earth. Upon whom did he first unleash his wrath? “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman [God's Church] which brought forth the man child” (verse 13). Satan has gone after God's Church—the true spiritual Jews!

Never forget that Satan's primary goal is to destroy God's work and Church. Within four years of Mr. Armstrong's death, the Church suffered a serious split! This came as a devastating shock to many of God's people. The destruction of the Worldwide Church of God has continued steadily since January of 1990. Today it is only a shadow of its former glory.

Satan has also stirred up much trouble for the nations of Israel. Just look at the British royal family. It has the royal Jewish heritage of King David himself. But today the monarchy has been so battered, bruised and beaten, it will never

recover the dignity it once had. The walls of the palace have been riddled with scandal. Who has been the driving force behind the defamation of the royal family? Satan the devil. He desires to bring as much indignity to that throne as he can. Do we realize that the British royalty could stop all of the gross degeneration and its painful consequences? All they would have to do is be guided by God's spiritual Jews.

If you look closely at the royal thrones in Thailand and Jordan, you see a very different picture. These two royal families are revered by most of their subjects, not ridiculed. These two families even had a close relationship with Herbert Armstrong through the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. They respected and listened to Mr. Armstrong. God blesses those who honor His people (Genesis 12:3).

Why is the British throne declining in popularity while these other two are quite stable at this time? The throne in England never developed a close association with Mr. Armstrong. He did meet Prince Charles (and, also, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, when she was in power). Yet there was never a special project with God's end-time apostle, as there was in Jordan and Thailand. Could that be part of the reason why that throne is not blessed today? Would it have been a little too embarrassing for the British royalty to join league with a religious old man? And yet there were two other Gentile families who loved him and respected him. They realized how special he was and wanted to work with him. Britain all but shut the door on God's work. How typical of Israel to reject God's prophets and apostles.

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## *WAR AGAINST THE JEWS*

Satan hates the British throne. Remember, we must factor in the knowledge about Satan and his wrath if we are truly going to understand the key of David vision and the serious truth involving spiritual Jews. Only true spiritual Jews will be protected from the Tribulation to come upon the whole world. This is a promise from God.

When Satan realizes that he can no longer get to us as we flee, he will direct all of his violent efforts against the Laodiceans—even as they are beginning to repent because of

the Tribulation. “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). Satan’s anger is directed most at God’s Church. He detests our fantastic potential. In the Tribulation, the Laodiceans will recognize how wrong they were. Half of them will repent and return to God. They will return to the understanding they had rejected. They will reject Satan’s deceit. Because of their repentance, they will feel the full force of Satan’s wrath. At that time, he will have gained full control of all the negative and destructive forces on this planet. All who repent and obey God during the Tribulation will be marked for destruction. That is why it is so important to repent and obey God now.

Why does God offer His faithful spiritual Jews protection from what is coming? “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Revelation 3:10). The answer is simple. God always protects those who keep His Word. The Philadelphians are held in high esteem by God for doing so. They are people God wants to protect.

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### PHILADELPHIANS

The name *Philadelphian* is synonymous with *spiritual Jew*. Our name, Philadelphia Church of God, did not come to us by coincidence. God gave it to us because we value His revelation. The Philadelphians have the key of David. They are not embarrassed by it or ashamed of it. They proclaim it to the world. They do not look to men—they look to the God who possesses the key of David vision (verse 7).

True spiritual Jews understand the vital importance of God’s revelation. “*What advantage then hath the Jew?* or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?” (Romans 3:1-3). One of the greatest gifts committed to the physical Jews has been the preservation of the Old Testament Scriptures. In addition, God committed to the Jews the preservation of the sacred calendar, the knowledge

of the Sabbath covenant and holy days, and the knowledge of tithing. These reflect the “oracles of God,” which could be translated *divine utterances*. Many faithful physical Jews kept these on the letter-of-the-law level—a *physical* level.

God always intended that the oracles entrusted to the Jews be understood by the Church. “This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: *who received the lively oracles TO GIVE UNTO US*” (Acts 7:38).

God does not reveal new revelation about the oracles to physical Jews, but to His spiritual Jews—the Philadelphians today.

We know that God revealed His key of David vision to the spiritual Jews. The oracles of God are included in the context of that vision. What God *revealed* to Herbert Armstrong, He has given to His spiritual Jews to preserve. God has “committed” to the PCG what He gave Mr. Armstrong. This verse applies to us today in that way. (*Edmond*, the city where the PCG is headquartered, means “preserver of wealth.”)

This is why we fought a battle in court for Herbert W. Armstrong’s books and booklets. We really had no choice. This literature was given to the Philadelphians, whether we are in the Philadelphian or the Laodicean era. So where you find all of God’s truth that was revealed to Herbert Armstrong, you will find the spiritual Jews!

We *continue* the Elijah work. God’s Church cannot die (Matthew 16:18). Each one of us has the responsibility to know where that Church is.

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### FAITH OF GOD

As Paul states in Romans 3:3, we must understand what God has revealed and then use the FAITH OF GOD to preserve that truth. Think about this. What is the faith of God? It is believing what God says. What brought people into God’s Church under Mr. Armstrong? The faith of God. We believed Mr. Armstrong taught what God revealed. What gave us the courage to move to the PCG? The faith of God. What keeps us in God’s Church? The faith of God.

WE MUST USE THAT SAME FAITH TO PRESERVE—NEVER TO REJECT OR DIMINISH—GOD’S ORACLES. We can be in God’s

true Church physically and still not be a spiritual part of Christ's body. God LIVES in His oracles. Luke (who wrote Acts) referred to God's oracles as the *lively oracles*.

We fought in court for God's truth—in *faith*. We cannot preserve the key of David vision without faith!

That is what verse 3 explains. Through faith the spiritual Jews knew precisely why they were in a court battle, fighting for God's truth. The Laodiceans did not fight for God's truth because Christ's faith is not in them! That is why He is on the *outside* knocking on their door (Revelation 3:20).

Preserving God's oracles requires great spiritual depth. It requires a spiritual Jew. Only the spiritual Jews have the faith of God.

God's primary focus is always spiritual. The physical Jews fulfilled a critical role for God in preserving the oracles. But the role God has given *spiritual* Jews is far greater. All of God's people who remain close to the divine utterances cannot be hurt by Satan the devil. Spiritual Jews have their heart, or their inner man, circumcised (Romans 2:29). They have been deeply converted to value what God values. They seek God's praise, not the praise of men. They can detect Satan's deceit and reject it. They are inspired by the key of David vision.



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# 5

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## *Let No Man Take Your Crown*

**W**HEN HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG WAS ALIVE, IT WAS HIS tradition to host dinners in his home for the senior class at Ambassador College. By the late 1960s, the work had grown so large that it had become more difficult to get to know Mr. Armstrong. The senior dinner was considered a big night at Ambassador College. On the night of my senior dinner, my wife was able to sit next to Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong oversaw the preparation for the occasion, magnificent beyond description. The place settings used for this dinner were the Russian czar's gold flatware and china. Seeing the grandeur of the occasion, one student remarked, "This dinner is fit for a king." Mr. Armstrong answered, "You *are* a king." As I remember, Mr. Armstrong's comment ended the conversation. Yet, his comment should have begun an inspiring conversation!

I imagine Mr. Armstrong was the only one at the table that night who deeply understood that statement.

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### *HAS MADE US KINGS*

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We have been showing you that Herbert Armstrong was used by God to deliver the key of David message in this end time. He understood the vision. But **GOD HAS ADDED NEW**

REVELATION ABOUT THE KEY OF DAVID VISION SINCE HIS DEATH. Do we fully understand what the key of David vision means for us?

Those of us in God's Church are already kings in embryo! "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And HATH MADE us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:5-6). Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness—He cannot lie—states that we have been made kings. Notice this is written in the *past tense*. As long as we remain faithful, we are kings. And there is even more. Verse 6 states emphatically that we are also priests. This means, in the future, we will be over Church and state. We will be a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:5).

Are you preparing to share David's throne? How real is this vision to you? Understanding this vision is what salvation is all about.

Many have trouble believing the full extent of this vision. But realize: THE KEY OF DAVID IS THE ONLY TRUE VISION OF THE FUTURE!

How often do our conversations focus on subjects like, "You are a king"? If you think about it, the key of David vision was more real than even the food we ate at Mr. Armstrong's dinner!

Satan hates God. He proved that by trying to kick God off His throne (Isaiah 14:14). His punishment is to be the blackness of darkness forever (Revelation 20:10). Satan hates the message of the key of David vision because he knows that he has no part in God's plan. So he wants to destroy that plan and prevent us from taking our place as royal sons.

Satan tried to destroy Jesus Christ before He could deliver the good news about this glorious plan. Even when Christ was a baby, Satan inspired Herod to kill all of the baby boys 2 years old and younger (Matthew 2:16-20). Christ's stepfather, Joseph, was warned of this in a dream and fled with Mary and the boy into Egypt. Satan tried to destroy Christ spiritually through temptation (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus Christ preached the gospel for 3½ years before being crucified for delivering this message.

Yet Jesus Christ successfully destroyed Satan's works. "... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). We must overcome Satan as Christ overcame him. We do this by supporting the messenger and the message—by doing God's work.

Satan holds great hatred for the people who do God's work today. He hated Mr. Armstrong and worked constantly to stop him. We receive letters that show Satan hates us. The key of David vision contains a message that is so beautiful that only a very sick mind would hate the message. Satan is full of wrath against God's people who hold true to the vision.

### AN ETERNAL CROWN

Attaining the eternal glory encapsulated in the key of David vision is no easy task. We will have to endure a lot of suffering in this life to enter into that awesome future (Acts 14:22). Jesus Christ told the Smyrna era, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). God's people in this era suffered tremendously. They were severely persecuted for holding true to the message entrusted to them. Yet, Christ promised them a CROWN of life for enduring what they suffered. God's kings are going to have crowns!

Notice what Christ tells His Philadelphians: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy CROWN" (Revelation 3:11). Christ tells us we *already* have a crown. In other words, we are already kings. But we must remain faithful. Jesus Christ warns us that a man could take our crown.

Mr. Armstrong not only believed these scriptures, he lived them! He had the seniors of Ambassador College over to his home, IN THE MOST ROYAL SETTING POSSIBLE, TO DRIVE HOME THE LESSON THAT THEY WERE ROYALTY. He created a very special occasion as a spiritual teaching tool. God's Philadelphians must seize every occasion possible to embed this vision into their minds. Teaching the key of David vision was Mr. Armstrong's life. It must become ours as well.

When we have this vision etched into our minds, then we will recognize the opportunities to teach it to others. After Jesus Christ returns and puts the vision into effect, we don't want to look back and wonder what could have been. We must actively teach this vision. Now is the *greatest moment in the history of the Church*. We have more truth than any Church era has ever had, and Christ is about to return!

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### WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

God's Church is about to step into one of the most exalted offices for all eternity. "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1). Mr. Armstrong taught us for years that the woman in these verses represents God's true Church. Satan's great false church is represented by the whore in Revelation 17. The woman in Revelation 12 is clothed in a way no man could clothe her. She is dressed in apparel bright as the sun. Her clothing is a sign of righteousness. She is dressed the exact opposite of the fallen woman in Revelation 17, who is clothed in "purple and scarlet" (verse 4). These earthly colors represent sin (Isaiah 1:18).

The Church has the moon under her feet. This vision shows this woman has rule and authority. She holds a royal position. She is crowned with 12 stars, which represent the 12 tribes of Israel. *This vision holds the key to understanding Israel's past and the Church's future*. The depth of meaning in this verse is incredible!

Who is to rule the tribes of Israel in the future? Jeremiah tells us clearly. "For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the Lord their God, and *David their king, whom I will raise up unto them*" (Jeremiah 30:8-9). David has already been appointed to rule over the 12 tribes of Israel—forever! Can we see the breathtaking glory that is coming?

There is more. Who will sit on David's throne? Jesus Christ, the King of kings. Jesus Christ will rule over David, Israel and

all Gentile nations. Who will share in this rule? The firstfruits. For a millennium, Jesus Christ and His royal Family will work to graft all of the Gentile nations into the family of Israel. What inspiring, royal offices the firstfruits will have. God's firstfruits will be the only group with the *bride of Christ* title (Revelation 19:7). Christ and His bride will bring multiple billions of children into the Family. David's life and reward are a symbol of how men have the opportunity to become a part of the Father's royal family Kingdom.

The key of David emphasizes how majestic and royal the firstfruit positions will be. It focuses on how ROYAL the gospel is.

Remember, the Kingdom of God is the Family of God. In God's Kingdom there will not be any spiritual Gentiles—no rebellious children. All will become converted spiritual Jews. Can we see the end result of the key of David vision? All willing human beings will be converted into the spiritual nation of Israel. God the Father and Christ will be joyously ruling over them for all eternity. The creative work that will be accomplished will be truly amazing.

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### GREAT RED DRAGON

But the near future is fraught with grave spiritual danger. "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads" (Revelation 12:2-3). Satan hates God's Church. He desires to do us great harm. In symbol, John shows that Satan has seven heads, 10 horns and seven crowns. Satan holds authority over the nations today—deceiving the whole world (verse 9). He rules over men, but only as God allows.

In these scriptures, God's Church is placed in direct conflict with Satan's church. They are the worst of enemies. God's people have suffered more persecution from the devil than anybody in all of man's history. And it will be that way until the seventh head of the so-called *Holy Roman Empire* is destroyed (write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*). But we have nothing to fear if we use God's limitless power.

Luke reveals this fact in his record of Christ's temptation. "And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Luke 4:5-7). He offered all of the nations of this world to Christ. Christ rejected his offer. But Christ never denied that these nations were Satan's to give.

Revelation 12:3 reveals that Satan has ruled over every resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. The final resurrection is now quickly and boldly forming.

If Christ is King of kings, then Satan is king of beasts. Revelation 13 shows that man's rule over other men is like the brute beasts running wild and dangerous. Satan is the inspiration behind man's wicked rule.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE HAS WON ITS FAME BY MAIMING AND SLAUGHTERING—IN THE NAME OF GOD! Who has inspired the violence? Satan has been attempting to accomplish his purpose of destroying God's plan through that system. The soon-coming final resurrection will cause more destruction than any which came before—more than all of them combined! In spite of all the destruction, men still act like that system is a gift from God! Mankind has learned far too little from history, and look at the cost of that ignorance!

Jesus Christ is about to return and destroy the Holy Roman Empire forever. As Daniel prophesied, "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 other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). All of Satan's present plans will fail miserably in the end.

We must make sure that we are not one of Satan's casualties. "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne" (Revelation 12:4-5). We must never underestimate Satan's hatred for God's Church. He rabidly hates

each member! He hated Christ. He wanted desperately to destroy Him. Should Christ's Church expect anything less?

Each faithful member of God's Church *is a terrible threat to Satan the devil!* We are about to take his crown and rule with Christ from David's throne. Satan knows his days are numbered (verse 12). He will soon lose his rule and authority. Our coming rule is more certain and more real than Satan's is today.

Right now, Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). But soon, under the guidance and instruction of the Family of God, everyone will worship God. "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever" (Micah 4:4-5). When Christ returns and we are installed into office, peace will burst into full bloom over the entire Earth. Satan-inspired violence will end. The mass of humanity will no longer be deceived. All will be able to come to a true understanding of God and His family plan for man.

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### *PLACE OF SAFETY*

We must know our enemy, Satan the devil. His attacks on the Philadelphia Church will continue as we fulfill our commission. His negative pressure will become much more intense. "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (Revelation 12:13-14). Satan has only one great goal—to destroy the Church of God. He is a master strategist. Even during a period of relative calm, we must never forget that Satan is hard at work.

His attacks on the Church will eventually become so intense that the Church will have to be taken to a place of safety. Verse 14 is referring to the same woman as verse 1—the one with a crown of 12 stars. What gives her the ability to withstand Satan the devil? She sees the crown of 12 stars. She sees the throne of David ruling over the tribes of Israel. Her mind is

focused on the key of David vision. She is so inspired by the magnitude of the vision, nothing can dissuade her.

Our individual lives must be totally wrapped up in this vision, or there will be no place of safety for us.

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### WAR AGAINST THE SAINTS

God's Church is in a war with Satan. What is the fighting all about? The battle is over ruling the Earth.

In the near future, Satan will be forced to face the fact that his life is a miserable failure. The war is real to Satan. It should be real to us. If we have the key of David vision firmly planted in our minds, we will understand the titanic battle raging against the Church.

Today our war with Satan is mostly spiritual. However, it is quickly going to become *physical*. Satan is going to bring an army of this world against us (verse 15). In Bible symbolism, a flood usually represents an army. This army will undoubtedly come from the European political combine now coming to power.

This power is discussed in Revelation 13: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy" (Revelation 13:1). This political power is the seat of Satan's kingdom and church.

Notice, this power is comprised of 10 crowns. God's Church is the greatest threat to this political power, because we are going to take those crowns away.

Satan and his human associates will use all violence to keep their crowns. Revelation 12:16 shows that Satan's final move to destroy the Philadelphia Church of God will come to nothing. His final attack will fail. The earth will open up and swallow that army. This will anger Satan so much that he will turn all of his wrath against the Laodiceans. A great slaughter of God's people will occur for the last time.

How important is the key of David vision to you? Remember, *it is the only true vision of the future*. God has called each one of us to prepare to rule with Jesus Christ. We are destined to share Christ's own throne—that of His father David. We are kings. With this vision firmly planted in our minds we will be able to overcome Satan and take our place in the Family of God.



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# 6

## *A Stone of Destiny*

**I**NSIDE WESTMINSTER ABBEY IN LONDON, ENGLAND, SITS the old coronation chair on which the kings of Ireland, Scotland and England have been crowned. Until 1999 there was a stone under that chair. It was moved to Scotland, but will again be placed under the chair when a new king or queen is crowned. This stone, rich in history, will prove to be an integral part of the future solution to this world's cataclysmic problems!

Herbert Armstrong wrote about this stone in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*: “Then, in 569 B.C. (date of Jeremiah’s transplanting), an elderly, white-haired patriarch, sometimes referred to as a ‘saint,’ came to Ireland. With him was the princess daughter of an eastern king and a companion called ‘Simon Brach,’ spelled in different histories as Breck, Berech, Brach or Berach. The princess had a Hebrew name Tephi—a pet name—her full name being Tea-Tephi. . . .

“This royal party included the son of the king of Ireland who had been in Jerusalem at the time of the siege. There he had become acquainted with Tea-Tephi. He married her shortly after 585—when the city fell. Their young son, now about 12 years of age, accompanied them to Ireland. Besides the royal family, Jeremiah brought with them some remarkable things, including a harp, an ark, and a wonderful stone called ‘lia-fail,’

or ‘stone of destiny.’ A peculiar coincidence (?) is that Hebrew reads from right to left, while English reads from left to right. Read this name either way—and it still is ‘lia-fail.’

“Another strange coincidence—or *is* it just coincidence?—is that many kings in the history of Ireland, Scotland and England have been coronated sitting over this stone—including the present queen. The stone rests today in Westminster Abbey in London, and the coronation chair is built over and around it. A sign beside it labels it ‘Jacob’s pillar-stone’ (Genesis 28:18).”

Since the time that was written, English officials have removed the stone underneath the old coronation chair, giving it to Scotland. Why? Because England has degenerated in its faith. The once-great British Empire has lost the knowledge of its identity as Ephraim, one of the most important tribes of Israel.

Why is this stone called the “stone of destiny”? No other nation in history has had a coronation stone like England. No other nation on Earth can claim such a breathtaking, rich history for its throne.

When Christ returns to Earth to assume the throne of David, He will take over a live, existing throne (Luke 1:32). The very throne Christ will take over includes Jacob’s pillar stone. What a “stone of destiny”!

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### *PILLOW BECOMES PILLAR*

“And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the **STONE** that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a **PILLAR**, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this **STONE**, which I have set for a pillar, shall be **GOD’S HOUSE**: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee” (Genesis 28:18-22). This verse **BEGINS THE HISTORY** of England’s “stone of destiny”!

Jacob was so overwhelmed by the dream he’d had the night before that he recognized the significance of it by setting

up the stone he used for his pillow as a pillar. He called this stone “GOD’S HOUSE.”

Why did Jacob do this? Because there was no temple or even a moveable tabernacle in his day. Yet, he was given an incredible vision of the future about the place in which he slept. Jacob realized that God was going to have a house built to conduct His work from that place—so he called the stone *God’s house*. The stone on which he slept was going to have great significance throughout Israel’s history. This is why it is so appropriate to call Jacob’s pillar stone a “stone of destiny.”

During Jacob’s lifetime, the stone was used to show where God was operating from. Is it possible that England could have possessed that same stone? The English people used to recognize that the stone under the old coronation chair was Jacob’s pillar stone written about in the book of Genesis. The history of that stone goes all the way back to the beginning of Israel’s history as a nation!

This knowledge has become embarrassing to the British because of their degenerating faith. Even prior to giving the stone to Scotland, they had removed the sign identifying it as “Jacob’s pillar stone.” Removing a sign does not change history! God has made Himself so well-known throughout Israel’s history that they are without excuse!

There were 12 tribes in the nation of Israel. Mr. Armstrong taught us from Scripture that Ephraim (one of Joseph’s sons) was prophesied to be one of the main tribes. With his brother Manasseh, Ephraim was also to carry the name *Israel* (Genesis 48:16). Jacob, their grandfather, had his name changed to *Israel* when he became converted. And today, we see a stone that could identify where Israel is, if only we would prove it from the Scriptures.

### JACOB’S NAME CHANGED TO ISRAEL

“And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; *a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee*, and kings shall come out of thy loins; And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will

give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land. And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him. And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel [which means house of God]" (Genesis 35:10-15). This verse is a prophecy for the end time. Along with other scriptures it shows what Jacob's nations would be like in our time. It reveals essential history about the birthright nations of Israel which were to become "a [great] nation," meaning the United States, and a "company of nations," meaning Britain, and its Commonwealth.

What did Jacob do when God revealed this knowledge to him? He set up a pillar of stone and poured wine and oil on it. **JACOB'S PILLAR STONE WAS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THESE TWO GREAT END-TIME NATIONS!** This verse also shows a sacred promise from God to Jacob that his family would include two great nations in the end time. This promise is made in the same context of a stone. Or you could say in the context of **GOD'S HOUSE** (Genesis 28:18, 22). But there is also an implied promise from God that at the end time, if you were to look closely into one of these two great nations, you would find a stone associated with this prophecy!

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### ***JACOB'S NAME PASSED TO JOSEPH'S SONS***

"And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed. And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people ..." (Genesis 48:1-4). Mr. Armstrong proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that Ephraim is Great Britain and Manasseh is the United States. He also showed that these verses applied to the end time.

"The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name [Israel] be named on them [Ephraim and

Manasseh], and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth” (verse 16). Jacob was not only blessing Joseph’s two sons; he was also teaching a history lesson—a lesson we need to be reminded of. He was cementing in the boys’ minds the importance of the pillar stone by reminding them of the “Angel” that helped him. He was also showing the boys the significance of their roots. Their heritage came from Abraham and Isaac.

Can you hear the detractors of that day criticizing Jacob? They very well could have said Jacob was worshipping Abraham and Isaac! But Jacob wasn’t. He was carrying on a name and a tradition, giving them God’s words that had come through Abraham and Isaac. Jacob’s prophecies for Ephraim and Manasseh were to reach through the centuries to our time now.

This stone is a witness of God’s promises made to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob, whose name God changed to *Israel*. Jesus Christ will soon return to this Earth and sit over that stone as King of kings and Lord of lords!

What a stone of destiny! Do you really comprehend what this stone means?

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**TWO SONS RECEIVE  
END-TIME BLESSINGS**

“And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father’s hand, to remove it from Ephraim’s head unto Manasseh’s head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations” (Genesis 48:17-19).

This remarkable event foretold the history of England and the United States. God revealed to Jacob what would happen to his two grandsons during our time now! Collectively, they were to grow into a multitude of people on Earth. Ephraim, the younger son, was to be a “multitude of nations.” No other nation could fulfill this prophecy but Britain, with its Commonwealth. Ephraim’s older brother, Manasseh, was to become one great

nation in the end time. Only the United States could fulfill this prophecy. The offspring of these two young boys were to assume great wealth and power. Who could deny that this refers to the United States and Great Britain?

What mind-staggering truth!

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### *SCEPTER WAS TO BE JUDAH'S*

“And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you IN THE LAST DAYS” (Genesis 49:1). God had not revealed knowledge about Joseph’s future generations only—He also revealed what would happen to all of his sons “in the last days.” Before his death, Jacob called together all of his sons to reveal to them this important part of world history, spoken in advance. Jacob told his sons what would happen to their descendants in our time.

“The *sceptre* shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be” (verse 10). This verse states that the scepter shall not depart from Judah. What does that mean? It means that Christ, salvation and a royal lineage were to come through Judah. It is a continuation and further clarification of the *seed* promise made to Abraham (Genesis 28:14). It is a specific statement from God that Jacob’s “stone of destiny” was directly tied to Christ, salvation and a kingly line that would remain upon a throne until Christ assumed it! The stone is a symbol of this great promise from God. The physical blessings of greatness and wealth were to be bestowed on Joseph’s sons—but the throne belonged to Judah, and salvation for all mankind would come through Judah. That throne was never to cease. Only the British peoples can claim this truth! Not only are the British people descendants of Ephraim, the royal line goes all the way back to King David and, ultimately, Judah!

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). Jesus Christ was pretty blunt with the Samaritan woman. He told her that she did not know how to worship God. He told her directly that if she continued to worship in her way, she could not obtain salvation. He told her salvation was of the Jews, which would have been salt in the wound for any Samaritan.

Jesus Christ was not ashamed to say that Jews had a very important role in God's plan. Of course, He was referring to converted people who would follow Him! Mr. Armstrong told the religious leaders of our day the same things. And he offended some. But that did not make him wrong.

Was Christ wrong? He was killed for preaching the message God the Father sent! Like Christ, Mr. Armstrong was required to preach a difficult message. The PCG has been called upon to preach a difficult message because we follow Christ. Mr. Armstrong was not ashamed to teach that some physical things, like a stone and a throne, HAVE EVERYTHING TO DO WITH SALVATION.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Paul was not ashamed of the truth of God. He knew that everyone on Earth would be invited to salvation. We know historically that it was offered to the Jews first. Many of the original Christians were Jews who believed the gospel of Christ and were baptized.

As we have said, all truly converted Christians become Jews spiritually! If you are converted, then as far as God is concerned, you are a Jew! If you are in God's Church, you are a Jew and you have a corner on the spiritual marketplace! Even our young people are Jews inwardly because God's Spirit is working *with* them. God says that a true Jew is one inwardly. "Salvation is of the Jews." Circumcision is of the *heart*. And if you want to face the truth, JEWS ARE SITTING ON THE THRONE IN ENGLAND. Physical Jews have always sat on that throne for a very symbolic reason. If we are going to have a future position of rulership with Christ, then we must become spiritual Jews!

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands" (Ephesians 2:11). All of us must face the fact that prior to our conversion, we were spiritual Gentiles. We were outside of God's promises. But now, as Paul stated, "ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (verse 19). Because of Christ, we now have a future. And if Britain and the world understood the

symbolism behind the British throne, they would know *they* have a great future as well!

### A CORONATION PILLAR-STONE

“Then they brought out the king’s son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, *God save the king*. Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the Lord: And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his *pillar* . . . Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason” (2 Chronicles 23:11-13). Here is additional startling history of Jacob’s pillar stone. Don’t you think it is interesting that God records the coronation of a king showing that it happened next to a pillar stone?

How many pillars do you think would be used in a coronation ceremony? Are there 5, 10, 50, 100? There is *only one*—JACOB’S PILLAR STONE! After the king was crowned, the people said, “God save the king”! That sounds very English! Or should we say Jewish? It is a very biblical statement! Remember, this famous statement is made in the presence of the pillar stone.

This is the story of Joash’s coronation. At that time there was a great civil war in Israel. Athaliah was an evil queen who had usurped her authority by slaying all the princes. She ruled from 843 to 837 B.C. But Joash was hidden from her. These verses describe Joash’s coronation in a religious service by a *pillar*, of all things. The people had had enough of this evil queen and were becoming more religious. They were weary of the horrible times. They realized they had to get back to their roots—back to the religion and promises associated with Jacob’s pillar stone. If they did this, they knew God would back the nation.

There is a great lesson here for us today. We need to be sure we know where God’s house or God’s pillar is. If you are standing in God’s house, or with God’s pillar, and you get things right with God, then you will be standing on a rock. It will not matter how many evil kings or queens there are—the Rock will be with you. That is the ultimate symbol of the pillar—Jesus Christ, behind the Church collectively



and behind you individually! You must locate God's house! Jacob's pillar stone shows that God's house can be a 2-foot piece of rock. It can be an executive condominium! God can make it so! Then He backs it up, if we trust Him. We need to learn to trust God whether He gives us a rock or a condo! If God is there, and we show Him we trust Him, then we really have the Rock with us!

The stone represents God's house, or God's Church, and salvation for the entire world. Eventually the whole world will learn about this pillar stone and live by the covenant of God!

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### JOSHUA'S STONE OF WITNESS

"And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, *by the plain of the pillar* that was in Shechem" (Judges 9:6). Here is another interesting part of the history of Jacob's pillar stone. In the time of the judges, a king of Israel was being crowned by the "plain of the pillar." This phrase is better translated "by the oak of the pillar." Is this "oak of the pillar" related to Jacob's pillar?

"And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God" (Joshua 24:26-27). These verses show that Joshua was pronouncing an important covenant IN THE SAME LOCATION as that spoken about in Judges 9:6. Which stone is Joshua talking about? It is the stone described in Genesis 28:18—Jacob's pillar stone. To which *oak* do these verses refer? The oak from Judges 9:6.

It is exciting to track the history of this stone. But what Joshua spoke here is far more important for all of God's people today. The stone was to be a witness to all of Israel. Why? Because it heard "all the words of the Lord." The stone doesn't actually hear, but it does represent God's house, which has recorded much of that history. What Joshua was really saying was that the stone and what it represented, and "all the words of the Lord," would be a witness against Israel!

Who retained the history of that stone today? It was Herbert Armstrong. One of the reasons God considers Mr. Armstrong significant is because he preserved such vital history and prophecy.

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### **BRITAIN TO LOSE THE PILLAR STONE**

“For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and WITHOUT AN IMAGE, and without an ephod, and without teraphim” (Hosea 3:4). The original Hebrew word for *image* has the same meaning as the word used for Jacob’s pillar stone!

Anciently, when Judah went into captivity, they didn’t have a king, a royal family, God’s religion or the pillar stone. What happened to the stone? Mr. Armstrong taught us the history. The stone was passed to Jeremiah. He took this stone and the king’s daughter to Ireland. (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains this history.) Do you think this may be prophetic? Will the stone be passed on *again*?

We have already explained how England has given the stone to Scotland on the condition it be returned for the next coronation. But this prophecy indicates that England will eventually lose *total* control of the stone.

Look closely at verse 5. “Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.” After the children of Israel lose their king, royal family, religion and stone, they will seek God and King David. This verse is a continuation of the thought in verse 4, which ends with a colon. It is a prophecy for the latter days.

We know England is going to lose its king and queen. The royal family will be killed or taken into captivity. What will happen to that stone in the Tribulation?

What if God worked out a way for the very elect to obtain possession of that stone just prior to the return of Jesus Christ? This is what He did in Jeremiah’s time. God never let the stone fall into the hands of the Gentiles in the time of Jeremiah.

If God doesn’t preserve the stone that way, He will no doubt protect a member of the royal family. Perhaps God will do both.

We don't really know the immediate future of that stone and throne. But for over 25 centuries, the kings of Israel, Ireland, Scotland and England have been crowned on that stone. And yet nearly all of the people in Britain and the United States don't know this precious history!

When you view the whole story, you can see why Satan wants to destroy this important knowledge. Satan wants God's Church to get away from *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*—from all this “Jewish stuff”—so he can move the Laodicean Church into paganism. To lose this knowledge is to lose the “scepter promise.”

“Salvation is of the Jews.” The stone is about salvation. These truths are not that difficult to prove. It takes FAITH to trust God; to look into the Bible and BELIEVE what it says. It takes FAITH to stake our lives on this knowledge!

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### GREAT SYMBOL OF THIS STONE TODAY

“This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a STONE was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 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 threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and THE STONE that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:32-35). Jacob's stone pictures Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom. When Christ returns, He is going to destroy all the rebellious nations on Earth. They will become as chaff and will be blown away with the wind. The stone of His Kingdom will fill the whole Earth. This is the stone backing and supporting the Church today! There is great power behind God's true Church because we have remained true to the STONE, or Jesus Christ. All we have to do is BELIEVE God!

“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 other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for

ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that **THE STONE** was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (verses 44-45). This is the ultimate fulfillment of this “stone of destiny.” These are promises on which we can stake our lives! Christ says to the Church, “the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

Today, Britain, the United States and all of biblical Israel need the **STRONG GOVERNMENT** of Jesus Christ. Our governments are wickedly corrupt.

“For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” (Zechariah 3:9). Christ is going to remove the iniquities of Israel. “In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree” (verse 10). This Stone (Christ) will finally bring peace and prosperity to all nations—far beyond human comprehension today.

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### ***SPIRITUAL MEANING BEHIND STONE***

“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the **STONE** which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner” (Acts 4:10-11). The scripture cited is Psalms 118:22. Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the ultimate meaning of Jacob’s pillar stone. Christ is our Rock. He is soon to reappear to take over the reigns of world government.

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (1 Peter 2:6). The greatest gift God has given the Church is Jesus Christ. He is the chief **CORNERSTONE**. If we follow Him, we cannot be confounded. We do not have to fear deception or the world, because of His great power.

Do we believe this with all of our being? We have a great Stone in which to put our faith and trust! As God's people, we operate from a position of STRENGTH! The Philadelphia Church has this Stone as our support and our Head.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a ROCK: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24-25). This is the Stone, or Rock, to which we should anchor everything in our lives. If we build our lives on this Rock we will never be confounded. These verses are a promise from the *Rock*, or God's house. Do we have the faith to believe Jesus Christ? We have heard great words from Herbert Armstrong and we are staying true to them. Why has the Philadelphia Church of God grown stronger? Because we are founded upon the Rock! Ephesians 2:20-21 show that the true Church is founded upon the Stone—Jesus Christ.

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:26-27). Whether it is an individual, a nation or a church, unless it is founded upon Jesus Christ, it is going to fall. The Laodicean Church will fall greatly because it has rejected the *sayings*, or knowledge, of Jesus Christ.

The Laodicean churches no longer represent the Stone, God's house or the work. Read Matthew 21:42. Jesus Christ said we should hold Him and His work as a marvelous thing before our eyes. Is the work Jesus Christ is doing through Jacob's stone, David's throne and Mr. Armstrong marvelous in our sight? It should and must be if we are going to make it into the Kingdom of God. Christ's work is not a marvelous thing to the Laodicean Church, or it would not have rejected such precious knowledge.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16). God has given us vital knowledge. We

hold fast to the knowledge of Jacob's pillar stone because it represents the work of Jesus Christ throughout thousands of years. Those who believe the Bible history of Britain's "stone of destiny" ACT FROM FAITH, NOT FROM FEAR. God says we have a tried Stone—a sure foundation. Everything works out right for those who have the faith of Christ. We know who we are, where we are going, and the glorious outcome of end-time events—all because of Jacob's pillar stone. Britain's stone *truly* is a "stone of destiny."

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# 7

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## *Zadok and the British Throne*

EACH TIME A MONARCH IS CROWNED IN ENGLAND, “ZADOK the Priest,” a coronation anthem by Georg Frideric Handel, is sung. Why would this song be included?

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned Queen of the British Commonwealth on June 2, 1953. Leading up to the coronation, one of Britain’s leading historians at the time, Lawrence Tanner, released a series of articles condensed from his book *The History of the Coronation*, which explained what the coronation is, how it developed through hundreds of years, and how it would be done for Queen Elizabeth in 1953. In this chapter I will relate excerpts from Mr. Tanner’s material as it appeared in the Elyria, Ohio, *Chronicle-Telegram*.

Notice this statement from the May 21, 1953, installment: “The communion service after the opening ‘recognition’ ceremony changes the atmosphere of the coronation to one of devotion and deep religious significance. It is from this point that the sovereign, having dedicated herself to the service of her peoples, is solemnly consecrated, like a bishop, for her task. . . . MEANWHILE THE CHOIR SINGS, as they have sung at this point in the ceremony since the *earliest known English coronation service*, the anthem, “Zadok the Priest.” A song about Zadok the priest has been sung every time a king or queen has been crowned since “the earliest known English coronation service.”

Why a song about Zadok? If we study into the Bible history of this priest, we will find more proof of where David's throne is today. How many people who attended the queen's coronation understood why a song was sung about Zadok the priest? Probably very few. Yet the meaning behind this song involves far more than the royalty in Britain.

The story about Zadok and his sons is very inspiring, especially for God's very elect. Let's look into this amazing story.

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### **ZADOK'S SUPPORT FOR DAVID**

Because of his rebellion against God, Saul lost the throne of Israel to David, who began his reign at Hebron. He reigned from 1051 to 1011 B.C. Many men came to assist David when he took control from Saul. Zadok the priest was among these courageous men (1 Chronicles 12:26-28).

When David's son Absalom tried to overthrow his father (2 Samuel 15:13-16), Zadok and his family remained firm in their support for David. Even toward the end of David's life, when many of his closest companions left to support another rebellious son, Adonijah (1 Kings 1:5-6), Zadok remained faithful (verse 8). David was getting old and many were beginning to doubt his leadership abilities. But not Zadok! Throughout David's life, Zadok remained loyal because HE KNEW GOD WAS BEHIND DAVID! He had the faith to recognize who God was using.

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### **ZADOK ANOINTS SOLOMON KING**

The Prophet Nathan was the one who warned David of Adonijah's revolt. "And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. But me, even me thy servant, and ZADOK THE PRIEST, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he



not called” (1 Kings 1:23-26). Notice here that it is Nathan the prophet who informs David of Adonijah’s self-proclamation as king. Nathan also shows David who has remained loyal to him. Zadok the priest is at the top of the list.

Because of his unyielding loyalty, David bestowed upon Zadok great honor. “And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let *Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel*: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, *God save king Solomon*. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the Lord God of my lord the king say so too. As the Lord hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David” (verses 32-37). Here David instructed Nathan the prophet to make Solomon king. David gave the honor of anointing Solomon to Zadok.

“So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David’s mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, **GOD SAVE KING SOLOMON**” (verses 38-39). Notice that Zadok personally anointed Solomon. This was truly a great honor. Solomon was made king and all the people cheered, “God save King Solomon.”

### **BRITISH ROYAL TRADITIONS**

Let’s now look at how similar this ancient tradition is to British custom. Here is Mr. Tanner’s description of Elizabeth’s coronation in 1953: “At 7:33 a.m. in Westminster Abbey, where for 900 years British sovereigns have been crowned, the archbishop of Canterbury gently lowered the jeweled crown of St. Edward to her dark hair.

“Then with a great roar, the peers and peeresses and heads of state in the abbey cried: ‘GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.’

“The guns of Hyde Park, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London boomed 41 times. As the sound echoed throughout London and was relayed around the world by radio, in Britain, the nations of the Commonwealth and the colonies, the same shout went up among many of her 600 million subjects: ‘God save the queen.’

“It was more than a prayer for the 27-year-old queen. It held the hope of austerity-ridden Britons that this—as under former reigning queens—would be an era of greatness, happiness and prosperity.

“There to see his mother crowned was 4-year-old Prince Charles. He was clad in a white satin party suit.

“At the other end of the span of empire was 78-year-old Winston Churchill, most illustrious of the mighty assemblage of statesmen, peers, soldiers and foreign guests. ...

“From the vast multitude of more than 2 million crushed into London’s center echoed the shout: ‘God save the queen.’

“Thus was perpetuated in the person of this girl of 27 a monarchy reaching back through the centuries to foundations begun shortly after the Roman legions left this island. ...

“To others it was a deeply moving religious moment, a queen *anointed in holy oil* and thereby sanctified in the eyes of God” (June 2, 1953).

Is it just coincidence that the coronation of Israel’s kings so closely parallels that of the kings and queens of Britain?

Here is what was printed on May 19 of the coronation year: “The actual place of coronation has a history of 900 years behind it, but the ceremonies and rites wherewith our sovereigns are consecrated have a history which is older still.”

The British people recognize that their coronation traditions go back centuries. But what they don’t realize is that their traditions actually go back much further than when the Roman legions left the island. They go back all the way to King David!

Over the centuries, there have been many attempts to REMOVE THE RELIGIOUS ASPECTS SURROUNDING THE BRITISH CORONATION CEREMONIES. But the religious significance of the coronation has been preserved. Mr. Tanner continued,

“It can at least be said that the service which will be used at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II descends directly from the service used by Archbishop Dunstan at the coronation of King Edgar at Bath in 973. ...

“The coronation of 1821 was held in the full time of the Romantic Movement, and George IV, with his extravagant ideas, succeeded in turning it into a magnificent pageant almost completely devoid of religious significance. ...

“So little was the religious side of the coronation appreciated at this time that in 1838 the *Times*, in discussing the forthcoming coronation of Queen Victoria, announced that ‘the anointing is a part of the ceremony more recommended by antiquity than delicacy, and will probably be omitted altogether.’ But better counsels prevailed.”

At Solomon’s coronation all the people cheered, “God save King Solomon!” When Elizabeth II was crowned queen all the people cheered, “God save the queen!” King Solomon was anointed with oil, in a religious ceremony, setting him apart in the eyes of God. So was Queen Elizabeth.

Today, the throne in England is very unstable. Is it because the British have forgotten God? Some in Britain might know that the royal family’s ancestry can be traced all the way back to King David. But it is not intellectually fashionable to proclaim that today.

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### *GOD SAVE THE QUEEN*

The solutions to Britain’s problems can be found within the knowledge of the true ancestry of the British throne. God established David’s throne. The rich traditions surrounding the coronation point to a significance greater than most people realize today.

Mr. Tanner continued, “Furthermore the crowning was made the final and principle act of investiture, and it was immediately followed by a striking innovation when the BIBLE WAS SOLEMNLY PRESENTED to the sovereign as ‘THE MOST VALUABLE THING THAT THIS WORLD AFFORDS’” (May 18, 1953). The Bible does contain much hidden treasure. It reveals the truth about the British throne and the solutions to Britain’s problems. Within the pages of the Bible lies the hope for Britain.

Let's now look at a few highlights from the coronation ceremony. "The Bible, paten and chalice, and the regalia are placed on the HIGH ALTAR. . . . The queen, with her crimson robe and her cap of state removed, takes her seat in KING EDWARD'S CHAIR, wherein she is anointed . . . . The Lord Great Chamberlain presents the spurs and the queen is girt with the sword. . . . The queen seated in KING EDWARD'S CHAIR is crowned with Saint Edward's crown by the archbishop of Canterbury. The Bible is presented to the queen. . . . The homage ended, the drums beat and the trumpets sound and all the people shout, crying out: 'God save Queen Elizabeth! Long live Queen Elizabeth! May the queen live forever!'" (June 2, 1953).

Queen Elizabeth's coronation was filled with deep religious significance. It certainly was meant to give great honor to God. Most of that honor of God is lost in Britain today.

Elizabeth marked her 40th anniversary as queen on June 2, 1993. Here is how she celebrated: "Queen Elizabeth II planned a day at the races today with her husband and mother, but otherwise shied away from celebrating a milestone—her 40th year on the throne. The 67-year-old monarch, Prince Philip and the Queen Mother all were expected to attend the Derby horse race as they almost always do. In 1992 the queen picked the winner—one of few highs in a year of unprecedented royal scandal and public criticism" (Associated Press, June 2, 1993). Couldn't there have been a better way for the queen to celebrate her 40th anniversary on the throne? It would have been the perfect day to give great honor to God. Why has there been so much scandal within the royal family? Could it be that the royal family has become MORE EXCITED about a *horse race* than the throne of David—the *very throne ON WHICH JESUS CHRIST WILL SOON SIT*?

We need to recognize that much of the tradition surrounding the British throne comes directly from the book of 1 Kings. The book of 1 Kings is one of the books known as the former prophets—which means these books contain *prophecy* for today and have GREAT MEANING for *us*. Our job as Philadelphians is to teach the British and ultimately the whole world about the significance of David's throne. Let's now move back to the history of 1 Kings.

## SOLOMON REIGNS

The people of Israel made a very great noise when Solomon was crowned king. The outburst of cheering was so great that Adonijah and his rebellious company heard and felt the clamor. “And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them. And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar?” (1 Kings 1:40-41).

Abiathar’s son, Jonathan, brought the news that David had appointed Solomon king. “And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings. And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king. And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king’s mule: And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard. And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom” (verses 42-46). Of course Abiathar and Joab would have rather heard different news.

King David was too ill to attend Solomon’s coronation. David’s loyal servants excitedly returned to tell him that Solomon was king. “And moreover the king’s servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed. And also thus said the king, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it” (verses 47-48). The news was very exciting to David because God allowed him to see his successor to the throne.

Things with Adonijah were not so exciting. Adonijah’s feast of rebellion soon changed from one of joy to one of fear. “And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up,

and went every man his way” (verse 49). The loyalty of Joab and Abiathar to Adonijah was short-lived. Isn’t that the way it is with disloyal people? Hearing Jonathan’s report, they fled their rebellious coronation feast. Adonijah was left to himself.

In a desperate attempt to save his own life, Adonijah rushed to the temple. “And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let King Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword” (verses 50-51). Proclaiming himself king was an arrogant thing for Adonijah to do. All of his arrogance was now gone. Adonijah knew he was facing execution for his revolt. He sought mercy from his younger brother Solomon.

What was Solomon’s reply to his brother’s plea? “And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die” (verse 52). Solomon did not execute Adonijah at this time. He sent him to his house (verse 53).

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### *ZADOK MADE CHIEF PRIEST*

David had great hope for his son Solomon. Nearing death, David gave excellent advice to his son about ruling Israel. “Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: That the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel” (1 Kings 2:1-4).

David showed Solomon that the key to his success as king would be how well he kept the law of God, which included the Ten Commandments, the statutes and the judgments.

David desperately wanted a son who would truly obey God. It was a blessing for David that he did not live to see the grave mistakes Solomon eventually made.

After David's death, Solomon began to deal with the rebels. He had Adonijah executed because he clung to his belief that he deserved the throne (verses 15, 19-25).

Solomon did show mercy toward Abiathar. "And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord God before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted. So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the Lord; that he might fulfil the word of the Lord, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh" (verses 26-27). Solomon showed him mercy because he had suffered many afflictions with David over the years. However, his disloyalty still deserved punishment. Solomon removed Abiathar from his office as high priest. This brought shame upon Abiathar and his family. Solomon also had Joab executed according to the last words of David (verses 5-6, 34).

What happened to Zadok? Again, the outcome for Zadok and the rest of the men loyal to David was far different.

"And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar" (verse 35). Zadok was put in Abiathar's place as chief priest. What a fantastic reward for loyalty! What a fantastic honor!

Zadok's undying loyalty is still being praised today. Let's briefly look at some of the words of the song "Zadok the Priest," sung at British coronations. The words are adapted from 1 Kings 1:38-40:

*Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king. And all the people rejoiced and said: God save the king! Long live the king! May the king live forever. Amen, alleluia, amen.*

This song was composed in 1727. Of course, the history goes back to about 1000 B.C. Just the fact that this song about Zadok the priest is sung at a British coronation should tell us the throne in England originated with David and Solomon.

Britain's enemies throughout the ages would have exposed

them if these scriptures had been used fraudulently.

This song should also teach us a vital lesson about loyalty to God, His government and His leadership. God uses Zadok and his sons as a symbol for all Philadelphians today. Our coronation as kings in the future will be far more glorious than even Solomon's. We may even hear the song "Zadok the Priest"! We need to ask ourselves, are we intensely loyal to God, His government and His leadership?

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### *ZADOK IN PROPHECY*

The book of Ezekiel was written for this end time. It carries important messages, primarily for God's people today.

Did you know that the book of Ezekiel contains prophecies about the sons of Zadok?

Ezekiel 40 describes the future temple to be built in Jerusalem after Christ's return. (Request a free copy of *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*.) The sons of Zadok are assigned special rooms in that temple. "And the chamber whose prospect is toward the north is for the priests, the keepers of the charge of the altar: these are the sons of Zadok among the sons of Levi, which come near to the Lord to minister unto him" (Ezekiel 40:46). Notice that the sons of Zadok have a *special distinction* among the other Levites. They are privileged to inhabit the chamber that faces the NORTH.

Remember, God's throne is in the northern heavens. These priests are uniquely special to God. They are the keepers of the charge of the altar, which means they are IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY—a very EXALTED POSITION. They are able to come near to Jesus Christ's throne. This is a similar description of the reward promised the Philadelphians in Revelation 3:12 and 21.

Those of us who remain loyal to the end will be pillars in the temple and share Jesus Christ's throne on the Earth. Ezekiel 43:19 shows that the Levites of the *seed* of Zadok will be in charge of the ordinances at that future temple. There is great heritage in Zadok. Since we know those in God's Church will be priests in the resurrection (Revelation 5:10), isn't it important that we fully understand what it means to be of the seed of Zadok?



## STRANGERS IN THE SANCTUARY

Ezekiel 44 contains a description of the future temple's sanctuary. Verses 1-4 describe the sacredness of this holy place. No human being will be allowed to enter into it.

This chapter also describes the state of God's sanctuary today. We know that the word *sanctuary* in prophecy refers to God's end-time Church. There are terribly tragic events happening within God's sanctuary today.

“And the Lord said unto me, Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee concerning all the ordinances of the house of the Lord, and all the laws thereof; and mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary. And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations” (Ezekiel 44:5-7).

Ezekiel was told to “mark well” what was happening in the sanctuary. God told Ezekiel He was very upset with what was happening there. God expected Ezekiel to deliver a message to the *rebellious*, referring to God's ministry today. Remember, it was the priests who were in charge of the sanctuary.

These end-time, REBELLIOUS PRIESTS have allowed “strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh,” to enter God's sanctuary. This means that GOD'S CHURCH HAS BECOME POLLUTED in this end time. This also means that there was a time when it was not polluted. Has this happened in God's Church today? Absolutely! Who has done this? These verses can only refer to the Laodicean ministry!

By letting STRANGERS into the sanctuary, this REBELLIOUS *house of Israel* has also broken God's covenant. The verses here are similar to Malachi 2.

God continues His indictment of these priests. “And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves. Thus saith the Lord

God; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel” (Ezekiel 44:8-9). These priests are disloyal to God. They have not “kept the charge” of God’s holy things. What priests are doing this today? In Revelation 3:10, Christ says the Philadelphians have KEPT God’s Word.

Why were strangers let into the sanctuary? Why was God’s covenant broken? “And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity. Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord God, and they shall bear their iniquity” (Ezekiel 44:10-12). The Levites, or priests, went far from God.

In this end time, which ministers have gone far away from God? The Laodicean ministers. God showed Ezekiel that the Levites caused the people to “fall into iniquity.” This means there was a time when these ministers were leading the people into righteousness. Laodicean ministers are leading God’s people into iniquity. God promises to punish them for their iniquity.

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### SONS OF ZADOK

Even though there is bad news concerning the Laodicean ministers today, there is also good news. There is a group of ministers of the seed of Zadok. “But the *priests* the *Levites*, the *sons of Zadok*, that kept the charge of my sanctuary WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WENT ASTRAY from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord God: They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come NEAR to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge” (verses 15-16). God showed Ezekiel that when the other Levites went astray, only the sons of Zadok remained loyal. Only the family of Zadok remained loyal through ALL OF DAVID’S RULE! David experienced several

trying rebellions. Zadok and his sons remained completely true to David's throne.

In this end time, as the Levites went astray, only the sons of Zadok remained faithful to God. Can we begin to see the importance of this knowledge?

The book of Revelation shows that only the true Philadelphians remain loyal to God all the way to Christ's return. Only the Philadelphians can be the sons of Zadok today. We have kept God's Word. The PCG continues to teach about the U.S. and Britain in prophecy and David's throne.

Here is what the present leader of the WCG wrote in a personal correspondence letter dated August 10, 1992, concerning the knowledge of Israel in end-time prophecy: "From a plan of salvation view: In light of the New Testament, and the centrality of Christ in God's plan of salvation (as mentioned above) much of the relevance of our teaching on US&BIP [*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*] is reduced to—so what!"

In light of Luke 1:32-33, isn't this an incredibly blind statement to make? Jesus Christ is going to be given David's throne. And He will rule over Israel forever! If we don't teach the knowledge about the United States and Britain in prophecy, we may as well throw away one third of the Bible!

Only the PCG teaches that God's government is from the top down. God's government could never be democratic! Even though some Laodicean churches teach about the United States and Britain in prophecy, WHAT GOOD IS THAT KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL RULE FROM THAT THRONE? In reality, only we are remaining loyal to David's throne. This makes us the sons of Zadok in spirit. We are fighting the same battle Zadok fought!

It is a great honor to be referred to as a *son of Zadok*. This is God's evaluation, not any man's. It does not matter what any Laodicean leader states about us. God is the judge of His people; judgment is on us today. God wants to know who is a son of Zadok. The sons of Zadok have a vital role to play in the future. God must measure and prepare us for that job now.

Our supreme test is to "keep" all that God revealed through Mr. Armstrong and remain loyal to the leadership God is using today. If we are true sons of Zadok, then we will remain loyal to God's truth. We will know which men are being led by God.

Zadok was with David from the beginning. He knew David intimately. He was there when David sinned with Bathsheba. He saw Absalom's revolt. He saw Adonijah's revolt. Zadok could have said he had had enough of David. **BUT HE REMAINED LOYAL.** Zadok stood by David because **HE KNEW DAVID SAT ON GOD'S THRONE.** Zadok never betrayed God's throne! We should be able to see clearly why the British royalty would give honor to such unusual *loyalty*.

We have also witnessed much in these end times. We saw Mr. Armstrong and the WCG go through many trials. We must examine ourselves. Do we have the intense loyalty that Zadok did? We must remain loyal to that truth and God's government.

*Sons of Zadok* is just another way of saying the Philadelphians today—if we remain loyal until Christ's return.

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# 8

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## *Looking to New Jerusalem*

**T**HE MOST PRESSING QUESTION FACING PLANET EARTH today is *human survival*. Weather conditions, from floods to droughts, are damaging food production. Supplies are low. Natural disasters are taking their toll on lives and properties, and economies are overtaxed with the cleanup. Hatreds among peoples are reaching fever pitch, resulting in terrorism and other threats. With weapons of mass destruction, mankind has developed the technology to destroy all human life. It is not a question of *if* man will use these weapons—but *when*. Bible prophecy shows that the period known as the Great Tribulation is almost upon us—the most devastating time of all human history (Matthew 24:21). Nuclear World War III is imminent. The near future will be a time of immeasurable human suffering.

Yet, God promises His people a place of physical refuge. When the Tribulation begins, God's faithful Church will be taken to a place of safety somewhere on Earth (Revelation 12:14).

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### *SINNERS IN ZION*

But not all of God's people will escape what is coming. "The SINNERS IN ZION ARE AFRAID; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?"

who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” (Isaiah 33:14). In prophecy, Zion means the New Testament Church. Today there are sinners in Zion whom God calls hypocrites. A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something they are not. This verse can refer only to the Laodiceans today. They scoff at our message now, but soon they will be extremely “afraid.”

The Laodiceans will have to “dwell with the *devouring fire*,” or nuclear bombs. Nuclear fire will wake them up to their tragic spiritual condition. What an incredible price they will have to pay to get back in step with God! When the doors of the Tribulation close in around them, they will suddenly realize how wrong they have been. The Laodiceans have deceived themselves about their lying, but deep down they still know they are liars! So God must punish them. That is their only hope to be in God’s righteous Family.

Isaiah clearly shows who will *escape* the coming nuclear nightmare. “He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil” (verse 15). Those members of God’s Church who live righteously now will escape. As discussed in Revelation 3:10, these people are living true to God’s Word. They have remained faithful to what they were taught concerning the key of David vision.

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### ***KING IN HIS BEAUTY***

Details of this promise are given in Isaiah. “He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off” (Isaiah 33:16-17). *Munitions of rocks* is better translated *strongholds of Sela*, referring to the famous city of Petra. This rock fortress has been used over past centuries as a well-defended stronghold. It is the perfect place for God to protect His people from nuclear fallout and other dangers of nuclear war. Still, we don’t know for certain where that place of safety will be.

Notice that God also promises His obedient people food and water. God’s Philadelphians will not suffer hunger and thirst.

Verse 17 shows that the protected people will also see the “king,” Christ, “in his beauty.” And they will be able to see into “the land that is very far off.” From their mountain stronghold they will be able to see into the holy land—into Judah. At Christ’s return, they will witness Him take over the throne of David in Jerusalem. This will be a truly beautiful sight.

Many Laodiceans exhibit a casual attitude about the coming Tribulation. Some have even stated that they can handle it when it comes. How unwise! God is giving His people a choice. No one has to go into the Tribulation. Even though 50 percent of the Laodiceans will repent in the Tribulation, they will have to die physically. Of course, the far worse tragedy is that 50 percent will perish spiritually.

Look at what the Laodiceans will miss. All of us would agree that losing eternal life is the single greatest loss for any human being. But even the physical loss of those who repent is tremendous. They will suffer in the Tribulation as no people ever have. They will also lose their reward of being a pillar in God’s headquarters temple forever!

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### *MEDITATE TERROR*

It does not have to be that way. God pleads with His Church through Isaiah, “Thine heart shall *meditate terror*” (verse 18). God says to meditate on the terror to come. We must face it.

Today the cities of the United States and Britain are plagued with appalling evils. Because of youth gangs, drug pushers and terrorist acts many of our cities are war zones. World troubles are also mounting. Armed conflicts are taking place in many parts of this world, such as the Balkans, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. Innocent lives are being wiped out by the multiple thousands. And this is all just the beginning of sorrows.

Verse 19 reveals that the greatest armed terror to strike the world is now building in Europe. This fierce power will be led by a thoroughly revitalized Germany. The U.S., Britain and the Jews of the Middle East—modern-day Israel—will suffer at its hands, except for the faithful few whom God will protect.

It is not difficult to understand why the Father wants to protect righteous Zion from destruction. These people have a universe-shaking vision of God’s Family growing into eternity.

They recognize the Father as the Head of His family. They believe and obey their Father. Those who truly believe the key of David vision know there is an awe-inspiring Father building a Family.

### *NEW JERUSALEM*

The patriarch Abraham saw this same vision clearly. “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a *city* which hath foundations, whose *builder and maker is God*” (Hebrews 11:8-10).

Think about the spiritual depth of this man! He looked forward to the city built by God the Father. He was able to look past all of God’s abundant physical promises and focus on the fantastic *spiritual* promises of new Jerusalem. ABRAHAM WAS MOTIVATED BY THE VISION OF GOD’S FAMILY BEING COMPLETE. ABRAHAM LIVED FOR THE TIME WHEN GOD’S GOVERNMENT AND THRONE WOULD SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE. WHAT A BREATHTAKING VISION! WHAT GLORY!

The next several verses in Isaiah 33 are proof that the righteous in Zion, like Abraham, are able to see all the way to new Jerusalem. “Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby” (verses 20-21). The wonderful beauty of new Jerusalem is described here. At that time, Jerusalem will be a quiet habitation. Some may think this refers to the Jerusalem of the Millennium, but notice, Jerusalem is described as “a tabernacle that *shall not be taken down.*” The Jerusalem of the Millennium will be taken down in the final fire after Christ delivers the Kingdom of God to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:14-15). The Jerusalem described here is a tabernacle that shall not be taken



down. This can only be referring to *new* Jerusalem. God the Father will inhabit new Jerusalem. It will last forever.

Referring to this “tabernacle,” verse 20 says “not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed.” The word for *stake* here is the same word for *nail* from Isaiah 22. *Gesenius’ Lexicon* defines it, “A nail or pin is used metaphorically of a Prince, from whom the care of the whole state hangs. . . . The same person is called a corner stone, on whom the state is builded.”

Understand the depth here! The people of Zion in the place of safety not only see the land that is very far off—they not only see the King in His beauty—they *see the time when not one nail will be removed from the tabernacle!* What an extraordinary vision! Not one of the leaders in God’s Family will ever be removed. A companion verse is found in Revelation 3:12: “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he *shall go no more out . . .*” God’s family government will be PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED. It is important that we not only see the nail in God’s holy place today, but that we see the nail in the land very far off as well. When we expand our minds in this manner, we finally begin to see God the Father’s vision for His Family.

### A FAMILY THRONE

THE KEY OF DAVID VISION HAS ROYAL FAMILY WRITTEN ALL OVER IT. When we fully understand this, the vision begins to explode with excitement. David’s throne is discussed in the context of a Father and a Son. Jesus Christ is described as the “Son of the Highest,” or the Father. David’s throne is a family throne.

Bringing all human beings into the God Family is just the first phase of the Father’s plan. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the *increase* of his government and peace there shall be NO END, upon the THRONE OF DAVID, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7). David’s throne is to last forever!

God's plan for restoring His government on Earth began with Jesus Christ. It started out in the smallest of ways. But Isaiah 9:7 shows that the increase of God's government and peace will never end. God's government will be forever expanding.

The key of David vision is about family. It shows that both physical family and God Family are vital. Our physical marriages and families must be strong. Human families are God-plane relationships. Our physical families are a type of the God Family. The Church is going to marry Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7), *typed* by physical marriage. The God Family will never end. This understanding requires that we LIVE ACCORDING TO THIS VISION NOW!

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### *I STAND AT THE DOOR*

How well do we grasp this vision? Do not take this question casually. What we are teaching in this message is the *only* reality. It is not easy to grasp the full magnitude of what God is offering to all mankind. It takes great *effort* on our part to understand what God has revealed.

Remember, most of God's people in this end time just do not get it! Jesus Christ is using the Philadelphians to knock on the Laodiceans' door (Revelation 3:20). What is the knock all about? What message are the Laodiceans failing to hear?

Revelation 3:21 is the answer. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." They fail to hear that Christ now shares the Father's throne. Two person-ages share the same throne. Soon Christ will be given David's throne. His bride will share that throne with Him. Christ and His bride will work to make all humanity obedient and loyal to that throne. When that is completed, the Father and Son will rule from that throne for eternity! What an awesome project God has started! WE WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE THE FAMILY THRONE WITH THE FIRST FAMILY OF THE UNIVERSE! We are in the process of preparing for that job now. Do we understand what God is offering us?

During the Millennium, we will assist Christ in bringing the rest of humanity into submission to the throne of David.

At the second resurrection, all who qualify will become spirit beings. For all eternity we will share David's throne, which had its origins in the evil age of man. THIS WILL BE A REMINDER THAT WE ONCE WERE LOWLY MEN. We will be able to appreciate deeply what God and Christ have planned for us. We will have intense joy because of our godly, royal responsibility.

Can we see where the key of David vision is leading us? Living in new Jerusalem will be the best of times forever. God the Father will come to Earth and enjoy the rich fruits of His Family. And that is just the beginning!

# 9

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## *The Father's Vision*

**G**OD THE FATHER'S PLANS FOR HIS FAMILY REACH INTO eternity. God has revealed His plans to His Church. The unveiling of His plan officially began with the birth of Jesus Christ, and it will eventually involve all humans who submit to Almighty God.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not” (1 John 3:1). Though we are still in the flesh, God calls us sons. We are sons of the Father. Think deeply about this for a moment. *If we are sons of the Father, then that makes us family.* This spiritual fact is more real than our own physical families. This is truly mind-boggling.

Even the Apostle John was awestruck by this incredible revelation. “Beloved, *now* are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (verse 2). It is very difficult for any human being to grasp what God the Father is offering to humanity. We are destined to be spirit beings, just like the Father. God the Father will always be the Head of the Family. But just as physical children share the characteristics and nature of their parents, we will share God the Father's divine nature and spirit form.

How well do we grasp this extraordinary future? The Father desires to deepen our vision and understanding of His family government. This will only happen when we have a childlike attitude toward Him.

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (verse 3). This verse has great depth. WE WILL NOT BE MOTIVATED TO CHANGE OUR EVIL HUMAN NATURE TO GOD’S NATURE WITHOUT THIS HOPE. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FACE AND CONQUER OUR GOD-GIVEN TESTS! John is telling us that if we have this hope in us, we will change. And there can be no change if this hope is absent. GETTING THE KEY OF DAVID VISION DEEPLY INTO OUR MINDS IS THE GREAT SOURCE OF HOPE FOR US. The key of David vision is filled with hope. All too often people bog down in their trials. When we have the hope of the key of David vision in us, no trial can stop us. THE MAIN JOB OF THE PHILADELPHIA MINISTRY IS TO FILL THE LIVES OF GOD’S PEOPLE WITH HOPE! The key of David vision is that hope.

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### *CHRIST—THE EVERLASTING FATHER*

Let me repeat two of the most incredible verses in the Bible: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE SHALL BE NO END, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7). This states that the growth of God’s government will be without end. In other words, THE THRONE OF DAVID WILL EXPAND ETERNALLY.

God the Father, rich in mercy, planned to give Jesus Christ as a Savior to a failed humanity. This shows the depth of the Father’s love for man (John 3:16). When Jesus Christ walked the Earth, He was God’s only begotten Son. He was the ONLY Son who could make it possible for the Father to have many more sons. These verses in Isaiah show that God has placed His government upon Christ’s shoulder. THE PRIMARY SPIRITUAL

ISSUE FOR ALL HUMANITY IS GOD'S GOVERNMENT—GOD'S FAMILY GOVERNMENT. God gave the world His Son. That means family. With His Son He established His government. It is the same government that rules God's true Church today. That same government will rule the Earth and then eventually the universe. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE TRUE GOSPEL, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT GOD'S ROYAL FAMILY WHICH ADMINISTERS GOD'S GOVERNMENT FOREVER.

Jesus Christ has many names: "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." One of His names is the everlasting Father. Jesus Christ is a type of God the Father.

Paul states this about Christ in Colossians. "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell" (Colossians 1:17-19). Creating for God the Father, Jesus Christ was the beginning of all life. He is the Head of the Church. He is the firstborn from the dead. His position in God's plan is much like the Father's. But we must never forget that He is the Son, not the Father.

At the time of the new Jerusalem, the whole God Family will be ruling from the throne of David. There will be one throne for the entire Family. Think about how much history and prophecy is carried in the name *throne of David*. This incredible knowledge reveals how God and Christ create their royal Family. It all began with one begotten Son—Jesus Christ. All humanity would have lived in vain if Christ had failed. As humans change into spirit, we will never forget how God worked out His plan of salvation. We will always remember that God was able to change sinful flesh into immortal God.

We must develop real faith to finish this process God has begun in us. We are going to need real faith in the key of David vision to make it through the tough times just ahead, the time of Satan's greatest wrath.

This vision has helped many of God's leaders through the difficult trials of their calling. One such example is Abraham.

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## FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Abraham is known as the father of the faithful (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7). He had real faith in a real vision. Exercising faith in God's promises, Abraham obeyed God, left the home of his father and inhabited tents in a strange country. Why was Abraham able to do this? As we wrote in the last chapter, he clearly saw the key of David vision all the way into new Jerusalem. Paul states that he looked for a city which has foundations (Hebrews 11:8-10). The Williams translation says "sure foundations."

You should meditate the rest of your life on that statement! The quality of our faith must have "SURE FOUNDATIONS." OUR FAITH MUST BE SO STRONG, SO REAL, THAT IT IS ESTABLISHED ON THE "SURE FOUNDATIONS" OF NEW JERUSALEM!

We can build our faith to have that astonishing reach! We must pray fervently and meditate seriously on that expression to comprehend its depth. It is a mind-dazzling faith with sure foundations. This is the *foundation* of the key of David vision.

Understand the time element. This is speaking of the time when God the Father brings new Jerusalem to the Earth. God will have made the foundations of this city sure. Can you imagine—project Earth completed! GOD WILL HAVE RECREATED HIMSELF INTO MULTIPLE BILLIONS OF FAMILY MEMBERS. It will be a majestic and royal Family. This vision carries within it the only goal for every human life, if we are to live beyond this world.

Why is this mind-stretching family goal so important? It is the only vision that gives deep meaning to God's plan. He even gave us physical marriage and physical family, *types* of our marriage to Christ and the God Family, to give this vision deeper meaning. God the Father's vision of the future is a family vision. God paid a great price to give us this vision of the future. He allowed His Son to be crucified so all humans could be a part of the future spiritual Family.

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## ABRAHAM—TYPE OF THE FATHER

Why was Abraham so willing to sacrifice his son Isaac? Because he understood the key of David vision. "And it came to pass

after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him” (Genesis 22:1-3). God’s requirement for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac was the supreme test. It was even harder than *sacrificing his own life!* Think about the love he had for this special son, promised by God, for whom he waited 25 years! There had to be intense emotions and strenuous mental battles. In this test, Abraham became a type of God the Father giving up His only Son.

*This was Abraham’s greatest test!* Think about sacrificing one of your children. Imagine the agony. Abraham fully planned to sacrifice Isaac. “And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me” (verses 9-12).

How could Abraham sacrifice his son? He knew that giving up Isaac was *so little* COMPARED TO THE FATHER’S PLAN TO SACRIFICE CHRIST! Remember, when God sent His Son to Earth, there was the chance that Christ could have failed. If Christ would have sinned, the plan for man would have also failed. If Christ had failed, God the Father would have been alone for the rest of eternity!

Can we see how profound Abraham’s obedience test was? His willingness to sacrifice Isaac is one big reason why he will have one of the top positions in the Kingdom of God *forever*. Abraham held God the Father’s perspective. He saw the Father’s love and Christ’s love, and he wanted to be just



like the Father. That is why Abraham became the father of the physical nation of Israel. That is also why he became the father of the faithful—spiritual Israel. He had the Father's perspective—the Father's view—THE WHOLE GOD FAMILY PICTURE. We must also learn to see the key of David vision as Abraham did. We must strive to develop the same royal faith that Abraham had. It is possible for us to do so.

### NAME—NEW JERUSALEM

Jesus Christ's message to His Church right now is that He is coming quickly and is carrying a reward for all those who have remained faithful. "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is NEW JERUSALEM, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:11-12). Jesus Christ emphatically states here that He is coming very soon. CHRIST IS WRITING THE NAME OF NEW JERUSALEM IN THE MINDS OF ALL PHILADELPHIANS TODAY. THAT IS AN INCREDIBLY FAR-REACHING VISION!

At the beginning of the Millennium, we will still be looking forward to new Jerusalem. We must get the new Jerusalem perspective now so we can be ready to teach it in the World Tomorrow. We must have the complete God Family picture in our minds—now!

What really separates the Philadelphians and Laodiceans today? It is this vision of the completion of God's Family. The faithful Philadelphians hear what the Spirit is saying to them (verse 22). They grasp the mind-numbing vision about the royal Family of God. Because of this fact, GOD ADORNS THEM WITH THE NAME OF NEW JERUSALEM. That is because today they envision this majestic, ETERNAL city! It is a part of their daily thinking. However, the Laodiceans are blind to this incredible God Family vision.

David ruled from Jerusalem. Christ will rule from there in the World Tomorrow. The Father will rule from new Jerusalem.

Philadelphians see as Abraham did. They hold fast to the Family vision. In that sense, they also share the Father's perspective—seeing all the way to new Jerusalem. It is an incredible, incredible vision. **THEY CAN SEE ALL THE WAY TO THE TIME WHEN THE FATHER IS HERE ON EARTH AND HIS ENTIRE SPIRIT-BORN FAMILY IS WORKING WITH HIM.** God's family plan will not be complete until the Father is on the Earth. And this entire vision is explained by the key of David. **NONE OF US CAN GET THIS VISION INTO OUR HEADS WITHOUT A LOT OF SPIRITUAL DIGGING.**

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### **A BETTER RESURRECTION**

What does it mean to have the name new Jerusalem written upon our foreheads? **IT MUST MEAN THAT WE WILL BE RIGHT THERE IN NEW JERUSALEM WITH GOD THE FATHER!** What a mind-staggering future.

Christ saw all the way to new Jerusalem and was able to endure all that He suffered to open the way for us to make it there. Paul wrote in Hebrews, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). Abraham, like Christ, saw far into the future and was willing to do whatever it took to make it there. Grasping this vision now unites us with Christ and Abraham and all faithful people who have come before us. It is this key of David vision that motivates God's people to always move forward.

Study Hebrews 11, known as the *faith chapter*. Paul shows us here that some of God's people were tested to the point of death. But the threat of death didn't stop them, because they also had this vision. Before Christ returns, some of us may also have to give up our physical lives. This shows the importance of the key of David vision. There is a direct connection between *how well we endure trials* and the **DEPTH OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS VISION.** This is what Hebrews 11 is all about.

How do we make our place secure in the new Jerusalem? It is by grasping this vision now. In Revelation 3:12 Christ promises that we will "go no more out." This represents a fantastic blessing and opportunity. All Philadelphians are

promised a secure headquarters position that cannot be taken away from us. But is this position for the Millennium only? No. When Christ says we will “go no more out,” this is within the context of new Jerusalem! We are destined to work AT HEADQUARTERS with Christ during the Millennium AND WITH CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER IN NEW JERUSALEM. ASTOUNDING REVELATION!

No city even remotely compares to the grandeur of new Jerusalem.

This magnificent city will be over 1,300 miles in width, length and height (Revelation 21—a furlong is one ninth of a mile). If placed in the U.S., that city would extend from the East Coast to the center of the country! It would cover nearly half of America! And imagine the height. Planes only fly about 5 or 6 miles high. Just the *foundation* of new Jerusalem could be that high!

Does it seem unreal? Remember, this will be headquarters of the universe! And to Abraham, this city had “sure foundations.”

How does your faith compare with Abraham's? Or Christ's?

The only way we will grasp this vision is through the use of God's Holy Spirit. After the letter to each era, Christ says, “let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). He makes this statement over and over for good reason. Most of God's people don't *hear* what the Spirit says. Are we listening to what the Spirit says today? How could we possibly get this vision without God's Spirit?

To allow ourselves to become carnal and reject this vision is such a shameful sin. To fail to grasp the key of David vision in all of its significance and beauty is truly a tragedy.

### **THE PHILADELPHIAN WORK**

Can we begin to see the importance of the work of the Philadelphia Church of God? Someone must deliver a strong message to the Laodiceans about what they are throwing away. They are giving up their royal positions in the Family of God! Look at how Christ feels about what they are doing. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19). Jesus Christ says the Laodiceans

need rebuking and chastening. Christ always rebukes in love. But if there is no response to the *rebuke*, He must resort to difficult *chastening*.

The Philadelphia Church is often criticized for promoting an “attack gospel.” In truth, Jesus Christ is using us to knock on the Laodiceans’ doors. He is working through us to help them see God’s family government vision. They all have lost the key of David vision.

Who does the rebuking? God doesn’t personally do it. It has to be done by His spiritual Jews who remain Philadelphian to the end.

God is using the Philadelphians to “rebuke” the Laodiceans. If they don’t heed the message, God will “chasten” them in the Great Tribulation. This is all done in the context of God’s *love* (verse 19). We do not attack others, but we do attack sin in the context of God’s love!

All of the Laodicean groups fail to see their wretched spiritual condition. Christ is on the outside of their churches. He is knocking to get in. He is not inside their churches directing them and guiding them as they suppose and teach.

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### CHRIST IN US

Revelation 3:20 shows that Christ must not only be in our Church, He must live in all of us individually as well. The Laodiceans don’t have the key of David vision within their churches, and their individual members don’t grasp this vision. The vision is not in them. It must be in us. It must motivate our every act. If we see what Christ and God the Father see, then Christ and God the Father are in us. The Laodiceans do not see as Christ sees. Some Laodiceans have accepted the trinity doctrine, which destroys the knowledge of the Family of God. All of them have rejected the government of God. HOW CAN THEY EVER HELP ESTABLISH THE THRONE OF DAVID IF THEY REJECT ITS GOVERNMENT NOW?

The Laodiceans have allowed themselves to become trapped in an attitude of spiritual arrogance. In this wretched spiritual condition, they have rejected revelation. “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise

and prudent, and hast REVEALED them unto babes” (Matthew 11:25). Jesus Christ revealed marvelous truths about the key of David vision through Mr. Armstrong. And Christ is adding new revelation through the Philadelphia Church. God has always revealed truth to people who are babes in attitude.

Whether we live or die spiritually revolves around God's revelation. God's truth is revealed. If we are stubborn, self-willed or rebellious, God will cut us off from His revelation. We will never understand the meaning behind David's throne unless we are in a humble, childlike frame of mind.

WE MUST BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE ABUNDANT AND SPECTACULAR REVELATION IN THE TIME JUST BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS!

*Thayer's Lexicon* defines the word *revealed* in Matthew 11:25 as “God revealing to men things unknown. To uncover . . . what has been veiled or covered up. Disclose what before was unknown. Of Christ teaching men.” The key of David vision REPRESENTS SOME OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE REVELATION FROM THE MIND OF GOD! Yet to whom is God giving that revelation? To *babes*. When will men learn this vital lesson? We must be childlike to receive God's mind-staggering revelation (Matthew 18:1-3). When we remain childlike, Christ will continue to reveal to us. When we become stubborn, self-willed or rebellious spiritually, the revelation stops.

Never, never, never will we be able to understand the deep vision of David's throne unless we are childlike in attitude! Remember, the key of David vision is the Father's vision. As God's begotten sons, let's do all we can to grasp this royal vision of splendor. When we do, we will ensure our place in new Jerusalem and will be a part of God's completed Family.

## BORN AGAIN

I watched the birth of my two children. It was an emotionally overwhelming experience! I also watched the last six hours of the labor and agony of my daughter giving birth to my first grandson.

When her baby was born, she was very tired and drained from the labor. Then they showed her the baby. The GLOW on her face lit up the whole room! “Oh, I have a baby boy!” she

joyfully exclaimed. Her pain and agony quickly faded when she saw her beautiful son—made in the image of God.

Imagine how the faces of the Father and Christ will glow when we are born into God's Family! Our faces will also glow.

There is a giant lesson in the physical birth. We experience trials and tests—or labor pains—as God prepares us to be born into His Family. We struggle and shed tears as a mother does to give birth—**ESPECIALLY WITH THE FIRSTBORN CHILD**. The *firstfruits* have a harder struggle to be born than the other children. But we are also given a much greater reward! So it's worth it. We must keep our minds on what it means to be truly BORN AGAIN. *Suddenly*, we will become vibrant spirit beings whose faces will shine like the sun in its full strength! All we need to do is envision our birth to know the struggle is worthwhile.

When you see a child born, you can better understand what it means to be born *again*. You finally see the head crowning, and then suddenly there is a child before you. It's a living, breathing human being. That's about the way it will happen spiritually! It's going to be a magnificent event!

Our spiritual Father is going to shed some tears when He sees our birth—just as my son-in-law did when his son was born. Life is so precious if we view it in the context of the God Family. These babies are precious beyond words to describe. Words are inadequate to explain our incredible human potential. That is why the mainstream conception of *born again* is so diabolical. It hides from most people the truly awesome meaning of being born again.

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### **THE ROYAL GOSPEL**

David was a king who sat on a throne. The key of David vision is the gospel put into a royal-Family-of-God framework. The very elect, men and women like David, become royal God—as God is God! It is God's ultimate, most majestic creation.

There is the supreme, royal Father, who is the Head of the royal Family. Then there is the royal Son of the Highest—the *Father's* beloved *Son*. He is Christ, the royal Husband of the royal bride—the firstfruits. They are not only kings and priests, but kings and priests who are God!

THIS ROYAL GOVERNMENT SHALL SIT ON A ROYAL THRONE AND ADMINISTER GOD'S ROYAL LAW. BILLIONS OF ROYAL CHILDREN SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO GOD'S ROYAL FAMILY.

This is royalty unknown to the mind of man apart from God. THESE KINGS AND PRIESTS ARE CALLED TODAY TO HAVE THE MOST EXALTED CROWNS IN GOD'S FAMILY.

Not even the angels were ever offered these positions of royalty. It will be the supreme royalty of the universe *forever!*

God creates sovereign gods out of clay!

Even today, I can address God's very elect as "Your Royal Majesties, Sons of God," because they are God in embryo. So let's seize *this most godly, royal moment!*





## ADDITIONAL READING

The Philadelphia Church of God produces many informative and interesting publications that you may want to request.

Here are a few you might consider:

### **The United States and Britain in Prophecy**

The prophecies of the Bible have been grievously misunderstood. And no wonder! For the vital key needed to unlock prophetic doors to understanding had become lost. That key is a definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and British peoples in biblical prophecy. This is the most fascinating story ever told. Whether skeptic, atheist, church member or Spirit-filled Christian, you will find here an amazing truth, long hidden. It is startling revelation. While condensed and brief, it is plain, simple, understandable, and a truth that stands proved.

### **Malachi's Message**

This is the gripping story of God's Church gone off track in this end time, and what God did to correct the tragedy. It documents what happened to the Worldwide Church of God after its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, died in 1986. The Bible prophesied in detail that the Church would depart from what Mr. Armstrong taught, and that God would begin His work anew with a faithful remnant. Malachi's Message was the seminal volume for the Philadelphia Church of God, and remains the centerpiece of our literature.

### **Prophecy Again**

This commission may even be beyond what our human minds can fully comprehend at this time! The mystery has to be declared today. But this work is also to teach all humanity that the mystery must be dispensed, or declared, to every person ever created. They are not just taught the mystery, but are taught to teach it. Why? Is it possible God will keep expanding His Family throughout the universe forever?

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You can write for your own *free* copies of any of the literature listed above. It's all provided free of charge as an educational service in the public interest. Locate the address of the office nearest you, listed on the next page, and write for your free copies today!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Africa:** Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville 7551, South Africa

**Australia and the Pacific Isles:** Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 6626, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD 4122, Australia

**New Zealand:** Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland 1730

**Philippines:** Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 1372, Q.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100

**Latin America:** Philadelphia Church of God, Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, United States of America