

PAST,
PRESENT
and
FUTURE
of the
CHURCH



FRED PRUITT

Past, Present, And Future of the Church

**By
Fred Pruitt**

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

Digitally Published by

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

www.churchofgodeveninglight.com

Preface

The subject and the truth contained in this book have weighed heavily upon my heart for the last few years. During that time the Lord has added more understanding and knowledge. As conditions in the world developed, some scriptures became more clear and understandable, which brought a deeper conviction on my heart that this truth should be in print for the benefit of the public.

Everything in the world today seems to be shaping up for the coming of the Lord. It would not surprise me that His coming will be before the ending of this century. World conditions are developing fast these days, and prophecies of the Scriptures are being fulfilled every year.

In the writing of this book we touched on quite a few vital subjects which should be of interest to every lover of the Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. In fact, it ought, to be of interest to every God-fearing man and woman, and to our many sinner friends as well.

When we write of sects, denominations, paganism, Mystery Babylon and her harlot daughters, Council of Churches, cliques and clans, we have reference to the power of evil that is fostering and promoting wrong things which will bring destruction and damnation to all unsaved people affiliated therein. We realize that some souls in a justified state are, for lack of light, unfortunately tied up in these

systems. But God is calling His people out of those places to abide in Him alone and be ready for that great Judgment day which is coming very soon.

Some of the truths briefly touched on are:—when and how Jesus built His Church, when He occupied it, where the elements of the Church came from, its commission and growth, the millennial theory advanced in the first century and its firm rejection by the apostolic church, the Lutheran Reformation of the 16th century, the apostate church—Mystery Babylon the great and her harlot daughters, the gradual return of the truth to men, the church in this evening light, the present condition of the world, the church shining in her glorious reign under Christ, its future state and world conditions up to the end of time when the enemies of the saints are destroyed, the lake of fire and brimstone into which the devil and his angels are cast.

—Fred Pruitt

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Chapter 1

Prophecies of Christ and the Church

Our God had in mind and designed from the creation of the world that He should have a people of His own, a family to own His name, of whom He could be a just Husband (Rom. 7:4 and 1 Cor. 3:9); a kind and loving Father (2 Cor. 6:17, 18); a family whom He could inhabit by His Spirit and they would obey Him. (Eph. 2:19 to end of chapter)

This family or people has been foretold by the prophets in metaphors, figurative and symbolic language all down through the ages from the beginning of time. In Genesis 3:15 we are informed by the words of God himself that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head and his seed would bruise His heel. Christ is the seed of the woman through Abraham. Gen 12:3 Read Gal. 3:16 and you will see that the seed spoken of was Christ our Lord who was to be the instrument in God's hand to bring the thing to pass. The last prophet, Malachi, prophesied of Christ and said in chapter 4:2, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall."

In Genesis 49:10 we read, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh [Christ]

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come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” The next verse says, “Binding his foal [those born again] unto the vine.” In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus Christ declares himself to be the true vine.

In the first few verses of the 61st chapter of Isaiah is a prophecy of the work of Christ, the builder of God’s Church. In Luke the 4th chapter we read the words of Jesus in the 18th verse verifying this prophecy and referring it to Himself by saying in the 21st verse, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” Oh, how clearly and exactly are the prophecies of the prophets in the Old Testament verified and fulfilled in the New Testament! Truly, the Old Testament has the prophecies concealed and the New Testament has them revealed.

Before going further in this writing we feel that it would be best to give some of the many names given in the Bible which refer to the family of God—the Church of God. It is referred to as the city of God, Mount Zion, New Jerusalem, His Bride, His Wife, the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Tabernacle of God, the household of faith, the house of David, the house of God, the temple of God, the sanctuary of God, the body of Christ, and in some places the names of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are used in referring to the family of God, the Church.

Abraham was a man who had unfeigned faith in God and he was called the “friend of God.” When God called him to leave his own country, his friends and loved ones, he obeyed God and left his country. The scripture says in Hebrews 11:8, 9 that he obeyed and went out, not knowing whither he went and sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country. The 10th verse says, “For he looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.” Abraham failed to find that City in his day, as it was not built until

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later, but he was looking for it. But thanks be unto God and the Lord Jesus Christ, we today have found that City. (Eph. 2:20, 21) If Abraham could have found this city of God in his day he would not have been a stranger in a strange country, but would have been comforted by the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. In speaking of the saints and the household of God the Ephesian writer goes on to say, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." The City that Abraham was looking for has good stones for a foundation, and Christ is the chief Corner Stone. All the building is fitly framed together and groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord, and then he says, "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit." Now this is the city that Abraham was looking for, though it was not built at that time. But since that time God through Christ has built the City of saved men and women, and it has become a habitation of God through the Spirit.

We have a clear statement of this city, the church recorded in Hebrews 12:22, "But ye are come unto Mount Sion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." When Jacob saw the ladder set up on the earth whose top reached to heaven, he also saw the angels of God ascending and descending upon it. When he awakened out of sleep he said, "This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven." In Psalms 34:7 we read, "The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him and delivereth them." Angels of God often make themselves known and are seen of His children in the city of God. John the Revelator was often visited by them. He said that we had come unto the "city of the living God." In 1 Tim. 3:15 we read thus, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the

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truth.” In Heb. 12:23 we read: “To the general assembly and church of the first born which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” In Rev. 21:9, 10 is recorded that John saw this city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, for the angel said unto him, “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife [the church]. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain [the Church in figurative language is lifted up in this world as a mountain, the highway of holiness], and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” In the 2nd verse of this chapter we read that “John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

In Matt. 16:13-19 we have some very important words spoken by Peter and by the Lord himself that we shall do well to take heed unto. Peter had just declared that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. This truth was given to him by God the Father which Jesus acknowledged, and said, “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Let us look into the scriptures of the Old Testament and see what they say about Jesus building this Church, city or temple and thereby see how the New Testament reveals these truths to us.

In Psalms 132:11 we read, “The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn it: Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.” This prophecy is fulfilled in the New Testament as recorded in Luke 1:69, “And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.” The angel of God, in speaking to Mary the mother of Jesus, said: “And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy

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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 [God's family, the Church]; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." This is truly the kingdom or church which Jesus built and He is reigning over His people today as a King and the gates of hell (man-made churches) shall not, cannot and never will destroy it or prevail against it. When the Judgment sets and the earth and all literal things are burned up, ungodly deceivers and the wicked are cast into hell, then will He take His kingdom, His family or His Church up to heaven and turn the kingdom or Church over to the Father. Read 1 Cor. 15:24, 25, and 26.

In Zech. 6:12 we read, "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is the BRANCH [Christ]; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple [Church] of the Lord even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." What a clear testimony this is of Christ reigning now on His throne as a King over His people, the Church which He purchased with His own blood.

In Amos 9:11 is another prophecy of Jesus building and reads thus: "In that day [the gospel day] I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." In the book of Acts the Apostle James quotes this prophecy and refers it to the then existing Church which Jesus had built. Let us read it in Acts 15:16, "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up; that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the

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Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.” It is the height of folly and a disgrace to the cause of God among men for false teachers to wrest the scriptures from their proper meaning and teach a literal reign of Christ on this earth for a thousand years. The truth is that when Christ returns He will take His kingdom or church to Himself to be with God forever and ever. His kingdom or church is already built, and is now in the world but not of the world. Jesus said plainly, “My kingdom is not of this world.”

The Church is a heavenly institution which came down from God out of heaven and is functioning in this world in gathering all who will into His kingdom or church. In the end He will take them back to the Father and present it to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. Eph. 5:27.

Let us read the prophecy in Jer. 23:5, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch [Christ], and a king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel [His children] shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” This is a prophecy of the gospel day, the day of the reign of Christ, for He is truly now the Lord our righteousness. We dare not depend upon our own righteousness to bring God’s favor, for it is His righteousness working in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We are counted as naught that He might be heard, seen and lifted up. Read the first few verses of the 3rd chapter of Colossians, practice what it teaches and you will soon know that Jesus is reigning now as King and not in some supposed future age in a literal sense.

Chapter 2

Jesus Building His Church or Kingdom

Let us now read from the New Testament to see how the Lord built his Church or Kingdom, and set it up and occupied it by the spirit of truth or the Comforter, the Holy Ghost.

When John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness he began to cry unto the people thus, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matt. 3:2 “At hand” meant that it was soon to be built and come into existence. Then he pointed them to Jesus who was worthy to build the Kingdom or Church. Of Jesus’ work, John said, “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” This prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Let us read it as recorded in Acts 2:2-4: “And suddenly there came a sound [spirit] from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, [cleansing] and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” John realized that Jesus was the one who was to build the church or kingdom, and that it would possess a fire of cleansing and the power of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit as it is more properly rendered in many translations.

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In Mark 1:14 we read, “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” He was teaching them how to get into the kingdom. Believing the gospel meant for them to believe His teachings. In order to do this they would necessarily have to follow Him and learn of Him as recorded in other places. (Matt 11:28, 29 and 30). Immediately after He said, “The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand.” He began to build His church or kingdom, for in the 19th verse we learn that He found James and John with their father mending their nets and He called for them. Straightway they left their father and the hired servants and went after Him. By these two men forsaking all and following Him they became two foundation stones in the building of His church or kingdom. After this He went into Capernaum and cast out devils and healed many that were sick, thus manifesting the power of miracles which were to be wrought in His kingdom or church.

In the 4th chapter of Matt., it is recorded that Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He found Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea as they were fishers, and He said unto them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Straightway they left their nets and followed Him, and they also became two foundation stones in His kingdom or church.

Jesus continued preaching the gospel, healing the sick working miracles, and calling men unto Him until he had twelve disciples, who were to be foundation stones in His building and called apostles. Read Eph. 2:20. To these twelve apostles He gave power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Matt. 10:1. Beginning at the

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seventh verse of this tenth chapter is the commission which He gave to these twelve apostles whom He had fitted into His building as foundation stones: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give." He told them not to provide anything for themselves for the workman was worthy of his meat. In the 6th chapter of Matt, beginning at the 24th verse to the end of the chapter, Jesus said, ". . . Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? . . . Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." He also said, "Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

We find that in the commission to His disciples they were instructed to preach the Kingdom of God, to heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead. They were to receive freely of God and give freely to the people, to forsake all and trust Him for their needs. Those who are in the Kingdom of God or the true Church of God are doing that very thing today and the signs are following them as recorded in Mark 16:17, 18. The devil has some people believing that all the miracles ceased with the apostles but the Word of God flatly contradicts that story in one verse of scripture found in Hebrews 13:8, which reads thus, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." He is doing the same miracle today as He did in the morning church. This is witnessed to by all the histories of the church after the apostles had long been dead, and it is taking place today by those who abide in the true Church of God which is

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the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Jesus found many self-righteous Pharisees in His day who professed to know God yet did not believe Christ and that the miracles He did were of God but ascribed them to Beelzebub. (Matt. 12:24) People of this nature seem to be numerous in the world today. May God pity this faithless generation of men and women who profess to follow Him and yet deny Him, His power, faith, and works. Oh, this wicked unbelieving people! John said, "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." 1 John 5:19.

Jesus kept on preaching the gospel of the kingdom and adding believers to his church as members or stones in his building and the structure was growing. In Luke the tenth chapter we read of his appointing seventy and sending them out two and two before his face into every city and place whither he himself would come. He said to them, "Go your ways; behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves." He told them to heal the sick and say unto them, the Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. When the seventy returned again they said, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Jesus said unto them, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." By this statement Jesus was referring to the devils being cast out of men who were exalted into the ecclesiastical heavens in this world. He went on and told the seventy, "Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, [evil spirits] and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." These seventy were lively stones placed in the building of His Church by Jesus himself and the number in the Kingdom of God increased. For three and one-half years men and women by believing on Jesus, were being gathered unto Him according to Genesis 49:10. "Until Shiloh [Christ] come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

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As Jesus continued to preach the gospel of the kingdom by teaching and instructing His disciples, also showing up the sins and denouncing them in the different religious sects of his day; the Jewish nation as a whole rejected Him and cast His name out as an evil man, an impostor, a deceiver of the people. But as recorded in John's gospel 1:11-13, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, [human blood] nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." By this we learn that all who did believe on him as being the Son of God, the Saviour of all men were "born again," born from above and the peace and presence of God was with them and many of them followed him in his gospel work of gathering men unto him. In Matt. 16:16, we read where Peter answered the Lord's question with these words, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then, Jesus answered him, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." In this it is plain to be seen that Peter was born from above and had the spirit and presence of God the Father with him to enlighten and to give him understanding. The next verse reads thus, "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock [Christ is the rock, the chief foundation stone in His church building as it is written in Eph. 2:20. "And are built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." I will build my church; and the gates of hell [those sect churches all around him that seemed to be flourishing] shall not prevail against IT." IT means only one. He was still in the act of building His church on the Rock, therefore He said, "I will build My church."

The Sadducees and Pharisees waxed hot against Jesus and derided him. They were seeking a way by which they might take

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him and kill him, for the Lord boldly exposed their evil deeds before all men. In Matt. 23:13, Jesus began to expose the evils existing among and in the scribes and Pharisees. He called them fools, hypocrites and blind guides, exposing their evil works. In the 15th verse he spoke thus, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." In this Jesus acknowledged that those sects were the gates of hell. We have the same thing in the cold dead religious sects of our day.

In John 15:6, we read, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered: and men [sect churches] gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." One way by which men and women get into the religious sects of our day to be burned in hell in the end is by hearing the truth and seeing the crucified way with Christ but will not pay the price; will not take up their cross daily and follow him; will not bear the reproaches of the world. Because of this the devil has them looking for some easier way to climb to heaven. To ease their consciences they join some sect and go along, more or less, in the course of this world. In that day they will be judged, weighed in the balance and found wanting and will be burned in hell because they loved not the self-denying way with Jesus. Thousands are being decoyed into sects today in this manner. This is why the true ministers are doing such a mighty work for God in these last days. They are gathering many who believe and love the truth into the fold of God, the body of Christ, the house of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. They preach the gospel in its fullness and many hear, become convinced and convicted by the Holy Spirit of their sins, but rather than take the narrow way, the crucified way with Christ, they back out, and to ease their conscience they join some sect which is a

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gateway to hell. There they abide while Satan keeps telling them all the time that they are all right since they have joined the church. I talked with one of these fellows one time and asked him if he was a Christian. He was undecided about it because he had not presented his credentials to any church since moving to the community. There are thousands upon thousands in the sect churches today who have no more knowledge of salvation than this man did. What a pity!

Another way by which churches are filled with folks with a mere profession is by their parents belonging to this or that denomination so they join the church and ease their conscience that way. Some are sprinkled when infants and are made to believe that they are all right; just live a good life and they go on that way and die without being saved at all. The true ministers of God are also gathering many souls into the true fold of God—those having godly sorrow for their sins and in repentance receive the blood of Christ as an atonement for their sins and are willing to walk with God in the strait and narrow way which leads to heaven and to God.

Thus the war in the ecclesiastical heaven is raging and the scriptures found in Malachi 4:1 and Matt. 3:10-13 are being fulfilled. Matt. 3:10 read thus: “And now also the axe [true gospel] is laid unto the root of the trees: [the hearts of men] therefore every tree [man] that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” In the 12th verse we read again, “Whose fan [Holy Spirit] is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, [hearts of men] and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Thus saith the marvelous Son of God, the bright and morning star, who is as a shining and burning light in this world. Notice how John describes him in Revelation 1:14: “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if

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they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword [the Word of God]: and his countenance was as the sun shining in his strength.” Who would dare stand against such a marvelous divine being as is described, who has power to save to the uttermost those who believe in him and also has power to destroy in hell fire those who rebel against his word?

When John saw him and the amazing brightness of his features he felt the penetrating, unresisting power that issued from him and fell down at his feet as one dead. Then Jesus laid his hand upon him and said, “Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, amen; and have the keys of hell and death.” Then he told John to write the things he had seen in the past and those things that were taking place at that time, and the things that shall be hereafter. By this we understand that the book of Revelation is composed of revealed symbolical truth that John saw from his beginning with Christ and on up to his present existence and things that would take place after his death and departure.

Another way by which men are deceived by Satan and held in bondage for the burning lake of fire is when they hear the Word and receive and walk with him in the self-denying way—even ministers of the gospel who have been enlightened by the gift of the Holy Spirit—and then as years roll on they begin to love position, money, praise of men and the world and die in this condition because they ceased to love the truth and abide in Jesus, God sends them a strong delusion that they might believe a lie and be damned. You will read this in 2 Thess. 2:11, “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in

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unrighteousness.” Such people are pictured out very plainly in symbolic language in the 19th chapter of Revelation from the 11th to the 17th verse. Let us quote these scriptures and the Lord give thee understanding. “And I saw heaven opened, [the ecclesiastical heavens] and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [against Satan’s hosts of evil religious workers]. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: [representing his crucifixion] and his name is called The Word of God. [John 1:14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [The righteousness of saints; see the 8th verse.] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, [God’s Word] that with it he should smite the nations: [There will be no nations in heaven where God’s throne is to smite.] and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God. [Rev. 14:19, 20] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Who could doubt that the above scripture symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ in this world and his army of blood washed saints being led of him on to victory and the casting down of every evil being that exalteth itself against God and his truth?

We read in the 22nd chapter of Matt, a parable concerning the Kingdom of God. In it he likens the Kingdom or Church as one married to his Son and how they were partaking of the marriage supper when one was found who had not on a wedding garment. That one was bound hand and foot and cast out into darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then Jesus said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” When one gets saved he is called to

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follow the Lord and to eat of the marriage supper; but many draw back along the way in the heat of the battle and drift over on the enemy's side and in that judgment day will not be chosen to dwell with God in glory.

Satan's ministers entice them to the world, an easier way for the flesh and they become deceived and lost. Read 2 Cor. 11:13,14, and 15. They no longer have on the clean white linen dress which is the righteousness of the saints. When one receives a delusion from the Lord he thinks he is saved and ready for heaven, is very religious and feels good about it. I used to work with a brother and his wife and children and they were real saints and loved the Lord and trusted Him. The Lord would bless them and heal them when they were sick and they rejoiced in a Savior's love and care. I moved from that country and never saw or heard of them for fifteen years. While I was holding a meeting there I met him and, to my sorrow, he had joined a sectarian church and was tied up in that pen. I said to him, "I do not see how you can do such a thing after having light and knowledge as you did." His answer was: "I feel better than I ever felt in my life." He had received a delusion from God because he ceased to have a love for the truth and was bound in that thing for destruction. Many are doing such like things today and thereby are failing to keep on the clean white wedding garment which means righteousness and purity in the heart.

Chapter 3

Jesus and His Crucifixion

Jesus was approaching his crucifixion and resurrection as the Jews in a general sense were enraged at him and his gospel which uncovered their sins and hypocrisy. The Lord knew that it would come to this for the prophets of God had foretold of this in most all the books of the Old Testament. In Isaiah the 53rd chapter, written 540 years before Christ, is quite a lengthy account of his humiliation and abuse, also the purpose of the same. The 5th verse reads thus: “But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” In the 12th verse we read that “He poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sins of many.” Many of the prophecies in this chapter were fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus in a plain clear manner.

It was necessary for Jesus to be crucified, buried, and resurrected; for we had all sinned and come short of the glory of God; and it was needful for one to die and shed his blood who had done no sin, that he might through his blood sacrifice lift the penalty of sin and thereby appease the wrath of God that was justly upon us. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” The sin that

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John mentioned was the sin that Adam received from Satan when he broke the commandment of God in the Garden of Eden and it was transmitted to all of his offspring, even to every child which has been born into the world since that time. Jesus in his death was to take away that sin in man that caused him to sin and restore to him an Eden experience which Adam and Eve enjoyed before they broke the commandment of God. Bless his name!

Paul, in speaking of his condition before he was saved, in the 7th chapter of Romans makes it plain that it was that indwelling sin that caused him to sin and make him a wretched man he knew that the body of sin was bringing death to him. It took Christ to set him free from it. So in the first verse of the 8th chapter he declares, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The soul was not only to be cleansed by the blood of Christ but the Holy Spirit was to accompany it and give them power to witness for him and to live free from sinning in this life. In 1 John 3:8, we read, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." The blood cleanses from that sin, which is the work of the devil, right out of your heart and gives you power to keep from sinning. Jesus says, "He that committeth sin is the servant of sin."

In nearly all the chapters of St. John's gospel from the 13th chapter up to Jesus' crucifixion and death, the Lord is teaching and instructing his disciples concerning the things of God, to get them settled in truth and to encourage them to retain their faith in him when he was crucified. In the 14th chapter of John he exhorted them to love him and keep his commandments and he said that he would pray the Father, "and he shall give you another Comforter, that he

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may abide with you forever.” He called that Comforter the “Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive.” In this we learn that only justified people can, or are eligible to, receive the Spirit of Truth, which is the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. In the 15th chapter he told them that they were clean through the word he had spoken unto them. They were living up to all they had been taught and the Lord looked upon them as being clean and in a justified state. He exhorted them to abide in him or to continue in an uncondemned state, and they would be purged, cleansed to bring forth more fruit. In the 16th chapter, referring to his crucifixion he said, “I go my way to him that sent me.” Because of this sorrow had filled their hearts, but he said unto them that it was best or “expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” He said when the Comforter would come he would reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment “Of sin, because they believe not on me,” and also of self-righteousness, and even Satan the prince of this world would be judged and condemned by the Comforter dwelling in them.

While in prayer Jesus told the Father that he had given his disciples His word and that the world hated them, because they were not of the world even as he was not of the world. (John 17) He prayed the Father to not take them out of the world but to keep them from the evil; then he repeated that they were not of the world, “even as I am not of the world.” He taught them the need of being sanctified, and he prayed not for them alone but that those also which believed on him through their word would be sanctified, that all may be one as he and the Father are one.

The 18th chapter tells how he entered into a garden or park and prayed. While there he was betrayed by Judas, one of the twelve. Judas came with a band of men and officers from the chief priests

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and Pharisees with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus knew all this was to come upon him (Matt. 20:18, 19) and he had gained the victory over it when his soul was heavy nigh unto death. He had prayed the third time saying, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

They led him away to be judged, condemned and crucified. His trial seemed to be rather a mock trial as it was not carried on in the usual legal way. The Jews cried for him to be crucified, and said, “His blood be on us, and on our children.” (Matt. 27:25) Pilate had him scourged and the Roman soldiers mocked him, smote him, spit on him and reviled him. They led him outside the city to a place called Golgotha, the place of a skull on the side of Mt. Zion, and there they nailed him to the cross with thieves hanging on crosses on either side and he in the midst. Over his head was written, “THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Oh, what great suffering and agony of soul and body our Lord underwent; not that he had done any sin, but because we had sinned and needed his innocent blood as an atonement for our sins. The Father looked upon the scene and was satisfied with the blood sacrifice which he had made for us. When we repent and accept the blood as an atonement for our sins it puts God and man together and we are counted as a member in the body of Christ which is the Church. (Col. 1:24) In Col. 1:13, 14 we read, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

As he hung upon the cross they that passed by reviled him and the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him. From the sixth hour there was darkness over the land unto the ninth hour, and Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “My God, my God, why hath thou forsaken me?” And crying with a loud voice he yielded up the

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ghost. “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose . . . and went into the city and appeared unto many.” When the Centurion and they that were with him saw and heard these things, they feared greatly and cried out, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

Joseph, one of Jesus’ disciples begged Pilate for the body of Jesus and he delivered it unto him. He took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock, rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. The priests and the Pharisees had Pilate to seal the stone and put a watch around the tomb for they said, “We remember that that deceiver said while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.” It is recorded in the 28th chapter of Matt, that at the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men, and the angel spoke to the women and said, “Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.” And the women departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring the disciples word. And as they went to bring the disciples word, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “All hail.” And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Jesus said unto them, “Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee,

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and there shall they see me.” Here we have a clear account of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am thankful to God that the stone was sealed with the Governor’s seal which held in it a death penalty for any one that broke it and that the soldiers were placed around it to see that no one stole the body and carried it away. This all proves how insecure the efforts of man are and how God does things beyond man’s power to hinder and makes the resurrection of Christ all the greater. God had allowed man to go his limit in destroying the Son of God and when they thought they had thoroughly done the deed, God with his angel appeared on the scene and put the murderers to open shame. The Son of God triumphed over men, hell, and the powers of darkness and began to walk upon the earth again, to be alive forevermore. Bless his holy name! After his resurrection Jesus had power to show himself as a glorified spirit body and also as his natural self with flesh and bones and with the marks of the nail prints in his hands and where the spear pierced his side. He walked and talked with the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus and when they beheld that it was Christ he vanished out of their sight. These two men returned to Jerusalem that same hour and found the eleven gathered together. John says it was the first day of the week and that the doors were shut for fear of the Jews. (John 20:19) They were speaking of the Lord and some said that he had risen and hath appeared unto Simon when suddenly Jesus stood in the midst of them. He had come right through the door and stood in the midst of them. They were troubled and fearful and supposed that they had seen a spirit. Jesus said, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.” He showed them his hands and his feet and ate of a broiled fish and of a honeycomb. So we see that the resurrected Son of God had power to vanish out of the sight of men, and could appear in the form of his natural self at any place,

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at any time. For forty days after his resurrection he was with the disciples, talking with them and instructing them concerning the things of God and pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) He had told them several times, even before his crucifixion of the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, and how He would be given unto them. The following is recorded in John 7:37-39: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" In John 16:7, we learn that it was expedient for the disciples that Jesus go away, for he said, "If I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart, I will send him unto you." In the 17th chapter of John he speaks quite a lot of his disciples in prayer to his Father, and says how they are to be kept in his Father's name and that they were not of the world even as he was not of the world and that he would sanctify, or consecrate, himself that they might also be sanctified. He said that he didn't pray for them alone, but for them also which would believe on him through the word. In Luke 24:49 we read, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Again he speaks of the promise of the Father in Acts 1:4, beginning at the 8th verse: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee,

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why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Chapter 4

The Reception of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost

We have followed the Lord as the prophets have foretold of him and of the building of his kingdom or church, of his death, burial and resurrection, and of his ascension into heaven to be with the Father: at his right hand where he is interceding for those who shall be heirs of salvation. We wish now, by the help of the Lord, to bring scriptures on the subject of his giving the gift of the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost to the one hundred and twenty on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 1:15) This one hundred and twenty disciples were gathered together in one accord in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were all justified souls which constituted the church which Jesus had built and they were there together praying and waiting for the reception of the Holy Ghost which the Lord had promised to give them, and in that way occupy his church, enduing them with power and with different gifts for his spiritual body, the church, to function in the world to the salvation of souls which would be added to the church. (Acts 2:41)

A prophecy in the first verse of the third chapter of Malachi speaks of this event in these words: “Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me [John the Baptist]: and the Lord [Jesus Christ], whom ye seek, shall suddenly

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come to his temple [His kingdom or Church], even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.” This is a direct prophecy of Jesus coming in the form of the Holy Ghost to occupy His Temple or the Church which He had built.

The 120 believers were all together in one accord in an upper room in Jerusalem and were praying and looking to God to send the promised Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, upon them. Let us read it in the first few verses of the 2nd chapter of Acts: “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.” You will notice that the same word, “suddenly,” is used here as the Prophet Malachi used it in speaking of the Lord suddenly coming to His temple. Also you will take note that it came from heaven. All that a child of God has that is good comes from heaven into his soul, and that is the reason why Jesus said to His disciples, “Ye are not of this world even as I am not of the world.” And that is why Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” His people are born from above and their citizenship is in heaven. The new life, power, and wisdom has come from God out of heaven. All old things which they did possess of this world have passed away and all things have become new are of heaven. Paul counted all things which he possessed before receiving Christ in his heart nothing but dung, and he was seeking to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Glory to God!

Now, the third verse, “And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.” This fire represents the cleansing of the sin of death which passed upon all men as we read in Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin

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entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

In 2 Tim. 1:10 Paul says Christ abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. John the Baptist in speaking of the work of Christ said, “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” Fire typifies heat that purifies and cleanses and when they received the Holy Ghost there appeared cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them. In canning fruit you put fire under it and the heat cleanses and purifies it so it will keep and not spoil. Jude in speaking of those who were sanctified said, “They were preserved in Jesus Christ.” Jude 1 Jesus Christ was not born of the seed of man but was begotten by the Holy Ghost, therefore he had a clean birth as the scripture says he was sanctified and sent into the world. (One definition of sanctification means to cleanse from moral corruption, to purify) Those who are born of the seed of man have a defiled nature caused by the fall of Adam of which David bears record to in Psalms 51:5 which reads, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” All who are born of the seed of man have an unclean birth and need the Holy Ghost baptism and fire to be cleansed from the defilement and have real power of the Holy Ghost to definitely witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost baptism and fire cleanses man from all impurity and restores him back to a clean state as Adam and Eve were before they sinned. Bless God.

This is the sin that John spoke of when he saw Jesus and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” This is the sin that causes men to sin. We thank God that Jesus cleanses it from us and takes it away in the reception of the Holy Ghost and we are free from sin through Christ. Bless His holy name!

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When the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost came from heaven into the hearts of the 120 on the day of Pentecost, which constituted the Church that Jesus built, power and gifts were given to the members of His body, the Church, to function together for the salvation of souls. The scripture was also fulfilled spoken by Christ in Mark 9:1, “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

I also feel assured in my soul that John the Revelator saw in vision this great descension of the Holy Ghost from heaven into the hearts of the 120, the Church which Jesus built on the day of Pentecost, when he relates this instance in Rev. 21:2, 3 which reads thus, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men [saved men and women are His tabernacle], and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” You could hardly give a better description of the people of God whom the Lord inhabits. Eph. 2:21, 22 In Rev. 21:9 the Revelator gives the vision of the descending elements of the Church and calls it “the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” The tenth verse reads thus, “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” In Rev. 3:12 we are told that overcomers will be pillars in the temple (Church) of 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.”

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Let us now see what took place after the elements of the Church descended from heaven into the hearts of the 120 on the day of Pentecost. We note in Acts 2:4 that they “began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Fifth verse, “And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.” Verses 6, 7, and 8: “Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these that speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” Nearly every nation in the world at that time was represented at Jerusalem and all spoke different languages. They heard the gospel preached in their own tongue and carried the good news back to their native country. In that way practically the whole world heard about Pentecost and what had come down from heaven into the hearts of men. It was issued out of their hearts to their fellowmen in the world, for they all heard the wonderful works of God. Peter, who was quite weak while in a justified state and in a severe trial denied the Lord, after receiving the Holy Ghost and the gift of prophecy was brave and bold to speak the words of God. He stood up with the eleven, and with authority and power in the demonstration of the Spirit he preached the gospel. Among other things he said, “And it shall come to pass in the last days [in these gospel days], saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions: . . . and on my servants and on my hand-maidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. . . . And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the

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midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.” Acts 2:17, 18, 21-24

Let us now read Acts 2:29, 30. Peter says, “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.” The next verse pinpoints the beginning of the reign of Christ. “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.” This scripture proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that God had already raised up Christ to sit on the throne of David, and that He is our King and ruler now, and we are reigning in this life with Him. Bless His dear name! Rom. 5:17.

Chapter 5

Prophecies of Christ Reigning Now as King

Let us read some of the prophecies in the Old Testament and see how clearly they are being fulfilled in Christ today. Turn with me to 2 Samuel, 7th chapter and the 12th verse and let us read, “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house [His spiritual Church—see Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3: 1-7; 1 Peter 2:2-6] for my name [Church of God], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” In Psalms 132:11 we read, “The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it: of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.” Again we read in Luke 1:32, “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God will give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever [house of God, the Church]; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Again reading in Acts 2:31-39, Peter says, “He, seeing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise

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of the Holy Ghost [read John 14:26], he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, the Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” He went on exhorting them with many words and about three thousand souls were brought into the fold of God. They continued daily with one accord, praising God and having favor with all the people, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved, or those that were being saved.

You will take note when these souls got saved they were added to the church. When the Holy Ghost, with the gifts of the Spirit, descended from heaven, or from God, on the day of Pentecost into the hearts of the justified one hundred and twenty souls the church, which Jesus had gathered together in one accord, was completed and set up; all the gifts of the Spirit were among them which made them officers in the church. The church began to function freely in the world and souls began to believe and be saved and were added to the church. I see the church as always a complete unit in unity. We could compare it to a city of ten thousand inhabitants which has all the officers it needs to control the city in its different functions—in other words, a complete city. This city in time by others being added to it becomes a city of 100,000, and it is still a complete city, for it still has all the officers it needs for a city of its size. We could also

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compare it to a man who has a flock of fifty sheep. That is his complete flock then; but in the spring there are born into his flock thirty lambs which makes him have a complete flock of eighty sheep. Even so, God adds to the church such as are being saved and God gives them gifts as officers in the church and the church is always a complete unit in unity.

As we read on in the Bible we find that the church was manifesting itself in a mighty way and Jesus was honored in the saving of many souls. The apostles laid their hands upon many, and they, too, received the Holy Ghost to function in the church. Great miracles were done in the name of Jesus: the lame walked, the blind could see, lepers were cleansed, evil spirits were cast out and the signs spoken of in the 16th chapter of Mark followed them that believed. Peter and John healed the lame man at the gate “Beautiful” and he went walking, leaping, and praising God. The rulers of the Jews became enraged at the apostles and began to persecute them, calling them into question to accuse them and also put some of them in jail. Then Peter who before Pentecost was only justified and was weak and faltering, waxed bold. Acts 4:8: “Then Peter filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 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 naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had

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been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.”

About this time a great miracle and wonder took place. Ananias and his wife sold a possession and pretended to give all, yet kept back part of the price of the land and in this way lied to men and also to God. While Peter was rebuking him with words, Ananias fell down dead and the young men carried him out and buried him. When they returned to the house, Ananias’ wife was there. She did not know what had taken place, so when Peter began to talk to her about the selling of the land, she lied. Then Peter said unto her, “How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?” She fell down dead also at his feet and was carried out and buried by her husband. “Great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things . . . And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes, both men and women.” With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. They brought their sick and laid them in the street that at least the shadow of Peter might pass over some of them. And there came multitudes out of the cities around about Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one. The priests and those high up in ecclesiastical circles were filled with indignation and laid hands on them and put them in the common prison. But the angel by night opened the prison doors and brought them forth, and said, “Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life and this they did. The high priest and they that were with him called the council together and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent officers to bring the prisoners. They brought back word that the prison doors were shut and the keepers standing without but when they opened the prison door, they found no man within. Now, when the high priest and the captain of

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the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them where unto this would grow. At that time one came and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison, are standing in the temple and teaching the people." The officers brought them to the council and set them down there and the high priest said unto them, "Did not we straightly command you that you should not teach in this name? and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince [a ruler] and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." When they heard that, they were cut to the heart and took counsel to slay them.

We can see by these statements that the church began to be persecuted because they witnessed for Jesus of his resurrection and the power given to them that obeyed him. This persecution came from the Jews, their own people, and it kept spreading. In the sixth and seventh chapters of Acts it is recorded that Stephen, a man full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Certain sects and clans rose up against Stephen and as he preached unto them and witnessed for the Lord the council of men saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. As he continued to preach to them and expound the scriptures concerning God's dealings with them, he waxed bold and told them that they were stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears and always resisted the Holy Ghost as their fathers did. He told them that they had persecuted the prophets and slain them that shewed before of the coming of the Just One: "Of whom ye have been now the betrayers

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and murderers.” With many other words did he witness for the resurrected Christ. They became so enraged that with murder in their hearts they cried out and rushed upon him with one accord, cast him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul. They stoned Stephen while he was calling upon God, and saying, “Lord Jesus receive my spirit.” “And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Here we see the war which began to be fought in the ecclesiastical heavens, among those who were lifted up in spiritual things and the rulers of the darkness of this world.

In Eph. 6:11, Paul exhorts the brethren to put on the whole armour of God, “that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” At that time there was great persecution against the church.

Chapter 6

Persecutions of the Early Morning Church of God

And Saul, who consented to the death of Stephen was also breathing out threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord and he received letters from the high priest to go to Damascus and capture the disciples of the Lord and bring them bound unto Jerusalem whether they be men or women. As he journeyed on his way and was near unto Damascus, suddenly there shined around about him a light from heaven above the brightness of the noonday sun and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying unto him, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Saul was greatly surprised and said, “Who art thou, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks [the sharp truths of His word].” Saul trembled with astonishment and said, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” The Lord told him to arise and go into the city, and it would be told him what he must do. The men that were with him stood speechless hearing a voice, but seeing no man. When Saul rose up from the earth he could see no man, and they had to lead him by the hand. They brought him to Damascus where he was three days without sight and neither did eat nor drink. The Lord then appeared to a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias and in a vision the Lord called unto him and he

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answered and said, “I am here, Lord.” The Lord said, “Go into the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth. And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.”

Then Ananias answered the Lord and said, “I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.” But the Lord said unto him, “Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” Ananias obeyed the Lord and when he had laid his hands on him and prayed, immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And he received meat and was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. The people were amazed at the change wrought in him, but he increased more and more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is the very Christ: after many days the Jews took counsel to kill him and they watched the gates day and night to kill him. The disciples let Paul down from the wall in a basket and he escaped their hands.

This Saul was a young man reared up in the Pharisee religion and he testified himself that he was a strict Pharisee, reared up at the feet of the renowned Gamaliel a great law teacher. He was highly educated in the wisdom of the world and being zealous for the religion that he had been taught he became a persecutor of Christ and also of his disciples. He became lifted up in the world and

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profited more than many of his equals. In this state he was an associate with those who were in the ecclesiastical heavens and was classed among those whom Paul afterwards in Eph. 6:12 classed as “spiritual wickedness in high places” and also with the rulers of the darkness of this world. We thank God that he got a hold of him and saved and filled him with the Holy Ghost, made a new creature out of him. All of his old evil life and evil deeds passed away and he was a new man in God. He continued on in the ecclesiastical heavens, but now warring against the forces of evil which once he was affiliated with. He formerly used force and carnal weapons but now in Christ, his weapons were not carnal but mighty, through the pulling down of strong holds and casting down imaginations and every evil thing that would exalt itself against God and right. When the Lord captured Saul, who is also called Paul, he got a staunch soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way the Lord kept adding to the church and it kept growing and increasing in numbers.

Soon the Gentiles began to receive the Word of God and believe on Jesus. Another great power began to rise up against the saints of God which was the great Red Dragon, the spirit of evil that had the whole Gentile world worshipping idol gods. They were ready to fight for their gods and were anti-God and anti-Christ in their war against righteousness. Paul, who was sent of God unto the Gentiles, was greatly persecuted, abused and beaten and oftentimes put in prison. He stated that he suffered affliction and filled up the sufferings of Christ for his body’s sake which is the church. Finally all the apostles were slain or killed in some manner except the apostle John. He was thrown into a vat of boiling oil to cook and kill him but the Lord did not allow the heated oil to inflict injury upon him. Then they banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where God wanted him to give him the symbolic book of Revelations. History tells us that Peter and Paul were both slain about the same time: Peter

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being crucified with his head down according to his own wish claiming that he was not worthy to be crucified with his head up as his Lord was. It was not lawful for a Roman to be crucified and Paul being a Roman citizen was beheaded. According to the ecclesiastical history of Eusebius, who wrote a history of the early church up to the year of 325, the saints, the church, kept growing even in the midst of great persecution and many miracles were performed and many of the saints were slain and others imprisoned. That anti-Christ and anti-God, Red Dragon Pagan power, called Satan and the devil, seemed determined to destroy the saints with carnal weapons and otherwise but the saints, whose captain was the Lord, would not give up or lay down their righteous armor. Though they were being cast to the lions and tigers and many were burned at the stake, still they fought on and their numbers increased until they became so powerful that they were able, by the help of the Lord, to have a ruler in the Roman Empire that favored the Christians. The war ceased as Paganism was put down and was cast out of his ecclesiastical heavenly place.

Chapter 7

Continued Persecutions and Victory

We will now turn to the 12th chapter of Revelation and see what the apostle John has to say about it in symbolic language. Let us read beginning at the first verse: “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven, [ecclesiastical heaven] a woman [the church] clothed with the sun, [clothed with Christ, the Sun of righteousness] and the moon under her feet, [the Jewish economy, the law age] and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: [representing the twelve apostles] and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.” This represents the early church when the Lord occupied it on the day of Pentecost and when Peter preached to the people there were three thousand souls born into the church and added to it Isaiah, in prophesying of this same thing, has this to say about the Church coming into existence and her travailing, “Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came she was delivered of a man child.” Isaiah 66:7. The Bible often uses a woman and sometimes a man to symbolize the Church. Truly this was a prophecy of the beginning of the Church. 8th verse: “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? [It had never taken place before.] Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion [the church] travailed, she brought forth her children.” Peter, in writing of the

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children of God, the Church, says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy NATION, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Now back to Revelation 12:3, "And there appeared another wonder in heaven [ecclesiastical heaven]; and behold, a great red dragon [the evil power in the Roman Empire that fought against the saints of the early morning Church], having seven heads and ten horns [heads are governments and horns denote their strength], and seven crowns upon his head [the world had honored him.] And his tail [at the end of his reign] drew the third part of the stars [ministers] of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon [evil power or spirit] stood before the woman [the Church] which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child [a family of saints which denotes strength], who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." This family which was born in the ecclesiastical heavens was caught up to God and His throne. Many of the saints were slain at that time and their souls went to God and His throne. But in the next verse we read, "And the woman [the Church] fled into the wilderness [was hid more or less in dark Catholicism which had developed, a wilderness of sin], where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And there was war in heaven: [ecclesiastical heaven] Michael [Christ] and his Angels [ministers] fought against the dragon [the evil working of Satan]; and the dragon fought against his angels [Christ and His ministers], and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven [ecclesiastical heaven]. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." This Satanic power and spirit had the whole Roman Empire worshipping idol gods, and

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when the true God was introduced among them by the apostles and their successors, they fought against them with carnal weapons and otherwise. Many of the saints were killed, others were thrown into arenas for the lions to devour, and still others were burned at the stake, and many were beaten and imprisoned. The ecclesiastical war was great and lasted more than three centuries according to the early church history.

“He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” This exalted, evil spirit was cast down when the saints became so numerous that a Christian, at least in name, was put in as ruler in the Roman Empire, and he favored the saints. His name was Constantine. “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they [saints] overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Thus the saints had won a long-fought battle against infidelity which fostered or promoted anti-God and anti-Christ practices.

Chapter 8

Satan Being Loosed for a Season

That same power is working now in the world. It was prophesied that Satan was to be loosed for a little season before the end of time. Rev. 20:7 This same dragon, atheistic spirit and power is now operating in the world under the cloak of Communism and the whole world is being deceived into its clutches. Great distress of nations and people is soon to be upon us. This same dragon, is brought to view again in the 20th chapter of Revelation, which reads thus, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain [the gospel] in his hand. [The gospel rejected will bind and cast down]. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is called [see Rev. 12:9] the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.” The symbolic manner in which Satan was bound a thousand years took place during the thousand years of the reign of dark Catholicism. The infidel, pagan power was cast down by the faithful saints and was cast into the bottomless pit (was put out of existence), and the beast power of Catholicism was set up covered with a cloak of religion and belief in Christ, and in a general sense there was no more anti-Christ and anti-God infidelity taught. “And cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: after that he must be loosed

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a little season.” That Satan spirit and power is loose now and is now deceiving nations into infidelity and the rejection of God and Christ living in the soul of man. This Satanic spirit is now working under the cloak of Communism and nations are being deceived. At the present time our nation is tottering under its deceptive influence and power.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast [Catholicism], neither his image [sectism, the harlot daughters of Catholicism], neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they [the souls of them that were beheaded] lived and reigned with Christ [in paradise] a thousand years.” This is symbolic language and has no reference to a thousand years in a literal sense, as some teach, and claim that Christ will come and reign a thousand years upon this earth. This scripture has reference to the saints who were slain by the pagan and beast power and were reigning in paradise. Let us read Rev. 6:9, “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”

The symbolical thousand years has reference to that long period of time that Catholicism reigned and ruled in the world, which was a time of spiritual darkness and the true Church was surrounded by a wilderness state, and was bruised and crushed down by a body of carnal, persecuting people who claimed to be the Church, but in fact were nothing more than the great whore, “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.” Rev. 17:5.

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During this thousand years those souls, disembodied spirits, who had been, slain by the pagan and beast power, were under the altar or in paradise reigning with Christ. The next verse reads thus, “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” To make it clearer we could word the last of this verse in this way and not change the meaning. I am talking about the first resurrection which is spiritual. During that thousand years of night there were very few souls being born again, or in other words, spiritually resurrected in the full sense of the word.

That this first resurrection was a spiritual resurrection the Bible bears out very clearly in the 24th and 25th verses of the 5th chapter of John’s gospel, which reads thus, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is [present] passed from death unto life.” He is made a new creation. The 25th verse makes it stronger: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is [present] when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” This is the first resurrection. This truth is also verified by Paul’s statements. In Eph. 2:1 we read, “And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Also, we read again in Col. 3:1, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” Let us now read John 5:28 where it is made plain that there is only one literal resurrection of the dead which consists of both the righteous and the wicked. Here it is from God’s sacred Word: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice [it says ‘ALL’], and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the

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resurrection of damnation.” How could words express this truth any clearer than it has in these two verses?

There were very few souls being saved, or resurrected from the dead, during the thousand years’ reign of Catholicism, called the ages of spiritual night, when the true Church of God was being trampled on and put under the cruelty of a false religion professing to be the true church. But in the course of time God began to shine light upon some souls to whom He gave boldness to declare it at the risk of their lives. Then men and women began to be resurrected to life again from a dead state of sin to life in God, and this is why the scripture says, “The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished,” and John surely is talking about the first resurrection. There will be only one future literal resurrection, and it will consist of both the righteous and the wicked. This will also be the general Judgment day. That doctrine which teaches that Christ will reign in a literal sense on this earth for a thousand years is a false doctrine, and the enemy has kept it going from the beginning of the formation of the true Church of God, says Eusebius who wrote a history of the church during its first three hundred years of existence. On page 113 of his book is a record of one by the name of Cerinthus, who revived this false theory in the first century and he is termed by the true Church as “a leader of another heresy.” We will here quote Eusebius’ writing in full on this subject.

“About the same time, we have understood, appeared Cerinthus, the leader of another heresy. Caius, whose words we quoted above, in ‘The Disputation’ attributed to him, writes thus respecting him: “But Cerinthus, by means of revelations which he pretended were written by a great apostle, also falsely pretended to wonderful things, as if they were showed him by angels, asserting, that after the resurrection there would be an earthly kingdom of Christ, and

that the flesh, i. e. men, again inhabiting Jerusalem, would be subject to desires and pleasures. Being also an enemy to the divine Scriptures, with a view to deceive men, he said that there would be a space of a thousand years for celebrating nuptial festivals.’ Dionysius also, who obtained the episcopate to Alexandria in our day, in the second book ‘On Promises,’ where he says some things as if received by ancient traditions, makes mention of the same man, in these words: ‘But it is highly probable that Cerinthus, the same that established the heresy that bears his name, designedly affixed the name (of John) to his own forgery. For one of the doctrines that he taught was, that Christ would have an earthly kingdom. And as he was a voluptuary, and altogether sensual, he conjectured that it would consist in those things that he craved in the gratification of appetite and lust: i. e. in eating, drinking, and marrying, or in such things whereby he supposed these sensual pleasures might be presented in more decent expressions; viz. in festivals, sacrifices, and the slaying of victims.’ Thus far Dionysius. But Irenaeus, in his first book against heresies, adds certain false doctrines of the man, though kept more secret, and gives a history in his third book, that deserves to be recorded, as received by tradition from Polycarp. He says that John the apostle once entered a bath to wash; but ascertaining Cerinthus was within, he leaped out of the place, and fled from the door, not enduring to enter under the same roof with him, and exhorted those with him to do the same, saying, ‘Let us flee, lest the bath fall in, as long as Cerinthus, that enemy of the truth, is within.’ ”

Chapter 9

The Sixteenth Century Reformation

In the 14th and 15th centuries God began to raise up men who received light from heaven. They began to rebel against the bondage and darkness of Catholicism, Babylon the Great, and to declare the truth and show up the spiritual wickedness existing in that “Mystery of iniquity.” History tells us that John Huss preached in Bohemia a century before Martin Luther appeared in Saxony. We will now quote some of this history from page 56 of the book entitled, “History of the Great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century.”

“He seemed to enter more deeply than all who had gone before him into the essence of Christian truth. He besought Christ to grant him grace to glory only in his cross, and in the inestimable humiliation of his sufferings. But he attacked rather the lives of the clergy than the errors of the Church. And yet he was, if we may be allowed the expression, the John the Baptist of the Reformation. The flames of his martyrdom kindled a fire which shed an extensive light in the midst of the general gloom, and was destined not to be speedily extinguished.

“John Huss did more: prophetic words resounded from the depths of his dungeon. He foresaw that real reformation of the Church was at hand. When driven from Prague, and compelled to

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wander in the fields of Bohemia, where he was followed by an immense crowd eager to catch his words, he exclaimed: ‘The wicked have begun by laying treacherous snares for the goose. But if even the goose, which is only a domestic fowl, a tame creature, and unable to rise high in the air, has yet broken their snares, other birds, whose flight carries them boldly towards heaven, will break them with much power. Instead of a feeble goose, the truth will send forth eagles and keen eyed falcons.’ “The reformers fulfilled this prediction.

“And when the venerable priest was summoned, by order of Sigismund, before the council of Constance, and cast into prison, the chapel of Bethlehem, where he had proclaimed the gospel and future triumphs of Christ, employed his thoughts more than his own defense. One night, the holy martyr thought he saw from the depths of his dungeon the pictures of Christ, which he had had painted on the walls of his oratory, effaced by the pope and his bishops. This dream distressed him. Next night he saw several painters engaged in restoring the figures in greater numbers and more vivid coloring; and this work performed, the painters, surrounded by an immense multitude, exclaimed: ‘Now let the popes and bishops come when they will, they will never again be able to efface them.’ ‘And many persons thereupon rejoiced in Bethlehem, and I amongst them,’ adds Huss. ‘Think of your defense, rather than of your dreams,’ said his faithful friend, the chevalier de Chlum, to whom he had imparted his dream. ‘I am no dreamer,’ replied Huss; ‘but I hold it certain, that the image of Christ will never be effaced. They desired to destroy it, but it will be imprinted anew on the hearts of men by much better preachers than myself. The nation that loves Christ will rejoice at this. And I, awaking from the dead, and rising as it were from the grave, shall leap for joy.’

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“A century elapsed; and the Gospel torch, rekindled by the reformers, did in truth enlighten many nations, who rejoiced in its beams.”

John Huss was finally deceived, betrayed by his enemies, trapped, caught and burned at the stake with words to this effect on his lips: “You may burn a goose now, but a century hence there shall arise a swan whom you can neither roast or burn.”

That Martin Luther was the “swan” that Huss had prophesied of is left without question when we behold the boldness and aggressiveness with which he labored in bringing about a reformation which wounded Catholicism and brought to light truth and righteousness that had long been covered up or buried in false doctrines imposed upon their subjects by an evil designing pope and priesthood—the Papacy.

In the history of the great Reformation of the sixteenth century written by J. H. Merle D’Aubigne, we find some of the simple truth which Martin Luther used against the apostatized Catholic church referred to in the 17th chapter of Revelation as MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

We quote: “The head of the church militant is Christ himself, and not a mortal man. I believe this, on the authority of God’s testimony, whose word says, He must reign until his enemies be put under his feet. Let us then no longer give ear to those who put away Christ to the church triumphant in heaven. His kingdom is a kingdom of faith. We see not our Head, and yet we are joined to him.” Martin Luther knew that Christ was reigning as King and would accept nothing else.

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Far from giving ground, Luther continued to advance. It was at this time that he struck one of his heaviest blows against prevailing error, by publishing his first commentary on the epistle to the Galatians. The second commentary undoubtedly surpassed the first; but even in this he set forth with great power the doctrine of justification by faith. Every word of the new apostle was full of light, and God made use of him as an instrument to introduce the knowledge of himself into the hearts of the people. "Christ has given himself for our sins," said Luther to his contemporaries. "It is not silver or gold that he had given for us; it is not man, it is not the host of angels; it is Himself, without whom nothing is great, that he has given. And this incomparable treasure he has given for our sins. Where now are those who proudly boast the power of our will?—where are the precepts of moral philosophy? Where is the power and the obligation of the law? Since our sins are so great that nothing less than a ransom so stupendous could remove them, shall we still seek to attain unto righteousness by the strength of our will, by the force of law, by the doctrines of men? What use can we have of all these subtleties and delusions? Alas! they could but cover our iniquities with a cloak of lies, and make us hypocrites beyond the reach of salvation."

But while Luther proved that there is no salvation for man but in Christ, he shewed also, that this salvation changes the heart of man, and made him abound in good works. "He who has truly heard the word of Christ and keeps it, is thenceforward clothed with the spirit of charity. If thou lovest him who hath made thee a present of twenty florins, or rendered thee any service, or testified in any other way his affection toward thee, how much more shouldest thou love Him who had given for thee, not gold or silver, but Himself; who hath received for thee so many wounds; who hath undergone for thy sake an agony and sweat of blood; who in thy stead hath suffered death;

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in a word, who in discharge of thy sins, hath swallowed up death, and acquired for thee a Father in heaven full of love? If thou dost not love him, thy heart hath not entered into or understood the things which he hath done; thou hast not believed them; for faith worketh by love.” “This epistle is my epistle,” said Luther, speaking of the epistle to the Galatians; “I have espoused it.”

We find in reading the “History of the Great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century” that the Church of God in the beginning was merely a community of brethren. All its members were taught of God, and each possessed the liberty of drawing for himself from the divine fountain of life. (John 6:45) The epistles, which then settled the great questions of doctrines, did not bear the pompous title of any single man or ruler. We find from the Holy Scriptures that they began simply with these words: “The apostles, elders and brethren, to our brethren. . . .” Acts 15:23. But the writings of these very apostles forewarn us that from the midst of these brethren there would arise a power which would overthrow this simple and primitive order. 2 Thess. 2:1

Paul preached a salvation that cometh from God only, and said, “By grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast.” This great octopus of apostasy had by this time so gained control that many had fallen away from the truth insomuch that they taught a great number of false doctrines and imaginary sayings. This fallen group did not have any resemblance of the humble, God-fearing men in the true Church. They had set up a single cast as mediators between God and men to barter in exchange for works, penances, and gold, the salvation freely given of God—such was popery.

Popery can be compared to a highway erected by the labor of ages between man and God. Whoever will scale it must pay or suffer

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in the attempt; and even then he will fail to overleap it. The reformation is the power which has thrown down this wall, has restored Christ to man, and has thus made plain the way of access to the Creator. Popery interposes the church between God and man. Christianity and the reformation bring God and man face to face. Popery separates man from God; the gospel reunites them.

We have a clear symbolic description of this great devilish, popery system called Catholicism found in Rev. 13:1-10. I will quote it in full. “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea [sea means people], having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” He was a blasphemous brute who received glory and honor for himself and gave it not to God—only in word. “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion.” These animals are used to describe this beast in order to show that he was a ferocious, devouring, animal-natured system. “And the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” He has also in his system the camouflaged nature of the great red dragon. Catholicism has much idol worship and many other things that were practiced by the dragon. “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death: [the 16th century reformation wounded his head] and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, [God’s family or church] and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given him to make war with the saints,

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and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear.” This means a spiritual ear; or he that has the Spirit in him, let him know. This apostatized system has slain millions of the saints of God who would not bow to their blasphemous set up.

Chapter 10

The Second Beast, the Daughters of Babylon

Beginning with the 11th verse, let us read of another beast coming up into the world which represents sectism, the harlot daughters of the great whore, Mystery Babylon the great (Catholicism). This second beast which refers to the many sects or humanly organized religions which sprung up after the sixteenth century reformation had fully developed. All of them made an image to the first beast in the manner of human organization (which should be divine and of God only) and most of them brought some of the false doctrines of Catholicism over into their systems and have them incorporated in their disciplines: all of which constitutes an image to the first beast. They followed in their mother's steps, the great whore; MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT AND THEY ARE NOW THE HARLOT DAUGHTERS OF THAT CORRUPT SYSTEM, and have defiled themselves with nearly every evil of the world. In 1880 God raised up a man by the name of D. S. Warner who received light and knowledge to such an extent that he discerned the corrupted condition of sectarianism and cried out against it with scriptural proof of their fallen condition. He often used the scripture in Revelation 18:2, which reads thus: "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is

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fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” In connection with this verse he used the 4th verse as follows, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” At the same time God also raised up other ministers giving them the same light on the truth which Brother Warner taught concerning the oneness of God’s people. As they labored under the inspiration of God’s spirit the church was restored to its primitive state, the apostles and prophets being foundation stones and Jesus the chief Corner Stone. They would accept no man’s human creed or foundation but built on Christ as the chief corner stone and the apostles as foundation stones in the building. The mighty signs and wonders that followed their preaching proved that they had received the light of the gospel as it shone forth in the early morning church, for the lame was made to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and devils were cast out of men and women. The power and demonstration of the Spirit was so great that none could stand against it. The saved began to come out of nearly all the denominations, coming home to Zion, the true Church of God, with everlasting joy and gladness on their heads.

This lasted for about thirty years before defilement with the world began to destroy their faith, the leaders began to love preeminence, filthy lucre, pride, praise of men and worldly standing until the whole system was corrupt. The writer of this article was in this movement at that time. I was so heavily burdened about the matter that I went into fasting in the year of 1917 and the Lord gave me a vision of what was taking place in what we believed at that time to be the true and only Church of God in existence.

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The vision was on this manner: I seemed to be standing at the edge of a river, the water being about ankle deep where I was standing. Presently this river began to rise. Looking out on the river I saw a horse and buggy (cars were few in those days). In the buggy was a man and a boy who were traveling upstream. I saw their danger of being drowned, as the water was getting higher upon them, so I began to cry unto them to get out of the water or they would be drowned. As I cried and was burdened for their safety a voice said to me, “You had better get out.” I noticed it was getting higher on me and I obeyed the voice and got out onto dry land and safety, but as I looked at the man and boy in the buggy with the horse pulling against the current, they all went under and were submerged out of sight. They were swallowed up by that powerful current and swept into perdition. I was wondering what to do, when suddenly, the Lord showed me a road to travel. It was a rough road with sharp rocks to go over, and hills to climb. Briars were hanging over at places to almost obscure it and there were turns to be made that looked almost impossible to make; but far down the way I saw a smooth road which swept on like a dry river bed without any hindrances to retard my progress. I thanked God and took courage.

In meditation upon this vision the Lord brought to my mind that the buggy and horse with the man and boy represented the fallen Gospel Trumpet movement—the man—and the boy was the “Herald of Truth Company” which had then split from the main body and was operating a print shop in Carthage, Missouri. A few years later it went to pieces, as the structure they had built seemed faulty, was controlled by a human board which couldn’t see eye to eye, so they were scattered and their system came to naught.

The people adhering to the Gospel Trumpet movement have long been swallowed up with worldliness, pride, selfishness, lack of

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faith in God, until today most of their congregations cannot be distinguished from sects of the gross sinning type. Many of them have become so blinded that they trust in earthly physicians and drugs when sick, press the law doctrine of tithing, exchange pulpits with sects, call themselves Rev. and D. D.'s. In fact, they have become soaked in worldly religions and many of them use the devil's bible which has been hatched up by the Council of Churches which has come out of the mouth of the false prophet and is likened to an unclean spirit with a frog nature of coldness toward all truth taught and practiced.

Chapter 11

Some Personal Experiences

I must confess to you that the road we have traveled since 1917 has surely filled the description given us in the vision. When I got saved I was living on a farm 18 miles northwest of Clovis, New Mexico. I had filed on this land in 1906 as it was government land. We lived on it for twelve years and the Lord had favored us to some extent until we had it fairly well improved and stocked with cattle. I was a rank sinner and knew nothing about God's salvation. In 1914 the Lord began to convict me of my sins. He made me realize that I was a lost man and headed for destruction. I had no preacher or teacher to guide me or to counsel with me; but was looking to God alone. When the weight of sin got heavy I was very sorry in my heart that I had gotten into such a fix and had sinned against God. Repentance was in my heart, but what I must do about it was a question I could not solve. The Lord knew how to work it out for me. He allowed Satan to strike me down with a nervous prostration and there I lay helpless and racked with pain and suffering. The doctor was called and he pronounced me in a critical condition. He fed me on strychnine to counteract the pain so I lived on for three or four weeks and my limbs were drawn and twisted. Wife did all she could for me and the neighbors were very kind to come in and sit up with us. One neighbor stopped in to see me and said just a few words

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to me about the Lord, which none others had done. When he was gone I thought about what he had said. What could I do? I did not know how to pray, had never done such a thing and great darkness was upon me. Down in my heart without any audible speaking I thought, "If the Lord will get me out of here I will do better, live better." The next morning the pains began to leave my body and I could seem to feel them moving down my body and go out at my toes and I was well from that day. I know now that "the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance." My limbs were so twisted that I could hardly walk and I stayed in that condition for nearly a year.

I honestly did try to do better and did quit some of my grosser sins. After two years had passed godly sorrow was upon me very heavily and in repentance and sorrow of heart I sought the Lord who spoke peace to my soul. I had no teacher or preacher to help me, but the Lord. Oh, how I did love the Lord for lifting that heavy load of sin from my soul! I was very careful not to sin or grieve the Lord at all. I lived in that state of justification for nearly four months and through the Lord's dealing with me I realized that I had an impure heart. I read in the Bible in Matt. the fifth chapter thus, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Oh, how I did long for a pure heart! I prayed unto God to give me a pure heart. At that time I did not know anything about sanctification or what that word meant, but I did realize that I needed my heart to be purified and I knew of no one but God that could do it so I looked to Him and by the faith that I had in Him he did give me a pure heart. It came to pass with me as it did with Cornelius and his household as recorded in Acts 15:8, 9, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Yes, there as I was alone and no preacher or teacher around He cleansed me from that sin nature and flooded my soul with his

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Divine nature or purity and the Holy Spirit took up His abode in my very soul. I hardly knew whether I had gone into heaven or was still on the earth. I was so light and free and the Comforter was so real in my very being that I thrilled from head to foot with waves of glory. The “Spirit of truth” began to teach me, as we find recorded in John the 16th chapter, beginning at the 7th verse: “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment because the prince [Satan] of this world is judged. I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

Truly, the Great Teacher had come into my heart there alone with God and he began to teach me truth that I had never known before. I made the scripture found in the eighth chapter of Romans and the 14th verse my very own: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” This was my scripture then and has been through the years and still is today and shall be until He says, “It is enough, come up higher.” I could tell many things of how the Lord has led me and the many deeds he has caused to be done in his name of healing the sick, supplying needs, casting out devils, but that is not the purpose of this book. (You will find those things in the book entitled “God’s Gracious Dealings,” which will be sent to any address for fifty cents.)

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I was baptized by the Holy Ghost on Thursday and the following Sunday night the Lord had weighted me down with a message for neighboring friends and others. When I got into the pulpit or took the floor at the country school house it was filled with friends and neighbors. As I began to tell them that I wanted to testify, the Holy Ghost began to work to my own surprise and to all present. I spoke with great freedom and much power the words given me by the “Spirit of truth.” For thirty minutes the Spirit of God worked in and through me in giving out the truth while all looked on with wonder and amazement. Some were weeping and a backslider gave her heart to God. Great joy filled our hearts.

The Lord began to put more messages upon me for the people, many of which I would preach to the corn stalks while in the field working. The corn stalks had ears but could not hear. I find many people that way in the world today. I realized that I had a definite call from God to preach His Word. I felt so weak and unable, for I knew very little about what the Bible did teach. When I would preach, the Holy Spirit would cause me to say things that I was puzzled about. I would search the Scriptures until I found the texts that taught what the Holy Spirit had spoken through these lips of clay.

Being led of the Lord, I went to different school houses and other places for a distance of twenty miles around our homestead and preached the gospel to all who would come and hear. In the fall of 1917 the Lord led me to sell out all our farm machinery, stock and household goods. The farm was rented out and put up for sale, as the Lord was definitely leading me out into His work. In due time all was sold and put into the work of the Lord as He directed by His Spirit. I was then perfectly free to go where He would lead. I knew not where, nor what, but I went out as Abraham did of old, not

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knowing where that would be. The Lord had already shown me that I had a rough and hard road to travel, and I gladly embraced His will and said, “Thy will be done.”

From the farm we moved to town—Clovis, New Mexico—where Bro. George E. Harmon was the pastor of the Church of God congregation. As I waited on the Lord, He definitely showed me to move to Guthrie, Okla. Accordingly, in June, 1918, we moved from Clovis to Guthrie. Due to conditions of unpaved roads, it required three days to reach our destination in our Model T Ford car. Here at Guthrie the Lord settled me in a little print shop that a brother was operating, consisting of a small, foot-power job press and some hand type. There I labored for more than four years and learned the primary principles of printing, of which I had known nothing before. Bless the Lord, He makes no mistakes. I became so burdened for souls that at times about all I could do while in prayer was to groan and say, “Lord, they have not heard, Lord they have not heard!” One day while in this agony of soul the Lord spoke to me and said, “They shall hear.” He also loosened me from the job at which I was working and led me to launch out by faith in printing the gospel and sending it forth to all the world. I will not go into detail about the hardships and struggles against the powers of darkness that would often surround us.

At this time I had a family consisting of wife and six children. They were all to be fed and cared for, besides the expense of printing the “Faith and Victory” paper each month and sending it out without a subscription price. Many tracts were to be printed and sent forth freely to all people. The struggle was hard and long, but the Lord would often encourage us, and even surprise us, by His precious ways of supplying and answering prayer.

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I was often reminded by the Spirit of God of the consecration I had made. One remembrance was made in this way: Bro. Robert Longley and I were running a mission in Guthrie and having meeting every night. Good was being done, but I wanted to do more for the Lord. I told Him in prayer that I was willing to be a minute man for Him and go anywhere at His leadings. One morning He awoke me about 4 o'clock and told me that He wanted me to go to the county farm and preach to the residents there and give them gospel literature. It was on Saturday morning and misting rain. I did not at that time know of any county farm, but went to the county court house and found that the county farm was located about ten miles southwest of Guthrie. I thought to myself that as it was misting rain, and the roads at that time not being paved, tomorrow would be better for some of the brethren, who were working on Saturday, would be free to go with me, and I decided to wait and go Sunday morning. Instantly the Spirit spoke to me and said, "I thought you were going to be a minute man for me." I said, "Yes, Lord," and got in the old Ford car and started out to find the county farm. When I went to the door and met the mistress of the place, I asked her about having some meetings and giving tracts to the inmates. She said, "Come right in. I will get the old people down from upstairs and from the other rooms and you can have service in this front room," which was quite large. The Lord blessed in the service and I was outside the door ready to leave for home when the mistress called out, "Wait! my husband and the hired man have just come from the field. I will run and tell them; they can tie up the team and come in, and you preach that over again to them." That was a surprise to me. I could do nothing but tell her that I would do so. The Lord gave me more liberty in giving out the second message. This was the beginning of four years of preaching to the residents, during which time we saw many of them get saved. Sometimes one would get

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saved, and when we went back two weeks later, he or she would have gone on to Glory. During that four years we also had jail meetings with many experiences in them.

Chapter 12

Beginning to Print the “Faith and Victory” Paper

When (1923) we began to print the Faith and Victory, we met with discouragement on every hand and from many sources—from some who ought to have loved the truth. But God had His hand upon the work, and in due time others began to see and love the truth which the literature contained. The subscriptions kept coming in and the truth found its way into the hearts of honest souls. More evangelists responded to the divine call to labor in the field, and more campmeetings came into existence. The saints in general rallied to the truth as they realized it was a faith work given of God.

During these years, as the Gospel Trumpet people drifted farther and farther into the world, some of the more honest souls began to split from that body and form themselves into a clan of their own. But they had drifted so far from the original truth, had so many things of a worldly nature attached to them, that they are now drifting along with the current of the world and will continue to drift. However, there are some who are really getting back to the truth taught by Bro. D. S. Warner and his early associates. When they do fully return, they fit right in with the saints that have not moved from the truth taught in the beginning when God worked with the movement so mightily. We reach our hands in fellowship to every

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blood-washed soul. Some seem to be clinging to the world in some ways that hinder their fellowship with the consecrated, blood-washed body of believers who constitute the spiritual Body of Christ functioning in the world, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. All the spring of fresh truth are to be found in her and she is marching on with a firm footstep, owning and possessing all that God allows her feet to stand upon, and will do so until the end of time.

Today many, who had been swept along with the compromise, are seeing from whence they have been decoyed and are returning to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They are obtaining joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing are fleeing away. Thank God, the gates of hell have not prevailed against the true Church of God which Jesus built and occupied on the day of Pentecost. She is still shining in the world as a pure, crystal white institution and will shine on in this world unto the end in spite of the persecution that seems to be in the near future.

There are souls yet scattered in sectism and in the Trumpet movement and in those who have split off from them and formed themselves into cliques and clans that are honest-hearted. In heart they are against all evil. God is calling them out of all these pens, cliques and clans. Some are coming now, but the majority of them will come later when persecution gets to raging and their eyes will be opened to the fact that the system they are in is no part of the true Church of God which Jesus built. There are men and women now in the different sects who see the evil of Communism, Catholicism, and the Council of Churches and are crying out against these present evils and future wickedness which is like an octopus sucking the spiritual life out of precious souls by getting them to partake of the world and its follies.

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These cliques and clans that have split off from the apostatized Trumpet movement have imbibed so much of the worldly religion that they look upon the true Church of God as being fanatic because they still preach and practice the truth taught and practiced by D. S. Warner and his early associates. Because of this rejection of the truth, they will go the way of their mother. It is necessary to speak plainly, and we dare to do so for the sake of precious souls that are in these movements. Satan seems to be an expert in creating bodies of people calling themselves the Church in order to get precious souls lodged up in these counterfeits and hinder them from getting into the real Body of Christ which is not of this world, but is the true Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The devil also has some lodged up in that anti-cleansing doctrine which is a delusion of the enemy and will draw everyone in perdition who believes and follows after that diabolical teaching.

When the end-time persecutions come and the true Church of God is shining more and more in her glorious beauty, there will be a movement of souls from all these man-made pens into the bright, shining, glorious Church of God. Then will the bright light of heaven be shining from the east even unto the west.

In Rev. 16:12 we have a scripture that in symbolic language shows up this condition existing in the world: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof dried up." Symbolically speaking, the river Euphrates represents that river of salvation that in times past has been pouring righteousness and life from heaven into honest hearts of men and women wherever they were found, but since the devil has succeeded in decoying and drifting all these dear souls into worldliness, vanity and pride, the water of life has ceased to flow into their hearts. This is symbolized as the Euphrates being dried up. In Smith's Bible

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Dictionary the meaning of “Euphrates” is defined as “the good and abounding river.” These many souls who are now dried up once had the river of salvation, which was “good and abounding,” in their souls. Now they are symbolized as the Euphrates river dried up. “That the way of the king of the east might be prepared.” The kings of the east no doubt mean these wicked king spirits who are now swarming down and possessing these dried up souls. They are, after being dried up of salvation, fertile ground for these evil spirits to work upon, in and through.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” Being like frogs would symbolize them as being cold toward practicing the truth of God’s Word, although they may preach a lot of it for the purpose of deceiving. A frog is a cold, self-satisfied creature. The dragon refers to that evil power of paganism which was ruling in the Roman Empire when it had sway and rule over practically all the world. This Satanic power, called the red dragon, had most of the people worshipping idol gods of various natures. They were heathen and rebellious against Christ, the apostles and the saints that followed them. They persecuted the true Church of God in the early morning time of the Church and many of the saints were slain with the sword, torn and eaten by lions, while still others were burned at the stake. But the saints kept testifying with power, healings and miracles following their preaching and testifying. The Scripture speaks of this conflict in Rev. 12:11, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” They held true to God until this great Satanic power was put down (Rev. 12:9) and ceased to exist openly in that form any more in a general sense.

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According to the Word of God in Rev. 20:7, 8 this dragon power was to be loosed for a little season after the thousand years' reign of the souls in paradise. Read Rev. 6:9-11. This thousand years has reference to the time when Catholicism ruled the people in the Dark Ages and slew thousands of precious souls who would dare to believe in and practice the truths of God's written Word. They were reigning through that long period of time in paradise and John saw them there crying unto God, asking how long would it be until they would be avenged of them that slew them.

“And out of the mouth of the beast.” This beast represents the Catholic church with its rituals, doctrines, ceremonies and idol worship. In the past 25 years it seems that the Catholic church has been infested with a special Satanic angel-of-light spirit in its activities in gaining converts to its beastly power. No doubt this is because the Euphrates is dried up in so many souls that they give this spirit fertile ground to work on in gaining converts. They have been and are now decoying souls into their corrupt system in a far greater number than for centuries past, and that is because that unclean spirit like a frog has risen up among them and is symbolized as coming out of the mouth of the beast.

“And out of the mouth of the false prophet.” This false prophet is a symbol of sectism, for they have always taught a lot of false doctrines. To see this unclean spirit, like a frog, we will have to find the thing that is cold toward the truth as it is Jesus and cold toward the saints of God in the earth. We do not know of anything that more closely resembles this picture than does “the Council of Churches.” This thing has performed a miracle, springing up in the last ten years like a mushroom. Now they claim over forty million subjects, and it has arisen out of sectism—the mouth of the false prophet.

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They have even made up a new version of the Bible and have it so fixed or perverted that the reading suits much better their apostatized ideas and opinions. We have before us a booklet recently written by R. K. Paisley of Belfast, Ireland entitled, "The New English Bible, Version or Perversion?" In this booklet he exposes the deceitful way in which the authors or translators have weakened the truth in the Scriptures. It also shows that the people who sponsor this new English Bible are in co-operation with the movement which produced the 1952 Standard Revised Version of the Bible and sponsored by the Council of Churches in America. I will quote in part the introduction of this book, and also one paragraph in the conclusion of the booklet.

Quote: "On March 11th [1961] the New Testament part of The New English Bible was published. Two other parts are to follow, the Old Testament and the Apocrypha.

"The Apocrypha part of the Bible! This is certainly a New Bible indeed. Rome can rightly rejoice that at last her view of the canon of Scripture has displaced that of the Apostolic Church. Of course, what else could we expect from a project directed by those British and Irish Churches which constitute the World Council of Churches in these islands? The repeated requests of the World Council of Churches for co-operation from Rome is, alas, only too well known.

"It may be argued that there are good things in the New English Bible. When there is poison in a cake one does not spend time praising the good fruit and other ingredients which the cake contains; rather one warns against the poison—and rightly so! Reader, the perversions of the N. E. B. are more dangerous to your soul than poison to your body. Turn from the N. E. B. which is the production of an age of doubt and turn to the old Authorized Version which is the production of an age of faith. The A. V. is reliable

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because it tells us as accurately as possible what the Bible says and not what some galaxy of scholars, who, however learned, are after all, but mortals like ourselves, think it ought to say.”

In speaking of these three unclean spirits like frogs, the Revelator in 16:14 pictures them thus: “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth [not of God] and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” It is a miracle to see how fast these three unclean spirits are working in these days and gathering souls unto them. These three unclean spirits are now gathering nearly the whole world under their influence and are brain-washing the people against the true God and Christ Jesus. The kings of the earth are represented by the great preachers who have been given power to sway the people into these nets of Satan. Billy Graham is one who is swaying them into the Council of Churches and adding thousands of their frog-like system which is cold toward the true God and the saints in the earth who are not of this world. The battle of that great day is being fought now in the ecclesiastical heavens, and will become greater and more fierce as time moves on to the great Judgment day and the end of this sin-benighted planet.

Chapter 13

The Two Great Cities

Here we have pictured before us the three great powers in the world today, and they are all warring against the true God and the saints, and in some degree they are seemingly against one another, but there is a deceptive spirit working among them in a sly way that will in time put to silence the voice of two, making one out of the three.

Let us look in the Bible and see how the spiritual enemies of God are spoken of. The Church of God is referred to in the Bible as a city, and also the great host of the enemy is spoken of as a city (Rev. 17:18). In the 11th chapter of Revelation, John is writing of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God being put to death, and refers to them as “dead bodies.” Rev. 11:8 reads, “And their dead bodies shall lie in the streets of that great city [referring to the enemies that crucified Christ], which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

In Genesis 4:17 we read that “Cain built a city.” Of course, we all know that it was a literal city, but it has a deeper and much more far-reaching meaning than that. Cain was a representative of evil, and this great city of spiritual evil was founded by him. The people that constitute this city have always been liars, murderers and

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deceitful men and women. This city has grown to a monstrous size, and has controlled, oppressed and slain the righteous all down through the ages. In Matt. 23:29 let us read what Jesus said to the inhabitants of the city of Cain: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, and say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partaker with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets, Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” Just think what a horrible description Jesus gives of these men, and what language He uses in judgment against these residents of the city of Cain! It is a city that is doomed to be destroyed.

“Pilgrim’s Progress” tells of one who used to live in the City of Destruction. Multitudes are living in that city today.

These two great cities which are referred to and often spoken of throughout the entire Bible are two distinct classes of people. One class is a seed of evil doers, and the other class is a seed of righteous people. One class retains that seed of sin in the heart as Cain did, and it lies at the door of the heart ready to manifest itself. The other class does as Abel did in offering an acceptable sacrifice unto God.

Down through the Old Testament we find these two classes of people manifesting themselves. Some kings did that which was good

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and acceptable in the sight of God while it is recorded that others did evil, worshipped idol gods and ruled the people with cruelty.

Abraham was a good man and was called “the friend of God.” He would rather take wrong than to do wrong. God permitted him to be tested to the limit and he proved true to the end. Lot was a good man and was of the seed of the righteous, but he made a mistake and pitched his tent toward Sodom (the sinful world), and finally found himself in the city of Sodom amongst a seed of evil doers. It is stated that his righteous soul was vexed from day to day by their unrighteous deeds. The people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah became so wicked that their cry went up to God who rained fire and brimstone upon them and destroyed those cities with all the people with the exception of Lot and his two daughters. It was the same way with Noah. The people had become so wicked that it grieved God that he had made man. Genesis 6:5, 6: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that very imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” God’s wrath was kindled against them and He sent a flood which destroyed them all except Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. Noah had the record of being a righteous man.

The world is becoming so wicked and ungodly now that when the Lord comes and His wrath is kindled against this people, He will set fire to it and consume the earth and all things therein. The wicked people will meet God in judgment and be consigned to the flames where the soul is tormented forever.

The great majority of people in the world today are fast growing like they were before God sent the flood and destroyed them all and as Sodom and Gomorrah were before God rained fire and brimstone upon them and destroyed them and the cities. Today the near-naked

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men and women who parade our city streets are an abomination in the sight of God and as Lot's righteous soul was vexed from day to day, so also are the righteous souls of the saints of God today vexed when they are compelled to behold the ungodly nakedness displayed on the streets of our cities by Word-of-God-rejecters. The wrath of God is being kindled against such ungodly deeds and actions and it is a sign of his near coming when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power. (2 Thess. 1:8, 9.)

The city of Babylon the Great and the pure City of God are both brought to view in a symbolical manner in the book of Revelation. When John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, he beheld them and gave a description of both of them.

A description of the great city of Babylon, the seed of evil doers, is recorded in the 17th chapter of Revelation, and we shall take a look at it. "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither: I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters [peoples]: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY,

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BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” In the 18th verse we read that the woman which John saw was that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. In the description of this city we do not find any thing good.

Let us turn to the 21st chapter of Revelation and see what is written of the City of God where all the righteous dwell in the New Testament Church or Body of Christ. Let us begin reading with the 9th verse. “And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” In the next verse he begins to describe the City, which is the Church of the living God. “Having the glory of God, and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Every soul that is washed in the blood of the Lamb is as a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Bro. D. S. Warner had a clear view of this holy city, the Church, when he wrote the song entitled “Church of God” which is No. 25 in the “Evening Light” songbook. We will quote the third stanza: “Church of God, ‘beloved City,’ Thou art of celestial mold; Lo! from God and out of heaven, came the city of pure gold. Stones of jasper, clear as crystal, is the building of thy wall; and the Lamb, thy light forever, Jesus, Jesus, all in all.” It seems that Bro. Warner had a clearer and deeper insight into what constituted the Church of God than many that followed him. I will dare say, that if D. S. Warner had lived on and held up the truth of the Church as he saw it at that time, the people who would have believed and practiced it would never have been in the apostatized state as many are today.

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In comparing the beginning descriptions of these two cities you will note that the corrupt city was in a wilderness place where he had to go to see it. A wilderness would symbolize a place of sin. To see the holy Jerusalem he was carried to a great and high mountain which symbolizes holiness. In Ezek. 43:12 we read where he was shewing the house to the house, which is the house of God, and it reads thus, “This is the law of the house [God’s house]; upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.”

Let us begin reading in Rev. 16:17, “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” Voices, thunders, earthquakes and lightnings would symbolize great commotions, pestilence, wars and strange things taking place in this world among men—kingdoms falling and powers arising. I do not know of any time when historians have recorded any more of these events than what we have passed through in the past fifty years. This world has undergone a great change. Powers of evil have arisen that we had not known before to any extent. For the past forty years the governments in the world have been in great distress and do not know what to do. Fear and nervous prostration are upon all people and it is waxing more fierce day by day.

Let us read Rev. 16:19 and see what has taken place: “And the great city [that Cain had built] was divided into three parts.” The city is now divided into three parts, with paganism, known to us as Communism, as one part. Revived Catholicism is another part, and the Council of Churches is the third part. These three parts are the

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three powers which now practically control the whole world, and these three are termed as “devils working miracles.” “And the cities of the nations fell.” This denotes the sect denominations which have fallen into this snare of the devil and are now upholding his diabolic, deceptive methods. “And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.” Babylon includes Catholicism and sectism—both as sects are the harlot daughters of Mystery Babylon the great (Rev. 17:5), and God is to give unto her at this time the fierceness of His wrath. Here we have a prophecy that is soon to take place before the coming of the Lord, for God’s wrath will be poured out on Babylon, which is the whore, the mother of harlots, including the revived Catholicism and the Council of Churches.

Let us read about these events in Rev. 19:20, “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.” This scripture harmonizes with the text in Rev. 20:10 concerning the end when paganism, in the form of modern Communism, will be engulfing the nations and surrounding the saints. Then Jesus returns, fire comes down from heaven and devours the adversaries. This scripture reads thus, “And the devil [representing Communism] that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are [you notice, the beast and the false prophet are already there], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

It is easy to discern by the conditions existing in the world today that things are changing and shaping themselves for the coming of the Lord and the destruction of this earth and all the people whose

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names are not written in the Lamb's book of life. To those who are in the full light, the Church of God is shining in her beauty, and they rejoice in her consolations, motherly love and affection. Others in dim light see her mixed up in sectism, Catholicism, and other cliques and clans, calling themselves churches. It is true that many saved people are scattered in the different sects, but the call of God is for every one to "come out of her" and abide alone in Him—the spiritual Body of Christ, which is the true Church. As times move on and the persecution gets to raging, many in these places will discard the false doctrines that keep them separated from the true Church, and will flow together with God's blood-washed people who are not of the world even as Christ is not of the world.

The enlightened children of God are not expecting the Lord to come as long as the world is in agitation and tension with rumors of wars, for that would be contrary to the teachings of Christ and the apostles. In Matt. 24:6 we read what Jesus said in regard to the things taking place before His coming, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Mark 13:7 states the same, and Luke 21:9 leaves a similar impression. Beginning at Matt. 24:7 we read what Jesus says will take place before His coming: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Part of this prophecy has already come to pass, as we have had wars, even world wars and great bloodshed, earthquakes and pestilences, and we still have such things; but these are the beginning of sorrows. Notice now what is to come upon us soon. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets

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shall arise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” By these sayings of the Lord we can see what is yet to come upon us as saints before the coming of the Lord.

Chapter 14

The Coming of Christ, the End of This World

Let us read 1 Thess. 5:1-3 and see what the Apostle Paul says about the coming of the Lord. “But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they [the wicked people] shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” Here we have a plain statement from the Apostle Paul’s pen, telling us that the end will come when this wicked world has ruled God out of their system and things are so arranged that they can say, “Peace and safety.” Wars and rumors of wars, distress of nations with turmoils and extreme tension will have ceased. This condition will be brought about by the wicked anti-Christ and anti-God people, and that class of people is in the world today. Nations are already falling under their influence and power. These wicked people are none else but pagan worshippers working under the name of Communism. When they get Catholicism, the Council of Churches, and all other religions deceived and forced down under their power, and no one daring to rise up against them, having the saints compassed about,

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then they will cry, "Peace and safety." Then, at that time, will take place what is written in Rev. 20:9, "And they went upon the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." This will be the day referred to in 2 Peter 3:10 which reads, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." This is the destruction that will take place when Jesus comes, and He will receive His own beloved children up into the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord. According to John 5:28, 29 the wicked and unbelievers will be resurrected the same hour and will be consigned to the lake of fire where the worm (soul) dieth not and the fire is never quenched. What a terrible place that will be for any soul, but by their acts and deeds in this world they have chosen to go there. Oh, how souls need to heed the warning and make peace with God this side of the grave or the judgment!

We are finishing the writing of this book on the 15th day of August, 1961. We realize that the nations are now in a nervous tension, knowing not what to do. They are threatening one another, and the major nations have bombs that have power within them to destroy whole cities in just a few moments. There are rumors of wars and nations are in great distress.

The fact is that most people have forsaken God, even those with a profession of following Him. The people of our fair land of America are so deceived by Satan and his angels (ministers) that they can in a brazen manner profess Christ and yet cater to the world in card playing, horse and car racing, competitive and professional ball playing, using tobacco, drinking liquor, gambling, going to theaters, having televisions in the home, and permitting the boys and girls to run the

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streets less than half dressed. In fact, most of the preachers favor such things, and others keep their mouths closed on such great evils all about them because perhaps their wife, children or good-paying members are indulging in these things. 2 Cor. 11:13, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transforming into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works.” Today we see the world filled up with ministers who seem to be angels of light (great preachers), and yet they are Satan’s ministers. Billy Graham preaches a lot of right things, but his religion is of a worldly-minded nature. He is, so I understand, in full accord with the Council of Churches. He is sweeping thousands upon thousands into this anti-Christ setup which is sprinkled with pinks and reds—Communists. The reason why people of our country are being deceived into evil things and religions of the world is because that nearly all have no God in their souls even though they do belong to church and profess to be the Lord’s. Satan would rather you would profess to be the Lord’s without Christ in your soul. Then he can much more easily keep you deceived and away from the truth by telling you that you are alright—just go on like you are. Most people today are living in the city of destruction and love to have it so.

Today we see three great evil powers and systems in America that have nearly all the people deceived. One system is Communism, another system is revived Catholicism, and the third is the Council of Churches. No one can affiliate with any one of these systems without being associated with the enemies of Christ. All the worldly churches are the enemies of the truth, for they are fostering false doctrines. This world is indeed today in the jaws of death and all these things will be hastening the coming of Christ and the Judgment day shock.

