

Prophecy & Current World Events – Part 2

As Revealed to the Philadelphia Era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong

Current World Events Lining up with Prophecy - March 16, 2025

Updated April 5, 2025

Updated July 27, 2025



Table of Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction -

.....

Page 4

Chapter 2

Current World Events -

.....

Page 8

Chapter 3

The Authority of the Bible -

.....

Page 25

Chapter 4

The Practice of Setting Dates -

.....

Page 34

Chapter 5

Conclusion -

.....

Page 39

Chapter 6

Current World Events Update

July 27, 2025 -

.....

Page 41

Chapter 1

Introduction

Current World Events Lining up with Prophecy – March 16, 2025

UPDATED – April 6, 2025

There are a number of events that have happened across the world in just the last few weeks that are sobering. These events are lining up very closely with the prophecies that were revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong. The pace at which these events are taking place is quite astonishing. This is Part 2 of the article that was written in 2024 titled “Prophecy & Current World Events”.

“Now, then, as I was reading here, the prophets that have been before me said, ‘Jeremiah, and before you of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms.’ **You know, God has prophesied about, and has addressed his prophecies to the ancient city states, and then the nations, and then the great empires of the world, and he has told, and foretold their destiny, and what would happen.**

“God has pronounced sentence on nations and said, ‘I’m going to cause such and such to happen to you.’ And it's happened. That is every bit of it that was expected to happen prior to now. **As I say about 90% of prophecy applies either directly or in the duality application to the time in which we live,** in the next 5, 10, 20 and 25 years from now.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Proof of a True Prophet”, Herbert W Armstrong

The stage is now being set so that the end-time prophetic events that were unsealed by Jesus Christ in the 20th century can now occur. But before getting into the recent world developments, I want to mention the watershed moment which occurred on February 24th of 2022. This was the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It was this moment in time that has made possible the events that are now occurring.

“Now I think it is time that we get back to biblical prophecy, that we see where we are now, where we stand and what is going to happen from now on. **As you know, about a third of the Bible of course is history, what has happened in the past, and it's the history of Israel and of other nations as they come into contact with Israel.** So, it is a history of nations and of governments in this world. The whole thing is about government.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

“Now most of you are not as old as I am and you don't realize how fast days, and months, and years are whipping past. It isn't going to be long now, believe me. **So now, about a third of the Bible is also prophecy, foretelling the future. And prophecy is merely history written in advance before it**

happens.

“Then about a third of the Bible is devoted to telling of God's purpose, of God's righteousness, of God's plan to accomplish His purpose, and of God's instruction in character and in right living in God's program, in God's plan in salvation. The churches of this world use, perhaps not over two percent, one to two percent of the Bible. They never quote more than one or two percent of the various verses, or parts of the Bible. I don't know whether you realize that or not.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

“I want to tell you a little more about it, and that is the coming of the United States of Europe. Now, brethren, you've heard me mention that time and again. And I think that perhaps we don't realize what a pivotal thing that is in world history, and what it means to us especially. Well, I can tell you now that the whole world is soon going to be rocked with astonishment and amazement when they find that, possibly within a year now, there is a new super nation, a new super power, possibly greater than the Soviet Union or the United States, that has gone together in Europe, the prophesied resurrection of the so-called Medieval Holy Roman Empire, the United States of Europe.”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

Soon after this event took place, I sent a couple of emails to the brethren because I believed it would open the door for other events to eventually take place which would align with the prophecies that were unsealed in the 6th era. I also completed an article on prophecy in relation to the current world events in June of last year. It is worth noting the “watershed” event that happened in 2022.

A Watershed Moment, the Russian Invasion of Ukraine – February 24, 2022

Three years ago, an unanticipated event took place in Europe, Russia invaded Ukraine. This event happened on February 24, 2022 and it proved to be a watershed moment in time. Soon after the occurrence of this event, some of the nations in Europe began to slowly increase their military spending and began to arm themselves in order to protect themselves from what they perceived as a Russian threat to their security.

As some of you may know, Mr. Armstrong believed that the fear of Russia would prove to be the unifying effect of the next European superpower that was understood to be the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It is worth reading a couple of excerpts from Mr. Armstrong at this point in time.

“President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union had died, and we just got the news. They had held it up 24 hours and this was just 24 hours later, when they made the announcement that day. And someone got the news there and told me that night.

“Well, Brezhnev is gone and Andropov, former head of their, well, the same thing as our not Secret Service but, the FBI. And he's been a real tough guy, as they say. He is now President and has taken over everything that Brezhnev had, and he is starting out in a very tough manner. His speeches are

very tough.

“Now one of the great things that is urging Europe on, and perhaps the greatest thing that will cause them to hurry and get together on this, is their fear of what's going on in the Kremlin and the Soviet Union. And Andropov is frightening them, and that is going to rush them. They are losing confidence in the United States as having a military umbrella over them to protect them, and they want their own military force to protect themselves. That's the way they feel over there. Now that is a chief incentive to unite them and that is taking place.”

Sermon, “The United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

“Well, I can tell you now the day before I arrived in Athens and I arrived there from South Africa, I'd been down in South Africa and also in Nairobi and the day before I arrived there, there'd been a meeting of the European Parliament. Now the European Parliament is merely the political arm that is working for the political unification of Europe, or reunification. **One of the great motivating powers that is tending to bring them together now is fear of increased Soviet threats, and they are alarming Europe, believe me.** I've been there and I've talked to the men over there.

“Now I was in conference with some very high officials in Greece, in Athens, and one, the leader of this group said, quote, ‘the peace of the world depends on the unification of Europe.’ The resurrection of this Holy Roman Empire. That expresses the way they feel over there. The whole peace of the world depends on it.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Tribulation”, Herbert W Armstrong

The following are some of the newsworthy articles of events that took place just last year. They show how Germany and some of the nations in Europe have slowly been building up their defenses and how they have been slowly preparing for war;

DW: Germany inaugurates new naval HQ on the Baltic Sea

Newsweek: NATO Launches Command Control Center in Baltic Sea

Reuters: German defence minister seeks 4.7 bln euro deal to buy four submarines, sources say

DW: Lithuania begins construction of Germany's military base

Newsweek: NATO State Announces New \$190 Million Artillery Ammo Plant

DW: German defense minister calls for war readiness by 2029

Politico: German troops must be ‘fit for war if Putin attacks, Defense Minister Pistorius says

CNN: Mandatory conscription and subway stations as bunkers: Germany outlines wartime plans

The term “Zeitenwende” has become a word that is being used in Germany to describe its transformation since the Russians invaded Ukraine. The word means “times turn”. Chancellor Scholz used this word to describe the historic turning point of the German nation and its decision to rearm. He used this verbiage when he addressed the Bundestag (German Parliament) on February 27, 2022.

But the pace and the level of this preparation has been lagging until now. What you will soon read are the events that have happened in the last few months, and most of them have taken place in just the last several weeks. They will leave no doubt that there is a God who can foretell future events before they occur.

"People don't know who God is today. As I said a while ago, you say to someone, 'You don't believe in God', and they'll raise up and be angry they'll say, 'Don't tell me I don't believe in God. I do too believe in God.' But they really don't brethren, because to them God is some mythical, mystic something who's not real at all! To the average person, they have no real concept of what God is.

"Like one woman said, not too long ago to others, two or three years ago I remember this, she said, 'Well God's not real to me.' God is not real to most people. **Brethren, is He real to you? God is so very real to me and I hope He is to you. And when God says He is going to do these things, you'll find out how real God is, and very soon now.** 'Cause His fury', and fury means His last plagues referred to every time, 'upon them. And I God will be comforted. **And they shall know that I am the Lord.' They haven't known it up till now.** 'And that I have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury upon them.'"

Sermon, "Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

"And now we are fast approaching the final grand smash explosion that is going to stagger the mind of man beyond the bounds of sanity. Forces are at work today on plans, programs, conspiracies, movements that soon will erupt into a world explosion of violence and chaos such as never happened before, and never will again. Men today are tampering with forces of nature they lack the prudence, knowledge, ability and wisdom to control.

"In this folly of educated ignorance, it has become fashionable today and intellectually titillating to ignore the great basic cause of all things; the fact of the purpose being worked out here below, and the master plan for its working out; the invisible but Supreme Power now soon to intervene and drastically alter the course of history before mankind blasts itself out of existence.

"Unreal though it may seem to those steeped in modern educational deceptions, some 2,500 years ago the Supreme Power of the universe inspired a man named Isaiah to quote Him, saying: 'I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand' (Isa. 46:9-10). The great world powers are formulating their policies – laying their plans. But the next few years will see astounding events explode in a manner very different than the nations plan!"

WCG Book, *The United States And Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W Armstrong

Chapter 2

Current World Events (2025)

Meeting Between President Trump & President Zelensky becomes a Catalyst - February 28, 2025

On Friday, February 28, 2025, a meeting took place between United States president Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss a rare earth mineral deal and a peace initiative between Russia and Ukraine.

The meeting at the Oval Office between President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelensky became contentious during a press conference after both parties could not agree on a peace initiative nor on a rare earth mineral deal. This unprecedented event was broadcast throughout the country and has become a defining moment in history. This has now led to a pause of military aid and assistance to Ukraine by the United States.

[You Tube Video: February 28, 2025 - President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in Oval Office, Feb. 28, 2025](#)

[CNN News Article: March 3, 2025 - Trump pauses military aid to Ukraine after Oval Office argument with Zelensky, White House official says | CNN Politics](#)

The fallout between these two leaders quickly led to an emergency summit between a number of European leaders who gathered together in London on Saturday March 1, 2025 to support Ukraine. The fallout between the United States and Ukraine is having a unifying effect in Europe.

Europe is beginning to believe that they can no longer count on the United States for its security and protection, especially after this crucial event that took place on Friday. Many European countries now believe that there is a new perspective in Washington regarding the foreign affairs that are taking place in Europe and that this new perspective aligns with Russia.

A chain reaction has begun as you will soon see. Europeans are calling for a European army, a new Nuclear Umbrella to protect Europe, an escalation of armaments, and a dramatic increase in military spending for the production of weapons of war for the defense of Europe.

But there is an additional element in the chain reaction that has taken root. Not only has the current Trump administration decided to end support and assistance for Ukraine, there are supporters of the Trump administration who are calling for the U.S. withdrawal from NATO.

The German Snap Election and its Ramifications - February 23, 2025

The winds of change are now occurring in Germany. On December 16, 2024 German Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a vote of confidence, which paved the way for a snap election. A snap election is an election that is called earlier than expected, often to solve a crisis in parliament. The following is what led to this event and what has happened since.

On November 6, 2024, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced the dismissal of its finance minister, Mr. Christian Lindner, who was part of the coalition government that was formed under Chancellor Scholz. Mr. Lindner is the leader of the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The removal came after a disagreement in the country's economic policy.

Soon afterward, Chancellor Scholz called for a confidence vote in the Bundestag, the German Parliament. On December 16, 2024 the vote took place and he lost by a tally of 394 to 207 with 116 members abstaining. This event led to the collapse of the coalition government which has been led by Chancellor Scholz since 2021. Chancellor Scholz is the leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). This led to the approval of a new federal election by the president, which was several months earlier than the scheduled election which would have taken place later this year.

[NBC News: December 16, 2025 - Germany set for snap elections after chancellor loses confidence vote](#)

[The Guardian: December 16, 2025 - Germany set for snap elections after vote of no confidence in Chancellor Olaf Scholz – as it happened | Germany | The Guardian](#)

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which is a conservative party that is led by Mr. Friedrich Merz, and its sister Christian Social Union (CSU), won the election with 28.6% of the vote. They will have 208 seats in the next German Parliament. This makes Mr. Merz the most likely candidate to become the next German Chancellor.

[AP News: February 23, 2025 - Conservative opposition wins German election and he far right is 2nd with strongest postwar result | AP News](#)

[DW News: February 27, 2025 - German election results explained in graphics](#)

Mr. Friedrich Merz wants to deliver Germany into a leadership role in Europe. This was his main campaign message. He has announced plans to loosen debt rules in Germany in order to ramp up military spending which has been applauded across Europe. His goal is to unite Europe and to launch Germany into a leadership role. This is a development of staggering proportions and one that aligns with the prophecy.

[DW News: March 5, 2025 - Germany set to spend big on army and infrastructure – DW – 03/05/2025](#)

[The Guardian: February 24, 2025 - Germany election: Merz says it's 'five to midnight' for Europe | Germany | The Guardian](#)

I have included the address to the Bundestag by Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Mr. Friedrich Merz that occurred on February 27, 2022. The following video link will demonstrate the militaristic position that Mr. Merz took when Russia invaded Ukraine and it will also show the intensity of his speech during this momentous time in history.

[YouTube Video: February 27, 2022 - LIVE: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Ukraine | DW News](#)

It is worth noting that the Alternative for Germany (AfD), a far-right extremist party won 20.4% of the vote and will send 152 delegates out of 630 into the Bundestag. This is nearly double the number of votes it received in the previous election which took place in 2021. This is a worrisome trend for those in the Jewish establishment considering that many within this party are anti-Semitic and considering the history of the German people. And even more concerning is the possibility that with the momentum growing, this party's strength and influence will continue to grow.

European Leaders Gather to “Massively” Increase their Military Budgets – March 6, 2025

On March 6, 2025, European leaders met in Brussels to discuss ending the fiscal rules surrounding military spending in their respective countries. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, before the meeting, was quoted as saying that “Europe was at a watershed moment.” By the end of the conference, 27 member states of the European Union (EU) agreed to massively increase their military spending budgets.

[The Guardian: March 6, 2025 - ‘Watershed moment’: EU leaders agree plan for huge rise in defence spending | European Union | The Guardian](#)

[DW News: March 6, 2025 - Ukraine updates: EU leaders back new defense spending plans – DW – 03/07/2025](#)

[The Guardian: March 6, 2025 - EU leaders hail ‘historic’ decision to boost defence – as it happened | Europe | The Guardian](#)

European Commission President Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen is the 13th president of the European Commission and has served in his office since 2019. She is a German politician and a member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which is a conservative party in the German parliament. She has previously served as the Federal Minister of Defense for Germany. She was reelected as head of the European Commission in July of 2024. It is worth noting Mrs. Leyen's German nationality and her affiliation to the CDU conservative party, of which Mr. Friedrich Merz is also a member.

After the meeting on March 6th, Mrs. Leyen said that “The 27 EU leaders are determined to ensure Europe's security.” And that “Europe is determined to invest more, to invest better, and to invest faster together.” After the meeting, she was quoted as saying, “Today history is being written.” German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also praised the EU's agreement to relax the debt rules and increase their defense spending and said that “They were following Germany's recent example.”

This is a monumental time in the history of Europe. The rearming of Europe was not conceivable before the Russian invasion of Ukraine which happened in February of 2022. It will surely pave the way for the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire that will be led by a people that have been known for war, the mighty German nation.

“Now, I came on up to Athens. It was I think about a day before I arrived that the what-is-called, **I think they call it, the European Parliament had had a meeting in Athens. Now the European Parliament is not official. But it's a body that has been elected, of leaders in Europe that are working for political union of Europe, trying to turn the Common Market, which is only economic in a matter of trade, into something that is political, monetary, military, everything as a super nation.** They had had a meeting in Athens. And Mr. LaRavia had flown over and had arrived I think about two days before I, in Athens. And he attended this meeting, which occurred before I arrived.”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

“But now, why the delay? I have known for years, and you have heard me proclaim again, and again, and again, that the United States of Europe is coming. They are going to unite, ten nations in Europe, and the Vatican will be on top of the heap. Why has it not happened? Forty-nine years have gone by. At last, I can tell you that it is. **All the pieces are falling into place now, all of a sudden.**”

“**Well, in Europe there are many nations. They speak different languages. They are divided by various languages. They are divided by different national aspirations, and national patriotisms, and by different currencies.** They have the German mark, the French franc, the English pound, and the lira in Italy, and the peso, or whatever it is in Spain. They have different kinds of currency, different kinds of money.

“**Now, they have gotten together in an economic system. That's been going on now for a good many years, the E.E.C., or the European Economic Community.** But **that is only something that knocks down tariff barriers for the international trade among the nations of Europe. Now, what they want is political union. What they want is one military force. What they want is one great world power,** and, actually, they are right on the borderline of the Soviet Union.”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

“I wish I had time to read you some letters here. And there is one very important man that has a lot to do with this getting of Europe together. Well, he is one of the two most important men, and he is going to come. He wants to have a meeting with me, and I just missed a meeting with him on this last trip.

“**But there is to be plenty of meetings of the European Parliament, which is that division of the people of the Common Market trying to get this together as a political union.** And their meetings, it's the same as the San Francisco Conference that drew up the Charter for the United Nations. And they expect to have their charter for that all completed by, I believe it was, now I forget the date again. I

had it given to me again yesterday. It was in early March. I think the 7th or 8th of March, something like that. It's supposed to be completed by that time.”

Sermon, “Mark of the Beast”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 11, 1982

The European Economic Community (EEC) was initially established in 1957. It was created to foster economic integration among its European member states by creating a common market of goods, services, and capital, among its participants. It has transformed and enlarged since its initial inception. In 1993, in a new stage of European integration, the ECC became a part of and evolved into the European Union. It currently has a total of 27 member states.

The European Parliament is a legislative body of the European Union. It is a body of elected officials that represent the citizens of its member states. The European Council is composed of the heads of state or governments that comprise the European Union. It defines the overall political direction and priorities of the European Union. The European Commission is the executive arm of the European Union. It also represents the European Union on the international stage.

Euro News: March 7, 2025 - Germany's 'whatever it takes' moment: Fiscal bazooka ignites market rally | Euronews

Bloomberg: March 7 2025 - Trading Floors Laud New European Era as Germany Set to Spend - Bloomberg

“A scheme is devised to unite France and Germany within a common venture designed to bind their economic destinies so tightly together that another intra-European war could not occur. The result is the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), created by the Treaty of Paris in April 1951.

“The ECSC is a first step toward European integration. It creates a common transnational authority to pool French and German iron, coal and steel resources. The project is extended to include Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

“The wheels of European industry have begun to turn again. Massive U.S. aid in the form of the Marshall Plan has helped spur European recovery. And the ECSC has shown Europeans the advantages of cooperation.

“Now, a further step is taken on the road toward integration.

“Individually, the nations of Western Europe — fragmented by internal barriers — are merely secondary influences in world affairs. But united, many come to realize, their joint economic strength could allow them to recover some of their lost influence and give them a major voice in the global arena.

“The signing of the Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957, creates the European Economic Community (EEC), or Common Market. Its six charter members are the same countries associated in the ECSC. (By 1981, the number of members will have grown to 10 — see map.)

“The EEC's initial goal is to remove trade and economic barriers between its members and unify their economic policies. But the ultimate hope is that the organization will be able to bring about the eventual political unification of Europe. Many hail the EEC as the nucleus of a future ‘United States of Europe.’

“In short order the EEC becomes the world's most powerful trading bloc. And West Germany — at the center of the European continent — becomes the most powerful nation of Europe west of the Soviet Union.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church Part 10 The Final Union”, June 1984

European Countries Begin to Prepare for War – March 7 2025

European countries have wasted no time in announcing that they are preparing for large scale military buildups and armaments in their respective nations. Poland is just one of them. We will surely begin to hear more nations make similar announcements.

CNN News: March 7, 2025 - Poland's Tusk plans large-scale military training for all adult males to boost reserves | CNN

NBC News: March 7, 2025 - Poland to require all adult men to take military training and consider nuclear weapons as Trump shifts on Russia

“‘And, no, Alas, Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it.’ Now, have I been talking to you about a time of trouble such as has never happened since there was a nation? Here it is again, and I want you to notice that that is especially on Israel as I remarked, if you remember, a while ago. ‘Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. It is even the time of Jacob's trouble. And we are Jacob!’

“It's the time of trouble against the United States and England and Europe is going to rise up against us. And Europe will reunite and they will form a new Empire, a new nation, political, with one currency, one military force, one government. They have a vast, great building in Brussels. I've been there. I talked to the architect of this coming Europe. He has visited here and he has spoken to you brethren, right on this very platform. And they're working furiously to bring this thing about.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

“It isn't that Russia's going to do some great terrible thing. What Russia's going to do is they are going to frighten the nations of Europe, and they're going to bring about the consolidation of Europe and things will move fast!

“And the Vatican will get together with the nations of Europe and they will then resurrect and declare the re-emergence of the Holy Roman Empire, a union of church and state. **Europe will be united into one great nation of several nations.** And I think that it may not go up into, for example, Holland and the Scandinavian nations, but I think that it may include Germany, and France, and Spain, and Portugal, and Italy. But I think the ten nations will be completed with two or three nations in Eastern Europe that will be carved right out.”

Bible Study, “Romans 9-10”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 20, 1980

NATO is Beginning to Fracture – March 7, 2025

Since Mr. Donald Trump won the presidential election in the United States, a phrase that has been heard across Europe is “Europe United”. Even before being elected to office, Mr. Trump has been signaling that it no longer wants to be the arm that guarantees the security of Europe.

There are now signs that NATO is beginning to unravel. The U.S. and Europe have been allies since the end of World War Two. The only way that prophecy can be fulfilled, and that the final European superpower can attack the U.S. and Britain, is if there is a split between the United States and the European Nations.

The Trump administration is now stating that it will remove its protection over Europe. The reason that has been given for the removal is that the U.S. believes that Europe does not want peace with Russia, but rather that it is supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia. In order for prophecy to be fulfilled, the U.S. alliance with the European states must fracture.

The Telegraph: March 7, 2025 - Donald Trump considers pulling troops out of Germany

The Telegraph: March 8, 2025 - US ‘to cease all future military exercises in Europe’

DW News: March 7 2025 - Germans no longer see US as trustworthy partner – DW – 03/07/2025

You Tube Video: March 6, 2025 - Macron: 'We must be ready if US no longer on our side' | DW News

Newsweek: March 22, 2025 – Trump Has More Than One Way Out of NATO - Newsweek

A European Aversion towards the United States – March 12, 2025

It is worth mentioning that there is a growing displeasure in Europe towards the United States. This is stemming from the Trump administration’s threats to implement tariffs on the products that are imported from Europe into the United States. This is creating an aversion towards the United States and is exacerbating the rift between the U.S. and its European allies.

AP NEWS: March 12, 2025 - EU says its countermeasures to Trump's tariffs will go into effect on April 1 | AP News

DW News: Marche 13, 2025 - Trump tariffs: Who will win the EU-US trade war? – DW – 03/13/2025

AP News: March 13, 2025 - Trump threatens 200% tariff on European wine | AP News

CNBC News: March 14, 2025 - Almonds, whiskey, auto parts: Where EU tariffs will hit hardest

“Now our men who have been over there say that the economic crisis is really hitting Europe. It's a really serious thing, and all of the leaders of the governments in Europe want to see Mr. Reagan re-elected. **The people of Europe hate Mr. Reagan and also, they seem to hate Mrs. Thatcher in England. And in continental Europe there is a noticeable increase in aversion against, and hostility against the United States and Britain both.**

“And that is strictly according to biblical prophecy, precisely what God has said. And so I want to say that our own men, in evaluating the situation, believe that we may have not more than one more year to reach the people of Europe, Africa and Asia with the gospel. **We're just getting that near to the end and I wonder if we are not asleep over here, and if we realize that time is very precious and time is running out on us.”**

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

In Need of a New Nuclear “Umbrella” for Europe - March 6 2025

In the wake of the uncertainty of the United States role in NATO, France has offered to extend its nuclear “umbrella” over Europe as a deterrent. France has approximately over 290 nuclear weapons. Mr. Friedrich Merz has responded to this idea in a favorable manner. In order for prophecy to be fulfilled, Europe will have to become a nuclear superpower.

You Tube Video: March 6, 2025 - EU leaders cautiously welcome Macron's nuclear umbrella offer • FRANCE 24 English

The Guardian: March 7, 2025 - Germany to reach out to France and UK over sharing of nuclear weapons | Germany | The Guardian

Reuters: March 9 2025 - Germany's Merz wants European nuclear weapons to boost US shield | Reuters

Poland recently asked the United States to move some of its nuclear weapons to their country as a deterrent to what they perceive as the Russian threat to their sovereignty. This is a development of epic proportions and one that should be closely watched. Mr. Armstrong believed that the United States would be the country that would provide the nuclear weapons to a United Europe who in turn would use them against the U.S.A.

Politico: March 13, 2025 - Move your nukes to our territory, Polish president urges Trump – POLITICO

AP News: March 13, 2025 - President Duda calls on US to place nuclear weapons in Poland | AP News

“But Russia is planning to go on south to Pakistan, to the Arabian Sea and that will get them into control of the Indian Ocean, one of the three great oceans of the world. And that will give them control of all of Asia and all of the Middle East and of all the oil of the world. And where are we going to be then? And where is Europe going to be? Now **Europe is alive to this thing and they have long**

since begun to lose faith in the United States that we'll do anything. We just don't do anything anymore. We sit around and say we're going to do, but we don't do.

"Now I want to say this, that there is no nuclear war prophesied in the Bible between Russia and the United States. I do not think that'll come to war between Russia and the United States. Russia knows that we can destroy them as well as they can destroy us and I don't think they want to do that.

"But what it will do, it's going to arouse Europe and they will unite and there will be ten nations in Europe and they will be as powerful as Russia and as powerful as the United States, maybe more so.

"Now we're going to be shipping a lot more of nuclear weapons over to Europe. We think that is the place we need to have them so we can defend against Russia. Well, Europe will just shoot them right back at us a little later when they organize. That is going to bring on the Great Tribulation."

Sermon, "Receivership and Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, January 5, 1980

"It's the time of trouble against the United States and England and Europe is getting to rise up against us. And Europe will reunite and they will form a new Empire, a new nation, political, with one currency, one military force, one government. They have a vast, great building in Brussels, I've been there. I talked to the architect of this coming Europe. He has visited here and he has spoken to you brethren, right on this very platform...

"You see this is talking about our very time, and the time of the great tribulation that is coming, and it is the time of Jacob's trouble. That means the United States and Britain. And it's primarily going to be against us, but it is going to be on the whole world. And it will be nuclear war, believe me! Nothing else could do what the prophecies say is going to happen."

Sermon, "Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

"Then he went on talking about things and coming down to the time of the end. In verse 21, [Matthew 24:21], He said, 'For then', that's in our time now and just ahead of us now, in fact, we're in the beginning of it to a small sense, 'for then shall be great tribulation. Such as was not since the beginning of the world of this time, none or ever shall be.'

"And now, listen to this, 'and except those days' this great tribulation should be shortened. There should no flesh be saved alive', not a human being would be spared. All humanity would be blasted out of existence. He was foretelling what only hydrogen bombs and nuclear weapons can do. And he said, unless God intervenes to stop it, that would happen...

"Now, I wanted to quote Ezekiel 6 and verse 6, (Ezekiel 6:6). There it speaks of our people, of our nations, and it says, 'In all your dwelling places, the cities shall be laid waste.' It is going to come, it's

going to be nuclear war, and it is going to come, and only God reveals the way of escape, the way to eternal life, the way to happiness and eternal life, which we can have.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Can Mankind Survive Nuclear Warfare?”, Herbert W Armstrong

“In a celebrated speech at Zurich, Switzerland, in September 1946, Winston Churchill suggests a possible solution: ‘We must build a kind of United States of Europe.’

“Once again, an age-old ideal resurfaces.

“The devastation of two world wars has made the limitations of national sovereignty painfully evident. If Europe's individual nationalisms could be submerged within the context of European supranationalism, many feel that future continental conflagrations could be averted. If Europe could become one family of nations, historic enmities could be put to rest.

“The plan has highly significant overtones. For centuries, statesmen have advocated the union of European nations. Now, a fresh movement toward unity arises from the devastation of World War II.

“But how to begin?

“It is Churchill, among others, who again suggests a course: **‘The first step in the re-creation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany.’**

“The reconciliation of these two age-old enemies is widely viewed as the essential cornerstone of peace in postwar Europe. In essence — the re-creation of the Empire of Charlemagne!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church Part 10 The Final Union”, June 1984

Pro-European Rallies in Italy – March 15, 2025

Pro-European rallies took place in Rome on March 15, 2025. Italians were seen waving the blue European Union flag as a sign of support for the European nations that are calling for unity and the rearmament of Europe. A close alliance between Rome/Vatican and Germany has been solidified before and the winds of change are moving in this direction again.

[AP News: March 15, 2025 - Tens of thousands join pro-Europe rally in Rome, amid worries over European Union's plan to rearm | AP News](#)

[ABC News: March 15, 2025 - Tens of thousands join pro-Europe rally in Rome, amid worries over European Union's plan to rearm - ABC News](#)

“In August 955, Otto halts an invasion of the pagan Magyars, who have been conducting annual raids on Germany. In this momentous Battle of Lechfeld (Augsburg), he delivers a decisive blow to the invaders. The Magyar menace is ended. They will not invade the German realm again.

“Otto can now rightfully claim the title ‘protector of Europe.’ He is widely viewed as another Charles Martel, who stopped the Islamic Saracen advance in Western Europe in A.D. 732.

“Meanwhile, the Papacy continues in tragic decline. Sergius III (904-911) gains the Papal chair through murder and lives openly with the prostitute Marozia. Their illegitimate son becomes Pope John XI (931-935). Under Pope John XII (955-964), the Lateran palace becomes a literal brothel.

“Rome, and all Italy, are in chaos. Pope John XII appeals to Otto to restore order to the peninsula and to assist him against his adversaries. In 961 Otto sweeps into Italy and defeats the enemies of the Pope.

“Pope John recognizes Otto's position in Europe by crowning him Holy Roman Emperor on February 2, 962. Not since that historic Christmas Day in A.D. 800, when the Western Roman Empire was restored by the coronation of Charlemagne, has an event of such magnitude occurred.

“Western Europe again has an Emperor! Charlemagne's Empire is revived in an alliance between Emperor and Church. With the support of the Church, Otto reigns supreme throughout Western Christendom over the German Reich, or Empire.

“The year 962 marks the restoration of the imperial tradition. Later historians will view it as the beginning of what would later be officially styled the Sacrum Romanum Imperium Nationis Germanicae — the **‘Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.’** (The full term will not be officially applied until the 15th century.)

“Throughout the Middle Ages, the imperial title and German kingship will remain indissolubly united. It will be the kings of the Germans, crowned by the Pope, who will henceforth be named Holy Roman Emperors. **Germany is the heart and core — the power center — of the Empire.**

“The octagonal imperial crown of the Holy Roman Empire is made especially for the coronation of Otto in 962. For centuries to come, it will be the very symbol of the concept of European unity.”

The Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church – Part Five: The First Reich”,
November-December 1983

The ball has started to roll and it is now evident that it is just a matter of time before a new superpower emerges in Europe, the Holy Roman Empire. It will be this event that will trigger the final world war and the start of the Great Tribulation.

"Now, we are a long ways from Russia, and we are fearing the Soviet Union. The two great powers in the world are the Soviet Union and the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States, and we are really fearing Russia. Let me say right here, I know of no prophecy in the Bible that speaks specifically of any war between Russia and the United States, and I have been saying for years and years that is not the way that World War III will come.

"However, let me say that the resurrection of this so-called Holy Roman Empire that existed from 554 on to 1814 in Europe, will trigger World War III, the nuclear World War 3 that is going to destroy our major cities. I mean destroy them! One third of our people are going to be killed. Another third are going to die of famine and pestilence, according to Ezekiel's prophecies. And the third remaining are going to be taken as slaves into other nations and moved out of this country.

"Now this thing coming is going to immediately trigger all of that. I don't know, maybe that doesn't mean anything to you, brethren. But, I want to tell you, it had better, because now it's really going to happen, and soon. We are getting very, very close to it."

Sermon, "United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

"Now, what is next? Verse 21, 'For then', right after that, 'shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this same time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive. But for the elect's sake those days will shall be shortened.'

"In other words, it's going to be the Great Tribulation! Now, we are proclaiming that warning, while we have been proclaiming that warning, 30 years ago the hydrogen bomb was first produced, the first time a weapon of mass destruction could wipe out all humanity on the face of the earth. And this says right after, immediately after that, will come the Great Tribulation. **That's going to come as a result of the reformation of this empire over in Europe. And it will be so bad. It'll be nuclear World War 3.** If God did not intervene, no one would be saved alive."

Sermon, "Mark of the Beast", Herbert W Armstrong, December 11, 1982

The Roman Catholic Pope is Hospitalized – February 14, 2025

On February 14, 2025, Pope Francis was hospitalized with a respiratory tract infection. He was later diagnosed with pneumonia. Pope Francis is 88 years old and it has been reported that he has been struggling with breathlessness even before this event took place. He has a previous medical history of bronchitis which was exacerbated by pneumonia. He also had part of one of his lungs removed when he was a young man.

He has since suffered several setbacks during his stay in the hospital including what was described as an "asthma-like crisis of prolonged intensity." This happened on February 22, 2025. On February 28, 2025, he suffered an episode of bronchospasms which led to vomiting with inhalation and a sudden worsening of his

respiratory condition. It was reported that shortly after this episode, he began “noninvasive mechanical ventilation.”

On March 3, 2025, Pope Francis had a third respiratory episode. He had 2 episodes of acute respiratory insufficiency on this same day. It is believed that the episodes were caused by a significant accumulation of endobronchial mucus which led to bronchospasms. It was reported that “bronchoscopies were performed with the need for aspiration of copious secretions.” Noninvasive mechanical ventilation was resumed later in the day.

The medical events that the current pope is suffering are indicative of a man whose medical condition is extremely fragile and unstable and who, at the very minimum, may need to remain under medical care and observation for an unforeseeable time. It is also highly likely that a new pope may soon lead the Catholic church, and as prophecy indicates, this may be the religious leader who will greatly influence and affect the next European superpower in the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

“God says He was wroth with our people. ‘I have polluted’, and that means He's going to do that in the next few years, ‘mine inheritance. I've given them into your hand’, **the Roman Catholic church will sit astride of this coming United States of Europe**, and, ‘did shew them no mercy.’ We will not be shown mercy in this brethren. ‘Upon the ancient have you very heavily laid your yoke.’

“We are an ancient nation. We're the descendants of that ancient nation, ancient Israel, and we're the modern descendants. Now, in Jeremiah 30, I read to you about the yoke that would be on us. **This shows you who put that yoke on us, and it will be a united Europe headed by the Roman Catholic church. It's time we wake up and realize that these prophecies are real. They are telling us what is going to happen, and very, very shortly.**”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

“Now she sits ‘on many waters.’ And down here in verse, let me see, verse ten. Verse nine I guess it is. I've got so many marks on here, I can't even read it. ‘The seven heads are seven mountains.’ No, it's another place. Oh, here, **‘and he said unto me, the waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and languages or tongues.’**”

“In other words, many nations speaking many different languages. In other words, Europe. Same thing, all just what I've been telling you about. **See ‘the great whore that sits on many waters’, that is, many nations speaking different languages,** ‘with whom the kings of the earth’, those who have committed fornication. They claim to be the Church. The Church is supposed to be the affianced bride of Christ. But she didn't wait to be married to Christ at His Second Coming. She was married to the kings of this world.”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

“But the woman sat on top of the beast. **A woman riding a horse is weaker. The horse is much stronger. It carries her, but she makes it go!** You know, ‘gee’ or ‘haw’, turning right or left. **And she controls it, and guides it, which way it goes, and what it does.** And that's exactly what happened, a woman riding a beast. ‘And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.’”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

“Along with the time-honored system of Roman — inspired government, another pattern has stood out in the panorama of European history: the intimate relationship of the spiritual with the secular power.

“Throughout the Middle Ages, leaders considered the Church at Rome to be God's chosen instrument in spiritual matters. **The Holy Roman Empire was regarded as God's chosen political organization over Western Christendom. Pope and Emperor were regarded as God's vice-regents on earth.**

“This intimate alliance of Church and State served the needs of both institutions. The Empire exercised its political and military powers to defend religion and enforce internal submission through religious uniformity. **The Church, in turn, acted as a glue for Europe, holding together the differing nationalities by the tie of common religion.**”

Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church Part 10 The Final Union”, June 1984

I would like to share an excerpt from one final news article with you that I recently read. It is from the “Vatican News” website. The article is titled **“EU Bishops: Ukraine’s struggle ‘will be decisive for the fate of Europe and the World.’** There are a number of signs in this article that the Vatican will soon begin guiding, directing and “riding” a group of 10 nations in Europe. Below is a portion of this article.

“The Presidency of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU releases a statement stressing the importance of continuing to support Ukraine and its people.

“By Kielce Gussie

“A statement issued on March 4 by the Presidency of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union stresses that Ukraine’s struggle for peace ‘will also be decisive for the fate of Europe and the world.’

“The message reaffirms the European Union of Bishops’ continued support of Ukraine and its people, ‘who have been suffering from Russia’s unjustifiable full-scale invasion for more than three years.’

“A fate which extends beyond borders

“The Presidency of the Commission's statement shares their ongoing prayers for those who have died, those who are wounded or fighting for their country, and those who have been displaced as a result of the war.

“The statement also expresses gratitude to the EU decision-makers for ‘providing unprecedented humanitarian, political, economic, financial as well as military support to Ukraine and its people over the past years.’

“More than simply describing their sentiment, the bishops use the statement to highlight how the fate of Ukraine will extend far beyond its borders and instead affect the entire world...”

“A new chapter of war

“Recognizing the ‘geopolitical complexities and the unpredictability of actions’ of some countries, the bishops call on the EU and its member states to ‘remain united in their commitment to supporting Ukraine and its people.’”

Vatican News Website Article, “EU Bishops: Ukraine’s struggle will be decisive for the fate of Europe and the World”, Kielce Gussie

When Mr. Armstrong was alive, he fostered an attitude of love towards God and towards our fellow man. He often expounded upon the way of give and explained how peace will eventually be achieved in this world. He talked about praying and forgiving our enemies.

And so, it is important to mention that it is only by the grace of God that we were called to understand the truth and to live a new way of life. We should never accuse and never judge anyone, including those who will be used in a manner that will fulfill prophecy, such as the man who will lead the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire and the individual who will serve as the false prophet.

“And deceived people don't know they are deceived. **Brethren, I don't say this thing to accuse. I don't say it because I am angry at the people of the so-called beast, or beast power, or the person.** And maybe I already know in person, somewhat intimately, the one who will be that beast. If so, **I feel sorry for him, and I don't accuse him of anything, because he believes he is right. He's sincere, and we need to realize that. God has not called us to sit in judgment. Christ is the Judge. Let us be thankful God has opened our eyes, our minds, and called us out.** ‘Come out from among them’, in this world ‘and be separate.’ The world is deceived, but there is a lot of good in this world.

“You know, the people in this world, they have their professional ethics. They are people of what they call high morals, of high standards, good standards. Oh, yes, they think they are right, and yet they don't have God's Spirit. They don't have the love of God. It isn't their fault. They don't know any better. We're not to sit in judgment of them. We're not to hate them. We're not their enemies. Well, I hope they are not our enemies.”

The Trump Administration Wants Europe to Defend Itself

BBC News: March 25, 2025 - How Trump blew up the world order - and left Europe scrabbling

The New York Times: March 7, 2025 - Trump Wants Europe to Defend Itself. Here's What It Would Take. - The New York Times

WSJ: April 1, 2025 - Trump Wants NATO to Spend More. Europe Pitches Redefining Defense to Get There. - WSJ

The article that was cited above title "How Trump blew up the world order – and left Europe scrabbling" is an eye opening article and a must read. It will provide a brief history of the past world order and demonstrate how it is now changing and how Mr. Armstrong was ahead of his time. His intuition, over 40 years ago, on how some of these events would begin to develop, is absolutely remarkable. Even since the 1980s, he was able to discern that there were some in the United States government who wanted a United Europe and one that was stronger and more militarized.

"Now let me show you a little bit of the final, the end of it. The ten horns, in verse twelve, I want. 'The ten horns which thou saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.'

"The beast will be over the ten nations. Each nation will have a king on its throne. It may be five in Western Europe, five in Eastern Europe. Poland may break away. Czechoslovakia would like to. I am pretty sure that Romania would. I've been there three times. And I've had even the top people from Romania, right near the top of the government, as our guest here in Pasadena. And they say, 'We are communist, but we certainly are not Moscow communists.' And they would like to cut loose from Moscow. And also so would the former nation of Tito, or Yugoslavia.

"Now Yugoslavia seems to be hanging together. It's really several nations put together. And I thought they might split after Tito died, but they seem to be holding, and I think that they might come in. Undoubtedly, Greece will come in. The people I saw in Athens are very anxious to come into this. **And, strangely enough, even the United States' politicians want this thing to go through in Europe. They are all for it.** But now notice this, 'These have one mind, **and shall give their power and their strength unto the beast.** **That's in the military power of their nations.**"

Sermon, "United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

Summary

We are seeing the winds of change, which are turning the course of history to align with the events that have been foretold in the Word of God. There is a mighty nation that is known for war that has woken up and is

now preparing itself for conflict. It is a people that have been known throughout the annals of history for their fighting ability and combat ingenuity.

"All, except those in the Church, that are going to look on with absolute dumbfounded wonder when they see this United States of Europe rise up. Now, undoubtedly, Greece will be in. The Pope is going back to Poland in just a few months, and they are declaring this coming year a certain year of rejuvenation of Europe. And I know that they are planning to try to put it over in this coming year. They're really. They know they've got to work fast now."

Sermon, "United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

"I've been preaching this for years, and now, all of a sudden, these things are all falling into place. It's going to happen. **The question is, Are we ready?** We're going to be put into a test that you can't dream of. The test commandment is going to be a test, and your life is going to depend on whether you can trust God, or whether you will give in. And I predict that some of you are going to give up the Sabbath, and give in, and go with the world. But the plagues of God will be on you if you do that! But everything that the civil government, and police, and the power of man can do to you will be on you IF you don't give in on the Sabbath, Sunday question.

"Where are you going to stand? You're going to be put to a test such as you've never had before, brethren, and very soon. **And I tell you, the time has come when you had better do a little fasting, and praying, and get back close to God.** And **be sure that you are so close to Him that you can rely on Him, that you can trust Him, because you are going to have to trust Him with your life, and very soon.**

"Now, I hope this shakes you up a little bit because, if I can shake you up now, that's fine. But if I don't, the conditions in the world are going to shake you up and very soon. Let's all get back. And we'd better hang together. So, pray for me as I pray for you. **We need to pray for one another now as never before.** Thank you, brethren."

Sermon, "United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

Chapter 3

The Authority of the Bible

A Being who can Foretell the Future

There is a being who identifies Himself as God and as the maker of mankind in the Bible. This being can foretell world events before they occur. This in itself is fascinating, especially when we are able to see some of these events begin to come to fruition. In my lifetime, I have seen several Biblical events that were foretold and then fulfilled.

“Is the Bible actually authoritative? Does it carry authority, the authority of the Eternal Creator of the ruler of the entire universe? You know, this Bible is pretty big book. And it tells what's going on in the world around you. And it reveals to you the real significance behind today's world news, the very events you're reading about in your newspapers, and you ought to know all about it.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Proof of a True Prophet”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Once again, let me ask you my friends, did you ever stop to really prove whether or not the Bible is inspired? Whether or not it is actually a divine revelation from a supernatural creator God? Is the Bible actually authoritative? Does it carry authority, the authority of the Eternal Creator of the ruler of the entire universe? Or is it just the writings of an ignorant ancient race groping in the darkness of superstition, trying to find some kind of a human idea, and concept of a god?

“I have proved to you more than once on this program, and by the prophecies that already have been fulfilled, that the Bible is the direct revelation, by divine inspiration from the God who runs and controls the universe and who created it, and who sits at the controls in his high heaven, at the headquarters of the entire universe, and who rules everything. And there is no rule, and there is nothing happening in this world, except, or in the universe, except by His express permission.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Proof of a True Prophet”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Biblical Events that have been Fulfilled during this Generation

The first event was the restoration of Biblical truth and the raising up of the Philadelphia era of the Church. God used Mr. Armstrong to raise up the 6th era of the Church and to restore an incredible amount of Biblical doctrine to the Church, truths that had been lost to the Church since the 1st century.

“And they asked Jesus, ‘How do they say that Elijah shall first come?’ before the Day of the Lord and before Christ's second coming. And Jesus answered, ‘Truly, Elijah shall come and restore all things.’ What was He talking about, brethren? John the Baptist did not restore anything! He came and called those who already knew. He didn't restore knowledge to them. He called them to repentance and

baptized them in a baptism of repentance. But he didn't teach them new knowledge. Jesus did that. Jesus was the one who came as a teacher. John the Baptist was a baptizer, not a teacher. But Jesus said, after John the Baptist had come and gone, that Elijah would yet come, before the second coming of Christ and before the Day of the Lord.

“Has anything been restored? The original truth that was lost has been restored to this Church. Brethren, these are days when God's prophecies are being fulfilled! And we don't have too much longer until even the second coming of Christ is going to occur.

“Now, every now and then I see that some crackpot gets something out saying that I have said I am going to live until the second coming of Christ. I don't remember ever having said that. And, I'll tell you, I have no reason whatsoever to believe that, absolutely no reason in the world to believe it. I will just say this, I'll live as long as Jesus Christ and God the Father want me to live. My life belongs to them. It's not mine. As long as He wants to keep me here, I will be here. And, if I die, it's because He's going to let me die. And that may be before tomorrow morning. I don't know. I absolutely don't know.

“For your sakes, I want to stay on. I feel a lot like the apostle Paul did when he said he would like to go and be with Christ, but it was needful to them that he stay on longer. It's the same way now. So, I'll try to take care of myself so that I can stay on as long as God wants me to. **I will try to continue to lead you into the truth, but there are those who would love to destroy that truth.”**

Sermon, “Coming Out of Sin”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 12, 1985

“Well now, today we are celebrating not only the 50th anniversary of the local Eugene Church as it was, which was the first Church of the Philadelphia era. I was still working with and preaching in the Sardis Churches up in the Willamette Valley, up near Jefferson, over in a little country schoolhouse at Beaver, up in that direction. **But God began to reveal NEW TRUTH that the others didn't know ...”**

Sermon, “50th Anniversary of the Eugene Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 24, 1983

“But God was revealing His truth to me. At first I had to learn a doctrine at a time. In other words, if the whole truth were a jigsaw puzzle of 100 pieces, I found the Church of God of the Sardis era, even though God's Church, had lost about 75 of the pieces, though some were among the important pieces. But it was impossible to fit them together so as to produce the WHOLE and FULL PICTURE, plain and clear.

“God was inspiring me to fill in the gaps...

“Little by little, God revealed to me more and more TRUTHS — additional pieces of God's revealed KNOWLEDGE that filled in the gaps — answered all the questions.”

Plain Truth Magazine, "What Every Reader Needs to Know About the FOUNDATION, HISTORY, AUTHORITY AND DOCTRINE OF THE WOLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

"This Philadelphia era of God's Church began in October, 1933, with only 19 baptized members. It started the smallest, but like the grain of mustard seed it grew, and GREW, until today it is fulfilling God's Great Commission in a power not equaled even by the largest professing churches of this world."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 21, 1984

"Fuller accounts of the history of the true Church during these times are available. But now we pick up the story in the present century.

"We come to the latter part of the era of the 'Sardis Church' (Rev. 3:1-6) and the beginning of the Philadelphia era (Rev. 3:7-13).

"The Sardis era of the Church had greatly deteriorated by 1927, when I was converted and first came on the scene, searching for the one true Church of God.

"The Philadelphia era was to take on new life, vigor and vitality, restoring truths that had been lost."

Good News Magazine, "The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God - Chapter 1", Herbert W Armstrong, April 1980

The second event that has occurred in our lifetime was the preaching of the gospel to the world. An apostle was specifically chosen and "sent forth" by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel. Mr. Armstrong "went forth" to proclaim the good news of a soon coming kingdom in all the world and the prophecy in Matthew 24:14 was thus fulfilled. The Church was used to back up and support the apostle with this commission Psalm 68:11.

"Forty-three years ago, God conferred on me, not on the Church, not on a team, not on a partnership, because Garner Ted was only three years old then, he conferred on me the responsibility of the Great Commission to get the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the whole world, for a witness to all nations. And I'm the one he's going to hold responsible."

"God has always worked through one man. We seem to want to forget that now, and think that God works through committees or work through teams, or this or that or the other thing." Now, I'm very happy to hear my son, a week ago, make that very plain, that there is a chain of authority. And it is from God to Christ. And from Christ, it is to me. And under me, Garner Ted Armstrong and then to others under him.

"Now maybe some of you don't like it that way. That's the way Christ made it. That's the way it is. And by his authority, that's the way it's going to remain. And if you don't like it that way, why you know

what you can do. But that's the way it'll be in this Church. And we don't take a vote to see what you think about it. And I know that I'm the one that's going to be held accountable. And I'm very conscious of that fact.

"But God did need the Church back of me, to make possible, the carrying out of that great commission, because one man in today's world cannot do it alone. And others have a part in it. And perhaps your part is just as important as mine. But the leadership God gave to me. However, he conferred it not on the Church, because the Church of this time, the Philadelphia era, had not yet been raised up when he conferred that commission on me."

Sermon, "The Good News", Herbert W Armstrong, 1979

"Now first I want you to notice there will be great tribulation. **That comes after the gospel of the kingdom has gone to the world. For one thousand, nine hundred years the gospel of the kingdom didn't go.** They preached that Jesus is the Christ. They had the message about Christ. They told people about Jesus but, they didn't preach His message.

"And brethren, I don't want to say anything boastfully, **but it is a fact and it has happened. It is not something I say I will do, or is going to happen. It is what has happened. That gospel of the kingdom has gone to all the world, and there is no other voice that has taken it to all the world, and that is something that nobody can contradict! That has happened.**"

Sermon, "Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

"Besides meeting with Kings, Prime Ministers, and Premiers, Herbert Armstrong also met with Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in June of 1973. And Emperor Hirohito of Japan. Emperor Hirohito awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasure. The Order of the Sacred Treasure is the most prestigious award that can be presented to a non-Japanese private citizen. **To date, Mr. Armstrong has had important meetings with many heads of state, kings, rulers, educators, and other leaders.**

"Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's message to these world leaders concerns the way to world peace and harmony, the way to solve the problems of poverty and squalor in which so many nations are held captive. It is a message of hope, a message that offers solutions instead of platitudes..."

"May 1974 marked an important date in the travels as he began the first of a series of international public lectures in Manila. Mr. Armstrong spoke to more than 25,000 people in his three-night lecture series in the Araneta Coliseum. He expounded on the purpose of life, answering the question, 'Why were you born?' Mr. Armstrong spoke out strongly about the two philosophies of life, Give and Get. He explained what love is and how God's government is based wholly on that principle of love, that is, giving, not getting.

“Perhaps Mr. Armstrong's warmest relationships with governmental and education leaders in this area of the world are in Israel. Back in 1968, Ambassador College, under the auspices of the Worldwide Church of God, entered a joint participation with Hebrew University in a large archaeological project in Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

“More recently, Mr. Herbert Armstrong traveled to Israel to participate in a dedication ceremony with Mayor Teddy Kollek at Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park. A stone marker in the park honoring Herbert Armstrong was unveiled in recognition of his sponsorship of the children's playground area. Later that same day, Mr. Armstrong and his party were entertained by a special performance of Israeli and Arab youths at the I.C.C.Y., International Cultural Center for Youth. On the square at the I.C.C.Y., a plaque honors Mr. Armstrong as well.

“During his stay in Israel, Mr. Armstrong spoke to many prominent dignitaries at a luncheon in his honor at Mount Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University. It was hosted by Professor Mazar and Dr. Avira and the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, Yigael Yadin, in recognition of Mr. Armstrong's 10-year participation with Israeli leaders in government and education. **He had several meetings at the Knesset with Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's leading labor party, and the Speaker of the Knesset, Itzhak Shamir.”**

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Ambassador for World Peace Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

The third Biblical event that has been fulfilled is the Church era from Philadelphia to Laodicea. There are a number of things about this final era of the Church that could be mentioned, but the change in era in itself was a significant Biblical event that was foretold and that has been fulfilled.

“You’ll find the Laodicean Church in Revelation 3 and again in Matthew 25. The Laodicean Church, they’re lukewarm, they’re only half filled with the holy spirit, but now I’d like to have you notice in Matthew 25 for just a moment. Here’s something you might devote a lot of time in studying...

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto 10 virgins, that’s the Church in this whole Church age, which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bride groom. They were told of the 2nd coming of Christ over 1900 years ago. Now their lamps is symbolic, as I say revelation is symbolic, thy word is a lamp under thy feet, the Bible says. **The lamps then are the Bible. These were a Bible loving people ...**

“I want you to notice something right here. Five of them were wise and five of them were foolish. And they that were foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them, but the wise took oil, not in the lamps, took oil in the vessels with their lamps. Now the lamp is the Bible. The lamp is the word of God. But the vessel that they took the oil in is the person, and in your mind. **And you can’t understand the Bible without the holy spirit. The oil is the holy spirit, and those that were foolish did not have the holy spirit, they had the Bible, but they couldn’t understand it correctly, because they didn’t have**

the holy spirit. And at midnight, now that's the way it's been for 1900 years but now we get down to our time."

Sermon, "Church History", Herbert W Armstrong, (DUB) 1981

And finally, the fourth prophetic event is the one that is happening right before our eyes, which is the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This is the most sobering event that I have seen in my lifetime because of the implications that this will have in the near future for this world and for God's people.

"[Rev. 6:9-10] Here we find pictured the martyrs of the Middle Ages already dead, at the time of this vision-which is the approximate present . They know 'Vengeance is MINE, saith the Lord.' They know God's judgments against this persecuting, deceiving, false church, as described in Revelation 18, are to be the seven last plagues, poured out 'in the presence of the Lamb' at the Second Coming of Christ. Read of it in Revelation 18. These dead saints are pictured as crying out to ask 'HOW LONG' before the Second Coming of Christ and the seven last plagues which will avenge their martyrdom. History tells us that in the Middle Ages more than fifty MILLION were killed, many for their BIBLE faith and obedience to God instead of obedience to this church government of man and the devil. Notice, now, what must again happen before the seven last plagues and the coming of Christ!

"'And white robes [symbolizing righteousness and purity] were given unto everyone of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled' (Rev. 6:11).

"Christ will not come to take vengeance on this great false church UNTIL another great martyrdom has taken place!

"Note it! There was one martyrdom. Those saints are already killed. Their resurrection will occur WHEN Jesus returns to earth-WHEN His judgments are poured out on this false BABYLON and her daughter churches! But there is yet to be another universal persecution and martyrdom of saints, just prior to Christ's coming in vengeance against the forces of evil! Here are TWO universal martyrdoms!

This coming great martyrdom is THE GREAT TRIBULATION (Matthew 24:9, 21-22). This tribulation is not the wrath of God-the last plagues. It is the wrath of Satan (Rev. 12:12), inflicted at the behest of HIS apostate church by the coming 'United States of EUROPE' and against the true people of God! It is a persecution-a torturing-a martyring of the saints of God-the very elect who cannot be deceived (Matt. 24:24)."

WCG Booklet, *Who or What is the Prophetic Beast?*, Herbert W Armstrong

I had wondered and contemplated for a long time how the unification of Europe and how the resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire would occur since many of the European nations, including Germany and the United States, have been allies since the end of World War Two. Until now, there has been a strong bond between

Europe and the U.S., including an alliance that was formed under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which began in 1949 with 12 member nations, and has since grown in size to 32 countries.

The first indication that a strong European unity and armament might be possible was the contemporary event of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Mr. Armstrong's insight that such an event might happen which could be the catalyst for European unification was truly astonishing. It is worth citing a couple of excerpts from him at this point.

"President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union had died, and we just got the news. They had held it up 24 hours and this was just 24 hours later, when they made the announcement that day. And someone got the news there and told me that night.

"Well, Brezhnev is gone and Andropov, former head of their, well, the same thing as our not Secret Service but, the FBI. And he's been a real tough guy, as they say. He is now President and has taken over everything that Brezhnev had, and he is starting out in a very tough manner. His speeches are very tough.

"Now one of the great things that is urging Europe on, and perhaps the greatest thing that will cause them to hurry and get together on this, is their fear of what's going on in the Kremlin and the Soviet Union. And Andropov is frightening them, and that is going to rush them. They are losing confidence in the United States as having a military umbrella over them to protect them, and they want their own military force to protect themselves. That's the way they feel over there. Now that is a chief incentive to unite them and that is taking place."

Sermon, "The United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

"You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about HOW and HOW SOON they may UNITE and provide a united EUROPEAN MILITARY FORCE so they can DEFEND THEMSELVES! And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And WHO WILL THEY BLAME for their humiliation and their necessity NOW to have a UNITED EUROPE, with a united GOVERNMENT, a COMMON CURRENCY, and a COMMON MILITARY FORCE AS GREAT OR GREATER THAN EITHER THE U.S.S.R. OR THE U.S.A.? They will blame the United States! And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!"

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 18, 1980

"And Russia is going to threaten now to turn east and south out of Russia, but east out of Afghanistan and take advantage of all the troubles to, as they will say, to go in and straighten out that mess in Iran, and take over Iran. And right now they have troops marshaled, and they're gathering right on the borders of Yugoslavia and of even West Germany, ready to march into Germany and Europe.

“Now, what this is going to do? It isn't that Russia's going to do some great terrible thing. What Russia's going to do is they are going to frighten the nations of Europe, and they're going to bring about the consolidation of Europe and things will move fast!”

“And the Vatican will get together with the nations of Europe and they will then resurrect and declare the re-emergence of the Holy Roman Empire, a union of church and state.” Europe will be united into one great nation of several nations. And I think that it may not go up into, for example, Holland and the Scandinavian nations, but I think that it may include Germany, and France, and Spain, and Portugal, and Italy. But I think the ten nations will be completed with two or three nations in Eastern Europe that will be carved right out.”

Bible Study, “Romans 9-10”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 20, 1980

The Russian invasion of Ukraine was the first “domino” that fell and it has led to the string of “dominos” that is now falling. This string of “dominos” is leading up to the ultimate fulfillment of the greatest end-time prophecies that were foretold in the Bible.

Since the Russian invasion, I have always believed that our attention should be focused on Germany and Europe. A mighty nation is beginning to wake up that will lead a total of 10 European nations, and this group of nations will soon become the next nuclear superpower that Mr. Armstrong frequently mentioned.

Most of the world, including many of God’s people, are unaware of what is now occurring behind the scenes. May God help us to understand the events that are now happening and may He strengthen all of His people as the end-time events that are described in the Bible begin to be fulfilled.

“And so the Book of Revelation, like all Scripture, is the plain Word of GOD.” But part of it is the direct saying, or quotation, of Jesus Christ - the very words of Christ Himself. If you have a ‘red-letter’ Bible or New Testament, printing all the words in *red* which Christ spoke directly Himself, you'll find a good many passages in the Book of Revelation are printed in RED.

“And then, John recorded the things that he SAW, in VISION, or, as it is worded, in SPIRIT. Most of the actual PROPHECY of the Book is contained in the things that John SAW, in VISION – and most of these things are SYMBOLS.

“And then, the third verse states: **‘Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.’**”

“A BLESSING is pronounced on you for READING these words - *provided* you are submissive and obedient to KEEP those things which are written therein!”

Booklet, “The Book of Revelation *Unveiled at Last!*”, Herbert W Armstrong

“You know, I was just thinking today, what is the state of mind of the average person? What do they think about? What is on their mind? What is the attitude, or what fills the mind? Well, what fills the”

mind of the average person is people that they see about them, things that they see about them, buildings, interiors, highways, bridges, all of the things that have been built and would make up our cities and our country, and people and the things that people do.

“That's what they see on television, that's what they think about. They think about the things they see that are physical, that they see with their senses, they hear with their ears, they taste with their mouths, they smell with their noses, or they can feel and touch. They seem to know nothing of the spirit world that is invisible to them, that they don't see, they can't hear, they can't feel, they can't touch. And yet is really ruling them and putting thoughts, putting impressions, everything into their minds.

“They don't think of that. You can talk to someone like that and if you accuse them and say, “You don't even believe in God, do you?” And they'll be angry and say, “Oh I do too believe in God.” But they really don't know just who and what is God? Well, they don't know. Is God real to them? No, He isn't. Do they ever think about Him? Not if they can help it. You begin to mention God and they become uncomfortable and want to run away.

“Brethren, then I got to thinking, what would be in the mind of one of us in God's Church? If we are as converted as we believe we are and have the spirit of God. But we have the same things in mind that they do. In a way we see these things, but we see them in a different light. And we are conscious of God and to us God is real.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

There is no doubt that many other noteworthy events will continue to happen and develop that will clearly align the greatest end-time prophecies revealed in the Bible. If there is anything that we should be doing, it is watching, praying for one another, and staying as close to God as possible. It won't be long now before the greatest event in the history of this world takes place, and that event is the return of Jesus Christ in all His power and glory, and He will come to save mankind from utter destruction.

“Now, I've given nothing that is new tonight, but I don't think you've been conscious of these prophecies for several years, and it's time we are conscious of them again because we are down to that very time, and we need to realize the time, and we need to be praying more than we have been, studying the Bible and getting our thoughts and our minds on God and the things above and not the things of this world.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

Chapter 4

The Practice of Setting Dates

Setting Dates, Mr. Armstrong's statements and the Proper Perspective

The subject of setting dates is one that should be addressed at this juncture in time. It is necessary to have a proper understanding on this subject so that one is not snared or misled by someone who engages in this type of activity. It will soon become clear that Mr. Armstrong did not engage in "setting dates" nor did he endorse it in any way.

Before reading the excerpts from Mr. Armstrong on this matter, there is some context and commentary that is necessary. In the early 1970's, some in the Church believed that Jesus Christ would return in 1975 on the Feast of Trumpets. They thought that the Great Tribulation would begin in February of 1972 and that the Church would be in the "Place of Safety" by March of that same year. It will soon become evident that Mr. Armstrong never set any dates for the events just mentioned.

The next 3 excerpts from Mr. Armstrong that you will read clearly indicate that he understood that God's ministers, and even God's apostles, are not to engage in the setting of dates. This is why Jesus Christ stated in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knows no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Of a surety, God will let His people know when it is time to flee to the "Place of Safety", but it will not happen through the practice of setting dates;

"Now Daniel 2 shows it finally coming down to the toes of the feet, but you see one of those feet is planted on Eastern Europe, and one on Western Europe. And it comes down to the final end, of the Second Coming of Christ and smashing this whole succession of Gentile governments on the toes of the feet. That's the ten kingdoms that are going to go together in Europe perhaps next year, perhaps the year after.

"Now I can't set dates, and, if it doesn't happen until two or three years from now, don't say how Mr. Armstrong said it was going to be in 1983. I didn't say that. I say it could. I didn't say it will. Now if someone tries to say I said it, I've got all you as witnesses, I didn't.

"Because they've tried to say, back in 1972, that I said things I did not say. Some people thought I said the Second Coming of Christ is going to occur then. No. I could see reasons why I thought this empire might go together at that time."

Sermon, "The Mark of the Beast", Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1982

"Well regardless of that let's go right on, 'In the Spirit'. In other words, in vision, in the Spirit he was taken into the Day of the Lord. Now that's a time yet to come. That time hasn't come. And that's what

this book is all about. It's all about the day of the Lord, which hasn't come yet. And it is coming very soon now. That's why I say the time has come for this book to open up.

“It's about the Day of the Lord, and the Day of the Lord is not come yet. **It's going to come in our time in a very, very few years.** I don't think the Day of the Lord will come within, say, three and a half to five years. **I can't set any date,** but I don't think it can come sooner than that. But it's going to come comparatively soon.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Book of Revelation Opened”, Herbert W Armstrong

“But now to get back to this: the theme is the Day of the Lord. He's covering that time. Now we have not come to that time. It's just around the corner now. We're in the generation when it is going to happen. I can't tell you just how soon it's going to happen. **I can't set dates.** I don't think the Day of the Lord can happen within three and a half years because there's a thing I'm going to show you here, if we have time in this program, that it will take three and a half years before the Day of the Lord sets in. And that's a time of trouble and we're in the preliminary rumblings of it right now. It hasn't struck us yet. This is just like the preliminary rumblings; it's like the foothills before you come to a real mountain — if I could express it that way. We're in trouble such as the world has never had right now, but it's going to be far, far worse!”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Revelation – Closed Book Until the End”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now then, you also have to read in the third chapter of Revelation, speaking of the Philadelphia era of the Church. We are going to be taken to a place of safety, or to a place of protection, during this time. I don't know how to make anything else out of it. And that's in two different places in the Bible, that we, and again the twelve chapter of Revelation, we are to fly into a place where it is prepared. **Now, how God is going to do that? How He is going to bring it? We just have to trust Him in faith to open our minds to understand it when the time comes.** And I think it is now going to come very, very soon.

“Well, brethren, **I have been preaching this now for the last forty-eight or forty-nine years.** That's before a great many, I'd say half of you have been born since that time. And now it's all coming to pass, and it is reality. It's going to come very soon. You can laugh it off. You can go off and say, ‘Well, I think that we've called Mr. Armstrong God's Apostle, I guess he's just a crackpot’, if you want to, or, you can heed and be protected.”

Sermon, “United States of Europe is Coming”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

A second and very important Biblical point that is extremely relevant regarding “setting dates” is found in the very next excerpt by Mr. Armstrong. If an individual engages in the setting of a date for an event, and the event does not come to pass, it means that the individual did not receive and is not receiving the information from God.

“Now, the test is this, if a man uses prophecy to reveal in advance what is going to happen in world conditions, then God says, if it comes to pass, that man was speaking God's word faithfully, and he was God's called minister. But if he uses prophecy to tell you what's going to happen, and it doesn't happen, you know, he spoke right out of his own mind. And a human mind doesn't know what's going to happen. No one but God Almighty knows the future. But God Almighty does know the end from the beginning. He knows what's going to happen.

“Now, all I can say is, that if you happen to be one who has been listening, you know that you have been hearing on this program, what was going to happen in prophecy, in world conditions and world conditions have been going precisely as the listeners to the World Tomorrow Program had been knowing in advance. And we've had to stand alone most of the time, in what we told you was going to happen. And others would laugh and scoff and say, ‘That's a false prophet. Don't listen to that.’ It's been happening my friends. It's going to continue to happen. There's the proof of the pudding.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Prophecies for Today Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then the prophet shall be known that the Eternal has truly sent him, and that the Eternal God has truly revealed what was in the Bible, and given him understanding so that he could know.

“Well, now let's turn real quickly on over to the 30th chapter. I wanted to get that in there because the test of whether a man is a true minister of Jesus Christ, especially if he ever uses prophecy is this, watch and see whether it comes to pass. ‘And if it comes to pass, you shall know.’ And there are other prophecies that explain this and the word of God and make it plain. You can know that that man has been called of God, is a true minister of Jesus Christ, and he spoke with authority.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Proof of a True Prophet”, Herbert W Armstrong

There is a third and final point that is important regarding “setting dates.” There is a distinction that needs to be made between “setting dates” and believing that a prophetic event will occur sooner than later. Mr. Armstrong was “ahead of his time”. He believed that many of the end-time prophetic events would occur much sooner in time.

Mr. Armstrong believed that many of the events that were foretold in the Bible, which were revealed to the Church by Jesus Christ through him, would happen in the 20th century, just as the first century apostles believed that the end-time events that were spoken by Jesus Christ would occur in their lifetime. Two examples of where the apostles believed that the return of Christ was imminent is found in Second Thessalonians 2:1-2 and Acts 2:16-21.

But it should be reiterated that in no way did Mr. Armstrong ever endorse the practice of “setting dates” for the return of Jesus Christ, or for any end-time event.

"Fifty years ago, I was putting emphasis on certain things where I was actually at least fifty years ahead of my time. You know, actually the 1st century apostles were more than 1950 years ahead of their time. They thought the Second Coming of Christ was going to occur way back there in their lifetime, and, of course, it didn't. But 50 years ago I could see that we were coming into the last generation of this world. So many things had been happening...

"But today it becomes a very solemn warning, and now the time is very imminent. The new United States of Europe is on the verge of going together. It has gone together a number of times already. Well, five times directly, and a sixth time that the world hardly noticed. And we are waiting now for the seventh resurrection of the Roman Empire. The whole world is going to be astounded, and, I can tell you, it could even happen next year."

Sermon, "Mark on the Beast", Herbert W Armstrong, December 11, 1982

"Romans 13:10 has been in my mind for the last about 50 years. 'Love is the fulfilling of the law.' And it is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the holy spirit. Now, let me see, that's Romans 5, verse 5, 'The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the holy spirit.' And that knowing the time and conditions in the world, and how it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

"You see, Paul felt that the second coming of Christ was going to happen right away. Later on, he learned it better, and he explains it here, and he wrote a little differently than that a little later, but that's what he was writing at this time. 'The night is far spent. The day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the days, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying, but put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.' That is, in a way to fulfill the lusts."

Bible Study, "Romans 13-14", Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

"Now, Jesus was answering a question by His disciples. They had been down in the temple. They had gone outside of the temple and they were showing Jesus the buildings of the temple. There's more than one building.

"And then later they were sitting up on the Mount of Olives, and four of them came to Jesus, as you read in Mark's version, the thirteenth chapter of Mark, and, as it is in Matthew 24, verse 3, 'As Jesus sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be?'

"Now, He had said the buildings of the temple would be destroyed, that they would be torn down, not one stone would be left upon another. They said, 'When will that happen?' And then they asked Him, 'and the sign of your coming and the end of the world?' Or the end of the age, the end of this world of

Satan.

“Now, they thought that the end of the world would come at the same time. They thought it was coming in their lifetime. All the disciples believed that, even the original apostles believed that. They were wrong, but they believed it.”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Conclusion

As a concluding statement, even though some of the most terrible world events that are revealed in the Bible will soon begin to occur, it is important to remember that the God who reveals Himself in the Bible is a being who loves every human being dearly. He is working out a great purpose on this earth which involves mankind, the pinnacle of His creation, and everything he does is done in love because this is the nature of the Great God who rules this universe.

“Now, God wanted to preserve the three main strains, and He brought it out in all the rest of humanity. Why? I said that they were bringing on such suffering on themselves because sin brings nothing but suffering, and evil, and wretchedness, and frustration, mental suffering, physical suffering, every kind of evil. Yet it brings it on its perpetrators, and they bring it on others beside themselves.

“So why did God bring the plagues on Egypt? Have you ever heard that explained? He did it to show them that the gods that they were worshiping, He turned those very gods against them to show them that their false Gods were false, and He did it out of love for the Egyptians. Everything God does is done in love. And the Devil wants people to think that God is a harsh stern monster.

“An aunt of mine in Des Moines, Iowa said one time, she says, ‘Well, I tell you one thing, I can accept Jesus alright, He was good, but that God of the Old Testament, I can't stand. He was a cruel monster.’ She didn't realize the God of the Old Testament was the one who became Jesus, and that everything that God did in the Old Testament time, or ever has done, was done in love. Go into some of these things, why God put the plagues on Egypt, why God killed all humanity but eight souls in a flood, and He did it all in love and mercy, because that is the nature of God, and God couldn't do things any other way.”

Bible Study, “Romans 9-10”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 20, 1980

“Now, He's going to punish the nations with fury. He's going to punish them to wake them up and bring them back to Him for their own good. **A lot of people don't realize the plagues God sent on ancient Egypt when He delivered Israel out of Egypt, back in the time of Moses, was sent in God's love to teach the Egyptians a lesson, and to teach them that the gods they worshiped were not real gods and that the true God is real. God punishes those He loves, and God's punishment is always corrective, never vengeance.**”

Sermon, “Prophecy/Synopsis of Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 10, 1984

*With sincerity and love
And in Christ's service,*

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3-16-2025
Updated April 6, 2025

Chapter 6

Current World Events Update

July 27, 2025

I want to bring to your attention some events that have taken place around the world in the months of May and June of 2025 which are not only historic in nature, but appear to be the incipient occurrences that may ultimately lead to some of the greatest end-time events described in the Bible, the prophecies that were revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church through Mr. Armstrong.

The Election of Pope Leo XIV

The first event happened on May 8, 2025 when Catholic Cardinals who had gathered together to elect the next pope, selected Cardinal Robert Prevost of the United States as the next leader of the Catholic Church. Mr. Prevost has elected to be known as Pope Leo XIV. Although he is considered an American, he spent a great deal of his life as a Catholic priest in Peru, where he also served as a bishop.

Pope Leo's views on a number of subjects including immigration are diametrically opposed to the views of the current American Presidential Administration. And thus, a schism has already developed between these two parties. The following are newsworthy articles that will unveil the rift between the Trump administration and the newly elected pope;

[Maga says Pope Leo may be American, but he's not 'America first': BBC News May 9, 2025](#)

[Maga Catholics are on a collision course with Leo XIV. They have good reason to fear him: The Guardian May 21, 2025](#)

[Maga melts down over WOKE MARXIST POPE who is Never Trumper liberal: The Independent May 8, 2025](#)

It is also important to note that Pope Leo is an Augustinian. Augustinians are those who study and adhere to the doctrines that were established by the philosopher and Catholic bishop Augustine of Hippo. Augustine was the author of several Catholic teachings including those found in the book title "City of God", which laid the foundation of the Papacy.

But more significant is that Pope Augustine is also the originator of the Catholic doctrine that the Kingdom of God is on the earth and administered by the Catholic church. It was this doctrine that was used by Pope Innocent and subsequent popes during the Inquisition of the Dark Ages to justify the murder of the Albigenses and martyrdom of the Waldenses. It also led to a number of Crusades. The Waldenses are part of the Thyatira era of the Church of God. I need not remind you that history has a tendency to repeat itself;

“Now, the second concept that I mentioned outside of sexuality that Augustine contributed to the world was in a masterpiece work that he wrote entitled ‘The City of God’, ‘The City of God’. In this work, he combated the belief of the pagans that Rome was destroyed because the people had changed from the pagan gods to Christianity. And he saw the conquest then of Christianity being God's victory, the other way around, over paganism, because there was a previous concept, you know, when the Vandals and Heruli and the Ostrogoths were to come in. Some of those kinds of things were the beginning of some of those things when they look back upon them. And emperors since have greatly relied on the writings of Augustine. Charlemagne loved to have this work read to him, ‘The City of God’, by Charlamagne, the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

“It showed that the world was divided into two camps, one, the world, and the second, was the city of God, which was the church. And of course, it was Augustine's belief that the church should then dominate the world, or the state in other words. **And one work, that I won't need to refer to. It has a long title and the author's hard to pronounce name says, ‘The church now on Earth is both the Kingdom of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven.’**”

“Do you see what happened? The doctrine that the church is the kingdom of God, **and from that doctrine, as I've mentioned earlier, we have the Catholic justification for wars, or crusades, or anything done to cause people to recant from heresy, to bring them into the church, the right of the church to use the power of the state to do this.** A little later on, we're going to talk about the Crusades and the Inquisition, in some of that time, and you may look ahead to that, in the context of this doctrine, unless I fail to mention it at that time.

“You could say in your mind, how does the church justify this? Now the church, if you asked the church, how do you justify the Inquisition? Do you know what the Catholic church answer is, to that, generally speaking? ‘We didn't do anything. That was the state. That was the civil authority.’ And what we'll find when we get there is well, yes, that's true. The church turned over heretics to the state, to do with them what they would. But it was under the jurisdiction of the church that these things happen.

“So that is Augustine, and his tremendous influence in the development of the history of what is considered Christian thought. Now there is much more to study about Augustine, but I just wanted to give you some generalizations about his background and past, his influences and his life, and his two major contributions. You can go from there if you want to go into it further.”

WCG Ambassador College Course, “Church of God History – Lecture 16”, Ronald Kelly, 1987

“One hundred years later, 1198 the pope at Rome is Innocent the Third, who was anything but innocent. Innocent the Third comes to the papacy in 1198, and he institute's the Inquisition, that you've all heard about, I would imagine, is one of this world's history's most tragic events, the Inquisition. It was instituted, that through whatever means possible, to convert heretics back to the

Catholic church, or into the Catholic church, if they were never part of it. That was the purpose of the Inquisition.

“And I think I may have mentioned a time or two before, the basic philosophy and justification for that goes all the way back to Augustine, in his city of God philosophy, that the church is the kingdom of God on the earth, and that it is the responsibility of the church to bring people into the church.

And that if you are not part of the church, the immortal soul doctrine comes into this, and the baptism doctrine comes into this. You see how you start to build your premise and your doctrines and your practices on false concepts. You draw terribly wrong conclusions.

“You start with an immortal soul and original sin, and the City of God, and all of these things that are totally incorrect, purgatory, heaven and hell, absolutely erroneous doctrine, lead you to be able, by the year 1200s rounded out, by the year 1200, the Catholic Church can justify putting a person to death in order to get him to become converted. And the whole theory is that you're going to, as I mentioned before I think, you're going burn in hell anyway. If you don't get converted, if you aren't baptized, your soul is going to go to hell anyway.

“If we can, through whatever means, stretch you on the rack, and make you recant of your heresy, bring you into the church and get you to accept the church and be baptized, or whatever is necessary, you at least get to go to purgatory, if it's with your dying breath that we accomplish this. And if you die, it doesn't matter, because you were going to hell anyway. So that is that you know. What a diabolical doctrine that is.

“And we bring the world into the darkest of the Dark Ages, with the Crusades and the Inquisition, the 1000s, well 1100s, 1200s, 1300s, a terrifying time in human history, the midnight of the Dark Ages, as one Protestant writer said.”

WCG Ambassador College Course, “Church of God History – Lecture 18” Ronald Kelly, 1987

The Truman Doctrine

The second significant event that is occurring is the apparent reversal of the Truman Doctrine. For those who are not familiar with United States foreign policy, a brief overview of this doctrine is in order.

The Truman Doctrine is a foreign policy that was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1947, shortly after the end of World War II. It compelled the United States to support, both economically and militarily, all of the “free peoples” or democratic nations against communism and authoritarian governments.

The Truman Doctrine was a shift in the previous foreign policy of isolationism and it thrust the United States into an interventionist role in world affairs. It led to the start of the “Cold War” between the United States and

the U.S.S.R. and the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The following articles contain more information about the Truman Doctrine;

[Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian](#)

[Cold War - Arms Race, Ideology, Superpowers | Britannica](#)

[President Truman announces the Truman Doctrine | March 12, 1947 | HISTORY](#)

The Reversal of the Truman Doctrine

Since the Truman Doctrine was established, the United State has been committed to protect the democratic nations around the world, especially in Western Europe. But a reversal of the long standing interventionist agenda began shortly after the inauguration of President Donald Trump. It is this reversal that has led to the third and the most significant event by far that has happened in the last couple of months;

[Trump has blown up the world order and left Europe' Leaders scrabbling: BBC March 25, 2025](#)

[What happens after Trump blows up the world order: The Washington Post March 26, 2025](#)

The Rearmament of Germany

On May 6, 2025 the Bundestag, which is the lower house of parliament in Germany, elected Mr. Friedrich Merz as the new chancellor of the German nation. His personality and style is significantly different from that of his predecessor;

[Merz to be sworn in as Germany ends six months of political stalemate: BBC May 5, 2025](#)

[What to Know About the Formation of Germany's New Government: The New York Time May 6, 2025](#)

This is a momentous event, not only because of the difference in the style that these men have in governing, but because it has sparked a reversal of the pacifist policy of the German people. While the remilitarization of Germany was once unthinkable, a complete reversal of this ideal has happened almost overnight.

With the new isolationist agenda that now permeates the current American Administration, and amid the recent Russian invasion of a country (Ukraine) in Europe, many Europeans feel threatened and believe that they have been abandoned by the United States and let alone to defend themselves against communism.

Germany, a country that has the potential and the means to defend and lead Europe has risen to the occasion. Germany's newly chosen chancellor is planning earth shaking changes that will transform his nation and their military into the most powerful force in Europe. The winds of change are starting to grip the German nation;

[Chancellor Merz brings new political style to Germany: DW June 7, 2025](#)

[Germany eyes strongest EU army by 2031: DW June18, 2025](#)

[Merz: Germany Will Build Strongest Conventional Army in Europe – Newsweek June 7, 2025](#)
[Rheinmetall, Anduril Team Up to Jointly Produce Defense Systems for Europe: WSJ June 18, 2025](#)
[Rheinmetall, Anduril Team Up to Jointly Produce Defense Systems for Europe](#)

“Scholz and Merz couldn't have more different personalities. The former is a sober, soft-spoken northern German who had plenty of government experience before he became chancellor. Scholz was the mayor of Hamburg and then the federal finance minister under Merkel.

“By contrast, Merz, by nature very conservative and easily irritated, rose quickly through his party ranks even without administrative political experience. Nor are the two politicians particularly fond of each other...

“Reflecting on the different styles of the two politicians and their predecessor, she noted: ‘While Merkel always thought with the outcome in mind and Scholz was reluctant to even describe a political goal before he had paved the way for it, **Merz clearly defines his goals.**’

“According to Kufner's analysis, this represents a significant political shift in itself.”

DW News, “Chancellor Merz brings new political style to Germany”, Jens Thurau, June 7, 2025

“BERLIN — **Germany will take more responsibility for Europe's defense by building the strongest army in the E.U., conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz said** in a wide-ranging speech in the Bundestag on Wednesday.

“**“The federal government will provide all the financial resources that the Bundeswehr needs to become the strongest conventional army in Europe,’ Merz said.** ‘This is more than appropriate for the most populous and economically strongest country in Europe. Our friends and partners also expect this from us, and what's more, they are actually demanding it.’

“The comments come after Merz led a historic U-turn on German fiscal policy, including a drastic loosening of the country’s constitutional debt brake to potentially unlock hundreds of billions of euros of borrowing for defense. That cash can also be used to finance military support for Ukraine.

“Merz said the purpose of bolstering the military would be to deter aggression.

“Our goal is a country, a Germany and a Europe that are together so strong that we never have to use our weapons,’ the new chancellor added.

Politico, “Germany’s Merz vows to build Europe’s strongest army”, Nette Nostlinger, May 14, 2025

The world does not understand the significance of what is now happening in Europe. And many of God's people are not aware of and are not closely monitoring the events that have begun to take place in Germany. But this event was foretold by God over thousands of years ago in His word, the Holy Bible, and it was revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church through a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong;

"1981 has brought the United States, Britain and much of the Western world into economic depression. Inflation and unemployment have escalated and so has crime, violence, discontent and trouble generally. A year ago the big news was still the hostages in Iran. Now it's the crisis in Poland. The Middle East boiling caldron still boils over.

"What the world does not realize is that, under cover, secret planning is proceeding furiously, uncovered by the news media, unknown by the public.

"But suddenly, unexpectedly, as biblical prophecy reveals, the whole world will be startled and shocked into WONDER, to learn that a new THIRD SUPER WORLD POWER has suddenly burst forth onto the world scene — a resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire by a union of 10 nations in Europe — very possibly five in Western Europe, and five broken loose from the Communist orbit in Eastern Europe! The crisis in Poland is tremendously significant, and with it the fact that there is now a Polish pope!"

Brethren and Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, December 27, 1981

The Rearmament of Europe - Historic NATO Summit 2025

A historic NATO summit took place on June 24-25, 2025. The main topic of discussion involved a Trump driven agenda that all member nations invest 5% of the annual GDP on defense spending. While Spain was the only one that did not agree to this new ceiling height, all of the other nations were onboard. The hike will practically double the amount of military spending that all member nations currently invest;

[NATO - News: NATO concludes historic Summit in The Hague, 25-Jun.-2025](#)

[NATO commits to spending hike sought by Trump, and to mutual defence | Reuters](#)

[Trump wraps up NATO summit with an alliance largely bent to his will | AP News](#)

[Former Italy PM: Europe must wake up amid complicated U.S. relations](#)

Politico News Article

A news article that was posted by "Politico" on June 22, 2025 titled "The Night German Cancellor Merz Changed His Mind About Donald Trump" presents a deep inside analysis on how the viewpoint of Mr. Merz has recently changed and is now determined that the country he leads must become the most powerful military force in Europe.

All of God's people must read the article published by Politico. It is a documentary that will display the path that the new German Chancellor, the German people, Europe, and the world are now on. It has left very little doubt in my mind that these preliminary events will ultimately lead the world down the path of destruction;

[The Night Chancellor Merz Changed His Mind About Donald Trump: Politico June 22, 2025](#)

Two crucial events are cited in the article by Politico that changed Chancellor Merz's mind and why he now believes that Germany must rebuild its military as quickly as possible at whatever the cost. The first incident that is mentioned is a speech that was given by Vice President JD Vance in Munich on February 14, 2025. In this speech, Mr. Vance criticized the leaders of the European Union for what he described as backsliding on freedom of speech and democracy;

[Deep rift between US and EU opens up in Munich: DW February 15, 2025](#)

[Vance turns on European allies in blistering speech: CNN February 14, 2025](#)

The second incident that is mentioned in the article by Politico is the meeting that took place between President Zelenskyy of Ukraine and the United State president Mr. Donald Trump in the White House, the capital of the United States. The memory of this news broadcast remains fresh in my mind and it was an indication of the waning U.S. support for Ukraine and Europe as a whole.

The German Franco Alliance

But there was yet another momentous event that is closely tied to the rearmament of Germany. Shortly after Mr. Merz was selected as the new German Chancellor, his first order of business was to travel to France.

A meeting took place between two European leaders to reestablish an essential alliance among old rivals. Germany's new Chancellor Mr. Merz met with France's President Emmanuel Macron in early May to enhance a relationship that is vital for the survival of Europe. The formation of this joint venture has its roots in history and both of these countries have played a key role in restoring the Holy Roman Empire throughout the past;

[Merz stresses European unity and defense during his first trip as German chancellor: AP May 7, 2025](#)

[Merz hails reset in ties with neighbours on first trip as German chancellor: Reuters May 7, 2025](#)

['Merzcron': The EU's Franco-German alliance is powering back up: CNN June 27, 2025](#)

[Merz and Macron vowed to restart the Franco-German engine. It's already sputtering: POLITICO July 23, 2025](#)

"In a celebrated speech at Zurich, Switzerland, in September 1946, Winston Churchill suggests a possible solution: 'We must build a kind of United States of Europe.'

"Once again, an age-old ideal resurfaces.

“The devastation of two world wars has made the limitations of national sovereignty painfully evident. If Europe's individual nationalisms could be submerged within the context of European supranationalism, many feel that future continental conflagrations could be averted. **If Europe could become one family of nations, historic enmities could be put to rest.**

“The plan has highly significant overtones. For centuries, statesmen have advocated the union of European nations. Now, a fresh movement toward unity arises from the devastation of World War II.

“But how to begin?

“It is Churchill, among others, who again suggests a course: ‘The first step in the re-creation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany.’

“The reconciliation of these two age-old enemies is widely viewed as the essential cornerstone of peace in postwar Europe. In essence — the re-creation of the Empire of Charlemagne!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church Part 10 The Final Union”, Keith Stump, June 1984

“Again, Europe has set out on the road to unity. Past articles in this series have shown that the Roman dream of a united Europe has permeated the history of the Continent.

“Justinian dreamed of restoring the Roman Empire. He accomplished it in A.D. 554, healing the ‘deadly wound’ administered to Rome by barbarian invaders in 476. But his restoration was short-lived.

“In A.D. 800, Charlemagne was crowned as imperator Romanorum, again restoring the Roman Empire in the West. In Charlemagne, Western Europe had a Christian Caesar, a Roman emperor born of Germanic race. His realm was the spiritual heir of the old Western Roman Empire.

“Charlemagne was rex pater Europae — ‘King Father of Europe.’ He showed Europeans the ideal of a unified Christian Empire. Throughout the Middle Ages, the memory of the once — great Roman Empire lived as a vital tradition in the hearts of Europeans.

“In 962, Otto the Great revived Charlemagne's Empire as the first fully German Reich. The Sacrum Romanum Imperium Nationis Germanicae — Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation — made its debut. Otto's octagonal crown became the very symbol of the concept of European unity. Germany became the power center of the Empire.

Plain Truth Magazine, “The History of Europe & the Church Part 10 The Final Union”, Keith Stump, June 1984

“For years readers of The PLAIN TRUTH have been warned that a united Europe is coming-that a third power bloc would arise under German leadership and precipitate a third world war!”

“Now the spectre of a united Europe is suddenly looming up. Britain is concerned. The United States is oblivious to this new threat to its power.

“Here is what has happened. On two fateful days – July 3 and 4 – a top-level meeting was held at Bonn, West Germany. Even the timing of the meeting is significant. July 4 is the anniversary of American independence. Is July 4 also to become the anniversary of European independence from American domination?

“At the secret meetings De Gaulle presented the French program for a loose confederation of Europe – ‘a union of fatherlands.’ The West Germans rejected it as unworkable. Instead, West German Chancellor Erhard proposed a tightly organized super – parliament to determine the destiny of Europe. De Gaulle compromised, called on the West Germans to make the proposals for unification to be presented, later, to the Common Market. German foreign minister Schroder will be in charge.

“Breaking Communist Hold on Eastern Europe

“The impelling force driving Western Europe into political unity is the threat of Soviet Communism. Europeans live next door to the Iron Curtain. They know – especially the Germans – what it is like to have Soviet troops across the border posing a constant threat to life.

“Just after the conference in Bonn, July 4, former Chancellor Adenauer gave an important interview. He said with a smile: “France and Germany together can form a real dike against the advance of communism.” . . . It was bad that previously the question of political union had been put on ice. This beginning will have results, not only for Europe, but for the whole free world.”

“Probably not even Adenauer knows where the new union of Europe will lead! But God knows – and He has revealed it in the prophecies of your Bible! You can understand what’s prophesied for today. Write for the free booklets “Who Is the Beast?” and “1975 in Prophecy” – they make today’s world news plain.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “Franco-German Axis Calls for United Europe!”, Herman Hoeh, August 1964

The Fear of Russia

In February of 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and this was the start and the domino effect that is triggering the additional significant events in Europe. It is worth mentioning again that Mr. Armstrong believed the Fear of

Russia would be the trigger that would lead Europe into the path of rearmament. He was an individual of incredible foresight and a man who was ahead of his time.

As the Church and as the bride of Christ, God's people must urgently be working on and preparing ourselves and growing in character, and we continue to stay as close to God as possible as the time is drawing near. The two excerpts from Mr. Armstrong will show the sense urgency that we should all now have;

"Now one of the great things that is urging Europe on, and perhaps the greatest thing that will cause them to hurry and get together on this, is their fear of what's going on in the Kremlin and the Soviet Union. And Andropov is frightening them, and that is going to rush them. They are losing confidence in the United States as having a military umbrella over them to protect them, and they want their own military force to protect themselves. That's the way they feel over there. Now that is a chief incentive to unite them and that is taking place."

Sermon, "The United States of Europe is Coming", Herbert W Armstrong, November 27, 1982

"On Thursday of last week, one day too late for last week's Report, Soviet military forces said to number 30,000 or more troops, crashed across the Afghanistan border..."

"In any event, this brings about a WHOLE NEW BALL GAME, so far as U.S.–Soviet relations are concerned. It endangers the SALT treaty, threatens NATO, and gives European nations the fearful jitters — with Soviet-dominated countries ON THE VERY EASTERN BORDER OF WESTERN EUROPE NATIONS! It is even hinted today that the OLYMPIC GAMES may be boycotted by the U.S. this coming summer. And President Carter has recalled the U.S. Ambassador from Moscow to fly immediately to Washington.

"Make no mistake! THIS IS SERIOUSLY SIGNIFICANT! **The nations of Europe are going to feel a NEW URGENCY to speed up plans for a UNITED EUROPE, restoring the medieval 'Holy Roman Empire!'** It may well be done through the Polish Pope.

"And when THAT happens, our Work will be finished, and the GREAT TRIBULATION brought on!

"This new development since the Report last week has suddenly put a NEW LOOK on the entire world situation!"

"TIME IS SHORT! It may now RAPIDLY grow SHORTER! We must work with all our might to get God's Church READY! Now is the time for earnest, prevailing PRAYER as never before!"

Pastor General's Report, "Significant New Developments", Herbert W Armstrong, January 4, 1980

"And Russia is going to threaten now to turn east and south out of Russia, but east out of Afghanistan and take advantage of all the troubles to, as they will say, to go in and straighten out that mess in Iran,

and take over Iran. And right now they have troops marshaled, and they're gathering right on the borders of Yugoslavia and of even West Germany, ready to march into Germany and Europe.

"Now, what this is going to do? It isn't that Russia's going to do some great terrible thing. What Russia's going to do is they are going to frighten the nations of Europe, and they're going to bring about the consolidation of Europe and things will move fast! And the Vatican will get together with the nations of Europe and they will then resurrect and declare the re-emergence of the Holy Roman Empire, a union of church and state. Europe will be united into one great nation of several nations."

Bible Study, "Romans 9-10", Herbert W Armstrong, June 20, 1980

The Remilitarization of Germany is the Key

A European superpower was foretold to occur at the end of the age. The greatest end-time events cannot happen until this new military force is revived. The woman cannot ride the beast until there is a beast to ride. In the same manner, Jerusalem cannot be surrounded by armies unless there is an army to surround Jerusalem.

Therefore, the remilitarization of Germany is the world event that should be closely monitored by God's people. It is the key that will open the door and bring to fruition the end-time prophecies that were revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church through a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong.

There are different estimates and timelines mentioned in the news articles that were referenced regarding the timeframe that it will take Germany and Europe to mobilize. The German populace has a history of being industrious and resilient. They are a nation who can rise from the depth of destruction and economic despair into the world's greatest fighting force in a period of just a few years.

God's people are instructed to "watch" in Matthew 24:42 and 43. Mark 13:34-35. We are also expected to discern the time that we are now in. The events that are now just over the horizon will soon shake the very foundation of this world;

"Well, I'm very thankful that that time is coming in our generation. And a large portion of you now living and listening to my voice are going to live into that time, and see it, and experience it in your own lives. You don't realize the times we're living in.

"You know, my friends, we see about the weather, the weather report that it's going to rain tomorrow, or it's going to be fair weather tomorrow, or we're going to have more drought, or we're going to have this or that. And it usually happens. The weather man may be off once in a while, but some of us are rather amazed at how accurate he is."

“Well, there are signs by which he can know, and Jesus Christ Himself said that. But He said, ‘How is it that you don't know the meaning of this time?’ And the world doesn't know anything about the significance of the time in which we live. These two world wars that we've already been in, and another world war now in the making.

“There is a meaning to this time. And there has never been a time like this on the face of the earth from the beginning of creation until now. You're living in times that are totally abnormal, unnatural. There has never been a time like it.

“You know that ninety percent of all biblical prophecy foretells this time and its meaning! But people don't know anything about it because they don't understand Bible prophecy! They don't understand the Bible, period.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “God Heareth NOT Sinners”, Herbert W Armstrong

At this juncture in time, it is important that a distinction is made between the Eastern and Western European countries. Although the viewpoint on this distinction varies slightly, a recent search that I conducted using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) database provided the following results;

Europe's East-West divide

Europe is often broadly divided into Western and Eastern regions, though these are more cultural and historical designations than strictly geographical ones. Western Europe generally includes countries in the western part of the continent, like France, Germany, and the UK, while Eastern Europe comprises countries to the east, such as Poland, Romania, and the Baltic states. The division is largely based on historical factors, particularly the Cold War and the Iron Curtain, which separated the continent into opposing political and economic blocs, according to LOUIS Pressbooks.

Western Europe:

Typically includes countries like:

Germany, France, UK, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Greece, Ireland, and Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland).

Often includes countries in Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Greece) and Northern Europe (Scandinavia, UK, Ireland).

Historically associated with Western Christendom, Roman Empire, and later, capitalism.

Eastern Europe:

Generally includes countries east of Germany and Italy.

Countries often listed as Eastern European:

Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), and Balkan countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, etc.).

Conclusion

The intent of this update is not to establish a timeline, nor is it to set any dates. The main purpose that this update is intended to serve is to give everyone a sincere sense of urgency so that we can prepare ourselves and build the holy righteous character that God wants everyone to create so that we are not caught by surprise when the end of this age arrives. May the God of love and mercy help everyone to take heed and may He strengthen all of his people in this final era of the Church of God;

"I tell you, we need to wake up! And the ministry needs to wake up! God's ministers need a new spirit of urgency and power. Jesus Christ, the living head of the Church, has been moving swiftly these last couple of months, these three or four months, to put His Church back on the track, and so much the more, because we now see the day approaching when Christ is going to appear.

"We are in that generation. And we are the ones that are getting sleepy. And we're asleep at the switch brethren. And we're deciding that 'My Lord delays His coming. Let's slumber, and sleep.' We read in the 25th chapter in Matthew, while some of them were sleeping like that, the Lord came, and the door was shut. And they pounded on the door, and tried to get in. But Christ is going to say to those, 'Go away, I never knew you. You haven't known Me. And you haven't cared.'"

Bible Study, "Zerubbabel's Temple", Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

*With sincerity and love
And in Christ's service,*



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7-27-2025