

Prophecy & Current World Events

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



Preface

In the 20th century, a vast amount of Biblical truth was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church through the man that God used to lead this era. But in addition to this, a plethora of end-time prophecies were also unsealed and thus revealed by Jesus Christ to the 6th era of the Church through Mr. Armstrong.

These end-time world events have been well documented through the abundance of the material that was produced in that Church era and through the many World Tomorrow Broadcasts/Telecasts and sermons that were given by Mr. Armstrong. And much of this material remains available for us today:

“Israel means our people today. Now that's the most astounding thing that you ever read. But I was challenged on it and I studied this thing with an open mind. And I studied it for many, many months, thoroughly. And I had to acknowledge the truth as you will if your mind is open and if your heart is willing to let God show you and teach you some things that are now being revealed.

“You know my friends that prophecy mostly has been closed and sealed until now. You'll read that in that in the twelfth chapter of Daniel, “The words are closed and sealed up until the time of the end, when knowledge will be increased, many will be running to and from”, **just as we're doing in this day, right now.”**

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Believing Fables Instead of Truth”, Herbert W Armstrong

“The Revelation was given as a mystic and CLOSED book, sealed with seven seals. Some of the prophecies revealed to and written by Daniel also were closed and sealed until this very time of WORLD-CRISIS at the close of this present age.

“Daniel wrote, at the conclusion of his Book: ‘I heard, but I understood *not*’ - that is, he heard what the angel had revealed, which Daniel wrote in his Book - but he himself did not understand the very prophecies he had been inspired to write. The angel said to Daniel: ‘The words are CLOSED UP, and SEALED, till the *time of the end*’ - and the Moffatt translation renders it ‘*till the crisis at the CLOSE*’ - that is, till this world-crisis at the close of this age! (Dan. 12:8-9.) Again, verse 4: ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the *time of the end*: many shall run to and fro, *and knowledge shall be increased.*’

“As the prophecies of Daniel were CLOSED and SEALED until this time of the END - this world-crisis at the close - this time of rapid transportation, men running to and fro - this time of INCREASED KNOWLEDGE - **so also the prophecies of the Book of Revelation were SEALED!**

“Yes, they were *sealed with seven seals*, as we shall see!

“But today we live in the dynamic, exciting, terrible ‘time of the END’ - the world-crisis at the CLOSE of the age! **The prophecies and mysteries of God, sealed until now, are today REVEALED to those whom God has chosen** to carry His last Message to the world as a witness! **Jesus Christ, Head of His Church, is the REVEALER!** Christ has opened these mysteries to His servants!

"The time has come for God's servants to open up to YOU - to lay bare before your startled eyes - these tremendous prophecies of the Book of REVELATION!"

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

"And the main prophecy of the book of Revelation is or begins in chapter six. But when we come there, we find it's all symbols. **So we remember that Jesus Christ is the Revelator**, not John. John is not John the Divine or John the Revelator, at all. John was merely the one who recorded it to writing. Jesus is the Revelator, the one who reveals the prophecy. He is the one who was found worthy to open the seals, and reveal the meaning. But when he opens the seals as we find them being opened here, in chapter six, we find the first was a white horse, and the second was a red horse, and the third was a black horse, and the fourth was a pale horse, and it's just symbolic.

"And so, it still is not made plain. But we find that just as Jesus explained, the parables that he spoke, which were used to cloud the meaning and which the people did not understand and which the apostles or the disciples really did not understand, until they came to him and told him they didn't understand, **and then he revealed the meaning to them in plain language. He said to the others, 'It is not given to understand. And therefore, I speak in a language they do not understand, but to you', he said, 'it is given to understand.' And he explained it in plain language.** So it is, my friends, and the prophecies have been closed and sealed until now, as you read in the 12th chapter of Daniel."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Outline of Prophecy 1", Herbert W Armstrong

Not every detail that will lead up to the prophetic events that were revealed to the 6th era of the Church is documented in the Bible. But with that said, Mr. Armstrong had an incredible insight and wisdom on how certain preliminary events might take place which would lead up to the main prophetic events revealed in the Bible. You will soon see how one of these initial events has already been set in motion:

"Just how near we are to the nuclear World War III? Well only Bible prophecies can tell you that. **Bible prophecies tell you what is going to happen, in general, from here on out, not the details, but in general. We can know a great deal about it.** The book of Revelation is the chief book of prophecy in the New Testament."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Armageddon", Herbert W Armstrong

"Now prophecy gives a general broad outline of the events that are taking place on the earth now and those that are going to happen. Bible prophecy does tell about World War Three, that is, if it's World War Three and we presume that it is. Bible prophecy tells about world wars that have come. It does not specifically even tell us about World War One and World War Two, that is specially and individually each specific war that has occurred. It does specifically tell us of one of the phases of world war that we believe is now the next one that we will call World War Three. And it is not coming from the power and the source that we seem to suspect. No, we in the United States my friends, seem to be so stupid, we never can tell where our real enemy is, until after he strikes."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Outline of Prophecy 4" Herbert W Armstrong

Therefore, it is necessary to begin to understand what is occurring around the world at this time and what is being reported in the news in order to have a proper perspective of how they will lead up to the ultimate fulfillment of the prophetic events that are outlined in the Bible.

This article is not intended to provide a complete outline of the Biblical prophecies that were revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong. This material is readily available in the numerous sermons, World Tomorrow Broadcasts/Telecasts and printed literature that was produced in the Worldwide Church of God.

This article will also not add any new prophetic truth or modify any of the prophetic truths that were revealed to the 6th era of the Church. This article is intended to connect the preliminary world events that are now taking place to the Biblical events that are revealed in the 20th century.

Therefore, numerous excerpts from Mr. Armstrong and from the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God* when Mr. Armstrong led that Church will be provided. From these excerpts, you will notice that the insight that Mr. Armstrong had regarding the way that the end-time world events would start to develop is absolutely phenomenal.

The insight that Mr. Armstrong had more than 40 years ago makes it much easier to begin to connect some of the events that we are now seeing in the news to the Biblical events that were revealed to the Church of God in the 20th century. Newsworthy links to news articles relating to prophecy are also included.

This article also contains an introduction with numerous quotes from Mr. Armstrong to ensure that we have the right balance, the correct perspective, and so that we understand the overall purpose that prophecy serves:

“This world doesn't know right from wrong and this world is in deep trouble. This world is in an almost unbelievable paradox as I've said time and time again. Here we are in a world, in some areas of the world, of awesome progress, awesome accomplishment. And I've said things like for example television, the motion picture, the electric light, sending men to the moon and back, close up photographs right from the surface of Mars, things that they can do, but all of that progress at the same time accompanied by appalling evils.”

Bible Study, “Human Behavior”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 15, 1982

Table of Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction - Page 7

Chapter 2

Current World Events - Page 16

Chapter 3

Conclusion - Page 37

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Purpose for Prophecy

One way that prophecy has been described is history written in advance. The prophetic events in the Bible are intended to provide a general outline of the main events that will occur in the future, many of which are now just a few years from now.

But what many do not understand or perhaps do not remember is the reason for prophecy. God is a loving and giving Being who is working out a great purpose here on earth. Prophecy therefore reveals the outline of how He will fulfil the incredible human potential that He mapped out for mankind thousands of years ago.

This became one of the overall arching themes in many of the sermons that Mr. Armstrong gave in the final years of his life. It is obvious that God wanted the Church to always remember that mankind was created after the God kind:

“Prophecy is merely the outline revealed in advance for those to whom it is given to understand, those that will yield themselves to God, to his ways and his purposes. It is the outline then of future world history that is working out that divine purpose. That's what it is. Now, already we've seen that Jesus Christ, when he was asked what was going to happen. He looked down from the time that he was living 1900 years ago, down through this stream of time, and He foretold what would happen.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Outline of Prophecy Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

“And most of us, my friends have been so deceived, and we know so little about the work and the purpose and the plan of God that we don't even know what this civilization is. **I tell you, it is about time we began to blow the dust off of the Bible, and look into it and see what it says, because it reveals the meaning of everything in your life, of every event in this world, the general meaning. But when it comes to specific events, Bible prophecy does not specifically mention and foretell every little event that is going to occur on the earth, even the events that are larger than themselves.**

“Bible prophecy outlines the working out of God's purpose here below. It does outline all of the major steps that contribute to working out that purpose. It shows the working out of God's program, of God's plan on earth, and God Almighty is accomplishing a purpose. There is a reason my friends why you, you individually I'm talking to, there is a reason why you were born, why you were put on this earth and most of you don't know what that purpose is. And most of you are not fulfilling that purpose at all. You're wasting your time. You don't realize why you're here. You're throwing away precious hours. There is a reason and God Almighty doesn't do things without a reason.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Outline of Prophecy 4”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Proper Avenue

I recently read a Facebook post by someone that I knew quite well who is in one of the offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*. It was a post that is reflective of what many of God's people are writing through the various internet avenues that allow people to express their opinions on any subject, often in a public venue.

God's people should not be a people who express their opinions on world events or matters of prophecy, especially when they are expressed in anger or in ways that reflect hatred and vengeance upon others. Nor should those who have a *Worldwide Church of God* background disclose any of the prophetic events that will soon strike the nations and people of this earth, in a public forum:

"Now we come to one that's called 'View'. Now, here's quite a section, and I think it gives people's point of view. **Everybody has his view.** 'Well, I tell you now my view on that is thus and so.' Another guy says, 'Well my view is a little different.' **And they never can agree.**

"Well, in the Church Paul tells us that we must all be of one mind, and we must all speak the same thing. And if we get God's truth, we will." But in the world, they've got all the views in the world. So, here's the 'Views' section, and they waste twenty-eight pages on that.

"Now we come to 'Opinion.' **Beside views they've got opinions.** Well now, what's your opinion John or Dick or Fred or whoever you are? What's your opinion? Here's my opinion and I think this, and I think so and so. Well, I tell you what I think is so and so. **Everybody has what he thinks. He has his opinion. He has his view. And they don't agree because they just don't know the truth.** So this is quite a section too."

Sermon, "Beginning of James & Unleavened Bread", Herbert W Armstrong, April 23, 1981

"Satan broadcasts through the air. Now he doesn't broadcast in words and sounds. He doesn't broadcast in pictures like television. **He broadcasts in attitudes and states of mind, attitudes of hostility, attitudes of jealousy and envy, attitudes of resentment,** attitudes that are contrary to God's attitude of love and cooperation and sharing and giving and helping.

"So, you see, we formerly were living according to that way, and he is the god of this world. And this is not God's world. It is Satan's world. And you will read, for example in the 12th chapter of Revelation and in verse 9, that all nations all over this world are deceived, and they're deceived by Satan the Devil. He has deceived all nations."

Sermon, "50th Anniversary of the Eugene Church", Herbert W Armstrong, FOT 1983

This world and its ways are wrong, that is understood, but God's people should reflect an attitude of love and outgoing concern towards others. God's people should be a light to the world and the best way to accomplish this is through the example that one sets.

The commission to usher such warnings to the nations of this world or to the leaders of this world is given to those individuals whom God specifically selects to serve as apostles and prophets. These are the men that God trains, teaches and uses and who are “sent forth” to the world with such messages:

“Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that **Christ did not train all of the people.** And there were, oh within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, it might have been the very next day, the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people. **But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.**

“Later, He taught, and apparently appeared, after He had gone to heaven, and yet came down, and **appeared to Paul the apostle, in Arabia. And taught him just as He had taught the other apostles. God sent them! Apostle is a word that means one sent forth, One sent forth.**

“**I am sent forth! And if I go forth,** and when I leave here, some people say, ‘Well, why isn't Mr. Armstrong staying here in Pasadena and taking care of the Church?’ I'll tell you why! The Church is supposed to help me, not me take care of you! I am one sent forth with the gospel message! That's what God has laid on me!”

“**The apostle is the one sent. Not you. You are to back. You will find, in the New Testament, the Church didn't go out. The apostle's went out.** Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been beaten, who went out preaching, and that was Philip. And God blessed him because he had been with the apostles. But he then became a minister, and became an evangelist.

“But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. **An apostle is a word that means one sent forth with Christ's message.** And I just look back at the fruits of the last fifty-one years. And I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because ‘by their fruits’ you know, and that's how I know.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabel's Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“Notice now the King James translation, ‘Afterward he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat... And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...’ (Mark 16:14-16). Of course NONE could believe and be baptized EXCEPT those God the Father specially called. So there is NOWHERE ANY CONTRADICTION. **The GREAT COMMISSION was given to the APOSTLES — those ‘sent forth’ with the message — NOT the lay members of the Church.**

“What then? **Did not the lay members have any part in proclaiming the Gospel?** Definitely they did, as we have seen. **Their part was to back up the apostles — stand behind them with their prayers, encouragement, tithes and offerings.** They are PART OF A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM, as we shall show in more detail.”

Special Topics, “Where Is The True Church?”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, the word apostle means ‘one sent forth.’ **Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the gospel.** They were called to support and

encourage the apostles in getting out the gospel message, as GOD'S MEANS of developing in them God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!"
Plain Truth Magazine, "7 Proofs Of God's True Church: Part 5", Herbert W Armstrong, June-July 1979

"Jesus Christ said to His disciples, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.' **Yet Jesus did not intend that every converted child of God should actually preach, himself, personally, and directly. But there is a way in which Christ meant for YOU to preach His true Gospel—and for this you will be held accountable.** So I feel it is important that I explain clearly...

"Through the years, God has given me training and experience in preaching—and my son Garner Ted Armstrong. Possibly YOU may not have the voice for radio preaching, or the experience, or the full Biblical knowledge. **But when you put God's first tenth of your income (the TITHE), beside whatever offerings you are able, into this work of God, YOU are reaching HUNDREDS of people with the Gospel through OUR voices**—and other hundreds through The Plain Truth, the Bible Correspondence Course, and the other free literature which is reaching A MILLION PEOPLE!

"Yes, THAT IS HOW YOU can, and are, PREACHING THE GOSPEL in great POWER to MANY people today! **And, by your earnest and prevailing PRAYERS**, God will hear and answer your petition for Him to GUIDE ME and all our full-time Co-Workers in our part in His Work—He will cause more and more people to JOIN with us as Co-Workers with Christ in GOD'S WORK, and the work will continue to grow until EVERY NATION on earth is reached!"

Brethren & Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 31, 1962

God is not a Respector of Persons

The modern nations of the House of Israel, who are primarily the English-speaking people which include but are not limited to the United States and Great Britain (Modern Ephraim and Manasseh), are the recipients of the great birthright promises that were made to Abraham in Gen. 12:2. These nations have been blessed by God because of the obedience and the faith that Abraham exemplified:

"His people are Israel. And we are Israel, and you have to know who is Israel and who is Judah to understand this. 'I was wroth with my people. I have polluted my inheritance', which is Israel, 'and gave them into your hand.' This church, riding over the kingdoms, 'and give them over into your hand. And you did so then no mercy. Now notice that. You did show them no mercy. Upon the ancient you did very heavily lay your yoke.' **Notice, that yoke is going to be upon our people by this very United Europe.** 'And you said, I shall be a lady forever.' And this is the daughter of Babylon. 'So that you did not lay these things to heart, neither did remember the latter end of it.'

"Now there is a great deal more of the prophecy. And I'm just cutting it short to give you the general meat of it as quickly as possible. **It's addressed to the house of Israel.** The next chapter starts out, "Hear this, O house of Israel". and so on. **While this message all the way through is to the house of Israel, which is Britain and the United States, and the English-speaking people...**

“Now Jacob means Israel and not Judah in this case, because the dying Jacob crossed his hands on the sons of Joseph. He in essence said, ‘Let my name Jacob be named on them.’ So we have that name Jacob, not Judah. ‘Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. It is even the day of Jacob’s trouble. But he shall be saved out of it.’ He will go into it, but be saved out of it after he gets into it. But it’s going to be terrible. ‘For it shall come to pass in that day, says the Eternal of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from your neck.’”

Sermon, “Current Events and Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

The United States, Great Britain and all of the other modern nations of Israel were selected by God as His chosen people. They were supposed to set the example of obedience to God and they were supposed to live by the way of life that is described in the Bible. And they will, one day in the near future. But there isn’t anything that makes these people special or better than people who are from other countries or people of other races:

“Now, verse 18, ‘Behold, the eye of the Eternal is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.’ There you are, and God will deliver us and because He has called us for a commission, and he has called us for a mission that we have failed to perform. **He has chosen us as His chosen people, not for favors, not because we’re his pets or anything of the kind. God does not love the people of the United States a bit more than he loves the people of Russia. God loves the people of China. He loves the people of Russia. He loves the people of the United States. He is no respecter of persons,** but he has chosen us for a job. It’s about time we realize it. **God has absolute equality.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Outline of Prophecy 4” Herbert W Armstrong

God loves all of mankind. He is a loving and giving Being who expects us to have outflowing love and concern for all people. This is why God will one day intervene and stop mankind, once and for all, from hurting one another. And when this happens, all of the weapons of war will become instruments for agriculture.

It is also only because of God’s great mercy that we were called to understand His truths and to live the way of life that is described in the Bible. And it will be only by God’s great mercy that some of God’s people who are now living in the final era of the Church of God, will be spared and protected from the events that will soon strike the earth:

“Satan has given the power and certain great authority and they have served. Well, he is the God of the world. He appears as an angel of light. **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’m angry at the people with 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.

“Now, we need to realize that God has not called us to sit in judgment. Christ is the judge. Let us be thankful that God has opened our eyes, our minds, and called us out, ‘Come out for among them in this world, and be separate.’ The world is deceived. But there's a lot of good in this world.

“You know, the people in this world, they have their professionals. ethics. They are people of what they call high morals, of high standards, but standards only as they think they’re 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 going to sit in judgment of them. We're not to hate them.** We're not their enemies. They're not ours, well, I hopefully they're not our enemies.”

Sermon, “Current Events and Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

“Now as things went along, and the prejudices between the Jews and the Gentiles in the Church mounted. And the jealousies between them and the Gentiles came to the place they didn't want anything to do with anything the Jews did. Well, the Jews, the Jewish Christians, were maintaining the strict Christian religion as Christ had brought it, as the apostle Paul had taught it, as Peter and the other apostles had taught it.

“And so, the Gentile converts coming in gradually began to bring a lot of their pagan doctrines and their pagan customs along. And because of prejudice against the Jewish brethren in the Church, they wanted nothing to do with some of these Jewish beliefs and practices, as they called them. And so, the things that were God's practices, that were God's commands, they began to call ‘Jewish’. And some people seem to hate Jews today and anything that's Jewish.

“Well, I just want to go on record again as saying that I certainly don't. **I love the Jewish people. God loves the Jewish people and I think we'd all better begin to love them as well as a lot of other people. We should love all people. We shouldn't hate anybody as a matter of fact.** So anyway, there was that hatred at that time.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Pagan Practices Creep Into the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong

One Third of the Bible is Prophecy

Those who have heard the World Tomorrow Broadcasts/Telecasts and or the sermons that Mr. Armstrong gave in the 20th century know that he constantly stated that approximately 1/3 of the Bible is prophecy and that 90% of those events will happen during our lifetime. This is a vast amount of Biblical prophecy that will soon unfold, which is why it is important to understand the events that are already taking place:

“Now here we are going through the book of Jeremiah, one of the prophecies, a specific prophecy. **One third of your Bible is prophecy and about ninety percent of that pertains to the time in which we live and the immediate years ahead, the next five, ten or twenty years ahead.** You certainly want to know what's going to happen. You're going to live in to these times. You're going to live through these times unless something happens to you in the meantime. Is there anything as important as that? These are the most important things in your life.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Believing Fables Instead of Truth”, Herbert W Armstrong

“And the only way you can understand them is to understand that neglected 1/3 of your Bible. **Yes, 1/3 of your Bible, that is devoted to prophecies, about 90% of which are telling what is going to happen in the next 5, 10 years from now.** You can know. God's time has come to open up these prophecies to our understanding. **They have been closed. They have been sealed until now. But now we're in the time of the end.** Now **we're in the time when the prophecies are opened up. Now we're under the time when the keys that unlock these prophecies are made available.** And we can know.”

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

The Clock of Prophecy

It is important to remind everyone that the clock of prophecy is the book of Revelation. Mr. Armstrong came to understand this vital and important fact. But it was truly Jesus Christ who revealed this key truth regarding the timeline and thus the outline of prophecy. This is the only way that all of the prophetic events that are found in the Bible can be placed in their proper order and sequence:

“Approximately ONE THIRD of all the Bible is devoted to PROPHECY. Many whole Books of Scripture, especially in the Old Testament - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and all the so-called ‘minor’ prophets - are devoted primarily to PROPHECY.

“And do you realize that the very CHURCH of Jesus Christ is actually built on the very FOUNDATION of these PROPHETS, and of their prophetic writings? You'll read that in Ephesians 2:20.

“But the actual FRAMEWORK, or superstructure, of all the prophecies is found in two prophetic Books - one in the Old, the other in the NEW Testament - the Books of Daniel and the Revelation. And **in the Book of Revelation, alone, do we find events of the various other prophecies correlated in order of TIME SEQUENCE.**

“While the Book of Revelation, itself, is a vital KEY to a large portion of the other prophecies, there are certain KEYS which open up this Book to understanding.

“ONE important key is that in the Book of Revelation is a STORY-FLOW, relating one future event to another in time order - with occasional INSETS injected into the continuous story-thread.”

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

“I've been showing you that all Bible prophecies are coordinated in the book of Revelation. How about 1/3 of the Bible is devoted to prophecy. Prophecies begin in the book of Genesis, and they go through the Bible, to the book of Revelation, which is very largely prophecy. You find prophecy scattered all between and both Old and New Testaments. In the book of Revelation, John, who was used to write it or record it to writing, records the prophecies in what he saw in vision. The Book of Revelation contains also the word of God and the direct testimony or words of Jesus Christ, beside the prophecies. But most of the prophecies are recorded in what John saw in vision.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Outline of Prophecy 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“What's going to happen in the world from now? Is World War III imminent? Is it being started? What is going to happen? Catastrophic events are prophesied from here on. They're going to affect you. **Now we've been going through an outline of prophecy and in the book of Revelation you find all of the prophecies of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation coordinated as to time sequence.**

“We found that the main prophecy begins in the sixth chapter, and there, when Jesus is opening the seals. He is the Revelator, and still, what is revealed to us, is merely symbol, and so we still can't understand. But Jesus is the Revelator. He is the one who reveals and who can make us understand. And so, just as Jesus Christ did reveal the meaning of parables in plain language to His disciples, so we find that He does reveal in plain language, the meaning of these symbols. And we found the key in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “History of the True Church – Part 7”, Herbert W Armstrong

Setting Dates

It is worth mentioning before we move on that Mr. Armstrong never set dates. If a man sets a date for a specific event to occur such as the return of Christ, and it doesn't happen, the individual who set the date obviously spoke out of his own mind and not by the inspiration of God who knows in advance, the events that occur in the future.

God's people who are scattered among the splinters and those who heard Mr. Armstrong on television, over the radio and who read the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God*, will soon know that true Revelator of all of the prophecies that were revealed to the Church through Mr. Armstrong was Jesus Christ when all of the events that were foretold in the 20th century, begin to climax:

“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 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, 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 a proof of the pudding."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Prophecies for Today 1", Herbert W Armstrong

Chapter 2

Current World Events

The Iran Attack on Israel – April 13, 2024

When the attack by Iran on Israel happened, I received a text message with a link to this news event. This text message was sent to me by a former member and minister from the *Restored Church of God*. This individual was once a close friend and I still consider him a good friend. I believe that when some of God's people heard about this incident, the Biblical event that is found in Matt. 24:15-16 immediately came to mind.

Most know Matt. 24:15-16 by heart but the following is what is stated in these scriptures; "When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains."

The attack by Iran on Israel that happened on April 13th is an interesting world event, but it does not appear that this occurrence in the Middle East will lead up to the Biblical event found in Matt. 24:15. It is premature for this event to develop at this time.

It is premature because there are a number of other prophetic events that need to fully develop before Matt. 24:15 is fulfilled. The rest of this chapter is dedicated to explaining those events, the prophesied events that need to come to fruition before Matt.24:15 is fulfilled. This chapter will also explain how certain world events have already triggered a sequence of events that have moved us closer to fulfilling the great prophetic events that will occur just prior to Matt.24:15:

"Now Daniel explains here in the second chapter, explaining the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar, that it represents the governments of the world right up till the time of the coming of Christ, from 604 BC, and the time of King Nebuchadnezzar, and it represents first the Chaldean Empire, then the Persian Empire, then the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and finally the Roman Empire. And other governments like the Holy Roman Empire, the middle dark ages, until we come to our time today. Now notice, 'And whereas you saw the feet and the toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided.'

"Now that's getting down to our day, and it shows that Christ's coming is going to smite this whole image, representing the governments of this world, on the toes, and that there's a time sequence, beginning at the head, which was Nebuchadnezzar, down to the toes, which represent the time that we're living in today, and within this present generation. 'The kingdom shall be divided. There shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou saw the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly', weak or, 'broken. And whereas you saw iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men. And they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.' They won't get along together, and it won't last long in other words. 'And in the days of these kings. Of the toes, we're waiting for that to happen in Europe today, my friends. That is the next thing to happen."

As has already been mentioned in this article, we are expected to connect the events that are occurring around the world to the end-time prophecies that are found in the Bible. The Iranian attack on Israel that happened on April 13, 2024 appears to be the type of event that is described in Joel 3:9-10.

Even though the prophecies in Joel are describing events that will occur during the "Day of the Lord", Mr. Armstrong understood that some of these prophecies, specifically Joel 3:9-10, were also describing events that would happen prior to the "Day of the Lord" and in our time. The following is a link to a news article on this event:

CNN News Article: April 14, 2024 – "Iran's Attack on Israel"

"But the time is going to come when there's going to come a subsequent captivity, and all nations are going to be gathered there against Jerusalem. As we read, coming on down, it describes here in verse 6, 'The children also of Judah, and the children of Jerusalem, have you sold under the Grecians. That you may have removed them far from their border.' Coming on down in verse 9 [Joel 3:9], 'Proclaim you this among the gentiles, prepare a war, wake up the mighty men. Let all the men of war drawn near. Let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords, you're pruning hooks into spears, **let the weak say I'm strong.**'

"There's a war fever that's going to hit the Middle East. They're going to be, instead of what's going to happen after Christ's return, instead of converting war implements into agricultural usage, they're going to have to start converting agricultural things into war implements. They're all going to be getting together and doing this. **And I think it's rather interesting statement, 'Let the weak say I'm strong.'** You know, **you never hear any more bellicose statements, than from some of these weak Arab states over there and the Middle East. The smaller they are, the more bellicose they sound,** as they issue forth all of their proclamations of what they're going to do."

Sermon, "History of Jerusalem", John Ogwyn, August 15, 1981

"Let me give you a prophecy now from Joel the third chapter and beginning with verse nine, chapter three. **Joel chapter three, beginning with verse nine. This is a prophecy for our time now, 'Proclaim you this among the Gentiles. Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears. Let the weak say, I am strong.'**

"You know, I read this prophecy many, many years ago, when I was up in Portland Oregon before I came to Pasadena to start Ambassador College. At that time, I saw whole train loads of scrap iron going toward Portland Oregon, where they were loaded on ships and shipped off to Japan. And I said at that time, I said, 'All that metal is going to be melted, and is going to come back on us.' And it did, in World War Two. I saw this back before World War Two, and those things did come. **And they did beat their, the scrap iron going was the plowshares and the pruning hooks, and they were beaten into weapons of war. And it actually happened, and it is happening now again in a greater way.**

“Continuing of this prophecy, ‘Assemble yourselves, and come, all you heathen’, that is Gentile nations, ‘and gather yourselves together round about. Let the heathen be awakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat. For there, I’, God is speaking, ‘I will sit to judge all the heathen round about.’ It says here, **‘Let the weak say, I am strong. Beat your pruninghooks and your plows into spears and swords and weapons of war.’ And that's what is going on even now.** Now, verse 13, ‘Put you in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, get you down, for the press is full, the fats overflow, for their wickedness is great’, in the world.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “God Will Intervene”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Yemen Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

The Yemen Houthi attacks on the many merchant vessels in the Red Sea and in the Gulf of Aden that began late last year (2023) after the Israeli Gaza war started, also appears to be a type of occurrence that is described in Joel 3:9-10. These types of events will more than likely continue to happen.

BBC News Article: March 15, 2024 – Who are the Houthis

A Watershed Moment in Europe & The Militarization of Germany – February 27, 2022

There is a great prophetic event that has been set in motion when the invasion of Ukraine by the Russians began on February 27, 2022. This is truly a noteworthy event because it began the ball rolling in the background on one of the greatest prophetic events found in the Bible.

When the Russians invaded Ukraine, a special session of the Bundestag, the German lower house, convened to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. This special session lasted about 1 hour. The new German Chancellor Mr. Olaf Scholz, and the leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) political party Mr. Friedrich Merz, and Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, addressed the parliament regarding, not only the Russian Ukrainian crisis, but the crisis that they believe Europe is now under. All three speeches were rousing speeches.

These speeches are still available, and can be heard on YouTube.com with an English translation. The video is titled “Live: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Ukraine | DW News”. Mr. Olaf Scholz began by describing Germany as being in a “historic turning point” due to the Russian Ukrainian invasion. I sent out an email to the brethren shortly after this key event happened, alerting everyone of the ramifications of this event.

It was a sobering time in my life when I watched the video just mentioned. Although we all know the events that have been prophesied to happen in the near future, the nature of these events is quite chilling and sobering and there is nothing in me that is looking forward to such events. Although I understand why they need to take place, I have family and acquaintances that I care very much about.

The following is an excerpt from a sermon that Mr. Armstrong gave in 1982. It is absolutely amazing how over 40 years ago, Mr. Armstrong suspected and believed that the fear of the Russians would be the primary factor

that would lead up to the unification and militarization of the next superpower that will rise in Europe, which would be led by the modern-day Assyrians:

“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

“Now do not for a moment suppose that West European leaders are going to take this humiliating stand, refusing to line up against Russia, without counter-measures!

“The Red Army threat will SPEED UP even faster the plans now going on secretly between certain heads in Europe and the Vatican, to bring back to life the so-called HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, with the Pope riding ‘the Beast.’

“The Russian troops rushed into Afghanistan, the threat of a Red Army invasion of Iran ‘to settle the confusion there,’ **the threat of massed forces on the borders of Western Europe, all combine to arouse leaders in Europe, especially West Germany, France and Italy, to the point almost of consternation.** They must move and they must now move FAST!”

The following are just some newsworthy articles that indicate that Europe's fear of Russia is slowly becoming the driving force to the ultimate formation and reunification of the Holy Roman Empire, just as Mr. Armstrong anticipated:

Reuters News Article: April 4, 2024 – Kremlin says Russia and NATO are now in 'direct confrontation'

DW German News Article: April 4, 2024 – German Government wants war ready troops

AP News Article: April 4, 2024 – Germany's defense minister overhauls the military command as he seeks 'war-capable' armed forces

The following statement by Mr. Armstrong is another very insightful excerpt. It was made over 40 years ago. There are some politicians, and even the previous president of this country, who have indicated that Europe, including Germany, should increase the monetary amounts that they spend each year for their military armaments:

CNN News Article: February 14, 2024 – Record 18 NATO States Expect to Meet 2% Defense Spending Threshold

Reuters News Article – Germany hits 2% NATO Spending Target for first time since end of Cold War

"We can only see one enemy at a time, and I want to tell you that the United States has more than one enemy. Now, we fought a war against Germany, World War Two and Japan. **Of course, we've said at the beginning of World War Two that we would certainly do away with German militarism, and it would never rise up its ugly head again. We were going to demolish it once and for all, and after we got it demolished, now we start to rise it up ourselves, because we think we have to have it as a buffer and a protection against Russia.**

"And some of us, my friends, know not only what we see when we're over there, but we know also know what is prophesied. And we know what is prophesied to rise up in Europe. **And we know which is the one and the only nation in Europe that is capable of dominating, and which is the economic and the industrial heart of all Europe, without which there could be no stability and strength.** A human body cannot live without his heart, **and the economic and the military body that is to rise up and to restore the Roman Empire, the thing that we least suspect here in the United States that cannot rise up without his heart, and his heart is in Germany.**

"And I want to tell you that things are coming along over there exactly according to prophecy. And the very thing that our people least expect is just about to happen. And it's progressing daily. It's progressing feverishly. It's progressing rapidly, and were sound asleep at the switch and don't realize what's coming, and why, and we're not taking the right precautions. Well now, let me say this, all of the military precautions we can take are not going to save us anymore. We my friends don't realize it but we have deserted our God. **And God is the one who determines the outcome of wars."**

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Outline of Prophecy 4" Herbert W Armstrong

The Unification of 10 Nations

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed on April 14, 1949. It is a military alliance of 32 member states/countries, 30 of which are European and 2 are North American. It formed as the cold war between the Russian Empire which was known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United States was beginning to develop.

The NATO alliance operates under the principal concept that an attack against one or several of its members is considered an attack against all of its members. But how can 10 nations unite in Europe and form the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire with the current North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)? This has not yet become clear but the following articles might provide an insight on how this might happen:

Politico News Article: February 14, 2024 – Trump reiterates to NATO allies: If you don't pay up, 'I'm not going to protect you'

The Washing Post News Article: February 19, 2024 – Trump didn't quit NATO, but a potential second term alarms allies

Politico News Article: Europe's Trump Moment has Arrived

"Now the Roman Empire fell in 476 AD. It was restored as the Holy Roman Empire. It was called, in 554 A.D. And that continued until 1814, **and now it is reviving over in Europe by ten nations. There will be ten nations, not the ten of the Common Market necessarily.** But there are the ten of the Common Market at the present time right now. **And it will be revived in Europe, a revival of the so called Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages.** And then it is going to end. The stone that will smite it on the feet is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. And He is going to set up a kingdom, the Kingdom of God that will rule over all the nations of the world and it will last forever."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "True Gospel Part 6", Herbert W Armstrong

"I have known for years, and now, you've heard me proclaim again and again and again that the United States of Europe is coming. They're going to unite 10 nations in Europe. And the Vatican will be on top of the heap. Why has it not happened? 49 years have gone by. Unless 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're divided by various languages. They're divided by **different national aspirations and national patriotism,** and **by different currencies.** They have the German Mark, the French franc, the English pound, and the euro 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 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."**

Sermon, "Current Events and Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

Iron and Clay

It should be noted that some of the nations that will form the next empire will be much stronger militarily than some of the others. They are described as iron mixed with clay. I am sure you can guess which ones will be the stronger ones. I recently read a news article that reminded me of the iron and clay that will form the basis of the 10 nations that will unite in Europe. The following is a link to the article that I read:

[AP News Article: April 8, 2024 – German Troops Arrive in Lithuania](#)

[Reuters News Article: Exclusive - Germany looking into buying eight additional F-35 jets](#)

“And after that would come another empire, the Greco Macedonian Empire of Greece. And after that the Roman Empire. And out of the Roman Empire, finally, in the Western World, was to grow, **a time of 10 toes, or 10 nations. And they're being formed right now in Europe.** And the stone was to come and smite that image on the feet. And that stone is Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming.

“Now, I just want to read you the last verse of it. ‘And in the days of these kings’, that is those in Europe, and it hasn't happened yet. It's going to happen pretty soon in your time and mine, in this generation. ‘And in the days of these kings’, remember part of them were clay and part of iron. **And you can't mix clay and iron, and they won't mix very long. In other words, it won't last very long.** ‘The God of heaven will set up a kingdom’, by the stone that smites it on the feet, which is Christ. A kingdom, a government will replace all the governments of the world, ‘will set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed’, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people. ‘But it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. And it shall stand forever.’”

Sermon, “Philippine Campaign 2”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 18, 1981

“The prophecies of Revelation 13 and 17 and Daniel 2 and 7 show definitely that such a reunited Europe is coming—AND SOON! **That of Daniel 2:33 shows half of this united Europe will consist of Eastern European nations, and half of Western.** They comprise the toes and feet of Nebuchadnezzar's great dream image, to be destroyed by Christ's coming again to earth in supreme supernatural power and glory to rule all nations and bring us world peace!

“This reunification of Europe is in the sure word of prophecy. **But the union will not cleave together, even as the iron and clay of Daniel 2:33 could not cleave together.** But when it does come into fulfillment, very soon now, it will quickly be replaced by a REAL world peace that shall last for the next thousand years. And that will be for the happiness and good of all nations, the Russians, all other Europeans, the Americas and all Africans and Asians.

“Europeans are saying that 40 years is long enough to be divided. This 40th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations may trigger events to bring on the world's last colossal world violence and trouble, and usher in at last, after 6,000 years of human trial and error and woes and sufferings, a UNITED ONE WORLD, AND WORLD PEACE AT LAST—a world truly to be built by the LORD Eternal.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “40th Anniversary Conference of Drafting UN Charter”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 1985

"[Dan. 2:4041] 'The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, for as much as iron breaks in pieces and subdues all things, and as iron that breaks all these, shall it break in pieces.' The fourth then is the Roman Empire that was going to rule over all of these other kingdoms, and they would have been gone. The Persian Empire, the Greco Macedonian Empire, they were all gone. 'And whereas you saw the feet of toes, part of potters' clay and part of iron.' Now imagine the toes were the very last part of it. And it is the toes that were to be struck by Christ when He comes, and here's a time sequence of governments of the earth that it's talking about.

"But there shall be in it the strength of the iron, for as much as you saw the iron mixed with miry clay. And in the toes of the feet, part of iron and part of clay, **so the kingdom will be partly strong and partly weak.** And **whereas you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, they will mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall not cleave to one to another,** even as iron is not mixed with clay.'

"Now those toes represent the government that I say is going to come to restore the Holy Roman Empire. **And they won't stay together. They won't stay together, but a matter of days, or a few weeks at the most,** because some of them are strong. **Germany is pretty strong, but some of these nations are going to be pretty weak, and they won't stay together.**

Bible Study, "Kingdom of God (Paris France), Herbert W Armstrong, November 8, 1980

A Union of Church and State

In addition to the unification of the final European empire, a union of church (false church) and state will also have to occur for a united Europe to materialize into the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This is why it is called the resurrection of the *Holy* Roman Empire.

There hasn't been anything that I have seen or read in the news that has indicated that this is beginning to develop. But you can be assured that it will take place. Know also that before the event in Matt. 24:15 happens, the unification of Europe with the union of church and state, will more than likely take place first:

"In the seventeenth chapter and verse five, 'And upon her forehead', the church's forehead, and this is the church of traditional Christianity. 'On her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.'

"Yes, old Rome was the mother church, but brethren, her daughters are not God's Churches. Her daughters are harlots and God says so right here, [knocking on the bible] and it's all part of the Babylonish system. And now mother Rome is trying to get her daughters back and the Pope signed up some kind of an agreement with the head of the Church of England, just a couple or three weeks ago in London.

"And they are getting back together. I don't know how far they'll get back together, but it is starting in that direction. **And things are starting until there will be ten nations in Europe that will form one great empire.** And that's going to happen. **And old mother Rome is going to ride on top of the heap and then the Mark of the Beast is going to be enforced.**"

Sermon, "The Unthinkable Will Happen", Herbert W Armstrong, June 19, 1982

"Now, why has it not come sooner? Why has it been so long, and I have known it was coming for fifty years now. Well, in Europe they are divided by different language barriers. There's so many different languages, for example, there is German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, many different languages. They have various national aspirations that divide them, national patriotisms and of course they are always competitive. Then they have various currencies and monetary systems and all of those things tend to divide them.

"Now always in the so-called Holy Roman Empire, the Catholic Church was the sort of cementing agent that cemented the nations together and brought them together religiously, and Bible prophecy says will be once again. The nations cannot get together politically all by themselves. Even religion in Europe has been divided between the Roman Catholic Church in the West and the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church in the East. They have been absolutely divided, and of course, the major point is that the churches in the East, and every ecumenical movement, tending toward trying to bring unification once again. They have said that they will not accept the Vatican, or the Pope, as the head over the Eastern Catholic religion."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Tribulation", Herbert W Armstrong

"This particular 'lady' of this prophecy is pictured as a lewd harlot and 'a lady of kingdoms.' **That is, a great CHURCH ruling over nations. This same modern 'female' Babylon is pictured also in the 17th chapter of Revelation**-there called a 'great whore,' sitting on or ruling over 'many waters,' which are interpreted in verse 15 as 'peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.'

"Her KINGDOMS over which she ruled were called 'The Holy Roman Empire' of A.D. 554 to 1814, briefly revived by Mussolini and SOON to have a last and final 'resurrection' by a political-military union of ten nations in Europe (Rev. 17:8-14)."

Book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1980

"[Indulgences] This was the practice remember of granting a special privilege, or in the afterlife, granting something for your stay in purgatory to be lessened, or to be better for you, if you did certain things in this life. Indulgences, by the way later came to also include doing something now for your already dead relatives, so that you can do things now for your relatives who have already died and gone to purgatory. You can do indulgences for them. You can have masses set for them. You can do special services to the church, give money and things and that will make it easier for your relatives as well as for you.

"I'm not up on the doctrine of indulgences, but that that's a generalized statement on it. Luther was very discouraged about this, and disagreed with it. And as a result of packing these theses on the door of the church, he was considered non desirable. It was however, many years before he was officially excommunicated from the church. But the power of the church had at this time, which we've described previously, caused **Martin Luther** to have to, as it were, go into hiding?

"And it was while he was in this, hiding, that the nobility of the Germanic Kingdom gave him sanctuary. So, he had the upper strata of German society on his side, especially in the north, the

South remaining more religiously Catholic in Germany. So officially, he was excommunicated in 1529. In the intervening years he did his translation of the Bible into German, developed a lot of what became his theology, where he might differ from the Catholic Church.

“He did try to continue to work within the confines of the church. Two years after his attacking of the theses on the door of the church, he wrote to the Pope, regarding the Catholic Church as the holy church and the one true church of God. He did not intend, it was not his purpose to establish a new religion, but upon excommunication, and through these things, there was really nothing left for him to do.

“He struggled through these years with the doctrines of infant baptism, and idols, the doctrine of the Trinity. Basically, his studies led him to conclude what he had been taught in the Catholic Church, **and thus you do not find the Lutheran church having departed radically from Catholicism. It is the most Catholic of all the Protestant groups. And if there ever is to be a reconciliation of Protestantism to Catholicism, it is presumed by most that the Lutherans will lead the way back into the Catholic Church.**”

WCG Ambassador College Course, “Church of God History - Part 23”, Ronald Kelly, 1987

The reason the unification of the 10 European nations guided and directed by the false church needs to happen before the event in Matt. 24:15 happens, is because it will be this army that will encompass Jerusalem and it is this army that will make Jerusalem desolate. Remember also what Dan. 11:45 states about this union of Church and state, “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

“But when Daniel writes, in verse 7, ‘all these things shall be finished,’ he refers back to the subject of this 12th chapter mentioned at the beginning - when the archangel Michael shall stand up (verse 1) (as also mentioned in Rev. 12:7) and Satan shall be cast down — and the GREAT TRIBULATION (verse 1 and Matt. 24:21-22. Mark 13:19-20, Luke 21:22) from the beginning will be 3 1/2 years.

“Daniel did not understand, but the angel said, ‘Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end (Dan. 12:9).

“And then what — in the TIME OF THE END, into which we have entered? ‘Many shall be purified and made white, and tried ...but the wise shall understand’ (verse 10). **WE ARE IN THAT TIME OF TRYING AND TESTING. TO BRING US CLOSER TO GOD — TO PREPARE US FOR CHRIST'S COMING, NOW!**

“Many of us are being tried and tested as NEVER BEFORE — and for our own good!

“But, verse 11, from the time the daily sacrifice shall be taken away. Consider this a moment. This does NOT imply a material temple to be built in our time in Jerusalem. It does seem to imply the Israelis may restore the daily (twice daily) sacrifice — possibly at the Wailing Wall. The indication is the armies of the ‘beast’ of Revelation 17, entering Jerusalem (Dan. 11:41, Zech. 14:2) will stop this daily sacrifice. ‘And the abomination that maketh desolate set up.’ What is this abomination?

“This refers to Daniel 11:31 and Matthew 24:15. In Daniel 11:31, the armies of Antiochus Epiphanes were at Jerusalem, and some commentators have interpreted it as Antiochus placing a statue of Jupiter in the Holy of Holies in the temple. Not only does Matthew 24:15 also refer to this. But in a parallel New Testament Luke 21:20 speaks of the same thing as "Jerusalem compassed with armies." This is the correct meaning of this 'abomination.' **It is the armies — not a statue — that made Jerusalem desolate.**”

Good News Magazine, “The Time We Are In”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1980

“And, notice it, Mussolini's forces were to pass over-in the air! It is at this precise point in this astounding prophecy that Mussolini's struggle in Ethiopia and in World War II ended. Mussolini did not finish the prophecy. There is yet another leader to arise in Europe! Notice what will next happen!

“Verse 41 - ‘He shall enter also into the glorious land ... ‘ - the Holy Land. This is yet to be fulfilled.

“When the coming revival of the Roman Empire takes the Holy Land, then the nations will be plunged into the initial phase of the great, last and final crisis at the close of this age! Other prophecies reveal that this revival of the Roman Empire will bring into subjection the U.S. and Britain! (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

“‘And,’ continues verse 41, ‘many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon’ - the modern land of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The coming dictator will unite many others with him-Io in all (Rev. 17:12) - reviving the ancient Roman Empire.

“Verse 42 says Egypt shall not escape, proving Egypt is not now the ‘king of the south.’

“Verse 43 says the Libyans and Ethiopians (observe that after its conquest by Mussolini, Ethiopia is not again referred to as the king of the south) shall be at his steps - and he will then control them. Italy lost control of Libya and Ethiopia after the war.

“Verse 44 - but news out of the east and out of the north-Russia and the Orient-shall trouble the revived Roman Empire. Russia will enter the war!

“Verse 45 - **the coming Roman Empire shall establish its palace, as capital of the revived Roman Empire, and eventually its religious headquarters, at Jerusalem!** Zechariah 14:2 says the city shall be taken! ‘Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him’! This language signifies the end of the ‘beast’ and the ‘false prophet’ at the hand of God! You will find this end described in Revelation 19:19-20 and Zechariah 14:12.”

Booklet, The Middle East in Prophecy, Herbert W Armstrong

The Roman Catholic Church & the Kingdom of God on Earth

It is important to understand, at this juncture in this article, some of the history of the Roman Catholic church, because it will explain some of the horrible things that have happened in the past, and that will happen in the

near future when the woman rides the beast for the final time. The next several excerpts will elucidate some of views this church:

“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’, 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 concept. You draw terribly wrong conclusion.

“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 Part 18” Ronald Kelly, 1987

“Now, the Pope's name, he's called the Vicar of Christ. I wonder if you know what vicar means? Look it up in the dictionary. **Vicar of Christ means in place of Christ.** It doesn't mean a representative of Christ. It means one who has just shoved Christ aside, and knock him out of the way, taking over. One who said, Christ, get out of here. I'm taking over for you. I'm running it now. In place of Christ!

“The Roman Catholic church has claimed that the kingdom of God is the Roman Catholic church, that the Pope is in the place of Christ, that the second coming of Christ occurred. He is ruling the nations of the world. And they ruled for 1260 years. **The nations of Europe might call it the Holy Roman Empire.** That's why the Bible speaks of her in such terms, of rottenness of filthiness.”

Sermon, “Current Events and Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

“Now, this will not be in flow because I only want to read sections to you to give you a feel of the power of the church at this time. One, they excommunicate them from the church and cut them off from Christ, which is consigning them by Catholic doctrine, to the fire of Ghana for eternity, if there was such a thing, that's where they would be. ‘Further, we therefore conclude under the same

sentence of perpetual anathema, all those who either being forbid or not sent, notwithstanding, presumed to preach publicly or privately without any authority received, either from the apostolic seed.' **This perpetually anathematizes anyone who is not officially recognized to preach by the Roman Catholic Church. That means us and many others, or any others...**

"So, unless when you are arrested, you immediately recant, you are turned over to secular authority. Interesting. You see the church, as Pilate did, washes its hands of these terrors. **We delivered over to the political power, to the secular power, to the state, and they did with them what the state law did.** Keep that in mind, because when you come to the end, you'll see an interesting paradox. **They turn you over to the state for punishment.** Thus, the church is not responsible...

"Now remember, all through the 1100s, we are carrying out all kinds of crusading efforts against the non-Catholic Christians in Europe on the way down to the Holy Land."

WCG Ambassador College Course, "Church of God History Part 18" Ronald Kelly, 1987

"Now they're deceived. They don't know it. I'm not calling them names. I'm reading you what God says. It is God who is doing it. God has the right to call them names if he wants to. I'm not doing it. 'Harlots and Abominations of the earth.' This thing is filthiness in God's sight. And yet we've come up among some of that. We've believed a lot of that. And Christ has said, come out from among them and be separate. Christ has called His Church from among all of that to be separate brethren. And we had to live a different kind of life. 'And I saw the woman drunken and with the blood of the saints.' **You know, it they kept the Sabbath instead of Sunday, they were declared a heretic or anathema from Christ.**

"Now the accusation, an anathema from Christ, made by the church, was considered a capital crime by the government, and the government, the political state, put them to death. And they were martyred. And the woman is drunken on the blood of the saints. The woman says, 'Oh, I've never killed anybody. Oh no, we didn't put anyone to death. **No, we just pronounced them anathema from Christ. It is the government. The government put them to death.**' **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 or halt, you know, 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."

Sermon, "Current Events and Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

"And Rome is both church and state. And nations send their ambassadors to Rome, not to the church, but to the government. And Vatican City is a little tiny small government and part of the city of Rome. And it itself is a separate city, a separate government. [Rev. 13:15] 'And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast', which now is the Vatican, and the civil government of the Roman Catholic church.

"'The image of the beast', which is this Vatican, 'should both speak and cause as many as should not worship the image of the beast to be killed.' **He is not going to kill them. He causes them to be killed. He will pronounce them heretics and the civil government soldiers will put them to death.** That's the way they used to do it hundreds of years ago. And the civil Roman Empire used to do that."

Ordinary Men & the Power of Persuasion

I have often wondered how men can be persuaded to be so cruel towards one another. There are many possible answers to such a question, but the following are two ways. People can be persuaded to kill and even commit horrible atrocities against another person if they are led to believe that what they are doing is right and just in the eyes of God or if they are led into thinking that the acts they are committing are for the benefit of the person they are persecuting.

Mr. Armstrong, during the last years of his life, often expounded upon the two trees in the Garden of Eden, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was the fateful decision that was made at this juncture in time, when mankind decided to take upon himself the knowledge of how to live instead of allowing the Creator God to teach him and to direct him, according God's way of life.

It was been thoroughly explained in the 20th century by Christ's faith apostle who led the 6th era of the Church, that the Tree of Life represented God's holy spirit. If man would have chosen the Tree of Life, it would have given mankind the ability to establish an appropriate relationship with God and it would have allowed God to direct his paths towards the way of peace with his fellow neighbor. And thus, without the spirit of God, peace has eluded mankind for close to 6,000 years.

A Nuclear Enabled in Europe

Some of the nations within the new superpower that will arise in Europe will have to become nuclear enabled because this is the only way such an empire can render the devastating effect described in the Bible upon the modern nations of Israel.

There are currently 9 nations that are reported to have nuclear weapons; Russia (5,889), United States (5224), China (410), France (290), Great Britain (225), Pakistan (170), India (164), Israel (90) and North Korea (30). There are also 6 other countries that are reported to host nuclear weapons. The following are these 6 countries; Germany (15), Belgium (15), Italy (35), the Netherlands (15), Turkey (20) and Belarus (unk).

The number of nuclear weapons that each nation has, as per the ICAN website, is listed right after each country. The nations that host nuclear weapons are nations where nuclear weapons have been stationed by other countries, more specifically by the United States and Russia. In addition, this means that operational control over these weapons remains in the hands of the United States and Russia:

[ICAN Website: Article – Which Nations have nuclear weapons?](#)

[DW News Article: March 24, 2023 – Germany Walks fine line on nuclear weapons](#)

Since the nuclear weapons that are found in the European hosting countries allegedly remain under the control of the United States, something in the world must occur for this to change so that prophecy can be

fulfilled. And there is also a good possibility that some of European countries will soon grow their nuclear arsenal:

“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

“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

Drought and Famine

And finally, something will have to happen within the U.S. so that it is so weakened or so incapacitated that it will not be able reply with the same devastating force by which it is attacked. There are two possible events that may weaken the greatest superpower (U.S.) that the world has ever seen and those are drought and famine and/or economic collapse:

“I've shown you my friends, that a Great Tribulation is coming, the very next thing prophesied. First, the famine and the disease epidemic to be accompanied almost simultaneously or immediately afterwards by an invasion and of a power that's going to rise up in Europe that is going to get the jump on the communist and will invade us and is going to start war on us even before the communists get

around to doing it because they're so slow moving. The communist would do it otherwise. And they are going to attack us later but they are not going to attack us until this happens. Now, we do know that the Jewish people were to go back to Palestine and by the time these final events happened that the men of Judah, which are the Jewish people, are to be in Palestine.

"Now, then, this Great Tribulation is to follow and it is both national and individual. I've shown you that. Jesus said in Matthew 24, and speaking in verse 8, of the pestilence, and of the famine that is to come, and we're a foretaste of the drought now, and there is a terrific national drought coming that'll be accompanied by such disease and epidemics that one-third of our people are going to drop dead, and in spite of all Polio vaccines and everything of the kind. My friends, things are coming that doctors will never know anything about or be able to cope with. It is in your Bible."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Outline of Prophecy 8", Herbert W Armstrong

Matthew 24:15

Only until the events mentioned above fully come to fruition will the event in Matthew 24:15 be able to fully materialize. Mr. Armstrong was ahead of his time on the timing of the end-time events that were revealed to the Church in the 20th century. But even though he was ahead of his time, the insight that he had on the details surrounding these final prophetic events is absolutely astonishing:

"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

God is involved in the affairs of man more than this world knows. But the world does not realize this because God has allowed mankind to do what he has been doing for the last 6,000 years. But God is working out a great master plan and he has been involved in this endeavor for much longer than most realize. And all of the major events that have taken place and that will take place in the future to fulfill this purpose have been documented in the Bible, because it is God who determines the outcome of all wars, and this history of the world in advance:

"God is ruler of the universe. It is God who actually mapped out and who planned the geographical locations of the various nations on the earth today. God planned that Russia would be in the interior, exactly where she is. God Almighty plan that the British would be on the islands, exactly where they

are today. God has devised and planned these things in a way that we poor little humans on this earth seem to know nothing about. **It is God who actually causes the rise in the fall of nations. It is God who determines the outcome of wars.**

“And it was God Almighty, who gave us, by supernatural miracles, that we don't seem to understand, the victory in World War One and World War Two. And God Almighty is about through giving us victories and is going to let us go down in defeat, if we do not wake up. And if we don't repent of our evil ways, and if we don't, again, seek our God, and get back to the God whose people we are, and who has given us all of the best wealth, the great economic prosperity, the luxuries, the power, the world power, every advantage, everything that we have, has been bestowed by a God of love whose people we are.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Outline of Prophecy Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, we've been going through prophecy recently, what is going to happen in the immediate future. The news isn't good. The news today is not good. The news for the immediate future is not good. But over beyond it, there is going to be a new world, the world tomorrow. We're going to have good news at last. But what are you going to do in these days in between? You can know what's going to happen. You don't have to guess. It's all laid out. **There is a purpose being worked down here below. That purpose is revealed, and all history of the world is written in advance.** You probably have it right there in your own home, but you don't look at it. **It's in your Bible.**

“I wonder if you realize that about 1/3 of your Bible is devoted to prophecies and most of that, at least 90% is applying either directly or indirectly, to the present in which we live, and these next few years. You're going to live through these years. They're going to be the most frightful, terrifying years of this earth's history. You can know what's going to happen. You can know how you can be protected from the terrifying things that are coming as certainly as the rising and the setting of tomorrow's sun. Or can you really believe the Bible?”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Understanding Prophecy Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, Jesus was standing here before Pilate, you remember, and Pilate was trying to convince Jesus that he had great power, and telling him what all he could do. If I can just find the place here, **I would like to turn to it because I think it explains how it comes that God is the Supreme Ruler. And yet we don't see Him actually ruling because God has permitted man to do what he does.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Christ's Authority Over Disease”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Mark of the Beast & the Martyrdom of the Saints

There are two final events that are worth noting regarding the prophecies that are just ahead of us. It is the Mark of the Beast and the martyrdom of the saints. These events will occur shortly after the abomination of desolation that is described in Matthew 24:15.

Instead of expounding on these events, the following excerpts from Mr. Armstrong on these two sobering and sad events will explain these two events and the timing of when these events will take place. May God help all

of His people to heed the warnings and the end-time prophecies that were revealed during the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong:

“[Rev. 13:16-18] ‘And he’, which is this same papacy, ‘causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark in the right hand and in the forehead.’ And that is the observance of Sunday instead of the Sabbath. And I can prove that. That’ll take longer than I’ve taken on all of this so far in this study, much longer. But I do have it. I have it all written. I’m going to revive it again and get that booklet out again. ‘In their right hand or in the foreheads.’

“In other words, the right hand symbolizes labor. This is all symbolic. The forehead is in your mind. ‘**And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark**, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’ **You won’t be able to do business or buy or sell anything.** It’s going to be a terrible time. **We won’t be able to keep the Sabbath if we’re still here. That’s why the Bible shows that this Church, this Philadelphia era, is going to be taken away where we’ll be clear out of all jurisdiction.**

“And if the Bible shows us any place where we’re going to go, it is down in the wilderness of Petra. But I’m not sure that’s it. And I’m not sure the Bible shows us where it’ll be. But if it does, that’s the place. ‘Here is wisdom. Let him that understands count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man and his number is 666’, 666.”

Bible Study, “Kingdom of God (Paris France)”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 8, 1980

“Next notice when these saints were killed. This will show us when the mark of the beast is enforced.

“‘**And when he had opened the fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of the m that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?’ (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...

“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).”

Booklet, *Who or What Is the PROPHETIC BEAST*, Herbert W Armstrong

Watch

One final note is in order before we move on to the conclusion of this article. There is indication that some of the events just mentioned will happen astonishingly fast and that some of the events may even develop under the radar or behind the scenes where it will not be obvious to a lot of people. This includes those in the world and even some of God's people. The following are the scriptures that indicate this; Matt. 24:37-40, Matt. 24:43-44, 2 Peter 3:10, Matt 25:1-13 and Luke 21:35. And this is why we are instructed to watch; Matt. 24:42-45, Mark 13:35-37, and Luke 21:36:

"I learned the very thing that I have been proclaiming for the last almost 50 years that I put on the air, 48 or 49 years ago, is just about to happen. And very possibly, within the coming year. 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 superpower, possibly greater than the Soviet Union, or the United States, has gone together in Europe. The prophesied resurrection of the so called medieval Holy Roman Empire, the United States of Europe.**"

Sermon, "Current World Events and Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, 1982

"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

"In the last week, I've made arrangements to go back over to Jordan, and renew acquaintance with King Hussein, and renew a program that we had, that we didn't go through with over there. And I wasn't responsible for that. But it'll all be taken care of.

"I don't know if Petra is the place of safety where we are to go. I don't know that. I know this, that if it is not, then the place is not revealed as yet in the Bible. And there is plenty of evidence that that could be the place. And King Hussein of Jordan controls it. And he is a friend of mine. And I need to renew that acquaintance. And someday you may find that my acquaintance with kings, presidents, prime ministers and heads of state over the world, may save your lives.

"We need to realize that we're getting into the most serious days that this world has ever known. We're in a time when we need to watch and pray as Christ warned. And that warning wasn't from the generation, two or three generations ago. It wasn't for people 500 years or 1,000 years ago. When Jesus said, 'Watch and pray for you know not the hour', he was talking about our time and our generation now."

Sermon, "Keep Your Eyes on Christ", Herbert W Armstrong, 1981

Chapter 3

Conclusion

Prophecy is a subject that is difficult to discuss because of the nature of the events that will occur before the Wonderful World Tomorrow is established. As the events that are happening around the world continue to edge closer and closer to fulfilling the major Biblical prophecies that are found in the Bible, never forget the overall arching theme and thus the purpose for prophecy.

A great Being who reveals Himself as the Eternal God in the Bible is reproducing Himself through mankind. We have a chance to be born into the kingdom of God as god beings, not greater than God, but of the very nature that the Eternal God has, if we build the holy righteous character that God is composed of. This is the awesome potential of man that Mr. Armstrong constantly expounded upon in the sermons that he gave and in the articles that he wrote in the final years of his life:

“Now, what is God's main purpose? What was it from the beginning, when they were just the two of them, and they hadn't created anything? What were they going to create? What is God creating? What is his overall purpose? **His overall purpose is to create righteous and holy character.** Now, I've talked about the holy righteous people. Well, I'm no more holy and righteous than you are, nor you than I am. But God has a purpose of making us that way. **And God's purpose, is to create holy and righteous character, such as he himself has.**

“Now, He had made animals, the cattle after the cattle kind, dogs after the dog kind, and so on. Now, God said, “Let us”, not me. It was more than one person. That was God the Father and the Word. “Let us make man after our kind.” **Man was made to become God.** God put man on the earth, in order that God now, the greatest feat of creation that God has ever undertaken, **to reproduce himself, through you and me.**”

Sermon, “What & Why the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong

And this is the true purpose for which history has been foretold and written in advance. The God of creation will soon disclose this mystery to the entire world and His great plan will be fulfilled through some of the events that will take place on this earth.

This document will continue to be updated as things develop around the world. And remember, as God's people, we are instructed to watch and are expected to, not only understand what the purpose of prophecy is, but we are also expected to “watch” so that we are not caught off guard as we edge closer and closer to greatest prophecies that have been foretold in the word of God.

And finally, there is a special blessing that is pronounced on those that hold fast to the prophetic truths that were revealed by Jesus Christ during the 6th era of the Church, Rev. 3:10-11, and who obey the living God and are living the way of give, the way of outgoing concern and outflowing love towards God and towards all of mankind.

May God be with all of His people and strengthen each and every one of us as we go through some of the most difficult times in the history of mankind which are now just beyond the horizon. Please remember to pray for one another and please pray for me as well, and also ask God to protect all of us during the time of trial that is just ahead:

“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 readeth, 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, *Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*, Herbert W Armstrong

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



Luis A Garcia
(915) 590-2947
Lgarciatexas@gmail.com
www.TheRWCG.org

4-26-2024

6-2-2024