

End-Time Spiritual Apostasy – Where the Church Went Astray!

What went wrong with the Worldwide Church of God?

Why all the amazing, incredible doctrinal changes on the one hand, making the Church more acceptable to the mainstream "Christian" world, and the rejection of proven new truth on the other hand? Here is a step by step analysis of the most incredible story of our age!

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(Please note this article was written many years ago soon after the break up of the Worldwide Church of God. Even so this is a very helpful and useful historical account of the well known problems in the Worldwide Church of God. – Updated November 2017)

Jeremiah prophesied of the flagrant End-Time rebellion that would occur within the very Church of God at the close of the age, before the coming of the Messiah. He was inspired to write: " A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority [pretending it is "God's Authority"!], and my people LOVE IT THIS WAY. But what will you do in the end?" (Jer.5:30-31).

Thousands today put their trust in "Church authority." They believe smugly that their church is "the ONLY Church of God." They confidently trust their ministry never to mislead them. They think to themselves, "If there is wrong in the Church, God will correct it in due time. I don't have to worry about it God would never let the ministry go astray, or lead us astray. Why, after all, this is God's own Church! "

Jeremiah prophesied that people would make that very boast, during the End Time! He wrote: "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!' If you REALL Y change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods, to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. But look, you are TRUSTING IN DECEPTIVE WORDS that are worthless" (Jer.7:3-8).

Modern Church Idolatry

People who have the attitude, "This is the Church of God, the Church of God, the Church of God!" and who put their trust in the "Church of God" are foolish and, as God Himself says, are "trusting in deceptive words." God thunders, "Behold, ye trust in LYING WORDS, that cannot profit" (Jer.7:8, King James Version).

The apostle Paul gave us a similar warning. He declared, "Now the Spirit clearly says that in later times some will ABANDON the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through HYPOCRITICAL LIARS, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot **iron**" (I Tim. 4: 1-2). The Greek word for liars or lies, as used in this verse, is *pseudologos* -- and this is the only place it is used in the New Testament. The usual word for "lies" is *pseudos*. But this is talking about "lying words," or speech in the context of hypocrisy -- something which conveys the subtlety of very cunning lies and deceptions, something beyond just normal run-of-the-mill "lies."

These "lies" are carefully thought out and arranged and orchestrated clever DECEPTIONS, which seem close to the truth, and may even appear true, at first glance, or to the superficial observer. But these "lies" are Satan's subtle misinformation, his clever alterations, and cunning hiding of the truth under a covering that SEEMS right on the surface. It may even SOUND like the truth --but is not! Something is not quite correct --something is very cleverly altered, to deceive and delude people! To trust in such lies leads to DEATH!

In other words, Satan gives the truth a little "spin." He "shades" the truth ever so slightly, to alter the meaning and emphasis. The lies that are hardest to detect are those that are slight twists or variations on the truth. So, slight that they may still sound like the truth, and may seem virtually indistinguishable from it! But they are COUNTERFEITS of the real truth, and lead people into apostasy and spiritual error! Satan knows that by injecting little "shadings" of the truth, he can eventually change entire doctrines and major beliefs, in time --he can inject sufficient error to cause God to frown upon His erring people, and have to punish them. Satan knows that blatant lies would be rejected by most people, so he is very assiduous and subtle in his approach!

To assume that you are protected from Satan's deceptions just because you are a physical P ART of the Church, is a dangerous assumption! Adam and Eve may have assumed that they were in no danger, because they were right in Paradise --the Garden of Eden! But the serpent's cunning still caught Eve off her guard, and she was deceived rather easily and quickly! God warns us, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor.10:12).

God says of His End Time Church, "The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the LORD; so they do not prosper *and all their flock is SCATTERED*" (Jer.10:21).

What Is Your Real Attitude?

But part of the problem of the End Time Church of God is the attitude of the PEOPLE. They themselves have strayed from the straight and narrow path, and have compromised their faith and diligence in serving God. They don't want to hear stern, hard truth; they prefer pleasantries, novelties, and philosophy. God warns, "GO now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that in the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. These are rebellious people, DECEITFUL children,

children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction. They say to the seers, 'See no more visions!' and to the prophets, 'Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us PLEASANT things, prophesy ILLUSIONS. Leave this way, get off this path [quit correcting us and rebuking us, we don't like it!], and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!' (Isa.30:8-11).

Because of this lackadaisical attitude of nonchalance about spiritual things, God says, "Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression, and depended on deceit, this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. It will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern"(verses 12-14).

Amos also rebukes the End- Time Church of God people for their tremendous complacency. The prophet thunders, "WOE to you who are COMPLACENT in Zion, and to you who FEEL SECURE on Mount Samaria [that is, the capital city of Ephraim, prophetically the United States!], you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! (Amos 6:1).

Those Who "Put Off" The Evil Day

Just as is happening in the End Time Churches of God, today, Amos prophesied, "YOU PUT OFF the evil day and bring near a reign of TERROR. You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches ["lounge lizards"]. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph [the sick economy, the ravished land, the gang violence, the injustice and collapse]. Therefore, you will be among the FIRST to go into exile, your feasting and lounging will end" (Amos 6:3-7).

The "mother" whom thousands put their trust in --the Church of God --will be punished and destroyed, God says, for it is no longer truly His Church because of its sins and compromises with the truth and perversions of true doctrine. The prophet Hosea writes, "YOU stumble day and night and the prophets STUMBLE with you. So, I will DESTROY YOUR MOTHER [the Church, which is the "mother of us all" --Gal.4:26] -- my people are DESTROYED from lack of knowledge. Because you have REJECTED KNOWLEDGE, I also reject you as my priests ["ministers"]; because you have ignored the LAW of your God, I also will ignore your children. The more the priests increased [the more the End Time Churches of God grew and increased in numbers and size], the MORE THEY SINNED AGAINST ME," God warns; "they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. They will eat but not have enough; they will engage in PROSTITUTION [whoring with the civil governments of the world, the world's educational accreditation committees, and committing spiritual "incest" with the world's churches!] but not increase [their growth and income will suffer], because they have deserted the LORD to give themselves to PROSTITUTION, to old wine [old pagan erroneous doctrines] and new [bizarre new interpretations], which take away the UNDERSTANDING of my people. ...*A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God*" (Hos.4:5-12).

God Himself is soon going to punish His End Time Church with furious rebukes and stern plagues -- a spiritual whipping like the Church has never before received. He will do this because of the serious corruption that exists, in high places in EVERY REMNANT CHURCH OF GOD IN

EXISTENCE! This warning applies directly to the Worldwide Church of God, The Church of God International, the Philadelphia Church of God, Living Church, United, and all others which have similar problems and totalitarian, tyrannical "Church government" systems which are modeled after the concept of "Babylon"!

Laodicean Rebellion and Intolerance

Jesus Himself rebukes this End Time Church of God, calling it the "Laodicean Church" generation and age --the FINAL prophesied Church era to appear in the world, shortly before His second coming! He declared: "To the angel of the Church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness [because they are not faithful and true], the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are LUKEWARM -- neither hot nor cold -- I am about to SPIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are WRETCHED, PITIFUL, POOR, BLIND AND NAKED. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So, BE IN EARNEST AND REPENT. Here I stand at the door and knock. If ANYONE [He is appealing to individuals, not entire church groups, but one by one to individual persons, one by one] hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev.3:14-22).

Notice! This account describes the vast, whole, ENTIRE REMNANT CHURCH OF GOD! It is the LAST GENERATION! It is spiritually blind and naked, but thinks it is rich and very spiritual, proud of its supposed "knowledge," but really pitiful in God's sight It is so far removed from the ways and true paths of God, that Christ is not even INSIDE this "Church" --He is pictured as standing OUTSIDE "looking in" -- KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, hoping that someone, at least a "few," may open the door and let him into their own individual homes!

The Laodicean Church is proud of its apparent "wealth." It also is a Church which highly values its own human or church traditions. Interestingly, there are only two Greek words in the New Testament, which, when their letters are added up, they each add up to the number 666 -the number of the Beast (Rev.13:18). Those two words are -- tradition, and wealth. The Laodicean Church, therefore, has characteristics which are very similar and close to the very MARK OF THE BEAST of Revelation! It has allowed its wealth and tradition to get in the way of God's Laws, and serving God out of a pure and undefiled heart and mind! The love of money leads to all kinds of perversions, and putting tradition ahead of and above the very LAWS of God leads to sin, and wickedness.

Thus, the Laodicean End-Time Church of God is in VERY BAD SPIRITUAL SHAPE! Jeremiah describes this Church generation, saying, "Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and his holy words. The land is full of adulterers. The prophets follow an EVIL COURSE and *use their power unjustly*. Both prophet and priest are godless; EVEN IN MY TEMPLE [even in God's CHURCH, the "Temple of God" -- Eph.2:20] I find their wickedness,' declares the Lord.

Therefore, their path will become slippery; they will be banished to darkness and there they will fall. I will bring disaster on them in the year they are punished,' declares the Lord. 'Among the prophets of Samaria [the United States, where most of the End Time Churches of God are head-quartered!] I saw this repulsive thing: They prophesied by BAAL and led my people Israel astray" (Jer.23:9-13).

Church "Authority" Becomes Church "Tyranny"!

Abuse of power is one of the common characteristics of End Time ministers of the Laodicean churches of God. Immediate suspension from Church, or even disfellowshipment, at the drop of a hat, seems to be the rule rather than the exception in Worldwide, Philadelphia, Living, United, Continental and International Churches of God. They are all in the same boat, except for the "fine print". Their similarities far out-weigh their differences -- especially in the area of Church Government! They have all virtually become, to one degree or another, the "Synagogue [Church assembly] of SATAN" (see Rev.3:9). That is why God literally calls His true people OUT of these apostatizing, sinning, deceptive, wicked congregations and assemblies!

Initially, when Herbert Armstrong began serving God, he did not found a Church but rather an evangelical work. As it grew, and members were baptized, he called it the "Radio Church of God." In those days, he acknowledged that the Church of God, Seventh Day, and others, were also parts of the body of Christ.

But after the Church grew big, and powerful, individuals began referring to the "work" as "the Church." By the late '50s and early '60s Herbert Armstrong himself began denying the fact that others could also be part of the body of Christ, and began calling virtually all other groups "counterfeits." This trend continued and grew more flagrant, as the Church increased in power, income, and membership.

There is a mortal danger in any organizational structure, whether ecclesiastical or secular. As growth continues, management systems are brought in, and faith and inspiration become overlooked and neglected. Systems replace faith; numbers crunching replaces inspiration. Human logic and reason and planning take the place of looking to Christ and expecting miracles to do the Work! Specially designed "co-worker letters" are sent to people to maximize the monetary returns --taking advantage of widows, older people, and those who are ignorant of the methods of modern evangelism!

The organizational trap swallowed the Worldwide Church of God, and a hierarchical structure developed, with the ministerial elite on one level and the plebian masses of Church members down at the bottom. Soon ministers were expected to always be called "Mr." and never addressed by their first name! The examples and instruction of Christ and the early Church were completely ignored and bypassed.

Jesus Christ said, "The kings of the Gentiles LORD IT OVER THEM; and those who exercise AUTHORITY over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater" the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:25-27).

As hierarchies develop, brethren begin looking to the lofty ministers as their spiritual guides and masters, and not to Christ! The ministry becomes an inflated, self-serving, ego trip! Humility is swallowed up in pride and pride leads to arrogance!

Herbert Armstrong incorporated the Radio Church of God in 1948. One 19-year time cycle, later, Loma D. Armstrong died --in 1967. One 19-year time cycle later, Herbert W. Armstrong died - - in January, 1986! These numbers illustrate the fact that God was working with the Church of God, during this time, even though mistakes were made by the human leaders. Perhaps the greatest single mistake made by Herbert Armstrong was the establishment of a governmental system of hierarchical superiority --the so-called "pyramid" structure --which is nowhere taught or commanded in the Scriptures. Rather, as Herbert Armstrong himself wrote in a 1939 article on Church Government, the pyramid structure of Government comes straight out of BABYLON and is PAGAN to the core! But as the Church grew, he felt the need to establish lines of authority, and began ordaining various "levels" of ministers thinking he was following God's way, not realizing that ministerial "gifts" are NOT "ranks," but divinely distributed GIFTS of the Spirit of God (I Cor.12:1-11). GOD is the one who appoints spiritual offices --not men! (I Cor.12:27-31; Eph.4:8-13).

By establishing a ministerial hierarchy, Herbert Armstrong was falling into the trap of Satan the devil, and setting up a GENTILE form of Church Government, the very thing Jesus Christ warned against and condemned (Matt.20:24-28; 23:8-12). He thereby created and injected the seeds of the Church's eventual destruction and take-over by Satan the devil!

How Satan Entered In and Took Over

As the organization grew, so did the infiltration of Satan's agents and influences --his secret "tares" to do his bidding and work (II Pet2:1-3; Jude 3-4). They looked "good" on the outside, and dressed snappily, and acted like loyal, obedient servants, and so Herbert Armstrong was deluded, misled, and deceived, and ordained WICKED MEN to high offices. He himself admitted at times that he was a very poor judge of character. That is why, less than one year before his death, Herbert Armstrong wrote in the June 24, 1985 Worldwide News, at the conclusion of an article entitled "Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God" the following words:

"A final personal word. In a few days I will be 93 years of age. For some years now, there have been some, like vultures, waiting for me to die. They would like to come back and take over the leadership of the Church in my stead. I have been deeply concerned about this, but in no sense worried. This is the Church of God, not of any man. Jesus Christ is the living Head of this Church. I am not. . . .

"When I have, even rarely, mentioned my concern in this category, the response of members has always been the belief that God will keep me alive. I hope that He will, and I do try to take every care of my health and physical condition, but whether God keeps me alive 10 more years, or only 10 more minutes is entirely

in God's hands. Brethren, put your faith in Christ and the living God and not in me. *If Christ should remove me, He will direct the Advisory Council of Elders; to select one of them to continue leading you until the coming of Jesus Christ in power and in glory. Pray that God will keep YOU in His Church until He replaces this evil world and brings the wonderful, peaceful and blessed Kingdom of God.*"

Herbert Armstrong wrote this in June 1985 -- just six and one-half months before his death! Strange, isn't it, that only a few days before his final death, or thereabouts, a mysterious "letter" appeared, supposedly "signed" by Herbert Armstrong, ostensibly empowering one Joseph W. Tkach, a relative neophyte and uneducated non-Israelites, to take over the reins of the Church! Strange, isn't it, that Herbert Armstrong AT NO TIME gave verbal, powerful, unconditional and clear instructions to the Council of Elders, to select Tkach, and NEVER made the announcement verbally, himself!

Did Satan the devil pull off a master-stroke at the death and passing of Herbert Armstrong? Was the "passing of the baton" a notorious, nefarious FRAUD? Was Herbert Armstrong, while on his death bed, surrounded by only a few "trusted" aides, deceived, and taken advantage of! The horrendous possibilities are mind-boggling! Are we so naive?

Herbert Armstrong fully intended for the Council of Elders to select his successor, knowing full well his own limitations and weaknesses. Why then, are we supposed to believe that he suddenly "changed his mind" while on his death bed?

There is an interesting prophecy in Isaiah, where God says: "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind, but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the LORD?" (Isa.42:18-19). In his old age, Herbert Armstrong was partially deaf and partially blind. This is a prophecy referring to him! He made many mistakes, yet he was a servant of God.

I don't think Herbert Armstrong saw, grasped, or was fully aware of the DANGER he was in, as he lay on his death-bed, and no clear decision having been made as to his successor! Books have been written pinpointing the evidence that Pope John Paul was actually MURDERED in the Vatican by a conspiracy of high-ranking cardinals, to perpetuate their own authority and doctrines. Other books have recently been written suggesting powerfully that John F. Kennedy was actually ASSASSINATED in Dallas, Texas, in 1963, in a CIA-FBI conspiracy, perhaps engineered by Lyndon Baines Johnson, his "successor," who was not going to be his running mate when Kennedy ran for re-election. Was Herbert Armstrong also the victim of a cabal, a sinister PLOT of Satan the devil, to take over the Church?

The Church After Herbert Armstrong

Since his death in 1986, the Worldwide Church of God has suddenly veered off into doctrinal heresies and distortions, reconciling doctrines with Protestantism, and seeking to find favor in Satan's world! The Church has VEERED OFF THE TRACKS and plunged into error and wickedness --a full-blown Laodicean condition which Jesus Christ condemns!

Now we are living in the FULL-BLOWN LAODICEAN ERA of the End Time Churches of GOD! Prophecy has been relegated to the dust bin; Herbert Armstrong's booklets are all in the process of being "revised " and "rewritten. " His book *Mystery of the Ages* has been thrown out on the trash heap. The identity of the lost ten tribes of Israel is no longer taught or believed by the Church leadership! Joseph Tkach then began to claim that he is "BORN AGAIN!" and so is every believer. He claimed the Kingdom of God is already here, now, in the Church -- something Herbert Armstrong NEVER taught! He claimed the purpose of human life is NOT to become "God" as "God is God," and that Jesus Christ was never REALLY HUMAN at all! *Where will the diabolical Satanic heresies END?*

What should MEMBERS of such a Church do about their affiliation? And what about members of the other apostate, Laodicean churches, whether on the right or left "wing"?

The Oppression and Slavery of Gods People

Isaiah the prophet thunders, "AWAKE, awake; put on thy strength [the whole armor of God -- Ephesians 6:10], O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments" --the robes of righteousness (Isaiah 52:1, Rev.19:11-14). "Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? *they that rule over them [their shepherds or "ministers"] MAKE THEM TO HOWL. ...* saith the Lord; and my name continually every day is *blasphemed*" (Isaiah 52:5). They blaspheme God's name by their practices, their filthy deeds, their disfellowshipment procedures, their false doctrines, their calling God's TRUE servants and prophets "false prophets," "Satan-inspired," and other epithets. They blaspheme God by their every action and word, every day, as they abuse, beat, and browbeat the sheep under their control.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote, "The word of the LORD came to me: 'Son of man, prophesy against the SHEPHERDS of Israel; prophesy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: WOE to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost You have RULED THEM HARSHLY AND BRUTALLY. So, they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them" {Ezek.34: 1-6).

God thunders, "I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will REMOVE them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves; I will RESCUE my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them" (verse 10).

God Himself will also judge between the sheep, individual Church members who have conflicts and who mistreat each other. He says, " As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. ...See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be PLUNDERED" {Ezek.34:17-22).

Almighty God, and Jesus Christ, both have a severe "bone to pick" with the End Time Church of God generation --the people of God today. God says to His flock, His people, who have strayed into the paths of sin and Laodicean compromise and error: "Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your INIQUITIES have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt Your lips have spoken LIES, and your tongue uttered wicked things. No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web [the name "Tkach" literally means "to spin a web"!]. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched.

"Their COBWEBS are useless for clothing [rendering people "naked" spiritually!]; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood [to disfellowship so-called "dissidents"!]. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths [they "cover up" the sins of the ministry, and refuse to judge individual cases with righteousness, but always support the "minister," right or wrong!]. They have turned them into CROOKED ROADS; no one who walks in them will know peace" (Isa.59: 1-8).

God's Rebuke and Warning

This is a very serious rebuke and stern correction. This is a description of the End Time Laodicean Church, with all its "glory" and wickedness! The oppressed sheep of this Church cry out, "So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. LIKE THE BLIND" -- Laodiceans are "BLIND," remember -- "we grope along the wall, feeling our way like MEN WITHOUT EYES. At midday, we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the DEAD. We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away" (Isa.59:9-11).

In the middle of Great Tribulation, many of the people of this remnant Church will finally cry out to God, confessing their sins and wickedness. They will pray, and say, "For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities, rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So, justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; TRUTH has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. TRUTH is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey" (Isa.59:12-15).

In their distress, they will finally call on God, in deep remorse and repentance for their sins, and God will forgive them, and wipe away their iniquities. He will deliver them from the Great Tribulation, those who remain alive, and Christ Himself will rescue them (verses 16-18). "From the west, men will fear the name of the *LORD*, and from the rising of the sun, they will REVERE his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the *LORD* drives along. The Redeemer will come to Zion [the remnant Church in captivity], to those in Jacob who REPENT of their sins" (Isa.59:19-20).

What about you? Will you repent now? Or will you have to experience the pangs of bitter travail and Great Tribulation to bring you to your senses?

God has called prophets and watchmen to WARN His erring, sinning, straying people to RETURN to HIM, before it is too late! That cry and warning is going out! God thunders, " Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice LIKE A TRUMPET. Declare to my people their REBELLION and to the house of Jacob their SINS" (Isa.58:1).

God tells His people, "I have posted WATCHMEN on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night You who call on the *LORD*, give yourselves NO REST, and give Him no rest, till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" (Isa.62:6-7).