

Was the Gospel
Ever Suppressed?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Has the Gospel been continuously preached since the days of Jesus-Christ and the apostles or has there been times when it was not preached because of persecutions? Is hearing the Gospel essential for salvation? How will the Gospel reach each and every man that has ever lived? Is this something men can or could ever do?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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The Christian world in all its denominations and diversity of beliefs for the most part see themselves as being responsible for preaching the Gospel to the world i.e., to all those who are unconverted, as a means of bringing as many to salvation as possible.

Nowadays, with the speed and ease of worldwide communications, it is easier than it has ever been to reach very large audiences with the Gospel message. There are many televangelists on the airwaves and traveling abroad on their private jets with their personal attendants to preach the Good News. It is fair to say there is an overabundant supply of Christians of all persuasions actively engaged in preaching the Gospel to the world as they understand it but there is no unanimity between them regarding what was the Gospel taught by Christ to His disciples.

In this study we will determine using God's Holy Bible what is the Gospel, whether understanding the Gospel is necessary for salvation, who are those who can preach the Gospel and how can all human beings that have ever lived hear the Gospel when it was not preached before Christ's 1st Coming which occurred some 4,000 years after the creation of Adam and Eve? Have all these people who have died without hearing the Gospel lost?

Let's get started on this study and see what information the Bible gives us on those matters.

What Gospel?

In the Bible we read that Christ at His First Coming preached the Gospel. What is the Good News or Gospel that Christ preached? Was the good news that Christ brought from God the Father that men's sins can be forgiven, the Gospel of Grace. Or, was it the Gospel of love which is that as long as men have love for one another they can be saved? Or still, is it that men can sin without affecting their salvation once they come under the grace of God? Once saved, always saved; grace gives the saved license to sin?

But, what was the good news Jesus preached?

“....Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of [the kingdom of God](#),” (Mark 1:14).

It was the good news of the kingdom of God which in the Bible is also referred to under different names but the essential and central message of the “kingdom of God” preached by Jesus remains unchanged

The following verses mention some if not all the names used for the gospel in the Bible:

Mar 1:1 The beginning of the [gospel of Jesus Christ](#), the Son of God;

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the [gospel of his Son](#), that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the [gospel of peace](#), and bring glad tidings of good things!

Gal 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the [gospel of the uncircumcision](#) was committed unto me, as the [gospel of the circumcision](#) was unto Peter;

1Th 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the [gospel of God](#).

1Ti 1:11 According to the glorious [gospel of the blessed God](#), which was committed to my trust.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the [gospel of the grace of God](#).

These different names given the Gospel reflect or highlight certain aspects of the Gospel such as grace, peace, its origin (the glorious God), to whom it is destined (the uncircumcision and the circumcision), who is speaking it (the Gospel of Christ; the gospel of His Son) but ultimately it is the Gospel of the kingdom of God by whatever name it may be called, the good news Jesus brought from God the Father remains unchanged.

However, just what is the “kingdom of God” has been a source of controversy which is lasting to this day. Christ’s disciples thought that kingdom of God was that Christ would return a second time and make Israel a sovereign nation again.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time [restore again the kingdom to Israel?](#)

At the time when Christ came, Israel was a vassal state under the Roman Empire. But, as time went on and Christ did not return, men began to think that the Kingdom of God was the great church that had arisen after His ascension to heaven, the Roman Catholic Church; then others thought that it would be the Millennium and others still, thought it was going to heaven at the time of death.

So, what was Christ talking about when He spoke about the Kingdom of God and why would its coming into being be good news for mankind? After all, “gospel” is a word that means “good news.”

The answer is not that simple and many important Bible concepts have to first be understood to know what is the Kingdom of God and why it is good news for mankind.

On this web site you can find detailed, fully Bible-based studies, which along with the information provided in this study, will provide you with essential information you need to understand what is the Kingdom of God and why it is Good News for truly converted Christians who die in the faith.

You can access them by clicking on the following hyperlinks: [What is the Kingdom of God?](#) [The Millennium God's Kingdom on Earth?](#) and [What Good News did Jesus Proclaim?](#)

Simply put, and for the sake of providing sufficient information for you to be able to follow along with this study, I will provide you with a summary of what is the good news proclaimed by Christ. The good news for mankind is that there is coming a time (at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind) when, after the Great White Throne Judgment, this earth and universe will come to an end and be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1-2). The "sheep" (Mat 25) in the Great White Throne Judgment will become glorified spirit beings and members of God's Kingdom and the "goats" those that lose their salvation will be burnt up in the Lake of Fire and become ashes under the soles of the saints (Mal 4:1-3).

The kingdom of God will then be established with God the Father as the supreme authority in the Kingdom. Christ will be the second in authority and then all the glorified saints will be set in positions of authority in accordance with their works of obedience while human beings. Remember, Christians are rewarded according to their works (Luke 19: 13-17) but salvation is a free gift from God (Eph 2:8). For a detailed explanation of how the Kingdom of God will function, please review the following study: [What is the Kingdom of God?](#) (starting on page 11).

Does it all seem somewhat incredible and quite different from what you have always believed? Then, please take the time to go through the previously mentioned studies to get an understanding of how all this is going to come about. It has already all been explained with the required Scriptural references and it would just take too much time to repeat it all here.

Now, let's examine if the message brought by Christ consisted only of the "Kingdom of God" or is there other information which is an integral part of God the Father's Gospel message brought to mankind by Christ?

The Gospel — A Multifaceted Message

According to the Bible, hearing the Gospel is necessary for salvation but are there more requirements.

Mar1:15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

As stated clearly in this verse, not only is it necessary to hear the Gospel but also to repent and believe when one hears it. In other words, simply hearing the Gospel is not the only requirement, repentance and belief are also required. A very similar message is given us in Mark 1:14 -15.

Mar 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Practically speaking, it would make no sense for Christ to only talk about the Kingdom of God without specifying what men need to do to become part of it.

I think I can safely assume that most of the readers of this study already know that salvation requires that men be called and chosen and remain faithful until the end of their natural lives in living the truth they have been given to know by God. Their “repentance” is their decision to submit to the truth of God as it is revealed to them and their “belief” requires their changing their lives to put this truth into practice. They then have to maintain their repentance and belief for the remainder of their lives to one day become part of the Kingdom of God.

What is it that men have to repent of i.e., what is it they have to stop doing and what is it they have to start doing to get on the road to God’s Kingdom?

Broadly defined, repentance is ceasing to be in opposition to God and belief is having an attitude of obedience to Him in all things i.e., committing to apply God’s truth in our lives to the best of our abilities as it is revealed to us as we study our Bible with the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman opening our minds to understand God level spiritual truth.

And, what is it that one has to believe? It is the teachings of the Bible, not those of men, about how one can become part of the Kingdom of God. The Holy Bible is the Word of God i.e., Christ in writing and it, not men, provides us as we study it, with the essential information we need for salvation.

The Gospel then also includes what it is men must do to be saved. It is not a single thing which once accomplished guarantees forever one’s salvation nor is it a believing a single thing i.e., in the existence of the Kingdom of God. It requires believing God which means we are

applying to the best of our abilities in our lives the truth of the Bible as it is revealed to us as we study the Bible. It is doing these things that will make it possible for you to become part of God's Kingdom.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel** of Christ: for **it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The Gospel which includes the essential requirement to repent and believe was to be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.

Mat 24:14 And this **gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

How is this to occur? Will it be the work of men? Can it be the work of men? How can all those who died in the first 4,000 years before Christ's First Coming ever hear the Gospel and be given a chance to be saved?

Preached Unto All Nations

The disciples were personally trained by Christ for 3 1/2 years and were commissioned to preach the Gospel.

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Notice that Christ commissioned "them" the apostles to go into all the world and preach the Gospel but He did not also say that there would be other men after their death that would carry on the commission given them. So how can and will the Gospel be preached in all the world unto all the nations? This is something we will examine a little later on in this study.

At this point in this study, I would like to focus on determining what is the "end" spoken of by Christ in Mat 24:14.

In this verse we are told that in order for the "end" to come the Gospel must have been preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. The question that poses itself here is what "end" was Christ talking about? In the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) it was thought that the "end" was the end of the governments of men over men which would be replaced by Christ and His resurrected saints at His Second Coming. According to this belief, Christ at His Second Coming would

take over the governments of this world and bring about the wonderful conditions of peace, safety, abundance and joy to the nations of the world that will to exist during the Millennium.

(Please see the following study for more information on this topic: [What is the End and When Will it Happen?](#))

Effectively, there are many Scriptures which seem to indicate that this is what would happen such as the following:

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Christ is coming back to this earth a second time with power and great glory. This happens after a time of tribulation which is followed by the Day of the Lord which will also be a time of tribulation upon the world (see Rev 8-10, the trumpet plagues).

We also are told that the resurrected saints will rule over the nations with a rod of iron.

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

This is said about God's saints of the Thyatira era that overcome until the end of their lives. The clear implication seems to be that the saved will rule over the nations of this world but is ruling over the physical nations of this world the reward of the saved? (Heb 2:6-9)

Heb 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing

that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

The reward of the saved is not to rule over the nations of this world during the Millennium. The saints are to rule over the new heaven and the new earth that will be created at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind. God will not rule by force either over the unconverted or over the converted (Rom 8:14). God will only rule over those who self-willingly and knowingly make the decision to obey Him when called. Christ clearly tells us that many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and of those chosen few remain faithful to their calling (Mat 7:13).

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

This means that during the Millennium when all will be called (Joel 2:28) it is the few of those called that will accept their calling and of those who do, it will be the few that will remain faithful. The nations to a very great extent will therefore remain unconverted and not subject to God's law (Rom 8:7) and cannot be ruled by God (Rom 8:14). It then follows that Christ nor His resurrected saints will take over the governments of this world at His 2nd Coming. Sadly and contrarily to what is taught in the many different Christian churches of this world, it is not everyone except a few hardheaded individuals who will be saved. Most people after the excitement or first love of their calling fades, slowly return into the world out of which they were called and lose their salvation.

You may be interested in reviewing the following study which provides a lot more information on this topic: [Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#)

In the book of Revelation we read about the glorified Christ being King of kings and Lord of lords which could certainly lead us to conclude that Christ after His 2nd Coming will rule over the nations of this world.

Rev 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a

name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

It was widely assumed that these were flesh-and-blood kings and lords on the earth. However the Bible is clear as previously mentioned, that God will not rule by force over the unconverted nor will He force anyone to convert (Rom 8:14). It is up to those being called to follow the lead of the holy spirit God the Father while being called and once chosen, to voluntarily submit to the additional truth being taught them by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Therefore, the kings and lords mentioned in Rev 19:16 cannot be the flesh-and-blood kings and lords of this world as even during the Millennium when all are called, it is the few who will follow their calling and it is the few who will remain faithful. God does not now rule over the unconverted by force nor will He do so during the Millennium. For more information on who are the kings and lords over which Christ will rule, I would refer you to the following study: [Kings and Priests Ruling on the Earth](#)

It was also thought that during the Millennium after Christ's 2nd Coming, there would be a physical location on the earth where people would go to learn the truth of God and from which the truth of God would go out into the world. This location would be Jerusalem.

Mic 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

According to this verse, it would seem that the nations of the world following Christ's 2nd Coming will be eager to learn and follow the truth of God traveling in earnest to the mountain of the Lord. The law would go out of Zion which is generally interpreted as being the physical city of Jerusalem in the Middle East. This would mean that after Christ's 2nd Coming, God's Church would become a visible organization of men which in Bible terminology is figuratively expressed as the mountain of the Lord. A mountain represents a nation and in this instance, it is the nation of the Lord and the nation of the Lord are those called, chosen and faithful or God's Church.

But, there is a rather large problem with this understanding of this Scripture. God's one, true church is referred to by Christ as the "little flock" that would never die out. It is to come out of the world (its ways

of thinking and acting) (Rom 12:2; 1Co 5:9-10); it is not to proselytize i.e., seek to convert others, and it is not to act in such a way as to attract the attention of the unconverted or to vex them by preaching at them (Matt 10:11-14).

Conversion is something that occurs in the mind and is most of the time not outwardly visible to others. Can you identify the true Christians in a crowd or do you know who are the other Christians living in your neighborhood, city or country?

The Bible says that God's Church would be small (Luke 12:32), made up of the little people of this world (1Co 1:26-27), and that converts are to maintain a low profile, (Mat 10:11-14). This then means that God's Church throughout the ages would be and has been largely invisible to the world as it is in our days.

God's law has never come out of from a specific organization located in a specific city in a given nation. Truly converted Christians are taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman by thoughts from His mind being shared with the truly converted making it possible for them to understand God level spiritual truth as they study the sure word of God, the Bible. They are not converted nor made able to understand spiritual truth by organizations of men.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. [the glorified Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]

Since the Day of Pentecost, all true Christians are being taught by the holy spirits of the God family: the holy spirit God the Father while being called and by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman when becoming chosen.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

The belief that there will be a time when God's nation, the mountain of

the Lord, the truly converted would become a visible organization with a world headquarters organization of converted individuals dwelling in Jerusalem and from which God's truth would go out to the unconverted world comes from seeing God's Church as being a physical organization of men which is visible in the world especially through its efforts to preach the Gospel to the world. Many church organizations see themselves as the inheritors of the commission given the apostles to preach the Gospel. Today they are the so-called evangelists seen on television and who travel the world in their private jets seeking to make converts for Christ.

However, God's Church is a spiritual organization, not a physical one structured according to the business organization practices of this world. It is not a top-down, hierarchical organization with a spiritual leader and supporting ministry which is reputed to have God's truth and who have the responsibility to teach it to their followers who are considered to be unable to read their Bible on their own and come to understand it correctly. Their source of truth is the Pastor General and the ministers appointed by him. However, the Bible teaches that the converted are taught by God as men are unreliable (even truly converted ones (Act 20:30), prone to drifting away from the truth and unable to give men understanding of God's truth which is only possible by revelation from God.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves [\[the ministry\]](#) shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

God's Church is all those who have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. They are by themselves or in little groups scattered all over the nations of this world. Their high priest is Christ who is the mediator between themselves and God. Their mediator is not any man or organization of men.

And, every Christian is under God's government by knowingly and self-willingly submitting to God's law to the best of their abilities as it is revealed to them. It is not by submitting to any man who appointed himself as a great spiritual leader that all must unfailingly follow or be considered not to be under God's government. For more information on this topic, please see the following studies: [What is God's Church? Preachers the Means to Salvation?](#) and [Was God's Church Ever a Physical Organization?](#)

The Suppression of the Gospel

Now we come to the main topic of this study and that is whether the proclamation of the Gospel to the world was ever suppressed?

In the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) it was considered that indeed the proclamation of the Gospel was suppressed during the 1260 years of persecution on God's Church that began shortly after its foundation. The Scriptures say that there would be a religious group that would persecute the saints and wear them out i.e., exhaust them but not exterminate them as God's Church made up of God's saints was never to die out.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall [wear out the saints](#) of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until [a time and times and the dividing of time](#).

A time is one year and a biblical year is 360 days; 3 1/2 years is a time, times and the dividing of time. In prophetic fulfillment a day is a year (See Num 14:34 below). So 3 1/2 years is 360 days x 3 1/2 or 1260 years. This was the duration of the time of the great persecution that came upon God's Church as well as unto all other religious groups not conforming to the doctrinal beliefs of this great false church that arose after Christ's ascension to His Father.

Num 14:33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.

Num 14:34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, [each day for a year](#), shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

According to the WCG, this 1260 year period of persecution was the time when the proclamation of the Gospel was suppressed.

This belief then gives rise to a number of questions.

If hearing and believing the Gospel is necessary for salvation then there were periods of time in world history when God's Church ceased to exist but God says it would never die out. It then follows that the Gospel could not have been suppressed during the time of the great tribulation or even in our days.

Another question that arises is whether simply hearing and believing the Gospel is all that is required for salvation.

Mar 1:15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

If the Gospel message only has to do with someone or a group announcing to the world that God has a kingdom then the Gospel was not suppressed as many groups have done so ceaselessly including the great false church that arose shortly after the founding of God's Church on the Day of Pentecost.

Are all those that heard and believed, from whatever group they may have heard it from, that God has a kingdom is saved? Is just hearing the Gospel sufficient for salvation? Is it simply hearing the words spoken in our ears or does hearing here include "understanding" what is being said? Otherwise, how can one repent and believe without understanding?

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and **the knowledge of the holy is understanding.**

You have knowledge of the things of God only if you also have understanding. The unconverted world can have knowledge but they do not have understanding of God's holy things which can only be had by being called and chosen because it is spiritual truth only knowable by revelation from God.

In order to repent one has to know just what it is he has to stop doing and believing requires that one know how he must change his life, what he has to start doing, to bring it more in agreement with the way God wants him to live it?

Repenting is stopping to resist God and believing is living the truth we are given to understand to the best of our abilities as we study the holy Bible.

The Good News brought by Christ from God the Father is God-level spiritual truth which cannot be understood without the holy spirits of the God family enabling our minds to do so. It is only upon repentance (stopping being in opposition to God) and belief (actively engaging in applying in our lives the truth of God as we come to understand it) that we can know and come to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Repentance and belief can only happen when called by the holy spirit God the Father and, in most instances, the understanding of God's truths requires time, study, meditation and prayer.

But now is not the time when all men are being called. For the first 4,000

years of mankind's existence the Gospel was not preached i.e., the message that upon repentance and belief, mortal, flesh-and-blood men can become immortal glorified spirit beings by a resurrection from the dead and in this way become part of God's Kingdom i.e., be given the same manner of existence as that of God and the Word i.e., be spirit and immortal. The good news or Gospel that mortal men could become immortal spirit beings was not and could not be preached until Christ's First Coming to be God's perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

The Old Covenant made with ancient Israel did not include the possibility of their being called by the holy spirit God the Father because Christ had not yet been glorified.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for **the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**)

If you have read and understood the Preamble to this study, you know that Christ after His resurrection is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who works in the minds of the truly converted.

Israel remained a carnal-minded nation who never knew God spiritually and whose sins could not be forgiven because Christ had not yet been sacrificed. They will be given to know the true God and the Gospel in the resurrection of the Last Great Day which will be the time of ancient Israel's redemption and of all humanity not called during the first 6,000 years of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

The Gospel was therefore not suppressed in the first 4,000 years of mankind's existence as it was not known until Christ came and preached it to those Israelites who came back from their captivity under the Persian Empire (only a relatively small number of them came back to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and to build the 2nd temple).

The Gospel only began to be preached by Christ and then by the apostles who He commissioned in what is called the Great Commission.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What needs to be clear in our minds is that the Gospel is spiritual truth

that cannot be understood nor believed by the unconverted so to whom can it be preached? It cannot be a witness unto those that don't have the mind to believe it and, therefore their hearing it, cannot lead to their salvation?

What is the kingdom of God message preached by Christ was also not clear to those who heard it directly from Christ. The people thought it was a kingdom that was to replace Caesar's government over Israel and that Israel would again be a free, sovereign nation. They thought Christ was to free Israel from Roman occupation.

Pilate after having talked to Jesus, sought to release him as he had found no reason why he should be put to death but the Jews pressured him to condemn Jesus to death by saying that He was an insurrectionist seeking to overthrow Caesar's government. This is what they thought Christ meant when He talked about the Kingdom of God.

Joh 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, *If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.*

Even the disciples did not understand what was the kingdom of God preached by Jesus. We can know this by the question they asked him just before He ascended back to His Father.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

They thought the kingdom of God was the restoration of Israel as a sovereign nation. It was then a vassal (subordinate) state under the Roman Empire.

The world does not understand what is the Gospel preached by Christ nor do the many religious groups or false prophets gone out into the world. One of their popular teaching is that when someone comes to conversion he is born again as mentioned by Jesus and that person is then saved. Another one, is the belief that Christ died for the sins of mankind, freeing man from the penalty for sin and making it possible for men to keep on sinning without losing their salvation.

But Christ clearly stated that the Gospel would be preached as a witness unto all nations before the end would come. Since the apostles did not fully understand what was the Gospel nor did the people who heard Christ,

when and by whom will the Gospel be preached in such a way that those who will hear it will understand the full message of the good news or gospel Christ brought from God the Father for eventual dissemination to all of mankind. The Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35) and Matt 24: 14 will be fulfilled but when and by whom?

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The True Preachers in the Latter Days

Who are the true preachers that can give men the God-level spiritual understanding of what is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?

Who has the ability to open men's minds to understand God's spiritual truth?

Who can reach past generations that have died without ever having heard the Gospel as well as those who are still to be born during the Millennium and those that will rise up in the resurrection of the Last Great Day?

Remember that the Gospel is to be preached in all the world to all nations that ever existed not just to the nations existing at a given time in human history.

In New Testament times there are no more true prophets of God to come i.e., there will not come any man who is a true representative of God with a message received from God that is to be preached/taught to His spiritual nation of Israel. We know the Two Witnesses are yet to come but their message will be to the world (not God's Church) which will hate them and kill them (Rev 11:3; 7-12). God now only speaks to His latter day Christians by His son who is the holy spirit of the Godhead responsible for teaching all things to the Father's called and chosen ones.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath **in these last days spoken unto us [God's Church] by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

But what about when there were true preachers and teachers in God's First Century Church before its scattering? Did they have the responsi-

bility to preach the Gospel to the unconverted world? No, their role was to be helpers of the joy of the truly converted (2Co 1:24); they had no mission to teach the unconverted of the world. Conversion is by the work of the holy spirits of the God family in the minds of those being called and of those chosen. It is not the doing of any man.

Only the apostles were commissioned by Christ to do so and the Bible doesn't mention any other apostles than the ones commissioned by Christ nor does it give us any instructions on how men could appoint other men apostles. Since the death of the original apostles there are no more apostles to come and in the latter days, God only speaks to His saints by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. The Word is called the Spokesman because He is the one in the God family through which God speaks to those who become converted, His saints who collectively constitute His spiritual nation of Israel or church wherever they may be in the world and whether alone or in groups of different sizes.

Another point of very great importance is that the Gospel message is something that is to be proclaimed as a witness. If it is to be a witness then it must be possible for those who hear it to understand it; otherwise, it would not be a witness unto them. Who is it that can make it possible for men to understand God level spiritual truth?

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but [God gave the increase.](#)

The increase in understanding of the Scriptures by those who heard Paul and Apollos was by the power of God.

It can only be done by the holy spirits of the God family who are the true shepherds who will never mislead or deceive those coming to conversion or the truly converted in order to exploit them financially as a means of earning a living for themselves which in our days is preachers jet setting around the world and living in gated communities in luxurious houses all paid for by the tithes and offerings of those who follow them. God the Father is the only one that can call men to salvation by enabling their minds to understand God-level spiritual truth and God the Word is the one who has the responsibility of teaching spiritual truth to those who have accepted their calling as they study their Bible. Salvation is not something that can or could ever be done by any man or organizations of men.

God said there would come a time when He would give Israel, not the physical nation but the spiritual nation of Israel, true shepherds. We read

about this in Ez 34: 1-24. There we read that God will be Israel's shepherd; it will no longer be men who have shown themselves to simply be abusive shepherds using their position of authority over the sheep to mistreat them, exploit them financially, cast out those who would not submit to them and bully whomever they please as a means of asserting their authority and preemptively stopping anyone who would dare oppose their tyrannical rule.

Ez 34 is a good description of the way that men acting as ministers (shepherds) of God's Church often behaved like the Pharisees of the Old Testament who demanded to be treated with the greatest of respect, were partial in the administration of the law and abused their followers.

God says He will be the shepherd of Israel because its shepherds have abused their authority over the sheep and used them to enrich themselves.

Eze 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I am against the shepherds**; and I will require my flock at their hand, and **cause them to cease from feeding the flock**; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. **[a means of making a living]**

Eze 34:11 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

Eze 34:12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; **so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them** out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

Men will no longer be shepherds over God's nation of Israel which in NT times is not a physical nation living in a specific part of the world but a spiritual nation i.e., all those wherever they may be in the world who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful. As has been stated before, in the latter days which started on the Day of Pentecost, God's nation ceased to be a physical nation. From that time forward, those making up Israel would be all those who would be called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who thereafter, would be taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. They are now the shepherds and teachers of all those making up God's spiritual nation of Israel who unlike human shepherds, will never abuse, exploit or deceive them.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days [spoken unto us by his Son](#), whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The book of Ezekiel was written when Israel (the Southern Kingdom, the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) was in captivity under the Persian Empire and its message and prophecies are for both the physical nation of Israel and the spiritual nation of Israel. In Ez 34, God says He will restore physical Israel to its land and prosper it following its return from its captivity in the end time and that He will be the shepherd of His spiritual nation of Israel .

We now have the information we need to come to a conclusive determination as to whether it was ever possible for men to suppress the Gospel.

The Gospel — Spiritual Truth from God

According to the Bible, the Gospel as preached by the apostles who were personally trained by Christ had the following results and involved the following requirements.

1Co 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for [in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel](#).

The Corinthians and other congregations of Paul's days did not have many fathers, spiritually speaking. All true Christians' one and only father is the holy spirit God the Father. The reason why they believed the Gospel was because God the Father was calling them. Paul had received the gospel message from Christ. This is why he was saying that he had begotten them in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. Their conversion was not from simply hearing the Gospel from him, it was from the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman opening their minds to believe the the Gospel which includes what individual converts must do to become part of God's Kingdom (repentance and belief).

1Th 1:5 For [our gospel](#) came [not](#) unto you [in word only](#), but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, [\[spirit\]](#) and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

The Gospel preached by Paul and those he appointed as evangelists was

the Gospel Paul had received from Christ. It was not their Gospel in the sense that it originated with them but rather that it was them (the apostles and evangelists appointed by the apostles) that spoke it to them. And they believed the Gospel not simply because of the words used by Paul but by the power of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman enabling their minds to accept and not immediately reject, God's spiritual truth.

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he [the holy spirit God the Father] called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy spirit God the Father called the Thessalonian brethren through His Gospel they heard from Paul.

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

The way to more abundant life in this world and to immortality in the world to come (God's Kingdom) was given to Paul by Christ and through Him to those called by God and to all those that would be called and chosen in the future. The Gospel makes known, it brings to light, how to become immortal beings.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

As part of the Gospel message taught the apostles by Christ is the requirement of those hearing it to "obey the Gospel" which is to repent and believe i.e., stop resisting God and start to obey Him in all things as best they can. The Gospel message includes the means to become part of God's Kingdom otherwise, it would be pointless for God to reveal it to those He calls.

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Since the death of the original apostles and of the evangelists they had appointed to assist them, no one has been personally trained by Christ as they were. Today, there are no men who have the knowledge given Paul and the other apostles nor are there any who were commissioned by Christ as the disciples and Paul were. The role of preachers and teachers in God's First Century Church could only to be helpers of the

joy of the converted. For more information on God's First Century Church, how long it would last and how God's Church would continue to exist after its scattering, please see the following study: [God's Church After its Scattering](#).

2Co 1:24 Not for that we have **dominion** over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

The ministry, when a true one existed in God's First Century Church, had no power (dominion) to impose on their congregations what they were to believe. Men continue to be members or not of God's Church based on what they choose to believe (their faith) and no one can force them to believe something against their will. (Deu 30:19)

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

The goal of the ministry when there was a true one in existence, was to make the members of their congregations spiritual adults who can on their own read the Scriptures and prove things out for themselves. It is the only real way of never being deceived by false prophets and teachers. Conversion is a personal and individual matter between the holy spirits of the God family and those being called. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, not any man. Salvation is not between men, ministers/preachers and God.

2Co 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for **by faith ye stand**.

Mankind has been given absolute free moral agency which means that no one can be made to believe something he has not chosen to believe. Christians stand by faith i.e., by their making the decision to believe the truth when called by God the Father and as revealed to them as they study their Bible. No man can force someone to believe God's truth or prevent him from leaving it if he decides to do so. Christians stand entirely by their choice to believe God's truth when revealed to them.

If there were times when the Gospel was suppressed, and if hearing and

believing the Gospel is essential for salvation then there were times in history when God's Church ceased to exist but Christ said it would never die out.

Is the Gospel being suppressed or no longer being preached in our days following the death of the Pastor General of the WCG and the dissolution of that organization of men? Did this person have the commission to preach the Gospel to the world?

No one since the death of the original apostles and the evangelists they appointed to assist them have been commissioned by God to preach the Gospel to the world. We can see in the various books of the Bible how God commissioned the prophets He sent to Israel (Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.) and their calling was always attended by unmistakable supernatural events or through God directly speaking to them.

God clearly says that He speaks to His Church in the latter days which include the NT times in which we are now living, only through His Son (Heb 1:1-2) not through any man Also, and this is a very important consideration, God is not desperately trying to save this world with his agents being men who say they represent Him and see themselves as having a commission to preach the Gospel to the world to bring as many men as possible to salvation. Men preaching the Gospel to the world is not the means used by God to bring men to salvation nor is now the time when God is calling all men to salvation.

No man in the latter days of the existence of God's Church which started on the Day of Pentecost, except the apostles who were directly commissioned by Christ, has a commission to preach the Gospel as a witness to the unconverted world. The Gospel is God-level spiritual truth and its understanding is by the holy spirits of the God family and it is God who decides who will be called and when.

In due time all will be called and given a chance to be saved during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day. In the Last Great Day all those who have died without ever having heard the Gospel i.e., without ever having been called, will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence at the beginning of the Last Great Day and given to live for 100 years to give them time to demonstrate their commitment to live or not their lives according to the truth they will then be given to understand when God's truth is revealed to them.

The preaching of the Gospel is not a human level activity as men have no power to give men's mind the ability to understand spiritual truth and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is spiritual truth. It is impossible

for men to suppress the preaching of the Gospel as this work is done by the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

It is taught to men on an individual and personal basis by the holy spirits of the God family as those called out study God's Holy Bible. The knowledge and understanding of spiritual truth is the result of God and the Word communicating with men on a mind-to-mind basis. It is by thoughts from God the Father (while being called) and, from God the Word once chosen, entering the minds of men and giving them understanding of God's spiritual truth which they had always before rejected even without having any real understanding of it.

It then becomes so clear to them that they can't imagine how it was they could not understand it before and they eagerly try to share their new-found knowledge and understanding with their family and friends. It is so clear and self-evident to them that they can't see how they could possibly not agree with it. But, to their great dismay, they discover that despite their best efforts to explain it to them they only meet with growing rejection and after a while, if they persist in doing so, hostility.

The difference between them and their uncalled family and friends is that their spiritual blindness has not been removed by God calling them and no human argument however, intelligent, clever or blindingly clear can give them understanding of God level spiritual truth.

Men can preach the Gospel all day long to the unconverted and no one will positively react to it. Only God the Father can call men and only Christ can teach them or, in other clearer words, open their minds to understand God level spiritual truth.

The apostles were personally commissioned by Christ but the same thing cannot be said for all those men who self-appointed themselves or who were appointed by other men, as apostles. God is not with them and no one is being truly called as a result of their preaching.

Christ, not men, is the author and finisher of true Christians' faith. It is not and cannot be the doing of any man. The Gospel, as many other spiritual truths of the Bible, can be believed by men only when called by God. No man can effectively call any other man to salvation; it is a God level function as is the preaching of the Gospel.

Men cannot suppress the preaching of the Gospel as it is the knowledge of how one can be saved and of the reward of the saved. This knowledge is God level spiritual truth which comes from God the Father's mind to

the mind of those God is calling and from the mind of God the Word to the mind of those who have been chosen as they study God's Holy Bible which is the sure word of God.

God's Church was never to die out because it is not in the power of men to destroy it nor to prevent God from teaching men the way to salvation which is the fullness of the Gospel message preached by Christ i.e., what one must do to become an immortal, glorified spirit being as part of God's Kingdom fully sharing in the very nature and mode of existence of God the Father and God the Word.

1Co 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts.

