

Truths Ex-WCGers
Will NOT
Accept

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By Robert G. Theophilus

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.

Many former members of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) now sitting in one of the several new “true” churches of God created by former ministers of the WCG had fully put their trust in the former Pastor General of the WCG Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA). Their position is that there is no other possible truth than what he taught. After his death, they looked for another man to follow who headed up a church organized like the WCG and whose teachings they thought most closely approximated those of HWA who was their criterion of truth.

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? Cliffs Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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I thought it would be useful to you for me to share with you the information I gave to a former member of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) to provide him with a different perspective on the teachings of HWA and on the several WCG offshoot churches of God that have arisen since the destruction of the original WCG after his death.

Truly converted Christians are not to have any man as their criterion of truth. Only the Bible can be the standard of truth for a Christian. In this study you will see mentioned several of the topics covered in detail in the many studies posted on this Web site and with which you may already be familiar as well as new information; so, pay attention. In some instances, I have provided references to the full length studies which give detailed explanations of the different topics covered for those of you who are not familiar with them.

Spiritual Fellowshiping

The Bible tells us that Christians are to have a great desire to fellowship with one another.

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

It is something that Christians must not despise and even, which they are to covet. Fellowshiping in the Bible is also referred to as prophesying.

1Th 5:20 **Despise not** prophesyings.

1Co14:39 Wherefore, brethren, **covet to prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

How the word “prophesy” has as one of its meanings “to fellowship” is fully explained in the following study: [How Much Knowledge is Required for Salvation](#) (Starting on page 18).

What is spiritual fellowshiping? Is it truly converted Christians coming together to confirm to each other what they already fully agree on? If so, then there is no great profit to be gained by doing so as all conversations are simple repetitions of what we already all agree upon. Why then would God command Christians to have fellowship? Is it as a means to have and cultivate a circle of friends with whom world events can be discussed and with whom time can be spent speculating to what extent these events are signs of the soon coming Great Tribulation and of Christ’s Second Coming?

Wouldn’t it be rather a time to put to the test our current understanding of the Bible in a friendly and non-confrontational way with other truly converted Christians as a means of growing our knowledge of the Bible? It is not a win-lose situation but simply one where if a matter is unresolved than it is something that can be food for thought and which can be the object of further study. It is not necessary to kill your relationship with anyone who doesn’t agree with you without first taking the time to prove with your Bible as the Bereans did (Acts 17: 11) that person is indeed wrong and being purposefully deceitful.

There will always be points on which there will be no general agreement. None of us have the truth on everything but the reason why we don’t agree has to be more than emotional indignation and outrage. We have to counter points with which we don’t agree with our Bible. If we have no Bible-based counter arguments, then it shows that the basis of some of our beliefs is grounded in other things than the Bible. No man, no matter how much you trust and admire him can be your criterion of truth, including HWA and he often said so himself.

Pro 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

The sharpening process involves some loss on the part of the things being sharpened. A dull knife is made sharp by some metal being removed from it and a mind is sharpened by some of its erroneous beliefs being removed.

A modern way of expressing the same idea as Pro 27: 17 is: "From the clash of ideas comes light." We all stand to be sharpened by others as we are not all given understanding of the very same Scriptures. The holy spirit God the Word is the one by whom we get understanding of the truths of the Bible and all are not given the same understanding of the same Scriptures at the same time. This leaves room for truly converted Christians to have mutually beneficial spiritual fellowship.

The Cult of Personality

Unfortunately, many of those who were once members of the World-wide Church of God (WCG) have made an idol out of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), its Pastor General. He was a great speaker and writer, had a good radio voice and presented well on television. He was charismatic and spoke with great assurance and conviction. Before his conversion he was involved in marketing and sales writing ads for different products and had successful businesses which he lost and he was reduced to poverty.

HWA came across as an important and influential man which stood tall in the minds of those who became part of the WCG. In psychological terms, he became a role model and a father figure for many. They fully put their trust in him and came to the conclusion that he was special and could do no wrong.

HWA, every now and then, would remind people that he was just a man and that it was possible for him to make mistakes in what he taught. He always said that he was not to be their standard of truth and that the Bible was that standard. If they should ever find he had made a mistake, he told everybody that they should follow their Bible.

It would seem that for many, when he said these things, he was talking to the person sitting next to them and not to them personally. After his death, their attitude continued to be that if HWA didn't say or write it, then IT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TRUE. So, after his death, they started looking for a WCG look-alike organization which to their mind most closely was like the WCG in the days of HWA. Their criterion and source of truth was HWA which is something he very clearly told them not to do so.

His writings, taped sermons and telecasts constitute their source of truth, and they will stubbornly refuse to accept that he made any errors even when Bible proofs are provided which they cannot refute and refuse to accept. Their reaction is to cease associating with anyone who disagrees with their view of HWA and some of his teachings.

Let's begin our review of HWA's teachings.

God's Church — The Little Flock

HWA said many times that the WCG as a large, multinational, multi-million-dollar organization, highly visible in the world with a membership that rose to some 150,000 members was not in keeping with the Bible's description of God's church.

Luk12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Full study reference: [Why True Church a Little Flock](#) Just click on the title of the study and you will be taken to it.

Why would it be a little flock?

BECAUSE THOUGH MANY ARE CALLED, FEW ARE CHOSEN, AND OF THE FEW CHOSEN, FEW ARE SAVED.

Christ plainly tells us in verses that don't require any special interpretation that though many are called it is the few who are chosen which is to say, who follow their calling.

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

And, of the few who follow their calling, it is the few who do not eventually compromise with the world wanting to keep a foot in the church and a foot in the world; wanting salvation without fully letting go of their previous false religious beliefs and behaviors which they now know to be sin. It is the broad way that leads to destruction, which is to say, loss of salvation.

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:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Not much emphasis was put on these verses in the WCG as they go directly against its teaching that all but a few really stubborn individuals will be saved. Why? Because this is not a message that can be used to build a large organization of followers.

And, there is also the following verse where Christ makes it clear that money (Mammon) and religion don't go well together.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. [Mammon means “riches,” “wealth,” “avarice.”]

This is another message that wasn't emphasized in the WCG given it was an organization with a yearly income of some 200 million dollars just before the death of HWA.

No Mass Conversion During the Millennium

Mat 22:14; 7:13-14 clearly mean there will be no mass conversion of the nations during the Millennium even though it will be at time when all will be called. Being called and becoming converted are 2 ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS; being called doesn't mean becoming converted and if not converted, then unteachable.

It will not be possible to teach spiritual truth to the unconverted during the Millennium who will be the great majority of people then alive.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal [unconverted] mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1Co2:14 But the natural man [unconverted] receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Full study reference: [Mass Conversion of the Nations During the Millennium?](#)

This also means that there will be no need for teachers as taught by HWA to handle the supposedly very great number of conversions that will occur during the Millennium. It follows that God's Church is definitely not and has never been a means for God to train teachers to be used during the Millennium.

Church NOT a Teachers' College

God will NOT FORCEFULLY rule over unconverted mankind during the Millennium, which as we have just seen will be the many, anymore than He does so now.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God's Church is all those called, chosen and faithful. They have knowingly and willingly submitted themselves to God when they were called; God didn't torture them into submission. And, the reason for their having been called and chosen is to demonstrate to God the sincerity of their commitment to obey Him to the best of their ability in all things. Their struggle is against the lust, vanity and greed that they are capable of because of the absolute free moral agency and mind power given mankind.

The task given them by God and their challenge is to grow in the knowledge and grace of Christ.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

And, God is the one evaluating them NOT MEN.

Rom 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

God's Church is a spiritual nation which lives invisibly among the unconverted of the world. Conversion is something that occurs in the mind and which cannot be seen by others. Can you tell in a crowd in a football stadium who are the truly converted among them, if any? If you are being honest, your answer is no, you can't. This is also why it is next to impossible for truly converted Christians to find other truly converted Christians with whom to have fellowship. It is also the reasons why truly converted Christians will not be found in large, visible-to-the world organizations of men.

The key to becoming part of God's Kingdom is to have character which is the unforced commitment to obey God. A commitment which must be maintained until the end of our natural lives. There is no requirement to go out into the world on soul saving crusades or to preach the Gospel to the world as the Gospel is spiritual truth they cannot understand and which they will always reject.

1Co2:14 But the natural man [unconverted] receiveth not [does not accept] the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Not only will they reject it, they'll turn on you and tear you apart if you

keep on trying to give them spiritual truth which they cannot understand.

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Christ and the resurrected saints will not rule by force over the unconverted during the Millennium who will be the many if we will believe what Christ Himself tells us in the Bible: many called, few chosen and few remain faithful.

If conversion could be forcefully accomplished why wouldn't God have been using force since the days of Adam and Eve to bring men to conversion? No teachers will be needed during the Millennium to teach the masses the majority of which will remain unconverted though all will have been called.

Christ to Establish God's Kingdom on the Earth

HWA taught that Christ at His Second Coming would establish God's Kingdom on the earth. Himself and the resurrected saints would take over the governments of this world and conduct worldwide educational campaigns to teach the world the true value by which it should live.

Let's suppose for a moment that everyone but a few really obstinate person would become deeply converted Christians during the Millennium, would they then constitute God's Kingdom while still flesh-and-blood human beings?

Christ tells us that God's Kingdom is not something that flesh-and-blood human beings can see or **inherit**. [**Become part of it.**]

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [Flesh-and-blood human beings (corruption) cannot become part of God's Kingdom. Immortal spirit bodies (incorruption) are required.]

God's Kingdom will be wholly composed of immortal spirit beings.

When Christ was brought before Pilate He clearly told him that His kingdom was not of this world.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.**

And, as we have just seen, of those called it is the few who follow their calling and of those who do, it is the few who do not take the broad way that leads to destruction. That doesn't make for a lot of people being converted during the Millennium. Unless someone becomes converted God cannot rule over him. He will only rule over those who willingly submit themselves to Him.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God's Kingdom will not and cannot be established over the nations during the Millennium. The unconverted who will be the many cannot accept spiritual truth, God will not rule by force over anyone and God's Kingdom is not of this world. It is wholly composed of immortal spirit beings who are invisible to flesh-and-blood human beings.

Full study reference: [When Will God's Government Exist on the Earth?](#)

The Visibility of God's Spiritual Nation in the World

The many new churches of God arising from the WCG are all striving to make themselves as visible as they can to the world in order to preach the Gospel to as many as they can as they see themselves as the inheritors of the commission Christ gave only to those He personally made apostles. God's church has no commission to teach anything to the unconverted of the world. How the Gospel will reach every creature in all nations is explained later in this study. It is not and cannot be a work of men.

So, when Christ sent His disciples to preach what instructions did He give them. Were they to make themselves as visible as they could in the hope of having their message reach as many as possible?

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles**, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Mat 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

They were not to go to the Gentiles; they were sent to those who were of the house of Israel. And here is what He told them about how they should act when they would be among them.

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

They were not to be in the face of anyone pushing their message to them in an effort to convince them to change their minds nor were they to act in such a way as to draw attention to themselves. They were sheep walking among wolves. They had to be very careful not to be noticed by the wolves who would turn on them and devour them. The same message is given in the following verse.

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

It is only recently that there is relative freedom from persecution for different religious groups and this, mostly in the Western world. Until the passage of laws that prevent religious persecutions it was not possible for any religion to exist publicly except the one approved by the state. This is rapidly changing in our Western societies where Christianity is on the decline and being replaced by all sorts of other non-Christian belief systems. The day is probably not far off where current legal safeguards against religious persecutions will no longer be applied.

God's one, yes, there is only one, true Church has always been invisible in the world as conversion is something that occurs in the mind and which is not outwardly visible to others. And, it has no mission to carry out in the world. Individual Christians' struggle is against spiritual wickedness in high places which try to influence them to do evil which is to not live their lives according to God's law.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

But, these powers cannot force men to do evil as then it would be impossible for God's plan of salvation to be carried out and it would mean

these powers are stronger than God. Their only ability is to influence not to force or compel men to do evil.

Even then, these powers are not the primary source of sin in men's lives; that source is lust.

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his **own** lust, and enticed. [\[he follows it\]](#)

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

God does not have a church which is an organized human corporation highly visible in the world for the purpose of preaching the Gospel to the world. The individual members ARE THE CHURCH and their commission is to overcome the sin in their lives as much as they can with Christ doing for them what they cannot do for themselves and that is overcome the world as He did.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Christ overcame the world and His followers can be fully confident that they also will be able to overcome the world, [through Christ in them](#) if they maintain their attitude of repentance and belief until the end of their natural lives. Salvation is not something that men can do in their own strength and it is not something men or organizations of men can do for them.

God's Spiritual Temple

There is this widely held belief that God's one, true church can at the same time be a physical organization of men and essentially be a spiritual nation. Can it be both at the same time and if not, why not?

Since Adam and Eve religions of different types have existed and of course, they were all physical organizations of men with a priesthood claiming to have a special relationship with a god being of one kind or another and to be the holders of the knowledge required for men to please and be given favors by this god including an afterlife of unending great joy.

OT Israel which was God's church in the wilderness had men who acted as priests and numerous repetitive, physical and laborious symbolic offerings, ceremonies and rituals. Once having come into the Promised Land, Israel had a physical temple. When Christ came to Israel the first time, He gave some to be apostles, evangelists, prophets, teachers, preachers and pastors (Eph 4:11) who were to be the priests and administrators, FOR A SHORT TIME, of those converting to Christianity after Christ's return to His Father.

God's Church was not to remain a physical organization of men over the centuries. If it had been God's will that God's Church should remain as it was in the days of the apostles, He certainly has the power to do so but this is not what happened. Persecutions came upon the church which ultimately led to it having to flee in the wilderness for its members to avoid being imprisoned or put to death. A new great false Christian religion came into being which persecuted all other religious groups who refused to accept its doctrines. These persecutions lasted for many centuries and resulted in the truth given the apostolic church becoming lost except for a few outstanding requirements such as keeping the 10 commandments and observing the Sabbath.

Full study reference: [God's Church After its Scattering](#)

So, did Christ's church die out only to be revived after the end of the persecutions?

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It was never to die out so how did it survive without a ministry of men which supposedly, in the minds of many, is absolutely necessary for God's Church to remain in existence?

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.

God gives us the answer if we will believe Him. The temple He is building is not physical; it is spiritual and the living stones of God's spiritual temple in which He dwells are those who have become truly converted Christians by having followed their calling when God the Father called them and who are being taught all things by God the Word who is God the Father's Spokesman to His called and chosen ones. I would refer you to the following studies which explain the "holy spirit" if you are not

already familiar with them: [Who or What is the Holy Spirit Cliffs Notes](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit](#)

God's New Testament temple which is His spiritual nation or church is NOT being built by men or any organization of men. And, it is not a physical building built by men.

Contrarily to what continues to be believed by many ex-WCGers, the Pasadena Ambassador College auditorium was not God's house that HWA all of a sudden said that God had shown him he had to build for Him.

Act 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

The Bible has to be our standard of truth not men, even those we have come to trust and greatly admire.

By Their Fruits Shall Ye Know Them

This is a quote from the 7th Chapter of the book of Mathew.

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Mat 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

These Bible verses are generally said to mean that Christians can tell the true prophets from the false ones by what they do. In the minds of many however, the essential difference between a true and a false prophet is how much a person fits their personal understanding of what an apostle, prophet or teacher of God's truth should look like rather than their actions.

It is one thing to be able to sound religious and convincing and to appear to have a great deal of Bible knowledge and it's another entirely different thing to look at what they are doing with the money they get from their followers. Appearing to have a lot of Bible knowledge and being a great speaker is not what Christ was talking about. **THE FRUITS IS WHAT THEY DO NOT WHAT THEY SAY.**

There are many recent examples of men who looked and sounded like the real thing. Possibly the greatest example of looks being deceiving

is HWA's son who was an excellent orator, who had a great television personality, who was highly skilled in explaining the Scriptures and who HWA thought would replace him as head of the WCG. However, GTA had to be put out of the WCG because of his persistent gambling, drinking and womanizing. So, what did he do? He founded his own church of God, the International Church of God. If anybody ever looked the part, it was GTA but in reality, he wasn't.

HWA before his death chose Mr. Joseph Tkach to be his successor. He took over the WCG and after a while, the feeling became that, yes, he was an apostle and the ministry announced it to all the congregations. Initially, he maintained the WCG's doctrines but after a while, he started changing them and his son continued the process after his (Joseph Tkach's) death. The WCG was destroyed and became a mainline Christian church of this world. For the full chronological list of changes made by Mr. Tkach and his son please refer to Appendix "A" at the end of this study.

What about the WCG ministers who founded their own churches of God after the WCG became a mainline Christian church of this world. They sure looked and sounded like the real thing, but all these new, "true" churches of God all have significant doctrinal differences which keep them apart and most of them have added new truths to their teachings which invalidate what HWA, to whom they say they are being faithful, taught. Can God's Church be divided? No. Can organizations of men be divided? YES THEY CAN.

1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Looking the part and being it are 2 different things. The fruits of all these men who looked and behaved like men of God, show they are not what their appearance have led many to believe.

And, in all these cases, for us to see the result of what they do, we have but to look at how they treat their followers, how they use the money they get from them and consider just HOW VERY IMPORTANT MONEY is for all of them.

Full study reference: [Will a Man Rob God?](#)

Paul instructed Timothei on how he should treat members of his congregation.

1Ti 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

1Ti 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1Ti 5:3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.

Is that how you are being treated in your “church of God”?

The Bible says that the false prophets would make merchandise out of those who follow them; in other words, they would be a means for them to enrich themselves.

Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, [truly converted Christians] who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Please note what this verse is saying. The false prophets would not only be in the world but among truly converted Christians and THAT MEANS YOU, who are sitting in one of the many new “true” churches of God. And, what would be the result of these false prophets coming in among the truly converted?

THE MANY WOULD FOLLOW THEM.

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And, why would they follow them?

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they [truly converted Christians] will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. [lies]

And, what will these false prophets presenting themselves as being men of God do with them?

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness [their great desire for fame and money] shall they with feigned [pretending to agree with the belief of those they are deceiving] words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Aren't the new "true" churches of God saying they agree with and are maintaining the doctrines established by HWA while introducing what they say are necessary changes to what he taught as they now have a BETTER understanding of the Bible than he did?

Their basic goal is to build an organization of followers which they can financially exploit; that they can use to enrich themselves.

Do we have any examples we can point to of this happening in our days?

You simply have to go to the web sites of these new churches of God to see how your money is being spent. They're all on the internet. Men of modest means have used preaching to become rich and the proud owners of custom built multi-million dollar buildings on large properties all bought with their followers' money with even one of them having purchased an awesome looking, customized and very costly executive jet whose operation is very expensive, to do "The Work." The aircraft is a used Gulfstream G450 whose cost varies between \$12 and \$20 million dollars. G450 typically includes significant ongoing expenses such as fuel, crew, maintenance, hangar fees, and insurance — often amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year depending on flight hours and utilization. This is what your money is paying for.

Your salvation does not depend on you being a member of an organization of men who gave itself the authority to appoint men as evangelists, prophets, preachers, etc. and who are using your money to live the lives of the rich and famous. Your salvation is between you and God through Christ.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

When you were called and chosen by God the Father, you entered into the New Covenant which Christ will also make with the physical nation of Israel after His Second Coming.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

And, who is the mediator or the means by which this New Covenant will be made?

Heb 12:24 And to [Jesus the mediator of the new covenant](#), and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Jesus is the mediator of that New Covenant, not any man. He is the one and only intermediary between God the Father and truly converted Christians.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and [one mediator](#) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

The New Covenant is now being made with those called and chosen by God the Father and it will also be made with Israel. The one sure source of truth for Christians is God's holy Bible which is Christ, God the Word in writing. Christians grow in knowledge and understanding of God's truth as they study their Bible with God the Word revealing and giving to them understanding of the spiritual truth it contains.

All unconverted men can do is give knowledge but knowledge is not the same thing as understanding. This is why we have so many DIFFERENT Christian religious groups as well as many DIFFERENT organizations of men calling themselves churches. They all say they take their doctrines from the Bible but they don't all teach the same things which is why they cannot ever come together as one church.

Understanding is only by revelation from God.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The successful execution of God's plan of salvation for mankind has NEVER depended on men. God the Word as the man Jesus-Christ made possible the forgiveness of sin upon repentance and belief. God the Father is the one who calls and chooses men and he is the only one who can do so; and God the Word is the one who teaches them all things as they study their Bible. SALVATION IS NOT A WORK OF MEN.

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

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [the disciples] know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I [Christ] will come to you. [The disciples and all truly converted Christians through the ages.]

Christ is the comforter who was with the disciples and who after His ascension to His Father, would come to them as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and comfort them and all truly converted Christians through the ages as He had comforted His disciples while He was with them. He would forever be with all truly converted Christians who remain faithful in this life and after their resurrection as immortal spirit beings.

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

The holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word are in ALL truly converted Christians.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [spirit] 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 understanding of spiritual truth is possible only by the holy spirits of the Godhead. The holy spirit God the Father teaches men while they are being called and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones. It is not something any man can do for another man; NOT EVEN THE APOSTLES COULD DO IT.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God** gave the increase [in understanding].

Eph 3:3 How that by **revelation** he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR MANKIND DID NOT ORIGINATE WITH MEN, WAS NOT MADE SURE BY MEN (CHRIST DID THAT), IS NOT BEING ADMINISTERED BY MEN (GOD AND THE WORD ARE ITS ADMINISTRATORS) AND WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF MEN.

Then Shall the End Come

According to the teachings of HWA, the end spoken of in Mat 24:14 is the end of the governments of men which will happen at the time of Christ's Second Coming.

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.

According to HWA, Christ at His Second Coming with the resurrected saints would take over the governments of this world and bring about the wonderful conditions of the Millennium when there will be peace, safety, abundance and great happiness for everyone.

In order to come to an understanding of what is the "end" spoken of by Christ in Mat 24:14 we have to remember why it is that God created mankind?

God created man as a means of reproducing Himself as borne out by the following Scriptures.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did pre-destinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Christ] might be the **firstborn** among **many** brethren.

Christ was the first flesh-and-blood human being to be born again to immortal spirit life by a resurrection from the dead. He was the first among many brethren who are to also be born to immortal spirit life.

Col 1:15 Who [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [Men are God's creation or creatures.]

Col 1:18 And he 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.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. [\[have died\]](#)

1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; [\[the first to be resurrected\]](#) afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, [\[die\]](#) but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, [\[an incorruptible spirit body\]](#) and this mortal must put on immortality. [\[become a spirit being\]](#)

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible [\[flesh-and-bone body\]](#) shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Mankind was created physical and mortal with the potential to become immortal spirit beings and part of God's Kingdom. THIS IS HOW GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF.

How long is God's plan of salvation for mankind to continue? Is there an end point and if so, what is it and when will it occur?

Rev20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [the great white throne]

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The present heavens and earth are being maintained in existence until the time comes for the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men which in 2Pe 3:10, quoted below, is called "the day of the Lord."

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

When will the perdition of ungodly men or of the wicked take place.

It happens right after the Great White Throne Judgment when the Lake of Fire burns up the wicked (the ungodly men mentioned in 2Pe 3:7) and grows to engulf the earth and the universe and burns them up. These are not the events of the Great Tribulation (GT). The current earth and universe and mankind will continue for over a thousand years after the Great Tribulation. The GT is not the end of mankind and of God's plan of salvation. IT IS NOT THE TIME OF PERDITION OF UNGODLY MEN.

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Why would God's saints be ".....hasting unto the coming of the day of God?" The word "hasting" means to "urge on; to eagerly await."

Because, the day of the Lord or the day of God, is the time when they will receive their reward in the Great White Throne Judgment which brings to an end God's plan of salvation for mankind, the current earth and universe, and mankind.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

What follows immediately after the Great White Throne Judgment?

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, **Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, **It is done.** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

So, what is the end Jesus was talking about in Mat 24:14?

It is the time when all will have heard and have been given the opportunity to believe the Gospel which is to be preached to every creature before the end comes.

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

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 time when the Gospel will have been preached to all creatures in all nations in all the world is something that will have happened by the time of the end of the Last Great Day just before the Great White Throne Judgement occurs. The wicked are then forever lost by dying in the Lake of Fire and God's saints inherit God's Kingdom. It is the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind followed by the end of the current earth and universe. The "end" mentioned in Mat 24:14 has come.

Full study reference: [What is the End of the World and When Will it Come?](#)

HWA Was Not an Apostle

This is a very sensitive topic with just about all those who became members of the WCG. Do you want to lose long-term close friends who say they are holding on to the truth, simply say you don't think HWA was an apostle according to the Bible.

HWA was said to be an apostle by Dr Hoeh in a sermon made during the

Feast of Tabernacles who based his declaration on the work HWA was doing. To him, that's what an apostle would do. At first HWA rejected being called an apostle but in time accepted it. So, HWA was nominated by Dr Hoeh to be an apostle and HWA, accepted the nomination and MADE HIMSELF an apostle.

What does the Bible tell us about how men become apostles. Were the disciples made apostles by men, was Paul made an apostle by men ?

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Does the Bible contain any instructions on how men can appoint other men to be apostles? Christ made His disciples and Paul apostles and no others except Barsabas and Matthias are mentioned in the Bible (Act 1:23). If apostles were essential to the carrying out of God's plan of salvation for mankind wouldn't God have made sure to provide us with clear instructions on how men can appoint apostles? Is the criterion simply that if someone is acting like we think an apostle would act then that person can be considered to be an apostle? But no, there are no such instructions; so, this begs the question: can men get up one day and give themselves the authority to appoint men as apostles, evangelists, prophets, teachers, preachers, etc.? Can any organization of men give themselves that authority? According to what Bible verses would that be? THERE AREN'T ANY.

The clear and obvious answer is that no man or organization of men can all of a sudden take it upon themselves to appoint apostles, evangelists, etc. The Bible which is our only sure source of truth gives no man the authority to appoint apostles, evangelists, etc.

So many will say, "How then can the Gospel be preached to the world as witness unto all nations and to every creature?"

Let's continue.

Preaching the Gospel – A Work of Men?

Let's see what the Bible says about the commission Christ gave to His disciples.

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.

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

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.

A first thing to notice is that Christ commissioned His disciples and we have no indication in the Bible that anyone else was to continue their work after their death. But the Bible says that all the world, every creature, and all nations have to have had the Gospel preached to them before the end comes; the end of what? As we have just seen, "the end" is the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

So, the commission given the disciples who were made apostles by Christ was to preach the Gospel in all the world, to all nations and to every creature (men).

Why?

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.

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:**

Christ by His death and resurrection to immortal spirit life has demonstrated and proven God's ability to take mortal men made of the dust of the ground and elevate their existence to that of immortal spirit beings like Themselves and have them become full members of Their kingdom becoming God as they are Gods.

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation and it is to be preached to every creature in all nations in all the world.

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

So, in practical terms, this means that all men who have ever existed can be saved only if they have heard and believed the Gospel and repent.

How then will those who died in the first 4,000 years of mankind be saved when the Gospel was not preached?

Let's continue our analysis.

The apostles lived at a time when only very limited means of communication and travel existed. Many parts of the world had not yet been discovered due to the inability to travel long distances. Were the apostles able to evangelize India, China, Europe, American and Canadian Indian tribes, the African continent, tribes living in the Amazon jungle, etc. with all of them speaking very different languages. The obvious answer is that it was impossible for them to have done so. It would even be impossible to do so with our modern means of travel and communications not to mention all those who have died in the first 4,000 years of mankind's existence and who have never heard the Gospel.

It was considered in the WCG that somehow in some unknown way the apostles were able to preach the Gospel to the then known world which is most unlikely and which doesn't fulfill the requirement to preach the Gospel to every creature in all nations in all the world. It having been a physical impossibility for the apostles to fully carry out the commission given them has led some men to jump to the conclusion that, other men were to continue their unfinished work — WITH NO BIBLE VERSE WHATSOEVER SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF — as if God the almighty creator of the universe, would be unable to bring His great master plan of salvation to a successful conclusion without their assistance.

It wasn't until the invention of printing that it became possible to easily and quickly make copies of books and documents. Until that time, books had to be copied by hand (manuscripts, which is to say: written by hand) which was a lengthy, laborious and costly process only available to the rich. The invention of the steam engine began to make it possible to travel longer distances than was possible by foot, riding animals and by sailboats and this only happened many centuries after the death of the apostles.

HWA taught that the Gospel had been suppressed for 1,260 years and only began to be preached to the world when he started doing so.

If hearing, repenting and believing the Gospel is required for salvation, AND IT IS, how were men saved during the 1,260 years during which it was suppressed. Did God's Church which was never to die out, cease to exist for a time only to be reanimated when HWA started preaching his version of the Gospel to the world?

Is preaching the Gospel to the world something men can do assuming they have a correct understanding of what is the Gospel? Christ commissioned the apostles to preach it to every creature in all nations in the world but were they ever able to do so? Their very limited ability to travel around the world and to reach each and every creature (men) then alive and communicate with them in the very great diversity of languages that then existed made it impossible for them to have been able to accomplish the mission given them.

It is illogical and unrealistic to think that it was ever possible for them to do so. That would be the magic wand theory of preaching the Gospel.

So, how are every creature in all nations in all the world to ever hear the Gospel which is essential for salvation?

Who can resurrect those who have died in the first 4,000 years of mankind who never heard the Gospel and who can resurrect those who from the day of Pentecost until Christ's Second Coming were never called?

Who can clearly communicate in all the many different languages that have existed through the centuries of mankind's existence?

Who can enable men's minds to accept God level spiritual truth such as the Gospel?

This is something that can only be done by God the Father and God the Word.

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 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones] 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.

Would that include the Gospel? It surely would. God the Father and God the Word and Spokesman are the only one by whom men can be called and taught all things.

Full study reference: [Was the Gospel Suppressed?](#)

The Holy Spirits of the Godhead

Who is God who became God the Father when He conceived Christ in Mary's womb and who is God the Word and Spokesman who became the Son of God when He was born of the virgin Mary? This seems to be a rather odd question as most think they know the answer. Let's see what the Bible tells us about the nature of these 2 beings.

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.

According to your Bible, God and the Word are both God beings. One of them is called God and the other one is called the Word and is also a God being. They both eternally existed before the creation of spirit beings, the material universe and mankind.

What did God the Word do?

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

Col 1:16 For by him [God the Word who became 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:

God the Word existed BEFORE **anything** was created and He created ALL THINGS.

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

God the Father made the worlds (spiritual and physical) by God the Word, HE DID NOT DO IT HIMSELF.

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 [God the Word] also he [God the Father] made the worlds;

God the Father is holy.

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.

In the beginning the Word was with God and was also a God being. Since God is holy then so is the Word who was also God. Therefore both God the Father and God the Son are holy. What other characteristic defines them?

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

God is a spirit and the Word who was with God was also a God being; therefore, both God and the Word are spirit beings.

THEREFORE, SINCE BOTH GOD AND THE WORD ARE HOLY AND SPIRIT, BOTH OF THEM ARE HOLY SPIRITS.

A clearly demonstrated Bible truth that just about no one will accept even if they can't find any way using their Bible to contradict it and prove that it is an error. Their standard of what is true is a man in whom they have fully placed their trust.

As we have just seen God the Father created the worlds (spirit and physical) by God the Word (Heb 1:2) therefore God the Word is the holy spirit by whom God the Father created all things. So, the holy spirit who accomplishes God the Father's will in all things is God the Word. He is the holy spirit by whom God the Father created all things.

God the Word is the holy spirit that God the Father sends out to accomplish His will in all things. God the Word is God's holy spirit.

Full study reference: [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#) and [Who is God's Spirit?](#)

Administration of God's Plan of Salvation

Who are the principal agents or actors in the administration of God's plan of salvation for mankind?

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.

No man can come to Christ who resumed His status as God the Word after His ascension to His Father, unless God the Father draws him.

Why is it necessary for men to come to Christ?

The words of John 6:44 were spoken by Christ to the crowd that He had fed with fish and bread and who had followed Him. He had just told them that He, Christ, was the bread which they had to eat to have eternal life. Naturally, not being called by the Father, Christ could not explain to them what He meant. So, they were and remained totally confused about what Christ had just told them thinking that they had to eat the body of Christ and drink his blood to have eternal life.

Christ, who since His return to His Father is God the Word and Spokesman, is the holy spirit in the Godhead responsible for giving men understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible which are otherwise foolishness to them. Christ is the revelator of the spiritual truths of the Bible to those called and chosen by God the Father.

Gal 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by [the revelation of Jesus Christ](#).

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are [spiritually discerned](#).

The holy spirit God the Father is responsible for calling men to salvation and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman is responsible for teaching them which is to say revealing to them the hidden spiritual truths of the Bible.

When Christ was with His disciples, He was the one who gave them understanding of the parables He spoke and He was the one who comforted them. He knew He would have to go back to His Father after having accomplished His mission so He reassured His disciples that after His departure they would be given another Comforter.

[Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;](#)

This Comforter is also the spirit of truth, it is EVEN the spirit of truth.

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [the disciples] know him; for he [the Comforter and Spirit of truth, me] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:18 I [Christ] will not leave you [my disciples and all truly converted Christians through the ages] comfortless: I [Christ as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, the Comforter and Spirit of Truth] will come to you. [My disciples and all truly converted Christians across the ages.]

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

So far, have we seen anywhere that God would send a thing called the holy spirit to comfort the disciples, to reveal truth to them, that He created the worlds by a thing called the holy spirit, that in the beginning before the creation of spirit beings and of the material universe there was a thing called the holy spirit who dwelled with God and the Word in eternity?

Did we see any verses where the holy spirit is God's ability to project His power and that it is this power that created all things, and which comforts God's saints and teaches them all things?

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [holy spirit] 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.

God the Father will send the disciples a comforter and this comforter as per John 14: 17-18, 20 is the resurrected and glorified Christ who after His ascension to His Father is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones.

What will this Comforter and Spirit of truth do? He will teach all things to the disciples and all truly converted Christians until the end of God's plan of salvation. Would that include the Gospel? Of course it would as He is the only one who with God the Father, can give men understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible. It is not something any man or organization of men can ever do.

Some will point to the following verse in an effort to maintain their belief that the holy spirit is a separate being in the Godhead.

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: ["spirit" it should say]

Both the Father and the Son are holy spirits. The words "holy Ghost" (spirit) used in this verse are only a repetition of what is being said in the first part of the verse and which highlights who the Father and the Son are which is to say, holy and spirit. As we have seen, the words "holy" and "spirit" are qualifiers which define who and what are God and the Word; it does not represent another being in the Godhead.

This verse could have said: "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of Jesus the Christ and of Jesus of Nazareth and of God the Word and still it would have been talking about only 2 beings. Many of us are known by different names based on one or more outstanding physical or psychological characteristic that we have but no matter by how many different names we are known, all these names are only designating one person.

Others will point to Luke 1:35 as proof that the holy spirit is power which emanates from God.

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The highest in God's Kingdom is God and He became a father when by His power of creation, He caused the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. In all other cases, it is the holy spirit God the Word who does the work of creation commanded by God but in this instance, it had to be God himself as this is what would make Him God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God.

God and God the Word both have the power of creation by which the spirit and material worlds were created. Having caused the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb was an act of creation and as compared to the creation of the universe, the earth and mankind, it was a relatively very minor use of God's power of creation.

And there is one last verse that some will use to argue the existence of the Trinity.

1Jn 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

This verse is not part of the original text approved to be part of the Bible. It apparently was inserted by a translator when the Bible was translated into Latin. So, the main point being advanced here is that 3 agreeing on a specific topic which is unspecified in the verse, is an indication that there are somehow 3 beings or things in the Godhead which are Spirit, water and blood.

Would one of the beings be water? If so, how is water a being in which there is life and intelligence. How about "blood"? Blood is found in animals and in human beings but not in spirit beings. How about the "Spirit"? We have seen there are 2 holy spirit beings, not one, who have existed eternally so shouldn't the verse be talking about "spirits"? It just doesn't make any sense, and it was a poor effort at trying to justify the existence of the Trinity which is a word that doesn't appear even once in the whole Bible. This verse is from the imagination of unconverted men trying to force fit the Trinity doctrine into the Bible.

The holy spirit God the Father calls and chooses men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones, teaches them all things as they study their Bible.

That is how and by whom God's plan of salvation is being administered.

Elijah NOT Coming to God's Church

Here is another strongly held belief by former members of the WCG which no one is to question if they don't want to immediately be considered as having departed from the truth and be disfellowshipped.

Mat 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

When Christ spoke those words, He was in Israel talking to His disciples who were Israelites. The scribes who were also Israelites were saying, based on the OT Scriptures, that Elias or Elijah, also an Israelite, must first come. To whom was he to first come? According to Mat 17:11, Elijah was to come [to Israel](#) and restore all things to it.

Mat 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Why would there be a need to restore all things to Israel and what were the "all things" that needed to be restored?

In order to answer this question we have to go back to the time of Israel's first meeting with God.

Moses had told Israel to assemble at the foot of Mount Sinai and God was going to speak to them. This is what they saw and this is how they reacted.

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Exo 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

Exo 20:21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Since Israel would not hear God directly, Moses later tells them that God would send them a prophet who would be like him (Moses) which is to say, a man who would give them God's truth.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, [He will be an Israelite] of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Deu 18:16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

God continues speaking to Moses and tells him that He will respect Israel's request to not have Him speak directly to them in a way that had terrified them as in the day when they were gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai.

Deu 18:18 I [God] will raise them up [to the physical nation of Israel] a Prophet from among their brethren [will be an Israelite; Christ was of the tribe of Judah], like unto thee, [Moses] and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them [physical Israel] all that I shall command him.

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

In Deu 18: 19 we are given more information about what this prophet from God will do. As we know, it is just not anyone who can teach men the spiritual truths of the Bible. It has to be someone who can open their minds to understand it. This is not something any man can do. When this prophet comes to Israel they will not only hear the words He will speak to them, they will understand their spiritual meaning. This is why God says that those of Israel who will not accept (who will not hearken) the truth that will be given them at the time when that prophet comes to them will be held responsible. When that prophet comes to the physical nation of Israel, it will be the time of Israel's calling as mentioned by Paul in the 11th chapter of the book of Romans, starting in verse 25.

In the New Testament, we get more information on who will be the prophet God will send to the physical nation of Israel. In the following verses, we read what Peter said to the men of Israel who gathered around him after he had healed a man who was born lame. I encourage you to read the whole story which starts in the first verse of the 3rd chapter of the book of Acts. Peter tells them of what will happen when CHRIST COMES BACK THE SECOND TIME TO ISRAEL. (Act 3:19)

Act 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

At His First Coming, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies that He would be the perfect sacrifice for the redemption of the sins of mankind thus making sure God's plan of salvation. OT physical rituals never forgave sin but Peter tells then that it will be possible for their sins to be forgiven upon repentance and belief, which is to say, upon their making the decision to follow the spiritual truth of God.

Act 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

When will it be possible for them to repent, believe and become converted? It will be when the time comes for the refreshing or restitution of all things (Acts 3:21) which will occur at the time of Christ's Second Coming to Israel. (Act 3:20)

Act 3:20 And he [God the Father] shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [Israel]

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING WILL BE TO THE PHYSICAL NATION OF ISRAEL ACCORDING TO THIS PLAIN AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND VERSE.

Act 3:21 Whom [Christ] the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. .

Christ is to remain in heaven until the time comes for Him to come back a second time to the physical nation of Israel in existence at the time of His Second Coming to restore to them truth they had previously heard from the prophets God had sent them but which they had rejected as they were not then called.

Christ at His Second Coming to Israel is the promised Elias or Elijah who is to restore all things to the physical nation of Israel returned from its end-time captivity.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, [Deu 18:18] a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you [the physical nation of Israel] of your brethren, [will be an Israelite; Christ was of the tribe of Judah] like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Christ like Moses had done, would teach them God's law which they have forgotten.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

OT Israel feared to have God speak directly to them so God the Father will send them Christ, in His non-glorified state as He had come to them the first time so they would not be terrified as they were when they heard Him at the foot of Mount Sinai. The big difference this time is that all of physical Israel in existence at Christ's Second Coming will be called and Christ will reveal spiritual truth to them which they will be able to understand. Those who refuse their calling or fall away from it, will be destroyed from among the people, not from the physical nation of Israel. They will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel.

Christ's second coming to Israel will be the time when God will make a new covenant with them.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

And by whom is this New Covenant to be made with Israel?

Heb 12:24 And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

This will be the time when physical Israel will be called. Not all of Israel will convert for many are called, few are chosen and few of the chosen remain faithful. Those of Israel entering into the New Covenant will become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel and potential future members of God's spiritual kingdom if they remain faithful to their calling until the end of their natural lives. The others, will constitute the unconverted nation of Israel that will exist during the Millennium.

Was Elijah to come to God's Church? The scribes and the disciples had no idea whatsoever that salvation would ever be opened up to the Gentile nations and that God's nation would be spiritual. Their reference point was the physical nation of Israel and their belief was that it was God's nation and kingdom which the Messiah or Christ would restore when He would come to them. This is also why the disciples asked Christ the following question:

Act 1:6 When they **[the disciples, just before Christ's ascension]** therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

They knew Jesus was the promised Messiah, yet He had not restored the kingdom to Israel as they thought He would; Israel was still under Roman rule. Christ did not give them a clear answer.

Act 1:7 And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

In other words what Christ said to them was that indeed, I will restore the kingdom to Israel but that He was not free to tell them when it would occur. It was something that the Father would decide; it is something which he has put in His own power.

Although Christ and the disciples were using the same words "kingdom

of God” they both were not talking about the same thing. The disciples’ understanding of what was the kingdom of God at that time was that it was the physical nation of Israel which indeed was God’s chosen physical nation. This is what the OT Scriptures said — which is all they had at that time — and this is what the scribes and the Pharisees taught. Christ could not then reveal to them that the kingdom that was to be established was God’s spiritual kingdom which would be made up of all those called, chosen and faithful from the nations of the world which includes the Gentiles. At that time, no one in Israel understood that God’s nation would no longer be a physical one and that the kingdom of Israel Christ had in mind when He used the words “kingdom of God” was God’s spiritual nation of Israel whose ultimate destiny was to become part of God’s eternal kingdom by a resurrection from the dead to immortal spirit life.

This is why Christ had said to Pilate that His Kingdom was not of this world. The kingdom of which He was king was not the physical nation of Israel nor of any of the kingdoms of men. It would be of the spiritual nation of Israel become immortal spirit beings.

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.**

You can find the detail of how God’s nation was physical Israel and of how it and the Gentile nations are to become part of God’s spiritual nation of Israel in the following study: [When and Why Will God Choose Israel Again?](#)

The Elijah mentioned by Christ is Himself coming to the physical nation of Israel and restoring all things to it when He completes the 2nd part of His ministry to them which was cut off after 3 1/2 years by His death (Dan 9:27). THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS NOT YET HAPPENED. What was to be restored to Israel was truth not their restoration as a free and independent nation.

Full study reference: [The Second Elijah and the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord](#)

The Kingdom of God

Did the disciples understand what Christ meant when He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God? Israel saw themselves as God’s people and their nation as God’s kingdom.

When Christ was born, Herod the king wanted to know where the prophets said would be born the king of the Jews

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod thought that He would be replaced by this new king. They all thought the Messiah would take over God's Kingdom which they then saw and understood as being Israel. Israel was God's physical nation and therefore it was also His kingdom.

Herod didn't want to be replaced by this new king and sought to kill him.

Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

The people thought Jesus would be the king of Israel.

Luk 19:37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Luk 19:38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

And, the Pharisees accused Jesus before Pilate of saying He was the King of the Jews.

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.**

Christ was crucified and after His resurrection, His disciples asked Him if He would then restore Israel to being a sovereign nation which they thought was something Christ would do.

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

This question was asked at the very end of Christ's ministry immediately before His ascension to His Father. After 3 ½ years of being with Jesus of Nazareth whom they knew was the Messiah they wondered how it was He had not freed Israel from Roman domination.

The NT Scriptures had not then yet been written when the disciples would receive a lot of new information about what is the kingdom of God. They would then know that it is not the physical nation of Israel and that God's nation is not a physical but a spiritual one composed of all those called, chosen and faithful from both the Gentile nations and the physical nation of Israel. Physical Israelites must by conversion become spiritual Israelites and members of God's spiritual nation to become part of God's Kingdom. They will also understand that God's Kingdom can only be entered by those who have been born again by a resurrection from the dead.

This clearly means that God's Kingdom is not something that can exist on the present earth among flesh-and-blood human beings.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [\[an immortal spirit body\]](#)

What is the Kingdom of God continues to be a mystery to the world and to the many sitting in the several new "true" churches of God.

Full study reference: [What Good News did Jesus Proclaim?](#)

When is the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord?

In the WCG, it was taught that the Great Tribulation is the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you [\[physical Israel\]](#) Elijah the prophet [before](#) the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

However, the problem with this understanding is that Elijah is to come to the physical nation of Israel before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. If the Great Tribulation is the great and dreadful day of the Lord, then this means that Elijah has to have come back to the physical nation

of Israel, all 12 tribes not just Judah, Benjamin and Levi, restored to the original Promised Land before the Great Tribulation begins. Israel will not be the nation that it was under Solomon where all 12 tribes will be back in the original Promised Land until after the end of the Day of the Lord which is the second part of the Great Tribulation when Christ will then gather Israel from the nations where they will have been scattered and resettle them in the original Promised Land.

Jer 29:14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place [\[the Promised Land\]](#) whence [\[from which\]](#) I caused you to be carried away captive.

This Elijah is to come to the descendants of the physical nation of Israel in existence at the time of Christ's Second Coming. The book of Malachi is NOT addressed to God's spiritual nation of Israel (God's Church) but to His physical nation.

Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD [to Israel](#) by Malachi.

The whole book of Malachi is to, and about God's physical nation of Israel. It will not again exist as a nation until all 12 tribes are reunited in the Promised Land. Nowadays, there are some of the descendants of the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah living in Jerusalem and neighboring lands but the other tribes are yet to be joined to them. This will only happen after Christ's Second Coming which occurs during the Day of the Lord at the blowing of the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal of the book of the Apocalypse.

Christ at His Second Coming will gather Israel from the nations where they had been scattered and reestablish them in the original Promised Land.

Eze 11:17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

As of today, this has not happened and Elijah cannot have already come as Israel as a nation like it was in the OT does not yet exist.

Therefore, the Great Tribulation cannot be the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord as Elijah is to come to the descendants of the physical nation of Israel **before** the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord. The 12 tribes of Israel will only be back in the original Promised Land **after** the Great Tribulation.

Who is God's Spiritual Nation?

As previously mentioned in this study, God's OT nation of Israel was physical. It had a priesthood of men, a ritualistic and symbolic physical worship of God, and was never converted. God could not teach them spiritual truth which can only be know by revelation. God's NT spiritual nation are all those from the nations of the world who have been called and chosen, who followed their calling and who are remaining faithful. This spiritual nation is different in many significant ways from the physical nation of OT Israel. Let's examine what are those differences.

Christ High Priest, Mediator and Apostle

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; There can be no human intermediary between God's called and chosen ones and God.

Their one and only mediator is the resurrected and glorified Christ who now sits at the right-hand of the holy spirit God the Father as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Heb 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Christ is the great high priest of truly converted Christians, not any man.

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we **[truly converted Christians]** have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Kings and Priests

Another relevant difference between OT and NT Israel has to do with who are its priests or ministers.

Rev 1:6 And hath made us [truly converted Christians] kings and priests [in embryo, to be born as glorified spirit beings in God's Kingdom by a resurrection from the dead] unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1Pe 2:9 But ye [truly converted Christians] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, [God's holy nation of spiritual Israel or God's Church] a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1Pe 2:5 Ye [truly converted Christians] also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

The people from the many nations of the world whom God is calling do not constitute a physical nation; they are from many different nations. But once called and chosen, though coming from the many different nations of the world, they become a nation, a spiritual one, God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church.

Living Sacrifices

In OT Israel, the sacrifices offered were physical but in God's NT spiritual nation of Israel, the individual members are the living sacrifices being offered to God. There is no priesthood required to offer them. Their sacrifice on a daily basis is to put to death their old man, their previous life of sin and to strive to live in newness of life with a mind regenerated by the in-dwelling presence of the holy spirit God the Father and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off **the old man** with his deeds;

Col 3:10 And have put on **the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him **[the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]** that created him:

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

God's Temple OT Israel had a physical temple which was God's house but in NT times God's temple are God's called, chosen and faithful.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye **[truly converted Christians]** are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Pasadena auditorium was not God's house.

Act7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

Ministry of Men

In OT Israel God had instituted the priesthood of the order of Aaron to offer sacrifices for the people and conduct various symbolic ceremonies. In NT times, God says that there are some men who are given certain responsibilities which are as follows:

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

The first thing to notice is that some of these offices of responsibilities do not continue in New Testament times

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

In OT times, God communicated with His physical nation using prophets.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days [started with Christ's First Coming and the foundation of God's Church on the day of Pentecost] spoken unto us [truly converted Christians who collectively are God's spiritual nation and temple] by his Son, [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman responsible for teaching all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones] whom he [God the Father] hath appointed heir of all things, by whom [God the Word] also he [God the Father] made the worlds;

In NT times, there are no more apostles, evangelists and prophets as God's spiritual nation or God's Church is being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Preaching the Gospel to the world was something done in type by the apostle Peter's inspired sermon to Jews of all nations who were in Jerusalem on the Day of the first NT Pentecost.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

This is the only way the apostles' mission could be accomplished as it was impossible for them to go to the all the nations of the world in their lifetime given the rudimentary modes of travel then available to them such as horses, donkeys, sailboats, etc. Let's continue reading Ephesians 4.

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

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

The reason God's First Century church had ministers was to provide assistance to God's called and chosen ones in becoming better Christians. The ultimate objective of God's First Century church ministry was to assist babes-in-Christ to become spiritually mature adults who can no longer be made to doubt their beliefs by the many deceivers in the world and those that will arise right from within God's Church.

THE GOAL WAS TO MAKE GOD'S ELECT INDEPENDENT OF THEM (THE MINISTERS) and render them able to read their Bible on their own and get the correct meaning out of it. God's elects' salvation cannot depend on men; it is the holy spirits of the Godhead who are doing the work. The success or failure of God's plan of salvation for mankind cannot depend on men who cannot be trusted to remain true and faithful to their calling.

Full study references:

- [God's Church is Spiritual](#)
- [God's Church Today](#)
- [Who Can Feed the Flock?](#)
- [God's Church after its Scattering](#)
- [Why God's Church?](#)

Final Words

God the Father created mankind through God the Word. They were created in Their image (have mind power and free will) and according to Their likeness (their general physical appearance is like God's appearance). Mankind is blind to spiritual truth unless called by God the Father. If they follow their calling they become chosen and must then grow in knowledge and understanding of God's spiritual truth by carefully studying on a continuing basis their Bible. A spiritually alive Christian, from year to year, will have growth in knowledge and understanding as a result of their Bible studies; not because of following men in whom they have placed their trust. Salvation is not a spectator sport. There cannot be anything standing between men and God, if there is anything then that thing is an idol. It is something to which we attach more importance than the Bible. The Bible is our only means of acquiring God's spiritual truth along with spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known. Christians are commanded to have spiritual fellowship which in the Bible is called prophesying.

Our only intermediary or mediator with God is Christ; not any man.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and **truly** our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

By the truth Christians had been given by the apostles they were having fellowship with the apostles but in reality, Christians' fellowship is with God the Father and God the Son who gave the apostles the spiritual knowledge that they shared with the Christians of their days. God and the Word are the one and only true source of spiritual truth which in our days, is God's holy Bible.

As always, I don't have all the truth and all of you have to be proving with your Bible what is said in the studies found on this web site. My goal is to basically engage in spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians who may come across these studies. I may be wrong in some of the things I say and as always, you are responsible for proving all things with your Bible which is something I greatly encourage you all to do.

However, you should be aware that your inability to invalidate with your

Bible what is said in this and other studies on this Web site doesn't make me wrong. It only shows how much you want to hold on to the beliefs you had before you became converted or which you got from a man in which you placed your full trust after your conversion contrarily to God's command that you do not put your trust in any man. We all have to accept to be corrected by the Bible instead of rejecting truth which we clearly cannot disprove with our Bible because they go against what we have been taught by a man we trust and hold in high esteem.

Your proof of my being wrong cannot be your absolute trust in the teachings of certain men or of a man which for you has become the standard of truth. Appendix "A" at the end of this document should be proof enough that Christians should NOT EVER put their trust in men. Truly converted Christians are not to have any idols in their lives who stand between them and God. Their one and only mediator between them and God has to be Christ, God the Word whose message we have in writing, God's holy Bible.

The one and only sure source of truth is the Bible; not men. Whatever anyone says is the truth must be provable with the Bible.

Timeline of Doctrinal Changes in the Worldwide Church of God

1986 — Death of Herbert W. Armstrong

 **January 16, 1986**

- HWA dies
- **Joseph W. Tkach Sr.** becomes Pastor General
- Public assurance given: *"No major changes will be made"*

 Changes begin quietly behind the scenes

1987–1988 — Softening Phase (Subtle Shifts)

Changes

- Less emphasis on:
 - British-Israelism
 - Prophecy timelines
 - Church authority structure
- Increased use of:
 - Evangelical language
 - "Grace" terminology
- Sermons begin questioning strict law observance

Key Indicators

- Reduced end-time urgency

- Reinterpretation rather than outright rejection

1989 — First Open Reversals

Church Government

- Hierarchical authority weakened
- Local pastors given more autonomy

Doctrine

- Salvation increasingly described as **completed by grace**
- Obedience reframed as response, not requirement

✂ First signs many members noticed something was wrong

1990 — Repudiation of Armstrong's Authority

Major Event

- Armstrong's role as end-time apostle questioned
- Leadership states he was "**sincerely wrong**" in many doctrines

Publications

- Old booklets quietly discontinued
- New literature contradicts prior teachings

1991 — Nature of God Changed

Trinity Introduced

- Official acceptance of the **Trinity**

- Holy Spirit declared a **distinct person**
- Direct rejection of the “God Family” doctrine

📄 Key document: “*God Is...*” booklet revision

⚠️ One of the most theologically decisive changes

1992 — Gospel Redefined

Gospel Message

- Shift from **Kingdom of God** to **salvation through Christ**
- Kingdom teaching spiritualized

Christology

- Christ emphasized primarily as Savior, not future King

1993 — Law vs. Grace Reversal

Ten Commandments

- Declared **not binding** under the New Covenant
- Obedience presented as optional

Covenants

- Old Covenant law contrasted sharply with New Covenant grace

✂️ Marked break from Sabbath/Holy Day framework

1994 — Sabbath & Holy Days Abandoned

December 17, 1994 — Major Announcement

- Seventh-day Sabbath declared **optional**
- Annual Holy Days declared **obsolete**
- Members permitted to observe:
 - Christmas and Easter

📄 Sermon: *"The New Covenant and the Sabbath"*

✦ Largest membership loss occurs here

1995 — Full Doctrinal Reversal

Public Confession

- WCG leadership states: "We were wrong."

Changes

- Immortal soul doctrine accepted
- Heaven/hell teaching aligned with evangelical Christianity
- British-Israelism formally rejected
- Prophetic interpretations abandoned

📄 Publication: *"Understanding the New Covenant"*

1996 — Evangelical Integration

External Recognition

- WCG accepted into the **National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)**

Internal

- Mandatory doctrinal conformity to evangelical beliefs
- Ministers opposing changes removed or resign

1997–2000 — Institutional Transformation

Identity Shift

- WCG no longer identifies as a restorationist church
- Armstrong's writings destroyed or rewritten

Membership

- From ~150,000 → under 50,000

2009 — Name Change



April 16, 2009

- Worldwide Church of God officially renamed:
Grace Communion International (GCI)

Significance

- Formal end of WCG as founded by HWA
- Fully evangelical, Trinitarian denomination

