

Did the Second
Elijah
Already Come?

Did the Second Elijah Already Come?

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

Christ told His disciples that Elijah would come and restore all things. But when Christ spoke these words, Elijah had been dead for many years. So, how would Elijah be able to come a second time and restore all things? Would there be a special resurrection of Elijah so he could come to Israel as he did the first time as a restorer of God's truth. If not, who would or could restore all things to Israel?

Preamble

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

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

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God the Father

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

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

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

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

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

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

God the Word and Spokesman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Holy Ghost

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God is a Family

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Writing Convention

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

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

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

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

Making Things Clearer

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

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

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

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In the Bible, we read of Christ telling the disciples Peter, James and John that Elijah was to come again to Israel. They had just seen a vision where Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah. Elijah and Moses had been dead for a very long time and this prompted the following question by the disciples.

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

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

Mat 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was doing a work similar to the one Elijah had done with their forefathers. They had forgotten many of Moses's teachings to them and Elijah restored them. John was teaching Israelites the need for repentance and baptism to escape the wrath of God. This was something new for them as they too had forgotten much of what Moses had taught their forefathers. They believed that solely being the sons of Abraham made them God's people.

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Mat 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Mat 3:9 **And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father:** for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Ancient Israel and God's Law

The book of Malachi is addressed to the nation of Israel.

Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD **to Israel** by Malachi.

You will recall that in this book, God tells Israel to remember the law, the statutes and the judgments given them.

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

God was greatly dissatisfied with Israel and warned them of the judgment to come on the wicked.

Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. **[At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment]**

Yet, He encourages them by telling them He would again send them Elijah the prophet.

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

And, what was this Elijah do when he comes to Israel?

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

Mat 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias**

truly shall first come, and restore all things.

And, when would this Elijah come to Israel?

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

Elijah is to come to the physical nation of Israel and he is to do so before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

We know that Christ's 2nd Coming occurs at the blowing of the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal of the book of Revelation. But, when He comes back, it is during the Lord's day (Rev 1:10).

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, [not on the
day of the Lord] and heard behind me a great voice, as of a
trumpet,

Christ's 2nd Coming is during the Lord's day as described in the book of Revelation but as clearly stated in the book of Malachi, Christ is to come to physical Israel before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

The Lord's day and the day of the Lord are not the same thing.

The Lord's Day and the Day of the Lord

As incredible as it may sound, the Bible speaks of another and different day which is not called the Lord's day; it is called the day of the Lord and it is mentioned in 2nd Pe 3:10

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 this day of the Lord happens which is not the same day as the Lord's day which is God's wrath on mankind, it will be the time when: *"....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."*

This is the time which follows the Great White Throne Judgment which occurs at the end of the Last Great Day. It is the time spoken of in Malachi 4:1.

Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be

stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

After all the wicked are burnt up in the Lake of Fire and the present heavens and earth have passed away after the Great White Throne Judgment, God creates a new heaven and a new earth.

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.

The Lord's day is God's wrath on mankind and the day of the Lord is the time when God's create a new heaven and a new earth after the wicked have been destroyed in the Lake of Fire which grows to engulf the earth and the heavens which pass away with a great noise (2Pe 3:10).

In order for the prophecy of Malachi 4:5 to be fulfilled, the promised 2nd Elijah has to come to the physical nation of Israel before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

If He has to have come back to physical Israel before the great and terrible day of the Lord as the second Elijah then He arrives too late if God's wrath on mankind which occurs during the Lord's day is the great and dreadful day of the Lord but it isn't.

The great and dreadful day of the Lord happens when after the Great White Throne Judgment, the Lake of Fire burns up the wicked, and the heavens and the earth. These events occur on the day of the Lord.

Therefore, since Christ comes back at the blowing of the 7th trumpet during the Lord's day and completes His ministry with the physical nation of Israel once He has gathered them from the nations where they had been scattered and relocated them in the original Promised Land, He is effectively fulfilling the prophesy of Malachi 5:1. He will have come to the physical nation of Israel as the second Elijah that will restore all things to them before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

No Prophets to Come to God's Church

In NT times no prophets are to come to God's Church which is spiritual Israel.

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

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

But God does say that He will send a prophet to physical Israel as we have read in Malachi 4:5.

That prophet, Christ is returning to Israel to restore all things to *them*. “The all things to be restored” are, the foundational truths of God’s Church Christ taught to His disciples at His First Coming to Israel. It will be the time of the beginning of the conversion of physical Israel mentioned by Paul in Rom 11:25-32. Those who convert then become part of God’s spiritual nation of Israel and of God’s holy nation and kingdom of priests *in embryo* (Ex19:6).

They are spiritually conceived or begotten (are spiritual embryos) but are yet to be born as glorified spirit beings in God’s Kingdom. Their birth will be by their being resurrected from the dead to glorified, immortal spirit existence at the end of the Last Great Day when the Great White Throne Judgment occurs.

Christ is coming back to the physical nation of Israel that will exist at the time of His Second Coming, not to the world. He is not coming back to forcefully take over the governments of this world, teach the nations against their will and compel them to convert.

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

Those called by the holy spirit God the Father must, without being forced to do so in any way, accept to be led by the truth given them. God created mankind with absolute free moral agency (Deu 30:19) which means that there is no power in the universe that can force him to believe something against his will. This is why God says the following in the book of Hebrews.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Heb 6:6 **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance;** seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God

afresh, and put him to an open shame.

It is impossible to renew unto repentance those who have fallen away because God will respect their decision to no longer follow the truth if they choose to do so even if it means the loss of their salvation. God will not intervene in the life of those fallen away to force them back into obeying Him nor will He force them to obey Him when He calls them. (Rom 8:14)

Christ is the prophet that will come to physical Israel, not to God's Church nor to the nations of the world, for the purpose of confirming the covenant with them for 3 1/2 years.

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Dan 9:27 And he **[the Messiah, Christ, God the Word]** shall confirm the covenant with many **for one week**: and **in the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

At His First Coming to Israel, Christ's ministry was cut off after 3 1/2 years by Him dying on the stake but there is another 3 1/2 years of His ministry yet to be completed. He was to confirm the covenant with many for one week (7 years) but in the midst or middle of the week, (after 3 1/2 years) His ministry ended. Christ will have to return to Israel to complete His ministry. It will be the time of the making of the New Covenant with Israel.

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:

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 or means through which the New Covenant will be made with the physical nation of Israel after His Second Coming.

But why is God not sending prophets to His spiritual nation of Israel which is his Church which is composed of all those called, chosen and faithful? It is because they are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, the resurrected and glorified Christ.

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

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

If you have taken the time to read and understand the preamble to this study, you already know that the glorified Christ is the Comforter and Spirit of Truth who has the responsibility of teaching all things to God's spiritual nation of Israel.

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.

In NT times, the preachers and teachers of God's Church who enable God's called and chosen ones to understand God's spiritual truth are God the Father and God the Word and Spokesman.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

There are times when there will be teachers, pastors, elders and deacons in God's Church depending on the coming into existence of congregations large enough to require some or all of them. Remember that God's church is the "little flock" invisible to the world and whose members are distributed across the nations of this world. They are not organized groups making themselves visible to the world who report to a headquarters organization which sets doctrine for the church. At times, teachers, pastors, elders and deacons may arise among different congregations but most of the time, congregations will not be large enough to have them all or even some of them. ([Was God's Church Ever a Physical Organization?](#))

God declared himself very displeased with Israel's teachers (the shepherds) as they used their authority to exploit those they were to serve and failed to correctly teach them the law given them by God through Moses.

Eze 34:8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, **but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;**

Eze 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

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

Eze 34:23 And I will set up **one shepherd over them**, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

Eze 34:24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

Please note that Ez 34:23-24 are talking about something that will occur in God's spiritual nation of Israel once it has become God's Kingdom. There will be kings and lords in God's Kingdom and David will be one of them. ([Will David Rule Over Israel during the Millennium?](#))

Eze 34:30 Thus shall they **[Israel]** know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.

Christ at His Second Coming will gather Israel and resettle it in the original promised land. He will then spend 3 1/2 years confirming the covenant with them (Dan 9:27). Those that enter the New Covenant at the end of Christ's ministry will become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel.

Eze 34:31 And ye my flock, **the flock of my pasture, are men**, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

This verse confirms that God is now talking about flesh-and-blood men who are part of the physical nation of Israel.

Jer 3:15 And I **will give you pastors according to mine heart**, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

God will give physical Israel at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming, a true pastor, Christ and He will give His spiritual nation of Israel, all those called, chosen and faithful of the Gentiles and of physical Israel, Himself and God the Word as their pastors.

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and the holy spirit God the Word is responsible for teaching all things to the Father's called and chosen ones.

That is why there are no prophets to come to God's spiritual nation of Israel. It also means, there are no apostles and no evangelists to be found in God's Church. Nowhere do we see stated in the New Testament that God would commission any man to be an apostle with the responsibility of preaching the Gospel to the unconverted world.

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;)

God, not men, commissions apostles; men cannot appoint themselves as apostles nor be appointed by other men as apostles. Evangelists were used to assist the apostles in their work of preaching the Gospel and when there are no apostles, there can be no evangelists.

2Ti 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Paul, an apostle, appointed Timothei as an evangelist; Timothei did not appoint himself nor was he appointed by a non-apostle to the work of an evangelist.

For more information on this important topic, please see the following study: [Was the Gospel Ever Suppressed?](#)

Christ's Second Coming is to Israel

Many are those who think that Christ's Second Coming will be to the world; that it will be the time when God will begin to rule over mankind to bring them to conversion. Is that belief supported by the Bible? Let's see to whom Christ is coming back at His Second Coming according to your Bible which is the only sure criterion of truth.

Act 1:9 And when he **[Christ]** had spoken these things, while they **[the disciples]** beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

And, in Zechariah 14 we read:

Zec 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day **upon the mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Christ is coming back to the physical nation of Israel at the time of His Second Coming.

Why?

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you **[Israel]** of your brethren, like unto me; **him shall ye hear** in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

At His First Coming to Israel, Christ, among many other things, came to teach only His disciples but at His 2nd Coming, all of Israel will be called and Christ will teach them and they will “hear” which is to say, understand His teachings.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, **[person]** which will not hear that prophet, **[refuse to listen to him]** shall be destroyed from among the people.

Anyone refusing to follow the teachings of the prophet God the Father will send to Israel, will be destroyed from among the people i.e., this individual will not be physically destroyed but rather will not become part of God’s spiritual nation of Israel.

Who is the prophet that is to come to Israel as the promised Elijah that is to restore all things?

In Acts 3 Peter and John were in the area of the temple called Solomon’s porch (Acts 3:11) and after having healed a man crippled from birth, a

crowd gathered around them.

Act 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, [Ye men of Israel](#), why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

And this is what he told the crowd of Israelites that had gathered around him on Solomon's porch:

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](#);

The LORD will be [present](#) among them and God the Father will send Him.

Act 3:20 And he [\[God the Father\]](#) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [\[men of Israel\]](#)

Act 3:21 Whom [\[Christ, God the Word made flesh\]](#) 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 return to the physical nation of Israel to restore all things or "...until the times of restitution of all things..." as the Bible states it. Christ is not coming back to the Gentile nations of the world to begin their conversion.

The resurrected Christ is the prophet that will be sent to the physical nation of Israel at the time of His Second Coming.

Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Zec 14:4 [And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east](#), and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and

toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Who is That Prophet and to Who is He Sent?

In the Old Testament we read that God would send a prophet to Israel who would be from among them and be like Moses in that he would teach them God's law. They would not fear him like they feared hearing the voice of God in Horeb when the people assembled below Mount Seir to hear God's words. This is what the verses quoted below are talking about.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will **raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee**, 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**. (Ex 20:19)

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

Deu 18:18 I will raise them **(to Israel)** up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, **[Moses]** and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them 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.

This very same prophecy is repeated in the book of Acts.

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.

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;

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

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, [The foundational truths given Christ's disciples are to be restored to the nation of Israel existing at His 2nd Coming; it will be the time of their calling (Rom 11:25-36)] which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, [Ex 20:19; Deu 18: 15-19] A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, [he will be an Israelite (John 1:14)] like unto me [Moses]; him shall ye hear [understand] in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear [refuse His teachings] that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. [Will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel and will die the second death.]

What About HWA?

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), undeniably as far as I'm concerned, was given the ability to cut through the spiritual confusion of the religions of this world, including his own upbringing in one of them. He was driven to begin a careful, extensive and in-depth study of the Bible following the failure of his several attempts to become a successful business man and to become part of this world's upper social class.

He had a charismatic personality, was an interesting and entertaining speaker and had the ability to clearly explain the many truths of the Bible he was given to understand by God. He made it easier for people to understand the Bible by giving them the big picture of what it was all about. This enabled them to get an understanding of how the different parts of the Bible fitted into a single all-encompassing message.

This is not to say that his teachings were without errors. He was the first one to tell all that heard him and those who followed him, that if ever they found that something he taught was in error, they were not to follow him but to follow their Bible. He did not appoint himself as the criterion of truth for those who followed his teachings.

His most important contribution was not so much what he taught, as important as many of his teachings were, but the ability he gave his followers

to read the Bible on their own and to verify if their findings were true or not. The basic rules are that the Bible explains its own symbols and it does not contradict itself. Any truth found in the Bible as a result of personal study cannot contradict any other fully-proven Biblical truth.

The question to be answered in this study is whether Mr. Armstrong was the Elijah to come and restore all things spoken of by Christ?

The Bible, as we have been exploring together, tells us that the resurrected and glorified Christ is to come a second time to the physical nation of Israel to restore all things to it. This time, the physical descendants of ancient Israel will all be called by the holy spirit God the Father which will enable their minds to understand the God level spiritual truth, the returned Christ will give them. For the first time since its coming into existence the nation of Israel, will be able to make the choice of committing to obey God or to stay in the world.

It will be the time of the beginning of the conversion of Israel which will continue into the Millennium as subsequent generations are born, and into the Last Great Day, when all Israelites who were never called will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence and given their opportunity for salvation. All of Israel will be called but not all of Israel will be saved as being called is not the same thing as becoming converted. Christ tells us plainly that there are many called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and of those that are chosen, few remain faithful (Mat 7:13-14). If you have been reading through the studies on this web site, these scriptures should already be very familiar to you.

Christ's Second Coming to the physical nation of Israel occurs at a time the Bible calls "the time of restitution of all things." (Act 3:21) Christ is "that Prophet" (Act 3:23) that is to come to Israel and for whom it is written that all those who will not hear Him, will be cut off from Israel. They will not become part of spiritual Israel and lose the salvation offered them.

Let's keep going with our analysis.

What About the WCG?

The Worldwide Church of God (WCG) was a very big church (100,000 members), owning acres of beautifully landscaped grounds on which stood luxurious buildings with one of them being designated as God's House. The WCG was very visible in the world being on radio, television and having a widely-distributed publication.

It did not fit the mold of being the "little" flock mentioned by Christ. Its ex-

istence and prominence in the world was rationalized by saying that God had allowed such a large church to exist as a means of providing support to an end-time apostle God had raised up to preach the Gospel to the world before the coming of the end.

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.

It was asserted that the Gospel had been suppressed for 100, 19 year time cycles or 1,900 years and began to be preached again when HWA started doing so. It was considered at the time of HWA's death that the Gospel had been preached to the world and that Christ's Second Coming was the next even to occur. ([Was the Gospel Ever Suppressed?](#))

After the death of HWA, the WCG fell apart under the leadership of its next administrator which led to the creation of many offshoot groups all calling themselves "church of God."

These several "churches of God" for the most part, are making full use of television and the Internet attempting to attract as many followers as they can to their organization to increase the amount of money they get in tithes and offering to grow their empires of land holdings, to pay for their private jets and grow the number of stately buildings on their properties as well as paying generous salaries to their inner circle of enablers and supporters some of whom have been named evangelists which is the highest, in their minds, accolade that they can give to each other.

There's just one problem, there are no evangelists in NT times because there are no apostles; evangelists existed to help the apostles. They are the only ones who were commissioned to preach the Gospel. No man has been commissioned as the apostles were and in the NT there is no indication whatsoever there would be more apostles. ([Are There More Apostles to Come?](#))

All members of the various congregations of the WCG did not remain members of God's Church. Many had gone back into the world while continuing to attend services as was made evident when HWA died.

HWA NOT the 2nd Elijah

The second Elijah was to come to the physical nation of Israel and not to God's Church. Christ told His disciples that Elijah has come and will come. When the disciples asked Him about it, they were thinking about physical Israel not spiritual Israel. This is made evident by their question to Christ

regarding what would be the time when He would restore the kingdom to Israel.

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

Israel was not a sovereign state; it was ruled by Rome. The disciples thought that Christ at His Second Coming would free Israel from Roman domination.

That the 2nd Elijah would come to the physical nation of Israel in existence at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming is the clear and definitive reason HWA was not the second Elijah. He was not to come to the spiritual nation of Israel which is God's Church.

But, this does not mean that all he taught was wrong or that he was not given by God to understand many Bible truths which up to that time, had remained mysteries.

At different times in the history of God's Church, God has used men such as Peter Waldo and others to reveal to his faithfuls some of the many hidden truths of the Bible.

HWA was one of them.

His most important contribution to the storehouse of knowledge available to God's Church was to teach them how to read their Bible and prove for themselves whether their beliefs were true or not according to the Bible, and to discover for themselves other Bible truths not taught by him.

That HWA was not the promised 2nd Elijah does not diminish in any way the critical importance of what God taught His Church through him. And, the shortcomings in his personal life and mistakes made in managing the tithes and offerings of the Church do not invalidate the fully Bible-provable truth he gave the faithful.

HWA was just a man with all the moral foibles that come with being human. HWA was a sinner and so are all the faithful despite their sincere desire to perfectly obey God and their best efforts to do so.

Christ said we are not to judge another man's servant.

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.

HWA served God as best he could as all the faithful do and God is the one that will judge His faithful servants.

The Road Forward

Truly converted Christians with minds enabled to understand God level spiritual truth simply have to continue studying their Bible as commanded by God so as to have continuing growth in knowledge and understanding of God's truth. If any of HWA's teachings are found to not be in accordance with the Bible, then all that need be done is to cease believing them and instead, believe your Bible.

Your salvation does not depend on following a man but on following the truth of the Bible to the best of your abilities.

Until the kingdom of God is established and truly converted men continue to exist there will be times when what was once thought to be true will be found to have been in error.

God does not take into account any mistake in understanding that the faithful may make as they follow His command to study and have growth as long as they are honest errors. In other words, there was no deliberate attempt to invalidate the truths of the Bible or to generally, create doubt in the authority of the Bible in others.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built there-upon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, [he shall suffer loss:](#)

but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

A full explanation of these Scriptures is given in the following study:
[Do Christians Have to Grow in Knowledge?](#)

HWA was a man with all the weaknesses of the flesh as is common to all truly converted Christians and to mankind. His personal failings do not nullify the truth God gave His faithful through him. Though he was not the second Elijah mentioned by Christ to His disciples, he did restore many wonderful spiritual truths to God's Church which have been greatly beneficial to those who spent the time and made the effort to learn, understand and prove them.

Ultimately, your salvation is between you and God not between you, a man and God.

You are, and continue to be, always responsible for your own salvation.

The prophesied 2nd Elijah will come to the descendants of the physical nation of Israel and restore all things to them. Christ at His Second Coming is the 2nd Elijah, the true pastor who will not exploit the people, teach them correctly God's law, and the need for repentance and belief for salvation.

