

## **Bible Study - Restored Truth #9b - The Plan of God. June 29, 2013**

In order to understand God's Feasts in prophecy, it is very important to understand the 70-weeks prophecy, found in the book of Daniel. The timing of when this prophecy is given is near the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Daniel realizes that it is time for his people to return, back to the land from which they were taken. His concern about the future of Jerusalem and his people results in a great prayer of repentance prior to the receiving the prophecy.

At the end of his prayer God sends the Archangel Gabriel to address the concerns Daniel has about Jerusalem and his people.

Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined...[decreed] for your people and for your holy city...[The Jews and the city of Jerusalem for the purpose of-] to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy (Place).* Verse 24 provides the purpose of the 70-weeks prophecy.

An insightful person would ask if these activities are happening in the city of Jerusalem today? The answer is: NO!!! Right now, Jerusalem is more concerned about what is going on in Egypt, what is going on north of its border in Lebanon and Syria, and obviously what is going on to its east with Iran. The 70-weeks covers time from the days of Ezra and Nehemiah to the establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth.

Gabriel explains to Daniel major events to occur in Jerusalem in the remaining verses of chapter 9.

Dan. 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, from the going forth of the command... [Ezra's departure from Babylon back to Jerusalem (Ez. 7:9) took place in the spring of 457 BC. The time of Ezra's departure was on the first day of the first month on the Hebrew calendar. This calendar is used throughout the Bible to calculate time] from the going forth of the command...[Ezra's departure] to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be seven weeks, and sixty two weeks...[Adding 7 weeks and 62 weeks makes up a total of 69 weeks. From the time of Ezra's departure to Jerusalem to the year Christ was crucified was a consecutive 69 weeks; or applying the day-for-a-year principal a total of 483 years] The street shall be built again, and the wall even in troublesome times.*

The first seven weeks cover the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Verse 26 deals with the second time period of 62 weeks] (vs 26) *And after 62 weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself...* [Notice, after 62 weeks Messiah (Jesus Christ) is to be killed, but not for himself] *and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it shall be with a flood, and until the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Verse 26 refers to two events to occur between the end of week 69 and the start of week 70:

- 1) the crucifixion of Jesus Christ,
- 2) the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

It is important to understand that prior to these two events, 69 of the 70 weeks in this prophecy have been fulfilled, with one week remaining. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. both occurred shortly after the completion week 69. Between the end of week 69 and the start of week 70 is nearly a 2000-year gap of time.

Dan. 9:27, deals with week 70, which brings this prophecy to a fulfillment. *Then he...* [Reference to the first beast of Revelation 13] *shall confirm a covenant with many for one week...* [This is the final week of the 70 weeks prophecy] *but in the middle of the week...* [three and a half years] *he will bring an end to sacrifice and offerings, and on the wing of abomination shall be one who makes desolate even until the consummation, which is determined is poured out on the desolate.*

The purpose of this study does not allow for a more detailed explanation of this prophecy, for that you can check the blog section of the Matthew24Signs website for a more thorough explanation.

Remember, this prophecy began on the first day of the first month, in the spring of the year on God's calendar. On God's calendar a complete year runs from spring to spring. This is very important to understand.

Taking the timing of this prophecy beginning on the first day of the first month and counting forward 69 weeks or 483 years, means week 69 would end in the spring of the year. This puts the start of week 70 in the spring of the year. The first three and a half years of week 70 ends on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month in the fall of the year. Thus, the remaining three and a half years of week 70 will begin in the fall of the year, ending in the spring of the year.

The key to understanding this prophecy is to understand when it began. Realize a full year in this prophecy begins in the spring of the year and ends in the spring of the year. The reason this is important is because of the connection God's Feasts have to end-time prophecy. This connection begins with the Feast of Trumpets, which occurs in the fall of the year.

The great tribulation will last for a period of three and a half years.

*Dan.12:5 Then I Daniel looked and there stood two others, one on this river bank, and the other on that river bank. (vs 6) and one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, how long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be? (vs 7) Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and he swore by him who lives forever that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people shall be completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.*

This verse provides information about the length of great tribulation only, which is to last for “time, times and half a time” or three and a half years. This three-and-a-half-year period will begin in the fall of the year and conclude in the spring of the year.

This verse provides insight into the start of great tribulation.

*Hos. 8:1 Set the trumpet to your mouth. He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Eternal, because they...[descendants of ancient Israel] have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law. (vs 2) Israel will cry to me, my God, we know you. (vs 3) Israel has rejected the good: the enemy will pursue him.*

This verse strengthens the connection of the Feast of Trumpets to the start of great tribulation.

*Hos. 5:1 Hear this, O priest, take heed, O house of Israel, give ear, O house of the king; for yours is the judgment. (vs 5) The pride of Israel testifies to his face...[You can certainly see that in the news today] Therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them. (vs 7) They have dealt treacherously [unfaithfully] with the Eternal... for they have begotten pagan...[strange] children: now a new moon shall devour them and their heritage.*

The Feast of Trumpets begins on the first day of the seventh month, which coincides with the new moon. The new moon signals the start of a new month in God's calendar. The reference "a new moon shall devour them," points directly to the Feast of Trumpets and the start of great tribulation.

Hos. 9:5 *What will you do in the appointed day... [God's feast days are to be observed at appointed times] and in the day of the feast of the Eternal? (vs 6) For indeed they are gone up because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up. Memphis shall bury them... [The location modern Israelites will be carried captive during great tribulation] nettles shall possess their valuables of silver: thorns shall be in their tents. (vs 7) The days of punishment have come, days of recompense have come: Israel knows: the prophet is a fool; the spiritual man is insane, because of the greatness of your iniquity, and great enmity.* Referring to hostility toward God.

In speaking of the great tribulation, notice a change which occurs within Israel.

Hos. 5:14 *For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away and no one shall rescue... [The military apparatus of the United States, Britain and Israel will not be a match for God's punishment] I will take them away and no one shall rescue. (vs 15) I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their offense... [repent] Then they will seek my face in their affliction; they will earnestly seek me.*

Hos. 6:1 *Come, let us return to the Eternal for he has torn, but he will heal us; he has stricken, but he will bind us up. (vs 2) After two days he will revive us: on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live in his sight.* Applying the day-for-a-year principle shows that in the third year of great tribulation, there will be repentance in the houses of Israel and Judah. Is this repentance referred to in the New Testament?

Rev. 7:1 *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea or on any tree. (vs 2) Then I saw another angel ascending from the east having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea... [That refers to the first four trumpet plagues that you read about in Revelation 8] (vs 3) Saying do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. (vs 4) And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.* The word 'of' means out from, referring to out from a larger group.

The people being spoken of in turning to God, in Hosea 6, are the 144,000 physical Israelites of Revelation 7. This whole process of punishment, repentance and deliverance begins at the halfway point of week 70, on the Feast of Trumpets in the fall of the year. The sealing of the 144,000, which happens in the third year, is going to happen near the conclusion of the third year in the fall of the year. The tribulation begins in the fall of the year; the completion of a year occurs in the fall of the year. The end of the third year of great tribulation occurs in the fall of the year, but a half year remains before tribulation is complete. This final half year period will begin on the Feast of Trumpets. It will commence with the blowing of the first trumpet. Trumpets 1, 2, 3, and 4 all sound within the first nine days of this half year period. Why is this significant? Revelation 9 provides the answer.

*Rev. 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star fall from heaven to the earth: to him was given the key to the bottomless pit. Who is this fallen star? It is Satan the Devil.*

*Rev.12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought...[This is reference to a huge angelic battle to take place prior to the fifth trumpet] (vs 8) But they...[the dragon and his angels] did not prevail; nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. (vs 9) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* This event will occur at the sound of the fifth trumpet.

It is important to understand timing here. Timing is so critical in understanding God's Feast Days connection to end-time prophecy. Notice the length of the fifth trumpet. Referring to the beast's army.

*Rev. 9:5 And they were not given authority to kill them...[survivors of great tribulation] but to torment them for five months: their torment was like the torment of the scorpion when it strikes a man. A sting from a scorpion does not kill but is extremely painful. This is probably some type of chemical or biological agent that debilitates people but does not kill them.*

The fifth trumpet lasts for a period of five months. The final half year of great tribulation is a total of six months. This means the five months of the final six months of great tribulation are taken up by the fifth trumpet. This allows only one month for trumpets 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 before the great tribulation ends.

Satan is cast out of heaven, on the Day of Atonement. Satan being cast out of heaven is a forerunner of him eventually being put away for good. With the Day of Atonement appointed on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, counting forward five months, puts events of the sixth trumpet near the end of the great tribulation.

Following the fifth trumpet are the devastating events of sixth trumpet. Understand, at this point the great tribulation is coming to an end.

*Rev. 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God. (vs 14) Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. (vs 15) So the four angels who had been prepared for the hour, and day, and month, and year...[a specific moment in time] were released to kill a third of mankind. (vs 16) And the number of the army of the horsemen was 200 million: and I heard the number of them. (vs 17) And thus I saw the horses in the vision. Those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. (vs 18) By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire, and smoke, and the brimstone, which came out of their mouths.*

This information concerning the sixth trumpet helps us to understand what Christ said in Matthew 24. This chapter of Matthew is the outline of end-time prophecy. Understanding what happens with the sixth trumpet helps to explain what Christ is talking about.

*Matt. 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. [the great tribulation in its entirety, the whole three and a half years] unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened.*

Those days refers to the events of the sixth trumpet, which leads to the death of a third of mankind. If allowed to go to its completion, no flesh would be saved alive. This is World War III, which encompasses the whole earth. What stops this war and the extinction of all human life on earth?

*Rev. 11:7 When they...[the two witnesses] have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. (vs 8) And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was*

*crucified...*[The two witnesses will be put to death in the streets of Jerusalem. This description of Sodom and Egypt provides insight into God's view of the spiritual condition of Jerusalem prior to the seventh trumpet. Notice peoples' reaction to their death] (vs 9) *Those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days and not allow their dead bodies to be put in graves. (vs 10) And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another; because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*

Those who survive the events of the sixth trumpet will blame the problems of the world on the two witnesses. This highlights the great capacity of human beings to not accept responsibility for their actions.

Survivors at the end of great tribulation rejoice over the death of the two witnesses. This event is what ends the threat of human extinction. After three and a half days, the final week of the 70-weeks prophecy is complete.

This completion occurs in the spring of the year at the start of a new year on the Hebrew calendar. Why is this important? Because it ties in with the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

Matt. 24:29 It says: *Immediately after the tribulation of those days...*[great tribulation is over] *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (vs 30) Then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven: and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (vs 31) And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.* In verse 31, Christ is speaking of the first resurrection. Notice how this connects to the two witnesses.

Rev. 11:11 *After three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell on those who saw them. (vs 12) And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, come up here, and they ascended to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them.* This is the first resurrection. This resurrection can be tied in with two specific references Paul made.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

The dominant thought with the Church of God today is that the first resurrection occurs on the Feast of Trumpets. There are sermons and material on the Internet proclaiming the seventh trumpet will sound on the Feast of Trumpets. Remember, the Feast of Trumpets is a memorial of the blowing of trumpets. It encompasses all seven trumpets being blown, which are the trumpets found in the book of Revelation. The time to be memorialized encompasses the final six months of great tribulation and events of the Day of the Lord. This time period begins in the fall of the year and ends in the spring of the following year. A correct understanding of the 70-weeks prophecy shows Christ's second Coming, the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the first resurrection occurring in the spring of the year prior to and in conjunction with God's spring feasts. Christ does not return on the Feast of Trumpets.

Revelation 15 shows those in the first resurrection ascend back to heaven with Jesus Christ to stand on the sea of glass, until the seven last plagues are complete. This ties in with something very interesting Christ said in Luke 22.

Luke 22:14 *Now when the hour had come, Christ sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. (vs 15) And he said to them, with fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. (vs 16) For I say to you, I will no longer eat of it; until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God...* [Christ wasn't going to partake in the Passover anymore, from this point forward. He would not participate in the Passover until He does so in the Kingdom of God.] (vs 17) *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, take this, and divide it among yourselves. (vs 18) For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God comes. (vs 19) He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.* Christ re-iterates these same intentions in Matthew 26.

Matt. 26:29 Speaking of the wine Christ says: *But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine, from now on until that day when I drink it new with you...* [Speaking of the disciples] *in my father's kingdom.*

In John 17, Christ said He was not just praying for the disciples with Him, but also for those who would hear their word. Christ is not going to partake of the Passover again until He is in the Kingdom of God with those of the first resurrection. When will this be?

Rev. 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife has made herself ready...* [the Lamb's wife = Church of God.] (vs 8) *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (vs 9) He said to me, write,*



*blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, these are the true sayings of God.*

The marriage supper of the Lamb corresponds with the Passover. It is the time when Christ will again partake in the Passover.

What follows the Passover? Unleavened Bread. The marriage supper, the Passover, is now over.

*Rev. 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he who sat on him was called faithful and true; and in righteousness he judges and makes war.* It is now time for Christ to return to the earth.

*Zech. 14:3 Then the Eternal will go forth, and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. (vs 4) And in that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...* [When Christ comes at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, he only descends in the air. His feet do not touch the earth. After the first resurrection Christ returns back to the third heaven with the resurrected 144,000 firstfruits to participate in the marriage supper; after the 144,000 firstfruits are presented to God (wave sheaf), and accepted; then Christ returns with the 144,000 firstfruits back to the earth.] *(vs 4) And in that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two.* This going to be a dramatic set of events. This is why the events which begin on Feast of Trumpets at the start of the final six months of great tribulation are a memorial.

These verses correspond to events in Zechariah 14. *Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast, the king of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse, and against his army. (vs 20) Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast, and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into lake of fire burning with brimstone. (vs 21) And the rest were killed with the sword, which proceeded from the mouth of him who sat on the horse: and all the birds were filled with their flesh.* At this point, the nations of the earth are subdued.

*Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (vs 2) And he laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil, and Satan, and bound him for 1000 years (vs 3) And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on*

*him, so that he should deceive the nations no more until the 1000 years were finished: but after these things he must be released for a little while.* At this point in God's plan Satan is bound for 1000 years.

It is important to keep in mind these events are happening in spring of the year, not in the fall as many in the Church of God now believe.

It is in the spring of the year when the Day of the Lord will occur. At the end of this time period is when nations are subdued, and Satan is put away for 1000 years. This is God's way of de-leavening the earth, which directly ties in with the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These events all occur in conjunction with the Feast of Unleavened Bread and not during the fall feasts as Mr. Armstrong initially taught. Christ's millennial rule begins once Satan the Devil is put away in the spring of the year.

These events lead to the third step in God's plan, the Feast of Pentecost. What is the connection between Pentecost and end-time prophecy?

*Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all gathered with one accord in one place. (vs 2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (vs 3) Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of a fire and one sat upon each of them. (vs 4) And they were all filled with Holy Spirit, and began speaking with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... [Shortly after, Peter stands up to deliver the first sermon in God's Church, in which he quotes the prophet Joel] (vs 16) But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel... [Peter is connecting the events he just experienced to what Joel was speaking of.] (vs 17) And it shall come to pass in the last days... [Peter's time was **NOT** the last days] says God, that I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. (vs 18) And on my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit in those days: and they shall prophesy.* Joel is speaking of a time when the Holy Spirit, or the tree of life, will be open to the world. John describes this event in Revelation 7:13-18.

Speaking of the modern nations of Israel, God says of those who survive the great tribulation:

*Jer. 31:31 Behold, the days are coming, says the Eternal, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. (vs 32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; my covenant which they broke though I was a husband to them, says the Eternal. (vs 33) But this is the covenant I will make with the house*

*of Israel; after those days...[Referring to the great tribulation and the Day of the Lord] I will put my law in their minds, and write it in their hearts; and I will be there God, and they shall be my people. (vs 34) No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Eternal: and I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.* How does God write His Law on the minds and hearts? By giving people His Spirit.

It's important to understand that: Matthew 24 goes to the end of the time, times, and half a time. Daniel 12:11 goes to the end of the 1290 days, which is the conclusion of the Day of the Lord. Daniel 12:12-13 goes to the end of the 1335 days, which is when God will re-open the Tree of Life and make His Spirit available once again. This will happen once the Kingdom of God is established on the earth.

Many in God's Church today believe Christ will return on the Feast of Trumpets, that Satan will be bound for 1000 years on the Day of Atonement, and the millennium will begin on the Feast of Tabernacles. This timeline of events is incorrect.

In order to truly understand the timing of these events, one must rotate their thinking forward six months. It is in the spring of the year when Christ will return, when the 144,000 firstfruits will be resurrected, and when Christ puts away Satan the Devil. It is on Pentecost, once God's Kingdom is established on the earth, that God will re-open the tree of life to the whole world. This is God's plan of salvation for mankind.

It is important to understand what God's plan of salvation is not. Few people recognize how Satan loves to counterfeit God's way. Notice how this counterfeit is manifested in a portion of Section 293 from the catechism of the Catholic Church. It clearly shows what God's plan of salvation is not.

*“Scripture and tradition never cease to teach and to celebrate this fundamental truth: the world was made for the glory of God. St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it. For God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness. Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand.”*

Section 2042:

*“The precepts of the church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical law. The obligatory character of these positive laws, decreed by the pastoral authorities, is meant to guarantee to the faithful, the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer, and moral effort, in the growth in the love of God and neighbor.”*

*“The first precept: You shall attend mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.*

*Second precept: You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*

*Third precept: You shall humbly receive your Creator and holy communion at least during the Easter season.”*

Section 2043:

*“Fourth precept: You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.*

*Fifth precept: You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence. The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the church, each according to his abilities, for support of the church.”*

Section 2177:

*“The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist (substitute for the Passover service) is at the heart of the church’s life. Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition, and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal church. Also to be observed are the day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the epiphany, the ascension of Christ, the feast of the body and blood of Christ, the feast of Mary the mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her assumption, the feast of St. Joseph, the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul, and the feast of all Saints. Those are the days of obligation.”*

Can any of these Catholic precepts be found in God's word the Bible? No, they cannot.

Notice how Satan was able to corrupt the knowledge of God's Holy Days using men within the Worldwide Church of God, following the death of Mr. Armstrong.

From a paper written by Greg Albrecht called *Archetypes and Paradigms*, August 1992.

*"We need to see the Sabbath and holy days in the light of Christ rather than seeing Christ in the light of the Sabbath and the Holy days."*

From a Personal by Joseph Tkach Sr. in the Worldwide News dated October 6, 1992, Mr. Tkach says:

*"As we observe the Feast (Feast of Tabernacles) I again remind you that we are not keeping an Old Testament feast, but a New Testament feast in Jesus Christ. These fall holy days should, in every way, focus our attention on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the glorious salvation of God made possible through him."*

From the Pastor General's Report by Joseph Tkach, Jr dated July 13, 1993, Junior writes:

*"A **modest** paradigm shift in perspective from emphasizing Old Testament symbolism to expanding new covenant promises reinforces the relationship of the holy days to redemption in Christ. We continue to grow in grace and knowledge as we seek more fitting contemporary expressions that relate the festivals to God's purpose of bringing the body of Christ to the fullness of Jesus Christ."*

There is no "modest paradigm shift" in observing God's Holy Days. God's Holy Days are commanded assemblies to be observed at specific times.

Notice the type of "modest paradigm shift" being spoken of in a Worldwide Church of God (WCG) study paper on God's Feasts, dated February 14, 1995. This was roughly a year and a half later after Joseph Tkach Jr wrote of a "modest paradigm shift."

*"We plan to conduct worship services on the first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, each day of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Attendance on these days is not mandatory; but we hope that most members will want to*

worship with us. Members are free to de-leaven their homes for Unleavened Bread, fast on Atonement, and live in temporary shelters during Tabernacles; but these old covenant details are not required in the church today.

*“Can we be saved whether we keep these days or not? Yes. If some people do not keep these festivals, we will not condemn them for it. Nothing in the New Testament says they are required. For those who are under the new covenant blood of Christ, frequency and the date of commemoration of the Lord’s Supper, are policy decisions, not biblical commands. The Church may make policy decisions about when we assemble on other festivals (Christmas & Easter) as celebrations of our new life in Christ. The old covenant festivals are not commanded in the new covenant. Paul told the Colossians to ignore what others might say regarding Jewish festivals. They were symbolic shadows so they did not matter.”*

Mr. Armstrong did not share a “modest paradigm shift” perspective toward God’s Holy Days. In his sermon entitled *Mission of The Philadelphia Church Era* given December 18, 1983, Mr. Armstrong said the following about God’s plan of salvation:

*“Now another thing that has been restored is through the holy days – God’s plan, his master plan for accomplishing that purpose, and the annual holy days. No other church has had those holy days and understands them.”*

God has a plan and that plan is about to come to fruition. Are you desirous to be part of it?

God is not trying to save the world now. He is only calling those He has chosen to become kings and priests in His Kingdom. It should excite God’s people to know they have the opportunity to replace the despotic leadership that will take this world to the brink of human annihilation.

Father, may Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, sooner rather than later.