

THE
EZEKIEL 4
IRON WALL

GOD'S REMEMBRANCERS

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The Ezekiel 4

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Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year. (Ezek. 4:4-6)

The prophet Ezekiel has to lay on his left side to bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. But what then is the iniquity of the house of Israel? Next, he has to turn on his right side and bear the iniquity of Judah. What is the iniquity of Judah? And what does the 390 years for Israel and the 40 years for Judah imply? (i.e., upon applying the day for a year principle)

To better understand what God meant by those time elements, we must know first the context of this prophecy – it is about the **siege of Jerusalem**.

If the siege of Jerusalem would be our starting point then upon careful consideration of the first time element which is the 390 years, we will have to include the last king of Judah that was

dethroned (King Zedekiah). This constitutes the *First Temple* period when it was besieged by the Chaldeans. We then count 390 years backwards from that siege in 585 BC, and we will arrive at 975 BC in a period around the time of Rehoboam's reign when the kingdom was split into two because Jeroboam seized for himself the ten tribes of Israel, which he eventually led into sin.

The iniquity of the house of Israel points us back to this one defining moment in ancient history that triggers the pre-determined 390 year time period prior to the siege of Jerusalem: Mr. Flurry explained in the Royal Vision:

JEROBOAM'S REBELLION

Let's return to the story in 1 Kings 12. Once the northern 10 tribes rebelled, Jeroboam wanted to MAKE SURE they never returned to the house of David. He hated that house, and was concerned that if the people continued to travel to Jerusalem to make sacrifices in the temple, they would go back to Rehoboam (verses 25-26). (July-August 2012 issue, p. 6)

Mr. Flurry further wrote:

JEROBOAM CAUSED ISRAEL TO SIN

1 Kings 14:15-16 contain a prophecy about Israel being smitten, rooted up and scattered. These verses say that God "shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, WHO DID SIN, AND WHO MADE ISRAEL TO SIN." Jeroboam sinned, and he made Israel sin. Leaders can do that. This man turned Israel to turn away from the house of David and God. The same thing happened in the Laodicean Church in this end time. The leaders turned the people away from the house of David and God! (ibid., p. 7)

All throughout the chronicle of those northern 10 tribes, God made sure that we never forget who started it all who made Israel to sin – it's Jeroboam. (Read 1 Kings 14:16; 15:30; 2 Kings 3:3; 10:29;13:2, 31; 14:24; 15:18)

From the accounts listed, it is very clear that it was indeed **Jeroboam**, the son of Nebat **who made Israel to sin**. But what has he done to make Israel sin? As Mr. Flurry noted, he caused the 10 tribes to rebel against the authority of the house of David (1 Kings 12:19). But that is not his sin because it was God who gave him those 10 tribes (read 1 Kings 11:29-31). This is what Jeroboam did – he introduced the **idol worship** (vv. 27-29) through which the other kings of Israel followed suit in his example.

In verses 30-31 we can know what has BECOME the sin of Israel: “And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.” Let's read what Mr. Armstrong wrote about this history:

So immediately Jeroboam set up two great idols for his people to worship. He ordered the fall festivals to be observed in the eighth month, at a place of his choosing north of Palestine—instead of in the seventh month, and at Jerusalem as God ordered (1 Kings 12:28-32). Also Jeroboam changed the Sabbath day from the seventh to the eighth—that is, to the day following the seventh day, which, of course, was actually the first day of the week. Thus he set the day for worship to coincide with the pagan day of the sun, now called Sunday!

Through the rule of 19 kings and seven successive dynasties, the 10-tribed house of Israel continued in the basic twin sins of Jeroboam: idolatry and Sabbath-breaking.

Several of the kings added other evil and sinful practices. (The United States and Britain in Prophecy, p. 146)

Jeroboam took the role of a *high priest*, and he led the people to *idolatry* through his *very own priesthood*. He also *changed the time and the season* of the observance of the feast from the seventh month to the eighth month (vv. 32-33). He basically invented his own brand of religion to prevent Israel from going to Jerusalem to worship the true God. Has this not what exactly happened in this end time spiritually to the Laodiceans? Actually, we are just witnessing a duality of what had happened anciently to the 10 tribes of Israel and what has happened to their spiritual counterpart in this end time – both have lost their identity (the Worldwide Church of God is now called the Grace Communion International). And both have changed the time and the season by which they observe the Sabbaths and the feasts. The Sabbath is to be a sign between God and His people (Exo. 31:13,16-17). Here is what Mr. Armstrong wrote:

God commanded His people to keep His Sabbath as a sign. It is a sign between God's people and God – "...a sign between me and you," the commandment says. It is a badge or token of IDENTITY. It advertises, or announces, or proclaims certain identifying knowledge. But WHAT KNOWLEDGE? God answers: "...that you may KNOW that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you." (Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?, p. 38)

Mr. Armstrong in another article continues:

It is an historic fact that any nation which ever profaned God's holy Sabbath (weekly), has lost contact with and knowledge of the true God, and gone into the idolatry. The only nation which ever did keep God's Sabbath is the only one that kept the true memory and worship of the true

specific sin of Judah that would make it greater than that of Israel as to meet such a swift retribution? And how do we even know that Judah's sin indeed exceeded Israel's?

In the Bible, it is a common knowledge which side is more significant— well, it is the right side. The right arm usually represents blessing, strength and greatness (Gen. 48:13-20; Exo. 15:6-7; Job 40:14; Psa. 16:7; Psa. 48:10; Psa. 118:15). For the iniquity of Israel, the prophet Ezekiel was commanded to lie on his left side, whereas for the iniquity of Judah, he was to lie on his right side. **This then indicates which sin is greater in God's eyes – it is imputed on Judah (PCG).**

Even God emphatically cursed through the prophet Jeremiah His thoughts about Judah: “And the LORD said unto me, **The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.**” (Jer. 3:11)

Now we shall move to that specific event in 30 AD which determines the iniquity of Judah (this same year and the event that happened therein are important to note for the 70 weeks prophecy in chapter 12). Notice John 11:55, determines the time setting – “And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand,” while in John 12:1, “Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany”; which means it is not yet 31 AD:

John 11:47-53 – “Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named **Caiaphas**, being **the high priest THAT SAME YEAR**, said unto them, **Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest THAT YEAR, he prophesied that Jesus should die**

for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.”

The chief priests and the Pharisees plotted to kill the heir to the throne from the house of King David, the King of kings, Jesus Christ – THAT SAME YEAR! Again, what year? 30 AD! Notice that from this point in time, God the Father remembers the iniquity of Judah and DETERMINED a punishment 40 years after – the siege and destruction of Jerusalem on 70 AD.

While it is true that Israel had rejected the kings whom God had appointed over them, much more so, Judah had flatly rejected the King of kings. And while Israel turned away from God to worship idols, Judah turned away from God to worship the authority of men and their tradition with so much pride and full of hypocrisy. Whereas Israel neglected to follow God, Judah plotted to murder his own Creator!

But who are these *chief priests and the Pharisees*? Can we be sure that we know? Let us have some brief historical background:

In the years before the rise of Rome, the Jews, after centuries of captivity, finally won their freedom from a tyrannical (Greek) king named Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the greatest despots of the ancient world... The belief among the Jews was that God had punished Israel by delivering it into the hands of occupying nations for its failure to follow the Law of Moses. Now, with their freedom finally won, some key leaders of the Jews resolved that they would never again come under bondage from their rebellion, and so they determined they would follow God and honor His commandments so that Israel would

know His blessings rather than His curses and punishments. In its zeal to observe the commandments, the nation gave birth to several fanatical groups dedicated to promoting holiness. At the forefront of this movement was a group that came to be known to us as the Pharisees.

(Source: <http://www.centralcal.com/crist2.htm>)

Let's consider the *Jewish Encyclopedia* for more information about the Pharisees:

PHARISEES

(Aramaic, “Perishaya”; Hebr. “Perushim”):

“Perisha” (the singular of “Perishaya”) denotes “**one who separates himself,**” or keeps away from persons or things impure, in order to attain the degree of holiness and righteousness required in those who would commune with God...

(T)he Sadducean priesthood prided itself upon its aristocracy of blood, **...the Pharisees created an aristocracy of learning instead,** declaring a bastard who is a student of the Law to be higher in rank than an ignorant high priest (Hor. 13a), **and glorying in the fact that their most prominent leaders were descendants of proselytes (or new converts)** ...For the decision of their Scribes, or “Soferim”, consisting originally of Aaronites, Levites, and common Israelites, they claimed the same authority as for the Biblical law, **even in case of error; they endowed them with the power to abrogate the Law at times** (see Abrogation of Laws), and they went so far as to say that he who transgressed their words deserved death. **By dint**

of this authority, claimed to be divine, they put the entire calendric system upon a new basis, independent of the priesthood...

On the whole, however, they added new restrictions to the Biblical law in order to keep the people at a safe distance from forbidden ground; as they termed it, **“THEY MADE A FENCE AROUND THE LAW”**

(<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/12087-pharisees>)

Did you see that? The Pharisees during Christ’s earthly ministry **“MADE A FENCE AROUND THE LAW!”** Is this not the specific fulfillment of the prophesied **IRON WALL** of Ezekiel 4? Let’s continue from the previous source to see one of the characteristics of that **IRON WALL**:

The Pharisees also favored the rich over the poor because of the prevailing attitude that poverty was a sign of the curse of God, while prosperity was believed to show the approval of God on one’s life...

The attitude sometimes carried over into the Sanhedrin’s legislative abilities, and **so the Pharisees were known on occasion to abuse the right given them under the Law of Moses** to enact laws clarifying points that the greater Law did not directly address. This had the effect, in some cases, of **subverting the principles of the Law to favor those of wealth and power**, something Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for. (op. cit.)

Can we find a similar situation in this last end which portrays a scenario wherein the ministers in God’s Church favor the rich over the poor and even brand those in poverty as under a curse from God? So many poor people in the Philadelphia Church of

God around the world could relate to that and have so many stories to tell of their own experiences in the hands of these spiritual Pharisees. Some members on occasion have seen and even suffered an abuse of the minister's authority over them – using God's government in vain. For emphasis: “This had the effect, in some cases, of **subverting the principles of the Law to favor those of wealth and power.**”

Now, let us include the group of the Sadducees because this group as it appears were the same *chief priests* who influenced Judas to betray Jesus Christ. Let's consider the *Jewish Encyclopedia* again and you will be utterly shocked:

SADDUCEES:

Name from High Priest Zadok.

Name given to the party representing views and practises of the Law and interests of Temple and priesthood directly opposite to those of the Pharisees. **The singular form, “Zadduḳi”, is an adjective denoting “an adherent of the Bene Zadok,” the descendants of Zadok, the high priests who, tracing their pedigree back to Zadok, the chief of the priesthood in the days of David and Solomon, formed the Temple hierarchy all through the time of the First and Second Temples down to the days of Ben Sira but who degenerated under the influence of Hellenism, especially during the rule of the Seleucidæ, when to be a follower of the priestly aristocracy was tantamount to being a worldly-minded Epicurean**

(Source:

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/12989-sadducees>)

From another source we could read: **The Sadducees take their name from the priest Zadok** who supported Solomon against Adonijah when he attempted to appoint himself King of Israel. (See the 1st chapter of 1st Chronicles.) ...While the Sadducees were few in number, their control of the Temple, along with their wealth, gave them an important position of authority within... the Sanhedrin.

The word Sanhedrin refers to a religious court. In the time of Christ, there were two Sanhedrins operating in Jerusalem, the first of which was a 23-member court run by the Sadducees that handled local affairs. Acts 5:25 shows this group and the Great Sanhedrin coming together to discuss the problem of the Christians...

At the trial of Jesus before the elders of Israel ... (t)he outcome was inevitable, especially because of the threat Jesus posed to the Sadducees.

In their view, this man was an unparalleled danger standing in direct contradiction to their theology across the board. ...Thus, in their own self-interest, **the Sadducees**, more so than the Pharisees (some of whom certainly did want Jesus dead), **forced the issue of trying and slaying Jesus.**

Evidence of this can be seen in the fact that the **Sadducees, and not the Pharisees...**

- *Arranged with Judas to betray Christ (Matt. 26)*
- *Set a guard at the tomb (Matt. 27)*
- *Arrested the apostles (Acts 5)*
- *Gave letters to Paul authorizing the persecution of the church in Damascus (Acts 9)*

(Source: <http://www.centralcal.com/crist2.htm>)

Upon reading the name *Pharisee* which means, in Strong's, "AN EXCLUSIVELY RELIGIOUS SEPARATIST"; it's very much like the description in Ezekiel 4 of the IRON WALL between God and His people which was described by the prophet Ezekiel as a STRONG WALL OF SEPARATION. While as for the Sadducees, they have derived their name from ZADOK THE PRIEST.

Do the descriptions for the Pharisees, as RELIGIOUS SEPARATISTS, and the Sadducees, as SONS OF ZADOK THE PRIEST ring a bell in this last end?

Pharisaism shaped the character of Judaism and the life and thought of the Jew for all the future. True it gave the Jewish religion a LEGALISTIC tendency and made "SEPARATISM" its chief characteristic (op. Cit.)

Moses and Joshua	Ephesus era
Time of the Judges	Smyrna era
United Monarchy (Saul, David, Solomon)	Pergamos era
Divided Monarchy	Thyatira era
Time of governors (Zerubbabel, Nehemiah)	Sardis era
Time of the Maccabees	Philadelphia era
Time of the Pharisees and Sadducees	Laodicean era

A comparative analysis was made regarding the chronological events in the Old Testament corresponding to each New Testament Church era. (From the December 23, 2012 PCG Ministerial Conference)

Now, in this last end, which Church of God group does have the legalistic tendency and has made a doctrine of

“SEPARATISM” its chief characteristic? And which group claims to be the SONS OF ZADOK?

Sons of Zadok is just another way of saying the Philadelphians today. Like Zadok, these individuals stay with the key of David. *They hold on to the understanding about David's throne.* (The Key of David, p. 57)

Could those descriptions referring to the Pharisees and the Sadducees be branded to the ministers of the Philadelphia Church of God? Well, consider these *undeniable facts*: the PCG ministry has implemented the NO CONTACT POLICY among its membership, and it has been said frequently, that we, as members of the PCG are the SONS OF ZADOK. Do these descriptions squarely and perfectly fit with that of the Pharisees who “**MADE A FENCE AROUND THE LAW,**” and the Sadducees who claimed to be the descendants of **ZADOK THE PRIEST?**

It does send some chills to the bones seeing the striking similarity to the Pharisees and Sadducees in Christ's time. What do you think? Well, most likely, it only applies to those 25 men of Ezekiel 8.

If that would be the case then, *some ministers* of the PCG in this *last end* could be fulfilling the duality of a prophecy of *plotting or entrapping* to spiritually murder their Creator again – Christ coming in the flesh through *That Prophet*, (even through His little ones. In Matthew 18:5-6, the word “offend” also means “entrap” in Strong's.)

Now moving on, God remembers and DETERMINED 40 years from that moment in 30 AD and then He allowed the punishment to come immediately on 70 AD (connected to Daniel 9's *seventy weeks* prophecy in chapter 12). Jerusalem was besieged *again*. There came a famine again. The walls crumbled *again*. And the temple ended in destruction and ruins *again* – To which the second part of Ezekiel's prophecy was fulfilled.

Notice the parallels between the two parts of this Ezekiel 4 prophecy – the 390 years for the iniquity of Israel and the 40 years for the iniquity of Judah. Israel and Judah both rejected God. Their sins are pretty much the same. The fulfillment of the prophecy is the same. In both cases, the temple along with the city of Jerusalem was destroyed.

In the 390 year time period, Jeroboam as the king of the ten tribes of Israel also took the role of a high priest to himself and set up his **own priesthood** which he used to prevent Israel from having an access to the true God by introducing a new doctrinal wall:

“And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.”(1 Kings 12:26-29)

While in the 40 year time period it was ALSO **the priesthood – the chief priests and the Pharisees** that **prevented** Judah from also having an access to the true God: “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” (Matt. 23:13)

The **priesthood** in Jeroboam’s time and in Christ’s time has BOTH **prevented** the people from having an access to the true God – their doctrines was comparable to a WALL OF SEPARATION between God and His people.

The Apostle Paul even likens the “*high priest*” to a

“*whitewashed wall*” (Acts 23:2-3). The prophet Jeremiah also pictures the “altar” as a “wall” (Lam. 2:7-8). So going back to the IRON WALL that was set up by the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 4, it does clearly refer to the PRIESTHOOD or the MINISTRY and their doctrine of SEPARATISM!

So the prophesied Ezekiel 4 siege clearly revolves around the IRON WALL that was set up in the PCG, and that WALL prevented God’s people from having an access to the true God just like what the Pharisees had done before. The “NO CONTACT POLICY” that was implemented inside the Philadelphia Church of God is a big part of that strong impregnable IRON WALL separation between God and His people! Can we see those spiritual Pharisees in our midst? We can know them by their fruits. Everything is already written in the wall. Can anyone refute God’s truth and prophecy being laid before our eyes?

Now here’s the question: Could there also be a counterpart to the Sadducees in this last end who will arrange with the last end Judas to betray Christ coming in the flesh through His prophet?

2

The Prophesied No Contact Policy in the Ezekiel 4 Siege

On January 4, 2014, the Pastor General of the Philadelphia Church of God, Mr. Gerald Flurry fainted while giving a sermon about a new revelation about Ezekiel. What could that message be about?

“Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and portray upon it the city, even Jerusalem: And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about. **Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city:** and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 4:1-3)

Let us consider what *JFB Commentary* wrote regarding verse 3:

“set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city – *Ezekiel, in the person of God, represents the wall of separation between him and the people as one of iron.*

As the *JFB Commentary* put it; there’s a “wall of separation

between Him (God) and the people as one of iron.” God through the prophet Ezekiel prophesied of an **IRON WALL** that separates Him and Jerusalem in this. But who could Jerusalem be referring to spiritually speaking? More on that later.

First notice in verse 7 what must come to pass:

“Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.”

It is prophesied that a SIEGE has to be fulfilled. Well, to help us better understand what happens during a siege; let us consider the following information about it:

*A siege is a military blockade of a city or fortress with the intent of conquering by **attrition** or assault. The term derives from sedere, Latin for “to sit”. Generally speaking, siege warfare is a form of constant, low-intensity conflict characterized by one party holding a strong, static defensive position. Consequently, an opportunity for negotiation between combatants is not uncommon, as proximity and fluctuating advantage can encourage diplomacy. A siege occurs when an attacker encounters a city or fortress that cannot be easily taken by a coup de main and refuses to surrender. Sieges involve surrounding the target and blocking the reinforcement or escape of troops or provision of supplies, typically coupled with attempts to reduce the fortifications by means of siege engines, artillery bombardment, mining, or the use of deception or treachery to bypass defences. Failing a military outcome, sieges can often be decided by starvation, thirst or disease, which can afflict either the attacker or defender.*

Source: www.freebase.com/m/06p6g

Again as for the definition of a siege, it is a military blockade of

a city or fortress with the intent of conquering by *attrition* or assault. Now let us consider the meaning of the word “*attrition*” in the dictionary:

1. *A rubbing away or wearing down by friction.*
2. *A gradual diminution in number or strength because of constant stress.*
3. A gradual, natural reduction in membership or personnel, as through retirement resignation, or death.
4. **Repentance for sin motivated by fear of punishment rather than by love of God.**
5. Sorrow for sin arising from fear of damnation, **especially as contrasted** with contrition, which arises purely from love of God

Remember these definitions as we progress, for it is very critical in our understanding of the Ezekiel 4 siege. Also take careful notice as stated earlier that there are four points to consider during a military siege:

1. Sieges involve **surrounding the target and blocking the reinforcement or escape of troops or provision of supplies**
2. Typically coupled with **attempts to reduce the fortifications by means of siege engines, artillery bombardment, mining**
3. The **use of deception** or treachery to bypass defences.
4. Failing a military outcome, sieges can often be decided **by starvation, thirst or disease, which can afflict either the attacker or defender.**

Remember those four points as we go along. And before we

continue any further, let us consider what outside onlookers say about the leadership of the Philadelphia Church of God. Even Ray Hibbard, publisher of *Edmond Life and Leisure*, has taken particular notice of the strength of its leadership:

“The Philadelphia Church of God is strong and has very capable leadership. Its members are confident in their beliefs. They certainly do not need me to defend them but we have a responsibility to let our readers know that they should not fear in any way this church on the northern border of Edmond or its membership. I hope you will attend one of their concerts and enjoy the music. I thank them for their service to our community and respect their religious freedom.” (From the Publisher column about the PCG in the December 11 edition)

Well actually, this *strength* has actually been set up by *That Prophet*, Mr Gerald R. Flurry: “And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about” (v. 2). According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the Hebrew word for “camp” is:

“*machaneh*; an encampment of travelers or troops; hence an army, whether literally of soldiers *or figuratively*:—**army, camp, company, host.**”

While *JFB Commentary* renders the word “*battering-rams*” this way:

“In Ezek. 21:22 the same Hebrew is translated ‘**captains**’”

Whereas in the *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (TSK)*:

“*battering rams*: *or, chief leaders, Ezek. 21:22*”

And with such terminologies like troops, army, soldiers, captains, and chief leaders, it does clearly indicate there is a warfare being involved. So the barrage of advertisements made

by the PCG to counter the *Fox25* report did perfectly fit into the frame. Again as Ray Hibbard noted,

“The Philadelphia Church of God is strong and has very capable leadership.”

Does this sound like a fulfillment of the Ezekiel 4 prophecy like an impregnable fortress so to speak? “And, *behold, I will lay bands upon thee*, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.” (v. 8) As stated in the verse, **“I (God) will lay bands upon thee”**. This was the same situation as what the PCG has experienced during the court case which Mr. Flurry has prophesied in Ezekiel 3:25 in the context of the court case: “*they shall put bands upon thee*, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them.” Let’s read what Mr. Flurry wrote in 2004 after the court case battle against the *Worldwide Church of God*:

“But thou, O son of man, behold, they shall put bands upon thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them” (verse 25). Someone is putting bands upon us, after God gave us this watchman commission. This is specifically referring to what happened in the midst of our court battle. For a time, our message was stopped. We got bound up in court. We couldn’t reach the world with this message! “And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprove: for they are a rebellious house” (verse 26). We weren’t a “reprove” for a while—because without Mr. Armstrong’s literature, we didn’t have anything to reprove with! At one point we were **off** television for several months. All we were able to do was talk and work within the house! Notice: God let this happen. I will make thy tongue cleave, He says. God closed our mouth! God shuts things down sometimes. He has His

reasons—though we don't see them all. Then read the inspiring conclusion: “But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbearth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house” (verse 27). God gave us victory! We received ownership of the copyrights of everything we were seeking. Armed with this arsenal of material, God instructs, Go back to your watchman work to the world! (Pastor General's Report, October 21, 2004, Volume 1, No. 6, p. 1)

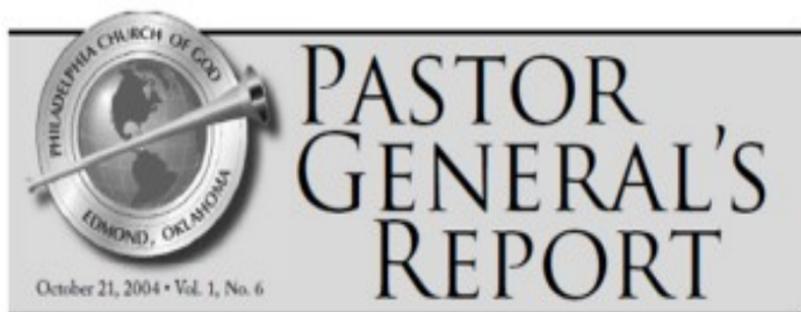
Upon careful consideration, there's a big difference between the two verses: In Ezekiel 3:25, “they (the Laodiceans) shall put bands upon thee.” Notice also that God made Mr. Flurry dumb during that time. (Refer to the *PGR* Oct 21, 2004 for the full account)

While in verse 8, it is “I (God) will lay bands upon thee.” **This time it is GOD HIMSELF who has laid the bands upon Mr. Flurry and He allowed him to put His own Church under siege through the rampart, captains and armies – administrators in God's Church!** This can be easily proven through what has transpired inside the PCG from this prophecy. Reading some excerpts from that same *PGR* under the CHURCH ADMINISTRATION section, will give us an overview of how the Ezekiel 4 siege was set up:

CHANGES TO THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES

by Stephen Flurry

The sentence we removed from our 2003 version is found on page 245 of the older one, where it said, “No prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.” We removed that sentence from the 2003 version, not because we are doing away with



Greetings, ministers and wives!

I want to remind you of some new revelation God gave us last December, for the 14th anniversary of the Philadelphia Church of God.

We are in a wonderful and terrible spiritual war. God has given us a big job in the midst of dangerous times, and He says there will be times when it will be *normal* to be afraid (Ezekiel 2:6). We should *expect* situations that are unnerving. But God still expects us to send a powerful warning to His rebellious people.

Ezekiel 2:7 through Ezekiel 3:3 are specifically talking about the little book, *Malachi's Message*. God wants us to *eat* this message—thoroughly digest it (Ezekiel 2:8). I have recommended in the past that we should be reading *Malachi's Message* about twice a year. God has strong feelings about this: He wants us to **EAT IT UP!** *That message should be sweeter today than it was when we first read it! And it should be MORE BITTER today than when we first read it!* We should be **GROWING** in these godly emotions. That is what it will take to get this job done.

Ezekiel 3:11 shows that we are trying to reach people who are in captivity to the devil. **THAT'S BITTER!** Almost the whole Church of God has been taken captive by the most evil being in the universe! For the first seven years of our work, we tried to reach the Laodiceans, "them of the captivity" (verse 15).

But then, in verses 16-17, God gives a different commission altogether. At the end of that seven years, God says, **I, GOD, have made you a watchman unto the house of Israel—you are to give them warning FROM ME!** This change in commission is discussed in our Ezekiel booklet.

It was seven years into the PCG's existence that we began printing *Mystery of the Ages*. Notice: We didn't even become a watchman work until we had that book to give to the world! For the first seven years, we weren't a watchman to the Church. The Church doesn't need a watchman. But then came *Mystery of the Ages*, and a MAN was given the title of WATCHMAN.

BEING GOD'S WATCHMAN ISN'T ABOUT WORLD NEWS—IT'S ABOUT HEARING THE WORD AT GOD'S MOUTH! We must always put world news in that context. World news is nothing if you don't know what GOD SAYS about it!

That's why *Mystery of the Ages* is so important: It puts everything else in the right context.

God speaks through *revelation*—not world news. But we can put the world news in context. Israel is about to be massacred. Our message is about *why* they must suffer. Our message is about *why* they need to REPENT. That's the truth from God's mouth!

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This work is about *saving life*. Our work is about the mindset of God—saving people, physically and spiritually. If people don't turn to God, they're going to die! And if we fail to warn them—if we don't deliver the message from God's mouth—the victims' blood is on our hands (verse 20).

Now notice: "And the hand of the Lord was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee. Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face. Then the spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, Go, shut thyself within thine house" (verse 22-24). What is this talking about?

"But thou, O son of man, behold, *they shall put hands upon thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them*" (verse 25). Someone is putting hands upon us, after God gave us this watchman commission. This is specifically referring to what happened in the midst of our court battle. For a time, our message was stopped. We got bound up in court. We couldn't reach the world with this message!

"And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house" (verse 26). We weren't a "reprover" for a while—because without Mr. Armstrong's literature, we didn't have anything to reprove with! At one point we were off television for several months. All we were able to do was talk and work within the house! Notice: *GOD LET THIS HAPPEN. I will make thy tongue cleave*, He says. **GOD CLOSED OUR MOUTH!** God shuts things down sometimes. He has His reasons—though we don't see them all.

Then read the inspiring conclusion: "But when I speak with thee, I WILL OPEN THY MOUTH, and thou shalt say unto them, *Thus saith the Lord God; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house*" (verse 27). God gave us VICTORY! We received ownership of the copyrights of everything we were seeking. Armed with this arsenal of material, God instructs, *Go back to your watchman work to the world!*

Mr. Armstrong's literature is a "THUS SAITH THE LORD." It is the word from God's mouth!

The lesson in all this is, if we don't have a message, there is nowhere to go. **IF THERE IS NO MESSAGE, THERE IS NO WATCHMAN!**

Why is the watchman here? To spread God's message! Without a message, he has no job!

Habakkuk backs up this prophecy. In the first chapter, the first four verses talk about our court battle. Verse 5 prophesies about our victory: "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you" (verse 5). Then notice what *immediately* follows on from that: "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingsplaces that are not theirs" (verse 6).

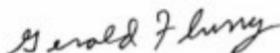
As the PCG is rising, so is the Holy Roman Empire! It has always been our commission to warn about that power. We must get *Mystery of the Ages* out there to people, and warn Israel that the beast power is about to crush them.

Our copyright victory is coupled with the rising beast in this passage for a reason. God is telling us, *You've had a wonderful victory in court. But don't sit on your laurels—the beast is accelerating faster than you can imagine!*

We have a strong message for the nations of Israel and the world. Some people tell me I need to get stronger on TV. I think about this a lot. Did Mr. Armstrong ever get bombastic on TV? I ask you ministers to continually pray that God would give me the wisdom to know how strong I should get. **GOD'S MESSAGE MUST BE DELIVERED!**

But what a wonderful sign of how active God is in His Work. Christ is the Head. No man could orchestrate something like this. This prophecy in Ezekiel is a strong sign of how God guides His marvelous Work!

With love, in Christ's service,



Mr. Armstrong's teachings, but because of what God has added to the Church since Mr. Armstrong died—the revealed truth that there is, in fact, a prophet guiding the Church today who also serves an administrative and executive position within the Church. God did not reveal this to Mr. Armstrong before he died, just as He didn't reveal the specifics about the Laodicean rebellion—for obvious reasons...

Now we could have attempted to write another section to be included in *Mystery of the Ages* that would reflect this new revelation, but we felt it best to preserve the text as closely as possible to the original and simply strike that sentence and then let our other literature, like *That Prophet*, reflect the Church's new teaching on the subject. In fact, the next time we print *Mystery of the Ages*, we will also cut a parenthetical phrase found on page 350—one that we overlooked last year. Again, in reference to the position of prophet, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “of which there are none in God's Church today since the Bible for our time is complete.” Again, there is a prophet leading God's Church today. (ibid., pp. 3-4)

The first step in setting up the Ezekiel 4 siege prophecy is the representation of Jerusalem (verse 1).

If the prophet Ezekiel has to use a brick or a tile to portray Jerusalem, then what would represent Jerusalem in our time? Mr. Armstrong taught us that spiritual Jerusalem pictures God's Church. The Apostle Paul even wrote: “But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all” (Gal 4:26). While according to Mr. Flurry, this city of Jerusalem is also a type of the three modern nations of Israel. Then it just shows that everything that happens in the portrayal of the Ezekiel 4 siege in spiritual Jerusalem shall be the exact same type that will happen

to the modern nations of Israel – America, Britain, and the Middle East Jews.

But to what specific group does Jerusalem refer to? Let us read from Micah 1:

“(W)hat are the high places of Judah? are they not Jerusalem?” (v. 5)

Here is what *Barnes Commentary* wrote regarding this verse:

Are the high places of Judah? are they not Jerusalem? – Jerusalem God had formed to be a center of unity in holiness; the tribes of the Lord were to go up there to the testimony of Israel; there was the unceasing worship of God, the morning and evening sacrifice; the Feasts, the memorials of past miraculous mercies, the foreshadowings of redemption. But there too Satan placed his throne. Ahaz brought thither that most hateful idolatry, the burning children to Moloch in the valley of the son of Hinnom (2 Chr. 28:3). There (2 Chr. 28:24), he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. Thence, he extended the idolatry to all Judah (2 Chr. 28:25). And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the Lord God of his fathers.

We must remember that ***Jerusalem was Judah’s CAPITAL – its HEADQUARTERS.*** According to the above commentary, everything that was done in Jerusalem was just extended to the other cities of Judah – even the idolatry. Again who is the house of Judah in this end time? Here is what Mr. Flurry wrote:

Isaiah 22:20-25 contain an end-time prophecy that God has revealed a great deal about to us – about Eliakim. Verse 21 says the man who fulfills this role “shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.” There is a spiritual and physical

application to these scriptures, but we look mainly at the spiritual today. **The “house of Judah” here is the faithful Church of God. You could say it is “the house of the Jews” WE ARE JEWS – SPIRITUAL JEWS!** And this man is a father to Judah.” (Royal Vision, July-August 2012, p.6)

MR. FLURRY EMPHASIZED THAT THE “HOUSE OF JUDAH” IN SPIRITUAL APPLICATION REFERS TO THE PCG! Mr. Armstrong even wrote about this distinction between the house of Israel and the house of Judah:

Judah retained the city of Jerusalem, its capital, and the territory known as Judea. Israel occupied the territory north of Judea. Samaria became its capital city, and the house of Israel often is called “Samaria” in prophecy. This, too, is a vital “key” to understanding prophecy. “Samaria” never refers to the Jews in prophecy—but always the 10 tribes, the house of Israel. We want to impress, here, that Israel and Judah are not two names for the same nation. They were, and still are, and shall be till the Second Coming of Christ, two separate nations. **The “house of Judah” always means “Jew.” This distinction is vital, if we are to understand prophecy. Because most so-called Bible students are in ignorance of this basic distinction, they are unable to rightly understand prophecy!** (The United States and Britain in Prophecy, pp. 69-70)

So in principle, *to rightly understand prophecy* specifically during this *last end*, whenever we read of the spiritual house of Judah in scriptures concerning prophecy in this end time, we can apply it directly to the PCG who resides in the INNER COURT, whereas, spiritual Israel will have to be the Laodicean groups in the OUTER COURT. (Rev. 11:1-2) This distinction,

according to Mr. Armstrong, is vital if we want to understand prophecy. Now, when we apply Jerusalem spiritually, does this mean that the HEADQUARTERS of the *Philadelphia Church of God* which is in Edmond, Oklahoma is its counterpart in this end time? Again, Mr. Flurry taught us that in spiritual application, the PCG is the spiritual house of Judah, therefore, it is just right to say that the PCG Headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma is the spiritual Jerusalem that is being referred to in the Ezekiel 4:1 prophecy. That being the case, this Ezekiel 4 siege in spiritual Jerusalem is a SIGN that God has given us in verse 3 for the house of Israel (the birthright nations, America and Britain) –to show us that the fulfillment of her physical siege is just around the corner (Ezekiel 5).

The second step as stated in verse 2 is to set up the elements of a siege:

“And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it...”

The word “cast” from *Strong’s* means,

to spill forth *blood*, a libation; ...*also figuratively* to expend life, soul, complaint, money, etc.

As we go deeper into the actual account of the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 4 siege around the world, we can see its fulfillment in this end time that indeed some have spilt blood, some became “molten images” (previously discussed about Habakkuk 2:18) as the word “libation” suggests, just “to spend life, soul, complaint, money, etc.” Now in order to build the fortification structure, the PCG has to make some alterations on what was written on *Mystery of the Ages* regarding Church administration by removing any thought or idea that limits the “administrative, executive or preaching functions” of a prophet in the New Testament Church. Then build on that premise by supporting the new structure through ordination of new ministers to fortify spiritual Jerusalem’s (PCG’s) perimeter around the world. There was even a sermon titled, “PROPHESYING AGAIN Part 4”

given by Mr. Flurry on 2004, in which he discussed a change in the *administration of God's government* during that year. He said that "it's still God's government, but different administration."

"...set the camp also against it, and set battering rams (chief leaders) against it round about."

The final element of that Ezekiel 4 siege set up is then explicitly described in verse 3: "Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and **set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it.** This shall be a sign to the house of Israel." As discussed earlier, the construction of God's house does signify the siege of Jerusalem (i.e., economic in nature); and Mr. Flurry wrote in his *Haggai* booklet that "GOD'S HOUSE IN EDMOND IS A SIGN OF WHEN GOD BEGAN TO SHAKE THE NATIONS!" (p. 12); and that construction is also the fulfillment of the house that was built by the two women who carried the ephah (Zech. 5:9-11); It is also connected to the Ezekiel 24 siege that involves the death of *That Prophet's* wife since they have the same date. (vv. 2, 16). So this is all just one vision, which means, the SIEGE involves the two women that carried the ephah – spiritual Israel (Laodiceans) and spiritual Judah (Philadelphians) inside spiritual Jerusalem even in God's house!

"Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. **This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.**"(Ezek. 4:3)

This Ezekiel 4 siege is to be a SIGN for the house of Israel (for the Laodiceans, spiritually speaking and for the birthright nations – America and Britain)

"Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the

iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: **so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.** And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and **thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah** forty days” (vv.4-6)

One might ask, isn't it that Israel has already been in captivity? Why did the prophet Ezekiel still have to bear their sins? Spiritually speaking, isn't it that spiritual Israel (Laodiceans) has also already been in captivity? So why did the *son of man* (*Mr. Flurry*) have to bear both the sins of the house of Israel (*the Laodiceans*) and the house of Judah (*the Philadelphians*)? Because they BOTH co-exist INSIDE the *Philadelphia Church of God!* (Zech. 5:9-11). This is the reason God Himself has to besiege it (Ezek. 4:8). *Lange's Commentary* adds:

“Jerusalem in a state of siege *represents the covenant-people, as a whole, straitened and oppressed by the powers of this world, as the instruments of God's just displeasure. And the prophet being appointed to bear, during its continuance, the iniquity of the people, with stinted and foul provisions, points in another form to the same visitation of evil only with a more particular respect to the cause from which it was to spring; and the penal character it should wear.*”

What then is the “cause from which the siege was to spring”? Ezekiel 4:4-6 gives us the answer: the iniquity of the house of Israel pictured by the 390 years and the iniquity of the house of Judah pictured by the 40 years. (This subject is explained here) The portrayal of the Ezekiel 4 siege is to be a SIGN to the house

of Israel of the impending physical siege that is to happen to physical Jerusalem – which as we shall see later has recently happened even to America. For emphasis, let us first consider: Before the actual *physical siege* of physical Jerusalem in this end time, there has to happen *siege* of spiritual Jerusalem – inside God’s own Church even the PCG’s Headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma! The construction of God’s house, the *Armstrong Auditorium* is a part of the SIGN of that *spiritual siege*.

“Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city” (Ezek. 4:3)

The symbolic IRON WALL is also a big part of that sign. Mr. Flurry even confirmed in his *Opening Night Message* for the 2013 Feast of Tabernacles:

“WE’RE BUILDING A WALL AROUND THIS CHURCH TO PROTECT US.”

That could very well be the prophesied IRON WALL of Ezekiel 4. But what could that WALL be pertaining to in spiritual terms?

set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city- **Ezekiel, in the person of God, represents the wall of separation between him and the people as one of iron: and the Chaldean investing army. His instrument of separating them from him, as one impossible to burst through.** – JFB Commentary

He was ordered to build little forts against this portraiture of the city, resembling the batteries raised by the besiegers, (Ezek. 4:2). Between the city that was besieged and himself that was the besieger he was to set up an iron pan, as an iron wall (Ezek. 4:3). – Matthew Henry Commentary

A wall – *That it may resemble a wall of iron, for as impregnable as such a wall, shall the*

resolution and patience of the Chaldeans be.

– Wesley Commentary

As we shall see later, we will know exactly what the WALL really symbolizes. *So this wall has to be of an iron strength structure that is impregnable.* We must remember that it was the prophet Ezekiel who has set up the siege, so it is also true that *his type in this end-time*, i.e., *That Prophet*, was the one who has set up the spiritual siege by placing those elements of a siege surrounding spiritual Jerusalem (PCG) – troops, armies, captains ready to destroy *by the sword* those who would rebel *against their own brand of government* (they implement God’s government but they use their own human nature like King Saul)– and *these armies as they are guided by their own carnal human nature* will be as a portraiture of **“the Chaldean investing army. (God’s) instrument of separating them from him, as one impossible to burst through.”** So during that spiritual siege, God’s people around the world would have indeed suffered *injustice, with no compassion and no mercy* from their besiegers – the spiritual Chaldean investing army. And God has allowed all of these things to happen even inside His very own Church – the *Philadelphia Church of God!*

The result of that impenetrable IRON WALL SEPARATION was the “NO CONTACT POLICY” that was implemented to all the Philadelphia Church of God members around the world by the very leaders of God’s own Church portraying the *spiritual Chaldean besiegers*. NOBODY was allowed to *communicate outside* of the PCG perimeter fence: young and old, women and children were to be summarily punished or slaughtered, should they try to reason out and climb that *iron wall* just to reach *That Prophet*. But little do they know that Mr. Flurry was the one who besieged the Church and *God allowed* him to do so. (Ezekiel chapter 4) (Read the December 10, 2005 PGR for the “no contact policy” that was implemented.)



December 10, 2005 • Vol. 2, No. 39

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings, ministers and wives!

I want to clarify the Philadelphia Church of God's policy on contact with disfellowshipped family members. This issue has not been clear among all our ministers and members. We need to become more unified on it.

Around 1985, Joseph Tkach spoke of a couple in the Church who had some family members disfellowshipped, and he told them that they were to sever their relationship with those people and not to fellowship with them. He told Mr. Armstrong about this situation publicly, and Mr. Armstrong agreed with him publicly.

Notice 1 Corinthians 5:9-11: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators [speaking spiritually]; Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you **NOT TO KEEP COMPANY**, if any man that is called a brother [speaking of somebody in the Church] be a fornicator [again, this could be referring not just to physical fornication, but spiritual sins as well] or covetous or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one not to eat."

God is saying that when fornicators, covetous, idolators, railers, drunkards, extortioners and those with spiritual problems have to be put out of the Church, the rest of us should not keep company with them or eat with them. We are not to fellowship or socialize with them. Certainly there might be an emergency in the family where you might be needed to work out the details of a will or something similar; it is all right to deal with them on that level. But we must keep in mind what God has said.

We have had members in the PCG who have been taken out because they violated this plain command.

We are living in the fearsome time the Apostle Peter spoke of in 2 Peter 2:1-3, the time of "false prophets also among the people" and "false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies," when "the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Peter warned that "through covetousness shall they with feigned words *make merchandise of you!*" This is talking about people who had been close friends and even family members! Satan is influencing minds, and he will use any means he can to reach those in the inner court.

In commanding us to avoid the Laodiceans, God is trying to protect His people from predators! Satan is subtle, and he knows how to use people to destroy you. Please review my article "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones—In Love!" which we reprinted in the July-August 2004 issue of *Royal Vision*.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 reads, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye *withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly*, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

Certainly all the Laodicean groups are walking disorderly. They're not walking after the traditions given us by God's government through Mr. Armstrong. We have to look upon people that are in the Laodicean churches as being disfellowshipped. Revelation 11:1-2 says they've been *cut off*; they have been put out of the Church of God. We must not keep company or fellowship with them by going to restaurants and things like that.

In the past, some members have been told that these relationships are okay as

IMPORTANT
Mr. Flurry will be discussing a portion of this **PCG** personal in his sermon this week, so please do not read from it during announcements.

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long as religion is not discussed. That is not what God says. Scripture makes it clear that there should be a complete cut-off.

"And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and *have no company with him*, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (verses 14-15).

I know it is painful to cut off contact with family. But we have to look at the positive side of this: God says that when we don't fellowship with them—if dad and mom or a close relative shuns them—that has a great sting. God wants to drive them back by making them realize they really are on the outside.

Avoiding the Laodiceans also puts a message across to them that they are influenced by the devil, and need to repent.

There are, however, a couple of exceptions to this principle.

In the case of a mate in a Laodicean Church or one who left the RCC, that relationship should be preserved as long as the mate is "pleased to dwell with" (1 Corinthians 7:10-14). But if that mate becomes hostile and stirs up contention, it should be cut off. Wherever there is hostility, you must cut off every tie. Sometimes that hostility can be very subtle.

There is also the case of unbaptized children (or those not validly baptized) who have left the Church. Mr. Armstrong, for example, had a relationship with his daughter—and he believed she never was converted, and the fruits were there to prove that. As long as they were unconverted, we can have a relationship there—but we do have to be awfully careful. We may have to make a judgment about someone's conversion in a few cases, but we don't want to use that as a cop-out either. If your children have been baptized and left, that relationship should be severed. We must obey God's command.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17). In an article titled "If One Is Disfellowshipped, Which Family Comes First?" Mr. Armstrong commented on this verse: "It does not say all except members of your flesh and blood family. It speaks of any who has been a Church member. And it says avoid them. It's a command, and if we try to be more kind, more righteous than God and disobey that command, we convict ourselves of disobedience of God's command" (*Good News*, April 1980). He concluded by discussing Matthew 10, which says we must love our father and mother less than God.

I don't think there would be a difference between a marked person and one who is disfellowshipped.

There may be instances where the Church could get into legal trouble, if parents are preventing children from seeing their Laodicean grandparents or similar situations. There have been instances where grandparents were able to have a strong relationship with grandchildren without interference from Laodicean parents; there was no hostility there and minimal contact.

In individual cases like this, a judgment must be made by the ministry about the propriety of the situation—is almost every case, that would be the regional director.

In the case of members who work for a Laodicean, we should counsel them to try to seek other employment; though, to preserve their livelihood, they would not have to cut that off immediately.

The principle to remember is this: There should not be any contact with converted Church members who have left, and that includes family members other than a mate.

Please remember as well that whenever we deal with people outside the Church—whether non-member mates, or even Laodiceans—we should be as considerate and inoffensive as we possibly can. Even if their attitude is bad, we should be able to let our light shine by being considerate to them. There might be an exception if someone was attacking us, but "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

With love, in Christ's service,

Gerald Flury

Notice that the judgment of who stays in the Church and who is to be put out lies on the shoulders of the ministry. But what if the minister shall *abuse* this God given authority and use rather their own carnal human nature in their judgment, instead of using God's Holy Spirit, what could possibly happen? **The result would be the prophesied Ezekiel 4 siege!** An IRON WALL separation has to be expected. In order to survive this *spiritual siege*, some people in God's Church have chosen to become a part of the RAMPART and show their allegiance to the *besiegers* rather than TURN to God for help – the ministry has become their source of strength (“horn of your altars” – Jer. 17:1, 5). And as for those who were put outside the PCG fence, they found shelter in other WCG and PCG splinter groups and even the website, *Exit Support Network (ESN)* to seek refuge and find some answers, because God has broken the staff of bread in the *Philadelphia Church of God*:

“Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment: That they may want bread and water; and be astonied one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.” (Ezek. 4:16-17)

Notice that God Himself has broken “the staff of bread in Jerusalem.” Although there is still bread and water which are symbolized as God's word and His Holy Spirit during the spiritual siege, yet it is given only BY WEIGHT and BY MEASURE, and this makes the people in God's Church “astonied one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.”

God purposely intended that spiritual siege to take place even inside His very own Church to be able to bring all of His people individually to TURN to Him for true justice, mercy and compassion, and not to any other groups nor to any puny man. Now, looking from God's perspective, has the PCG done

something wrong to deserve such a predicament? Because she remembered not her last end.

*“Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people **which is in Jerusalem**...For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, **that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.**” (Isaiah 28:14, 21)*

Again, the PCG ministry in Edmond, Oklahoma is spiritual Jerusalem – the capital and headquarters of the spiritual Jews. Mr. Gerald Flurry is “a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah” (Isaiah 22:21). Do you think this is not a prophecy for us, the spiritual house of Judah? God is doing a very *strange work*, and He is bringing to pass His very *strange act*. Actually, He is distressing Ariel, the lion and altar of God – the Philadelphia Church of God (Isaiah 29:2).

ADDITIONAL READING

The A.R.K. of God Foundation produces many informative and interesting publications that you may want to request.

Here are a few you might consider:

REVELATION 12: A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

When Christ delivered the Book of Revelation to John, the message is entirely for the seven eras of the Church of God. This is the Key aspect that Bible Scholars and critics failed to grasp! The message is given to the Temple Priests, to Jesus Christ's bride - the Church. Today God has revealed the true meaning behind the symbolism of the woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet found in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation. A prophecy between a struggle of deception and truth in the Church of God.

REVELATION 12: THE GREAT RED DRAGON

The persecution of the third Era of God's Church Pergamos was a precise fulfillment of the prophecy recorded in Revelation 12:4. This was the era where Satan successfully infiltrated the church and introduced false doctrines. Christ called them the Doctrine of Balaam and the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Why did Christ make sure that this prophecy is recorded? Find here an amazing truth and understand the shocking connection of this end time Laodicean condition

CONTACT INFORMATION

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