



THE

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD
AND BRITISH-ISRAEL THEORY

EXPOSED

by John R. Ecob DD
FOR THE HERALD OF HOPE

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Preface

THAT we are living in the last days is evidenced by the number of cults that have arisen, helped a great deal by advances in technology that enables them to broadcast their false teachings to the world. An examination of the major cults will reveal a common pattern and similar characteristics.

Usually a cult begins with a leader who establishes foundational errors and reduces them into a document that is treated as the only right explanation of the Bible by its faithful adherents. Frequently special revelations are claimed. These movements often begin with an eschatological flavour to justify their late appearance within Christendom. For example:

- Joseph Smith founded the Mormon Cult in 1830 and produced the *Book of Mormon* which they consider inspired by God. Mormons are also called, The Latter Day Saints.
- Ellen G. White founded the Seventh Day Adventists in 1844 and produced her book, *The Great Controversy*. The movement began with a Baptist Pastor William Miller, who predicted the return of Christ in 1843 but when Christ did not appear he changed the date to 1844. When Christ did not appear, Miller renounced his teaching but Mrs White took the lead with another explanation of the return of Christ. She taught the “doctrine of the sanctuary” i. e. that Christ entered the sanctuary in heaven in 1844 to cleanse it and examine each persons record to see who was worthy of the first resurrection.
- C. T. Russell was a member of the SDAs and later began the Jehovah’s Witness Movement in the 1870s. He produced the book, *Three Worlds* and the *Harvest of the World* while in the SDAs. He taught the return of Christ in 1874 and this date was later amended to 1914.
- Herbert W. Armstrong joined the Church of God (Seventh Day) which was a splinter group from the SDAs that rejected the teachings of Ellen G White. In 1946 his Radio Church of God was officially incorporated and the World Tomorrow Radio program began in 1953; it was renamed Worldwide Church of God in 1968. The book that has become the basis of Armstrong’s British-Israel Theory was written in 1954 and was entitled, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Copyright of Armstrong’s synopsis of the Bible entitled, *Mystery of the Ages* became the subject of a bitter 6-year court action eventually won by the Philadelphia Church of God which is one of five churches formed after the death of Armstrong.

These five churches continue to propagate the British-Israel Theory and other false doctrines internationally. The Seventh Day Adventists (SDAs) are guilty of sporning two major cults.

Introduction

AS WE approach the end times we can expect that Satan will seek to confuse the message of the Lord's return. Satan knows that his time is running out and just as Jesus warned us, he is spreading many strange teachings that have no sound Biblical basis.

Church history is prophetically described in the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia recorded in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. In the 18th century Christendom emerged out of the **Thyatira era** of Church history (Rev. 2:18) when the Roman Catholic Church ruled supreme. The **Sardis era** (Rev. 3:1) of the Reformation began in 1517 and Rome's power was broken especially in the English-speaking world. The King James Bible (1611) had an enormous global impact.

The Philadelphia era (Rev. 3:7) of Church history began in 1700 followed. During this era the British and Foreign Bible Society(1804) began to publish translations of the scriptures in many languages; missionaries were sent to the four corners of the earth and it was a time of revival when the Lord revealed Himself prophetically as the One *"that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."* He addressed the Church at Philadelphia as follows:

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8).

At this time Britain ruled the seven seas and established colonies around the globe opening doors for English missionaries to take the glorious Gospel of redeeming grace to heathen nations.

Encouraged by such success on the mission fields, the historicist view of the Book of Revelation gained a lot of support and fueled the fervour of many. The belief that the millennial kingdom of Christ would be brought in through the preaching of the Gospel was strong. Missionary conferences were held and hymns were written that emphasized the triumph of the Gospel over heathendom in the belief that it would bring back the King of kings to reign.

To accommodate the historicist interpretation of Revelation expositors spiritualized the Scripture and the **year/day theory** was introduced as men tried to calculate the time of the Lord's return. There was a departure from a literal interpretation of the Word and dates began to be set. Pastor Miller, a Baptist pastor, used the year-day theory and concluded that Christ would come in 1843. When the prophecy failed he changed it to 1844 but when that failed he was honest enough to admit his error. Mrs Ellen G. White claimed fresh revelations

and the Seventh Day Adventist Cult (SDA) was formed. The SDA movement spurned the Jehovah's Witness Organization and also the Worldwide Church of God led by Herbert W. Armstrong which split into five Churches of God after his death on 16 Jan. 1986.

THE BRITISH-ISRAEL THEORY

At the time of his death in 1986, Armstrong claimed to have 725 congregations in 57 countries; he was broadcasting from 382 television stations and 36 radio stations to a weekly worldwide audience of more than 130,000 with contributions coming in from 210,000. He claimed to have 1,200 ministers trained in three Ambassador Colleges. His *Plain Truth* magazine was distributed free all over the world and he claimed it was read by one out of every 583 persons on earth.

If the above claims are correct Herbert W. Armstrong was a master of management and organization and must have convinced a vast number of people of his British-Israel theory. His son, Garner Ted Armstrong was to have taken over after his father's death but the two drifted apart due to differences in doctrine. Garner Ted had doubts about his father's teaching about the "lost ten tribes" and the British Israel Theory. He was excommunicated by his father on two occasions for extra-marital affairs and Garner finally left to start his own Church; Church of God International.

Herbert W. Armstrong was accused of incest by one of his daughters and when in his 80s, his second marriage to a 38-year-old secretary ended in divorce. The splinter groups that emerged from the Worldwide Church of H. W. Armstrong have varying degrees of heresy. At the centre of Armstrong's teaching however is the British-Israel Theory and his book entitled, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* spells out that theory.

One of these churches, the United Church of God, (UCOG) seems to have adopted some evangelical doctrines but still clings to Armstrong's British Israel Theory which impacts on their whole understanding of eschatology. It holds to a millennial kingdom following Christ's return but has the wrong start date for the 70 "weeks" prophecy. As a consequence it has wrongly interpreted the 70th week of Daniel chapter 9:27 which is central to all prophetic teaching.

The fantasy of "the 10 lost tribes" taught by the UCOG maintains that Britain, America, New Zealand and Australia are the 10 lost tribes who will all return to the land of Israel when Christ comes again! In fact the book, *United States and Britain in Prophecy* which is a text book for the British-Israel Theory, seems to be the common thread running through all splinter groups though elements of this theory may have been changed by some of the churches.

The two main features of the British-Israel teaching are:

- 1) That the northern kingdom of Israel, the 10 “lost” tribes, were taken captive by Shalmaneser and Sargon, kings of Assyria, in 721BC and that they migrated in the 7th century BC to north of the Black Sea and became the Sythian nation who then were supposed to migrate across Europe to England and finally became the English people. This is a monumental blunder requiring the fabrication of history and distortion of Scripture.
- 2) That the throne of David never ceased and that after Jerusalem was destroyed in 586BC by Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah was taken to Egypt with two of King Zedekiah’s daughters. He then went to Ireland where one daughter was married to a King in Ireland. Thus they claim that the throne of David never ceased but moved to Scotland and finally to England where the Throne of David became the British throne.
- 3) The Stone of Scone, known as the Coronation Stone, which until 1996 was under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, was supposed to be the stone that Jacob used as a pillow at Bethel when he fled from his brother Esau. The Scots stole this stone on Christmas morning 1950 but it was returned four months later. However the British Government gave it to Scotland in 1996 and it is claimed by the Philadelphia Church of God that the throne of England ceased to be the throne of David from that point.
- 4) The Philadelphia Church of God, one of the Churches of God which won a 6-year court action for possession of the copyright of Armstrong’s book, *The Mystery of the Ages*, claims that another stone has replaced the Stone of Scone and that the Philadelphia Church of God is in possession of that stone and the Throne of David - until Christ returns!

Some of the British-Israel theorists appear to have dropped items 2, 3 & 4 but still hold to item 1. The UCOG sees no distinction between Israel and the Church and therefore keeps the sabbath and the feasts that God gave to Israel. For the purpose of this study we will confine our comments to the United Church of God which produces the TV program entitled, *Beyond Today and The World Tomorrow*. It has a magazine by the same name.

Once any Bible teacher confuses Israel and the Church their entire eschatology (Bible prophecy) goes haywire. The Church is “*NEITHER Jew NOR Greek... but all one in Christ Jesus*” (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). The Church is a Gentile Bride of Christ. It was the “*mystery hid in God in ages past*” and “*not made known*” until Pentecost. At Pentecost God gave the temporary gift of **Gentile languages** signifying to Israel that He was turning to the Gentiles and in fulfilment of Jesus’ prophecy, Israel was scattered and blinded among the Gentiles in AD70

(Luke 19:41-44; 21:24; Rom. 11:7-15). Israel is back in the land in unbelief today but it will take the Russian/Islamic invasion during the Tribulation to bring her to repentance. That cannot happen until the “*fulness of the Gentiles be come in*” at the Rapture (Rom. 11:25-26).

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

The Bible states that God gave to David an everlasting throne with the promise that he would always have one of his descendants available to rule over Israel. In 2 Samuel 7:12-16 we read how Nathan the prophet was sent to David with details of the Davidic Covenant in which God promised:

*“When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and **I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever...**my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And **thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.**”*

Sadly the throne of David degenerated over the centuries until God sent Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon on three occasions to destroy Jerusalem. The throne ceased after Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon. However Amos and Ezekiel both prophesied that the throne of David will be restored when Christ returns and not before (Ezek. 21:27; Amos 9:11 and Acts 15:14-18).

The British-Israel theorists have failed to understand that:-

- 1) The Throne of David ceased in 586BC as Ezekiel prophesied in Ezek. 21:27.
- 2) That Israel as a nation has been put aside since Pentecost.
- 3) That the Church did not exist before Pentecost.
- 4) That the Throne of David will only be restored when Christ returns after Israel turns to Christ in the Tribulation i.e. in Israel’s “70th week” (Dan. 9:27; Luke 1:32).
- 5) That the Church must be Raptured before Israel’s “70th week”.

By confusing Israel and the Church, the British-Israelites have made it impossible for themselves to “*rightly divide the word of truth*” (2Tim. 2:15). They must therefore go outside the Bible to Irish folklore and fake history in order to establish their case. Some even claim special revelation from God to bolster their claims. This is adding to the prophecies of the Word of God and incurs the judgment of God (Rev. 22:18).

Chapter 1 - The “Lost Ten Tribes”

SO WHAT is wrong with the British-Israel Theory and why is it such a dangerous doctrine? What does the British-Israel Theory teach?

The British-Israel theorists claim that the British people are really Israelites from the northern kingdom of Israel which separated from the tribes of Judah and Simeon after the reign of Solomon and that they were ALL taken captive by Assyrian kings in the 8th century BC. These ten tribes are supposed to have escaped from their Assyrian masters and trekked to north of the Black Sea and changed their identity to Scythian in the 7th century BC. They are supposed to have then migrated across Europe to Britain and the throne of England became the throne of David.

TIGLATHPILESER III - ABOUT 740BC

Firstly let us examine the claim that ALL the ten tribes were taken captive to Assyria. There were several captivities. The historical records in the Bible state that toward the end of Pekah's reign in Samaria (758 to 738BC), Tiglathpileser III, King of Assyria, took *“Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria”* (2 Kings 15:29).

We are not told in Scripture how many prisoners Tiglathpileser took to Assyria. We are simply told that Tiglathpileser *“carried them captive to Assyria”* (2 Kings 15:29). This captivity involved only the three most northern tribes of Israel: Dan, Naphtali and the half tribe of Manasseh east of the Jordan River. Seven and a half of the 10 tribes escaped at this time. We have no record of the number of captives Tiglathpileser took from the three northern areas of Gilead, Galilee and Naphtali during the reign of Pekah.

SHALMANESER AND SARGON - 724 TO 721BC

Shalmaneser and Sargon, kings of Assyria, later besieged Samaria between 724 and 721BC (2 Kings 18:9). Shalmaneser died during the siege and Sargon captured the city. Sargon left records in Nineveh that indicated he took only 27,290 prisoners back to Assyria from Samaria in 721BC and the Bible states that these were scattered widely to the east of Assyria in *“Halab and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes”* (2 Kings 17:6). The number of captives taken from Samaria in 721BC would have been only a fraction of the total population of the 10 northern tribes!

There was another Assyrian invasion during the reign of Sargon but this was in the coastal regions. Sargon sent Tartan (commander-in-chief) all the way south as far as the Philistine city of Ashdod and captured it (Isa. 20:1). We don't know what other cities Tartan captured or whether they were cities of Israel, Judah or only the Philistines.

SENNACHERIB - ABOUT 712BC

Then about 712BC Sennacherib, the son of Sargon, passed through the northern tribes to Judah. He took *“all the fenced cities of Judah”* except Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:13). At Jerusalem the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 of his soldiers in one night. How many captives were taken during this invasion? The Bible does not say but the Taylor Prism in the British Museum states that he took 200,150 at this time.

If all of the 200,150 captives came from Judah then this was about seven times the number that Sargon took from Samaria in 721BC. If the captives from Judah were also scattered among the cities of the Medes, among the captives from the northern kingdom, it is absurd to refer to those taken to Assyria as “the TEN lost tribes”. The truth is that the captives taken to Assyria were from ALL the 12 tribes of Israel and there could even have been a **majority** from the two tribes in the land of Judah.

After Sennacherib lost 185,000 men from his army in 711BC, he returned from Jerusalem to Assyria and raised another army to put down a revolt by the Babylonians. We know that Shebna the Treasurer at Jerusalem was sent to Lachish by Hezekiah about this time with the tribute money demanded by Sennacherib, but Sennacherib took the money and refused to allow Shebna to return to Jerusalem. Instead he took him captive and sent him to Assyria in fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy that he would be tossed *“like a ball into a large country”* and *“there thou shalt die”* (See Isa. 22:18).

We must also realize that many Israelites from the 10 tribes fled before the Assyrian army and these would have settled back in the land after God judged Sennacherib’s army. There was a *“remnant that escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria”* mentioned in 2 Chron. 30:6. Thus the Bible makes it clear that **not all** of the northern 10 tribes were taken captive and also that many from **all 12 tribes** were taken. The northern kingdom ceased to exist as a **kingdom** after 721BC but those taken captive to Assyria are incorrectly identified as “the lost ten tribes”.

SAMARIA BECAME A MIXED RACE

In the days of Esarhaddon (681-669BC), the son of Sennacherib, we read that the Assyrians brought people to Samaria from

“Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel” (2 Kings 17:24; Ezra 4:2).

So there were still *“cities of Samaria”* remaining and these people intermarried with the people from Babylon and became a mixed race known as Samaritans.

Ezra also records that more people from other nations were brought to the “*cities of Samaria*” (Ezra 4:10) in the days of Asnappar. Asnappar is the Aramean name for Ashurbanipal, the son of Esarhaddon who reigned 669 to 626BC.

When one reads the writings of the British-Israel theorists one would think that ALL the Israelites from the northern kingdom had been removed to Assyria and were lost in the cities of the Medes but this was not the case. A remnant of ALL the ten tribes continued in the north and in the two tribes of the southern kingdom of Judah until 586BC when Nebuchadnezzar finally destroyed Jerusalem and took its inhabitants to Babylon.

A REMNANT OF THE 10 TRIBES STILL THERE IN HEZEKIAH'S DAY

About 15 years after Sennacherib lost his army at Jerusalem, Hezekiah was reigning in Jerusalem and the Bible states that Hezekiah “*sent letters to all Israel and Judah*” inviting them to the Passover at Jerusalem (2 Chron. 30:1,10-11,18). These were the remnant that “*escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria*”(2 Chron. 30:6). After the Passover was finished,

“all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities”(2 Chron. 31:1).

It is obvious that many Israelites from the ten tribes remained in the land and not ALL from the 10 tribes were removed by the Assyrians in 721BC nor when Sennacherib invaded Judah in 712BC!

MANY JEWS FROM THE 10 TRIBES MIGRATED TO JUDAH

Also we know that much earlier, in the days of Asa King of Judah (about 972 to 931BC), many of the Jews from the northern kingdom moved into Judah to escape the idolatry of the “golden calves” set up by Jeroboam in the northern kingdom (2 Chron. 15:9). No longer could it be said that the southern kingdom of Judah was only from the tribe of Judah and Simeon. The southern kingdom became representative of ALL 12 tribes and for the British-Israel theorists to contend that the British people are the 10 tribes and the Jews in Israel are only the tribe of Judah is sheer nonsense.

In the New Testament, James addressed his epistle to the “*twelve tribes scattered abroad*” (James 1:1). In the first century AD, James did not believe that the 10 tribes were lost!

MANY FROM THE 10 TRIBES RETURNED AFTER THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

Nebuchadnezzar took Jews captive from Jerusalem in 606, 597, and 586BC and the Babylonian captivity lasted 70 years until the decree of Cyrus in 536BC which permitted Jews to return and rebuild the Temple. It was Jeremiah who prophesied that the Babylonian captivity would last for 70 years (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10) after which they would be encouraged to return to the land of Israel.

We know that **some** from the northern kingdom of Israel were taken by the Assyrians to “*the cities of the Medes*” in 721BC and that **most** of the southern kingdom were taken captive to Babylon in 606, 597 and 586BC. We also know that many Jews returned from Babylon after 70 years. But Jeremiah also prophesied the destruction of Babylon (Jer. chs. 50 and 51). Isaiah prophesied that the man that God would use to destroy Babylon was Cyrus (Isa. 45:1) whose mother was the daughter of Astyages, King of the Medes - his father was a Persian prince. Cyrus joined with Harpagus, the General of the Median army, to overthrow Astyages and become king of the both the Medes and Persians. Thus the captives from the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom of Judah were released by Cyrus when he made his decree in 536BC. The decree of Cyrus released **all the captive Jews** in the land of Media and Babylon. Cyrus stated:

*“Who is there among you of **all his people**? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in **any place** where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him”* (Ezra1:3-4).

The decree of Cyrus was not just for the captives from Judah but from “*all His people... in any place where he sojourneth*”. When the captives returned we read that

*“the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and **ALL ISRAEL** in their cities”* (Ezra 2:70).

So the Jews that returned after the Babylonian captivity were from “**ALL ISRAEL**” and not just the kingdom of Judah! After all, Cyrus reigned over the cities of the Medes where the 10 tribes were scattered as well as over Babylon where the nation of Judah was taken.

JEREMIAH PROPHESED THAT THE 12 TRIBES WOULD RETURN

When Jeremiah prophesied the return of the Jews from Babylon after the 70 years captivity he said that **Israel and Judah** would return!

*“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the **children of Israel shall come,***

they AND the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God” (Jer. 50:4).

If, as the United Church suggests, all the 10 tribes migrated north to Russia and became the Scythian nation in the 7th century, how could they return to Israel to rebuild the Temple in 536BC? Jeremiah prophesied that the northern kingdom of Israel would be pardoned and return at the same time as the southern kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah also wrote:

*“And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on **Carmel** and **Bashan**, and his soul shall be satisfied upon **mount Ephraim and Gilead**. In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve**” (Jer. 50:19-20. See also Jer. 50:33).*

Carmel, Bashan, Mount Ephraim and Gilead are locations in the northern kingdom on both sides of the Jordan River! It is territory allocated to the 10 tribes by God!

Cyrus made the decree for the Jews to return in 536BC and he was king of **both Media and Persia** - the 10 tribes were in his kingdom i. e. Media. He was also king over Babylon where the kingdom of Judah was taken by the Babylonians! God said He would bring the nation of Israel back in the days of Cyrus so those who teach that the nation of Israel migrated to England contradict the plain statements of scripture.

FABRICATED HISTORY

The British -Israel theory raises many questions. How did the “lost ten tribes” manage to get to England? Well it’s easy if you fabricate history. The fairy tale told by British-Israel theorist is that after the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive and scattered throughout the land of the Medes, somehow, they were able to rise up and organize themselves into one nation again without being slaughtered by their ruthless Assyrian masters. Somehow they were able to communicate with all the other slaves without getting caught. Remember that in ancient times runaway slaves were treated very harshly and could be put to death if caught.

Actually, if the entire ten tribes had been taken to Media as the British- Israel theorists suggest, there would have had to have been at least a million people trekking northward through the Caucasus to the land on the north side of the Black Sea where they changed their identity, learned a different language and became the Scythian people spread out across all the land north of the Black Sea and into Central Asia where the Scythians dwelt. All this was supposed to have happened within 100 years of the capture of Samaria while the Assyrian Empire still held power. Nineveh was not destroyed until 612BC.

THE SCYTHIANS DESCENDED FROM JAPHETH - NOT SHEM

If it were true that the Scythians were the 10 tribes of Israel they must therefore be descended from Shem and from Abraham. But unfortunately for the British-Israel theorists, we know that the Scythians existed north of the Black Sea long before the 10 tribes were taken captive by Assyria and furthermore, we know that their pedigree is not from Abraham and Shem but from Magog and Japheth. Josephus the Jewish historian of the 1st century states:

“Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians” (*Antiquities*, Book I, ch. 6).

Magog was the second son of Japheth but the Israelites all descended from Shem so obviously the theory that the lost ten tribes were the Scythians is pure fantasy.

Furthermore, Bill Cooper B. A. (Hons.), an English historian, has researched more than 50 manuscripts in the British Museum that record the genealogies of the kings of England. His research is documented in his book entitled, *After the Flood*. The genealogies reproduced in this book indicate that the ancient Kings of England **traced their genealogies back to Japheth** and not to Shem so they could not possibly be descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel. The entire concept that the English people descended from Abraham and Shem and that the throne of England is the throne of David is therefore ludicrous and the British-Israel theory is a hoax.

THE THRONE OF DAVID MUST COME FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

The throne of David could not be occupied by anyone who was not a descendant of David and from the tribe of Judah. Jacob prophesied:

*“The sceptre shall not depart from **Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be”* (Gen. 49:10).

To suggest that the throne of David became the throne of England and that the sovereign on the throne of England would come from the “lost 10 tribes” contradicts this clear statement that the throne of David would never depart from the **tribe of Judah**. For this reason they must invent the story that Zedekiah’s daughters were taken to Ireland. This one simple observation destroys the entire British-Israel Theory! It is dealt with in detail in chapter 3.

HOW OLD IS THE SCYTHIAN NATION?

The whole concept that the Scythians did not exist before the century following 721BC when the 10 tribes were taken captive to Media is a nonsense.

The Assyrian Empire came to an end shortly after 612BC when Nineveh was

destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Medes but the *United Church of God* claims that some time between 721BC and 612BC the “lost ten tribes”, now called Scythians, “suddenly burst on the pages of history” in the 7th century BC pouring down through the Caucasus to attack the Assyrians!

So not only did the 10 tribes have to escape their Assyrian captors, they had to organize themselves as a nation, trek more than 1,000 kilometers through hostile territory to north of the Black Sea, learn a new language, and become a military threat to the region and pour down from the north into the Caucasus region - all within 100 years!

THE TESTIMONY OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Herodotus the Greek historian who lived about 450BC, states in his *Histories*, that the Scythians claimed their first king, Targitaos, reigned in “a period of a thousand years” before Darius the Persian Emperor which would mean Scythians existed about 1,500BC or about the same time as the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. They certainly did not become a nation after 721BC!

Homer, the Greek poet, described the Scythians as “the mare-milkers” because they made cheese from mares’ milk. Herodotus tells us that Homer lived 400 years before his time so that would place Homer and the Scythians at approximately 850BC. This is 130 years before the ten tribes were taken captive to Media!

We know from secular history that around 676BC, only 45 years after the ten tribes were taken captive to Media, the Scythians attacked Assyria and according to the records of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, were defeated by the Assyrians.

We also know that about 640BC the Scythians invaded Syria. They occupied Bethshan 14 miles south of Galilee and renamed it Scythopolis. At this time they even took their army through Palestine and attacked Egypt but the king of Egypt came to meet them and made peace.

Herodotus tells us that, during the reign of the Median king Astyages who reigned over the Medes approximately 580-540BC, the Scythians again invaded Asia (Turkey today). They occupied all the Median territory in Asia west of the Halys River for 28 years until Astyages drove them north again.

The Persian King, Darius the Great (522-486BC) invaded the land of the Scythians who withdrew and did not confront the Persian army.

All of these references to the Scythians in history show that they existed as a distinct race of people located north of the Black Sea and in Central Asia long before 721BC when the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive to Media

and became the “lost 10 tribes”. The British-Israel theorists therefore have fabricated history. Not only did the 10 tribes never become Scythians but as Bill Cooper has shown, the English kings were descended from Japheth and had not one drop of Jewish blood in their veins.

We can confidently say that **only part** of the 10 tribes were taken captive to Assyria and scattered throughout Media and that these were never amazingly released to march 1,400 km north through hostile territory and settle on the coast of the Black Sea to establish themselves as a powerful nation with an army sufficient to challenge the mighty Assyrian army - all within about 70 years! It simply never happened!

FURTHER EVIDENCE THE 10 TRIBES COULD NOT BECOME SCYTHIANS

Herbert W. Armstrong was a chief proponent of the British-Israel Theory and the *United Church of God* and other churches that formed after Armstrong's *Worldwide Church of God* broke up, have continued to propagate the same error. Today the *United Church of God* markets itself on television as *Beyond Today* and *The World Tomorrow* and would like us to think it is an Evangelical Denomination but it is far from evangelical. Its interpretation of scripture is heretical and its prophetic interpretation of Scripture is based on a massive lie that the British peoples are the sons of Abraham when historical evidence shows conclusively that the kings of England traced their genealogies back to Japheth the son of Noah. Abraham and every Jew came from Shem.

The *United Church of God* publication entitled, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* quotes *Encyclopedia Britannica* as follows:

“The Scythians were a people who during the 8th-7th centuries BC moved from Central Asia to southern Russia.”

The Bible makes it clear that Samaria was not captured until 721BC, late in the 8th century, and that many were taken to Media where they were scattered among the cities of the Medes.

There were only 21 years left in the 8th century for them to gain their freedom from the Assyrians and mobilize to migrate about 1,400 km north to southern Russia. During this time they would have had to be reorganized as a nation and all speak a different language.

The *United Church of God* unashamedly admits that

“Assyrian documents place their (Scythian) appearance between the Black Sea and the Caspian in the time of King Sargon (722-705BC). “

But the Bible says that in the days of Sargon the northern kingdom of Israel

was taken to Media! The Israelites could not be in two different places at the same time!!

It might be argued that the *Encylopedias* got their dates wrong by one hundred years or more but Biblical evidence shows otherwise.

WHEN WAS THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS WRITTEN?

The second Book of Kings gives an account of the history of the kings of Israel and Judah from the death of King Ahab who was buried in Samaria about 909BC to the 37th year of the Babylonian captivity. The author of the second Book of Kings states that those of the northern ten tribes who were taken to Assyria in 721BC were still in Assyria when the second Book of Kings was written. He states:

*“The children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam...until the Lord removed Israel (721BC) out of His sight...so was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria **UNTO THIS DAY**”* (2 Kings 17:22-24).

Also that author states that he wrote the second Book of Kings after the Assyrians had brought people from Babylon to live in Samaria.

*“THE KING OF ASSYRIA BROUGHT MEN FROM BABYLON...AND PLACED THEM IN THE CITIES OF SAMARIA...they feared the Lord and served their own gods... **UNTO THIS DAY** they do after the former manners”* (2 Kings 17:33-34).

These quotations indicate that the children of Israel, who had been taken to Assyria in 721BC **were still in Assyria** when the second book of Kings was written and also that it was after Babylonians had been brought to Samaria to repopulate the land. We only need to determine when the second Book of Kings was written to ascertain if the ten tribes migrated to north of the Black Sea in the 7th century.

Jewish tradition holds that the second book of Kings was written **during the Babylonian captivity**. The Babylonian captivity began in 606BC and concluded in 536BC. Who wrote 2 Kings is of no consequence. Internal evidence in the second Book of Kings indicates that the recorded events had long since passed and 9 times the writer uses the expression, “*unto this day*” indicating that he was not recording events as they happened but at a much **later date**. “*This day*” was obviously much later than the events described. The writer of 2 Kings was clearly writing **AFTER** Babylonians had been brought into Samaria and **after** they had been there for some considerable time.

The Bible also tells us **when** the Babylonians were brought to Samaria. In Ezra 4:2 we read that Babylonians were brought to Samaria in the days of

Esarhaddon, King of Assyria who reigned 680 to 669BC and therefore the second Book of Kings must have written at least after 670BC for he wrote that *“these nations feared the Lord, and served their graven images ...**UNTO THIS DAY**”* (2 Kings 17:41).

The second Book of Kings concludes with the statement that Jehoiachin was released from prison in the 37th year of Jehoiachin’s captivity which was 560BC therefore the second Book of Kings must have been written **after this event ie. 560BC**. All these quotations support the Jewish tradition that the two books of Kings were written for the Jews during the 70-year captivity in Babylon, some time after 560BC. At that time, in the 6th century, the writer of the Book of Second Kings says that **the 10 tribes were STILL in Assyria!!** They had not migrated anywhere! The claim that these tribes migrated north in the 7th and 8th centuries is therefore a fantasy. It could not be the 8th century because they were taken captive late in the 8th century and the 7th century saw them still captives in Assyria. They were still in Assyria in the 6th century when Judah was taken captive to Babylon!

CONCLUSION

The Jewish historian, Josephus, identifies the Scythians as the Magogites descended from Japheth whereas the *United Church of God* claims the Scythians were the “lost ten tribes” of Israel descended from Shem. Ancient Assyrian documents indicate that the Scythian nation existed before Israel was taken captive to Assyria. Scythians therefore could not be the “lost ten tribes”.

The Encyclopedias indicate that the Scythians existed north of the Black Sea long before 721BC and they came south into Israel in the 7th century even renaming Bethshan as Scythopolis.

The Bible indicates that the remnants of the 10 tribes of Israel were still in Assyria in the 6th century during the Babylonian captivity when the 2nd Book of Kings was written. The 70 years of Babylonian captivity was from 606BC to 536BC and the claim that Israelites had become Scythians 100 years before this is therefore absurd.

Jacob prophesied that the Throne of David would not depart from **Judah** and the British Israel Theory claims Jeremiah to Zedekiah’s daughters to Ireland. We will deal with this issue in chapter 4.

With such conclusive evidence both from Scripture and secular history every proponent of the British-Israel Theory should repent and renounce their theory and go back to a literal interpretation of Scripture.

Chapter 2 - Were all the Ten Tribes ever lost?

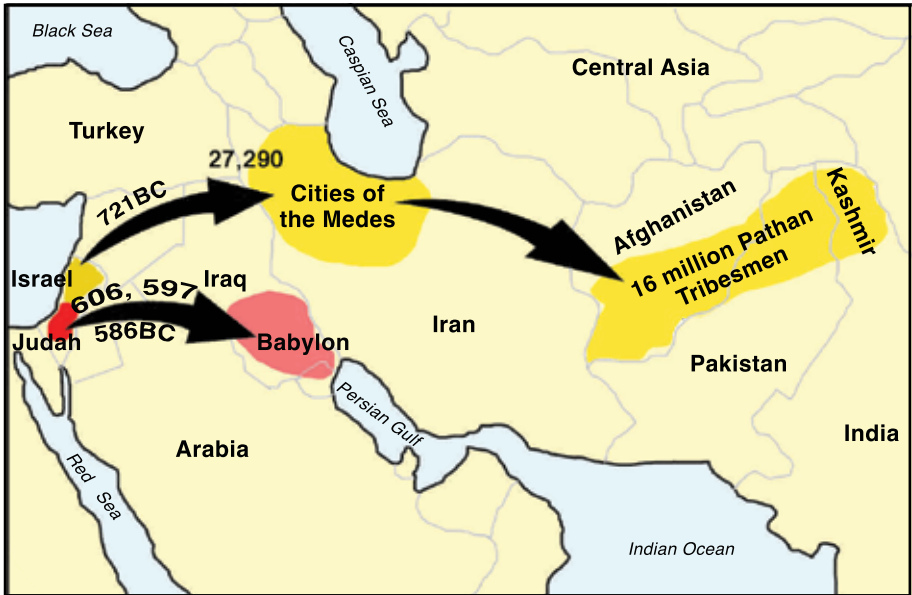
THERE have been numerous claims by people in China, Burma, Afghanistan and elsewhere asserting that they are Israel's lost 10 tribes. If there is any truth in these claims then it can only be explained by the possibility that **not all the 10 tribes returned in 536BC** as prophesied by Jeremiah and that these remnants have continued in Central Asia until today. *The Guardian*, Sunday 17 Jan. 2010 states:

“Israel is to fund a rare genetic study to determine whether there is a link between the lost tribes of Israel and the Pashtuns of Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.

Historical and anecdotal evidence strongly suggests a connection, but definitive scientific proof has never been found. Some leading Israeli anthropologists believe that, of all the many groups in the world who claim a connection to the 10 lost tribes, the Pashtuns, or Pathans, have the most compelling case. Paradoxically it is from the Pashtuns that the ultra-conservative Islamic Taliban movement in Afghanistan emerged. Pashtuns themselves sometimes talk of their Israelite connection, but show few signs of sympathy with, or any wish to migrate to, the modern Israeli state.

“Of all the groups, there is more convincing evidence about the Pathans than anybody else, but the Pathans are the ones who would reject Israel most ferociously. That is the sweet irony,” said Shalva Weil, an anthropologist and senior researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The Pashtuns have a proud oral history that talks of descending from the Israelites. Their tribal groupings have similar names, including Yusufzai, which means sons of Joseph; and Afridi, thought by some to come from Ephraim. Some customs and practices are said to be similar to Jewish traditions: lighting candles on the sabbath, refraining from eating certain foods, using a canopy during a wedding ceremony and some similarities in garments. Among them those who are certain Navras Aafreedi, an academic at Lucknow University, himself a Pashtun from the Afridi tribe. His family trace their roots back to Pathans from the Khyber Agency of what is today north-west Pakistan, but he believes they stretch back further to the tribe of Ephraim. Aafreedi said.

“Pathans, or Pashtuns, are the only people in the world whose probable descent from the lost tribes of Israel finds mention in a number of texts from the 10th century to the present day, written by Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars alike, both religious as well as secularists.”



The foregoing report is further confirmation that the northern kingdom of Israel has absolutely no connection with the Scythians or the English people, and if these claims are true, when the Lord returns the remnant of these Pathan tribes in Central Asia that survive the Tribulation will be brought back to the land as true believers in Jesus Christ. The Bible states:

*“There shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, **from Assyria**; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt”* (Isa. 11:16).

One day, every Jew on the face of the earth; from both the house of Judah and the house of Israel, will believe in Jesus Christ and be forgiven. In that future day, not even one tribe will be lost and every Jew will return to the land and never again forsake the Lord. Jeremiah wrote:

*“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the **house of Israel, and with the house of Judah** ... this shall be the covenant that I will make with **the house of Israel**; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them**, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”* (Jer. 31:31-34).

Ezekiel wrote:

*“Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have **left none of them any more there**” (Ezek. 39:28).*

ISRAEL NO LONGER TWO NATIONS

The Bible clearly states that ALL the tribes of Israel will be returned to the land in the last days and there will no longer be two kingdoms. God told Ezekiel to take two sticks (Ezek. 37:15-17) and to write the name of Ephraim (the 10 tribes of Israel) on one and Judah on the other. Ezekiel asked,

“Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?”

God said:

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand” (Ezek. 37:19).

*“And I will make them **one nation** in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and **one king** shall be king to them all: and they shall be **no more two nations**, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all” (Ezek. 37:22).*

Nothing could be clearer. There is a day coming when all Israel will be restored to the land that God gave to Abraham and his seed as an everlasting possession and there will no longer be two nations.

In 1948 Israel became a nation again and is partially possessing the land. Not all the land has yet been possessed and it will not be fully possessed until the nation repents and Christ returns. Then the entire land will be divided among the 12 tribes exactly as Ezekiel described it in Ezekiel chapter 48. A new Temple will be built to the specifications provided in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 42 where the glory of God will be seen as described in Ezekiel chapter 43:2-7.

The United Church of God claims that in the last days, America, England, Australia and New Zealand will discover that they are really Israelites descended from Abraham and will all return to the land God gave to Abraham. The whole concept is ludicrous. Who will occupy the lands of these nations after they have returned? Even allowing for a massive reduction in world population during the Tribulation, how will the land of Israel support them?

The fact is that the British races descended from Japheth and not from Shem and only Shem's descendants through Abraham will occupy the promised land in the millennial kingdom.

Chapter 3 - The Throne of David

BEFORE Jacob died in the land of Egypt he blessed his sons beginning with Reuben his “firstborn”. When he came to his third son, Judah, he said: *“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be”* (Gen. 49:10).

This prophecy plainly states that the throne of Israel which became known as the throne of David, could only come from the tribe of Judah. This fact alone creates an insurmountable problem for the British-Israel theorists because they maintain that the throne of England has been the Throne of David. Yet they claim the British people are from the northern 10 tribes of Israel. We know from Scripture that the throne of David never came from the break-away northern kingdom but if Britain and America are the lost 10 tribes this would require the throne of David to come from the 10 tribes. Messiah must come from Judah and rule over all 12 tribes in the last days. To overcome this difficulty the UCOG concoct a theory that Zedekiah’s daughters went to Ireland and married an Irish king. We deal with this theory in the next chapter.

DAVID’S THRONE AN EVERLASTING THRONE

In the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7) that God made with David, God promised David a throne that would last for ever. He sent the prophet Nathan to David to tell him that his descendants would continue to occupy the throne of Israel and that David would never lack for someone of his seed to sit on his throne. God said:

*“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; ... And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom ... and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever ... And **thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever** before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever”* (2 Sam 7:10-16).

The throne of David would be established for ever but if David’s sons who sat on his throne commit iniquity, they would be punished:

“If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee” (2Sam. 7:14-15).

The throne of David was secured for ever but if the kings who sat on David’s

throne were evil they would be judged by the Gentile nations and that is what happened in the time of Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. The throne ceased and was suspended (Ezek. 21:25-27) until the worthy Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ comes to reign.

Jesus spoke of this time of chastening as *"the times of the Gentiles"* when Jerusalem would be *"trodden down of the Gentiles"* (Luke 21:24). After Zedekiah's departure the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans and Arabs occupied Jerusalem and Arabs will continue to do so until the throne of David is again established and Christ is King of kings over the whole earth.

In like manner the nation of Israel has been chosen in an everlasting covenant with Almighty God to be His chosen race for ever but because they have sinned and even rejected the Son of God, God has put them aside; scattered them among the Gentile nations; chastened them by the nations and blinded them. However when they repent Israel will be restored and again be the head of the nations under God.

When Christ returns in glory at the end of the Tribulation, an angel will go forth to gather His *"elect"* nation, Israel (Matt. 24:31), and then all the Gentile nations will be gathered before the *"throne of His glory"* to determine who will *"inherit the kingdom"* (Matt. 25:31-34). This *"throne of His glory"* is the throne of David that Christ will occupy during the millennial kingdom and that kingdom will continue into the New Heaven and New Earth for all eternity.

During the millennial kingdom, David will again be a Prince over his people. He was raised in resurrection power with all the Old Testament saints when Christ rose (Matt. 27:52-53) but he will again appear over Israel (Ezek. 34:23; 37:24; Jer. 30:9; Amos 9:11) in the kingdom just as the raptured 12 apostles will sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28).

THE THRONE OF DAVID CEASED IN 586BC

The northern kingdom of Israel ceased in 721BC when Sargon took the Jews captive to Media. The kingdom of Judah, where the throne of David was located, ceased after three invasions by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon and Zedekiah was the last king to sit on the throne in Jerusalem.

The prophet Ezekiel was taken to Babylon in the **second** captivity and made it clear that the throne **would cease and not be revived** until Christ came. He wrote:

"And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel (Zedekiah), whose day is come, when

*iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will **overturn, overturn, overturn, it:** and it shall be no more, **UNTIL he come** whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezek. 21:25-27).*

When the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she would become the mother of our Lord he indicated who it was that had the right to sit on David’s throne: it was Jesus.

*“Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David:** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:31-33).*

God promised David that there would always be someone of his seed available to sit on his throne and therefore his family line would continue. Both Joseph and Mary were descendants in the family line of David. Joseph’s genealogy is given in Matthew chapter 1 where Jesus Christ is said to be, *“the son of David, the son of Abraham”* (Matt. 1:1).

Joseph was only the step-father and legal father of Jesus. His family line is traced through Solomon (Matt. 1:6) the son of David whereas Mary was in the family line of David through another of his sons, Nathan (Luke 3:31). The two genealogical lines ran in parallel for 1,000 years and finally merged with Mary and Joseph.

The throne of David therefore **ceased** and was “no more” after Zedekiah and awaits the second advent of Christ when the throne will be raised up and Jesus Christ will sit on David’s throne. Three times the throne was overturned and finally ceased. Ezekiel made this clear:

*“I will **overturn, overturn, overturn, it (the throne):** and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it Him” (Ezek. 21:25-27).*

Nothing could be clearer. The “*profane wicked prince*” of Israel was Zedekiah, the last king to sit on the throne of David. Three times God overturned the throne. King Jehoiakim was slain; his son Jehoiachin surrendered 3 months later and was taken to Babylon. Finally, Zedekiah was captured by the Babylonians; his sons were slain and Zedekiah’s eyes were put out. None of his sons survived to take the throne and his two daughters were taken to Egypt (Jer. 43:6-7) never to return to Jerusalem.

The UCOG maintains that the throne never ceased.

AMOS SPOKE OF A DAY WHEN THE THRONE OF DAVID WOULD BE FALLEN

Amos prophesied in the reigns of Uzziah king of Judah and Jeroboam II King of Israel; between 822 and 795BC. During this time there were 13 years when there was no king on the throne of David - between Amaziah and Uzziah.

Uzziah was only 3 years old when the throne became vacant and 16 when he was crowned. The throne of David was still operating no doubt in the care of the priests as it was in the time when Athaliah reigned and when Jehoiada the priest hid the baby Joash until he was seven years old.

Amos prophesied of a future time when the *"tabernacle of David"* would be *"fallen down"* and that God would *"raise up his ruins"*, and *"build it again as it was in the days of old"* (Amos 9:11). He goes on to say that this restoration of the throne of David would occur when Israel would experience unspeakable blessing and *"no more be pulled up out of their land"*. It was therefore future.

The apostle James quoted this prophecy nearly 850 years later and indicated it would occur AFTER God *"did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name"* (Acts 15:14). He was referring to the ingathering of Gentiles in the Church which began at Pentecost and he pointed out that the tabernacle of David (the throne of David) which was broken down in his day would be raised up again *"after"* Christ returned and established His kingdom in which the *"residue of men might seek after the Lord"* (Acts 15:16-17).

It is perfectly clear from these scriptures that the throne of David was broken down and **ceased to exist from 586BC**. But David's throne is for ever so it will continue **after the 7-year Tribulation** and will be restored **after Christ returns**.

The British-Israel theorists have based their entire system on the premise that the throne of David has never ceased to exist, that it was found for centuries in the throne of England but now exists only in the *United Church of God!!* They can't understand plain English for God said that He would *"overturn"* the throne of David three times and that it would be *"no more"* UNTIL Christ came to sit upon it. The throne was overturned three times between 606 and 586BC and just as assuredly that throne will be NO MORE until Christ comes to sit on David's throne.

Chapter 4 - Zedekiah's Daughters

BRITISH-ISRAELITES are masters at inventing history. We have already seen how they invented the dispersion of the 10 tribes into southern Russia to become Sythians letting their imagination run riot with fanciful stories of the Sythians trekking across Europe and crossing the English Channel to populate England with Jewish blood in spite of the evidence that the Sythians existed as a nation of people long before the 10 tribes were ever taken captive to Media. But their new kingdom in the British Isles lacked a throne. It might be a nation but it lacked a descendant from the line of David.

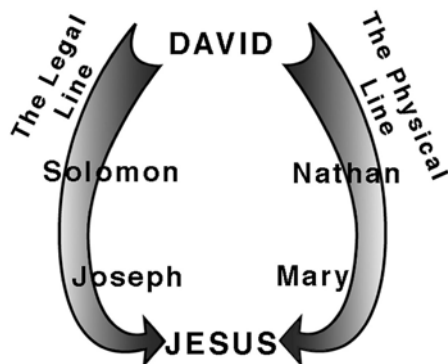
None of the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel were sons of David so if the throne of England needed to become the throne of David, they had to look to the southern kingdom of Judah to find a descendant of David to fill the bill. The last king to sit on David's throne was Zedekiah but he had no surviving sons for Nebuchadnezzar slew them all before he took his knife and cut out Zedekiah's eyes.

So how could these British-Israel theorists connect the throne of David with the 10 tribes? Easy. Just fabricate more fake history. Just imagine that Zedekiah's daughters **must have** found their way to Ireland and married an Irish king and thus established the throne of David in Ireland! The only problem is they picked the wrong son of David! Zedekiah was not in the line of Christ. The royal line continued through Zedekiah's nephew Jehoiachin who was taken to Babylon and released from prison 37 years later.

The line of David down to Christ is given in the New Testament by Matthew and Luke. Matthew traces the royal line from David to Joseph the legal father of Jesus and Luke traces the royal line from David to Mary the mother of Jesus and neither has Zedekiah or his daughters in their line!

Having failed to believe the plain statement of Scripture that the throne of David ceased in 586BC, and that it would be no more until Christ came to reign, they try to trace the throne of David to the present day. If it never ceased, then it must have existed somewhere else in the world because it certainly did not exist in Jerusalem. After all, Jesus said that Jerusalem would continue to be trodden down of the Gentiles *"until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"* (Luke 21:24). The times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar.

Ezekiel clearly prophesied that the throne would be overturned three times and it was. Ezekiel also stated that the throne would cease and ***"be no more" UNTIL "He come whose right it is"***. If words mean anything then the throne of David would **cease** after Zedekiah and be vacant until Christ came to reign. But that's



not how the British Israelites interpret scripture. They say the throne NEVER ceased and that Jeremiah took the two daughters of King Zedekiah from Egypt all the way to Ireland, presumably on one of the ships of Tarshish, and married one of the daughters to a king in Ireland.

The New Testament plainly states that Christ was in the line of David through David's sons Nathan and

Solomon and Solomon's line **went through Jeconiah** the son of Jehoiakim - NOT through Zedekiah. All of Zedekiah's sons were put to death by Nebuchadnezzar and Zedekiah spent the rest of his life in prison blinded by Nebuchadnezzar's knife.

Does the Bible say Jeremiah went to Ireland? Certainly not. Does it say Zedekiah's daughters went to Ireland? Certainly not! Does Josephus the Jewish historian say that Zedekiah's daughters were taken to Ireland? Not a word! Zedekiah's daughters must have been children at the time because he was only 32 years old. Josephus states of Nebuzaradan, the General of the Babylonian army that he

*"took captive the people that were in Mispah, with their wives and children; among whom were **the daughters of king Zedekiah**, whom Nebuzaradan, the general of the army of Babylon, had left with Gedaliah" (Antiquities, Book 10, ch. 9).*

In Jeremiah chapter 43:7 to 44:30 we have Jeremiah's message to the Jews that went down to Egypt and he prophesied that **they would all perish in the land of Egypt**. God had determined to send Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt and before he got there, Pharaoh-hophra would be rendered powerless to resist as Ezekiel had foretold (Ezek. 30:22).

Concerning the Jews that went down to Egypt, Jeremiah prophesied:

"They shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt" (Jer. 44:12). "None of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt ... shall escape or remain" (Jer. 44:14)... "Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah..." (Jer. 44:28).

The British-Israel theorists want us to believe that Jeremiah and Zedekiah's daughters escaped from Egypt to Ireland but the Word that God gave Jeremiah indicated that ALL those who went down to Egypt would perish except a "small number" who would return to the land of Judah - not to Ireland.

If Jeremiah went to Ireland it would have been a contradiction of his own prophecy! God said:

*“And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and **they shall all be consumed**, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach ... **none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain**, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape (to Judah)”* (Jer. 44:12-14).

Josephus states that in the 23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar’s “reign which was the fifth year after the destruction of Jerusalem” (579BC) Nebuchadnezzar invaded Celesyria (north of Israel) and “when he had possessed himself of it, he made war against the Ammonites and Moabites”. Then when he had “brought all those nations under subjection he fell upon Egypt.”

We know that Nebuchadnezzar finally desolated the land of Egypt in the days of Pharaoh-hophra in 570BC at a time when Egypt was having a civil war. God broke Pharaoh-hophra’s arm and “*caused the sword to fall out of his hand*” (Ezek. 30:22) with a civil war led by Amasis his general. Hophra was slain and Egypt was in such confusion it was there for Nebuchadnezzar to take. According to Ezekiel, the land of Egypt would be utterly desolated for 40 years (Ezek. 29:12). God gave the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar for the service he rendered in destroying the coastal city of Tyre (Ezek. 29:19) and the Jews who went to Egypt were either slain or taken to Babylon as captives.

Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion of Egypt occupied the **12 months** before he was struck with madness (Dan. 4:29) and was driven out to live like a wild beast for 7 years. Daniel records Nebuchadnezzar’s proud boasting **when he returned** from Egypt having conquered Assyria in 612BC and now the only other great power, Egypt in 569BC; he was exalted with his own greatness and failed to give God the glory. It was God who broke Pharaoh’s arm and weakened Egypt so that Nebuchadnezzar could be so triumphant. It then took 7 years for Nebuchadnezzar to learn that the most High ruled in the kingdoms of men and “*none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What does Thou?*” (Dan. 4:35).

The theory that Jeremiah took the throne of David to Ireland is fake history.

Chapter 5 - The Coronation Stone

BRITISH-ISRAEL theorists have preached a great deal about the Throne of David and tried to prove that the Throne of England was in fact, the Throne of David; that when the throne of David ceased in Jerusalem it continued, first in Ireland, then in Scotland and finally in England.

The *United Church of God* seems to have gone quiet on this element of their version of British-Israel Theory and majored on trying to prove that the 10 tribes became the Sythians and migrated across Europe to England. However the *Philadelphia Church of God* has made much of the Throne of David and the Coronation Stone known as the Stone of Scone or the *Stone of Destiny*. Gerald Flurry recently wrote a book entitled, *The New Throne of David* in which he makes the Stone of Scone central to his version of the British-Israel theory and imagines that kings who sat on the throne of David were all crowned on this stone. The whole concept of a Coronation Stone on which kings were crowned to perpetuate the Throne of David is based on Celtic folklore and has no Biblical basis whatsoever. Perhaps this is why the *United Church of God* appears to have dropped the subject from their book, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

JACOB'S PILLOW

The theory of the Coronation Stone goes as follows:

When Jacob fled from his brother Esau he spent the first night at Bethel where he had a stone as his pillow and dreamed that the angels of God ascended and descended on a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. The Lord appeared to him and reassured him that he would be kept and would safely return to possess the land on which he slept and that his seed would bless "*all the families of the earth*" (Gen. 28:14).

That was the **one and only time** the Bible mentions the stone that Jacob used as a pillow. We are given no description of the stone. We are not told that Jacob took the stone with him and we are not told any king would ever be crowned on it. Everything the British-Israelists say about this stone is a fabrication of their own imagination contrary to Scripture.

The theory is void of any Biblical or historical support but goes as follows: The kings of Judah were supposedly crowned on this stone and when the Babylonians burned Jerusalem, the last king, Zedekiah, was blinded and taken to prison in Babylon but Jeremiah was forcibly taken by renegade Jews down to Egypt, along with Zedekiah's two young daughters **and**



Jacob's 'pillow' stone. Then after some time, Jeremiah must have booked a passage for himself and the two young girls and took the stone to Ireland.

We know that the ships of Tarshish traded between Mediterranean ports and Cornwall on the south-west tip of England bringing minerals from the mines that have operated there for the last 2,500 years. It is possible these ships also called on Ireland.

In the course of time, so the story goes, one of Zedekiah's daughters was married to a king in Ireland, presumably on the stone that Jeremiah brought, and this was seen as perpetuating the throne of David. Some time later the stone was moved to Scotland

and used in the crowning of Scottish kings until Elizabeth I, without issue in 1603, was succeeded by King James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England (or Great Britain). James was crowned on the Stone of Scone, and patriotic Scots said that the legend had been fulfilled, for a Scotsman then ruled where the Stone of Scone was. The stone was shifted to the coronation chair in Westminster Cathedral where subsequent kings and Queens have been crowned.

Then on Christmas morning 1950 some Scotsmen broke into Westminster Cathedral and managed to remove the stone. Eventually it was located in Scotland where it had remained hidden for several months. The Queen finally gave the stone to the Scots and it remains in their care. The *Philadelphia Church of God* claims this was the worst decision Queen Elizabeth II ever made and that at this point the throne of England ceased to be the Throne of David!

In support of this claim Gerald Flurry quotes Ezek. 21:25-27:

*"And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end. Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Remove the diadem, and take off the crown:** this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. **I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.**"*

This prophecy of Ezekiel has nothing to do with Queen Elizabeth II nor of the Coronation Stone. It is addressed to King Zedekiah, the wicked

profane prince of Israel. God overturned the throne of David three times by **three Babylonian invasions** removing three kings, Johoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. Jerusalem and the Temple of God were destroyed and Gentile occupation of Jerusalem, which Jesus called "*the Times of the Gentiles*", commenced. It has nothing to do with the Coronation Stone or any stone. The Bible says the throne will be "**NO MORE**" until Christ comes, "*whose right it is*" and God "*will give it Him*". It did cease in 586BC but The *Philadelphia United Church* insists that the throne has continued! So they have to find another stone and the death of Herbert W Armstrong gave the opportunity.

ARMSTRONG'S PRAYER STONE BECOMES THE NEW THRONE OF DAVID

When Herbert W Armstrong began to preach in 1933 he was staying with the Fisher family on their farm in the State of Oregon, USA. At the rear of the farm was a fair-sized hill where Armstrong ran for exercise and it was while running over this hill that he noticed a rock about 14 inches high in a secluded spot so he fell to his knees before this rock to pray. He states in his biography, "I'm sure that I drank in much energy, spiritual strength and inspiration at that prayer rock. " It became a daily pilgrimage to visit this rock during his stay at the Fisher's farm.

This is strange behaviour indeed. Why would anybody want to kneel before an object to pray? Catholics kneel before images and pagans have sacred places where they pray and burn incense but Christians don't do such things. The story becomes even stranger for after the Coronation Stone had been given to the Scotts, Gerald Flurry concluded that the Throne of David no longer resided in the British Royal Family and he began to look for another rock to replace the Coronation Stone.

In April 2002 Mr Flurry was taken to the Fisher's Farm to search for the Armstrong prayer stone and when he discovered it he said that it was the "most inspiring rock I've ever seen, second only to the Stone of Scone (Coronation Stone). "

How could a piece of rock in a paddock be inspiring? This is very very strange behaviour. Mr Flurry said,

"I think it is supremely precious to God and the Philadelphia Church of God. I believe God gave it to us because we honour Mr Armstrong and believe in what he did. "

It is always a danger sign when people need a tangible object in order to communicate with God. It is the essence of idolatry. The Roman Catholic

uses the same reasoning when bowing before the image of Mary, Jesus or of one of the “saints”. The child of God needs no tangible sign to pray to his Heavenly Father.

This piece of rock from a paddock on Fishers’ farm, in August 2002, became a replacement for the Stone of Scone given back to the Scotts and Mr Flurry finally states:

“Mr Armstrong’s prayer rock has replaced the “stone of destiny”!

So what started out as a stone for Jacob to lay his head on at night has been replaced by a bit of bush rock from a farm in Oregon that signifies the Throne of David and this is supposed to have been “revealed” to Mr Flurry by Divine revelation. There is no Biblical or historical evidence to support the entire hypothesis - it is simply Celtic folklore masquerading as Divine revelation.

THE NEW THRONE OF DAVID

Gerald Flurry, in his book entitled *The New Throne of David*, has the audacity to claim that now the Armstrong Prayer Rock is in the possession of the *Philadelphia Church of God*, and that God has placed the throne of David in the *Philadelphia Church of God*! Of course it is only a ‘temporary’ measure until the return of Christ when He will sit on the throne of David and reign over the earth. Such a claim bears all the marks of a cult claiming exclusive possession of the right to be accepted by God.

The fact is that the Bible clearly states that the throne of David **does not exist today** and has **not existed since Zedekiah** who was the last king on the throne of David.

The throne of David will be restored when the nation of Israel comes to repentance in the first half of the Tribulation (Ezek. 39:22-29) and Christ will sit on “*the throne of His glory*” immediately after He returns in glory and power (Matt. 25:31). Only Christ has the right to sit on that throne to judge the nations after His return. Ezekiel plainly stated that the throne of David “*shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him*” (Ezek. 21:25-27). It cannot exist in Britain or in the *Philadelphia Church of God*. It can only be in Israel when Israel repents of her rejection of Messiah. No King or Queen of Britain can occupy the throne of David and certainly no cult leader going by the name of the *Philadelphia Church of God*!

Amos foretold a future day when Israel would be “*sifted among the nations*” and the sinners would perish. But “*in that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen...and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it again as*

in the days of old..." When this occurs the land of Israel will be wonderfully blessed and be so abundant that *"the plowman shall overtake the reaper"* and *"they shall build the waste places"* (Amos 9:10-14).

James quoted this prophecy in Acts chapter 15. He made it clear that the raising up of the tabernacle of David cannot occur until after Christ's return.

First, God will *"take out of the Gentiles a people for His name."* That's what God has been doing since the day of Pentecost. It is the Gentile Church (Acts 15:14).

Second, Christ will return to a repentant Israel and *"build again the tabernacle of David"* (Acts 15:16). Then Christ will rule from David's throne at Jerusalem.

Third, *"the residue of men...and all the Gentiles"* will *"seek the Lord"*. That is the millennial kingdom (Acts 15:17) when the whole world will be greatly blessed.

The restoration of the throne of David cannot occur until **after the Church age** i. e. after the Rapture; after Israel turns to the Lord in the Tribulation and only then will the Kingdom be established. David was the King of Israel - not the Church. The Church is the Bride of Christ and He is the heavenly Bridegroom (John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2).

The Church did not exist before Pentecost; it had been *"kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest...made known to all nations"* (Rom. 16:25-26). The Church has only existed in the time since Israel was blinded (Rom. 11:8); put aside and dispersed among the Gentiles. The Bible plainly states that believers in this Church age are *"NEITHER Jew, NOR Greek (Gentile)...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Gal. 3:28). The throne of David has nothing to do with the Church!

THE THRONE OF GOD AND CHRIST'S FIRST COMING

Before Jesus was even conceived of the Holy Ghost Gabriel told Mary:

"Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

When Jesus presented Himself as **King to the nation of Israel** on Palm Sunday the people acclaimed Him as the Son of David (Matt. 21:15) but the nation rejected Him, the throne of David, and the Kingdom. The high

priests exclaimed, "*We have no king but Caesar!*" Israel was scattered among the nations and blinded until the "*fulness of the Gentiles*" should come into the Church (Rom. 11:25-26). The Church will be raptured and only then "*all Israel shall be saved*" and the throne of David raised up in the kingdom of Christ.

It is only AFTER the Rapture of the Church that the Tribulation will begin and 144,000 Jewish men will turn to Christ to preach "*the Gospel of the Kingdom*" (Matt. 24:14) in all the world, declaring that the King is about to return to reign on the earth! This will happen in the first half of the 7-year Tribulation. The entire nation will cry out to God in repentance when the Russian/Islamic invasion takes place in the first half of the Tribulation (Ezek. 39:22-29).

When human testimony is silenced by the Antichrist and the 144,000 witnesses are around the throne in heaven at **the mid-point** of the 7 years, an angel will fly through the heavens announcing the "*everlasting Gospel... fear God... the hour of His judgment is come*" (Rev. 14:6-7).

When Jesus came the first time He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and He also told the disciples to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Before Jesus came, John the Baptist preached the Gospel of the Kingdom but the kingdom was not established at Christ's first coming. Jesus said to Pilate:

*"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but NOW is my kingdom not from hence.** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...**" (John 18:36-37).*

The fact is that the throne of David ceased in 586BC and did not exist when Jesus came. It will not exist again "*until He come whose right it is*" (Ezek. 21:27).

The future blessing of mankind is contingent upon the Nation of Israel seeking the Lord. It is only in Abraham's seed that all families of the earth can be blessed (Gen. 22:18). The British-Israel theory confuses who Israel is. They call Gentile British, Ephraim and Gentile Americans are called Manasseh. No wonder the *United Church of God* cannot rightly divide the word of Truth!

Be not deceived!

Chapter 6 - Other Errors of The United Church of God (UCOG)

THUS far we have seen that the United Church of God is in gross error regarding the “lost ten tribes” of the northern kingdom of Israel. They have fabricated history to support their view that the ten tribes became the Scythian race and that it later became the Anglo-Saxon races. Their theory that the throne of Britain became the Throne of David is based on folk-lore and wild speculation misapplying scriptures relating to Israel and applying them to Britain and America. But that is not the only error concealed behind their “evangelical” profession. A closer examination will reveal other serious deficiencies.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD OPERATES UNDER THE OLD COVENANT

As already stated, Herbert W Armstrong’s Worldwide Church of God was initially influenced by the Seventh Day Adventist Cult and this influence has continued into the United Church of God since the death of Mr Armstrong. The United Church of God is **a seventh-day, sabbath-keeping church**. Not only do they keep the seventh day as a legal obligation as do the Seventh Day Adventists, but they also keep all the other sabbaths or feasts throughout the yearly Jewish Calendar which applied under the Old Covenant with Israel.

There are seven feasts that God gave to Israel. Three of these feasts lasted seven days and all males were required to go up to Jerusalem to observe them. They were: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles and these coincided with the harvests.

It is true that the early Christians were mostly Jews but early in the Church’s history the majority of Christians came from the ranks of Gentile nations and this brought about a radical change.

On his missionary journeys Paul preached in the Jewish synagogues first because that was where he found his own countrymen, and also where he found the Gentiles who had joined them as Jewish proselytes. By the end of the Acts of the Apostles Paul declared:

*“Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that **the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it**” (Acts 28:25-28).*

In Old Testament times the nation of Israel was the repository of truth. All of the Gentile nations had their national gods located in pagan temples. Jehovah was the God of Israel - the only true and living God who created all things whose presence was in the Temple at Jerusalem. So when Gentiles were converted they became worshippers of the one and only Living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: the God of Israel. These Gentiles left their nation and lived in Israel where they could freely worship the Lord God and were called "*strangers in Israel*". They numbered 153,600 in the time of Solomon (2 Chron. 2:17).

Converted Gentiles were fully accepted within Israel under the Old Covenant and apart from the laws of inheritance, were judged equally with Israelites in all matters. Rahab the harlot from Jericho and Ruth the Moabitess both believed and married Israelites - they came into the lineage of King David and eventually into the lineage of Christ. Gentile believers living in other nations would go up to Jerusalem for the three feasts of the Lord. The Ethiopian Eunuch was a Jewish proselyte and on the Day of Pentecost proselytes from 15 countries are mentioned (Acts 2:8-11).

THE SABBATH WAS GIVEN TO ISRAEL

In addition to the annual feasts, the ten commandments included a command to keep the weekly sabbath but it was **specifically for Israel**.

The Bible states:

*"The children of Israel shall keep the sabbath...It is a sign **between Me and the children of Israel for ever...**"* (Exod. 31:16-17).

Likewise the feasts of the Lord were for Israel and were imbedded in their annual calendar, relating to their seasons and harvests. Gentiles living in the southern hemisphere could not keep these feasts which are only related to the northern hemisphere - to the harvesting of winter and summer crops in the 1st, 3rd, and 7th months of the Jewish calendar.

When anyone fails to distinguish between Israel under the Old Covenant and the Church under the New Covenant they have no choice but to apply what was given to Israel to the Church and that is exactly what the United Church of God has done. Israel is not the Church of Jesus Christ. It never has been and never will be.

Jesus came the first time to Israel (John 1:11) but Israel rejected her King and so God put the nation aside; He blinded the Jews, (Rom. 11:7) and scattered them among the nations (Luke 21:24) where they have been for nearly 2,000 years. Israel will continue under the heel of Gentile nations until the "*times of the Gentiles be fulfilled*" i. e. when Antichrist, the last Gentile to rule in Jerusalem is destroyed at the coming of the Lord.

THE TRUE CHURCH OPERATES UNDER THE NEW COVENANT

For the last 2,000 years God has been gathering believers from the Gentile nations (Acts 15:14) and the Church which is the Bride of Christ, is “*espoused*” (engaged) to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2) in preparation for the marriage of the Lamb which will take place in heaven after the resurrection of the “*dead in Christ*” (1Thess. 4:16). The Rapture of the living believers who also are “*in Christ*”, will occur at the same time for they are “*caught up together*”. At the Rapture, the Bride of Christ is caught up to heaven for the marriage of the Lamb and seven years later, at the second coming of Christ, He will “*return from the wedding*” (Luke 12:36) for the “*marriage supper of the Lamb*” on earth (Rev. 19:9).

The Church is NOT Israel and Israel is NOT the Church. All the laws and covenants of the Old Testament apply to Israel but the Church is “*blessed with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (Eph. 1:3). All the earthly regulations, feasts, possessions etc etc apply to God’s earthly people; Israel. Jerusalem and the Temple were sacred places to every Israelite but the Christians “*have no continuing city, but we seek one to come*” (Heb. 13:14).

Only after the Church has been removed from the earth at the Rapture will Israel again become God’s witness on earth. Israel will rebuild the Temple, recommence the feasts and sacrifices, and possess the land promised to Abraham and his seed for ever. But Israel must also pass through seven years of “*great tribulation*” which Jeremiah called, “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” (Jer. 30:7) during which time the whole nation that survives will seek the Lord and await Messiah’s return to reign for 1,000 years.

So the Church is not Israel and this is where the United Church of God has erred. It has not distinguished between Jew and Gentile in the Church age since Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost the Apostles spoke in Gentile languages to signify that the nation of Israel was being put aside and that God was going to call out “*a people for His name*” from all nations (Acts 15:14).

Jesus and the disciples preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to Israel (Matt. 10:5-7) but the Apostles preached the Gospel of Christ to “*the Jew first and also to the Greek (Gentile)*” (Rom. 1:16).

The Day of Pentecost was a Jewish feast but it was on the 1st day of the week i. e. Sunday, or “*the morrow after the (weekly) sabbath*” (Lev. 23:15-16). **That means that the Church began on a Sunday!**

The Church of Jesus Christ could not exist in the Old Testament because it was a “*mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God*” (Eph. 3:9). The Church was “*the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began*” (Rom. 16:25) - which in

*"other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That **the Gentiles should be fellowheirs**, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel"*(Eph. 3:5-6).

THE EARLY CHURCH KEPT THE LORD'S DAY - NOT THE SABBATH

The writings of the early Church Fathers indicate that the early Christians worshipped on the 1st day of the week and called it "**the Lord's Day**" to commemorate Christ's resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week. The Church at Troas was accustomed to hold communion ("*break bread*") on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and the Corinthian Church brought their offerings on the "*first day of the week*" (1Cor. 16:2). John was "*in the Spirit*" on "*the Lord's day*" when he was given the message of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:10). The "*Lord's Day*" was Sunday.

Historical records from the 2nd and 3rd centuries emphatically declare that the Jews kept the sabbath but Christians kept the 1st day of the week in memory of the resurrection of Christ. The sabbath was commanded to Israel but the Lord's day was not commanded however the Lord's day was universally practiced by Christians. To deny this would indicate either ignorance of the writings of the Church Fathers or blatant dishonesty.

When the Roman Empire adopted Christianity in the 4th century it adopted the day of the week which the Christians had universally been keeping for nearly 300 years.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY ABOUT THE SABBATH

Paul was a Jew and he kept a Jewish feast at Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit expressly forbade him (Acts 21:4). He took a Jewish oath and shaved his head and ended up in prison for years. It is possible he later wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews to give clear teaching on the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in the Church age. He certainly made it plain in his Epistle to the Hebrews that the offerings and sabbaths were only **shadows** that had passed with the coming of Messiah. To the Colossians he wrote:

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath ("days" is not in the original Greek text): Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Col. 2:16-17).

To the Galatian Church that had been influenced by Judaizers who wanted to bring them back under the Old Covenant, Paul wrote:

"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10-11).

And to the Roman Church Paul wrote:

“One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it” (Rom. 14:5-6).

When **Israel** turns back to the Lord after the Church has been raptured, she will again hold the feasts and sabbaths of the Lord but in this Church age Christians are not to keep the feasts and sabbaths.

So the Church is not Israel. It is *“neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile)”* but *“all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). The United Church of God therefore has failed utterly to understand the dispensations and as a consequence has confused teaching regarding the sabbath and the Lord’s return. Without a clear understanding of the dispensations and of the separate roles of Israel and the Church, it becomes impossible to accurately interpret Bible prophecy as we shall see in the next chapter.

TITHING

The *United Church of God* teaches tithing for all its members. This is a convenient way to ensure control of the Church’s budget. Herbert W Armstrong claimed to have 725 congregations in his church and if all members paid 10% of their income he was assured of a massive cash flow that enabled him to support his 3 colleges, 382 TV broadcasts and distribute his free Plain Truth magazine globally. Armstrong is not alone in teaching tithing. Many churches have adopted tithing to finance construction of large facilities and lavish life styles. So is tithing scriptural?

Firstly the early Christians did not build large church buildings and had no need of large construction and maintenance budgets. Tithing was never commanded in the New Testament. Schaff’s Church History states:

“The apostles and their successors down to the third century, preached in the streets, the markets...and in the homes of their converts” (Vol. 1, pages 381-382).

New Testament teaching on giving is clearly spelt out in 2 Corinthians chs. 8 and 9 and it is freewill giving from a *“willing mind”*, *“by equality”*, *“not that other men be eased, and ye burdened”*.

Tithes and offerings were paid by the nation of Israel. Tithes were compulsory; offerings were freewill. Tithes were the national **taxation** paid to support widows, the fatherless and the priests (Deut. 26:12). God has appointed governments to take care of social security. The *“powers that be are ordained of God”* (Rom. 13:1) to pay for infrastructure and other services. There is not one command in the New Testament for the Church to pay the tithe! Again, the United Church of God has failed to distinguish between Israel and the Church.

THE RESURRECTIONS

The Bible teaches that there are two resurrections; “*the resurrection of life*” and “*the resurrection of damnation*” (John 5:29). Man has an immortal soul and all will receive a resurrection body that will exist eternally either in the presence of God or in the lake of fire. The resurrection to life for the saved occurs in four stages:

- It began with the resurrection of Christ and all the deceased Old Testament saints who rose with Him as described in Matthew ch. 27:52-53.
- The Church Age saints, both deceased and living, will be given resurrection bodies at the Rapture of all “*in Christ*” as described in 1Thess 4:13-18, 1Cor. 15:51-55.
- The Tribulation Martyrs will be raised at the coming of the Lord (Rev. 20:4) and
- the Millennial saints will be raptured and raised at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:5).

The resurrection to damnation for the lost occurs in two stages:

- All who receive the mark of the Beast during the Tribulation will be given resurrection bodies and cast into the lake of fire at the Lord’s return (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:45).
- The rest of the unsaved whose souls are in hades will be raised to stand before the Great White Throne and cast into the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:15).

The United Church of God teaching on the resurrections is very strange and has no Scriptural basis. Their view is stated as follows:

“That at the return of Jesus Christ a resurrection to spirit life will take place for all who have been God’s faithful servants. We believe that after Jesus Christ has ruled on earth for 1,000 years there will be a resurrection to physical life of the vast majority of all people who have ever lived. We believe that, after these people have had an opportunity to live a physical life if they become converted they, too, will receive eternal life. We also believe that those who reject God’s offer of salvation will reap eternal death.”

In other words they teach two kinds of resurrection; a “spiritual” before the millennial kingdom for those who have been “faithful servants” and a “physical” resurrection 1,000 years later for “the vast majority of all people”. Those raised “physically” have a second chance to be saved!

The Bible teaches that all resurrections, whether saved or unsaved, are physical. The physical bodies will be changed or raised and Jesus said that those resurrected are as the angels of God and “*neither marry nor are given in*

marriage” (Matt. 22:30). In Luke 16:25 we read of a rich man in hades who had his opportunity “*in thy lifetime*”. This wretched man had not been resurrected but knew that he would never get a second chance.

If all the “faithful servants” have a resurrection body at the second advent, **Who will inhabit the earth in the 1,000 year kingdom** of Christ where children will be born and people die? Resurrected people don’t marry or die!

The *United Church of God*’s claim that the **vast majority** get a 2nd chance to repent after a “physical” resurrection at the end of the millennium is the *United Church of God*’s attempt to explain the eternal destiny of those who lived **before** Herbert W. Armstrong incorporated his World Wide Church of God. How else can they explain the destiny of all who have been saved for the past 2,000 years?

Furthermore they fail to teach the Biblical truth of eternal torment for the lost as described in Rev. 14:11-12 and Mark 9:43-48. Scripture does not teach eternal **annihilation but eternal torment**. Man was created in the likeness of God and has an eternal soul that cannot cease to exist or be annihilated any more than God can cease to exist. There will be a resurrection to damnation at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ when the earth is finally destroyed by fire. Then, “*death (the bodies) and hades (the unsaved souls) will deliver up the dead that are in them*” to stand before the “*great white throne*” (Rev. 20:11-15).

Nobody will be given a second chance to repent for John saw that “*death (the bodies) and hades (the souls) was cast into the lake of fire*”. The purpose of the judgment before the great white throne is not to determine **whether** a person goes to heaven or the lake of fire but to determine **the degree of punishment** earned by lost souls. Destinies are determined in this life before we die and there are no second chances.

Hades is God’s Remand Centre where unsaved souls go after death to await the Judge’s determination of the severity of eternal torment. Jesus said that some will be beaten with “*many stripes*” and some who will be beaten with “*few stripes*” (Luke 12:47-48). False prophets will receive greater judgment than those they have deceived. The Bible makes it very clear that the lake of fire is everlasting fire (Matt. 25:41) where the “*smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night*” (Rev. 14:10-11). Jesus said that those who are lost would

“go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:43-44).

There is no Biblical support for the teaching of eternal annihilation and the *United Church of God* is giving men a false hope of a second chance beyond the grave.

Chapter 7 - The United Church of God Teaches Wrong Eschatology

THE 70 "WEEKS" PROPHECY CONFUSED

BIBLICAL teaching on prophecy has been thoroughly confused by Herbert W Armstrong and continues to be confused by those who have followed him. This is evident by the way they misinterpret Daniel's 70 "weeks" prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) and the Book of Revelation.

The "70 weeks" (70 sevens) prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) shown in the chart on page 42 is the key to understanding all other prophecies about the last days. It outlines **Israel's prophetic history** from the "*command to restore and build Jerusalem*" after the Babylonian captivity, unto "*Messiah the Prince*" at His first coming. This was fulfilled exactly 173,880 days or 69 "weeks" (69 sevens) to Palm Sunday when Jesus presented Himself to the nation as "*Messiah the Prince*". The decree was given to Nehemiah by the Persian king Artaxerxes in the month Nisan 445BC. **The seventieth "week" is still future.**

There are several events prophesied **between** the 69th and 70th "week":

- After "69 weeks" (sevens) Messiah the Prince would be "*cut off*". This was fulfilled when the Lord was crucified, four days after Palm Sunday.
- The next event prophesied was the destruction of both Jerusalem and the Temple which took place 38 years after Palm Sunday - in AD70.
- Finally, the Temple would remain desolate until a future Roman prince, whose people destroyed Jerusalem in AD70, would come and make a 7-year covenant with Israel. The future 70th "*week*" (7 years) would be determined on the Jews and Jerusalem.

Halfway through the 70th "*week*", this Roman prince would cause the daily Jewish "*sacrifice and oblation to cease*". This assumes **a Temple will be constructed and sacrifices recommenced** in the first half of the 7 years.

Finally, after this future "70th week", Israel and Jerusalem will experience "*everlasting righteousness*", "*an end of sins*" and "*make reconciliation for iniquity*". For this to happen Israel must turn to the Lord during the 70th "week", must welcome the Lord at His return and be blessed in the millennial kingdom of Christ which follows the 70th week. It is all so simple yet the *United Church of God* has got it wrong!

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD USED THE WRONG START DATE

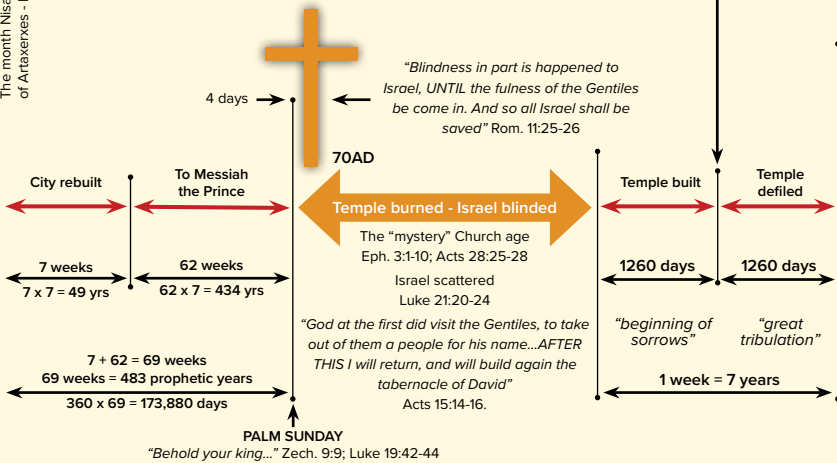
In spite of the fact that Nehemiah precisely recorded when the decree was given by Artaxerxes in Nehemiah chs 1 and 2, the *United Church of God* has managed

The 70 "Weeks" Prophecy – Daniel 9:24-27

SEVEN EVENTS FORETOLD AFTER THE END OF THE 69TH WEEK

1. Messiah cut off 32AD
2. The city and sanctuary destroyed 70AD
3. A future Roman prince confirms a 7 year treaty
4. Temple built and sacrifices begin
5. Sacrifices cease and idol set up
6. Desolations until the end of week
7. The desolator destroyed

Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem -
The month Nisan in the 20th year
of Artaxerxes - Neh. 2:1-8 445BC

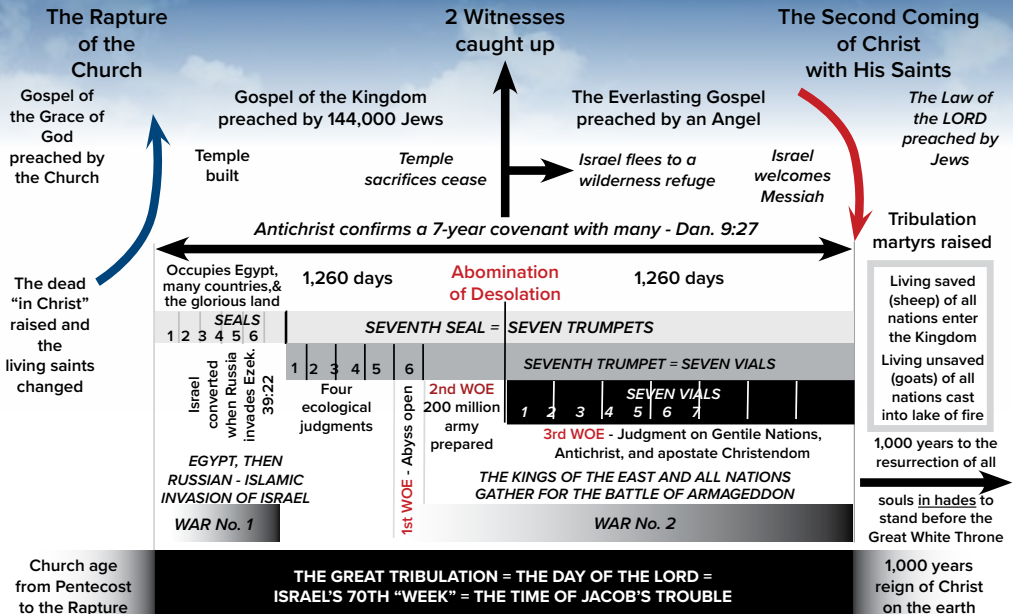


SIX BLESSINGS ON JEWS AND JERUSALEM AT THE END OF 70 WEEKS

1. Finish the transgression
2. Make an end of sins
3. Make reconciliation for iniquity
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
5. Seal up the vision and prophecy
6. Anoint the most holy (place)

Correct Interpretation of Eschatology

The Church at the BEMA Seat of Christ for Rewards



to get a wrong start date for this prophecy. Instead of the month Nisan, 445BC in the 20th year of Artaxerxes, they, like other cults and false teachers, have chosen to start the prophecy from the 7th year of Artaxerxes' reign (457BC) when Ezra returned from Babylon to **teach the law** of the Lord to the captives who had earlier returned in 536BC to rebuild the **Temple**. The 70 "weeks" prophecy has to do with the **CITY** of Jerusalem. Ezra had nothing to do with rebuilding the city!

When Nehemiah arrived in 445BC, 13 years after Ezra returned, **the City of Jerusalem** was still desolate, so much so, that he had to alight from the beast upon which he rode for *"there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass"* (Neh. 2:14) and *"the houses were not builded"* (Neh. 7:4). The decree was to rebuild the **city** of Jerusalem yet the *United Church of God* begins the prophecy at the 7th year of Artaxerxes instead of the 20th year. Then they fudge history to teach that the 69th "week" concluded at the Lord's baptism - a date which nobody can possibly fix on the calendar!

THE UNITING CHURCH OF GOD HAS THE WRONG DATE FOR THE 69TH "WEEK"

The 69th "week" concludes with the prophecy that Jesus would present Himself to Israel **as her King**; as *"Messiah the Prince"*. Only on Palm Sunday did Jesus (*Messiah the Prince*) allow the multitude to proclaim Him King but the *United Church of God* thinks the 69th "week" ends at Jesus' baptism! Then they assume that Jesus ministered exactly $3\frac{1}{2}$ years before He was *"cut off"* halfway through the 70th "week" but here they have a number of problems.

- i) It is not 483 prophetic years from 457BC to Jesus' baptism;
- ii) Jesus did not present Himself to the nation as her King at His baptism;
- iii) Nobody can fix a date for Jesus' baptism, and nobody can prove that Jesus' ministry was $3\frac{1}{2}$ years!

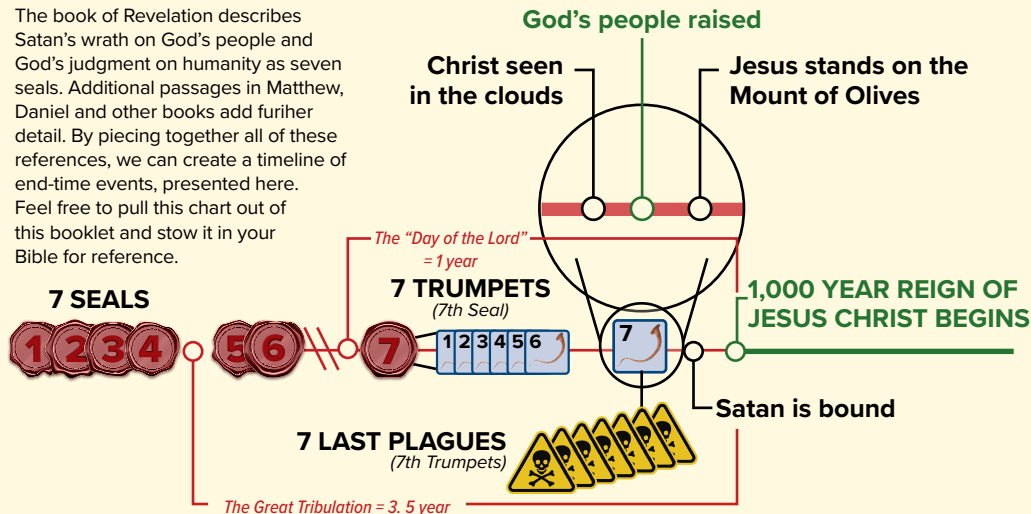
Only one reference in the Gospels states that Jesus came *"these three years"* (Luke 13:7). But the Jews reckoned time **"inclusively"**. If a king reigned 3 years it meant he began sometime in the first year and finished sometime in the third year. It was never more than three years and was always less; it was more likely $2\frac{1}{2}$ years! John indicates that there were 3 Passover Feasts during the Lord's ministry (John 2:13; 6:4; 11:55) and this supports the view that Christ ministered for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Then the *United Church of God* has the first half ($3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs) of the 70th "week" as the Lord's ministry, and the second half as the future Tribulation! They have overlooked the fact that **between** the 69th and 70th "week", Messiah is *"cut off"*, *"the city and the sanctuary"* are destroyed, and there is a long period when *"desolations are determined"* on Jerusalem before a Roman prince makes a 7-year

United Church of God Error Interpretation

Timeline of End Time Events

The book of Revelation describes Satan's wrath on God's people and God's judgment on humanity as seven seals. Additional passages in Matthew, Daniel and other books add further detail. By piecing together all of these references, we can create a timeline of end-time events, presented here. Feel free to pull this chart out of this booklet and stow it in your Bible for reference.



covenant with the nation! The entire 70th “week” is obviously **future** and the last “week” cannot begin until the Roman prince **confirms a 7-year covenant with Israel permitting them to rebuild the Temple and commence sacrifices**. This has never happened and **the entire 70th “week” must therefore be future**.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD HAS HALVED THE TRIBULATION

The chart on this page is taken from a publication produced by the *United Church of God* and is an attempt to explain the Book of the Revelation. It shows the Tribulation lasting for only $3\frac{1}{2}$ years instead of the whole of the 7 years. There simply is not enough time for all the events of the Tribulation to occur in $3\frac{1}{2}$ years!

- The 7-year covenant must be signed with a Roman prince; the Temple must be built and sacrifices recommenced.
- The “*king of the South*” (Egypt) must invade and be destroyed (Dan. 11:40-41) by the combined forces of Israel and the “Roman prince”.
- Gog’s Russian and Islamic forces must invade Israel (Ezek. 38 & 39). Israel must repent and take **7 months** to bury the dead.
- After **1,260 days** Jewish testimony must be silenced by Antichrist.
- Satan is cast down from heaven and ten kings give power to the Beast who

reigns globally **for 42 months** persecuting redeemed Israel.

- The Beast gathers his army from all nations on earth to fight against Christ at Armageddon. At the end of the 7 years Christ returns.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION HAS BEEN CONFUSED

The chart on page 44 shows the confusion that has arisen from the errors indicated in the previous chapters.

- 1) The UCOG have no understanding of the Church as the Bride of Christ who must be removed from earth for the marriage in heaven so that when the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation, *"He will return **FROM the wedding**"* (Luke 12:36). Their fixation on the *"throne of David"* and the "lost ten tribes" has confused the Church and Israel whereas scripture explicitly states that the Church is *"**neither Jew nor Greek...but all one in Christ Jesus**"* (Gal. 3:28). Israel has nationally been put aside, *"blinded", "broken off"*, UNTIL *"the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Rom. 11:7-26) after which *"all Israel shall be saved"* (Rom. 11:26). The *United Church of God* is totally in the dark about the truth of the Church!

There has to be a wedding in heaven BEFORE Christ returns to sit upon the throne of David and rule the world for 1,000 years. The **wedding breakfast** must occur **on earth** after Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 19:7-9). **So where is the Bride of Christ if there is no Rapture before the Tribulation?** The UCOG have entirely missed the fact that the Rapture is when the Bride is taken to the wedding.

- 2) The UCOG has placed the Lord's appearance in the clouds to catch away the Church, both living and dead, after the 7th trumpet because they interpret the *"last trump"* mentioned by Paul in 1Cor. 15:52 as the 7th trumpet judgment. When Paul wrote of the *"last trump"* he was referring to a common practice in his day. Every time the Roman army moved camp three trumpets were blown. The first meant, Pack up! The second meant, Line up! **And the last trump meant, Move out! Depart! The Rapture is the great Departure of the Church.**

Josephus the ancient Jewish historian states that the Roman Captain would say, Men are you ready? The soldiers would raise their right fist and reply, We are ready! and the Legion would depart that locality. Paul used this as an illustration of the **departure of the Church** at the Rapture.

Paul could not be referring to the 7th trumpet judgment for he wrote of the *"last trump"* about **40 years before the 7th trumpet judgment was revealed to John**. Paul knew nothing about the Seal, Trumpet and Vial judgments so there was no way he could have been referring to the 7th trumpet judgment.

But “*the last trump*” according to Josephus, was well known as the order for the Roman Legion to leave camp.

In any case, the seventh trumpet judgment is not **the last** trumpet because after Christ returns another great trumpet will sound to bring God’s elect nation, the Jews, back to the land (Matt. 24:31).

- 3) For some inexplicable reason the UCOG commences the Tribulation after the 4th Seal. Why? In Revelation chapter 5 John foresaw the Lamb, the Lord Jesus, opening **ALL the seals** of judgment on the world. He didn’t start at the 5th seal. When Jesus took the scroll, sealed with seven seals, He was the only one found worthy to open the seals because

*“The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed **all judgment unto the Son**”*
(John 5:22).

Therefore **ALL** the seals are the judgment of God and the “*wrath of the Lamb*”. Not just the wrath of man or of the Devil.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD HAS A RAPTURE AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION

The United Church of God exhibits a total ignorance of the true character of the Church. It believes the Church will go through the Tribulation and the British people will discover they are Jews at the Second Advent. **They reject the Scriptural teaching of a pre-Tribulation Rapture!**

- The Bible teaches that the Church began at Pentecost and “*the Lord added to **the church** daily*” those that were being saved. The Church consists of all those who are “*in Christ*” i. e. in the body of Christ; and at the Rapture **all** those who are “*in Christ*” will be caught up into the air forever to be with the Lord (1Thess. 4:13-18; 1Cor. 15:51-54). This event precedes the Day of the Lord i. e. the Tribulation.

After Paul described the Rapture in 1Thess. 4:13-18, he immediately indicated **WHEN it would occur**. There are no chapter divisions in the original text and in chapter 5 he wrote:

*“But of **the times** and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day (the Day of the Lord) should overtake you as a thief”*
(1Thess. 5:1-4).

*“For God hath **not appointed us (Christians) to wrath** (of the Day of the Lord), but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1Thess. 5:9).

The Tribulation is elsewhere called the “*Day of the Lord*”. Joel refers to it in

this manner when he described the “*northern army*” of Russia and her Islamic associates coming into the land in the first half of the Tribulation (Joel 2:1,11). This invasion is fully described by Ezekiel (Ezek. 38). **The whole 7 years is the Day of the Lord;** the first half is when Israel turns to the Lord (Joel ch. 2) and Russia and Islam are destroyed. The second half is when God judges Antichrist and the nations that follow him (Joel ch. 3).

- The entire 7 years of Tribulation are chronologically described in the Book of the Revelation. There are 7 seals of Divine judgment and after the 6th seal the kings of the earth will recognize that fact and proclaim that the “*wrath of the Lamb*” HAS COME. The seventh seal **is** the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet **is** the seven vials. So they are chronological. Satan will be active and furious but the seals, and all the judgments, are the **wrath of the Lamb!**
- Before the Church began, Jesus gave **a sign to Israel** in (Matt. 24:40-41) to let them know **when** the “*end of the age*” (the Tribulation) had come:
*“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be **taken**, and the other **left**. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be **taken**, and the other **left**.”*

The sudden global disappearance of people will be a sign to Israel that the Tribulation has come. A sign is of no use unless it occurs **before** the event! The original Greek text indicates that those “*taken*” are **taken in mercy** while those “*left*” are **put away** for judgment in the Tribulation.

- Because the book of Revelation is a chronological outline of future events, the Rapture is described in Chapter 4, verses 1 to 3, **after** the 7 letters to the seven Churches (Ch. 2 and 3) that prophetically describe the Church Age. John foresaw his own rapture through the door opened in heaven. It was only **after he was caught up** into heaven that the seal judgments of the Tribulation were opened.
- The Lord promised the Church at Philadelphia that because they kept the “*the word of my patience*” i. e. the “*patient waiting*” for the Lord to return;
*“I also will keep thee **from the hour** of temptation, which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth”* (Rev. 3:10).

The Lord did not promise to keep the Christians “in the midst of” the Tribulation but “from” **the hour** of the Tribulation. They will not be present during the TIME of the Tribulation.

- The UCOG teaches that the first four seals are the wrath of man and the wrath of the Devil. To say that the first four judgments are **mens’ wrath or Satan’s wrath** and not God’s wrath is blasphemy. **Only the Lamb was found worthy to open the seals!** The Kings of the earth acknowledge that the seals are “*the wrath of the Lamb*” (Rev. 6:16).

The seal judgments are clearly the wrath of God and one quarter of men are killed by the “sword”, “hunger”, “disease” and the “beasts of the earth”. These are God’s “**four sore judgments**” (Ezek. 14:21) and they occur under the 4th seal! God uses men to administer judgment. He described the evil king Nebuchadnezzar as “my servant” (Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10) and as the “hammer of the whole earth” (Jer. 50:23) used to smash the nations. Nebuchadnezzar was God’s instrument to judge Judah and the Gentile nations but the judgments were from God!

Since the *United Church of God* denies the gap between the 69th and 70th “week”, and wrongly interprets the **first half** of the 70th “week” as Christ’s ministry, to be consistent, it should interpret the second half of the 70th “week” as the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years immediately following Christ’s death. Instead, they interpret the second half as the future Great Tribulation immediately prior to the return of Christ. Then they must fit the events of 7 years of Tribulation into $3\frac{1}{2}$ years and so they contort Scripture placing 3 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 vial judgments in a period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, 42 months or 1,260 days. We have already shown this to be an impossibility.

In Revelation chapter 7 John saw a great multitude from every kindred and tribe and nation in heaven loudly proclaiming the praise of God and one of the 24 elders told John;

*“These are they which came out of **the great tribulation** and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”* (Rev. 7:14).

These were Tribulation martyrs and we read about them in the 5th seal judgment where they are seen under the altar in heaven crying for vengeance.

In conclusion we must say that Herbert W. Armstrong and the Churches that sprang from his World-wide Church of God are last-days cults like the Jehovah’s Witness, The Latter-Day Saints (Mormans) and the Seventh Day Adventists. Jesus warned us that there would be false prophets in the last days and exhorted us not to be deceived. These enslave the souls of men and lead many to destruction with a false Gospel.

It is significant that all of these cults claim special revelation from God and misinterpret the prophecies of the Bible. They are Satan’s agents to confuse the truth of the Rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation and the return of Christ to reign as King of kings. Bible-believing Christians therefore should be more than ever diligent in their endeavours to “*rightly divide the word of truth*” and to warn others of coming judgment for “*the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*” (James 5:8) and - “*so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (Heb. 10:25).

MARANATHA!

I THOU SHALT HAVE
NO OTHER GODS
BEFORE ME

II THOU SHALT NOT
TAKE THE NAME
OF THE LORD
GOD IN VAIN

IV REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY,
TO KEEP IT HOLY

V HONOUR THY FATHER
AND THY MOTHER

THOU SHALT NOT
ADULTERY

THOU SHALT NOT

THOU SHALT NOT

THOU SHALT NOT

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