



JERUSALEM'S TEMPLES

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BY GERALD FLURRY

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God has now revealed that it is almost time for Ezekiel's temple to be built. He has also revealed precisely where that magnificent edifice is going to be built. And you can prove it.

God is inspiring this now because the Messiah is preparing to rule the world from David's throne forever! (Isaiah 9:6-7). A new spiritual nation is about to "be born at once" (Isaiah 66:8). God's most exalted and prepared rulers must have a majestic world headquarters from which to rule!

Now we need to understand how this relates directly to Solomon's and Zerubbabel's temples. It also has an inspiring connection to recent archaeological finds in Jerusalem.

David's palace, Jeremiah's wall and seals from the time of Jeremiah's warning have been uncovered. These unparalleled discoveries should sober the Jews and this world and at the same time fill them with wonder and joy!

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Chapter 1

Have the Jews Forgotten Jerusalem and the Temple?

*If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
Let my tongue cleave to the roof
of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!*
(Psalm 137:5-6, Revised Standard Version)

THE AUTHOR OF THIS PSALM PRONOUNCED A CURSE ON HIMSELF if he forgot Jerusalem and God's purpose for that great city. When the people of Jerusalem were obedient, God made His will known through the temple. So we need a deep understanding about Jerusalem and the temples of God built by Solomon and Zerubbabel.

But just how much do the Jews know about Jerusalem and the temples today?

Ezekiel prophesied that we must know exactly where Solomon's and Zerubbabel's temples were located—only then can God's people today specifically and precisely prophesy where the coming Messiah's new temple is about to be built. Ezekiel said that someone would come on the scene who must know and *declare* that temple and its measurements to the world in this end time.

Do the Jews even know where the temples were built?

Dr. Ernest Martin wrote a book in 1994 called *The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot* in which he stated, "This loss of the temple site by our contemporary religious leaders and scholars has happened even though the Holy Scriptures encouraged the faithful never to forget Jerusalem. What the psalmist stated [in Psalm 137:5-6] has long been echoed by Israelites in their prayers over the centuries

"This is a beautiful sentiment expressed by the psalmist, but as far as the historical records are concerned, for the past 800 years not only have Israelites forgotten the true geography of early Jerusalem, the whole world has also forgotten (and this includes the Muslim and Christian authorities). *The actual site of the temple languishes in Jerusalem forlorn, lonely, abandoned and thoroughly forgotten*" (emphasis mine throughout).

Do you prefer Jerusalem above your chief joy? David did. Zerubbabel and Ezra did. David and God's very elect will have their headquarters there for all eternity!

THE WHOLE WORLD WILL REVOLVE AROUND JERUSALEM IN THE MILLENNIUM. AND THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WILL REVOLVE AROUND JERUSALEM AFTER THE MILLENNIUM.

The Eternal has chosen Jerusalem.

Scripture reveals that He is about to come and sit on David's throne in Jerusalem forever!

THE OPHEL MOUND

Dr. Martin worked for Herbert W. Armstrong for a long time, assisting him on many significant projects, including a major archeological excavation in Jerusalem. Dr. Martin died in 2002 on the same date Mr. Armstrong died in 1986: January 16.

Here is information taken from the back cover of Dr. Martin's book: "Dr. Ernest L. Martin taught history for 12 years at [Ambassador] College in England. [He was] the chairman of the Department of Theology at [Ambassador] College in [Pasadena,] California. [He] supervised over 450 college students at the most significant archaeological excavation ever conducted in Jerusalem for two months each year for a period of five years (and his archaeological educational program was featured in the Education section of *Time* magazine

for September 3, 1973). He has written eight major research books that are advertised internationally in archaeological and theological periodicals, and over 600 planetariums around the world show his astronomical and historical research at their December showings. He has written several hundred articles on biblical and historical subjects and is also listed in the current editions of ‘Who’s Who in Religion’ and ‘Education,’ and ‘Who’s Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology.’”

Dr. Martin’s book contains astonishing material about the ancient temples. In his introduction, he stated that the ancient temples were located on the Ophel mound—*not* what is known as the Temple Mount today. The Ophel mound is just south of the “Temple Mount” and includes the area Herbert W. Armstrong College students have been digging in for several years.

Dr. Martin’s book is filled with amazing facts.

EYEWITNESSES: TEMPLE COMPLETELY DESTROYED

Did you know that what is known as the Temple Mount today was actually a *Roman building* located at the edge, but **OUTSIDE**, of ancient Jerusalem? I know that sounds preposterous to most people. But please keep an open and teachable mind, because your protection from the worst suffering ever on this Earth depends on it!

Dr. Martin explained that “the worshipers of the Wailing Wall are directing their present devotions and veneration to a Roman edifice that their ancestors in Herod’s time held in utter contempt.”

Ernest Martin drew his conclusions from the accounts of the destruction of Jerusalem from several eyewitnesses. He quoted Josephus, a historian-priest who recorded the destruction of the temple and the city in great detail. Dr. Martin also relied on the accounts of Titus, the Roman general who oversaw the final ruin of Jerusalem, as well as Eleazar, a historian and leader of the last remnant of the Jewish resistance at Masada. These eyewitnesses give a different picture of where the temple was located compared to what people believe today.

We cannot ignore such shocking facts!

Dr. Martin continued, “As Professor [Benjamin] Mazar [grandfather of Dr. Eilat Mazar] aptly showed in his many writ-

ings, his appreciation of the accounts of Josephus grew in admiration over the years. Many of Josephus's statements were clearly justified in several archaeological areas where he was an eyewitness when modern scholars thought he had to be wrong. The truth is, the erroneous modern appraisals of what we thought was the temple site (and other buildings) give us problems, and NOT the accounts of Josephus who told the truth in great detail. It is not the fault of Josephus when he adequately and accurately describes the dimensions of the temple, and we substitute another building instead of the one he intended."

Josephus records that Caesar gave orders to the Romans to "demolish the entire city and temple." He and Titus wrote that Jerusalem was completely flattened. Josephus wrote: "[I]t was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that *there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it [Jerusalem] had ever been inhabited.* ...

"For the war had laid all signs of beauty quite waste. Nor if anyone that had known the place before, had come on a sudden to it now, would he have known it again. But though he [a foreigner] were at the city itself, yet would he have inquired for [its whereabouts]."

If the temple, along with all of Jerusalem, was completely destroyed, then the massive walls of the so-called Temple Mount should not be standing.

If Josephus had been so wrong in these statements, as modern scholars believe, he would have been thoroughly discredited anciently. But the reverse is true. The eyewitnesses offer more details in their accounts of the complete and utter destruction of the temple.

While most of the scriptures I will cite in this booklet are taken from the Hebrew Bible, or what many religious people call the Old Testament, there are a few verses from the New Testament on this subject that are truly astounding!

CHRIST'S PROPHECY

"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, THERE SHALL NOT BE LEFT HERE ONE STONE UPON

ANOTHER, THAT SHALL NOT BE THROWN DOWN” (Matthew 24:1-2). Christ was not discussing the end time in the first two verses. In verse 3, Christ began to discuss the end time: “And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Dr. Martin wrote, “The usual explanation to justify the credibility of the prophecies is to say Jesus could only have been speaking about the stones of the *inner* temple and its buildings, NOT the *outer* temple and its walls that surrounded it. ... [But] the Greek word Jesus used in His prophetic context to describe the temple and its buildings was *heiron*. That means the entire temple, including its exterior buildings and walls.” CHRIST PROPHESED THAT THE ENTIRE TEMPLE, INCLUDING ITS EXTERIOR BUILDINGS AND WALLS, WOULD BE DESTROYED IN THE FIRST CENTURY!

Vincent's New Testament Word Studies says this about *heiron*: “The word *temple*, *heiron* (literally, ‘sacred place’), signifies the whole compass of the sacred enclosure, with its porticoes, courts and other subordinate buildings, and should be carefully distinguished from the other word, *naos*, also rendered ‘temple,’ which means the temple itself—the ‘holy place’ and the ‘holy of holies.’”

Please read Matthew 24:1-2 again. Christ was talking about the temple and every single one of the temple buildings.

Here is Mark’s account of this conversation: “And as he went out of the temple [*heiron*], one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!” (Mark 13:1). Notice how this verse and the following verse pluralize *building*. “And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great *buildings*? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (verse 2). *At this point, Christ had not started discussing the end time or the end of this age.*

Mark 13:1-2 are talking about the A.D. 70 destruction. Christ looked directly at the temple and the temple buildings when He gave this prophecy and said they would be left without a single stone upon another. *None* of those buildings are standing today!

Notice this carefully: The Bible switches over to an *end-time*

prophecy in verse 3: “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives . . .” Christ moved to the Mount of Olives and is talking from a different location than where He was for the first two verses. At this point, the disciples asked Christ about the end of this age (verse 4)—the time we are living in today. Christ knew that most of the disciples would face martyrdom, so He wanted to get their minds on His Second Coming and the wonderful Millennium.

The Messiah is trying to get all of us to focus on His coming.

Otherwise, we get discouraged and lose our spiritual motivation.

Today God wants to show the Jews and other peoples where the temple that Ezekiel prophesied about is going to be built very soon. At that time, the whole world will be looking to that place for the Messiah’s direction. That is the real hope people of this world need in order to see beyond the terrifying problems we face today.

God’s people must give them this hope!

This COMPLETE destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 is what Jesus Christ prophesied would happen. THE PROOF THAT IT CAME TO PASS IS ABUNDANT AND OVERWHELMING.

As Christ wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), He prophesied that the city would be completely destroyed.

“For the days shall come upon thee [Jerusalem], that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and THEY SHALL NOT LEAVE IN THEE ONE STONE UPON ANOTHER . . .” (verses 43-44).

Ernest Martin had this to say about Christ’s prophecy: “So, IN THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS, NOT ONLY THE STONES THAT MADE UP THE TEMPLE AND ITS OUTER WALLS WERE TO BE TORN DOWN, BUT HE ALSO INCLUDED WITHIN THAT DESTRUCTION THE STONES THAT COMPRISED THE TOTALITY OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. WE ARE LEFT WITH NO AMBIGUITY. THE PROPHECIES ABOUT THE TEMPLE AND THE CITY OF JERUSALEM EITHER HAPPENED EXACTLY AS JESUS PREDICTED, OR THOSE PROPHECIES MUST BE RECKONED AS FALSE AND UNRELIABLE. There can be no middle ground. If one is honest with the plain statements in the texts of the Gospels, Jesus taught that nothing would be left of the temple, nothing left of the whole city of Jerusalem, and nothing left of the walls of the temple and the city.

“Anyone with any common sense, and not having precon-

ceived notions, will admit that Jesus's prophecies intended to show the complete and utter destruction of the city of Jerusalem and temple. The emphasis of Jesus was that not one stone would be left on top of another."

Since the temple and all its walls were destroyed, what then is the edifice we call the Temple Mount today? Why are those massive walls still standing?

TEMPLE MOUNT A ROMAN FORT

Eleazar, the Jewish resistance leader, wrote, "Where is this city that was believed to have God Himself inhabiting therein? *It is now demolished to the very foundations, and hath nothing left but THAT MONUMENT of it preserved, I mean the camp of those [Romans] that hath destroyed it, WHICH [CAMP] STILL DWELLS UPON ITS RUINS . . .*"

Eleazar said the only thing unscathed from the war and still standing was a facility located just beyond the border of ancient Jerusalem.

Dr. Ernest Martin explained, "That facility known as the Haram [or what is called the Temple Mount] was officially reckoned as being beyond and outside the limits of Jewish Jerusalem. That's where the Dome of the Rock is today. *It was not reckoned as being part of the municipality of Jerusalem.*"

Note this! Josephus said the Romans set fire to the whole city, demolishing even the walls. Here is what Dr. Martin wrote: "Much of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem came after the war had ceased.

"But with the temple it was different. In regard to the total destruction of the temple and all its outer buildings, a Hebrew version of Josephus (known as *Josippon*) states that when the inner temple was set to the flames by the Romans, the Jews knew their end was near. So, to prevent the Romans from desecrating the temple by erecting another 'abomination of desolation' like that of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Jews systematically tore down all the inner temple and all its outer buildings and appurtenances in order to leave nothing of the former temple for anyone to pollute."

Here is what the history of *Josippon* states: "So the flames destroyed the holy of holies. And when the [Jewish] leaders

of the rebels and their followers who were still in the city [of Jerusalem] saw that the holy of holies had been burned, they burned the rest of the temple together with every mansion in Jerusalem, so that the Romans should not rule over them. And *they also burned down the rest of the temple buildings*, saying: 'Now that the holy of holies has been burned, why go on living? Why leave house or building?'"

Dr. Martin continued, "This teaching that the Jews themselves helped destroy the temple so that it not be polluted is reflected in an early Jewish work called *Second Baruch*. All scholars realize this work was composed near the end of the first century, just after the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem. The authors state that angels on the side of the Jews in the war with the Romans ordered the temple put to the torch to keep it from falling intact into the hands of the Romans."

This is what the author of *Second Baruch* wrote: "I heard this angel saying to the angels who held the torches, 'Now destroy the walls [of the temple and Jerusalem] and *overthrow them to their foundations* so that the enemies [the Romans] do not boast and say, "We have overthrown the wall of Zion and we have burnt down the place of the mighty God."'"

Both of these early sources back up the fact that, as Dr. Martin wrote, "the Jews themselves, in desperation and seeing no hope of victory, took part in destroying the temple and the buildings of Jerusalem."

Dr. Martin continued, "[I]f those rectangular walls of the Haram are those which surrounded the Temple Mount, as we are informed by all authorities today, why did Josephus and Titus leave out any mention about this magnificent Haram structure? That is, where the Dome of the Rock is, and the Wailing Wall. They spoke of the utter ruin and desolation of Jewish Jerusalem and the temple, not the survival of any buildings that Jewish authorities once controlled."

Dr. Martin showed that gold had a lot to do with destroying the temple and Jerusalem. "And recall, Jewish authorities during the Middle Ages accepted this narrative of *Josippon* as that of Josephus, an eyewitness. And in the Greek version that has become the main standard text for Josephus, the priest/historian states that for six months after the war, the Tenth

Legion 'dug up' the ruins of the houses, buildings and walls looking for plunder. They systematically excavated beneath the foundations of the ruined buildings and houses (and had many Jewish captives do the work for them).

"They also had the whole area turned upside down looking for gold and other precious metals that became molten when the fires were raging. The temple was one of their chief sources for riches. *Josephus tells us the temple was effectively the treasury for most of the Jewish people*, whether they lived in Judea or in the Diaspora, and that the Jewish authorities allowed people to have small chambers in various regions of the temple enclosure (similar to what we today would call 'safety deposit boxes'). This is one of the principal reasons the soldiers after the war concentrated on tearing down every stone of the temple in order to reach this abundance of hidden wealth. ...

"Also in Jerusalem, the inhabitants constructed a curious network of underground passages where a great deal of money and precious things had been hidden. ...

"The temple was especially vulnerable because the soldiers knew that was the central treasury of the nation. *Such great quantities of gold were discovered in the ruins of Jerusalem* in the sweep for riches that Josephus said *the price of that metal in the eastern empire plummeted to half its former value*. ... Indeed, after an absence of about four months, Titus returned to Jerusalem from Antioch and once again viewed the ruined city. Jerusalem was now turned upside down without a stone left in place (just as Jesus said). Josephus states what Titus saw. ... 'Yet there was no small quantity of the riches that had been in that city still found among the ruins, a great deal of which the Romans dug up ...'"

THIS WHOLE WORLD NEEDS A NEW PICTURE OF THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE AND JERUSALEM THAT ARE ABOUT TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE MESSIAH. God wants His people to declare the temple to give the nations of biblical Israel inspiration and hope just before the greatest trouble any nation has ever experienced!

Even though people believe almost unanimously today that the Wailing Wall is part of that former temple, BEFORE THE 16TH CENTURY "THERE WAS NOT A JEW IN THE WORLD WHO PAID THE SLIGHTEST RESPECT TO THAT WESTERN WAILING WALL," Dr. Martin wrote.

God's time has come when we must know where those first and second temples were located. It is time to declare Ezekiel's temple and its exact dimensions. This will help make the World Tomorrow real—it's almost here!

GOD IS SHOWING US WHERE THE TEMPLES WERE LOCATED ANCIENTLY BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE HIS MILLENNIAL TEMPLE WILL SOON BE BUILT—IN THE EXACT SAME LOCATION!

The Messiah is coming! We must get ready!

Isaiah 40:9-10 command His people to say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" We must show them from where the Messiah will rule.

IF WE TRULY KNOW OUR INSPIRED BIBLE, WE MUST BE ELECTRIFIED BY THIS WORLD-SHAKING NEWS! IT OUGHT TO BE MAKING WORLD HEADLINES.

Isaiah tells us that God's Work is before Him. HE IS GOING TO ESTABLISH WORLD RULE FROM JERUSALEM IN THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE. The world must be exposed to the most exciting news ever proclaimed. Some of that news is coming from the archaeology projects going on at the City of David—the original Jerusalem.

Perhaps the best proof that the Dome of the Rock is not the Temple Mount is what the Hebrew Bible says concerning the Gihon Spring.

Chapter 2

The Fountain of Eternal Life

THE FUTURE TEMPLE OF WHICH EZEKIEL PROPHESED WILL HAVE water flowing out of the altar (Ezekiel 47:1-5). Ezekiel describes the water flowing eastward from the temple and rising continually until it becomes a river too large to pass over.

This water is a symbol of something far more powerful that will impact the entire Earth! God's Holy Spirit will bring life spiritually (verse 9). Everything will *live* as God intended from the beginning.

God's truth will fill the entire world like the ocean beds are filled with water (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14).

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat ... *because their waters they issued* OUT OF THE SANCTUARY: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:12). God's Holy Spirit will spiritually heal people of human nature and wrongful thinking. People will also be healed of physical problems. It is a dual healing, spiritual and physical.

And notice: The water will flow *right out of the holy of holies* in that millennial temple! THE WHOLE WORLD IS GOING TO BE HEALED!

Dr. Martin wrote, "The waters must spring up *within the temples* to symbolize the fountain of life that is associated with God's dwelling in heaven." THOSE WATERS ARE A SYMBOL OF THE FOUNTAIN OF ETERNAL LIFE.

"Ezekiel saw water (spring waters) ushering forth from the holy place that went out the right side of the altar of burnt offer-

ings and unto the Dead Sea to make those acrid waters clean and fresh.” There won’t be burnt offerings in Ezekiel’s temple. The prophecy is talking about the *spiritual* sacrifices going on at the temple. (That is explained in my free booklet on Ezekiel.)

“In Gilgal, the first site of the tabernacle in the Holy Land, there were the springs from Jericho that supplied an abundance of water,” Dr. Martin wrote. “When the tabernacle was at Shiloh (from the times of Joshua to Samuel), there was a natural spring that supplied water to the temple, the city, and the surrounding area.”

JERUSALEM ONLY HAS ONE FRESH WATER SOURCE: THE GIHON SPRING. This spring must be special to God. It’s where Zadok anointed Solomon king (1 Kings 1:38-39). Water from that same spring flowed within the walls of the temples that Solomon and Zerubbabel built.

THE WELLS OF SALVATION!

Josephus wrote about how, in the tabernacle in the wilderness, the priests in Israel purified themselves in *spring waters*. So there is always a spring associated with the sanctuary.

David placed the ark of the covenant directly over the Gihon Spring. The ark is a symbol of God’s throne. That was the place from which God ruled the Israelites on Earth. God’s throne on this Earth was right over the Gihon Spring!

Dr. Martin explained, “David also made it clear that there was a fountain, or a spring, within the precincts of the holy temple in heaven, and there was also a fountain (a spring) positioned in the replica of God’s house in Jerusalem. David related these things in his psalms, when the ‘house of the Lord’ was reckoned to be the tent of the ark located at the Gihon Spring. That special sanctuary for the ark remained at the Gihon for 38 years.”

Psalms 68:24, 26 read, “They have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, *in the sanctuary*. . . Bless ye God in the congregations, even the Lord, *from the FOUNTAIN of Israel*.” God’s sanctuary was by a spring. THE BLESSINGS CAME FROM THE FOUNTAIN OF ISRAEL. THAT’S WHERE THE SANCTUARY WAS.

“THIS FOUNTAIN WAS, OF COURSE, REFLECTIVE OF THAT FOUNTAIN WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD’S DIVINE PALACE IN

HEAVEN," Dr. Martin wrote. "THE EARTHLY SYMBOL FOR THIS FOUNTAIN WAS THE GIHON SPRING."

IT WOULD BE HARD TO OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIHON SPRING!

Dr. Martin recorded how Eusebius Aristeas described the temple before the first coming of Christ: "There is an inexhaustible reservoir of water, as would be expected from *an abundant spring gushing up naturally from within.*" Aristeas stated the GIHON SPRING WAS THE ONLY SPRING WITHIN FIVE MILES OF JERUSALEM. The location of the spring made Jerusalem the site of the earliest settlement in the area.

Both Aristeas and Tacitus STATE CLEARLY THERE WAS A NATURAL SPRING WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE TEMPLE. Dr. Martin says these accounts and the geographical facts of the area DISQUALIFY THE DOME OF THE ROCK AS BEING THE SITE OF THE TEMPLES OF SOLOMON AND ZERUBBABEL.

Scripture also proves these accounts.

Isaiah 8:5-6 speak of "the waters of Shiloah that go softly," meaning water from the Gihon Spring. This probably is a reference to the Siloam Channel. It is all a type of God's Work today.

Isaiah 12:3 talks about the "WATER ... OF THE WELLS OF SALVATION." THE SPRING IS A SYMBOL OF THE VERY SALVATION OF GOD BUBBLING UP FROM HIS THRONE! God is "the fountain of living waters" (Jeremiah 17:13). He wants us to understand that He is saving His people today—and He will offer salvation to the WHOLE WORLD! THE GIHON SPRING IS A SYMBOL OF GOD SAVING HUMANITY! That is why we must get this right. God wants us to focus on this *spiritually*.

What symbolism could be more important than that?

God gives us physical symbols to help us understand profound spiritual truths, and many of these symbols will be present in the World Tomorrow.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL

There is a lot of history and prophecy wrapped up in the Gihon Spring. The Bible and secular history have much to say about it.

Hillel Giba wrote in the book *Ancient Jerusalem Revealed*, “The Gihon does not maintain a constant flow, but is a siphon-type karst spring, fed by groundwater that gushes intermittently through cracks in the cave floor. The frequency of the outflow varies with the season of the year and the annual precipitation. Water from the Gihon could be drawn from either the spring cave or a small pool cut out in the bedrock close to it.”

He continued, “Three subterranean water supply systems were devised to capture, store, distribute and protect its waters. And these three systems are known as Warren’s Shaft, the Siloam Channel, and Hezekiah’s Tunnel.”

These three systems all brought water from that spring. Warren’s Shaft is the earliest supply system that enabled Jerusalem’s residents to draw water without having to leave the fortified confines of the city. They had a lot of enemies. The Jews needed to make sure they could get to their water. They also would have needed to bring the water inside for the temple of God.

The Bible records what King Hezekiah did to ensure that Jerusalem’s water supply remained safe from an Assyrian invasion. 2 Kings 20:20 mentions “how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city.” He dug a 1,750-foot tunnel through solid rock to get water! The full story can be found in 2 Chronicles 32.

THE BIBLE RECORDS THAT HISTORY BECAUSE OF THE VITAL SYMBOLISM FOR US TODAY. We *desperately need* spiritual spring water! Without it there is no real life! No abundance of joy—no understanding. Spiritually, we have to *dig tunnels* through solid rock or do *whatever is necessary* to make sure we get this spiritual water. It takes REAL EFFORT, but we must keep those living waters flowing in our lives!

It is a moving experience to wade through Hezekiah’s tunnel in Jerusalem today. The symbolism is so powerful it causes thoughts to flood into one’s mind.

Dr. Martin explained, “In order to reach the waters of the Gihon from the summit of the *Ophel* (before building the temple), Solomon had engineers design and then chisel out of the rock a shaft which led down to the Gihon Spring. This may or may not be what now is called ‘Warren’s Shaft,’ after the man who discovered it in the middle of the 19th century.”

Was Warren's Shaft dug by Solomon's men? Earlier archaeologists dated the shaft to the 10th century B.C., the days of Solomon.

WHOEVER DUG IT CARVED CAVES AND TUNNELS OUT OF THE SUBTERRANEAN ROCK TO REACH THE WATERS OF THE GIHON SPRING.

Do we *exert that kind of intense effort* to do whatever it takes to get to God's spiritual water?

THE ONLY WATER SOURCE

Hezekiah directed the water flowing from his tunnel into the Siloam Pool. *Unger's Bible Dictionary* states, "In addition to the tunnel, Hezekiah built a larger reservoir called the Pool of Siloam. The pool measures about 20 by 30 feet.

"In Jesus's day, the blind man who was healed was directed to go and wash in this pool." Christ directed the blind man to the water to be healed (John 9:1-7). This is clearly a symbol of how this world can remove its blindness with God's Holy Spirit.

Satan has deceived the whole world. People are blinded and cannot see spiritually. Only God's Holy Spirit—typed by water in the Bible—can empower mankind to enter into God's Kingdom.

Christ was giving the people of His day insight into what will shortly happen to the whole world. Christ told them what was going to happen "in the last day"—the holy day that follows immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. That last day pictures the Great White Throne Judgment, when God will resurrect and call all human beings who have ever lived but have never known God. That includes 99 percent of all human beings who have ever lived. This world does not know God! "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). Today, most of humanity does not even have access to the Holy Spirit (John 6:44). SOON EVERY PERSON will have access! Surely we can all see why Christ would point the Jews and all of us to this exciting and wonderful time to come!

Miguel Shilo wrote, "Warren's Shaft ... provided the city with a convenient access to its water source in peacetime as well as wartime. Hezekiah's tunnel was the third water system to

be built. It was the most sophisticated solution to the peculiar water system problem in Jerusalem, the problem that was the result of the unusual hydrological characteristic of *Jerusalem's only water source* ("The Discovery of Warren's Shaft").

Dr. Martin added this statement: "This dovetails with the description given by Aristeas about 50 years after Alexander the Great, and Tacitus 300 years later. Both Aristeas and Tacitus dogmatically state this *natural spring* was found WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM. These geographical facts from eyewitness accounts TOTALLY DISQUALIFY THE AREA AROUND THE DOME OF THE ROCK AS HAVING ANY RELEVANCE IN LOCATING THE SITE OF THE TEMPLES OF SOLOMON [AND] ZERUBBABEL"

YES, THE GIHON IS JERUSALEM'S *ONLY SOURCE OF WATER*. THIS HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. THERE IS ONLY *ONE WATER SOURCE* WE CAN GO TO! ONLY ONE SOURCE COMES FROM JERUSALEM ABOVE. Only one source is bubbling up in all its magnificence, giving life to a marvelous Work of God. *Where is it today?* God holds you responsible for answering that question.

Shilo continued, "It is a pulsating spring. That is, it gushes forth water irregularly, usually only once every few hours. This characteristic is preserved in the etymology of the name, Gihon. Gisha means rush or gush forth." Doesn't this describe the Church? New revelation is *gushing* into God's Philadelphia Church today, and you can prove it. That revelation certainly doesn't come from a man.

The second water system to be built, the Siloam Channel (which is different from the Siloam Pool), would take excess water down to an "old" pool area at the southwestern end of the City of David. Shilo wrote, "But this was unsatisfactory during times of siege, because the pool area was exposed outside the city wall."

If the Jews could not get to their water, they would die. What happens to spiritual Jews when we don't get our spiritual water? If we don't have God's Holy Spirit flowing into our minds, we will become lukewarm and die.

"The Discovery of Warren's Shaft" goes on to talk about the excavations in the surrounding area done by a team of volunteers from Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. That article was written back in the late 1970s.

Our work today follows those same footsteps.

THE LOWER POOL

Dr. Martin wrote, “[W]HY IS IT NECESSARY FOR SPRING WATERS TO EMERGE FROM WITHIN ANY TEMPLE? TO SECURE PROPER SYMBOLISM OF THE FOUNTAINS OF SALVATION FROM GOD IN HEAVEN.”

Notice the symbolism in Isaiah 22:9: “Ye have seen also the breaches of the city of David, that they are *many*: and ye gathered together *the waters of the lower pool*.” The lower pool was the pool *inside the fortified city*.

Today the fortified city is a symbol of where God protects His very elect from Satan as the Holy Spirit and new revelation flow.

We must continue to look at this spiritually. After Herbert W. Armstrong died, the majority of his followers rejected most of the truth he taught and became lukewarm. Isaiah’s prophecy shows that at some point, God’s lukewarm people will see all of the prophecies they once proclaimed coming to pass. As the pressure builds, they will finally comprehend the *breaches*, or ruptures, in their own lukewarm work. They are not fighting as David did. At last they will begin to gather the new revelation that God has delivered to the very elect of God—symbolized by the *lower pool*.

THE LOWER POOL REVEALS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FLOWING NOW IN GOD’S VERY ELECT! God’s Work is powered by the Holy Spirit—not human talent. We must be warring against our own weaknesses to keep that Spirit flowing.

The lukewarm Church will try to fortify its spiritual wall of God’s protection. But it is too little and too late to receive God’s physical protection. They will be plunged into unparalleled suffering, prophesied to begin shortly. The Prophet Daniel called it “a time of trouble, such as never was” (Daniel 12:1).

The very elect is in the inner court where God dwells. God’s lukewarm people are in the outer court where God does *not* dwell. Individual Laodiceans still have access to the Gihon or the lower pool—the new revelation God has given the very elect. But they must repent.

“Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the *old pool* . . .” (Isaiah 22:11). *Lange’s Commentary* says this refers to the *upper pool*, which was *outside* the fortified walls—a type of the abundant and easily provable revelation given to

Mr. Armstrong. Those who forsook God still have access to the *old pool of revelation*.

These lukewarm soldiers finally tie the lower pool and the old pool of revealed truth together. It is all the Elijah work. (That is explained in my book *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*. All of our literature is free.) But they still have a giant spiritual flaw.

Verse 11 concludes, "but YE HAVE NOT LOOKED UNTO *THE MAKER* THEREOF, neither had respect unto HIM THAT FASHIONED IT long ago."

Too many of God's people AREN'T *LOOKING TO THE SOURCE* OF ALL REVELATION! They no longer know the all-powerful God who reveals all this truth to us.

We must become one with God. We are not here to just get all the material we can read. We are here to apply God's Word and become *unified* with Him. We absolutely must *LOOK TO OUR MAKER!* He is the Source of all the revelation that continues to pour into His true Church!

Remember, this is end-time prophecy.

WHERE IS THE SOURCE OF THE TWO SPIRITUAL POOLS ON THIS EARTH? God gave revelation to Mr. Armstrong as he was led by the Holy Spirit—typed by water. The Philadelphia Church of God had a six-year court battle with the Worldwide Church of God, through which God gave us the copyrights to the most important writings of Mr. Armstrong. Now we proclaim God's message from the "old pool" to this world. All of the abundant new revelation for the very elect has come through God's *true Church* today. God's message for the world is delivered by His true Church at this time—from the "lower pool."

God speaks to this world today through new revelation. You can prove through literature where God is speaking now.

Those who forsook God have access to Almighty God, but they are *not* powered by the Holy Spirit, symbolized by the two pools. Only those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Today, God speaks to His obedient sons collectively through new revelation. It's not enough to *gather* what God revealed. Only God's sons can be trusted to *proclaim* that revelation—only they even have the power to do so!

Understanding verse 11 of Isaiah 22 is the key to understanding all these verses. In fact, this truth is key to under-

standing the whole Bible! Receiving new revelation is a mind-shaking miracle of God. If we don't know and obey the *Source* of the revelation, it is all an exercise in vanity and deception!

God labels new revelation as *golden oil* poured out from His majestic throne (Zechariah 4:11-12). That means it's also a *golden opportunity* for the people who profoundly understand the *Source*.

Is this really the work of a man or men? Do you really know the *Source* of God's one and only Work?

Most of God's own people have lost touch with their Maker, and now they have a wrong, even defiant, attitude! "And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: *let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die*" (Isaiah 22:12-13). God, through His very elect today, calls for deep repentance in these terrifying times. But instead of lamentation and repentance, the rebels turn to feasting and orgies! To "eat and drink" implies that they continue their orgiastic lifestyle in spite of what is happening. They see that times are so bad they could die. But that doesn't stop their sinful self-indulgence. It only encourages them to grow even worse!

"And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts" (verse 14). Isaiah emphasizes the almighty, omnipotent God with the expressions "LORD of hosts" and "Lord GOD of hosts." God reminds those people who had the truth and turned away that they are defying the living God! That can only lead to a monumental disaster.

SCRIPTURE SHOWS THAT EVEN THOSE 50 PERCENT WHO REPENT MUST DIE PHYSICALLY TO PROVE THEMSELVES AND MAKE IT INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (e.g. Matthew 25:1-10; I explain this in *Malachi's Message*).

We must look to our Maker. We must get to know the Source of our *spring water*.

It is so easy to deceive ourselves. We must not allow scholarly vanity or anything else to stand in our way. We must "revive the spirit of the humble" (Isaiah 57:15). Only then can we be led by God's Spirit.

FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

Nehemiah 3:15 also mentions the “pool of Siloah,” referring to the waters of the Gihon Spring. Verse 26 talks about the “water gate,” which is right by the spring. That gate is where Ezra stood up and taught the law to the Jews (Nehemiah 8:1-3). Ezra and his priestly group stood in front of the water gate, while Nehemiah and a secular group stood in front of the prison gate (Nehemiah 12:39). The water gate and the prison gate were a double gate separated by a single column of support, both in front of the east entrance to the temple.

These gates symbolized Church and state. God is going to make His people kings and priests. We will have a kingly role and we will have a priestly role. We represent God: Church and state together.

Joel 3:18 says that “all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a FOUNTAIN SHALL COME FORTH OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD . . .” A FOUNTAIN IS GOING TO SPRING FROM THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE! THE WELLS OF SALVATION WILL EXTEND TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!

God’s faithful elect will be right there in the middle of it, teaching the world. What could be more exciting?

Dr. Martin wrote, “This prophetic description in the book of Joel is very important to our present research. As one can easily observe, there is prophesied to be (once again) a *single fountain of water* giving forth pure *spring water*, which will well upwards from *within* the house of the Lord (God’s temple). THIS SAME REQUIREMENT WAS VIEWED BY DAVID AND SOLOMON AS A NECESSARY FEATURE OF THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM TO PRECISELY DUPLICATE THE PATTERN OR REPLICA OF GOD’S TEMPLE IN HEAVEN.”

Zechariah 14:8-9 give the same picture of “living waters [going] out from Jerusalem” at a time when the Messiah is “king over all the earth.”

Psalms 29:3 says that God “is upon the waters”—those living waters. Psalm 36:8-9 say that God is going to make people “drink of *the river of thy pleasures*. For with thee is the *fountain of life . . .*”

Isaiah 32:14-20 also paint a beautiful millennial picture that includes these living waters.

In all of these verses, THOSE WATERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE THRONE OF GOD! THAT IS BECAUSE THE RIVER OF LIFE EXISTS IN

GOD'S HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM! These physical scenarios "PRECISELY DUPLICATE THE PATTERN . . . OF GOD'S TEMPLE IN HEAVEN."

Isaiah 53 through 56 say that everybody can drink from the waters of spiritual Zion. Everybody in the World Tomorrow will be able to drink from those waters as God's people drink now. What blessings come from the FOUNTAIN OF ISRAEL!

This is what we should be living for. The people of God are preparing for that day by sending out this message now. We are going to help the Messiah usher in the World Tomorrow. We will help Him rule this world and bring people all those blessings. They will see their teachers (Isaiah 30:20), who will be eager to teach them the way of their loving God—and show them that God wants to give them everything!

ABOVE OUR CHIEF JOY

This water of life will be given freely to *everyone* as it is freely given to God's Spirit-begotten people today! These are waters that will overcome human nature and give spiritual healing to all of the problems we see today.

Psalms 137:5-6 say we should prefer JERUSALEM above our chief joy. Nothing should get in the way. Ezra—who likely wrote this psalm after the Jews' Babylonian captivity—was trying to teach the Jews *why* they had gone into captivity: Jerusalem was not their highest joy. They didn't prefer Jerusalem as they should have—as King David did. Do we really prefer Jerusalem above our chief joy the way King David did? (Read, for example, David's beautiful homage to Jerusalem in Psalm 122.)

DAVID KNEW THAT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD TOMORROW IS GOING TO REVOLVE AROUND JERUSALEM! (e.g. Isaiah 62:1-7). EVEN AFTER THE MILLENNIUM AND THE LAST GREAT DAY, EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS GOING TO REVOLVE AROUND NEW JERUSALEM! (Isaiah 65:17-19). GOD THE FATHER WILL BE IN NEW JERUSALEM! DO WE PUT ANYTHING ABOVE THAT AS OUR GREATEST JOY?

"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will

extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees” (Isaiah 66:10-12). This is how it is going to be in Jerusalem very shortly. What a contrast to today!

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb ...” (verses 13-14).

PLANT THE HEAVENS

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee” (Isaiah 60:1). If we glorify God today, we are going to have His glory in the World Tomorrow!

“And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (verse 3). If we submit to God and He puts His Spirit within us, this is the future we have to look forward to. We are going to have kings and Gentiles coming to us, and we are going to teach them. God’s people need to develop the very mind and character of God so we can teach these people in the World Tomorrow. We will be right there with God, helping Him educate the entire world! What a future!

“And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, THAT I MAY PLANT THE HEAVENS, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people” (Isaiah 51:16).

Understand this deeply! God is going to PLANT THE HEAVENS! This goes beyond the fall harvest and even the Last Great Day! GOD IS GOING TO UNDERTAKE A MASSIVE BUILDING PROJECT OUT IN THE COSMOS TO MAKE THE UNIVERSE EXQUISITE!

That is what Scripture reveals! God is going to extend His government throughout the universe (e.g. Isaiah 9:6-7; 45:18). HE IS GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIM RULE AND PLANT THE HEAVENS!

That is the tremendous calling God has extended to us, and it’s worth giving up *anything* in order to secure it. Everything on Earth is NOTHING compared to that! The indescribable, stupendous reward will leave us awestruck and wonder-stricken! What a magnificent future we have.

OUR SPRING-FED LAKE

We don't believe it is a coincidence there is a spring on the PCG's headquarters campus in Edmond, Oklahoma. Spurlin Lake is a spring-fed lake. The Bible likens spring-fed water to living water. It is pure water that hasn't traveled through strata of soil where it can be easily contaminated. Spring-fed water is pure.

Let me share with you the history of how we obtained this land.

Tim Thompson, a PCG minister, asked the owner, Mr. Spurlin, if he would be interested in selling. Mr. Spurlin originally said no. But Mr. Thompson was very persistent, and Mr. Spurlin finally decided to sell it.

The owner of the adjacent property, on which our field house now sits, tried unsuccessfully for years to get Mr. Spurlin to sell the 40 acres we bought. When we bought Mr. Spurlin's land, that owner decided to sell us his 80 acres.

When someone asked Mr. Spurlin why he sold us the original 40 acres, Mr. Spurlin said, "Well, I really don't know."

God works all kinds of miracles and uses people in mysterious ways. One day, Mr. Spurlin will consider what he did a great honor.

The Worldwide Church of God headquarters campus in Pasadena had no spring. There was a beautiful house for God built there, but there was no *living water*. Maybe there is a reason for that. It could be a sign, since God knew what was going to happen to that church. The Bible is full of prophecies that the Work would turn away from God. So maybe God established a sign with our lake, which is located in front of God's majestic house.

This spring-fed lake, with water bubbling up, is a symbol of the *wells of salvation!* God continues to use symbolism today as He has in most of His prophecies. All kinds of new revelation and old revelation (given to Mr. Armstrong) flow from this land to glorify the great God! We have *revelation from two Church eras* continuing to pour from this Church.

Isn't that what this spring-fed lake on our land is all about?

I believe this could be an indication from God that there would be people who would keep this Work going and keep the water, or revelation, flowing—unlike what happened in

Pasadena. This Work will declare this message to the world right up until the Messiah returns and Ezekiel's temple is ready to be built.

God gives us His Holy Spirit—LIVING WATER! God's spiritual life is flowing from this campus. Many people can see that *life* though they may not understand what it is. God is blessing this wonderful Work, and we must always thank Him for that.

Those who qualify will *inhabit eternity*—we will have life forever! That is what the wells of salvation are about.

Chapter 3

The Ezekiel Temple

The Ezekiel temple will be built at the start of the Millennium. It will be exceedingly magnificent—far beyond what Solomon built. Ezekiel's temple will capture the imagination of all the inhabitants of the world. It will be located exactly where the other two temples were located.

WHEN THE AMERICAN FINANCIAL SECTOR CONVULSED IN September of 2008, it was the Titanic hitting the iceberg. America is still trying to bail out the water. Experts are struggling to come up with a solution. But the ship is still sinking. There is no solution in man—not for Israel, and not for the rest of the world.

The Titanic was warned, but the warnings were ignored. God has likewise sent America many warnings. The nations of Israel (our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains who they are)—especially America, Britain and the Jewish nation—have been warned for 70 years through Herbert W. Armstrong and the Philadelphia Church of God in this end time. Still they scurry around trying to plug the holes of a sinking ship. After all those years of having access to God's message, they still reject it, and still try to solve their problems their own way. They are going to have to learn the *hard* way that it will take God's power to solve these frightening problems.

None of our leaders realize what a colossal disaster this is for America and the world!

Just as some on the Titanic were saved with lifeboats, God has prepared lifeboats for the very elect. Will you be in that group?

I believe one of the main reasons—maybe *the* main reason—our students have participated in archaeological digs in Jerusalem is to give us an understanding and a focus on Ezekiel's temple. We need to focus on that *because* society is about to fall apart and there's no human government on the horizon that is able to lead this world! And apart from God, there never will be.

Mankind refuses to see that there is a spiritual nation about to be born! (Isaiah 66:8). The Messiah and that nation will rule this world God's way.

God wants us to begin to show the world in a *practical way* that there is a government and a nation about to rise and rule, and STOP ALL OF THE SUFFERING OF THIS WORLD!

A MESSAGE TO DECLARE

Notice Ezekiel 40:3-4: "When he brought me there, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like bronze, with a line of flax and *a measuring reed* in his hand; and he was standing in the gateway. And the man said to me, 'Son of man, look with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and set your mind upon all that I shall show you, for you were brought here in order that I might show it to you; *declare all that you see to the house of Israel*'" (Revised Standard Version). An awesome angelic architect gave Ezekiel the measurements of the temple. God told Ezekiel to "SET YOUR MIND upon all that I shall show you" and declare all that he saw to *the house of Israel*. But how could Ezekiel declare this message to the nations of Israel? He was a Jewish slave in captivity to Babylon. God told him, *Declare the measurements of that temple, and all of the other details of that temple, to the house of Israel!* Ezekiel couldn't do that. Only a *type* of Ezekiel can do it, today—so this is obviously a message for the end time. (Our booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet* will prove that to you. All of our literature is free.) There are nine chapters prophesying about the Ezekiel temple. God gets very specific about a modern-day *type* of Ezekiel *measuring* the temple in the latter days. That is what the message you are reading is all about.

God says His people today must deliver this specific message. Why? Because we are the only ones who have had these chapters *revealed* to us! There has never been anybody else who could have delivered this message. Mr. Armstrong understood very little about the vision of Ezekiel's temple. God has revealed that truth and a lot more to the PCG. The PCG members have been chosen to support that message. If we fail to deliver this message, Ezekiel will have lived in vain!

WE MUST KNOW WHERE THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE IS TO BE BUILT.

“[A]nd the chamber which faces north is for the priests who have charge of the altar; these are the sons of Zadok, who alone among the sons of Levi may come near to the LORD to minister to him” (Ezekiel 40:46; RSV). In ancient Israel, Zadok was the only priest who remained loyal to King David from the beginning of his rule to the very end. In this prophecy, Ezekiel says the sons of Zadok will be in a chamber of God's millennial temple that faces north. God wants the sons of Zadok to know where they will be stationed in that temple. That is detailed information.

Only spiritual sons of Zadok come near to God. Here is the highest level of spiritual leaders. These are the very elect leaders whom God has prepared throughout the ages—most of them apparently from this end time. These sons of Zadok are only emphasized in the latter-day prophecies.

God is going to build an Ezekiel temple. But why? It is needed for the Messiah and the sons of Zadok to administer God's government around the Earth.

That means God is having to prepare the sons of Zadok *before* that headquarters temple is built! God has been doing this throughout the ages, even though most people have always rejected that message.

There is no mention in the Bible of sons of Zadok being prepared *during the World Tomorrow*. These are sons who are prepared in the age *before* the Messiah establishes His Kingdom.

What an honor it will be to work directly with God at headquarters for all eternity! These are the highest positions there ever will be in Ezekiel's temple. We can only qualify for them prior to the Messiah's coming.

The sons of Zadok are the *only* ones delivering God's message in these latter days!

“*THAT THEY MAY BE ASHAMED*”

Notice Ezekiel 43:10: “And you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple and *its appearance and plan*, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities” (RSV). People will be ashamed of their iniquities when they hear this message!

Why would describing the appearance and plan of the Ezekiel temple make someone *ashamed*?

All of mankind’s plans are crumbling before them, and the world is frightened. Our leaders do not have the answers. God’s people are going to show the people where the new world headquarters will be—THE WORLD HEADQUARTERS THAT IS GOING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT ALL THE HORRENDOUS PROBLEMS IN THIS WORLD CAUSED BY SIN.

God commands us to show the world this temple, and the government it represents—IN DETAIL! Then the people of Israel and the world will see that the way God manages His government is *vastly different* from anything in the world today. When they see how God’s government will work and how the *problems* of this world will be solved, in time they will be ashamed of how they have been defiant toward the living God!

God’s plan is right there in their own Bibles. That fabulous vision has been there for thousands of years. But only now has God revealed it to mankind through the Philadelphia Church of God!

“And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, portray the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, and *its whole form*; and make known to them all its ordinances and all its laws ...” (verse 11, RSV). A big part of what we have to do is to show them *all* of the ordinances and laws of the temple. We must also show them how the temple is to be arranged, “its exits and its entrances, and its whole form.”

Verse 11 continues, “... and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe and perform all its laws and all its ordinances” (RSV). That’s what we are now doing: making known the ordinances, laws and form of God’s future world headquarters!

We must show Israel the vision of Ezekiel’s temple—the temple from where the Messiah is going to RULE this world! We have to show people the FORM, the FASHION, the COMINGS and the GOINGS, and WHERE THE TEMPLE IS TO BE BUILT! We will

do everything we can to make it real. We will make pictures of the Ezekiel temple and show the people how it is going to function. We even have a little *type* of it today on this Earth in the administration building at our Edmond headquarters. It is next door to a house for God we finished building in August 2010. We concluded this project even as God gave us plans for *another* house—the Ezekiel temple!

GIVING THIS WORLD A PICTURE OF EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE WILL MAKE THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW REAL TO ANYBODY WHO IS RECEPTIVE.

Think about that! God is a builder! He has magnificent building plans for you and me and the entire world. THIS IS ALL ABOUT THE NEW WORLD HEADQUARTERS WITH THE MESSIAH RULING FROM THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE! GOD IS INSPIRING THIS TO BE DONE NOW BECAUSE IT IS A PART OF THE MESSIAH GETTING READY TO RULE THE WORLD! THIS IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT A NEW WORLD GOVERNMENT IS READY TO BURST ON THE WORLD SCENE. A NEW SPIRITUAL NATION IS ABOUT TO "BE BORN AT ONCE" (Isaiah 66:8). GOD'S MOST EXALTED RULERS MUST HAVE A MAJESTIC WORLD HEADQUARTERS FROM WHICH TO RULE! The Messiah wants us to know a lot about the Ezekiel temple before He gets here, and to prepare ourselves and the world for that reality. We have to understand and declare all those details.

God wants us to make that temple real to ourselves and to as many in the world as we can. People must know how that temple looks and how God is going to use it.

We must declare this new world that is about to majestically appear on the world scene. WE MUST SHOW THE WORLD A PRACTICAL VISION OF HOW GOD IS GOING TO SOLVE ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS. It will be a far different world than what we see today.

THE SONS OF ZADOK

"Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD; and I fell upon my face. And the LORD said to me, 'Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I shall tell you concerning all the ordinances of the temple of the LORD and all its laws; and mark well

those who may be admitted to the temple and all those who are to be excluded from the sanctuary” (Ezekiel 44:4-5, RSV). The sons of Zadok are admitted into the temple and the disobedient are not. The rebels will be ashamed when they see they are excluded from God’s Ezekiel temple because of their sins. The sons of Zadok will be the only ones going near to God. God makes that distinction, and we need to make it too.

Today the sons of Zadok are loyal to David’s throne through to the end when most of God’s people are rebelling. God rewards them for that enduring loyalty. They are going to have the highest spiritual jobs in the World Tomorrow along with many others who have gone before and also remained loyal to David’s throne. The example of God’s true Church will show the people of this world how to repent and be ashamed of their sins.

“And say to the rebellious house, to the house of Israel [the modern nations of Israel], Thus says the Lord God: O house of Israel, let there be an end to all your abominations, in admitting foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, to be in my sanctuary, profaning it, when you offer to me my food, the fat and the blood. You have broken my covenant, in addition to all your abominations” (verses 6-7, RSV). These verses are talking specifically about the rebels. They open their doors to *everybody* and say that’s the way God operates. They ignore what God’s apostle taught them for many years and rebel against God. Verse 8 says the self-willed shepherds haven’t kept charge of God’s holy things. These verses also apply to the nations of Israel, in general. They have refused to hear God’s inspiring message.

The sons of Zadok are different. “But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary *when* the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me ...” (verse 15). Sons of Zadok keep God’s law and do it exactly the way God says. When most of God’s people in this end time rebelled against God, the spiritual sons of Zadok remained loyal to the teaching about David’s throne.

These verses clearly show what their obedience and loyalty mean to God. They have a special role to play right there in the Ezekiel temple, where they will *go no more out*. They are going to be serving in the Jerusalem temple forever! That’s INCREDIBLE and WONDERFUL truth and an unparalleled reward for the sons of Zadok.

The lukewarm people of God who repent in the Great Tribulation will still lose their headquarters positions.

God's faithful saints are kings and priests in embryo, just waiting to be born into the very Family of God. WE WILL SIT AND RULE IN EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE WITH THE MESSIAH! What a future! We have an unbelievable opportunity to work at the Jerusalem headquarters temple. What an honor! We are right on the edge of that reward becoming reality!

God keeps repeating this truth: "... the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray" (Ezekiel 48:11). The sons of Zadok truly are special in the eyes of God. When the great majority of God's own people—including about 99 percent of God's ministers—rebelled against God, the sons of Zadok remained loyal—even when many of those who went astray fought against them.

LAYING PLANS FOR HEADQUARTERS

God wants us to get our minds on the Ezekiel temple so we can declare it to the world! We are going to spell it out as vividly as we can to this dying world. This epic vision is just *filled* with eternal hope!

The world really is near death, and the Messiah's rule is almost here. Only God can save this world, and He must do it very soon.

I BELIEVE ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS GOD HAS OPENED THE DOOR FOR THIS WORK TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN JERUSALEM IS TO AMPLIFY THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE MESSAGE.

The majority of people living in Jerusalem are negative about Israel's future. Judea and Jerusalem are often under attack by terrorists. That violence and suffering are part of a *sign* that Jerusalem is about to be saved—but only after horrific suffering.

What is going to happen when all these worldly governments fall apart? The *beginning* of that time is already here. Ezekiel's temple is at the heart of a clear plan all laid out. What is happening in this world is a part of a step-by-step plan that leads to Ezekiel's temple. We will never have to experience

such horrors ever again! What a *wonderful* and *marvelous* message for this hope-starved world.

The book of Ezekiel also gives us detailed dimensions of the city of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 48:17). We *must* know today what the measurements and dimensions of Jerusalem will be in the World Tomorrow. And we have to know where Jerusalem and the temples of God were built in the past. THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT ON THE SAME PLACE ZERUBBABEL AND SOLOMON BUILT THEIR TEMPLES.

In the World Tomorrow, everything will revolve first of all around the temple, and secondarily around Jerusalem.

Where is the Temple Mount, or the place where the Ezekiel temple will be built? We must know, *before* the Messiah returns, exactly where the temple and Jerusalem are to be located in the future!

ALREADY GOD IS LAYING PLANS FOR A BUILDING WHERE THE MESSIAH'S HEADQUARTERS WILL BE FOR 1,000 YEARS! AND THAT IS ONLY THE *BEGINNING* OF THE GOD FAMILY'S RULE OF THE UNIVERSE FROM JERUSALEM FOREVER!

THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE IS A DYNAMIC VISION FOR ALL HUMANITY. Even though most people will reject that vision today, God has commissioned His very elect to declare the plans for that temple anyhow—as a *witness*. It will all be fulfilled precisely as Ezekiel prophesied.

THIS IS ALL ABOUT GOD'S MASSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR HUMANITY. We must drive ourselves to etch this far-reaching vision in our minds.

“It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there” (verse 35). The name of Jerusalem is also going to be called by another name then: THE LORD IS THERE! The Son of God is going to be ruling there. THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD! Everything will revolve around that reality.

Our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow* even describes who the rulers of that city are going to be!

Chapter 4

Archaeology

Thunders: “Behold Your God!”

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT MR. ARMSTRONG’S ARCHAEOLOGICAL digs, we usually refer to an October 1971 *Tomorrow’s World* article, which lists discoveries that came from those digs. Among the finds was an Umayyad, or Arab, palace, rock-cut tombs and numerous other Roman artifacts. But why did they uncover very little from King David, Jeremiah or Nehemiah’s time? Because it wasn’t yet time for the “measurements” to be revealed! In the past few years, however, there has been an abundance of discoveries from the First and Second Temple periods. Mr. Armstrong only prepared the way for our Work.

I believe we couldn’t really deliver this Ezekiel temple message without sending our own students to volunteer at excavations in Jerusalem.

TWO BULLAE DISCOVERED

One of Jeremiah’s accusers, *Gedaliah the son of Pashur*, had his name stamped on a small clay seal that was discovered back in 2008 about 600 feet south of what is called the Temple Mount. This bulla was excavated under a tower at the north end of the City of David—the original site of ancient Jerusalem. It dates to the final years of the First Temple period, during the time of King Zedekiah’s reign.

This discovery followed one from three years earlier of

another seal with the name of Jehucal, the son of Shelemiah, on it. This man is mentioned twice in the book of Jeremiah.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT BOTH OF THESE PRINCES UNSUCCESSFULLY PETITIONED FOR THE PROPHET JEREMIAH'S EXECUTION. THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPRISONING JEREMIAH ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS.

During Jeremiah's second imprisonment, the Babylonian armies besieged and demolished Jerusalem, bound their Jewish captives in chains—including Zedekiah, who sat on David's throne—and carted them off into Babylonian captivity. When Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, Jeremiah was in prison. Miraculously, the Prophet Jeremiah managed to survive the destruction and captivity.

Nebuchadnezzar had him released. Nebuchadnezzar took the sons of Zedekiah and slew them before the eyes of Judah's last king. He also killed all the nobles of Judah. He did not want anybody left to sit on David's throne, or anybody to follow in that dynasty. Nebuchadnezzar then put out Zedekiah's eyes, took him to Babylon and put him in prison, where he died years later.

The whole world believes this was the *end* of David's throne—despite promises from God that it would never die! People may say, *I know about the prophecies and God's promises and all of that, but it all ended there! David's throne came to an end right there!* But it didn't end there! All you need to do is to study some archaeology, along with a few scriptures, and you'll know better. But most will not look into this, which is why most people do not know that Nebuchadnezzar released God's prophet, who preserved David's throne with one of Zedekiah's daughters. The throne of David was moved from Jerusalem to Ireland over 2,500 years ago by the Prophet Jeremiah. It has not been in Jerusalem since. However, it is about to be returned.

It is all explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Satan tried to end the throne of David, but God promised that there would always be a ruler to sit on that throne.

This is history the Jews should understand, even if they don't like to hear it. And since David's throne is in Britain today, the British too should be aware of this great truth.

UNTIL KING DAVID'S PALACE WAS FOUND, ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAD FOUND VIRTUALLY *NOTHING* FROM DAVID'S PERIOD IN JERUSALEM!

THE SAME IS TRUE ABOUT NEHEMIAH'S PERIOD, BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF NEHEMIAH'S WALL.

There have been a few archaeological finds from Jeremiah's time, but *NONE* OF THEM SHOW HOW VIOLENTLY HE WAS PERSECUTED LIKE THE TWO BULLAE RECENTLY FOUND. THESE BULLAE GIVE US A STRONG INSIGHT INTO WHY GOD DESTROYED THE TEMPLE AND JERUSALEM!

The two bullae really do help us get that message across that God lives, and that *many of the same circumstances prevail today as did in Jeremiah's time*. Think about what revolves around those bullae, and the meaningful Bible history and prophecy tied to those artifacts. THESE ARE AMAZING FINDS FROM JERUSALEM! It is hard to overemphasize the drama of such findings.

Jeremiah is a prophetic book. The Prophet Jeremiah warned the Jews about being conquered if they didn't repent. Jeremiah's book also shows *why* God sent them into a brutal captivity. THE JEWS ALMOST KILLED JEREMIAH, AND WOULD HAVE IF THE TWO PRINCES NAMED ON THOSE TWO BULLAE HAD GOTTEN THEIR WAY.

Most prophecy is *dual*. The book of Jeremiah certainly is. What Jeremiah prophesied anciently is only a *type* of what is going to happen to the Jewish nation in this end time—along with the two birthright nations, America and Britain. Jeremiah personally only warned the Jews. But his book is addressed to biblical Israel, or the nations of Israel. That means the book of Jeremiah is for this end time, as it was prophesied to be (Jeremiah 30:1-3).

THOSE TWO BULLAE ARE A STRONG WARNING TO THESE THREE NATIONS—especially the Jews.

Herbert W. Armstrong met several times in the Knesset with Israel's top leaders—including prime ministers and members of their staffs. His work was a powerful *witness* to the Jews. Today, we are continuing that same work.

THE JEWS IMPRISONED JEREMIAH AND ALMOST KILLED HIM. THAT SHOWS THE HATRED THEY HAD TOWARD GOD'S MESSAGE THEN AND WILL HAVE IN THIS END TIME. HOPEFULLY MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL REPENT.

God saved Jeremiah's life. But the Jews (and the rest of biblical Israel) did kill many of God's prophets throughout their history.

(continued on page 38)

A Close Friend of the Jews

Herbert W. Armstrong's reach into the Jewish state extended beyond the archaeological society of Israel. His relationship with Jewish leaders, both in the government and private sector, blossomed from his first meeting in the Knesset in 1968 until just months before his death in 1986, when he met with then Israeli prime minister and current President Shimon Peres. Beginning with Zalman Shazar in 1968, Mr. Armstrong met with every president of Israel until his death, including Ephraim Katzir, Yitzhak Navon and Chaim Herzog. He also conducted friendly personal meetings with Prime Ministers Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres.

All these Israeli officials opened their doors willingly to Mr. Armstrong, who brought with him no official governmental title, but a message of hope for the future peace of Jerusalem. As his years drew to a close, Mr. Armstrong was presented with the Medal of the Knesset by Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor. The accompanying citation read, "To the Hon. Mr. Herbert Armstrong. In appreciation of his true friendship for the land and people of Israel and his magnanimous gestures which aid and strengthen the spiritual and moral tenets of our common culture."

The mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, also maintained a



The beloved President **Zalman Shazar** of Israel was the first head of state to receive Mr. Armstrong.



Prime Minister **Golda Meir** receives a personal protocol gift of Steuben crystal from Mr. Armstrong in 1971.



Mr. Armstrong visits the archaeological site with Prof. **Benjamin Mazar**.

close relationship with Mr. Armstrong, meeting with him on his yearly visits. At Mr. Armstrong's death, the mayor wrote, "His visits to Jerusalem were always very special, and I was privileged to share these with him. He helped foster the goals we set to ensure the future of Jerusalem, King David's city." Mayor Kollek returned the favor by visiting Mr. Armstrong on the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena, California, on several occasions, speaking before the student body and faculty. A number of Israeli dignitaries also spoke at the college including former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In Jerusalem, Mr. Armstrong donated funds and resources to the development of Liberty Bell Park and the International Cultural Center for Youth (iccy), whose aim was to teach young people how to live together in peace and harmony, whether Jew or Arab, Christian or Druze. Former iccy Director Avraham Yekel wrote, "[The iccy's] closeness to his ideals of educating young people for international understanding led him and Ambassador College to become sponsors of and partners in the center's work." To show appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's contribution, the iccy engraved Mr. Armstrong's name on the paved square in front of its entrance, a plaque that can still be seen today.



Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Mr. Armstrong end a meeting with an affectionate bear hug.



Mr. Armstrong with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1976



Mr. Armstrong and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek walk arm in arm, a Jewish custom among close friends.

Nehemiah's work revolved around rebuilding Jerusalem and building the second temple—minus David's throne. God's very elect are going to help build Ezekiel's temple in the same place—after the Messiah comes to sit on David's throne, which will have been returned to Jerusalem at that time.

When Israel came into the Promised Land, it first had a tabernacle in Gilgal. Then the Israelites established the tabernacle at Shiloh. Later, Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem. Still later, Zerubbabel built one in the same place. But where is that *same place*, the same place Ezekiel's temple will be built? Almost nobody knows today.

The next temple will be Ezekiel's temple. That will come to an end when the Father brings down new Jerusalem. It's all one wonderful, epic vision at the heart of God's plan for mankind and the universe.

This history points to the Father and new Jerusalem! There is a step-by-step plan to get there. Building Armstrong Auditorium, which we call God's house today, gave the Philadelphia Church of God an idea of what it is going to be like to build Ezekiel's temple. Constructing and maintaining that structure helps us get ready for that future. Who better to draw the specifications for Ezekiel's temple than the people who built God's house today?

Solomon's temple was constructed *just south* of what is commonly believed to be the Temple Mount today. Ezekiel's temple is going to be built on the same, identical spot. WE HAVE TO PROCLAIM THIS EARTH-SHAKING NEWS TO THE WORLD!

We must show the world where David's throne will be located—the throne from which the Messiah will rule the world, helped by the firstfruits—the Bride of the Messiah.

This is a practical plan, so wonderful and filled with hope for the whole world.

WHAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS REVEAL

In 2005, Israeli archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar uncovered what is believed to be King David's palace—where David's throne began. The Messiah is going to sit on that throne forever when He comes. So this is an eternal throne in which God has a profound interest.

Dr. Mazar also discovered Nehemiah's wall in 2007, which is from the time period when the second temple was built. After the first temple was destroyed, Jews still sat on David's throne, even though it was no longer in Jerusalem. That fact tells us *indirectly* that THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A GIANT LESSON LEARNED ABOUT WHY THAT THRONE WAS NO LONGER IN JERUSALEM! The Jews and other biblical nations of Israel should have repented of their sins against God's message sent through the Prophet Jeremiah. But they continue to repeat the same mistakes.

It is easier to say David's throne came to an end than to bitterly repent of your sins. It is clear from just a few verses in Jeremiah's first chapter that God's prophet had a commission to plant David's throne in another nation. That is clearly proven in our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. This is a subject the Jewish people and other nations of Israel should have learned. They are without excuse.

Even *logic* should teach us that if the throne continued AS GOD PROPHESED, Jeremiah must have been involved in moving it. It was God who really had Jeremiah released from prison—not Nebuchadnezzar. God had a mighty commission for Jeremiah to fulfill.

If you understand Bible prophecy, you know that David's throne belongs in Jerusalem, where it is soon going to be forever (Isaiah 9:7).

It is, after all, God's throne. The discoveries of David's palace, the bullae and Nehemiah's wall are all either directly or indirectly tied to David's throne.

Are there biblical indicators of how David's throne will get back to Jerusalem?

JEREMIAH'S MISSION AND OUR LAST-HOUR WORK

The Prophet Jeremiah had quite a commission, to root out the throne of David from Jerusalem. The way it is discussed in Jeremiah 1 shows his commission is tied directly to the people who, I believe, are going to have a hand in getting that throne back to Jerusalem!

God's very elect are going to show this world something it has never seen before. We are getting ready to reestablish David's

throne in Jerusalem, and this time it is going to be there FOREVER!

Here is the commission God gave Jeremiah: “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:10).

God had a big plan for Jeremiah—to root out, pull down, destroy, and throw down. That was quite a process Jeremiah had to experience *before* he was able to build and plant. It included his imprisonment and forced trip to Egypt and other tests. But he left Jerusalem with Zedekiah’s daughter in order to *build* and *plant*. He also had the stone that represents David’s throne. That stone began as representing Bethel, or the house of God (Genesis 28:18-19). God has had a special interest in that stone for most of mankind’s history. God watches over His throne and fulfills the promise He made to David and to all of us. Jeremiah fulfilled a large part of his commission by taking that throne to Ireland. (You can read more about this history in our recently improved and upgraded booklet *The Key of David*.)

Immediately after that, the book of Jeremiah gets directly into the very last hour of God’s Work (Jeremiah 1:11). Jeremiah’s commission is connected to God’s Work today in verses 10 and 11 of chapter one. I believe it *indirectly* says to the Church of God that we will have a hand in returning the throne to Jerusalem. The Messiah is coming, and we have to do everything we can to prepare for His coming.

Before God’s people can declare this to the world, we need to get God’s plan deeply etched in our minds. We need to be totally behind what God is doing. Jeremiah’s commission and our work today are all part of God establishing a new world government. God is going to accomplish that, and nobody will ever be able to stop Him.

“And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north” (verse 13). We are seeing a lot more about this seething pot since the 2008 financial collapse. The pot is really seething in Europe now! If we are watching world news the way we should be, we will be astounded about what is happening there and amazed by all the prophecies being fulfilled.

God holds us responsible for watching world news and studying our Bibles so we will know when and where the pot is seething!

Verse 16 talks about how modern-day Israel didn't care about the birthright and scepter promises. The people rejected them! It was all laid out plainly before them in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. God sent His inspiring message to be a witness against them.

Satan knows what those promises are about, and he knows he doesn't have much time left until that throne is going to be established on this Earth. He would destroy those marvelous prophecies if he could. That is why, looking at recent history, every time God's Church started turning away from God, one of the first books to go was *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. That book opens our minds to one third of the Bible, which is prophecy. If Satan can get someone's mind off prophecy and the future, soon that person will forsake God. Satan will do everything he can to destroy those prophecies and ridicule the people who are getting that message out. But he will NEVER stop God's Work if we do our part. Never!

God told Jeremiah, "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them" (verse 17). It was at this point that Jeremiah received most of his persecution, or certainly the worst of it. This gives you an idea of the obstacles God's people in this end time may face. We must brace for the challenge. At the same time, we must realize that God will empower us to conquer any obstacle!

"For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land" (verse 18). This is a warning prophecy for Judah (called *Israel* today) just like in Jeremiah's time! Jew is only a shortened version of *Judah*. The Jews still have the same old human nature.

This is a counterpart prophecy to the one in Isaiah 40:9, where we are commissioned to say *to the cities of Judah*, "Behold your God!" There will be a confrontation between God's messenger and the leaders of Judah today, as Jeremiah experienced 2,500 years ago! BUT GOD'S PEOPLE MUST NOT BE

AFRAID: GOD IS GOING TO MAKE US LIKE IRON PILLARS AGAINST THE LEADERS OF THE LAND!

“And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee” (Jeremiah 1:19). We have to *know* that God is *with us*! WE WILL PREVAIL, BECAUSE GOD IS WITH US! As long as we have God and deliver His message, we can't do anything but prevail!

We have a grave responsibility to get this message out to the world and make sure that nobody stops us.

NEHEMIAH'S WALL

In the summer of 2007, Eilat Mazar, whose grandfather was the late Prof. Benjamin Mazar, began an emergency dig near the top of Jerusalem's famous Stepped Stone Structure in order to repair a collapsing tower. Under the tower, she found a rich assemblage of pottery and other finds. She concluded that the tower must have been built by Nehemiah after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple and repair the walls around Jerusalem. We absolutely agree with her conclusion.

Read what happened at Nehemiah's wall historically. “And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate ...” (Nehemiah 8:1). They gathered at Nehemiah's wall next to the water gate. “And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month” (verse 2). This happened during the time of the annual Feast of Tabernacles.

“And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday ...” (verse 3). These people were wonderfully attentive and loved to hear God's Word. THEY WERE SO RESPECTFUL OF THIS WORD THAT THEY STOOD UP WHEN EZRA OPENED THE BIBLE (verse 5).

Now we are getting to the heart of why people who profess to obey the Bible, usually do not! They don't love and tremble at God's Word (Isaiah 66:2).

When the people heard the words of the law from Ezra, they wept (Nehemiah 8:9). They had just returned from cap-

tivity, and they were thankful to be hearing God's law again. They were so happy to build Jerusalem and the temple that they couldn't stop crying!

THE SAD PART OF THIS HISTORY IS THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THIS SUBMISSIVE ATTITUDE UNTIL *AFTER* THEY WENT INTO CAPTIVITY. Look what it took to get them into this attitude!

It will take the most brutal captivity ever experienced to lead God's own end-time rebellious Church, America, Britain and Judah to repent. We almost never learn from our own history. And what a price we have to pay!

WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WEEP TODAY WHEN THEY HEAR THE WORDS OF THE LAW? WHERE ARE THOSE WHO TREMBLE BEFORE GOD'S WORD?

God commands us to have joy: "... neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength" (verse 10). THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH! Something is wrong if we don't have this joy—and most of those in the modern nations of Israel don't have it! But you individually can have that joy if you heed God's message.

"And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them" (verse 12). How wonderful it is to hear the law of love and to understand these words! It fills us with joy and excitement! *The joy of the Lord is mentioned in context with keeping the law.*

OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DIGGING IN JERUSALEM WHERE ALL OF THIS HAPPENED. How powerfully stirring the experience is! In Ezra's day, the Jews were teaching the law and building another temple. They felt so honored to be a part of that work, they just cried. They were weeping, and they could not even rejoice properly until the ministers went and told them to rejoice.

God's lukewarm people today had wonderful truth that God's apostle gave them, and they built a house for God! They had it all. Yet they forsook God and turned away! Human nature can be very hard, and we have to conquer it. We had better examine ourselves closely.

Do you tremble before God's Word?

THE GOD-FORSAKEN ARMORY

There is a prophecy in Isaiah of a point in this end time when God's rebellious people will see that they are losing the spiritual war.

“And Elam bare the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield. And it shall come to pass, that thy choicest valleys shall be full of chariots, and the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate. And he discovered [dismantled] the covering of Judah, and thou didst look in that day to the armour of the house of the forest” (Isaiah 22:6-8). This is about a mighty spiritual war being waged today. Satan and his demons have attacked God's Church and conquered the rebels. God's angels and the very elect are still fighting for God and winning!

Those who forsake God look to their armory, or arsenal, and find their armaments are inadequate. There are *breaches* (broken, ruptured or torn conditions) in the City of David (verse 9). These verses are a *type* of what happens to God's people in this end time.

Barnes' Notes states this about “of the house of the forest”: “This was built within the city, and was called *the house of the forest of Lebanon*, probably from the great quantity of cedar from Lebanon which was employed in building it (1 Kings 7:2-8).”

The *Interpreter's Bible* states that there were “many pillars supporting the roof.” These pillars were probably made of the majestic cedars of Lebanon.

The Bible refers to the cedar of Lebanon as if it is the most beautiful tree on Earth—the king of trees. Solomon used the cedars to build an armory on the Temple Mount.

God uses the regal, kingly cedar of Lebanon to remind His own people what their spiritual armory was like before they rebelled. Then their armory was like God's most sculptured tree—most of the time.

The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* emphatically states that the cedars of Lebanon were used: “the house of armoury, built of cedar from *the forest of Lebanon* by Solomon, on a slope of Zion called *Ophel* (1 Kings 7:2; 10:17; Nehemiah 3:19).” (Also see Nehemiah 3:26-27; 2 Chronicles 27:3; 33:14.)

Where is the "Ophel"? Ernest Martin wrote: "Since everyone now knows that the 'Mount Zion' of King David's time was located in the *southern* part of Jerusalem on its *southeast* ridge, this means that the temples would have to be located immediately north on what was called the 'OPHEL' in the Scriptures (but NOT a third of a mile north to the Dome of the Rock). This well-known geographical fact signifies that the real site of the temples was a few yards (meters) west of the GIHON SPRING, about a third of a mile south of the Dome of the Rock now situated within the enclosure of the Haram esh-Sharif" (*The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot*).

The Ophel and the Gihon Spring are in the same area. The Ophel mound carries great symbolism for us today. The symbolic armory to which Isaiah refers was built where the temple was built: on the Ophel mound, very near the Gihon Spring. The temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel were only types of God's spiritual temple, the Church, today.

God is reminding us that His lukewarm people are still a part of His temple, or Church. They are in the *outer court* of God's temple. Malachi 3 relates how they are gold that must be refined. They are God's lukewarm Church—spiritual gold that must be purified in the fiery furnace. God loves them deeply, and so must we. Then we will be motivated to warn them of their grave danger of losing everything.

We are in a raging spiritual war. Only the strong warriors who fight with God are left standing with His revealed truth.

The *Ophel* is where our students have been part of an archaeological dig in Jerusalem for years. The symbolism shows us that there is much more involved here than archaeology! Our Herbert W. Armstrong College students are thrilled to be a part of this warfare.

Verses 8 and 12 of Isaiah 22 discuss *in that day*, which always refers to the latter days, concluded by the coming of the Messiah. It is one of several proofs in this chapter that this is a prophecy for us right now. It is now God's time to reveal these prophecies.

The fact that God's Church today has built God's physical house may be the greatest physical sign that we fear God and that we are sons of Zadok. This is something that can just overwhelm you with joy when you truly understand what God has

given the sons of Zadok! WE ARE BUILDERS FOR GOD! We are going to help the Messiah establish the Ezekiel temple for the whole world.

Before we do that, we must help this world get a picture of Ezekiel's temple in their heads! WE MUST SHOW THEM THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF GOD THAT IS READY TO BURST ON THE WORLD SCENE! GOD COMMANDS US TO DECLARE IT! God commands us to proclaim to the world where the Temple Mount really was and where the Ezekiel temple and Jerusalem will be built.

**ARCHAEOLOGY SPEAKS:
"BEHOLD YOUR GOD!"**

As I mentioned, until Dr. Mazar found David's palace, the two bullae and Nehemiah's wall, almost nothing had been found relating to the periods of David, Jeremiah and Nehemiah. Many scholars labeled most of it as myth. Think of the impact Dr. Mazar's dig has already had on this world.

The two bullae represent two powerful princes who weren't satisfied with just having Jeremiah imprisoned. They tried to get him *killed* for what is today called the book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah wanted to prevent the Jews from being taken captive by Babylon. But they rejected God's message and were enslaved.

That message was only a *type* of what is going to happen to America, Britain and the Jewish nation today. How many of us will heed Jeremiah's message for today? (Request our booklet *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*.) Or will we try to imprison and kill the messenger who delivers Jeremiah's message? Don't make that mistake! You can be one who, instead, *supports* God's message and helps to prepare for the Messiah's imminent arrival!

God is going to make you choose.

These are Earth-shaking archaeological finds that should shake the Jews from their deep sleep!

Iran is about to get nuclear bombs. It and its terrorist proxies threaten to wipe Jerusalem off the map. But do the Jews heed the warning from Jeremiah?

No, they do not. They continue in their deep sleep—even though this warning message has been delivered for 70 years!

Over 6 million copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* have been delivered. Still, America, Britain and Jerusalem remain in a spiritual coma!

We must remember that the ancient Israelites were the only people on this Earth who had a history with God. But today the people of Israel act like pagans who have never heard of the true God, as they remain mired in their abominable sins. These are the three nations Jeremiah's message is specifically directed at today.

These nations should be setting a righteous example for the world. Instead, they pave the way in unspeakably vile sins—like creating most of the world's pornography, which is the engine of the Internet.

That is one of many sins. Isaiah said the whole head is sick! (Isaiah 1:5-6).

Our warning continues. And much of that warning comes in the form of archaeological discoveries.

Still these three nations remain asleep! How much must they suffer before they wake up? Their suffering is going to be the worst ever witnessed or experienced in human history, just before the Messiah comes.

Ezekiel asked the most sobering question of all: "[W]hy will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11). God pleads with our people to repent. But America, Britain and Jerusalem sleep on!

NEHEMIAH'S WALL IS ABOUT THE CAPTIVITY IT TOOK TO AWAKEN THE JEWS. Then after 70 years they returned to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. They were teachable and trembled at God's Word. At that time they were ready to obey and build for God!

There is a powerful warning in that history for America, Britain and Jerusalem.

Terrifying problems plague us today, far more than ever before. Horrendous prophecies are being fulfilled weekly—even daily—and they are a *gigantic sign* that thunders: "Behold your God!"

WHEN ISAIAH 40 STATES "BEHOLD YOUR GOD!" IT IS ALL ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE MESSIAH'S COMING. DAVID'S PALACE, THE TWO BULLAE AND NEHEMIAH'S WALL THUNDER GOD'S MESSAGE, "BEHOLD YOUR GOD!" THIS IS LEADING UP TO THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH.

JEREMIAH AND NEHEMIAH WILL BE WITH HIM—PLUS ALL THE OTHER RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE! WE ARE AT THE EDGE OF THIS PROPHECY BEING FULFILLED. That is where God wants His people today to focus their minds—on the coming of our Husband! We have the exalted honor to be the Bride of the Messiah. That's quite a high-level calling and responsibility. Anyone who will attain that honor must work hard to fully understand this calling. To all God's Spirit-begotten people I say emphatically: Don't let Satan lead you away from understanding who you are!

THE FINAL OVERTURN

Ezekiel 21:25-27 prophesy about the three overturns of David's throne before the *final* overturn when the Messiah comes.

Isaiah 16 indicates that God's people will be used in an interesting way with the final overturn. "And in mercy SHALL THE THRONE BE ESTABLISHED: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness" (verse 5). The time frame here is when God's people are in a place of protection during the "crisis at the close" (Daniel 12:1; Moffatt translation). The throne of David will be with us. This is about the throne of David and God's very elect.

The Hebrew word for *established* in this verse means *prepared*. We are getting ready for the coming of the Anointed One, and there's no telling what we might be a part of before He gets here. Scriptures like this indicate we will have a *heavy hand* in the preparations.

Notice Ezekiel 46:9: "When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed feasts, he who enters by the north gate to worship shall go out by the south gate; and he who enters by the south gate shall go out by the north gate: no one shall return by way of the gate by which he entered, but each shall go out straight ahead" (RSV). We must know where the Ezekiel temple is to be located in Jerusalem. We're going to have to know which direction is north and which is south, and which gate is which.

There is a lot of deception out there about where the Temple Mount is and where it is not. I am ABSOLUTELY CON-

vinced both temples were not where most scholars today say they are. There is abundant proof from secular and biblical history that will show us if we have open minds.

HOW CAN WE SHOW THIS WORLD WHERE THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SOLOMON'S OR ZERUBBABEL'S TEMPLES WERE BUILT? We can't.

GOD WANTS US TO GET OUR MINDS ON THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE. God's very elect have to start planning for this new temple and for the new building program so that we are prepared for it when the Messiah returns. God wants us to have the mindset for it so we will be ready and excited about building it! What we see happening in this world should motivate us to get our minds on it even more.

Dr. Mazar has uncovered King David's palace, Nehemiah's wall, and those two bullae. God wants His Church to use those finds to make that history and the mighty God become more ALIVE so we can be prepared for and get our minds on Ezekiel's temple. The Messiah is coming to this Earth. God wants us to declare this to the world—and where and how we are going to rule on this Earth.

We will govern with real authority and bring peace, joy and happiness to this Earth forever! We will teach people as God's kings and priests. We will show them how to rejoice! They will forget their grieving, the suffering and all the horror they had to experience, because it will be a time to rejoice!

God has called His people today to be a part of this. We have the wonderful honor to declare the Ezekiel temple to this world, and all the good news that comes from that. What a wonderful opportunity God has given all of us!

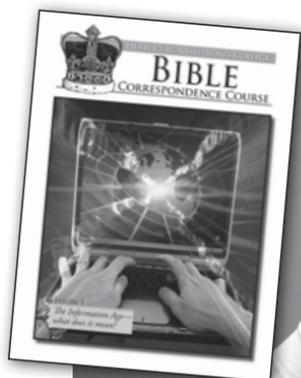
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