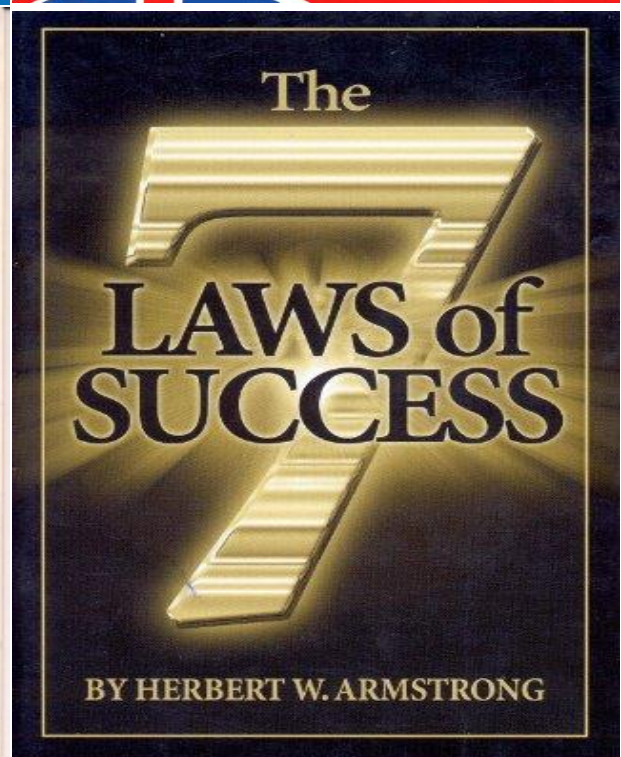
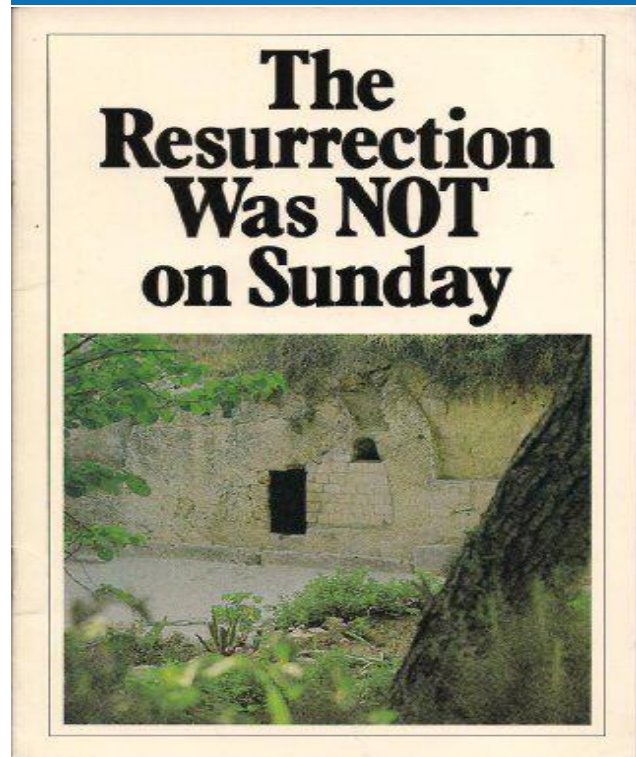
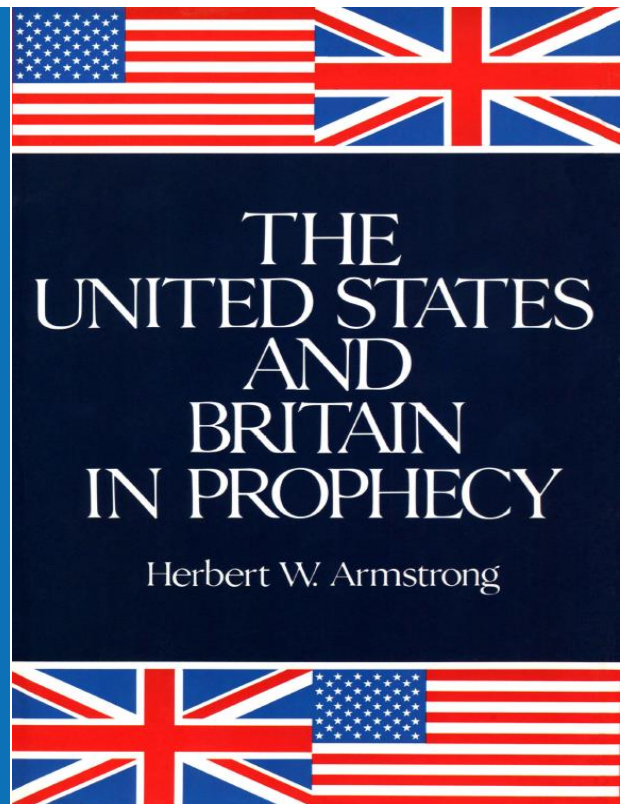


ARMSTRONG CULT DEPROGRAMS ITSELF

by **David Lee Burris**




**BIG SANDY, TEXAS CAMPUS OF AMBASSADOR UNIVERSITY**





*The*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**

VOL. I NO. I February, 1934



Is a  
**World Dictator**  
*About to Appear?*

**WE** Live today in the most strenuous, anxious, momentous hours of earth's history. Today we stand on the very threshold of colossal events that will stagger the mind of mortal man. Just now it is like the lull

**WILL** It be Mussolini, Stalin, or Roosevelt?

Everybody senses that something is **WRONG** with the world . . . that some mighty event is about to occur.


What is it? Bible prophecy tells! Here is a solemn warning . . . and it is the plain truth!

that Mussolini's whole aim is to restore the ancient Roman Empire in all its former splendor, power, and glory---and Rome ruled the world!

Today Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain

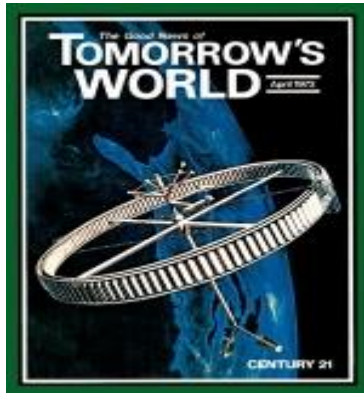
*The*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**

**What's Ahead for**



**and Beyond!**

<https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=getbook&InfoID=1325985314&InfoType=WorldTomorrow&InfoTitle=The%20Wonderful%20World%20Tomorrow%20-%20What%20It%20Will%20Be%20Like>



**But humanity WILL SURVIVE! There is GOOD NEWS for the future. It is reported by a major news source most people — and most scientists — have utterly overlooked.**

**There is a Master Plan already being worked out. And before Century 21, it will bring to this earth PEACE! There is a Master Plan to solve the vast problems of illiteracy, starvation, poverty and squalor. It entails vast agrarian reforms, economic reforms, reforms in governments, and practical plans to bring about disarmament & world peace.**

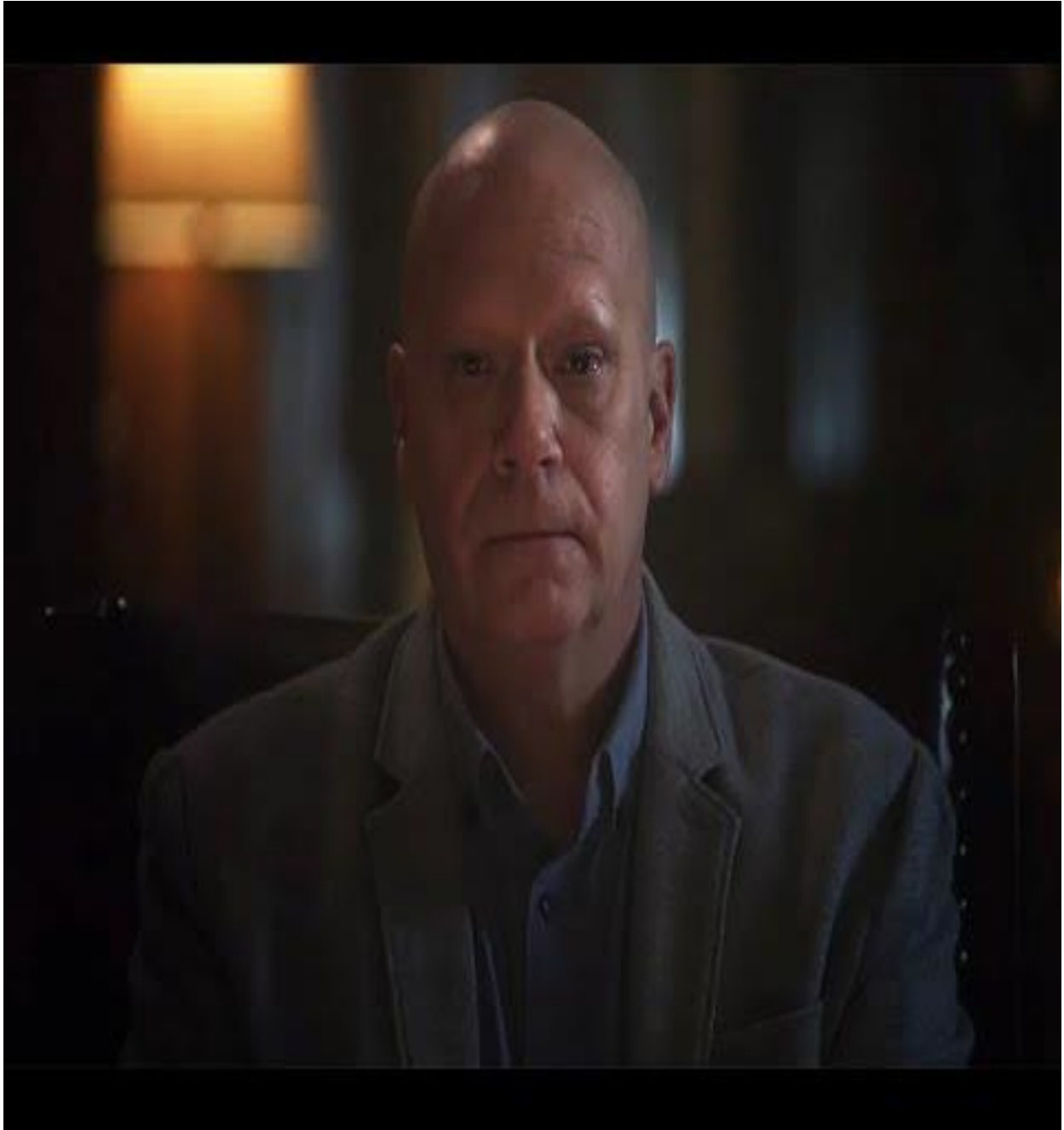
**Many scientists and world leaders know, in general, what it will take to bring this solution. Today, many far-seeing leaders put their fingers on the one great change that can save humanity now alive. What they do not know is how to implement it.**

**With one voice, these men say the solution now demands a WORLD GOVERNMENT.**

# **SIGNATURE TENETS OF PRIOR WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD**

- ✚ **Observance of the seven-day Sabbath and annual Israelite holy days.**
- ✚ **A doctrine of the modern identity of the “lost ten tribes.”**
- ✚ **A gospel centering on the return of Christ and a future millennium on Earth.**
- ✚ **Three Tithes: one for the work of the church, one for personal expenses at the required annual festivals, and one every third and sixth year of a seven-year cycle for the widows and the poor.**
- ✚ **Adherence to the Old Testament unclean meat laws.**
- ✚ **Rejection of the doctrines of the immortal soul and hell.**
- ✚ **Rejection of Trinitarianism.**
- ✚ **Avoidance of traditional Christian festivals.**
- ✚ **Avoidance of voting and military service.**
- ✚ **Avoidance of most forms of medical care.**
- ✚ **A unique pre-millennial triple-resurrection schema.**
- ✚ **The belief that the WCG was the only true church and that Herbert Armstrong was specially raised up and was inspired by God to be the “Elijah to come” who would “restore all things,” including right doctrine for the return of Christ.**

**View For Historic Reference Not Correctness**



## The Rise and Fall of a Church and Its Founder

From his first trip to Hollywood in 1947 until his death 39 years later at 93, Herbert W. Armstrong's career as a religious entrepreneur was one of the most spectacular Southern California had ever seen. In his prime--and for years beyond--he combined radio flair, marketing prowess and a quirky theological smorgasbord to build a luxuriously appointed 50-acre Pasadena campus. Its capstone was the \$11-million Ambassador Auditorium, whose acoustics were praised & whose stage attracted the likes of Artur Schnabel, Luciano Pavarotti and the Vienna Symphony--as well as Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

The denomination Armstrong started, known as the Worldwide Church of God, had about 120,000 members at its peak, with a top annual income exceeding \$200 million. Fifteen years after Armstrong's death in 1986, the church--of which I was a member from 1975 to 79--has transformed itself dramatically. Its renowned auditorium no longer hosts concerts or comedians; the artistic programming went away six years ago. Ambassador College, which achieved accreditation in the late 1980s, no longer exists. And no church voice "cries out in the wilderness" blanketing the country's radio or TV stations, as the man who openly referred to himself as "Christ's end-time apostle" once did.



In “The Liberation of the Worldwide Church of God,” J. Michael Feazell, a leading church figure & executive editor of the church’s magazine *The Plain Truth*, chronicles the rise and fall of both the church and the man. This behind-the-scenes view of **a religious group shedding almost every doctrine it once clung to** is a story perhaps without parallel in American religious history.

Among his beliefs that came under scrutiny after his death was his insistence that one is not “born again” after accepting Christ, but rather simply “begotten” with a chance to succeed or be “spiritually aborted” as a believer. Church leaders felt that it was built on a faulty translation of one Greek word in the King James version of the New Testament. The long-held church belief that relying on medicine for healing was an affront to God’s power is dramatically told by Feazell, who recounts the story of his own internal struggle when his young son contracted pneumonia.

But two doctrinal pillars provoked greatest rebellion when toppled. The first was the belief that the United States and Britain were populated by descendants of two “lost tribes” of ancient Israel and that the two nations were identifiable in biblical prophecy.



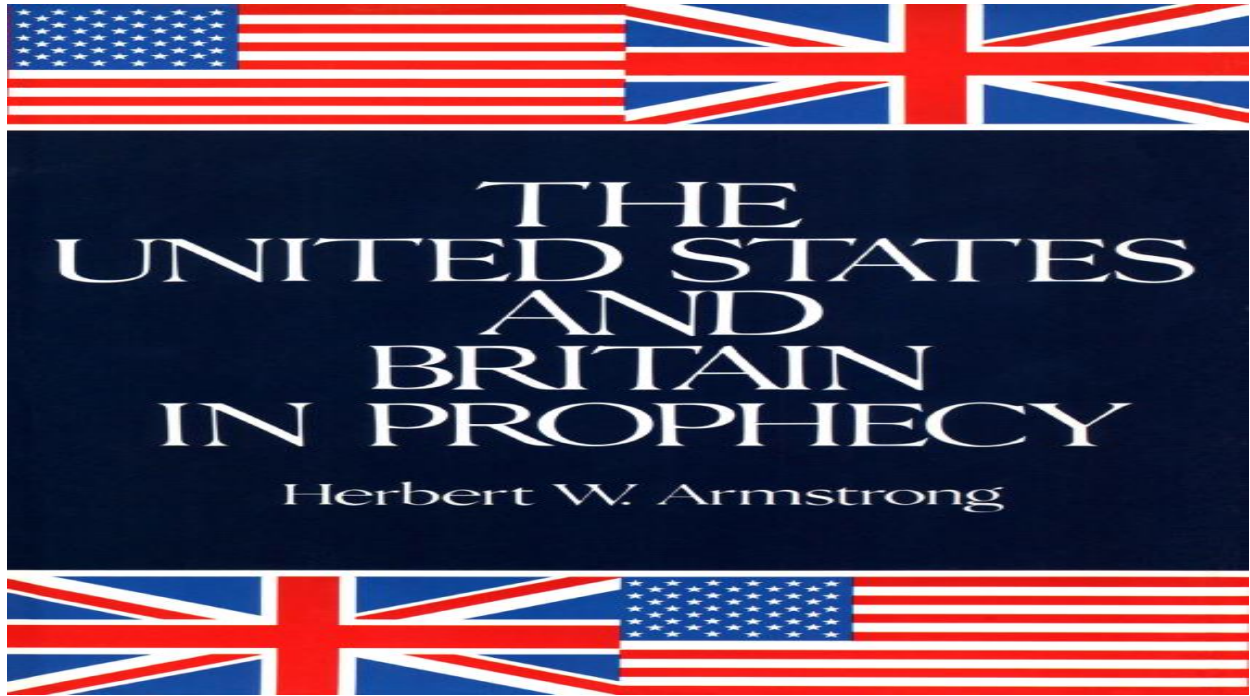
Then the church reversed its long-standing insistence on observing a seventh-day (Saturday) Sabbath and O.T. Holy Days such as Passover, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. Such days may be observed, the church declared, but a person could go to church on Sunday and celebrate Christmas and Easter and still be numbered among the faithful--something that would never have allowed by Armstrong.

**Fezell tells how the church had to deal with anger among the membership when these theological pillars were dismantled. An evolution in eschatology might have been palatable, but the church's change on holy days proved way too much for many to accept. The departures fractured the church, ruptured friendships and family relationships, and sent the church's finances plunging into red ink.**

Yet Fezell defends the moves as necessary to bring Christian freedom to a group hidebound by what he called a legalistic observance of nonessential doctrines. Through the doctrinal review process--and his master's and doctoral studies--he found that the real basis of a Christian's right standing with God is right relationship with Jesus, not outward observances.

The church's doctrinal growth & maturation remains -- like the tale of Armstrong himself -- almost unique in the history of American-born religions. -- M.A. Kellner

*Early Indicator of Coming Change:  
Pastoral Letter of November 1995 ..*



AVOID MIXING NATIONALISTIC MYTHS WITH  
THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

“Have you noticed how many end-time scenarios give favored status to the United States? Or they demonize enemy nations?”

With the fall of Communism the well-worn association of Gog with Russia is no longer viable, and so prophecy preachers are scrambling to find alternatives. Islamic countries are favorite targets. ‘Is Saddam Hussein the Antichrist?’ is the sort of popular sermon title that is used today. Who will it be tomorrow? **I plead with you, do not be a part of this misguided nationalistic fervor.”**

# Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God: Resurrected into [[Protestant]]Orthodoxy

## **Author:**

Doug LeBlanc

## **Published:**

Jun 10, 2009

Herbert W. Armstrong died in 1986 at the patriarchal age of 93, and his Worldwide Church of God has been burying portions of his theology ever since. During this decade-long funeral, the WCG has experienced an institutional suffering and dying, losing 130 or more of its 450 ministers & seeing at least 30,000 members scatter or splinter or get out of church life entirely.

WCG church leaders have chosen this path of suffering resulting from years of what they describe as persistent leading of the Holy Spirit. The Worldwide Church of God is one of the few church bodies with a corporate sense that those who die to themselves will rise to new spiritual life. The death of certain WCG doctrines has led to the *denominational resurrection* into orthodoxy.

**A Brief History.** Reared as a Quaker, Armstrong joined the Oregon Conference of the Church of God in the late 1920s and by 1931 was ordained as one of its ministers.

Armstrong founded the Radio Church of God in 1934, broadcasting his prophecy-oriented “World Tomorrow” program from Eugene, Oregon. He began publishing *The Plain Truth* as a mimeographed newsletter. That magazine’s title (unlike the evangelical content that now appears within its full-color pages) is one of the few icons of Armstrong that was left unchanged by the sweeping reforms of recent years.

After World War II Armstrong moved his headquarters to Pasadena, California, and the denomination has been a prestigious, even if controversial, civic institution ever since. He adopted the name Worldwide Church of God in 1968.

Following accusations of sexual misconduct in 1971 Armstrong’s handsome son and heir-apparent, Garner Ted, was relieved of his WCG duties, reinstated, then relieved of his duties again. In 78 Garner T. Armstrong founded the Church of God International, a movement he led until November 1995, when a lawsuit charging him with sexual assault caused him to step down.

**Distinctives.** The Worldwide Church of God became known for an assortment of doctrinal distinctives that placed it at odds with historic Christianity. Among other aberrations, Armstrong:



- Condemned the Trinity as a pagan doctrine.
- Taught that “all saints” become little gods after their resurrection.
- Denied that Christians can be born again prior to the resurrection.
- Promoted Anglo-Israelism, the belief that British people are the literal descendants of the ten “lost” tribes of Israel.
- Urged keeping the Old Testament law, including strict Sabbath observance and dietary restrictions.
- Prohibited celebrating Christmas or Easter, which he condemned as being pagan holidays. (Instead, WCG church members only observed seven Holy Days: Passover, Festival of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Festival of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Festival of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day.)
- Forbade members to consult medical doctors when sick.
- Stressed tithing to a legalistic extreme. (Strictly observant WCG members gave 30 percent: 10 percent for a regular tithe, 10 percent to support the annual Feast of Tabernacles, and 10 percent intended to support WCG widows and orphans.)
- Forbade members to remarry after divorce and insisted that they remain celibate if they remarried after divorce.
- Insisted that the WCG was the only true church.
- Closed the movement’s doors to visitors and welcomed only converts.

**Tkach Begins Reforms.** Under the leadership of Joseph Tkach, Sr., a few WCG practices began changing even before Herbert Armstrong's death. Herbert Armstrong appointed Tkach as director of church administration in 1979, and Tkach soon began dismantling the existing authoritarian structure in local congregations, recalls Mike Fezell, executive assistant to the Pastor General.

“To Herbert Armstrong's credit, he appreciated that [change], supported it and promoted it.”

Armstrong appointed Tkach as his successor before his death, and Tkach, in turn, chose his own son, Joseph Jr., to be his successor in 1995. The elder Tkach died in 1995 at age 68 of complications from cancer.

“There was in Mr. Tkach a strong desire to teach the truth,” Fezell said. “As questions arose, he believed it was important to honor those questions, and to answer them. **There are things Herbert Armstrong taught that were not biblical, and we had assumed they were.**”

The changing WCG also shelved Anglo-Israelism, withdrawing Armstrong's book *The United States & Britain in Prophecy* from circulation in 1991, Fezell said.

WCG leaders rejected previous Armstrong teachings about human medicine, keeping the Old Testament law, Sabbatarianism, and tithing.

Most dramatic of all, WCG leaders now believe in the Trinity, teach salvation by grace, and acknowledge that Christians attend other churches.

**Painful Losses.** Doctrinal changes have cost the church dearly in members and income. WCG officials estimate financial support plunged 35 percent in 1995, following a 10 percent drop in 1994. As a direct result, in 1995 the church laid off many of its headquarters staff, cut the circulation of its flagship *Plain Truth* magazine, ended the prestigious performing arts series at its acclaimed Ambassador Auditorium, sharply reduced subsidies to Ambassador University, and sold off assets including a fleet of vehicles (among them Tkach's private jet and limousine).

Church officials expected 53,000 to take part in the 1995 Feast of Tabernacles, compared to the previous 83,000.

John Trechak, editor and publisher of the *Ambassador Report*, a newsletter heavily critical of the WCG stated:

"I think it's amazing that any religious organization would be willing to take hits to its income and risk the livelihood of its leaders."

**"We think it's finally bottomed out," said Joseph Tkach, Jr., now Pastor General of the WCG. "We think we have won the war, but there is a cleanup taking place."**

**What Happened?** WCG leaders say the many changes did not stem from a long-time desire for theological reform or from consultations with evangelical theologians.

“We’ve been accused of hiring consultants to bring about changes, but that is not true. Like Paul, we did not consult with flesh and blood. We believe that what has happened in our fellowship is the work of the Holy Spirit,” said Greg Albrecht, editor of *The Plain Truth*.

“We resisted what we called ‘pagan Trinity doctrine.’ Believe me, there was no desire for any reform. But the Holy Spirit brought us to a place of repentance for exclusivism and pride,” Albrecht said.

“We grew up in this fellowship,” reflects leader Tkach. “Growing up with these teachings, it was not an easy thing to shed them.”

Tkach compares the WCG’s changes to emerging from years spent in a theological cave. “When we came out of the cave, what we found was some of the cult-watching groups made the journey ten times more difficult.”

Reflects Hanegraaff: “This is unprecedented in church history. It’s the very kind of thing that those who have given their lives in ministry to the cults had hoped for. Rather than developing hurdles for these guys to jump over, our job is to facilitate the process, recognizing they had an enormous tactical problem in winning over their own members.



They do not want to galvanize people around Garner Ted Armstrong or other splinter groups.

“Many other Sabbatarian groups have looked to what the Worldwide Church of God has done and said, ‘How did you do this? How do we do this?’ They’re charting brand-new territory.”

## **Evangelical Responses:**

“Let this go down forever in history, that a movement outside orthodoxy can turn to God, turn to truth, and hold its name high,” Ruth Tucker said. “As a church historian, I cannot cite anything else like this.”

“The doctrinal changes are extraordinary. On all the cardinal doctrines — the nature of God, soteriology, the identity of the body of Christ — they are now orthodox....As for the internal environment of the group, they still have a lot of work to do.

They still have to deal with Herbert Armstrong. They have covered what he stood for,” Philip Arnn said.

“They have to address the errors of Armstrong. They have to apologize to the people whose lives they have destroyed over the years. People have died because of this organization,” he added, referring to the WCG’s former ban on consulting physicians.

“Families have been utterly destroyed because of this organization,” Arnn said, with special reference to the church’s prior prohibition of remarriage after divorce, regardless of circumstances — a teaching that has also been revised.

**Armstrong’s Ghost.** WCG promotional literature still treats Armstrong reverently. “From humble beginnings in Oregon to international work, Mr. Armstrong never forgot that it was not his efforts, but the power of the Spirit of God, that built the Church. Mr. Armstrong always thought of himself merely as an instrument,” says *Welcome to Our Fellowship*, a WCG brochure.

“Mr. Armstrong constantly encouraged members of the WCG to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ — to always be willing to change when God showed the way. The Church of God, he frequently observed, must be willing to admit error & have courage to change.”

J. M. Fezell explains that the WCG wants to help those members who still believe Armstrong was a man of God with a prophetic message, and compares the Armstrong legacy to growing up with an alcoholic father. “I can love him, and God wants me to respect him. That does not mean I have to respect everything about his life.”

“We want to find the right balance between explaining that he taught things we do not believe, but not by pretending that he’s not part of our history.”

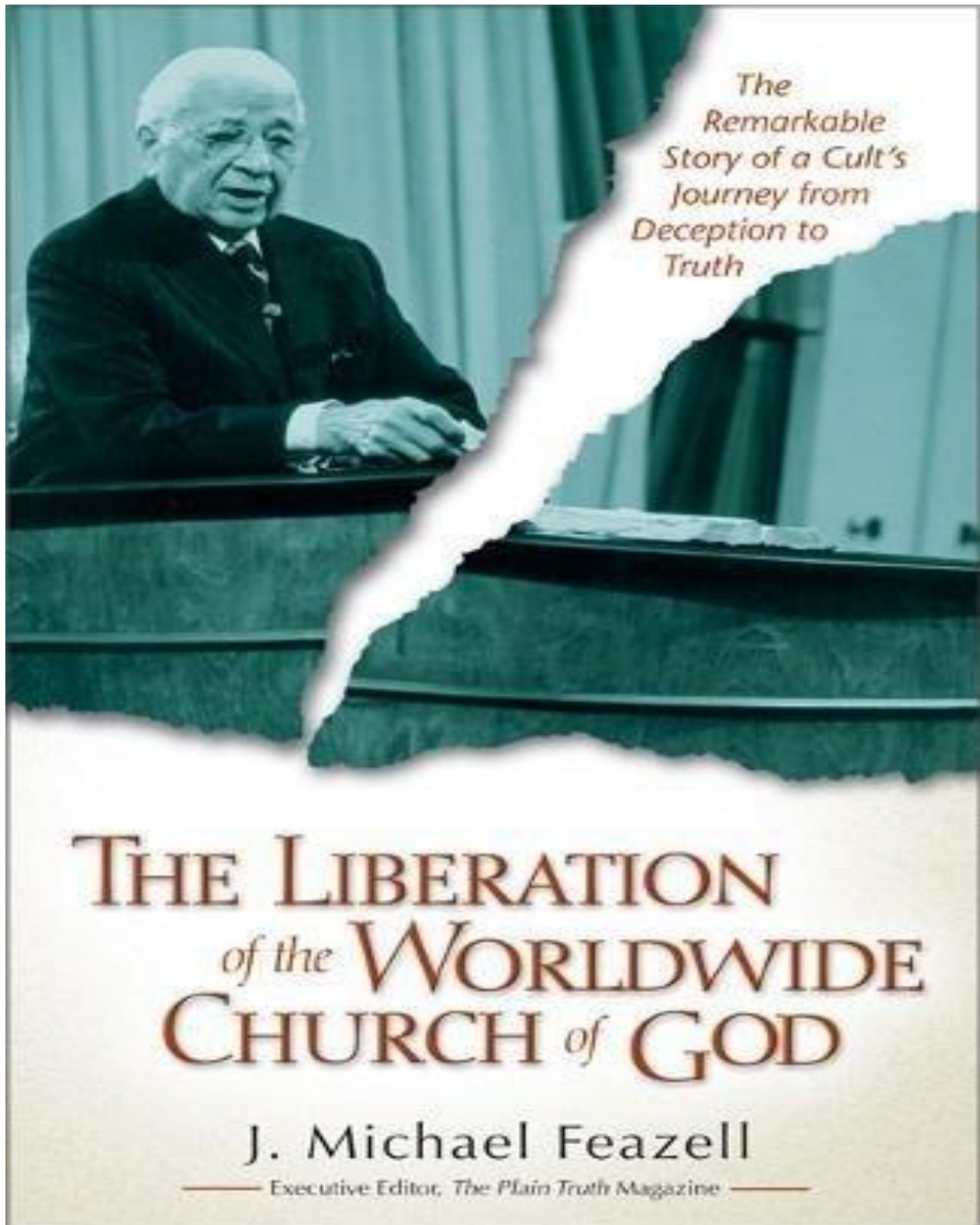
Observers such as Arnn express concern that the WCG hasn't been willing to admit error with sufficient clarity or timeliness. "We thought they were making changes, but they were more cosmetic. We thought they were still exercising cultic control.

"The first time they used [mandated videos] was in January 1995, and utter chaos broke loose," he claimed. "They should have been taking one doctrinal issue at a time, instead of blowing the whole church apart."

**The Future WCG.** As the Worldwide Church of God jettisons so much of Herbert Armstrong's teachings, will anything remain of legacy? *Should* it remain?

"The Worldwide Church of God people need contact with the outside Christian community. They need to be able to discuss theology issues with people outside of Worldwide Church of God."

J. M. Feazell ended by saying - "Time will tell whether God has something unique for us to do. If it's God's will, we may be able to tell a **story about legalism, authoritarianism, and theological error.**"





## **Greek Words, English Words**

“Herbert Armstrong and scholarship did not mix well. He continually ridiculed what he branded as ‘this world’s degrees,’ ‘so-called higher education,’ and people who ‘fancied themselves as scholars.’ Many of Armstrong’s doctrinal errors sprang directly from his ignorance of biblical scholarship and sound methods of biblical interpretation.

Early in 1987 I received a memo from Kyriakos Stavrinides, a church minister and professor of classics and Greek at Ambassador College, citing major problems with Armstrong’s booklet *Just What Do You Mean **Born Again?*** My first reaction was to roll my eyes and mumble to myself, ‘Here we go again.’ I reviewed the memo with Joseph Tkach Sr. and at Tkach’s request went to discuss it with Stavrinides.

Armstrong taught that Christians are not finally ‘born again’ until they receive glorified bodies at the resurrection. Until then, Armstrong asserted, Christians are only ‘begotten,’ which he took to mean ‘merely conceived’ but not yet born.

Stavrínides explained that the Greek word transliterated *gennao* does mean ‘begotten,’ as Herbert Armstrong taught. But contrary to Armstrong’s belief, the English word *begotten* doesn’t mean ‘conceived.’ Rather [as used] the word *begotten* refers to live birth. In this case, Herbert Armstrong’s language confusion lay in his misunderstanding of the 400-year-old King James English, not in the meaning of the Greek word. On this simple mistake of English grammar, Herbert Armstrong had built the entire edifice of his doctrine that ‘you are not finally born again until the resurrection.’

It was not just the false doctrine that was so rankling. It was his attitude about it and his presentation of it. His ‘rightness’ on this point gave him, he believed, the right to condemn any who disagreed with him as ‘falsely so-called Christians’ - deceived by the devil.

**This is what happens when a person, who in his or her own mind, becomes ‘God’s special representative.’**

— J. Michael Feazell

**Tortured Etymology.** Herbert W. Armstrong said that the Hebrew word for “covenant” (*berith*) became significant in English when combined with the Hebrew for “man” (*ish*). Since vowels are not written in the Masoretic text of the original Hebrew text, the *e* in *berith* drops out to form the term *brith*.

Since ancient Hebrews did not pronounce the *h*, *berith* became *brit*. Put that together with *ish* and you have “British.” Genesis 21:12 tells us that God promised to bless Isaac’s seed.

If the *I* in Isaac is dropped, we are left with *saac* – and it is “Saac’s sons” (*Saxon*) with whom God’s covenant was established.

– *Joseph Tkach*



## FIGURE 2: SAMPLE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD FAILED PREDICTIONS

Prediction	Date Printed
Combining the many, many other prophecies of the great tribulation . . . we may be absolutely certain that we are in, and for about three years have been passing through, this great world-wide tribulation.	<i>The Plain Truth</i> , February 1934
But this you MAY KNOW! This war [WWII] will be ended by CHRIST'S RETURN! And MAY start within six weeks! We are just THAT NEAR Christ's coming!	<i>The Plain Truth</i> , August 1939
IT'S TIME THIS NATION <i>KNEW</i> WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR IT DURING THE NEXT 5, 10, AND 15 years— years destined to be FAR MORE MOMENTOUS THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE LIVED THRU SO FAR! IT'S TIME FOR <i>YOU</i> to WAKE UP!	<i>The Plain Truth</i> , March 1950
It is now definitely proved that Adolph Hitler did not die in his Berlin bunker at the close of World War II, as reported to the world. Evidence points persistently to the fact he was flown by private plane to a waiting submarine, and taken to a fantastic Shangri-la hide-out known to have been prepared by the Nazis in the wastes of Antarctica.	<i>The Good News</i> , May 1954
These terrifying world-shaking events will take place in less than thirty years—in your lifetime, this very last generation that is destined to live in two worlds!	<i>The Plain Truth</i> , September 1955





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It is time we recognized that civilization has not more than 15 years to go unless a supernatural God in Heaven intervenes on earth to stop mad men from destroying all life on earth in their crazed dreams for world conquest.

*The Plain Truth*,  
February 1965

Frankly, literally dozens of prophesied events indicate that this final revival of the Roman Empire in Europe—and its bestial PERSECUTION of multitudes of Bible-believing Christians—will take place within the next seven to ten years of YOUR LIFE!

*The Plain Truth*,  
February 1965

I told you it could happen in the 1980s, or 1990s. Now I tell you it COULD (I do not yet say will) happen in a year! I would not be surprised to see it beginning to go together before the end of this year.

Fifteen years ago I thought our Work might be finished by 1972. But God seemed to DELAY the end of this present world by eight or ten years. But now the prophesied events indicate we are at the time of Romans 9:28: "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

Semi-Annual  
Letter to All  
Subscribers,  
June 1980

As I write, the greater part of the British fleet that once "ruled the waves" of the whole world, in one vast armada is arriving just off the Falkland Islands, ready for WAR.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE BRITISH FLEET IS DESTROYED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS! Gibraltar will come next, and already is in danger.

Member Letter,  
August 1983

We have already been a very few years into the prelude of the GREAT TRIBULATION. That is virtually upon us now.

Member Letter,  
September 1984





# HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD DOCTRINAL CHANGES

Former Teaching	New Teaching	Date
Since God is our Healer, it is a sin to take pharmaceuticals and have surgery.	God does not forbid the use of pharmaceuticals or surgery.	3/87
The use of cosmetics is vanity and therefore sinful.	God does not forbid the use of cosmetics.	11/88
Birthday celebrations exalt the self and are therefore sinful.	God does not forbid birthday celebrations.	7/89
Interracial marriage is contrary to God's will.	God does not forbid interracial marriage.	7/90
The term "born again" refers to receiving the glorified body at the resurrection.	The term "born again" refers to conversion.	1/91
The kingdom of God will not appear until Christ's return.	The kingdom of God is present as well as future.	5/91



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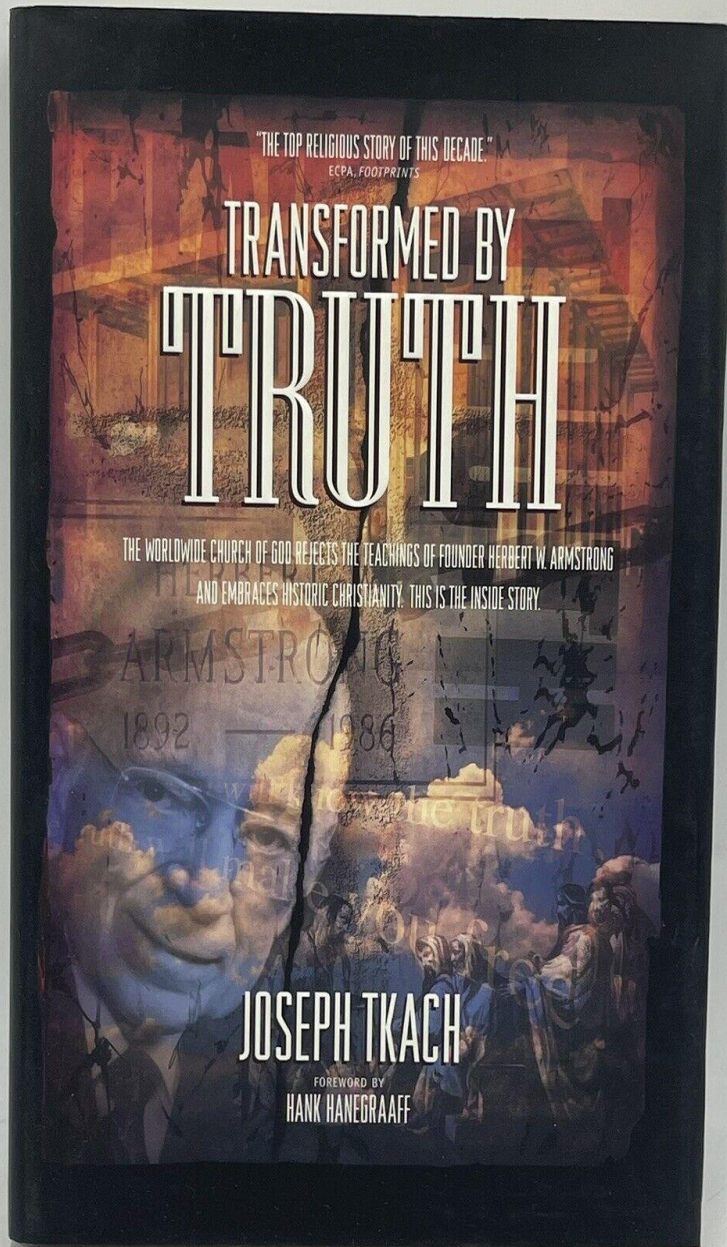
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The gospel is the good news of the future kingdom of God to be established when Christ returns; it is not a message about the person of Christ.	The focus of the gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ.	5/91
The reward of the saved is to be literally born as a God into the God Family, to be Gods just as God is God, yet under his supreme authority.	The reward of the saved is to become children of God now and to receive glorified bodies like that of Jesus at the resurrection; it is not to become Gods in a family of Gods.	7/91
The cross is a pagan symbol: Jesus was crucified on a stake, not on a cross.	Jesus was most likely crucified on a cross; God does not forbid the use of the cross symbol for Christians.	5/93
Voting in civil elections is a denial of faith in God's sovereign reign and is therefore sinful.	God does not forbid voting in civil elections.	5/93
Using drawings depicting Jesus is sinful.	God does not forbid the use of drawings of Jesus.	5/93
The Trinity is a pagan invention the devil foisted off on the deceived and reprobate Roman Catholic Church.	The doctrine of the Trinity is true.	7/93
The new covenant will not be in force until the return of Christ.	The church is under the new covenant.	3/94
The Worldwide Church of God is the one and only true church of God, the faithful remnant.	All believers are true Christians.	4/94



<p>Christians are required to tithe according to the law given to Israel: one tenth of gross income goes to the church, another tenth is kept by the Christian for required festival expenses, and another tenth (every third year in a cycle of seven) goes to the church to support the widows and needy.</p>	<p>The new covenant does not require the practice of tithing; rather, the Holy Spirit inspires a generous heart.</p>	<p>12/94</p>
<p>The seventh-day Sabbath, along with the seven annual holy days, is binding on Christians and is the sign between God and his only true and faithful church.</p>	<p>The new covenant does not require observance of the weekly Sabbath.</p>	<p>12/94</p>
<p>The dietary laws of Leviticus are binding on Christians.</p>	<p>The new covenant does not require observance of the clean and unclean meat laws.</p>	<p>1/95</p>
<p>The seventh-day Sabbath, along with the seven annual holy days, is binding on Christians and is the sign between God and his only true and faithful church.</p>	<p>The new covenant does not require observance of the seven annual holy days. The Lord's Supper is not restricted to once a year.</p>	<p>2/95</p>
<p>The United States and Britain are the modern descendants of the Israelite tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, and knowledge of their identities is the master key to unlocking all of Bible prophecy.</p>	<p>The "lost ten tribes" doctrine cannot be proven and will no longer be taught. It is not the "master key" to unlocking Bible prophecy, but rather it obscures the true gospel.</p>	<p>7/95</p>





## WHAT LIES AHEAD?

The Apostle Paul, after his encounter with Christ on the Road to Damascus, immediately began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 9:20). Yet it took some time for him to be accepted into Christian fellowship. The Christians in Jerusalem were understandably skeptical of him – after all, this was the brute who had hauled them out of their homes and thrown them into prison, if he didn't get them stoned first – and it took a bridge builder like Barnabas to bring him into the group (verses 26 & 27). . . .

I see many parallels between the story of Paul and the story of the Worldwide Church of God. We both have roots in the Old Covenant. We both have embraced the New with joy. For both of us there have been Barnabas-like people who have helped reconcile us to other Christians and who have helped teach us.

Perhaps there is a niche out there that needs our particular experience. Perhaps God is preparing us for situations that do not yet exist. – *Joseph Tkach*

*Dear God Almighty,*

***I pray that the WCG Remnant reaches full re-alignment restored with the 1st Century Church.***

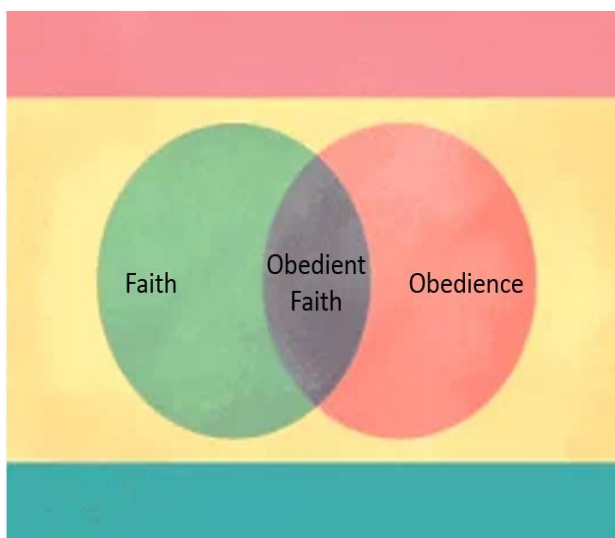
*In Jesus Name, AMEN!*



## AT THE NEXUS OF GRACE & GLORY

# Five Steps For Saving:

- HEARING:
- Romans 10: 17; Matthew 7: 24 - 27
- BELIEVING:
- Hebrews 11: 6; Mark 16: 15, 16
- REPENTING:
- Acts 2: 38; 17: 30; Luke 13: 3
- CONFESSING:
- Matthew 10: 32, 33; Acts 8: 36, 37
- BAPTISM:
- Romans 6: 3 – 5; Acts 8: 36 – 38



*O That Will Be Glory*

2. *Wh* O that will be glory for me, e grace,

*I an* Glory for me, glory for me; ce,

*When by His grace I shall look on His face, e*

*That will be glory, be glory for me. me.*

