

February 2012

Dear Brethren:

To the beloved of God holding fast to the doctrine once delivered by God's end-time servant in the scattered places around this world: We are so blessed to know the revealed truth about all God is accomplishing on this earth and will be accomplishing in the future. We are so privileged to be part of the very few God has called to preserve His truth in this age, and to have the opportunity to make that truth active and operative in our lives. There is no greater honor and responsibility for those who have been called out of this world and God's own apostate church than to be given the opportunity to qualify for glory in the coming Kingdom of God.

Here we are only two months away from Passover once again, and what a glorious opportunity it provides to renew ourselves in a recommitment to those vows we made at baptism. The repetition of the Passover service and Days of Unleavened Bread reminds us to walk in the newness of Jesus Christ's example, crucifying daily our carnal inclinations and working through His Spirit to develop the very character of God. Our preparations to fulfill our long-term conversion process can have inspiration and edification by reviewing the purpose for why Christ came to this earth.

Why did the Word *Personified* come to this earth? For what purpose? The answer to these two questions can be found in *Mystery of the Ages* by Mr. Armstrong (hardbound copy). Although this book was written long after our parent church went apostate, and even though it contains several doctrinal errors, for the most part it confirms the faith once delivered about God's salvation plan, and since this book is so widely recognized today, it has value for us in that context. Herbert Armstrong discovered the Bible to be a coded book with answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity. He learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way—the way God revealed it to him.

Let us look at the pieces Mr. Armstrong assembled in answering the question: Why did the Word Personified come to this earth?

First Purpose: It was to fulfill the role of the second Adam—to overcome Satan's deceptive influence. By studying several scriptures, we can know that Christ is called the second Adam. This revealed knowledge carries incredible meaning. It reveals much about Jesus Christ's purpose for coming to this earth. In addition, this knowledge reveals mankind's incredible opportunity as a gift offered by God (through grace) to be born into His divine Family. The following are scriptures which make known this truth.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul [a breathing creature]; the last [second] Adam was made [or became] a quickening [life-inherent] spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45).

The first man [Adam] is of the earth, earthy: the second man [Christ] is the [Eternal] from heaven (1 Corinthians 15:47).

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude [likeness] of Adam's transgression, who is the figure [a type] of him [Christ] that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift [the free gift is not like Adam's transgression]. For if through the offence [the transgression] of one [Adam] many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many (Romans 5:14–15).

The gift of grace (unmerited pardon for sins that are past) is not like that which came through the one (Adam) who transgressed God's law. Adam's transgression of which we are actually a part, results in a reign of death for all of us, while Christ's righteous obedience to God's law results in a reign of life eternal, but only for the called of God who fulfill their long-term conversion process. These scriptures show that Christ came to accomplish what Adam failed to do.

For what the law [God's law] could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh [meaning that God's law could not—of and by itself—convert the carnal mind through the weakness of the flesh; so because of that weakness], God sending his own Son [the Word Personified] in the likeness of sinful flesh [with a full measure of His Holy Spirit], and for sin [or by a sinless sacrifice for sin], condemned sin [human nature or weakness] in the flesh (Romans 8:3).

The presence of what we are by nature (sinful flesh) can render us powerless to do what the Book of the Law commands. But Christ (the second Adam) with God's Holy Spirit, shows us that the sinful flesh can be empowered to obey God's law, His statutes and judgments.

Mr. Armstrong wrote:

We have already seen in chapter 1 [of John] that Christ, in the eternity before the world came into being, was the "Logos" who also was God, and as Jesus, was called the second Adam (I Cor. 15:45). Why should he be called the second Adam? The first Adam had the opportunity of taking of the tree of life, which meant God-life—obeying God and thereby replacing Satan on the throne of the

earth. Jesus came to do just that, to qualify to replace Satan on that throne and to start the government of God on the earth through those called out from Satan's world (*Mystery of the Ages*, p. 209).

Adam's purpose was to qualify to replace Satan, who had been established as supreme ruler of this planet. Satan, formerly named Lucifer, had been commissioned to rule this world with the government of God. Not collegially—where authority is vested EQUALLY—but with TOP-DOWN government. But Lucifer failed to administer God's government. He wanted to be equal to God in power. He became God's number one adversary. He formed his own government. It was based on greed, envy, jealousy and emotion. The earth fell into decay. Satan corrupted those under his authority through deceptive influence. He corrupted a third of the angels who became demon angels. Satan and his band of rebel demon angels attempted to throw God off His throne. In doing this, he and the rebelling angels sinned greatly. As a result of their sin, Satan and his angels were confined to the earth—Satan as supreme ruler and god of this world. God left Satan on his throne until someone else qualified to replace him. That is where the second Adam comes in. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, came to earth, lived and accomplished God's will, where Adam did not. Christ overcame Satan's deceptive influence, qualifying to replace him.

Here is Mr. Armstrong's description of Christ's titanic, qualifying battle with Satan:

When Jesus was about 30, he was ready to begin choosing his apostles, and proclaiming and teaching them his message from God to man—his gospel. But first, it was imperative that he QUALIFY to replace Satan and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, by overcoming the devil.

This perhaps was the most important, momentous, decisive confrontation and battle ever fought in all time in the universe. It is described in detail in Matthew, chapter 4.

. . . . Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights—with neither food nor water. But in his physical weakness he was made spiritually strong. Satan now used his most cunning, subtle, masterful powers of deception. He must have thought he really could outwit and spiritually strike down the Christ. Satan knew well he was now fighting to prevent his dethroning over all the earth (Ibid, p. 217).

I believe we should all review Matthew 4:1–17 prior to each year's Passover. Jesus Christ was led of the Spirit into the wilderness—to be subjected to three terrifying tests—tests that relate to human inclinations of vanity, arrogance, power and lust. Satan tried to belittle Christ—to appeal to His human, sinful nature. But Christ defeated Satan by saying, "It is

written." Christ used the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit and scripture (a makeup of His divine nature) to resist Satan's temptation to live for the gratification of His carnal, sinful desires.

Christ prevailed over Satan, not because He could not have sinned, but because He did not look to the scribes, the Pharisees, or the Greek scholars for understanding of the scriptures. He was in close contact with the Father through His Spirit—in prayer, in revealed knowledge of the scripture, in fastings—which was the strength of His divine nature that He used to defeat Satan. Satan misquoted and twisted scripture to try to confuse Christ. But Jesus fully knew the spiritual intent of the scriptures because of what the Father had revealed to Him. Christ used revealed godly wisdom to counter Satan's spiritual perversion. Satan's first two ploys failed to deceive Christ.

Here is how Mr. Armstrong described Satan's third and final attack for the time being:

Next he took Jesus atop a high mountain, showing him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

Jesus did not deny that Satan was now over the nations of this world. This was a temptation for gaining immediate power. Satan well knew Jesus would inherit all these kingdoms more than 1,900 years later. But he tempted Jesus to take Satan's word that he would turn them over and give Christ world power IMMEDIATELY. But Jesus decided it was time to end this titanic battle for the rulership over the earth.

Jesus now snapped out an order—a COMMAND showing that he was MASTER over Satan! "Get thee hence, Satan!" he commanded with supreme authority! Satan slunk away defeated. But Satan did not give up. Nor has he given up yet. He battles against God's CHURCH still today!

. . . . Jesus Christ, the second Adam, had QUALIFIED! Never until that minute could the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD be announced to the world (Ibid, p. 219).

Satan obeyed Christ because he feared to be put into a place of restraint before his time, which Christ had the power to do. Jesus Christ, as the second Adam, came to overcome Satan's masterful power of deception through the use of God's revealed word. As Mr. Armstrong taught, we have been called to do the same thing. We are going to have to know how those scriptures were originally revealed to us by Mr. Armstrong to be able to defeat Satan's masterful power of deception. The first and most important purpose for Christ's first

coming was to overcome His carnal, sinful nature as well as Satan's powerful deceptive influence, and Satan's society which is based on greed, envy, jealousy and emotion. After Christ had conquered Satan's deceptive influence, He immediately began to fulfill the second purpose for His coming.

Second Purpose: He taught and preached the coming Family Kingdom of God.

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled [Shiloh had come], and the kingdom of God is at hand [it was now being preached]: repent ye [of your former beliefs], and believe the gospel [have faith in the coming Family Kingdom of God] (Mark 1:14–15).

Jesus Christ was a messenger from God in His first coming.

Behold, I [the Eternal of hosts] will send my messenger [the Word Personified], and he shall prepare the way before me [introducing me by name as the Father]: and the Lord [the Messiah], whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple [we are God's temple collectively], even the messenger of the [New] covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he [the Word Personified] shall come, saith the [Eternal] of hosts (Malachi 3:1).

Christ came to deliver the greatest good news that any called of God could ever come to know. God planned to reestablish His government on this earth through Christ. When the first Adam failed to restore God's government, He allotted 6,000 years for man to go his own way, developing his own governments led by the god of this world—Satan. When the 6,000 years of man's rule have failed to bring peace, Christ will establish a 1,000-year Millennium to prove the trustworthiness, honesty and uprightness of His government. Christ and those of His saints who overcame Satan, self, and society as He did, will force man to live by God's laws, statutes and judgments.

And he [those who have qualified to be born into God's Family government] shall rule them [the nations during the Millennium] with a rod of iron [God's government from the top down]; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers [if they fail to submit to God's way of life]: even as I [Christ] received of my Father [the rule of nations with a rod of iron] (Revelation 2:27).

Swift punishment will come upon those who reject God's way of life.

Third Purpose: The gospel that Christ preached also reveals that the Word Personified came to be born a King. The prophecies concerning Christ reveal that He will be a King forever.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the [Eternal] God shall give unto him the throne of his father David [Christ's bloodline goes back to David]: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob [the nations of Israel and Judah who are blind now to their own identity] forever; and of His kingdom [His government composed of spirit beings] there shall be no end (Luke 1:30–33).

When Christ returns, He is going to assume the throne of His father, David. Mr. Armstrong confirmed that the British monarchy presently occupies that throne as physical descendants of David. The *United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* gives the details of this incredible truth. Jesus Christ is going to be King over this entire earth when He returns. The Bible states that David's dynasty was to last forever (Psalm 89:3–4). Christ will be a literal king ruling from a literal throne. Jesus Christ taught that He was born to be a king. Pilate asked Jesus who was on trial for His life, if He was a king.

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall [the Praetorium] again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew [am I troubled with such a local Jewish problem]? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done [to incite hatred from them]? (John 18:33–35)

Pilate's only concern was whether or not Jesus was inciting rebellion against Roman government. The Jews insisted that He was, but He was not.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom [government] were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom [my Family ruling government] not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? [Pilate had to know if this man had indeed claimed to be a king.]. . . . Jesus answered, Thou sayest [rightly] that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth [concerning myself]. Every one that is of the truth [is called of the true, unchanging Christ] heareth my voice (John 18:36–37).

Christ was telling Pilate that He was the Truth. Pilate only scoffed at Christ's revelation because he could not hear. The whole Kingdom of God will revolve around the Truth as King of Kings. The true servants of the Truth will be future kings under Christ. Before this Passover, let us not take lightly or casually the revealed truth of Christ's kingship.

Fourth Purpose: Jesus Christ also came to save us from the power that sin has over us. He came to save us *from* our sin—which is the transgression of God's Law (1 John 3:4)—not *in* our sins. Jesus Christ did not come to be the minister of sin (Galatians 2:17). He came to be our Passover sacrifice for sins repented of (1 Corinthians 5:7). One of the many prophecies about Jesus states that He came to save us from our sins—both physical and spiritual.

And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son [the Word Personified], and thou shalt call his name Jesus [literally Savior]: for he shall save his people from their sins [through a long-term conversion process] (Matthew 1:21).

Why do we need to be saved from our sins? So we need not suffer sin's consequences. Many suffer sin's consequences because they fail to repent—meaning they fail to stop practicing sin. Many feel they can continue to practice sin and still be forgiven, which is not possible.

God commanded Adam at his creation in Genesis 2:16–17:

And the [Eternal] God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil [which opens your mind to Satan's way of thinking], thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die [come under the death penalty].

When Adam and Eve chose to reject God's government over them, which is based upon God's laws, statutes and judgments, they chose the death penalty. For the wages of sin is death [eternal death] (Romans 6:23). We are all by nature the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). We all manifest our own sin by nature. We are all children subject to the death penalty. We are all the recipients of God's punishment—appointed unto death—for the transgression of His laws.

Paul also bears witness to this fact in his letter to the Hebrews. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

"[T]he word that I [Christ] have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

Judgment will be left to the words God gave us. His word will judge us in our conduct before Him. Sin's penalty will have to be paid to save us from the power of death.

. . . [N]ow once in the end of the world [age—of Christ's first coming] hath he appeared to put away sin [sin's penalty] by the sacrifice of himself (Hebrews 9:26).

Mr. Armstrong explained how Christ was able to save us from death. He wrote:

Why was it necessary that Jesus be actually God in the human flesh? Why was it necessary that he be God? Why was it necessary that he be human? As God, he was the Maker of all mankind. In Ephesians 3:9 it is revealed that God created all things by Jesus Christ. When Jesus was born as a human, his life as our Maker was greater than the sum total of all human lives. Since it is humans who have sinned and come under the death penalty, God's law required human death as the penalty for human sin. But, as our Maker Jesus was the only human whose death could pay the penalty for the sins of all humans.

In no other way could the Creator God have redeemed a vast humanity condemned to the penalty of death (*Mystery of the Ages*, p. 211).

Jesus Christ was the "Word" as described in John 1:1–4. He spoke for God the Father at the creation of man. It took the blood of God (the Word Personified) to make a worthy sacrificial payment for the collective sins of all mankind. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh (Isaiah 7:14). The prophecy in Isaiah 7 refers to Christ as "Immanuel," which is a symbolic name meaning "God with us." However, He was both God and man. We must remember that Jesus Christ functioned solely as a human being of sinful flesh while He was here on this earth. But He did not sin!

Mr. Armstrong wrote:

But though Jesus was actually "God with us," he was also human like all other humans. He was subject to being tempted just as all other humans are tempted [Hebrews 4:15]. Although he was actually God in the human flesh, yet in his ministry he functioned as a human. Remember, he was the second Adam. It was necessary for him that he, as a human, reject the "forbidden tree" and accept the tree of life. It was necessary that he, as the first Adam might have done, choose to rely completely on God the Father. In fact, God was actually in Christ and Jesus obeyed the Father completely. He qualified to wrest the throne of the earth from Satan (Ibid, p. 210–211).

The Word Personified functioned as a human being during His earthly life. He did so to provide a sinless sacrifice to pay sin's penalty and to set us an example to live without sin. Jesus Christ could have failed as the first Adam—by sinning. However, He did not sin! Paul describes Jesus this way:

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications [pleading appeals for divine help] with strong crying and tears unto him [His

Father] that was able to save him from death [second death], and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son [God's only begotten son], yet learned he obedience by the things [the hardness of life] which he suffered. And being made perfect [through the fruits of God's Spirit], he became the author [finisher] of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (Hebrews 5:7–9).

Obedience to God's law is required for salvation. Jesus Christ struggled with the pulls and temptations of this life and overcame them all to set us an example. He became the "Captain" of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10) as the pioneer who has gone on ahead, leading the way as our husband, preparing us to be His WIFE. If we can understand that Christ could have sinned but did not, it should encourage us to overcome in the same manner that He did.

Fifth Purpose: Christ came to be beaten beyond recognition to pay the penalty for physical sin so that we could be healed. Jesus Christ underwent a humiliating, despicable, unjust and painful death. Here is how Mr. Armstrong described Christ's beating:

Because he had never broken even a law of health, he suffered the process of dying as no other human did. . . .

Scourging consisted of being stripped to the waist, bound over in bent position and tied to a post. He was beaten by whips made of leather thongs weighted down by pieces of lead, broken shards of bone and sharp jagged pieces of metal attached at intervals of four to five inches, along the leather thongs. They were designed to embed themselves deeply into the flesh as the thongs wrapped themselves around the body. He was whipped until his flesh was torn open and even his ribs appeared. (Ibid, p. 211–212)

Isaiah and Psalms describe how severe this beating was:

As many were astonished at thee; his visage [appearance] was so marred [disfigured] more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men [Christ was beaten and scourged beyond recognition]" (Isaiah 52:14).

I am poured out like water [exhausted], and all my bones are out of joint: my heart [the very seat of my vitality] is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. . . . I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me" (Psalm 22:14, 17).

God the Father allowed all of this for a very great purpose. Peter wrote this about Christ's scourging:

Who, when he was reviled [insulted and abused], reviled not again [did not retaliate]; when he suffered, he threatened not ["I'll get you," was not His demeanor or way of thinking]; but committed himself to him [the Father's will] that judgeth righteously [by His word that will judge you]: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins [penalty], should live unto righteousness [obedience to God's law]: by whose stripes ye are healed [if we stop practicing transgression of God's health laws] (1 Peter 2:23–24).

Peter quoted these words from Isaiah:

He is despised [scorned] and rejected [forsaken] of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief [on behalf of beloved children suffering from broken health laws]: and we hid as it were our faces from him [because of His severe personal suffering as a criminal]; he was despised [looked down upon as contemptible], and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows [*Revised Standard Version* says: surely he has borne our infirmities, our sicknesses and carried our diseases]: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted [mankind in general thought Christ was being judged of God, yet He was paying the penalty for physical sin]. But he was wounded [pierced through] for our transgressions [our spiritual sins], he was bruised [beaten beyond recognition] for our iniquities [our physical sins]: the chastisement [punishment] of our peace [our poor health] was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:3–5).

The Word Personified came to provide the called of God healing benefits. The Father and the Word who became Christ knew, that when we would be called and would choose to obey God, we would also need physical healing of our bodies to fulfill our long-term conversion process. Christ's broken body would provide that benefit. Mr. Armstrong taught that there were two conditions for healing.

FIRST: Active obedience to God's health laws which have to do with proper diet, sunshine, rest and exercise.

SECOND: Faith in God's benefits. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2). Choosing to obey God's health laws brings healing benefits. "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3)—when we choose to stop practicing physical sin. "Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." (Psalm 103:4)—spiritually from the lake of fire and physically from premature death in this life. Sickness is the outcome of physical sin. Healing is the forgiveness of physical sin (Matthew 9:1–7). If we do get seriously ill, God wants us to put our faith in His power to forgive and heal us (James 5:14–15).

Mr. Armstrong said, "If we lack the faith that God can heal us, how can we have the faith that He forgives us?" They are synonymous! We forget God's benefit of healing when we trust in the medical profession to be made well. The failure to trust God as our healer is absolutely telling of the spiritual state of the body—God's church.

Sixth Purpose: Jesus Christ came to make possible the resurrection of humans, once dead, to eternal God-life in His Family. At His resurrection, He became our spiritual Savior.

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness [God's Spirit], by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

And that he died for all, that they which live [unto the words that He spoke] should not henceforth live unto themselves [the inclinations of their own minds], but unto him [as He was originally revealed] which died for them, and rose again (2 Corinthians 5:15).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me [Christ only lives in us as we make active and operative in our lives the words that He spoke originally.]: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

Paul did not live by his own faith (doctrine). Jesus Christ dwelt in Paul through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God implanted into Paul's mind (as a gift) the very same kind of faith (doctrine) that can be implanted into our minds. This faith, the very faith (doctrine) of Christ living in us, can enable us to live the words that He spoke which are spirit and life. Christ's resurrection opened the way for man's future resurrection. ". . . we shall be saved by his life [that He is living in us]" (Romans 5:10).

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "One more supremely vital truth. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was that of a human being and the only one that could make possible the resurrection of humans, once dead, to immortal life" (Ibid, p. 213). If Jesus Christ had sinned, which was very possible, that failure would have caused man to be hopelessly lost to eternal death, including the Word personified. Just think. No expanded God Family. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we can enter into eternal life. Today, Jesus Christ is alive, working for man's benefit. He is our High Priest (Hebrews 6:20). If we bring every thought into enslavement to the obedience of Christ, He will work daily on our behalf to cleanse us of all sins of which we repent (1 John 1:5–9).

Seventh Purpose: Christ came to establish His one true church.

And I [Christ] say also unto thee [Peter], that thou art Peter [*Petros*—"Cephas" as defined: stone or small pebble], but upon this Rock [*Petra*—"Christ" as defined: large rock or boulder] I will build my church [My spiritual, organized body of called-out ones]; and the gates of hell [death in the grave] shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

The true church of God would exist through history at times appointed until Christ's return. But it would apostatize from within, as did the first century church, departing from the truth as it was originally delivered in these last days by God's end-time servant (Acts 20:28–31; Jude 4, 18; 2 Timothy 3:1, 5; 4:3–4; 2 Peter 3:3–4; 2 Thessalonians 2:3).

The real "chink" in the impregnable armor of church doctrine took place when God's government through one-man rule was rejected for a doctrinal committee. From that point on, all doctrine revealed to the Church by God's Spirit through God's end-time apostle, was repudiated. But God did preserve a remnant in these last days (Revelation 12:17) which was faithful in holding fast to the doctrine as it was originally revealed. That true remnant is of one mind—united in thought, purpose, and belief—to fulfill the purpose of the Church. The purpose for the Church is a great mystery to the people of this world, and now also to God's apostate people. It should not be a mystery to God's end-time remnant.

Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*:

God's master plan calls for offering salvation and eternal life to every person ever born, but his plan calls for doing that in a time-order.

Those called out of the world and into the Church at this time are called for a specific purpose and a specific work. This specific work was to make possible the spiritual training to aid in the conversion of humanity as a whole. They are called at a time when they are persecuted and fought against by Satan and by the rest of the world. The rest of the world will be called at a time when Satan is removed and they are aided and helped by Christ and the saints then made immortal in the kingdom of God.

Satan has blinded the minds of the unbelieving world and the professing traditional "Christianity" to this fact (II Cor. 4:4). Satan has deceived the entire world, including a professing traditional "Christianity" (Rev. 12:9).

Neither professing Christians nor their scholarly theologian leaders today comprehend the major PURPOSES for which Jesus Christ came (p. 215–216).

We must not forget that there is a great purpose for the Church of God, now reduced to only a small remnant. We must prepare to assist Christ as His help meet when He returns to govern this earth. Mr. Armstrong wrote:

The Church is the called out (from this world) begotten children of God. It is the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:23). It is the spiritual organism that shall be the "Bride of Christ" – after its resurrection to immortality. Then it shall be married to Christ [Revelation 19:7]! It is the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come at his second appearing (Eph. 2:21) (Ibid, p. 230).

Again, the Church is the instrumentality prepared to be used with and under Christ in completing God's wonderful purpose of saving humanity and reproducing himself (Ibid, p. 232).

God first called out the Church to be converted and changed to become kings and priests (Rev. 5:10) under Jesus *WHEN* Jesus comes to save the world (Ibid, p. 232–233).

WHY the Church?

That we may QUALIFY to rule WITH and UNDER CHRIST in the kingdom of God – that *we* may prepare the way for the ULTIMATE CALL AND SALVATION OF THE WORLD! (Ibid, p. 236)

We QUALIFY to rule with Christ today by living the TRUTH as it was originally revealed to us. We prepare for this great calling by overcoming Satan, self and society through remaining within our spiritual mother. Mr. Armstrong wrote:

The CHURCH is the spiritual MOTHER. . . . God has set his called and chosen ministers in his Church to FEED THE FLOCK [1 Peter 5:2]— "for *the perfecting* of the saints . . . for the edifying of the body [CHURCH] of Christ: TILL WE all come in the unity of the faith, and of *the knowledge* of the Son of God, unto a perfect man . . ." (Eph. 4:11–13). (Ibid, p. 261–262)

Just as the human fetus develops and grows physically during the PRE-birth gestation period, so we, after begetting by God's Spirit, develop and grow SPIRITUALLY in a PRE-birth state.

Human life starts with what the Bible terms "corruptible seed"—physical male sperm. Divine life starts with that which is incorruptible—the Holy Spirit of God entering the human person. But as the human embryo must grow till it becomes a fetus, which must grow to the

point of being born into the human family, so the Christian in whom divine life has been imparted by the gift of God's INCORRUPTIBLE Spirit must grow toward perfection to be born into the God Family. He will then be perfect, never to sin. Then, at the time of the resurrection, we in the Church—the spiritual mother—shall be DELIVERED from her, and born into—brought forth into—the Kingdom, the Spirit-composed Family of God.

Prior to this year's Passover, let us be sure to review these main purposes for why the Word Personified came to this earth. By doing so, we no doubt can have the proper, worthy regard, appreciation and honor for Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

All my love and regard to the remnant of God,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert J. Litz".

Robert J. Litz

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon W. Brisby".

Jon W. Brisby