

# Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter  
April 1990

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Dear Brethren:

The black horse of Revelation 6, no doubt, refers to famine. The text in verse six states: "And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Commentators believe this verse refers to a shortage of staples so severe that a quart of wheat will eventually cost the equivalent of a day's wages. Does that seem far-fetched?

The February 1990 issue of *The McAlvany Intelligence Advisor* reveals some startling information regarding the coming food shortages of the 1990s. These surprising shortages will come about for a number of reasons. These include climatic extremes, rapid global population growth, government mismanagement of America's agricultural sector, and the Reagan and Bush Administration's quietly and systematically shipping of most of America's food reserves to the Soviet Union as part of the new "partnership, the merger of our common interests and our move toward the new world order." U.S. grain reserves have dropped in each of the last three years and the global food reserves now stand at just a 60-day supply.

Climatologists see a cold weather cycle setting in as the primary reason for the food crises in the 1990s. Climatologist Iben Browning believes that the 90-year period of warm weather has ended and the weather in the Northern Hemisphere is returning to the colder, stormier weather of 180 years ago. Browning believes that 1990 and 1991 will be the stormiest years in U.S. history and that the weather will get irregularly colder until 2010 and will stay cold until 2070. This view is, of course, totally opposite to that of environmentalists who hold to the "global warming/greenhouse effect" theory.

A record-breaking cold snap which blanketed much of the U.S. this past December with historic lows recorded in over 300 locations is a possible portent for the future. The entire state of Florida was declared a disaster area following the December freeze and the Rio Grande Valley suffered at least a \$300 million citrus loss. A 200-mile stretch of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers was frozen to the point that barge traffic was halted. If Browning and other climatologists are right, these weather conditions will lead to inflationary implications. This means meat, grain, fruit, and virtually all other food prices will rise dramatically in the 1990s.

Recent clippings from local papers here in the Northwest state that grain shipments to the Third World nations will soon be abandoned and that the grain surplus will be sent to Eastern European countries instead. It does not take much figuring to realize the scope of famine that is in store for Third World nations. It may also tell us of the need to have some food storage program of our own.

## Spiritual Principle

### The Deception Factor

By nature man cannot of himself determine the validity of Truth. He is born subject to the capriciousness of his own mind. Whatever occurs to him is right. Conceptions of the human mind can be read into Biblical textual material just as quickly as revealed Truth to the converted mind can be substantiated by the study of the Bible. Because one or many may be dedicated to a conviction does not make it right or wrong. Conceptions of men have always changed rapidly and without any apparent reason. Though not admitted, the underlying reason is that men do not like to be restricted or hemmed in by principle or concept. Today, that demanded freedom of choice is called "situation ethics." From that concept emerges the next step, which holds that Truth is not absolute, eternal, and unalterable; it is only relative and must be modified by time and circumstance. Man is thusly deprived of any sure foundation, with the one obvious exception: he always trusts himself.

Deception is a tyrannical master. Those involved are always led to the ultimate slaughter like sheep. Most are reaping the whirlwind of their own choosing, yet still bound in the vise of deception which will not allow them to face the causes of their dilemmas, hurts, conditions, and adverse circumstances. Let us not forget all humankind are equally influenced by self-deception. Considering such a fateful condition, how can anyone extricate himself from an involuntary tyrannical enemy? Perhaps even more important, how can anyone remain free from the adversity of self-deception?

First we need to understand the many ways by which man deceives himself. Listed below are some of the more obvious.

1. Our very natures (Heb. 3:13, compare Rom. 7:23; Rom. 7:11, Titus 3:3, Jas. 1:13-16, I Pet. 2:25)
2. Our conceptual beliefs (Eph. 5:6, Col. 2:8, Rom. 16:17-18, Col. 2:1-4, II Pet. 2:18)
3. Ordinary conversation (Jas. 1:26, I Cor. 15:33)
4. Money matters (Matt. 13:22, Jude 11)
5. Doctrinal conceptions (I Cor. 3:18, II Cor. 11:3-4, Jude 10-11)
6. Lack of positive response (Jas. 1:22, I Cor. 6:9)
7. Self-claim of conversion/righteousness (Matt. 24:5, 11, Gal. 6:7)
8. Gullibility (Matt. 24:24)
9. Self-aggrandizement (I John 1:8; 3:6-8, Gal. 6:3)
10. Lack of Biblical knowledge (Matt. 22:29)

Lest we become conceited and smug about our relationship with God, let us carefully note the orientation of those deceived. Can a more classic example of human arrogance and carnal response be elicited than that which Christ experienced at the hands of the "converted and righteous" in His day? It is not surprising that those deeply deceived view the purveyors of Truth as blindly deceived themselves (John 7:12, 47-48). The castigations and vicious attacks of men speak for themselves. Converted men and women do not revel in personalized abuse of others.

We will do well to remember that the whole world is deceived (Rev. 12:9). The archenemy is Satan (Rev. 12:9; 20:8, 10). Since men do not see spirit beings, agencies of the flesh are employed to carry out the will of Satan and his demons (Rev. 13:1, 11-16; 18:23; 19:20; 20:3).

If there is no role model in this world and if men cannot trust the concepts of their own minds, what then is the standard by which all things must be judged? Revealed Truth alone can and will give us inspired direction and confidence. Note the following texts: II Thessalonians 2:10, 15, II Timothy 3:12-14, Hebrews 3:8-12, I John 2:24-28, Ephesians 4:14, II Peter 3:17, I John 4:1-6, I Timothy 4:1-3, II John 7, 9-10, Titus 1:9-10.

Watch carefully that personalized conceptions of revealed doctrine and findings of diligent study do not lead you astray. Men most frequently depart when confronted with a heartfelt, traumatic issue. It is easier to cater to the whims of self than to confess the weakness of mind and heart. Remember, it is your future salvation with which you are tampering.

### Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### Trips

April 7	Raymond Cole, Knoxville
April 14	Raymond Cole, Dallas
April 21	Raymond Cole, Vancouver, BC
May 12	Bryce Clark, Rochester, New York
May 19	Bryce Clark, Nashville, Tennessee
May 19	Raymond Cole, Sacramento, California

### Tape Schedule

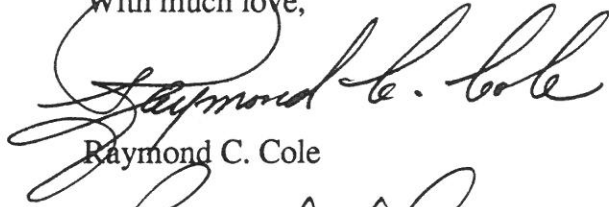
<b>Tape series:</b>	<b>Mailed on:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Title/tape #:</b>
WSE-RC 39	3/21	4/7	Confrontations and responses of Christ #27
WSE-RS 3	4/4	4/14	Murmurings, then and now #3
WSE-BC 122	4/4	4/21	Great men of the Old Testament #30
WSE-RS 3	4/18	4/28	Murmurings, then and now #4
WSE-BC 122	4/18	5/5	Great men of the Old Testament #31
WSE-RC 39	5/2	5/12	Confrontations and responses of Christ #28
WSE-BC	5/2	5/19	Great men of the Old Testament #32
WSE-RC 39	5/16	5/26	Confrontations and responses of Christ #29
WSE-BC 122	5/16	6/2	Great men of the Old Testament #33
	5/9	6/4	Pentecost tapes, A.M./P.M.

Note: WSE-BC 125, "How does a Man Examine Himself," by Bryce Clark, was mailed on March 21 as an extra, "pre-Passover" sermon, and does not affect the schedule indicated above.

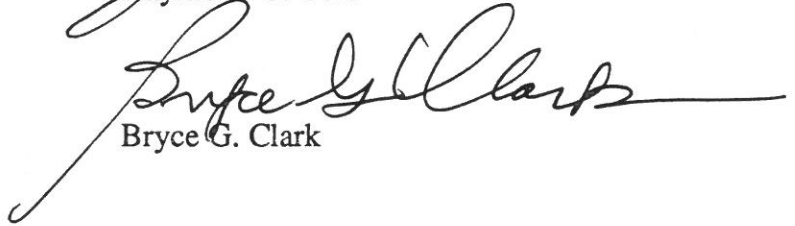
**Comments**

The hymn tape for the new hymns (pp. 50-81) in the hymnal is now completed. If you desire a copy, please request the new tape even if you have previously requested it.

With much love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "With much love,".

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the signature of Raymond C. Cole.

Bryce G. Clark