

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter November 1995

Dear Brethren,

Physical winter is nearing. We need not, however, allow mental winter to efface all the achievements of spring, summer, and fall. Let us reflect, study, and absorb. Let us ingest to the full the spiritual fruits for which we have labored so industriously. The rewards are marvelous.

### **Spiritual Principle/Current Event: An Imminent Persecution of the Faithful**

Those called and chosen of God can understand two spheres of knowledge—the physical and the spiritual. That, however, does not mean that those of the world—the uncalled—do not believe they, too, understand things spiritual. Such is the nature of deception. Let us, for this moment, concentrate upon that divinely revealed knowledge. The revelation of the One and Only True God (Matt. 11:25-27).

He is Creator. By Him all things were brought into existence. And as Creator He also sustains that creation. And of equal importance, He had purpose in bringing about that creation (Isa. 45:18). That purpose is incontrovertible and unalterable (Isa. 46:10). However, there is a fly in the ointment. Someone, or something, will always evidence disagreement, contention, or an unwillingness to accept even the inevitable. Lucifer was no exception.

Satan, once the unbelievable cherub of God—Lucifer—manifested defiance and total disagreement against that plan and purpose of God. He staged and was successful in precipitating a coup which "destroyed" one-third of the angels. But, for man, he became an archenemy. He is an adversary. An accuser. As such he has spent nearly 6000 years deceiving mankind. That is, he has engendered thoughts, doctrines, and concepts in the hearts of men which are diametrically opposite to those espoused and delivered by God. In every sense of the word, Satan has become a critical enemy of mankind. Yet, few people recognize him for what he really is. Why? Because he uses the forces and inclinations of the natural minds and hearts of men. They are induced to believe that what they accept is of God and therefore right even though the concepts have come directly from the mind of Satan. How few people have the courage and conviction to evaluate properly the source and verity of those thoughts and concepts.

Satan has been working against men for the last 6000 years. In what ways has he opposed both God and men? There are many. A few will be stated. And, in turn, we will select one which may be most critical in these last days as that Satanic empire builds just before its final demise. Need we mention the hate and contempt evidenced over the centuries regarding the validity of God's Sabbath and His Holydays? Is anything more controversial than the identity of the One True God and His Son Jesus Christ? What about the identity of the true church since the days of its creation in the first century, just before the ascension of Christ, the Creator of that organism? There are others. I am sure you get the point. Now, for that one which is beginning to take on life of its own. A concept which may be a part of the heart and core of the horrible persecution destined to be experienced by those who remain faithful to God, in the critical last days.

### **The Identity of Israel**

They are a people foreordained of God (Deut. 32:8). A people chosen specially by God—for purpose (Deut. 32:9). Even the boundaries and times of other nations are influenced by the purpose which God has in mind for those chosen people—Israel (Acts 17:26). A wall of demarcation was generated between Israel and all other nations combined. That "wall of partition" has produced many and varied physical consequences over the years. Though never actually recognized for what really happened, a considerable portion of the national and individual hate manifested has resulted from it. It is a condition which needed rectification! Change! Yet, such change was impossible with men. It required supernatural intervention. Read the story in Ephesians 2:11–19 and Romans 11. The story is fascinating and awesome.

To be rectified, yes. But for the present the god of this world is energetically capitalizing on this national disparity. In all probability it will be an issue which may engulf many in severe persecution and even death. Let us review a few concepts and remarks being promulgated in ever widening political circles, as well as being a backbone tenet of religious organizations.

### **Contempt for the Concept of Israel**

Circulating today are concepts and opinions as heretical and vulgar as the deification of Satan himself. To wit the following. (All the following material is taken from an Internet posting by Peter Skorupsky, dated 05-29-94.) "The teachings you are repeating are gnostic heresy, exposed as false in the early centuries of the Church. And Anglo-Israelism, not to mention various flavors of the Aryanism of the 'illuminated' cults and theosophical schools, has been adapted by the Anglo-Israelism cults today . . ." From the book, *Kingdom of the Cults*, by W. Martin, p. 307 ff, we are "informed" that by theological definition belief in the subject of Israel's true identity is a heresy of the "Armstrong Cult" identified in the minds of many people in England, Canada, and the United States. And from the pen of a presumed great Hebrew scholar of the Christian church, Dr. David Baron, an Englishman, we read: "The Anglo-Israelite theory . . . I cannot help regarding

as one of the saddest symptoms of the mental and spiritual shallowness of the present day. . . . I believe that you . . . like many other simple-minded Christians are perplexed and imposed upon by the plausibilities of the supposed identifications of British Israelism), and are not able to detect the fallacies and perversions of Scripture and history upon which the whole theory is based." Further, we are told: "Its [Anglo-Israelism] popularity in America today reveals a spiritual malignancy."

Those who believe in the fact of the ten lost tribes of Israel are called illuminati stooges. People injected with a spiritual, political and strategic poison. Aligned with the Biblical Antichrist and the New World Order, and the persecution of the church and believer. They are convinced that the origin of Anglo-Israelism is Lucifer. And that it engenders a realization that their intent is to destroy the state, church, and people by rejecting the real place of Jews and "real Israel" in the world and in Biblical prophecy.

Why is there such hate and contempt for the factual identity of Israel? A couple of lengthy quotes from Peter Skorupsky will suffice to give a succinct purview. First, "These things (acceptance of supposed new age/illuminati/gnostic heresy) happen because at the root of the present conflict, at the radix of ideas, philosophy, morality and ethics of freedom of the human spirit, concepts of self-determination, what gives life and liberty value are theological and philosophical foundations which determine one's world views. And these must choose between acknowledging the divinity of Jesus the Christ and serving God, or being enslaved by men deceived by Lucifer who believe in their own divinity—but perhaps not yours." In a word we are being told, to believe in the concept of true Israel identity is tantamount to establishing our own divinity, and to the exclusion of others.

The second quote is:

White supremacist and anti-Semitic groups, most of which bear the name of Jesus Christ, are spreading a venomous hatred tantamount to the Nazi influences in Germany prior to World War II. In some cases these groups claim that they, rather than the supposedly cursed Jews, are the people of the Promise. To foster and promote this belief they embrace British Israelism. . . . Included in this notorious circle are the neo-Nazis of both Germany and America, the Ku Klux Klan, Skinheads, the Christian Identity Movement and other, lesser-known organizations. With Aryan prejudice, they demean and degrade races other than their own, especially Jewish people. . . . Such groups turn the Divine institution of Nationalism . . . into idolatry. By elevating their own nation to the status of some Divine calling and purpose, they automatically denigrate other nations not so blessed. They use the doctrines of British Israelism to justify their dispositions toward other nations and races. . . . Their methods reek both of arrogance and divisiveness . . . .

Their conclusion? "The doctrine supports a predisposition both for one group of people and against another." And more importantly, to them, "a right relationship with God never was a matter of nationality" (end of Internet material).

Sound like shades of Ephesians 2?

Are the above ramblings and diatribes the product of unrestrained minds of some bizarre religious orientation? Hardly! Don McAlvany (*MIA*, Dec. 1994) wrote: "It's easy to see the political left's strategy. They are trying to bundle up gun control, Christian-right, pro-life, conservative, patriot and militia groups who understand the New World Order . . . into one ball of wax—calling them 'dangerous anti-government, racist, hate groups, and subversives.'" The *Los Angeles Times* said, "What we are seeing is a right-wing counterculture. . . . These beliefs [Israel in part] are creating new alliances." Plans may be in the works even now to restrict beliefs and practices. Article 18 of the UN International Covenants of Human Rights states: "Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary . . ." A previous ground swell of public outrage has been abruptly aborted. How? Why? *The Spotlight*, May 1, 1995, observed: "It's curious that the bombing [Oklahoma City] seems to have had the effect of silencing criticism of these government atrocities because people now fear being labeled as 'dangerous right-wing fanatics,' while on the other hand the mainstream press is saturating the public with negative propaganda about the militia movement and 'fanatical right-wing religious groups.'"

The raiding of an institution in Wisconsin and the torching of its property, according to many journalists, was due to "their belief the Anglo-Saxon race descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel" (*Criminal Politics*, April 1995). They were labeled "dangerous extremists." Why? "Because this particular belief [Israel identity] is offensive to the Zionists who consider it anti-Semitic and racist" (ibid).

Anti-terrorist legislation is under current consideration. If passed, it will greatly expand FBI powers. Shortly every politically incorrect religious group will be listed. Even now 700 to 2000 "cult-like" groups are targeted for further investigation (*Criminal Politics*, May 1995).

Even though the people of God are peaceable and completely non-violent, they will be classified with others by doctrinal association. Nothing is more clearly spelled out in Biblical prophecy. What can the faithful expect? According to McAlvany, they can expect "a series of police/military attacks on Conservative/patriot groups around the country" and "frenzied media attack on fanatical right-wing militia and religious groups." Add to this a new definition for the term "hate speech." Laura Lederer of the University of Minnesota says among the new approaches considered will be "the possibility of treating hate speech" as being "so hateful and harmful that it requires a narrow exception to the First Amendment," and also "shaping new laws based on international conventions prohibiting hate speech." And what is hate speech? According to *The Spotlight*, July 3, 1995, "hate speech has been essentially identified as any criticism whatsoever

of the government, or 'beliefs' that are anti-Semitic or racist in nature." That includes the range of beliefs classified under "Israel Identity."

How serious are these people? "Any independent religious organization or religious state will be mercilessly wiped out—whether in the United States or any other part of the world" (*Criminal Politics*, April 1995). According to Hans Küng, under the universal religion of the new age: "Any form of . . . church conservatism is to be rejected."

And finally: What about Ruby Ridge? In the foreword to *An Ambush at Ruby Ridge*, written by Alan W. Bock, Dean Koontz says that even though he does not agree with Randy Weaver's belief that the races should live separately: "It would never occur to me . . . to shoot Mr. Weaver solely because of what he believes. . . . To those familiar with the case, no credible evidence has yet been presented to counter the alarming impression that the Weavers were targeted largely—and perhaps solely—because the government (or elements within it) found their beliefs to be politically incorrect and wished to make examples of them. . . . It may seem far-fetched to suppose that a government policy against political incorrectness would eventually target a [peaceable] group. . . . however, when a government routinely resorts to violence to repress unapproved beliefs, it loses its legitimacy—and comes to fear those groups who, by their quiet exhibition of moral conscience, expose the hollowness and rot at the core of corrupted authority." What beliefs did the government deem politically incorrect? Alan W. Bock makes it clear that they were the Weaver's Christian Identity beliefs which were considered anti-Semitic. Continuing, Bock says, "Among the persuasions to be found in this mixture is . . . Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God."

How far to the beginning of real persecution? And for peaceful beliefs!

## Deaths

Mrs. Elda Sheffold: Age 85, mother of Frank Sheffold, died on October 21, from complications of old age. Our condolences are extended to Frank and his family.

Mrs. Yvonne Bosc: Mrs. Bosc of Gonfaron, France, died on October 14 while attending the Feast of Tabernacles at Kandersteg, Switzerland. She was 83 years old and suffered from various health problems. We wish to express our sympathies to Mr. Bosc who will miss her greatly.

Mr. Leon Farris: Mr. Farris died just before the Feast of Tabernacles at age 66. He was the husband of Wilma Farris and suffered from emphysema. We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Farris and her family.

## Office

A number of people did not obtain a copy of the new wallet-size Holyday calendar at the Feast. There are several who could not attend the Feast for various reasons, and could not secure a copy of the calendar when they were distributed, as well as some who did attend but did not obtain them. We are asking all who still need calendars to write to the office.

## Trip Schedule

November 11	Baltimore	R.C.C.
November 18	Austin	R.C.C.
December 9, 16	Philippines	R.C.C.

## Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 59-26	08/23	<b>11/04</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #26
WSE-BC 147-16	09/06	<b>11/11</b>	Mighty Acts and Miracles of God #16 (Samuel-1)
WSE-RC 59-27	09/06	<b>11/18</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #27
WSE-BC 147-17	09/20	<b>11/25</b>	Mighty Acts and Miracles of God #17 (Samuel-2)
WSE-RC 59-28	09/20	<b>12/02</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #28
WSE-BC 147-18	10/03	<b>12/09</b>	Mighty Acts and Miracles of God #18 (Samuel-3)
WSE-RC 59-29	10/03	<b>12/16</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #29
WSE-BC 147-19	10/25	<b>12/23</b>	Mighty Acts and Miracles of God #19 (Samuel-4)
WSE-RC 59-30	10/25	<b>12/30</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #30

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark