

The Two Apostles

When the Apostle John Died, Did New Revelation End?

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” — Amos 3:7

A man in our own lifetime claimed — plainly, publicly, for more than fifty years — to hold the office of APOSTLE of Jesus Christ. His name was Herbert W. Armstrong. Since his death in 1986, another man has borne the claim that this same office continues in him: Gerald Flurry.

Have you tested the claim? Have you weighed it against the Bible — against the record of prophecies made and prophecies fulfilled, against history itself? Or have you dismissed it out of hand, as most professing Christians do?

Before you read another word on this page, **HONESTLY** face these questions:

Was Herbert W. Armstrong an apostle of Jesus Christ — sent, as Peter and Paul were sent, with the Gospel of the Kingdom for the whole world? How would you know? How could it be proven? Could it be disproven?

Is Gerald Flurry an apostle of Jesus Christ, continuing that same office in our own time? How would you know? How could it be proven? Could it be disproven?

These are the **RIGHT** questions to ask. They are the questions an honest man — a man who fears God and searches for **TRUTH** — asks. And you cannot afford to guess at the answer. You must not accept it on the say-so of the men claiming the office — not on Mr. Armstrong’s word alone, not on Mr. Flurry’s word alone, and certainly not on the word of this page.

But the questions **ARE** answerable. And the answer does not come from assertion. It comes from **RECORD**. From prophecies printed in dated black and white — decades before the events — that the whole world has watched come true. From Bible doctrines identified in defiance of every mainstream denomination, and vindicated by fifty, sixty, ninety years of history. From the physical evidence of a Work that began in 1931 and has not stopped to this day.

Every claim on this page is anchored to a source you can open and read yourself. Every prophecy is dated. Every quotation is linked to its original publication. What you are asked to weigh is the RECORD — nothing more, nothing less.

If new revelation did not end when the apostle John died — and the New Testament plainly says it did not — then Christ is speaking today, through the apostolic office He Himself set in His Church. The question is WHERE.

Keep reading.

1. The Office of Apostle in Scripture Continues

The apostle Paul, writing to the church at Ephesus, named five offices Christ set in his Church, and stated explicitly how long those offices would continue. Herbert W. Armstrong drew the argument directly from the text:

“And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers’ (verse 11, rsv), continuing in kjv: ‘For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body 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, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ’ (verses 12-13).” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 9 “The Church an Organized Body” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/13-the-incredible-human-potential/9>)

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith” is future tense from the perspective of every generation between Paul’s and the return of Christ. The offices Paul named — apostles first among them — were not scheduled to end when the last first-century apostle died. Mr. Armstrong made the point plain in *Mystery of the Ages*:

“That is WHY God has placed his government in his Church. That is WHY God’s Church government is theocratic instead of democratic. That is why God has set ranks of government in his Church, apostles, evangelists, pastors, elders, both preaching and non-preaching, ‘till we [in the Church] all come in the unity of the faith...’ (Ephesians 4:13). ... That is WHY it is hierarchical in form — government from God at the top on down, not from the bottom up. Otherwise those at the bottom would be ruling God!” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6 “Mystery of the Church” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/35-mystery-of-the-ages/34>)

The apostolic office is not decorative. Paul also identified it as *foundational* to the Church itself:

“Notice, again, the ‘household of God’ — the Church — is built upon a foundation. Would one build a building on a foundation of shifting sand? God’s Church is built upon ‘the foundation of the apostles [the New Testament], and prophets [Old Testament, whose prophecies are for us today (1 Corinthians 10:11)], Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone’ (Ephesians 2:19-20).” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 9

A foundation is what everything else stands on. Remove it and the building falls. If the apostolic office ceased in the first century, the Church has been standing on air ever since.

Mr. Armstrong drew the conclusion for his own day:

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ’s gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (1 Corinthians 16:1). ... Therefore an evangelist may hold executive functions under the apostle in the Church headquarters or work today.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6

“Under the apostle ... today.” Mr. Armstrong took as settled that an apostle existed in his own generation to hold that office.

2. God Works Through One Apostle at a Time

Scripture's pattern for how God directs his Work through a human head is consistent from Genesis forward. He calls one man at a time. Mr. Armstrong walked through the pattern:

"Then God called Noah. He was perfect in his physical descent, or generations, and also walked with God. God called him in order to save humans alive during the Flood.

"God called Abraham to forsake the life of Babylon ... Four hundred and thirty years after Abraham, God called Moses. ... God called Jonah for a special mission to warn the city of Nineveh of impending destruction. Jonah tried to run away from God on a ship. But when God calls one for a special mission, God sees to it that the mission is performed! God called the Prophet Isaiah. He protested he was a man of unclean lips. But God cleansed his lips. Then Isaiah answered, 'Here I am. Send me.' God called the Prophet Jeremiah. ... The Apostle Paul, originally named Saul, burned up energy and zeal persecuting the Church of God. But God struck him down, brought him to his senses, and he then became one of the greatest of the men of God since Adam." — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 8 "Why Today's World Evils?" (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/13-the-incredible-human-potential/8>)

Not a committee. Not a democracy. One man at a time, called by God, sent with a mission. Mr. Armstrong himself was of that pattern:

"Peter and Andrew wanted to be fishermen but Jesus called on them to forsake all and to follow him. Similarly, I wanted to be an advertising man, but God brought me by circumstances not to my choosing to the mission he had in store for me." — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Introduction "The Source of TRUTH" (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/35-mystery-of-the-ages/28>)

Among the Twelve, one man was chief. Mr. Armstrong made the identification unambiguous:

"The surname Peter had for centuries been a surname or title, designating a religious leader, head or headquarters. Peter was the first and chief apostle. An apostle is 'one sent forth to proclaim or preach.'" — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6

And again:

“Then Peter, chief apostle, for the first time inspired with God’s Holy Spirit, preached a heart-stirring sermon, showing that Jesus was both Lord (King — Ruler) and Christ (Savior).” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 9

Mr. Armstrong further identified how Christ passes his teaching down through the Church — not to each individual member separately, but through the apostle he has called:

“How does God infuse His truth into the Church? Not through each individual separately — but through the apostles, and other ministers under them. ... The original 12 had been taught by Christ in person — and so also had Paul. ... God’s apostle for our day was taught by the written Word of God — the same identical teaching! But what of the separated individual believer, who tries to get his salvation all by himself — or by following some man, or any of hundreds of professing Christian denominations of our day? He is cut off from that true teaching which Christ reveals to and through His apostle!” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 9

Mr. Armstrong called himself “God’s apostle for our day.” That is not a passing reference. It is the office he understood himself to hold.

3. Mr. Armstrong’s Own Claim to the Office

Mr. Armstrong identified himself with three specific prophetic offices from the Hebrew scriptures: the end-time Elijah, the antitype of Zerubbabel, and the messenger of Matthew 24:14. Each identification is made in his own writings.

THE END-TIME ELIJAH

Malachi 4:5–6 promises God will “send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Matthew 17:11 records Jesus saying the same, after John the Baptist had already come and been beheaded — meaning John did not exhaust the prophecy. Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*:

“It is revealed in Malachi 3:1-5 and 4:5-6 that God would raise up one in the power and spirit of Elijah, shortly prior to the Second Coming of Christ. In Matthew 17:11 Jesus said, even after John the Baptist had completed his mission, that this prophesied Elijah ‘truly shall first come, and restore all things.’ Although it is plainly revealed that John the Baptist had come in the power and spirit of Elijah, he did not restore anything. The human leader to be raised up somewhat shortly prior to Christ’s Second Coming was to prepare the way — prepare the Church — for Christ’s coming, and restore the truth that had been lost through the preceding eras of the Church.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6

Mr. Armstrong wrote of that Elijah-to-come as an already-underway ministry — the Philadelphia era of the Church, beginning 1931, “restoring the truth that had been lost.” He was writing of his own commission. He returned to the same theme in the Introduction:

“John the Baptist was a voice crying out in the physical wilderness of the Jordan River area, preparing for the human physical Jesus’ First Coming to a material temple at Jerusalem, to a physical Judah. But that was a prototype, or forerunner of a voice ‘lifted up’ (greatly amplified by modern printing, radio and TV), crying out in the midst of today’s spiritual wilderness of religious confusion, announcing the imminency of Christ’s Second Coming as the spiritually glorified Christ, to his spiritual temple (the Church resurrected to spirit immortality) (Ephesians 2:21-22).” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Introduction “The Elijah to Come” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/35-mystery-of-the-ages/28>)

A voice “greatly amplified by modern printing, radio and TV” is not John the Baptist. It is the man Mr. Armstrong understood himself to be — reaching the world through the *Plain Truth* magazine, the *World Tomorrow* broadcast, and the printed booklet in the mail.

THE ANTITYPE OF ZERUBBABEL

Zerubbabel governed the returned Jewish captives and rebuilt the second temple in Jerusalem seventy years after Solomon’s temple was destroyed. The prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah concerning Zerubbabel and that rebuilding — Mr. Armstrong argued — reach past their physical fulfillment to a greater, spiritual one:

“Look briefly at the prophecy of Haggai. It concerns the contingent of Jews who returned to Jerusalem 70 years after the destruction of Solomon’s temple to build the second temple on the same site. ... But Zerubbabel was merely a type. The prophecy, as we see plainly beginning verse 6, chapter 2, is millennial. ... Now what does it mean, ‘The glory of this latter house [or latter-day house] shall be greater than of the former’? — that is, greater than Solomon’s temple, which had the most glorious splendor of any building on Earth? Certainly the second temple, built by Zerubbabel, even though larger, could not compare in splendor to Solomon’s. But God was speaking of the temple to which Christ shall come, at His glorious Second Coming as King of kings and Lord of lords! ... Of God’s Church He says, in the second chapter of Ephesians, ‘Now therefore ye are ... of the household [Family] of God [the Church]; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord’ (verses 19-21). The glorified Christ is coming to the glorified temple — with a glory far greater than Solomon’s temple!” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 9

Zerubbabel built the physical temple. Christ returns to a spiritual temple — the Church itself. Between the two stands the man God raises up to do the Zerubbabel work in this age: to build the spiritual temple, so that Christ may come to it. Gerald Flurry, writing after Mr. Armstrong’s death, applied the Zerubbabel identification to Mr. Armstrong by name:

“His life is the fulfillment of this promise: ‘Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts’ (Zechariah 4:6).” — Gerald Flurry, “The Legacy of Herbert W. Armstrong” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/32933-the-legacy-of-herbert-w-armstrong>)

Mr. Armstrong did the Zerubbabel work in his generation. When Mr. Armstrong died in 1986 the spiritual temple was not yet complete. Someone would have to continue that building work — and continue it in the same office, under the same theocratic government, on the same foundation. Section 5 turns to who that was.

THE MATTHEW 24:14 COMMISSION

Christ prophesied that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). Mr. Armstrong claimed, in his own words, that Christ ordained him to fulfill that specific commission:

“The actual ordination, or completing of the ordination and enduement of power for sending out the original disciples into the ministry occurred after 3½ years of intensive instruction and experience. It was on the day of Pentecost. And the year was a.d. 31. Exactly 100 time-cycles later, after 3½ years of intensive study and training, Christ ordained me to preach this same gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:14). This ordination took place at, or very near, the day of Pentecost 1931.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, “Ordained to Christ’s Ministry,” section “More Amazing Parallels!” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/13948-autobiography-of-herbert-w-armstrong/1884>)

“Christ ordained me.” First person. No ambiguity. And the commission itself — the Matthew 24:14 gospel-of-the-Kingdom witness to all nations — is one Mr. Armstrong repeatedly identified as his own:

“But in May 1940, God had begun to bring into my mind a glimpse of the future worldwide destiny of this Work, for the first time. ... God would grant another recess in the world war — and for the very purpose of allowing this Work of God to fulfill Matthew 24:14 in preaching and publishing Christ’s gospel of God’s Kingdom to all the world as a witness, just before the end of this world and the coming of Christ! ... I knew of no other preaching of this very gospel. Nowhere else was this prophecy being fulfilled.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Autobiography*, “First Vision of Worldwide Work” “First Vision of Worldwide Scope” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/13948-autobiography-of-herbert-w-armstrong/1900>)

Mr. Armstrong also referred to himself in the third person as holding the office:

“Nevertheless, now just before the end of this age (Matthew 24:3), Almighty God has decreed that ‘this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations ...’ (verse 14). This is the message the Eternal God is delivering now, by His end-time apostle, to the heads of governments in world capitals all over the world.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*, Ch. 2 “The Startling Revelation of What Was Christ’s Gospel” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/13-the-incredible-human-potential/2>)

“His end-time apostle.” Delivering the message. To heads of governments. That is Mr. Armstrong describing his own ministry — and the ministry no one else in his generation was performing.

4. The Historical Fruits of Mr. Armstrong's Office

The claim to apostolic office is proved by the fruits. “By their fruits ye shall know them,” Jesus said (Matthew 7:16). Mr. Armstrong made hundreds of specific prophetic statements over five decades in the *Plain Truth* magazine, the *World Tomorrow* broadcast, and in booklets and letters to millions of readers. What follows is a small selection of the most dated and specific — each verifiable against the historical record.

GERMANY WOULD RISE FROM THE RUIN OF WORLD WAR II TO LEAD A UNITED EUROPE

In 1950, five years after Germany's total defeat and occupation:

“European nations are becoming ‘distrustful of America and thinking more and more about uniting themselves into a united states of Europe.’” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, March 1950 (cited in *He Was Right*, Ch. 1 “Germany Will Rise Again” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/436>))

By 1954:

“Germany inevitably [will] emerge as the leader of a united Europe.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, 1954 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 1)

By 1967, the Common Market well underway:

“The cry of a political union in Europe will get louder, and before long we will see the Common Market develop into a United States of Europe.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, September 1967 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 1)

By 1978 the forecast had sharpened to a specific ten-nation military union:

“For 50 years I have been crying out to the world the Bible prophecies of this coming ‘United States of Europe’ ... a union of 10 nations in Europe under one government, with one united military force.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, letter to *Plain Truth* readers, July 24, 1983 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 1)

The European Union came into being in 1993. Germany is its economic engine. In 2025 Germany announced plans to nearly triple its regular defense budget to €162 billion per year by 2029 — a rearmament unmatched since the Second World War.

Mr. Armstrong had also, on May 9, 1945, at the United Nations founding conference in San Francisco — barely a day after Germany surrendered — stated something no other public voice was saying:

“We don’t understand German *thoroughness*. From the very start of World War ii, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first — and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality, the *third* round — World War iii! ... Now a Nazi underground is methodically planned. They plan to come back and to win on the third try.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, May 9, 1945 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 2 “The Nazi Underground” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/437>))

BRITAIN WOULD LOSE ITS SEA GATES

In 1956, at the Suez Crisis:

“Britain has lost control of Suez for the rest of this age, and will not be able to gain it back.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, August 5, 1956 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 12 “Changing of the Guard” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/447>))

Seventy years later, Britain does not control the Suez Canal.

AMERICA WOULD LOSE THE PANAMA CANAL

Fifteen years before it happened:

“America, before this is all over, is going to lose the Panama Canal unless it repents.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, March 1964 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 12)

The United States transferred the Panama Canal to Panama in 1999.

BRITAIN WOULD NOT FIT IN THE COMING EUROPEAN POWER

In 1973, the very year Britain entered the European Economic Community:

“Britain is going to look back on Monday, January 1, 1973, in all probability, as a most tragically historic date — a date fraught with ominous potentialities!” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, March 1973 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 9 “Britain Was Warned!” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/444>))

Forty-seven years later, Britain formally left the European Union.

AMERICA WOULD NOT WIN ITS NEXT WAR

In 1961:

“Unless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars: ‘In God we trust,’ the United States of America has won its last war!” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, October 1961 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 10 “America Has Won Its Last War” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/445>))

Vietnam. The Iraq wars. The Afghanistan withdrawal.

THE FINAL EUROPEAN POWER WOULD BE A CHURCH-AND-STATE UNION WITH THE VATICAN AT ITS HEAD

In 1978:

“Europeans want their own united military power! They know that a political union of Europe would produce a third major world power, as strong as either the United States or the ussr — possibly stronger! ... But they well know there is but one possibility of union in Europe — and that is through the Vatican.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Good News*, August 28, 1978 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 5 “The ‘Holy’ in the Holy Roman Empire” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/7094-he-was-right/440>))

In 1979:

“In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition — by the ‘good offices’ of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling (Revelation 17:1-5).” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Plain Truth*, January 1979 (*He Was Right*, Ch. 5)

He Was Right — the PCG-published catalog from which these citations are drawn — contains scores more like them.

5. The Continuation of the Office After 1986

Herbert W. Armstrong died January 16, 1986. Immediately after his death the leadership of his own Worldwide Church of God, under Joseph Tkach and later Joseph Tkach Jr., began systematically dismantling the doctrines Mr. Armstrong had spent fifty-seven years restoring — while denying any change was underway. Gerald Flurry, then a WCG pastor, wrote in the founding text of the Philadelphia Church of God:

“Every book by Herbert W. Armstrong has been abolished! It’s as if Mr. Armstrong has been disfellowshipped — postmortem!” — Gerald Flurry, *Malachi’s Message to God’s Church Today*, Ch. 1 “A Call to Remembrance” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/34-malachis-message-to-gods-church-today/16>)

The mechanism was described in *Raising the Ruins*, the book-length account of the WCG’s after Mr. Armstrong’s death apostasy written by Gerald Flurry’s son Stephen:

“First, Tkachism made all kinds of changes, but told the membership there were no changes.” — Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins*, Ch. 11 “Deathbed Repentance” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/484>)

The clearest single act of the dismantling came on June 2, 1988 — two years after Mr. Armstrong’s death — when WCG headquarters ordered the destruction of every copy of Mr. Armstrong’s flagship book:

“All softbound copies of *Mystery of the Ages* in English, German, Norwegian and Spanish should be discarded immediately because they contain passages that do not correctly reflect the church’s teaching about Christ’s sacrifice. All hardbound copies of *Mystery of the Ages* should also be discarded.” — WCG destruction order, June 2, 1988 (Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins*, Ch. 8 “Discard” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/481>))

Gerald Flurry began writing *Malachi’s Message* in 1989 as a warning to the scattered members of Mr. Armstrong’s church:

“Malachi’s Message was originally written in 1989, when the new direction in God’s Church was, to many of its members, not very perceptible.” — Gerald Flurry, *Malachi’s Message*, Preface (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/34-malachis-message-to-gods-church-today/14>)

The reaction from WCG headquarters was swift:

“On December 7, 1989, the *real* groundbreaking ceremony took place in Pasadena, California — inside Joseph Tkach Jr.’s office. On that day, Tkach Jr. fired my father and John Amos.” — Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins*, Ch. 13 “Breaking Ground” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/486>)

Nine days later, twelve people met for the first service of a new church:

“Together, these four families — just 12 people — met for the Philadelphia Church of God’s first service on December 16.” — Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins*, Ch. 14 “First Sip of a Bitter Cup” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/487>)

Twelve. The number Christ chose for the original apostolic foundation.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF REVELATION 10

Malachi’s Message itself, Mr. Flurry writes, turned out to be the fulfillment of a specific end-time prophecy. In Revelation 10, John is given a “little book” to eat, and told to “prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” Mr. Flurry identifies that little book:

“In the past, some of us have thought the little book was Mr. Armstrong’s book *Mystery of the Ages*. That book is very profound revelation from God, but it covers a much more comprehensive subject than the little book.” — Gerald Flurry, *The Little Book*, opening chapter (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/1295-the-little-book/201>)

“I did not know that *Malachi’s Message* was the little book when I wrote it.” — Gerald Flurry, *The Little Book*

“God commands us to deeply digest the little book: *Malachi’s Message to God’s Church Today*.” — Gerald Flurry, “Two Books of Life” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/13566-two-books-of-life>), February 14, 2016

Mystery of the Ages was Mr. Armstrong’s message to the world. *Malachi’s Message* is Mr. Flurry’s message to the Church.

THE COPYRIGHTS

WCG sued PCG to prevent the reprinting of Mr. Armstrong’s works. PCG lost at the Ninth Circuit in 2000 — the court granted WCG a permanent injunction against PCG’s distribution of *Mystery of the Ages*. But the story did not end there. On the seventeenth anniversary of Mr. Armstrong’s death — to the day — WCG reversed course:

“On Thursday morning, January 16 — 17 years to the day after Herbert W. Armstrong’s death — the wcg agreed to sell us *all* the copyrights for \$3 million.” — Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins*, Ch. 23 “© Philadelphia Church of God” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/496>)

WCG sold PCG the copyrights to all nineteen of Mr. Armstrong’s works. Every book cited in this treatise — *Mystery of the Ages*, *The Incredible Human Potential*, the *Autobiography*, all of it — is today published by the Philadelphia Church of God under those copyrights, on the anniversary date of Mr. Armstrong’s death, in a transaction PCG had prayed for and pursued for eighteen years.

THE SPLINTERING — AND WHAT IT PROVED

Mr. Armstrong had taught, in *Mystery of the Ages*, that Christ’s Church cannot be many churches:

“Notice especially, there is only the one Church. Not many churches. The Church is not divided.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6 “Mystery of the Church” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/35-mystery-of-the-ages/34>)

“There is only one Church. Not a parent church and many little daughter churches that have split off in disagreement.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, Ch. 6

And, as quoted in a Gerald Flurry booklet on the same subject:

“God has only one Church on Earth, which He directs in the doing of His Work — not two churches — not many denominations and sects.” — Herbert W. Armstrong, quoted in Gerald Flurry, “*God’s Family Government*” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/1280-gods-family-government/144>)

What happened after Mr. Armstrong’s death exposed the doctrine to a test few Christian denominations survive. The Worldwide Church of God’s membership did not stay together. It scattered. On May 4, 1991 — five years after his death — WCG minister Dean Blackwell delivered a sermon in Columbus, Ohio, cataloging 23 splinter groups that had already broken off from the Worldwide Church of God (Stephen Flurry, *Raising the Ruins* (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/8222-raising-the-ruins/488>), Ch. 15). Two decades later Stephen Flurry, writing in *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, put the number much higher:

“All totaled, there must be at least 100 offshoots of what once was the Worldwide Church of God.” — Stephen Flurry, “Where Is God?” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/7881-where-is-god>), March 2011

The largest splinters had visible founders and visible founding dates. Roderick C. Meredith founded the Global Church of God in 1993. David Hulme founded the United Church of God in 1995 — roughly six thousand at its first Sabbath service, twenty thousand worldwide by the end of 1996. Meredith, later fired by Global’s own council of elders, went on to found the Living Church of God around 1998. Each was headed by a former Ambassador College minister. Each replaced Mr. Armstrong’s model of God’s government with something new.

Their founders said so in their own words. David Hulme, on the United Church of God’s founding structure:

“It’s not a hierarchical structure *anymore*. It’s a collaborative process.” — David Hulme, quoted in Stephen Flurry, “The United Church of God and the Evils of 300-Man Rule” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/7795-the-united-church-of-god-and-the-evils-of-300-man-rule>), December 31, 2010

Roderick Meredith in 1993, on what he intended for Global:

Church government was “one of the greatest and most serious misunderstandings.” — Roderick C. Meredith, 1993, quoted in Stephen Flurry, “Making Sense of the Church Split: Judge By the Fruits” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/7818-making-sense-of-the-church-split-judge-by-the-fruits>), January 7, 2011

Meredith accordingly established Global on a “collegial” form of governance, rather than hierarchical. What Mr. Armstrong had insisted was *the* doctrine of Church government — theocracy under a single apostle — the splinter founders discarded and replaced with committees, councils, and votes.

Two of them, over time, publicly reversed themselves. David Hulme, years after founding UCG:

“Herbert W. Armstrong was right in *Mystery of the Ages*, especially Chapter Six, where he describes a proven form of government for the Church.” — David Hulme, quoted in Stephen Flurry, “The United Church of God and the Evils of 300-Man Rule”

Meredith, having watched his own council of elders fire him from Global, later adopted Mr. Armstrong’s original government at Living. But the general pattern held. Gerald Flurry summarizes it in *The True History of God’s True Church*:

“The Living and United churches — the two biggest splinters of the wcg — both reject God’s government taught through Mr. Armstrong. Both of these churches continue to suffer split after split. God is not using them to do His Work.” — Gerald Flurry, *The True History of God’s True Church* (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/read/12589-the-true-history-of-gods-true-church/1581>)

The empirical record is now three decades long. Groups that replaced the apostolic office with a council or a vote have fractured, re-fractured, and fractured again. Groups that adopted a “collegial” or “collaborative” model have been unable to hold their own membership, let alone continue the Work Mr. Armstrong began. What Mr. Armstrong taught in scripture — that Christ’s Church is ONE, and that its government flows from Christ through one apostle at a time — has been tested to destruction by the very ministers who claimed to disagree with him.

MR. FLURRY’S OWN TESTIMONY TO THE OFFICE

Gerald Flurry has stated the office he holds in his own published words. From *The Little Book*:

“There are two olive branches through whom God has poured out His golden oil of new revelation in this end time. It has all come through Mr. Armstrong and me.”

“God has commissioned me and the Philadelphia Church of God to finish the Elijah work.”
— Gerald Flurry, *The Little Book*, “Shaking the Heavens and the Earth”

And from a 2015 article:

“There is another apostle today who is teaching the little book message, which has been sealed until the end time.” — Gerald Flurry, “The Malachi’s Message Warning” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/13255-the-malachis-message-warning>), November 8, 2015

“Another apostle.” Mr. Flurry names the office. It is not Mr. Armstrong’s exclusively — it continued in Mr. Flurry after Mr. Armstrong’s death, exactly as the biblical pattern of one apostle at a time would require.

6. The Contemporary Fruits of Mr. Flurry’s Office

Mr. Flurry’s ministry — like Mr. Armstrong’s — is proved by fruits. What follows is a partial record of specific dated prophecies published in PCG venues that events have since confirmed.

VLADIMIR PUTIN IDENTIFIED AS THE “PRINCE OF ROSH” OF EZEKIEL 38

In the May–June 2014 issue of *The Philadelphia Trumpet* — three months after Russia annexed Crimea, eight years before the full invasion of Ukraine — Mr. Flurry wrote:

“Can you think of a politician who could fulfill the role of the prince of Russia? One, and only one, comes to mind: Vladimir Putin. ... Vladimir Putin is a sign, literally a SIGN that Jesus Christ is about to return!” — Gerald Flurry, “A Message to the Prince of Russia — From God” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/11535-a-message-to-the-prince-of-russia-from-god>), *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, May–June 2014

In September 2014:

“We need to watch Vladimir Putin closely. He is the ‘prince of Rosh’ that God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago!” — Gerald Flurry, “The Prophesied Prince of Russia” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/11979-vladimir-putin-is-the-prophesied-prince-of-russia>), September 2014

Mr. Flurry published the identification as a full-length booklet, *The Prophesied ‘Prince of Russia’*, in 2017. In February 2022 Putin launched the largest land war in Europe since 1945.

DONALD TRUMP'S RETURN TO THE PRESIDENCY, FOUR YEARS IN ADVANCE

The most publicly testable prophecy Mr. Flurry has made in the last decade concerns Donald Trump's 2020 election defeat. In the January 2021 cover article of *The Philadelphia Trumpet* — written on November 9, 2020, six days after the election was called for Joe Biden and more than two months before Biden's inauguration — Mr. Flurry stated:

“By most appearances, Joe Biden will be America's next president. But I absolutely do not believe that at all. Mr. Trump will weather this storm too.”

“Regardless of what the media says or how things look right now, I am confident Donald Trump will remain president.” — Gerald Flurry, “Why Donald Trump Will Remain America's President” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/23193-why-donald-trump-will-remain-americas-president>), *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, January 2021

Two months later, after Biden's inauguration:

“One thing is for sure: God is going to bring Mr. Trump back. It will happen *at most* in four years.” — Gerald Flurry, “Why I Still Believe Donald Trump Is Coming Back” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/23483-why-i-still-believe-donald-trump-is-coming-back>), January 25, 2021

Mr. Flurry restated the prediction repeatedly through 2024. In March 2024, eight months before Trump's re-election:

“One way or another, he is coming back. ... Based on this prophecy alone, we can be sure God is going to return Donald Trump to power sooner or later.” — Gerald Flurry, “Donald Trump's Return in Bible Prophecy” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/28885-donald-trumps-return-in-bible-prophecy>), March 2024

On November 5, 2024 Donald Trump was re-elected President of the United States. Mr. Flurry wrote nine days later:

“Trumpet readers knew that Donald Trump would return to the White House. This has been one of my consistent forecasts, based on Bible prophecy, over the past four years.” — Gerald Flurry, “Trump Victory: Fulfilled Prophecy!” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/30421-trump-victory-fulfilled-prophecy>), November 14, 2024

GERMANY’S REARMAMENT, TRACKED FROM PCG’S 1989 FOUNDING

Twelve years before the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine transformed European defense policy, Mr. Flurry wrote:

“The Holy Roman Empire became official January 1, 2010. ... The EU is absolutely domineered by Germany — a nation that started World Wars i and ii! ... Germany is going to forcefully lead that powerful church-state combine.” — Gerald Flurry, “The Holy Roman Empire Is Back!” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/6831-the-holy-roman-empire-is-back>), *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, February 2010

The direct fulfillment came in 2022 and after. As PCG documented after Russia’s invasion:

“Germany was rearming. Its role in the world would be transformed. ... Europe’s new fear of Russia is going to play a major role in hastening the fulfillment of that prophecy!” — Richard Palmer, “After Russia’s Invasion, Germany Demands Leadership” (<https://www.thetrumpet.com/25416-after-russias-invasion-germany-demands-leadership>), March 30, 2022

By 2025 Germany was on track to nearly triple its defense budget.

THE VISIBLE WORK CONTINUES

The Philadelphia Church of God today runs *The Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine (print circulation worldwide), *The Key of David* television program (Gerald Flurry weekly), Herbert W. Armstrong College in Edmond, Oklahoma, the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation (<https://pcg.church/about/our-work/aicf>) (concert series and humanitarian work in Jordan and Israel), and — since 2006 — an active archaeological excavation (<https://pcg.church/about/our-work/dig>) in Jerusalem in joint participation with the late Dr. Eilat Mazar. Named finds from that dig include what Dr. Mazar identified as King David’s palace, portions of Nehemiah’s wall, and the Solomonic Wall, plus two clay seal impressions of biblical figures mentioned in the book of Jeremiah, on public display in Armstrong Auditorium.

The Work Mr. Armstrong began in 1931 has not stopped. It continues.

7. The Question That Remains

If revelation did not end with the apostle John — and the New Testament plainly says it did not — then Christ is speaking somewhere today through the apostolic office he set in his Church. The question for any reader is where.

Every claim on this page is drawn from the published testimony of the two men who bore that office in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Herbert W. Armstrong on his own commission, from *Mystery of the Ages* and *The Incredible Human Potential* and his *Autobiography*. Gerald Flurry on his continuation of that commission, from *Malachi's Message* and *The Little Book* and *The Philadelphia Trumpet*. Their prophecies read in the same voice: Germany rising, America declining, the Vatican gathering Europe, Russia consolidating in the east — decades ahead of the events themselves, in dated print, with names attached.

There is a reading path from here. Any of the books below can be requested free of cost from the Philadelphia Church of God at [thetrumpet.com](https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/books_and_booklets) (https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/books_and_booklets).

Further Reading

- ***Mystery of the Ages*** by Herbert W. Armstrong — the foundational work; the seven mysteries that structure the whole of biblical revelation.
- ***Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*** by Gerald Flurry — the founding book of the Philadelphia Church of God, the little book of Revelation 10.