

HOW FAR CAN YOU GET FROM BEING “A Prophet of Doom”?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In the April 11th issue of People, a weekly magazine produced by the publishers of Time, appeared a feature story on my son Garner Ted Armstrong. It was headlined “Prophet of Doom Armstrong.” Listen now to what Garner Ted and I proclaim worldwide, and tell me, how could we possibly proclaim a message farther from one of doom?

How far away from a “gospel of doom” could one possibly get? Sure, we proclaim what the Bible says. That includes the prophecies—and about a third of the Bible is prophecy. But did you know that the doom foretold in the Bible is the doom of all *this world's* evils? But, more importantly, beyond that, the Bible tells of world peace, universal happiness, joy, and abundance for all. That's the happy WORLD TOMORROW that we do proclaim. And we announce that it's coming in this very present generation!

But we go much further—because the BIBLE does. It portrays a fantastic, seemingly incredible human potential *beyond that*—greater, more wonderful, more awesome than your mind probably can conceive.

Read here the essence of what we proclaim to this world—to kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers; to those at and near the top of governments, the professions, business and industry; to those at the grass roots of the world's nations—

and tell me how we could possibly get farther away from what *People* magazine headlined “Prophet of Doom Armstrong.”

There may be “prophets of doom.” If so, we are not among them. And after that slanted and misleading headline, I think you deserve to know precisely what message of hope, of assurance, of happiness and peace we do proclaim to the millions worldwide.

What Really Is Prophesied?

Of course, if you mean the DOOM of evil; if you mean the DOOM of all this world's sufferings, unhappiness, poverty, sickness, troubles and wars, you may be sure the Bible foretells the DOOM of those evils.

But if you mean the DOOM of MANKIND, then you'd better blow the dust off your Bible, and see with your own eyes what it really does say about the actual and real potential of man.

Just how far from doom can you get? Well, it's probably a lot farther

than your mind can grasp—but that's what Garner Ted Armstrong and I proclaim to the world: the most fantastic, incredible extreme opposite of what an uninformed and careless press assumes and accuses.

The Bible foretells—prophesies—the most fantastically wonderful potential for man that the human mind can conceive and the real purpose for which man was placed on this earth. In this article I'll tell you what it is—and I won't pull any punches.

But did you ever stop to wonder *why* humanity was put here on earth? Was there *purpose*? Purpose with a fantastic, awesome *potential*? Or did we simply *HAPPEN*? Did we evolve from a single-celled amoeba, without purpose, without intelligence, without planning; did we just happen by blind, purposeless *chance*? Was the human mind developed by resident unintelligent forces less powerful than the mind they developed?

We do not believe that. Nor do

we believe we were put here on earth for the purpose of being obliterated in a final *doom* of humankind.

What, then, DO we believe? Nothing is so important for you to read and KNOW! What DO we proclaim—yes, even to kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers; to educators, men at the top of their professions, heads of commerce and industry; to common people all around the world?

This we know! We live in an unhappy world. Over 50 percent of mankind is illiterate or nearly so. Over 50 percent of all humans are living in or close to abject poverty, filth and squalor. We live in a world filled with violence. All is competition, strife, trouble.

WHY?

We recognize the conditions around us. The heads of state, the great and the near-great I meet around the world, know of the problems—problems greater than human minds can solve. They listen to me—and they do not listen to a forecast of *doom*, but of *hope* and of *assurance* more certain than either life or death.

It is all outlined in biblical prophecy—the causes of today's world conditions and where we are going from here! And it is NOT DOOM! Not for humanity!

But if we begin to learn what the Bible *does* reveal—what the wonderful, almost incredible *human potential* really is—by starting with today's conditions, it is like tuning in on a movie or entering a theater about ten or fifteen minutes before the end of a one-and-a-half or two-hour show. Not knowing what went before—what led up to the present conditions—one is only confused, bewildered.

A Jigsaw Puzzle

The human body has a skeletal structure that supports the entire body—yet we don't see it. It's covered up. Every modern skyscraper has a skeletal framework of steel and concrete, erected first, but covered completely in the finished structure.

In a sense not many realize, *the Bible is like that*. The real basic structure that holds it all together

has been overlooked, glossed over, or else deliberately rejected and left out of just about all religious teaching. It starts with prehistory and leads to the present. It reveals purposes, causes, beginnings—the MASTER PLAN—and the way it is going to *end*: in world peace, happiness, joy, universal abundance! But it is like a jigsaw puzzle which must be assembled piece by biblical piece ("here a little, there a little" [Isa. 28:13]).

That is the "doom" we proclaim—the doom of all that stands in the way of that final happy world—the doom of all misery, suffering, unhappiness.

But science has never discovered this basic truth. Religion has glossed over and failed to reveal it, though it's plain in the Bible. Education ignores it—because education doesn't know it. Education is in ignorance of it.

Jesus Christ came and proclaimed it—announced it (it is yet to come)—but, of the thousands upon thousands who heard His gospel message, only 120 believed it (Acts 1:15). And since before A.D. 70, it has been entirely suppressed (Gal. 1:6-7). God told it in person to Adam and Eve (Genesis 2), but they didn't believe what their Creator told them!

Would you believe it, even though God Almighty or Jesus Christ in person came and announced it today? *Would you?*

In the Beginning

I'll give you the briefest summary. You may believe it or not—but it is NOT a forecast of DOOM for mankind, but the very farthest you can possibly get from that. And believe it or not, it is TRUE!

In briefest synopsis, here is what religion has glossed over; science has never discovered; education, in ignorance, fails to teach.

The real beginning of the Bible is NOT Genesis 1:1, but in the New Testament, John 1:1-4.

In the beginning existed two all-knowing, all-powerful, all-perfect Superbeings. Each possessed supreme MIND and CREATIVE power. One is called "the WORD." The other, superior only in authority, is called "GOD." But the Word, it states, was also GOD—though a se-

parate personage. Garner Ted is also Armstrong, though a different and separate person from me.

There existed at first *only* these two Superbeings—no matter, no other beings or life forms, no physical universe.

The *supreme accomplishment* is *creating*, and the supreme achievement of creation is righteous, holy, perfect character. They thought; they planned—for how long we do not know, ages perhaps. Being composed themselves of spirit, their first creative undertaking was to create angels—also spirit beings, somewhat like, yet somewhat lesser, than themselves. The Creator, of necessity, automatically remains greater than what He creates.

But the big problem, and therefore the chief objective, was the creation of righteous, holy and perfect character within these angel beings. And this, these two supreme Beings knew, could not be done automatically and instantaneously by fiat—else the created beings would be nothing more than mindless automatons, like man-made machines that must perform as their maker designed and *set them* to perform, with no mind, reasoning power, thought or decision-making power of their own.

Therefore this character (whether good or evil) must be developed in separate entities possessing thought processes and minds able to think, to know, to reason, to make independent conclusions and choices. And that risked development of *evil* character. Actually, this righteous, holy and perfect character must of necessity come *from* the original perfect Beings, yet as a result of the thinking, reasoning, knowing, and actual choice and desire of the recipients.

That process required *time*. God's thought and planning stage, prior to any actual creation, required time. Aeons of time could have gone by—perhaps hundreds, perhaps billions, of years.

Remember God was supreme in authority, yet He and the Word were in all other respects equal. In mind they were in complete harmony and agreement. God created all things by and through the Word, (Continued on page 33)

Prophet of Doom

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and this mighty Word is the personage who, much later, became Jesus Christ (John 1:14). They were of complete togetherness of mind, intent, and purpose. It was through the Word as actual Maker that God created the angels.

Supreme Purpose

Now the tremendous supremacy of mind possessed by these two great God-beings (for the Word was also God) was exhibited at this point. They had in mind a tremendous objective for the angels—a purpose supreme. This required the creation of a new substance, MATTER, which comprises the whole vast physical UNIVERSE.

So now we come to Genesis 1:1. Genesis originally was written by Moses, as God inspired him. The word translated into the English word "God" there was *Elohim* in the Hebrew in which Moses wrote it—a uniplural name such as "family," "church," or "team"—MORE than one person forming *one* single FAMILY; more than one person, but only *one* single CHURCH; more than one player, but forming *one* single TEAM. There is but ONE God, but God is composed of more than one person and includes the Word, who also was "God" (John 1:1).

So the uniplural God now created the entire physical universe—including this earth. The Hebrew words imply a perfect creation. The angels shouted for joy because it was to be their abode (Job 38:1-7).

Now in matter are many properties—gravity, force and energy, power, electricity—the properties known to physicists and chemists.

Just as the creation of angels was not completed all at once, but in two stages—the second being the development of character, whether good or evil—so with the earth and all planets. God purposed that the angels utilize the raw materials and the many properties within the matter of the earth to COMPLETE its creation—for God is the author of beauty, harmony, peace, joy, perfection, and glory.

God gave them this assignment,

this WORK to do, plus the development of their finished character—either good or evil, as they chose—to complete *their* creation. But their mission on earth required them to work together in peace, harmony, oneness of purpose.

That is to say, it necessitated the government of God over them. The government of God is a WAY OF LIFE. It is the way that develops righteous, holy, perfect character. It is the way that produces peace, harmony, happiness, joy, abundance. It is the way of LOVE. And love is always outgoing, never incoming. It is love to God in implicit obedience, adulation, worship, reliance, and faith—knowing God Himself IS LOVE! It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing—always outgoing!

So God established on earth a throne to administer His government. On it, He placed a superarchangel named LUCIFER (Isa. 14:12-13). This great Lucifer (the name means "shining star of the dawn," or "bringer of light and truth") was perfect as created. Next to God, this superangel was the most powerful and most mighty being that was possible for God to create. He was *perfect* in all his ways until iniquity (lawlessness) was found of his own free choice in him (Ezek. 28:15).

Rebellion of the Angels

This Lucifer led his angels (one-third of all the angels—and it is possible that it was this same third of all that populated the earth under Lucifer) into SIN—transgression of the laws of God's government.

Thus the angels SINNED (II Pet. 2:4). They rebelled against God's way. They deliberately formed within themselves *evil character*. They turned from God's government to vanity, lust and greed; jealousy and envy; competition leading to strife, violence, war. They resented any rule over them. They wanted to choose *their own way*, not God's way.

Thus the government of God was rejected, removed from the earth!

The creation of the angels was now complete. They had formed evil character. The angels became de-

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Abundant Living

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the authority that you look to for everything in your life.

You will be overcoming your own human nature and the world, resisting Satan, drawing nearer to God by constant daily Bible study and by prayer, and by occasional fasting and prayer. That is the Christian life. It's the happy, the abundant life.

It's yours for the asking. It's yours for the willingness to confess your sins to God and to repent of breaking His laws. It's yours if you're willing to do what He says. □

JOHNNY

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Brian Sutton-Smith, a developmental psychologist and children's play authority, sees global implications in the games people play. "Survival of our civilization," he says, "may well depend on the leadership of more and more people with a more highly developed sense of play."

We can put competition into perspective if we remember that it's not what Johnny does to the ball that counts. Rather, it's what the ball does to Johnny. The game must never be allowed to become more important than the player. Winning is *not* the only thing.

Yes, Johnny does need to win. But he needs to win more than medals and trophies—more than doting and fawning on the part of coaches, parents, and peers. Johnny needs somehow to win self-confidence and self-respect. He deserves warm acceptance for having done his best, no matter what the scoreboard reads.

Every Johnny *must* become a winner. He can if he gets guidance and good examples from caring adults—adults who can teach him to lose without bitterness and to win with grace and compassion. □

Edward R. Walsh is director of recreation for Westbury Village, New York, where he also teaches and writes.