

Failed Predictions Affirm^{*} Herbert W. Armstrong Was a TRUE Prophet

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This article is the author's conclusion based on his own personal research. If anyone has additional information that should be considered, or comments, please send them to hwaorg@yahoo.com

* If a prophet is successful in his mission and people repent, his predictions of punishment will appear to have failed.

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Introduction

Since his death in 1986 and the subsequent falling away of many from the truth, there have been numerous claims that Herbert W. Armstrong was a false prophet because certain events did not come to pass when, or as, he expected. Because some of the events he predicted did not happen when he thought they would, or have not yet happened at all, some claim that this proves he was a false prophet. Some also claim he was a teacher of lies and false doctrines, and a con-man who was “in it for the money.”

But what did Herbert W. Armstrong actually say? What did he teach? What did he predict? And what were the fruits of his over half-century long ministry? Did he make prophecies in the name of God that failed to occur? Did he claim to be a prophet? Can a man be a false prophet who never even claimed to be a prophet?

It is unfortunate that because of a wrong understanding of what the Bible actually says, and misconceptions and outright lies about what he said, many have been misled by the devil into abandoning Herbert W. Armstrong and the biblical truth he taught. Some have even abandoned the Bible and belief in God altogether, and now focus their efforts on making shipwreck the faith of others. This article will answer the above questions and examine Herbert W. Armstrong in light of what he actually preached, and what the Bible really says about prophets.

Prophecy or Prediction?

Before going further, it is necessary to define some terminology. Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary gives the following traditional definitions:

Prophecy (noun)

1: an inspired utterance of a prophet.

2: the function or vocation of a prophet; specifically: the inspired declaration of divine will and purpose.

Predict (verb)

1: to declare or indicate in advance; especially: foretell on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason.

Using the above definitions it is clear that only the Almighty God, who knows the beginning from the end, and has the power to make events happen, can originate a prophecy. Human beings may be used by God to deliver prophecies or interpret their meanings, but human beings do not make prophecies in the biblical sense. In every biblical example of a human prophet delivering a prophecy from God, it is always made very clear who the prophecy is from, usually by his saying, "Thus saith the Lord." No instance can be found in the Bible where a true prophet fails to state that the prophecy is from God. If you will read through the so-called "false prophecies" of Herbert W. Armstrong listed in the appendix, you will see that he virtually never said they were from God, or by the authority of God (the instances where he did say he spoke on God's authority will be addressed later). Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) predicted events "on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason," and based on Bible prophecy. So to get the terminology correct, HWA did not make any prophecies, but rather made predictions based on Bible prophecy. But he did deliver many of God's prophecies from the pages of the Bible.

Bible Definitions

Many are of the belief that if a religious leader says something that later proves to be untrue, or predicts something that does not come to pass, the Bible labels him a false prophet. But is that what the Bible says? Since HWA always said, “Don’t believe me, believe your Bible – believe God,” just what does the Bible say, and therefore how does God determine whether a prophet is true or false?

False Prophet

Deuteronomy Ch.13

¹ If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, ***Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;***

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; ***because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God***, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, ***to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in***. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Deuteronomy Ch. 18

²⁰ But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word ***in my name***, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall ***speak in the name of other gods***, even that prophet shall die.

²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

²² When a prophet ***speaketh in the name of the LORD***, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Matthew Ch. 7

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but ***inwardly they are ravening wolves.***

¹⁶ ***Ye shall know them by their fruits.*** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but ***a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.***

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, ***neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.***

¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

²⁰ Wherefore ***by their fruits ye shall know them.***

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ***ye that work iniquity.***

Matthew Ch. 24

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and ***shall deceive*** many.

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they ***shall deceive*** the very elect.

Revelation Ch. 19

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that ***wrought miracles*** before him, ***with which he deceived*** them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image.

Although his predictions may or may not come to pass, a false prophet is a deceiver who teaches lies or twists scripture. He teaches disobedience to God's law either outrightly or by trickery, and ultimately leads people **AWAY** from the one true God. The false prophet is not led by God's holy spirit, and while he may put on a good show in public, he does not display the fruits of the spirit in his personal life or in his dealings with others in private ("neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit", Mt.7:18).

True Prophet

Deuteronomy Ch. 18

¹⁸ I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, ***and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.***

¹⁹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto *my words which he shall speak in my name*, I will require it of him.

Jeremiah Ch. 23

²¹ I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
²² But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have *turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings*.

Jeremiah Ch. 26

³ If so be they will hearken, and *turn every man from his evil way*, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.
¹³ Therefore now *amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God*; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

Jeremiah Ch. 28

⁹ The prophet which *prophesieth of peace*, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.

Joel Ch. 2

¹³ And rend your heart, and not your garments, and *turn unto the LORD your God*: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Malachi Ch. 4

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
⁶ And he shall *turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers*, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Putting together many scriptural examples we can see that a true prophet preaches the word of God faithfully and teaches trust in, and obedience to, the Creator. He leads people **TOWARD** the one true God by teaching obedience to His law and the value of the family. Based upon the repentance of those to whom he is sent, or God's altering his own plan, his predictions may or may not come to pass. He is led by God's holy spirit and its fruits are evident in his public and personal life ("a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit", Mt.7:18). And only a true prophet can accurately predict peace.

Predictions Not the Test

In summary, both true and false prophets may speak and do good works in the name of God or Christ, and make predictions that happen as they say, and maybe even display signs or be party to seemingly miraculous events. Also, they might both predict events that do not come to pass. In fact most of the prophets of the Bible prophesied of events that never came to pass in their lifetimes or even to this day. But ultimately, a false prophet speaks deceit which **draws people away from God**, while a true prophet speaks the plain truth which **brings people to repentance toward God**. And that is the main biblical test as to whether a religious leader may be a true or false prophet – not whether his predictions come to pass or not.

Failed Predictions

Now just what are the criticisms against Herbert W. Armstrong, and the actual predictions he made that failed to come to pass? Taken from Joseph W. Tkach (JWT), Jr.'s book Transformed by Truth, a Living Hope Ministries DVD production titled Called to be Free, the Internet and other sources, here is a listing of HWA's "failed predictions." Predictions made by others under HWA are not included as they are either redundant or not attributable to him. Also, statements made by HWA that later proved to be incorrect are not included because they cannot even be considered predictions, but were merely statements of what HWA believed to be fact at the time. Here is a collection of predictions that are said not to have come to pass as stated.

1. Transformed by Truth

- JWT, Jr. says that HWA falsely predicted the church would be taken to a place of safety in 1936, 1943, and 1972.

Comment: based on current events at the time, those dates seemed highly probable. If you read the Plain Truth magazines from those years it is obvious HWA was following world events and making some predictions based on his own observations. He did not set those dates in stone or say they were from God. Regarding the 1972 date above, HWA said:

“First, we cannot be SURE of only 4½ more years.
We cannot set dates and be SURE! We think that
probably that is all the time we have left.”
(Co-worker letter, August 28, 1967, page 11)

- JWT, Jr. says that HWA falsely predicted Christ's return and the battle of Armageddon 3½ years after each of the above dates.

Comment: same as above. Anyone knowing Bible prophecy and watching world events would have made the same predictions.

- JWT, Jr. says that HWA falsely predicted a united Europe and the coming of Antichrist in the early 1970s.

Comment: same as above, and just look at world conditions today, especially in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia!

- Comment: HWA did not use these predictions to draw people away from God – he used them to stir people to repentance towards God (see below). Though the suggested dates passed, the Bible prophecies are still future and certain.

Plain Truth, March 1935, page 3:

"What is PROPHESED for 1935"
(Continued from page 2)

"Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with ALL YOUR HEART, and with FASTING, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, . . . and TURN UNTO THE LORD YOUR GOD." (Joel 2:12,13)

Have YOU done it? --- with ALL YOUR HEART? Have you been FASTING AND PRAYING recently? Have you turned to God with WEEPING, rending your heart? Have you acknowledged your luke-warm careless condition? Be Honest! WILL you do it? Right NOW?

2. Called to be Free

- “I want to tell you, all this weather disturbance means a terrible famine is coming on the United States that is going to ruin us as a nation inside of less than 20 more years. All right I stuck my neck out right there. You just wait 20 years and see whether I told you the truth. God says ‘If a man tells you what’s going to happen, wait and see. If it doesn’t happen he was not speaking the word of God, he’s speaking out of his own mind.’ You watch and see whether these things happen. You see who’s speaking to you my friends.” (undated HWA radio broadcast, DVD 5:11)

Comment: The scripture does not label him a false prophet, just that he was speaking out of his own mind, i.e. a personal prediction or speculation (Dt. 18:22, but HWA did not speak this “in the name of the Lord”). Most of the rest of the DVD is just a lot of emotional testimonials by ex-WCG members.

3. [Herbert W. Armstrong’s 208 Failed Prophecies](#)

- Comment: This is a listing of 208 supposed “failed prophecies” of Herbert W. Armstrong. However, as noted in a previous section they are not prophecies – they are predictions (actually ‘predictions’ is too strong, most of them are really more like speculations), which by themselves have no bearing on whether a man is a true or false prophet. The listed speculations are poorly documented, completely out of

context, twisted, and mixed with the anonymous author's own unsubstantiated statements of supposed facts. Read them for yourself, and also please read the next section on the attitudes of the accusers. **Here is the beginning of the list where the author establishes himself to be a liar – the trunk of his 208-branch tree is a bald-faced lie!**

Herbert W. Armstrong's 208
False Prophecies

The Most Comprehensive
Listing of Herbert Armstrong's
52 year record of False
Prophecies ever made.

Or
HWA's Worldwide Church of God:
A Non-Prophet Organization

By
"The Watcher"

I would like to submit the enclosed listing of herbert's false prophecies to you for posting on your splendid website, easily the best we have so far found on the subject. However, we have spent quite enough years wasting time being polite to fools, so I do formally request that you keep our names and E-mail address confidential.

Please feel free to add other documented examples of his crazed predictions. I have, for example cross referenced with the 1972 internal memorandum that David Covington has published on his web site. However, I have not seen any effort to produce a comprehensive, documented list of his claimed prophecies but I feel it is important to do so. I have come across people who will even acknowledge that they accept the reliability of the reports that he committed incest but then claim that his "calling" as a "prophet of God" excuses even that.

To use one of his own, endlessly overused cliches, **his claim to be a prophet*** was the "trunk of the tree" which supported every other outrageous claim and demand. Cut down that false trunk, the "premise carelessly assumed," as

he would have put it, and then the true identity of the deceiver who deceived those who didn't know they were deceived becomes clear.

***Comment:** This is a bald-faced lie – HWA never claimed to be a prophet. Quite the contrary:

“I do not claim to be a prophet at all.” (Plain Truth, Nov. 1967, Personal pg.1)

“God was to raise up a 20th-Century ‘Ezekiel’ – a different person – **not a prophet writing FUTURE events to occur**, but **A SPEAKER to SPEAK and PROCLAIM this Warning, AT THE TIME** when the event prophesied is about to happen.” (Co-Worker letter, March 28, 1966, pg.2)

“Emphatically I am **NOT a prophet**, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God-separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. And I never have claimed to be.” (Tomorrow’s World, Feb. 1972, Personal pg. 1)

1) Plain Truth Dec 1940: Britain will be conquered by Nazis

Comment: “The Watcher” hopes you will just accept his statements and not verify them for yourself. In the entire Plain Truth, Dec. 1940 issue, HWA never says “Britain will be conquered by Nazis.” On page 8 he does state that prophecy reveals Britain and the United States are destined to go down, but he nowhere says when. If you read the whole article you’ll see that “The Watcher” is not being truthful.

2) same: Turkey will turn traitor to Britain; it stayed neutral

Comment: Yet to occur in the future. All the predictions and speculations below were based on HWA’s own observations of world events and have

no bearing on whether or not he was a true prophet. He did not claim to be a prophet or that these predictions were from God. And the modern day House of Israel is still destined to fall.

3) 1944 PT: "we have made but the slightest dent in Jap defenses in the Pacific & at the present rate, it will take us about 20 years" to defeat them

Comment: There was only one issue of the PT in 1944 and I could not find this statement anywhere in that issue using a search program, so it is poorly documented. In any case, "at the present rate" maybe it would have taken 20 years.

4) 1964 Coworkers letter: "only 7 years before H-bomb warfare breaks out"

Comment: Couldn't find this quote in any co-worker letter using a search program. Poorly documented.

5) May 1965 PT: "Hitler will be falsely resurrected by the Pope"

Comment: First of all the article was not written by HWA but by Roderick Meredith. Second, it does not state that Hitler will be resurrected, but only that it was a possibility: "In fact, with the information then at his disposal, Mr. Armstrong outlined as far back as September, 1948, the definite possibility of a FAKE RESURRECTION of Adolf Hitler by the coming false prophet!" "**IF** a fake resurrection of Adolf Hitler ..." (pg. 45)

- **Comment:** You can read the rest of this pathetic collection in the appendix. Please look them up in the original cited source, if you can, and let me know if you find one that really qualifies as a "failed prophecy" – not a speculation or prediction. And all the better if you can find one spoken by authority of God or Christ. Good luck!

4. [Predictions spoken on Christ's authority](#)

- "The God who is REAL says of OUR PEOPLES: 'Prophecy against the prophets of Israel . . . O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes of the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up a hedge for the House of Israel TO STAND in the BATTLE IN THE DAY OF THE ETERNAL (Ezek. 13:1-5).' That is NOT a message to ancient Israel—but to OUR NATIONS OF TODAY. The 'DAY OF THE ETERNAL'—a time foretold in more than thirty prophecies—is going to strike between 5 and 10 years from now! You will know, then, how REAL it is. You will wish, then, you had heeded. I am not writing foolishly, but very soberly, ON AUTHORITY of the living CHRIST!" ("**HOW the U.S. Can END the Vietnam WAR . . . NOW!**" **Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Plain Truth*, Feb. 1967, p. 47)**)
- "And now, finally, a last word to you who read this warning message -- this summary of the prophecies: **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!** Your immediate future is of your own choosing. You can take this lightly, let it slip from mind, allow yourself once again to be absorbed in the mechanics of today's complex society that you put this out of mind. If you do, you have now read **YOUR FATE - - and I say to you on authority of God Almighty that it is absolutely SURE!**" (**Herbert W. Armstrong, *1975 in Prophecy*, pg. 31**)
- "The destruction of the United States of America is foretold in **YOUR BIBLE**. It is foretold by Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Micah, and others. It was foretold by Jesus Christ Himself! But the worldly churches and their ministers, all divided into sects and denominations, bound by sectarian creeds and blinded by world-wide spiritual deception, deceived, by a devil who poses as GOD and has deceived the **WHOLE WORLD**—they do not understand the Bible, and do not perceive what is so clearly prophesied!

Yet this catastrophe is sweeping on toward an unsuspecting America with increasing momentum—and in a few years it will **STRIKE**—suddenly, unexpectedly! "**AS A SNARE,**" said Jesus, will this **SUDDEN DESTRUCTION** come. Then it will be too late!

Listen, dear Co-Worker! To set your heart, your mind and interest now in the pursuits of **THIS WORLD**, or **THIS LIFE**,—to ignore this appeal, and this **PRIVILEGE**, to **HELP TO YOUR VERY UTMOST** in the closing work of God—to figure that you can't afford to spare anything now for God's cause because of **OTHER** worldly interests—is to enjoy a fool's paradise, and find yourself

suddenly, when least expected, in just a few years, caught in the snare of this on-coming DESTRUCTION! I tell you, ON THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST, IT IS COMING!” (Co-worker Letter, December 8, 1947)

- “Up to now, western Europe has relied on United States power to hold back the Red avalanche. NOW THE PRIDE OF OUR POWER IS BEING BROKEN. Other nations are fast losing faith in it.

Reds are now shouting, for the first time, ‘The United States is clearly defeated. It is already wobbly as a world power.’ As soon as western European nations begin to really believe that, they will UNITE. And when they do, says GOD in His prophecies, they will turn first on OUR PEOPLES! My job, now, is to WARN YOU, my dear friends—and to warn the whole world. THIS IS REAL. And this is by authority of Jesus Christ!” (Co-worker letter, July 5, 1960)

- Comment: These are statements made by Herbert Armstrong on Christ’s authority which did not come to pass in the timeframe originally given. Please read the sections on “The Prophet Jonah,” “Ezekiel the Prophet,” and “Other Examples” for probable explanations of the delays.

5. HWA disproves the Bible (“exegesis” on HWA’s “exegesis” about Tyre)

- Comment: The claim that HWA’s explanation of the prophecy against Tyre disproves the Bible is ridiculous. First of all, the Bible cannot be disproved by something someone says or writes, and a misunderstanding of a prophecy does not disprove the Bible. Secondly, the claim is not honest because it does not include everything that HWA wrote on the subject. As with other subjects, HWA’s understanding of this prophecy improved through time. The claim that his explanation was incorrect is based on an earlier incomplete understanding of the time frame for the prophecy, and does not include what he subsequently came to see. Please read the later section on “[Ezekiel the Prophet](#)” for a more complete explanation of God’s prophecy against Tyre. When the proper time frame for the fulfillment of the prophecy is understood, HWA’s statements are found to be true.

Attitudes of the Accusers

The fruits of the spirit of God are these: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal.5:22,23).

But the works and attitudes of the devil are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like (Gal.5:19-21).

Blatant in some and less obvious in others, many HWA accusers display bitter or negative attitudes. Some have a tear-down approach with nothing better to offer. One needs to evaluate the true motivation behind anyone who is attacking HWA – is it the love of God which “covers a multitude of sins” (1 Pet.4:8), or is it the attitude of the devil who is the “accuser of the brethren” (Rev.12:10)? Do those who call HWA a false prophet truly display the fruits of God’s holy spirit listed above, or are they unwittingly doing the bidding of Satan the devil?

Here are some excerpts taken from the list of Herbert Armstrong’s supposed “208 Failed Prophecies,” parts II & III. Please take note of the foul spirit that is behind this onslaught against HWA.

... that repulsively stupid old loon Gerald Waterhouse ...
... fraudulent old fart ...
... himself in his fat, fart-filled odious and all-too-long life, filled as it was with needless luxuries and bizarre perversions.
... the old fart ...
... his decade of rape and incest perpetrated on his own daughter and the weird diary he still kept in his 60s and 70s about his own masturbation activities ...
... bullet-headed little fart ...
... Herbert and his foul ministers ...
... his foul old man ...
... the satanic, child raping little shit ...
... that old fool ...
... the old goat ...
... Wrong again, ass-holes.
... Amb-ASS-a-DORRRRE ...
... the parasitical jerks ...
... a man with a smaller intellect than a dead pea ...
... his rampant STUPIDITY.
... that lobotomized idiot Raymond McNair ...
... all those braying asses ...
... father liked daughter - enough to repeatedly rape her for 10 years.
... repeated rape and incest, multiple sexual deviation, fornication, verbal sexual abuse of teenage girls and many other activities.
... deranged idiots ...
Burn, Herbie, burn, baby.
The fat, foul, little old pervert was such a twisted Son of Satan Himself ...
... the hypocritical, sanctimonious and plain, f__king stupid "gems" of Herman Hoeh ...

... the phony old fart ...
... his accompanying ass-lickers.
... you hypocritical, stupid, judgmental old fart.
... the masturbating on video king ...
They have busted their collective asses ...
... ignorant little jackass like Herbert ...
... God Almighty was a crazed clockmaker and anally-minded number-picking nerd ...
After all, hadn't God given him his daughter Dorothy to "enjoy" for his own sexual pleasure?
That is what he told HER during the 10 years that he repeatedly committed incest upon her,
often forcibly.
Well, sorry to pour cold water on yet another of "The Apostle's" wet dreams ...
... while he indulged in repeated acts of incest.
... \$200,000 a year ass-licking executives ...
... the whole world was piss ignorant ...
... exposed his sexual perversions ...
The old bastard ...
... Hoeh was talking through his ass.
Bozo Waterhouse ...

Summary

Almost all of HWA's failed predictions were his own speculations, and not prophecies spoken by God's authority. In fact HWA said, "I do not claim to be a prophet at all." (Plain Truth, Nov. 1967, Personal pg.1) But while HWA did not claim to be a prophet, he did nevertheless hold that office by virtue of holding the higher office of Apostle – just as Abraham and David are referred to as prophets because they held higher positions (Gen. 20:7; Acts 2:29,30).

"Emphatically I am NOT a prophet, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God – separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. And I never have claimed to be." (Tomorrow's World, Feb. 1972, Personal pg. 1)

Most criticisms of HWA's predictions are poorly documented and taken out of context, and completely ignore his many accurate big picture predictions listed in the next section.

Accurate Predictions

Here are a few of the many articles dealing with large scale predictions that appeared in various WCG publications for over half a century. These are Bible-based predictions involving whole nations, regions, and empires. Although some of the human guesses as to specific details may have failed or not yet occurred, the overall Bible-based predictions continue toward their inevitable fulfillments.

WHAT'S PROPHESED ABOUT RUSSIA!	PT Nov-43
RUSSIA IN PROPHECY	PT Apr-81
WHAT'S PROPHESED FOR RUSSIA AND CHINA	PT Feb-85
WHY RUSSIA WILL NOT ATTACK AMERICA!	PT May-86
SOUTH ASIA IN PROPHECY	PT May-80
THE SUEZ CRISIS IN PROPHECY!	PT Oct-56
THE ARAB WORLD IN PROPHECY	PT Dec-79
THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY	PT Sep-83
GERMANY IN PROPHECY-PT 1	PT Dec-62
GERMANY IN PROPHECY-PT 2	PT Jan-63
FORETOLD 22 YEARS AGO!	PT Dec-56
PROPHESED EVENTS SPEED ON IN EUROPE!	PT Jul-38
(but not with Hitler & Mussolini)	
BIBLE PROPHECY FORTTELLS A STRONG UNITED EUROPE	TW Feb-70
EUROPE & CHURCH PART 10: THE FINAL UNION	PT Jun-84
THE COMING WORLD SUPER-GOVERNMENT	PT Jul-35

While some of HWA's predictions spoken on God's authority have not happened when he thought they would, they are still moving toward fulfillment. No one can say that they have definitely failed – only that they have not occurred yet. These “big picture predictions” are not simple one-time events, but rather massive movements of history spanning many years, which are now closer to complete fulfillment than ever before.

The four major end-time powers are now plainly visible and ready to commence their final roles: 1) a united Europe led by Germany as the King of the North (Dan.11:40), 2) a radical Islam awaiting its Mahdi as the King of the South (Dan.11:40), 3) a military and economic powerhouse in Asia led by a rising China and a resurgent Russia as the Kings of the East (Rev.16:12), and finally 4) a declining United States and Britain awaiting their captivity as the disobedient House of Israel.

Spend time studying these, and not the internet lists of insignificant human speculations that didn't pan out.

The Prophet Jonah

Now if a religious man's predictions do not come to pass as given, but he made no claim to be speaking in God's name, then they were nothing more than his own speculations and have no bearing on whether or not he is a true prophet. But if his failed predictions were spoken in God's or Christ's name, then there are two possibilities: either 1) he spoke them presumptuously and God will deal with him later (but this alone does not mean he is a false prophet), or 2) God repented and altered or delayed the fulfillment.

A biblical example of this latter case can be read in the story of the prophet Jonah, who was sent by God to cry against the wicked city of Nineveh (Jon.1:1-2). Jonah predicted that the city would be destroyed in forty days (Jon.3:4), but because the people of Nineveh believed God (v.5) and turned from their evil ways (v.8,9) God repented and did not destroy it (v.10). As Jonah had feared, God was merciful and changed His mind about the predicted overthrow of the city (Jon.4:2). It did not happen as Jonah had predicted!

So now was Jonah a false prophet because his 40-day prediction failed to occur, as skeptics could certainly have claimed? No – rather Christ acknowledged him as a prophet whose preaching caused a city to repent and postpone its judgment (Mt.12:39,41). Nineveh, however, was destroyed later in 612 BC because its repentance did not last.

Like Jonah, HWA made predictions of judgment which did not come to pass when stated. Was HWA therefore a false prophet because he predicted the downfall of the modern-day House of Israel (U.S. & Britain) within a specified number of years and it didn't happen? Or did his preaching perhaps bring about sufficient repentance to avert the judgment? After all, that is the purpose of a true prophet (Jer.26:3,13).

Ezekiel the Prophet

If Jonah could have been called a false prophet because his 40-day prophecy against Nineveh failed to occur, then so could Ezekiel the prophet because he, too, gave prophecies that failed to occur in his lifetime. In particular, parts of his prophecy against Tyre were either only partially fulfilled or not fulfilled at all.

The prophecy delivered by Ezekiel in chapter 26 v. 3-14 states that the city of Tyre would be besieged and trodden down by the king of Babylon, its wealth plundered, and the city scraped like the top of a rock, never to be inhabited again. However, while history records that Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon did besiege and tread down the city, he plundered no great wealth from it (God later gave him Egypt as the wages he should have gotten from Tyre, Ez.29:17-20), he did not scrape it like the top of a rock, and the city remains inhabited to this day. And so, although Ezekiel's prophecy continued to be partially fulfilled over the ensuing centuries, and will be completely fulfilled at Christ's return, nevertheless, skeptics of his day could easily have accused him of being a false prophet because they did not personally see the total fulfillment of this prophecy he delivered. [For a full explanation of this prophecy, see "A New Look at Ezekiel's Prophecy on Tyre", Good News magazine, Dec. 1980, pg. 4; and also HWA's comments in the Plain Truth magazine, Jan. 1974, pg. 17]

So again we see that a prophecy originating directly from God is not necessarily cast in stone or fully understood immediately. Its fulfillment is subject to modification or delay resulting from repentance and God's mercy, and the scope and time span of the prophecy can be misunderstood. Perhaps HWA did make some statements based on the latter, but in any case it would be incorrect to label him a false prophet simply because some of his predictions have not yet occurred.

Other Examples

There are also a number of biblical accounts that show God may repent upon obedience, or change His mind for other reasons, and that He can be moved by heartfelt prayer.

Read the account in Genesis where Abraham questions God about destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. After the Lord had determined to destroy those two cities for their wickedness (Gen.18:17,20,21; 19:13), Abraham proceeds to reason with God and convinces Him to spare the city if He finds just ten righteous people living there (Gen.18:23-33). Unfortunately He does not, so just the righteous individuals are spared.

Read the account in Exodus where Moses pleads with God not to destroy the Israelites He has just brought out of Egypt. They had quickly turned aside into sin (Ex.32:7,8), and the Lord had determined to consume them (Ex.32:9,10), but Moses reasons with Him (Ex.32:11-13) and He changes His mind and does not do it (Ex.32:14).

Read the account in First Kings where king Ahab moves God to delay His punishment. Because of his extreme wickedness, the Lord had sent Elijah the prophet to pronounce evil upon him and his house (1 Ki.21:17-22), but because Ahab repented (1 Ki.21:27), even if only for a short time, God was moved and delayed the evil He had told Elijah to announce (1Ki.21:28,29).

Read the account in Second Kings where Hezekiah moves God to spare his life. After receiving a “Thus saith the Lord” from Isaiah the Prophet regarding his imminent death (2Ki.20:1), Hezekiah prays (2Ki.20:2,3), and God immediately changes His mind and heals him (2Ki.20:4-6). Here we have a prophetic pronouncement delivered by a prophet that is changed upon heartfelt prayer, and does not come to pass as originally stated.

Read the account in Second Kings where king Josiah causes God to delay punishment upon Jerusalem. This was a written prophecy (2Ki.22:8-13) that was confirmed by a prophetess (2Ki.22:14-17), yet it was altered and delayed because righteous king Josiah (2Ki.22:1,2) humbled himself before the Lord (2Ki.22:18-20). Here again God delays His originally intended timing of a delivered prophecy. This is also recorded in 2Chr.34:22-28.

Read the account in 1Chr.21:13-15 where the Lord, because of His great mercy (v.13), repents and cuts short a punishment He had determined upon Jerusalem. God’s mercy can always come into play and alter the timing or fulfillment of anything He has purposed to do.

Read in the book of Jeremiah where God says, “At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that

nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, ***I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.***” (Jer.18:7,8) And it is clear from the account in Genesis 18 (see above) that the repentance of only a relatively small number of individuals may be all that is required (Jer.5:1).

Also read in the book of Jeremiah where God says, “If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that ***I may repent me of the evil***, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings. Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and ***the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.***” (Jer.26:3,13)

And read in the book of Ezekiel where God explains the purpose of His sending a prophet with a dire prediction: “When I say unto the wicked, ***Thou shalt surely die***; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, ***to save his life***; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” (Ezek.3:18) **TO SAVE HIS LIFE** – God hopes the dire prediction will not have to be fulfilled!

And finally, read in the book of Ezekiel God’s response to those who accuse His prophets of delivering failed visions (or predictions), the same criticism HWA receives from skeptics in the modern-day House of Israel today. (Ezek.12:21-28)

²¹ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

²² Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?

²³ Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.

²⁴ For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.

²⁵ For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

²⁶ Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

²⁷ Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.

²⁸ Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.

Apostles Believed Time Was Short

If Herbert W. Armstrong mistakenly believed that he would live to see the return of Jesus Christ, then he was in good company because that is what Christ's original twelve apostles believed. From the scriptures below it is evident that they expected to see Christ set up the Kingdom of God in their lifetimes. In fact it was not until after they realized they were mistaken, that they undertook the task of canonizing the New Testament to preserve Christ's teachings for the future. First century skeptics could certainly have seized upon the statements below and accused Christ's servants of being false apostles:

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: **for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand**: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (Rom.13:11-12)

But this I say, brethren, **the time is short**: ... for the fashion of this world passeth away. (1Cor 7:29,31).

Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**. (1Cor 15:51-52).

Let your moderation be known unto all men. **The Lord is at hand**. (Phil 4:5).

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming** of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then **we who are alive and remain shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord (1Thes 4:15-17).

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more **as you see the Day approaching**.... "For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming will come **and will not tarry**" (Heb 10:25,37).

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand** (James 5:8).

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers (1Pet 4:7).

Little children, **it is the last hour;** and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that **it is the last hour** (1Jn 2:18).

Actually, it was John the Baptist and Jesus himself who gave the disciples the impression that the Kingdom of God was imminent, as recorded in the gospels and the book of Revelation:

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: **for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (Mt.3:2)

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: **for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (Mt.4:17)

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, and the kingdom of God is at hand:** repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mk.1:14,15)

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.** (Rev.1:3)

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (Rev.3:11)

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. (Rev.22:7)

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: **for the time is at hand.** (Rev.22:10)

And, **behold, I come quickly;** and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (Rev.22:12)

He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Rev 22:20).

And of course Jesus Christ and His disciples ARE accused of being false apostles, which is why He said to His disciples, “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; ...**” (Jn.15:20).

Herbert W. Armstrong

Taught Bible Truth

Herbert W. Armstrong taught the plain fundamental Bible truth. He did not teach his own private interpretations of scripture (2 Peter 1:20), but took the Bible literally (except where obviously allegorical or poetic) and let it interpret itself. He did not pick and choose Bible verses but used the entire Bible to arrive at true doctrine. And he always said, “Don’t believe me – believe your Bible – believe God!” And though some have slandered the man, there do not exist other than futile attempts to disprove the plain, fundamental Bible truths that he taught.

Turned People Toward God

Herbert W. Armstrong taught repentance from sin and obedience to God’s Ten Commandments. He taught people to live by every word of God as found in the pages of the Bible, and he taught faith and reliance on the Creator. And for over half a century he announced the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth, and prepared individuals to teach God’s way of life to the rest of humanity at that time. Herbert W. Armstrong’s life was consumed with turning people toward God.

Growth of Work

It cannot be said of any work that a miraculous growth rate alone is proof positive that it is of God, but certainly it might be one piece of expected evidence.

“Looking back, now, over the actual physical circumstances, conditions, and happenings of those years, it seems utterly incredible that a work started in such a humble, crude manner without any visible backing could have survived, let alone continued to grow at the pace of 30 percent a year.

Of course this work did not double in size every day, every week, or even every year. But doubling in number of people reached, in number of precious lives converted, in radio power, and in scope of operation every two years and seven and a half months is, after all, a very rapid and almost unheard-of rate of growth. And that rate of redoubling continued nearly thirty years!” (Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong, hardback, Vol.2, pg.19,20)

In 1978 Mr. Armstrong wrote an article backing up his earlier statements that the work grew at an unprecedented rate of roughly 30% per year for 35 straight years from 1933 through 1968 ([“RECORDS SHOWING 30%-per-year, 35-year GROWTH...”](#), Good News, June 19, 1978).

Although only percentages were published in that article, actual statistical data has now been collected from official sources and presented [here in the attached chart](#), and as can be seen, the numbers easily support Mr. Armstrong's claim.

Spoke on Christ's Authority

Herbert W. Armstrong never claimed that everything he said or wrote was on the authority of Christ or God (as did not the apostle Paul, 1 Cor. 7:12). In fact he did express some of his own speculations and predictions based on Bible prophecy, some of which occurred or are occurring, and some of which may yet occur in the future. And a few are not likely to occur as he envisioned.

But some of the warnings Herbert W. Armstrong published were claimed to be on the authority of Jesus Christ or God. Below are some examples, which can be read in full context [HERE](#).

"I am not writing foolishly, but very soberly, ON AUTHORITY of the living CHRIST!" ("HOW the U.S. Can END the Vietnam WAR . . . NOW!" Herbert W. Armstrong, The Plain Truth, Feb. 1967, p.47)

"I SAY TO YOU ON AUTHORITY OF GOD ALMIGHTY THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY SURE!" (1975 In Prophecy!, p.31)

"I tell you, ON THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST, IT IS COMING!" (Co-worker Letter, December 8, 1947)

"And this is by authority of Jesus Christ!" (Co-worker letter, July 5, 1960)

Whether or not his claim of speaking on Christ's authority was true can be ascertained by reading the rest of this document and studying what he taught from the Bible. The point here is that he did make such a claim, as biblical examples show God's true servants always do.

Apostle

Not only did Herbert W. Armstrong claim to speak on Christ's authority, he also claimed to hold the office of Apostle. But again, the point here is not whether or not the claim is true, but that he did make the claim. The truth of the claim is, again, ascertained by reading all of this document, studying what he taught from the Bible, and investigating the fruits of his over half-century long ministry. Below are some documented quotes showing his claim of being Christ's end-time apostle.

“Jesus Christ has chosen and used only one apostle in our time.”

(Autobiography, Vol. 2, Ch. 81, June 22, 1978 letter)

“Now we need all the brethren to continue to rally behind Christ’s Apostle.”

(Autobiography, Vol. 2, Ch. 82, January 28, 1979 letter)

“Christ has called and chosen His Apostle for this end-time job of the Great Commission!”

(Autobiography, Vol. 2, Ch. 82, January 28, 1979 letter)

“... His chosen Apostle ...” “... His Apostle ...” “His ambassador and Apostle ...”

(Autobiography, Vol. 2, Ch. 82, May 15, 1979 letter)

“Christ’s Apostle in the Philippines”

(Worldwide News, February 9, 1981, pg. 1)

“First, under Christ is His chosen apostle.”

(Worldwide News, March 6, 1981, pg. 8 and chart on pg. 4)

“As the chosen apostle and servant of Jesus Christ, ...”

(letter, April 24, 1981)

“Christ’s Apostle in the Middle East”

(Worldwide News, December 14, 1981, pg. 1)

“As God’s apostle I call on you ...” (letter, Jan 15, 1984)

“Christ’s Apostle in the Orient”

(Worldwide News, November 26, 1984, pg. 1)

“I am God’s Apostle today.” (World Tomorrow Telecast, 1984, Asian Tour)

“... God has brought his apostle back ...” (letter, August 25, 1985)

“The author, Christ’s apostle, ...” “And finally, Christ’s apostle ...” “God’s church today ... through an apostle ...”

(Mystery of the Ages, 1985 hardback, pg. 267, 269, 350)

Repentance Averted Predicted Punishment

As God sent the prophets of old to warn His people of impending punishment if they did not repent of their evil ways, who is to say He did not do the same thing in the 20th century? For over fifty years HWA warned the modern day House of Israel that its sins would result in its downfall – even within a few short years he sometimes said. And although some say he was a false prophet because it did not happen when he said, who is to say he did not succeed in his mission and avert the dire predictions?

The account in Genesis chapter 18, where Abraham reasons with God, shows that it does not take a large number of sincerely repentant people to cause God to change His mind. Perhaps there were enough sincerely repentant people during the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s (see the above section Growth of Work), to avert the predicted punishment – a punishment that would have otherwise come to pass exactly when he had said!

Further Delay by God's People (Laodicea)

And perhaps the very return of Jesus Christ has been additionally delayed by the attitudes and actions of God's own people. Just as ancient Israel was at the door and ready to enter the promised land until doubt, complaining, and unfaithfulness resulted in a 40-year delay, might it not be the case that God's people today have caused a similar delay starting in the 1970s?

Read the following quote from HWA's June 25, 1985 Co-worker letter:

“Right now, it seems God has been holding events in the world back. We had expected the Great Tribulation to come before now. Why the delay? It surely seems God has held the winds of terrorism and the Great Tribulation back to allow time for the fulfillment of verse 14 in a more complete way. Already we have reached every nation on earth with the Gospel of the KINGDOM. But not intensively enough, apparently. Another thing, we are in the time of final exams in God's Church, and perhaps we are not yet sufficiently tried and tested and proven to be ready to sit with Christ on the earth's throne. Perhaps WE OURSELVES have been holding the march of events up.”

And this quote from HWA's August 25, 1985 Co-worker letter:

“Can a group of little human beings stop an Almighty God from doing what he wants to do? No! No, God's purposes will stand. But can a group of little human beings alter the time agenda for God doing what he wants to do? The Bible speaks loudly that it can, especially when his time frame involves their faith, and their cooperation, and their commitment.”

Before he died, HWA wondered if the church was not already getting into the Laodicean condition, the spiritual state of the final prophesied era of God's church described in the third chapter of the book of Revelation:

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**. (Rev. 3)

“What about some of you, brethren? Do you refuse to be ashamed? Do you refuse to acknowledge that we've been lackadaisical — in going along and taking it easy, and beginning to forget God? Will you acknowledge that you have been lax in your prayer life, and in the study of the Bible; and you've grown disinterested in the Bible Studies? ... Well, the bad news is that we've been going that way; and we are going into the Laodicean condition of sleeping and slumbering like you read in the 25th chapter of Matthew.” (HWA Sermon, Warning to the Church, June 24, 1978)

So as stated in Second Peter, it is likely that God's longsuffering has delayed events to allow time for His people to repent. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to **repentance**.” (2 Pet.3:9)

Elijah the Prophet

Malachi 4:5

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD”

Throughout the Bible most of God’s true servants were not recognized as such. John the Baptist, whom Jesus Christ referred to as “Elijah” (Mt.11:13,14), was not recognized as the prophesied messenger sent to prepare the way for Christ’s first coming (Mt.3:1-3; 11:10; 17:12), and Christ Himself was not recognized at his first coming by most of the people and even briefly by John himself (Mt.11:2,3). And even at his second coming Jesus Christ will not be recognized but will be fought against by the armies of the world at the battle of Armageddon (Rev.16:13-16; 19:19). So it should come as no surprise that the one God would send to prepare the way for Christ’s second coming, the 3rd “Elijah” (Mal.4:5; Mt.17:10,11), would also be unrecognized by most.

Also, one of the major purposes of a true prophet is to warn the people to whom he is sent, so they can repent and AVOID the prophesied punishment. The 3rd “Elijah” was to turn the hearts of the people in order to avoid “a curse” (Heb. – utter or complete destruction; Mal.4:5,6), so rather than accuse Herbert Armstrong of being a false prophet because the House of Israel has not yet fallen, or the tribulation has not yet started, perhaps he should be thanked for fulfilling his commission which resulted in those events being avoided or at least delayed. The Bible even indicates there will be enough of the “elect” whose hearts he turned, to cause God to shorten the coming tribulation (Mt.24:21,22).

For those who have eyes to see, no historical personality can seriously be said to have fulfilled the prophesied office of the 3rd Elijah except Herbert W. Armstrong – in almost 2000 years no one else even comes close! If Herbert W. Armstrong was not the 3rd Elijah then we are still waiting for him to appear. There are several articles written by Mr. Raymond F. McNair, an evangelist and faithful servant of God who was highly respected by Mr. Armstrong, which conclusively document this claim. Please be sure to read them in the Reference section at www.herbertwarmstrong.org .

Finally, although HWA did not claim to be a prophet and stated in Mystery of the Ages that no New Testament prophets ever held administrative office, nevertheless he was a prophet and did hold administrative office – but he was a prophet by virtue of holding the higher office of Apostle and fulfilling the end-time commission of Elijah the prophet, and he held administrative office not as a prophet, but as an Apostle. Neither John the Baptist nor Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed any new prophecies, but they both prepared the way for the fulfillments of the two greatest prophecies of all – the first and second comings of Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Whether it is calling him a false prophet, slandering him as a sexual pervert, or accusing him of plagiarism, all are merely unfounded attacks against a messenger sent by God (ad hominem). If we use the Bible alone (sola scriptura), based on the correct, inspired biblical texts (Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Byzantine Majority) – there are no honest, Bible-interprets-the-Bible, successful arguments against the plain Bible truths taught by Herbert W. Armstrong.

To those overcome with bitterness towards Herbert Armstrong, nothing will change their minds, not even if he were to rise from the dead (Lk.16:31). But to those who are led by God's holy spirit and have been given eyes to see: just as John the Baptist was the second Elijah and "more than a prophet" (Mt.11:9,14; Lk.1:17,7:26), so Herbert W. Armstrong was the third Elijah and also more than a prophet – he was God's end-time Apostle.

Luke 4:24 – And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

John 4:44 – For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

Matthew 13:57 – And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Jer. 28:9 – The prophet which *prophesieth of peace*, WHEN the word of the prophet shall come to pass, THEN shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.

When reading the stories of the Bible, some have wondered how men could have been so blind as to have missed the obvious work God was doing ... the answer is that it was no different then than it is now.

APPENDIX

Other Lies

Plagiarism

The Proof of the Bible (1958) versus Prophecy Speaks (1933): HWA's booklet covers the same major prophecies discussed in a Seventh Day Adventist book, Prophecy Speaks, but since both authors were writing about the same Bible prophecies and the same history, similarities should be expected. Both books can be read at www.herbertwarmstrong.org, and a side-by-side reading of the texts does suggest that HWA made some use of the earlier book, but does not support a case for outright plagiarism unless you are a fault-finder trying to discredit HWA. The two books are totally different – read them for yourself and see.

The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy (1967) versus Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright (1917): The comments in the preceding paragraph apply here as well – both books deal with the same Bible prophecies and historical fulfillments, and while HWA clearly made use of the earlier book, the two are completely different. The fault-finders cobble together a relatively small collection of instances where HWA did make use of the earlier book, but completely ignore the vast differences. Again, read them both side-by-side for yourself at www.herbertwarmstrong.org and see.

G.G. Rupert and COG 7th day material – these quite probably are modern Church of God roots, and any groups that teach the Bible faithfully are going to believe many of the same things. To say that HWA plagiarized their teachings is like saying he plagiarized the Bible.

It has been suggested that Dwight Armstrong, commissioned by HWA to write songs for the WCG hymnal, plagiarized from others in his compositions. A close examination of 27 Dwight Armstrong compositions revealed the following: 1) All of the music was composed by Dwight Armstrong and there are not any challenges to any of his melodies. 2) The words for all of the songs are based on the Psalms, for which no one can claim a copyright. 3) The words for several of the songs are based on the Scottish or Presbyterian Psalters, which are simply minor modifications and rearrangements of the Psalms in order to make them rhyme. 4) The words of one song are from a poem written by John Milton, but again, the words are based on a Psalm. So perhaps in a few instances Dwight Armstrong did borrow from others who borrowed from the Psalms, but that is hardly plagiarism. The 1958 Radio Church of God Bible Hymnal does have text and music citations, and it is likely that he did originally provide them for all of his songs, but for some reason they were dropped by someone else when the hymnals were printed. What nit-picking by some! Why not just enjoy the songs?

As breaking the 9th commandment against bearing false witness requires a false statement PLUS harmful intent (“against thy neighbor”), so plagiarism requires a wrong intent or motive in making use of another writer’s material. In restoring so many lost truths to God’s end-time church, HWA read and wrote a tremendous amount of material, and when he came across the subjects above it may have simply been a matter of saving time and effort in using them much as they were rather than rewriting them from scratch. While it might have been better by today’s standards to have included source citations, no wrong intent or motive can be demonstrated in HWA for not doing so. The original authors did not write their material to make money but to spread the word of God, and they would likely have seen HWA’s use of their material as positive because of the far greater distribution it received.

In It for the Money

Again, motive is the key factor here. HWA had no significant personal assets and he spent just about all of his time, even in old age with failing health, preaching God’s truth. Only those with an evil eye say he was in it for the money – ridiculous! Here is an article, written by HWA, addressing this subject:

Mr. Attorney General of California: Am I in it for the Money?
A Frank Open Statement of My Financial Condition

appeared in the following publications

Los Angeles Times, July 24, 1980
Pastor General’s Report, July 25, 1980
[Plain Truth, August 1980, page 13-14](#)

Everything Else

There are many other lies and slanders against Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God. God did use imperfect human instruments to accomplish his work, and through the years mistakes were made and some wrongs were committed. Perhaps many members and even some in the ministry were not really converted, whose human nature the devil exploited in order to discredit HWA and the Church of God.

If you are looking to discredit Herbert W. Armstrong in your own mind, then you might want to read the following three books written by men who once supported HWA and what he taught from the Bible, but were somehow turned against him by the devil.

1. **Armstrongism – Religion or Rip-off** (1977) by Marion J. McNair
2. **Herbert Armstrong’s Tangled Web** (1980) by David Robinson
3. **The Truth Shall Make You Free** (1981) by John Tuit

These books contain quite a collection of material, which is for the most part nearly impossible to verify one way or another, but in any case the material has no bearing at all on the plain truths HWA taught from the Bible. Those you can verify simply by reading them for yourself and letting the spirit of God guide you to the Bible interpretations.

End of Article