

Legacy

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 12/12/2015

What is a legacy? It is the memory of what someone is best known for—what they leave behind once they are gone.

We are all familiar with the legacies of some famous people – here are a few examples from the secular world: Columbus discovered America. Thomas Jefferson purchased Louisiana from Napoleon. Napoleon himself has quite an historical legacy in addition to his last Waterloo, in that he was a participant in the last restoration of the Roman Empire. George Washington was the first President of the USA. Abraham Lincoln is famous for the Gettysburg Address, and his legacy of abolishing slavery.

Think about this: What do you want **your legacy to be**? Perhaps you have not thought of this concept seriously, but we in God's Church were called for a purpose.

Some questions have come up, and continue to come up that are able to have an effect on our legacy: There are those who are teaching that the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached sufficiently and completely by Herbert W Armstrong – and that it need not be preached any longer.

Those who teach that the gospel was preached completely, and need not be preached any longer, adhere to such a theory site Scriptures like:

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write; ... he that hath the key of David, he that opens, and no man shuts; **and shuts**, and no man opens;

Revelation 3:8 ... I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: ...

And they conclude that the gospel message **is shut**, and no one can open it.

They say that the one who opens the door – is the one who can shut the door so that **no one can open it**. (The work of the gospel to the world is closed – is the inference.)

Speaking of the Laodicean Church era, they say that the majority of the 7th era has rejected the presence of Jesus in their lives – and **closed the door** between them and Jesus Christ.

Brethren, please be careful – that is a different door where the Laodiceans have closed their lives off to Christ – and besides, the purpose of the gospel is not solely for the Church – but the entire world. Be careful of those who twist the Scriptures. Let's look at the words of Christ as He prayed to our Father:

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: **I have finished the work** which thou gave me to do.

Wow! If ever there was a Scripture that told us that the gospel need not be preached – that is it.

"I have finished the work!"

But Jesus also said, "the work which **thou gave me to do**."

Jesus was in **no way** declaring the work of preaching the gospel to be complete.

Jesus Christ intends that everyone hear it so that God can call whom He will – even to the last hour.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

Did Jesus intend for the gospel going out to be a **one** time event?

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you **always**, – – **even unto the end of the world**. Amen.

God will be calling some to a full reward – up to the very last hour.

Matthew 20:9 And when they came that were hired about the **eleventh** hour, they received every man a [full reward].

In the last few days of his life, Mr. Armstrong said this of his end-time commission to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world for a witness unto all nations:

“It may be that the Work God has **given me** to do is complete, but **not** the Work of God’s Church, which will be **faithfully doing God’s work** till Christ, the True Head of this Church, returns.” (Vol. 2 Autobiography, p.644)

Seems to me that that is pretty close to the same thing Jesus said at the end of His life. Mr. Armstrong left his **legacy** of preaching the gospel. Too many read that statement to mean that there is **no need** for the gospel to go to the world any longer.

So let’s examine these questions:

First: Has the gospel been preached in its entirety? Is it God’s intent that no one else is to hear the gospel preached?

Second question: Is the gospel to be preached at this time?

Third question: Will the gospel yet be preached?

There are those who contend that the gospel of the soon coming Kingdom of God was preached and completed in the last century.

I am of the belief that the gospel should be preached at this time, continue to be proclaimed until Jesus Christ returns. Let’s delve into the Scriptures and try to ascertain what the word of God says concerning this matter. These are important questions to be answered because it helps us answer another question: **What should we, as Christians, be doing?**

In other words, has someone else completed the required preaching of the gospel message, or does there remain the essential obligation for us to continue being a **witness** to the world?

Why is the gospel to be preached—what does Jesus say the reason is? Our life is meant to be a **witness** for Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:14 This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world **for a witness** unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

I know that you have seen and read this Scripture a thousand times – but let’s pause and make a distinction in this word, “witness.”

Granted, all the people of all the nations are to see, and hear the gospel – they are to be “witnessed to.”

There are two ways to look at this word “witness.”

A **witness** is a person who **sees something** – that is **passive** – they do not do anything – they just know about the gospel.

Then there is the **witness** who testifies to a cause – that is **active** that is **who we are** to be.

Our very lives **give testimony** to the coming Kingdom of God.

From our Christian perspective, the gospel message is not passive – but **active**. This is a big **warning** verse here – we need to be prepared. This time is coming on the Church of God very soon.

Mark 13:9 But take **heed** to yourselves: for they **shall** deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought **before** rulers and kings for my sake, for a **testimony** against them. – a **witness** against them.

Mark 13:10 “The gospel must first be published among all nations.”

With the Church brethren so widely scattered and confused, it would be easy to fall into the trap of saying, “What can we do, we are too small and too weak?” Let’s not forget that this is not our work to do, but the **work of God** that He is getting done through us.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the **work of God**, that ye believe on Him [Jesus Christ] whom He [God the Father] hath sent.

What is our part in that work of God? Can we kick back and relax – because God is doing the work? Of course not!

How can we help others believe in Jesus Christ and His gospel? This is a most important question. We have not been called just so that we can be saved at this time. Were that the case, God would have waited and called us when He calls everyone else – later. No, we are being called at this moment to fulfill a very specific function.

We can review the lives of many saints and prophets from the past and learn why they were called. All we have to do is look at their **legacy** as revealed in the Bible.

Hebrews 11 – is the Legacy Chapter – the Faith chapter. In the Book of Hebrews, Paul speaks of what has been fulfilled in the Law, and what remains for Christians.

Every one of these men and women here in Hebrews was called for a purpose, and we **are no different**. We are called for a purpose – what is yours?

Most names are **not** in the Book of Hebrews – just a few.

The apostle Barnabas left us a legacy. We are told that Barnabas excelled in **encouraging** others.

What is it that God wants us to do? What is it that God wants us to accomplish? In other words, what will **our legacy** be when all is said and done? Let’s take a **look** at a brief **list of legacies** of some of the well known people of God:

Legacies

Hebrews 11:4 By faith **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained **witness** that he was **righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead **yet speaks**.

That was **Abel’s legacy** – his **witness** yet testifies...

Hebrews 11:7 By faith **Noah**,

Noah’s legacy was building the ark and saving mankind from the flood.

Notice his **legacy** – his **witness** ...by the which [Noah] **condemned** the world, and became heir of the **righteousness** which is by faith.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith **Abraham**, (we read:)

Genesis 26:5 Because that **Abraham obeyed my voice**, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Abraham’s **legacy** was to obey God’s commandments, statutes, laws, and receive the covenant promise.

So we see here in the Book of Hebrews just a few examples where God intends women in the Church to **write their legacy** and be women of spiritual fortitude, wisdom and strength.

Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also **Sara** herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:20 By faith **Isaac** blessed **Jacob and Esau** concerning things to come. [We are told that these things are prophetic]

Rebecca, Isaac his wife conceived.

Genesis 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord.

Genesis 25:23 And the Lord said unto her, **Two nations** are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy womb.

And now brethren, we are **witnessing** – this week – the beginning of a great confrontation of a **clash of civilizations**. We are witness to shifting demographics. Without authentic repentance – and a return to the True God, the future of Christianity in America and England looks hopeless.

We must be watching and comparing the events of prophecy which are transpiring as they are very significant.

Westerners, Europe and America, are in for the biggest shock of their lives in the dark times just ahead, especially now that the **Islamic caliphate** has been declared to be re-established. There are now thousands of Muslim mosques throughout Europe with larger congregations than there are in churches.

In every European city there are plans to build **super**-mosques that will dwarf every church in the region. Clearly, the signal is: we rule. In England sharia courts **are now** officially part of the British legal system. Many neighborhoods in France are no-go areas for women without head scarves. Jews are fleeing France in record numbers, on the run for the worst wave of anti-Semitism since World War II. More than fifty-four million Muslims now live in Europe.

Many of British Muslim students are in favor of a worldwide **caliphate**. The previous caliphate ended with the Ottoman Caliphate (1517–1924). On March 3, 1924, the first President of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal, as part of his secular reforms, constitutionally abolished the institution of the Caliphate. Well, they are at it again. We are speaking of legacies.

Let me tell you about Mohammed the prophet's legacy: And by the way, Allah is **not** the true God – but a pagan moon god.

Mohammed the prophet's behavior is an example to all Muslims and cannot be criticized by anyone – in or out of their ideology.

Now, if Mohammed had been a man of **peace**, let us say like Mahatma Gandhi (born Oct. 2, 1869) or Mother Theresa, there would be no problem. But Mohammed was a **warlord**, a mass murderer, a **pedophile**, and he had multiple marriages at the same time. Islamic tradition tells us how he fought in battles, how he had his enemies murdered and even had prisoners of war executed. Mohammad himself slaughtered an entire Jewish tribe.

Islam, in essence is a **totalitarian political ideology**. Islam is a political system that recognizes no limits to its authority and strives to regulate every aspect of public and private life.

It is marked by political repression, personality cultism, control over the economy, regulation and restriction of speech, mass surveillance, and widespread use of terror.

Islam means '**submission**'. Islam is not compatible with **freedom** and democracy.

If you want to compare Islam to anything, compare it to communism or national-socialism [Nazi], these are all totalitarian ideologies.

Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, **blessed both the sons of Joseph**; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

That is Ephraim and Manasseh – right here in the **legacies** chapter – England and America! Who even knows or has heard of these prophecies?

I am **appalled** that some who would declare themselves to be ministers of Jesus Christ would proclaim that there is **no need** for the gospel to be preached to this dying world. That is false!

Even **Rahab** the harlot turned her life around and God preserved her **legacy** – her witness – for us.

Hebrews 11:30 When the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Everyone God has called has been used by God for very specific purposes – and we, brethren, are no exception.

For many early saints, like **Stephen**, their legacy was martyrdom for the faith.

Most are **not** mentioned in this list: **John the Baptist**, the greatest of all the prophets, the apostles... all left tremendous legacies – but they are not mentioned here.

With all the fantastic things about Joseph and Pharaoh - look at his legacy here in Hebrews:

Hebrews 11:22 By faith **Joseph**, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

His **legacy** was the deliverance of Israel - and Joseph was first to be carried into Egypt at the beginning and the very last when his bones were carried out to the Promised Land!

Hebrews 11:24 By faith **Moses'** own personal legacy was

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of [Egypt] / sin for a season;

And yes, Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt.

There are too many people of faith to mention each one by name – but they each – in turn – **left a legacy** of their Christian battle.

Esther stood up in the court of King Ahasuerus all alone and saved the Jewish people.

Abigail's legacy was that, being aware of the working of God's Holy Spirit in David's life, she saved King David from making a terrible mistake that would have destroyed him – the worst error of his life because the Lord had appointed him to be ruler over Israel - not only then but also the Kingdom of God (1Samuel 25:30).

David fought Goliath, ruled physical Israel, and his legacy is **yet future** in presiding over the apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel (Jeremiah 30:9, Matthew 19:28). And that is a good point, for all of our greatest accomplishments are **yet ahead of us**.

Elijah confronted four hundred and fifty priests of Baal.

Daniel foretold the Kingdom of God to Nebuchadnezzar – that head of gold.

Hebrews 11:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder [Like Isaiah], were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Hebrews 11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Hebrews 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith...

Paul spoke these words in the Book of Hebrews, and we can read of **Paul's legacy** in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (here's Paul's legacy) **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of **righteousness** (like so many people of faith), which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Everyone God has called has been used for very specific purposes – and we, brethren, are no exception. Brethren, what will you be known for? Or better yet, for what **purpose** has God called you to salvation and glory at this particular time?

Will the earth be a better place because of your having been here? God is not calling everyone now—why has He called you – for what purpose?

By the end of today's sermon I hope you will have some insight as to why your life is important to Jesus Christ right now. Perhaps you will be able to answer the question, "My legacy is to ___(fill in the blank)___."

The great majority of us will not leave a legacy of money, property or power. Jesus did not leave that type of legacy.

There are many more important ways to leave our legacy. What is the purpose of our life?

I sometimes get the feeling that too many people in the overall Church of God think like this in these last days: "I've found the right church – I'm a member of the church - all I have to do is kick back and cruise into the Kingdom of God." We cannot be on cruise control because true Philadelphians are certainly not on cruise control.

*"[Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into **all** the world, and preach the gospel to all creation."* (Mark 16:15)

It does not sound to me like Jesus intended that enormous numbers of people be excluded. Most people in the world have never heard the Gospel message. Herbert W Armstrong has been dead 30 years.

The median age on earth is 29.7 - that means that half the people on earth have been born since Herbert W Armstrong died.

I believe it is foolish to assume that the gospel is not to go to them. Who should not hear? Again, the gospel message is **not** passive – but **active**. We each have a gospel to preach, to live, and make a difference.

The gospel is still being declared and lived by everyone who is led by God's Holy Spirit. Picturing and verbalizing our potential legacy has a huge effect on our motivation to achieve something distinctive with our lives. Some people feel worthless or useless.

We are all called for a very specific purpose. What is the purpose of the life God has given you?

Matthew 10:23 ...But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, **Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel**, till the Son of man be come.

The preaching and witnessing of the gospel will go on right up until the first resurrection. And, Brethren, make no mistake about what Jesus said here about persecution: It does not sound to me like we will be able to remain "fat and happy," up until Christ's return. It is going to be a rough and bumpy ride – so hang on it is going to get worse. This is no time to "check out" and decide that the work of God **has all been done**.

There is ample room for each of us to write our own legacy.

Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He comes shall find so doing.

Good intentions count for nothing. Boastful words count for nothing. Will we have a **legacy** that is pleasing to Jesus Christ? Will our names be recorded in the Book of Acts when it is completed? We all have a story to tell, and a life to live.

All Church members, no matter where they find themselves, are to be diligently continuing with the work of God to which all the Church brethren have always been committed.

We are coming to a time when the Church of God **as we have known it** will not exist anymore. Websites will fail - persecution is setting in... There is a very powerful outpouring of the Gospel message that will come when God gives power unto His two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." (Revelation 11:3)

But, we can't leave the job to the two witnesses – they do not come on the scene **until the work of the Church is over** and the qualified brethren are in the Place of Safety. And, we can't leave the job to the witnessing angel of Revelation 14:6.

What is your legacy – why has God singled you out at this time? What did God **need** you for – that if you had not been called – there would have been something **missing** in the Plan of God?

Remember how Jonah survived the great fish to go on to Nineveh... The Ninevites were not called to salvation – but God is using their repentance for a special purpose.

The point is we must never diminish our purpose in being called at this time.

Luke 11:30 For as Jonas was **a sign** unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Luke 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Luke 11:32 The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Jesus goes on here to tie our responsibilities to us... because we have seen the light – Right?

Luke 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Who are you supposed to let your light shine unto? Who are you to be a witness to? Who do you help? Who do you encourage with your words?

Jeremiah was called for his special purpose – prophesy to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou came forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Ezekiel 2:5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath **been a prophet among them**.

Ezekiel 3:4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the **house of Israel**, and speak with my words unto them.

Ezekiel's message **did not go** out to **Israel**. Not until our generation with the printed Bible and the gospel message.

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that **a prophet hath been among them.**

Few, even among those with whom we fellowship, grasp what an incredible thing it is to be one of God's children at this time. Everyone will eventually be called – but not to this very special calling to which we are privileged – a better resurrection.

Have all the **cities of Israel** heard the gospel preached. There are very few people today (percentage wise) who have heard the truth of the gospel proclaimed. So many people are **not** receiving the witness of the gospel. This world has **not** been sufficiently warned. Obviously, brethren, we still have our work cut out for us!

A lot of people are hoping that one of the groups with its charismatic leader will “Take off” nationally and internationally – like when God gave a special gift to Herbert W Armstrong – and the Gospel will be carried around the world again – making the charismatic leader's name a household word.

Thirty years have passed since Herbert W. Armstrong died – and it does not look like Jesus Christ is going to give that special evangelistic gift to any man who aspires to walk in Herbert W. Armstrong's shoes.

That was Herbert W. Armstrong's legacy – to preach the gospel to the world – and every other man has to figure out what God specifically expects for him to do to with his life.

Who is crying aloud and sparing not?

Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

There are secular men crying out more than those in God's Church: Glenn Beck; Mark Levin; Rush Limbaugh; Donald Trump; Michael Savage; Are these the “Judges of Israel” like Sampson who was no paragon of virtue himself?

Even Herbert W. Armstrong did not see the sword come upon this land – as you have!!!

Ezekiel 33:1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 33:2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I **bring the sword upon a land**, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

That **sword** is now touching our land.

Ezekiel 33:3 If when he sees the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Herbert W. Armstrong did not see the **sword** come upon this land – as you have!!! We are seeing **terror** being brought to our shores.

Leviticus 26:16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you **terror**, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Deuteronomy 32:25 The **sword** without, and **terror** within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

But Herbert W Armstrong did begin bringing this warning message that Ezekiel says must go to all. Most of us remember **hearing** that the Gospel message and warning were going in great power to all the world for a witness.

Ezekiel 33:4 Then whosoever **hears** the sound of the trumpet, and takes not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his **own** head.

Ezekiel 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that takes warning shall deliver his soul.

Ezekiel 33:6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require** at the watchman's hand.

God is certainly going to hold someone responsible!

Ezekiel 33:7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

I think that it is ridiculous to believe that this warning was fulfilled **thirty** years ago!

Ezekiel 33:8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 33:9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

America and England are about to die.

Ezekiel 33:10 Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

The message is "Repentance."

Ezekiel 33:12 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

Even the Church of God does not receive a "Free Pass" because of the calling they have.

Ezekiel 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Ezekiel 33:14 Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right;

Ezekiel 33:15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 33:16 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

Ezekiel 33:17 Yet the children of thy people say, The way of the Lord is not equal [fair or just]: but as for them, their way is not equal [fair or just].

God says that America and England need to repent and return to serving Him – and obeying Him – and realizing that He rules – and accept that **He is the Lord**.

Ezekiel 33:18 When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

Ezekiel 33:19 But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

Ezekiel 33:20 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal [fair or just]. O ye house of Israel, I will judge you every one after his ways.

Ezekiel 33:21 And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, in the fifth day of the month, that one that had escaped out of Jerusalem came unto me, saying, The city is smitten.

Ezekiel 33:22 Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.

Brethren, how many people in the USA or Great Britain know that we are the recipients of the national blessings that God has bestowed on the children of Abraham after 2520 years of separation?

Ezekiel 33:23 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 33:24 Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance.

But America and England have turned their backs on God.

Ezekiel 33:25 Wherefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Ye eat with the blood, and lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood: and shall ye possess the land?

Ezekiel 33:26 Ye stand upon your sword [you depend on your military and defenses], ye work abomination, and ye defile everyone his neighbor's wife: and shall ye possess the land??? [No way will you keep your countries, God says – I will not allow you to continue in the lands that I have blessed with abundance and protection.]

Ezekiel 33:27 Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall **fall by the sword**, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

Did you hear of the new bug this week that **no** antibiotic works on?

Ezekiel 33:28 For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through.

One of 70 times Ezekiel states this:

Ezekiel 33:29 **Then shall they know that I am the LORD**, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.

After all these plagues... That is kind of late to learn – I'd say!

Ezekiel 33:30 Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

Why won't even the overall Churches of God heed these words?

Ezekiel 33:31 And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but **they will not do them**: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their covetousness.

Ezekiel 33:32 And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, **but they do them not.**

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (**lo, it will come,**) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

How can some ministers teach that Jesus Christ had a **warning message** that ended 30 years ago?? Now, they teach that we only have to care about getting ourselves into the Kingdom???

That is nonsense.

We are going to experience terrible and rigorous religious persecution before Jesus returns.

We must ask ourselves, “Do I represent the Kingdom of God in my personal life – in my behavior towards others?”

Do I live according to the rules of the Kingdom of God – even now?

Matthew 11:12 Jesus said, “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven is acquired with an utmost struggle [a maximum effort – with all your being and strength] on your part; and it is only the most serious and dedicated ones who will obtain the Kingdom.”

End: Legacy