

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

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## WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE

Are we ready to become sons of God? Will we properly handle the power God is giving us?



Photo by Gregory Dullum

By Gregory Dullum

When I was about 10 years old, I looked through the TV listings and noticed a TV show called “Star Trek.” I wondered what this show was about, so I decided to watch an episode. At that time, we had a black-and-white television in our basement. I sat in our dark basement all alone, and tuned into my first episode of “Star Trek.”

### A Scary Episode

The first character to catch my eye was Mr. Spock. Being a “Vulcan,” he had pointed ears and eyebrows that pointed up on the ends. I thought his appearance seemed a little demonic and it scared me a little, but I kept watching to find out more about the show. The title of that first episode which I saw was “Where No Man Has Gone Before.”

The Enterprise traveled beyond the edge of the galaxy, where no man had gone before. It encountered a type of electrical storm, and two crew members were especially affected. One of the people that got zapped by this phenomenon was Commander Gary Mitchell. When he recovered his consciousness, he opened his eyes and

The starship Enterprise took us into deep space on the television show “Star Trek.” Spiritual lessons about handling godlike power can be learned from the third episode that aired for the first time on Sept. 22, 1966, titled, “Where No Man Has Gone Before.”

they glowed. His corneas and pupils were gone. That was pretty scary for a young boy but I kept watching.

What I didn’t fully grasp was that Gary Mitchell was developing godlike powers. The powers became stronger and stronger as time passed. Confined to sick bay, he was examined and found to be in perfect health. He could make his voice echo in a threatening manner. He used a view screen to read half way through the ship’s library in one day and remembered everything he had read. He began reading the thoughts of other people. When he used mind over matter to fill a cup with water and float it across the room to his hand—that finally scared me enough that I shut off the TV and went upstairs.

It was a long time before I watched “Star Trek” again. I later learned that every episode was not as scary as the one I had seen, and I grew to love that show during my teenage years.

Not long ago, I bought a DVD that included this episode. I watched it again. And it got me thinking about a spiritual

lesson.

### Unable to Handle His Powers

Commander Mitchell and Captain Kirk were close friends. They had known each other for 15 years. Mitchell was not a bad man. But as he gained his godlike powers, he couldn’t handle it. He became a menace to the Enterprise. He began operating the controls of the ship with his mind.

Spock warned Kirk, “It’s as if the ship and crew were a toy for his amusement. Soon we’ll be useless to him, actually, an annoyance.” He told Kirk he had two options: either strand him on an uninhabited planet or destroy him while he still could.

The crew overpowered Mitchell, drugged him, and dragged him to the transporter room to send him to the planet. As he was forced into the trans-

**WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE**

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## Where No Man Has Gone

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porter room, Mitchell cried, “You fools, I’ll squash you like insects!”

On the planet, Mitchell was confined in a holding cell with a force field. He said to Kirk, “You should have killed me while you could, James. Command and compassion is a fool’s mixture.”

Mitchell used mind over matter to control a cable and strangle a crew member. He escaped with a woman crew member who also was acquiring godlike powers.

Looking at the desert-like rocks which surrounded them, she told Mitchell, “It will take almost a miracle to survive here.” He replied with a thunderous voice, “Then I shall make one,” and he turned the desert into a garden.

Kirk tried to sneak up on them and Mitchell caused a boulder to crash down near him. Mitchell said to the woman, “Go to him, Elizabeth. Now that you’re changing, I want you to see just how unimportant they are.”

During a final confrontation and fight between Kirk and Mitchell, Mitchell said such things as, “Morals are for men, not for gods” and, “Time to pray, captain, pray that you die easily.”

Kirk said, “Above all else, God needs compassion” and “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Kirk convinced Elizabeth to turn her powers against Mitchell by reminding her that although Mitchell had the power of a god, he still had human frailties. With her help, Kirk was able to overpower Mitchell. Mitchell ended up in a grave he had prepared for Kirk, buried under boulders.

This episode got me thinking. Our destiny is to become sons of God. We will have godlike powers, beyond what was portrayed in this “Star Trek” episode. Will we use them wisely? Or will we behave like Commander Gary Mitchell?

### Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. Who will be sent away when the Day of Atonement is fulfilled?
2. What is the name of the day Christ died?
3. What does leaven symbolize?
4. Who wrote the account of the valley of dry bones?
5. What does it mean to afflict your soul?

(Answers on page 5)

## God Has All Power

God has ALL POWER (Mat. 28:18)! He is called Almighty (Gen. 17:1). What is his nature like? Does he look at us humans and say, “You fools, I’ll squash you like insects!”? Does He believe “Command and compassion is a fool’s mixture”?

No! “But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth” (Ps. 86:15).

## We Are to Be God’s Children

We are to become children of God:

“For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: ‘What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.

“For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Heb. 2:5-10).

## We Must Have Compassion

Many sons will be brought to glory! We will be given power like God. When we are given all that power, we also must have all compassion, gentleness and kindness in using that power for good.

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:35-36).

God does not threaten to squash his enemies like insects. He doesn’t call us humans “unimportant.” He is kind and merciful even to people who are evil and ungrateful. He is full of mercy, and that is how we must become!

## Develop Character Now

We can’t wait to become sons of God to develop these characteristics. We must develop kindness and mercy now. Or

God will not trust us with all power in the future. He doesn’t want us to behave like Gary Mitchell acted when he was given godlike power.

We must practice kindness now, so it becomes a habit. Stir up God’s spirit within us. Remember the fruits of God’s spirit? So many of them are a prerequisite to receiving almighty power:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Kindness
- Goodness...
- Gentleness
- Self control.

NONE of these were exhibited by Captain Kirk’s good friend, Gary Mitchell. But ALL of these are needed to properly use—and not abuse—the power God will give us.

The final four Feasts of God represent a time when we will be sons of God. As we observe them, let’s ask ourselves, are we ready NOW to properly use the power of God? Or will we be tempted, as the apostles were, to call down fire from heaven if people don’t act as we want them to (Luke 9:54)?

With awesome power will come an awesome responsibility to use it properly. God does not want people like Gary Mitchell in his eternal family. God wants his family to be like He is. We are told to become like our Father in heaven (Mat. 5:48). If we don’t develop the godlike character traits of compassion, mercy, kindness, gentleness, etc. now, in this life, will God trust us with godlike power in the next life? I don’t think so.

But if we do develop them now, in the future, we will truly go where no man has gone before!

## The SABBATH SCOOP

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# H THAT HORRIBLE HOLIDAY OF HALLOWEEN

So obvious are the pagan and evil influences on this holiday, it's a wonder that a 'Christian' nation observes it!

By Gregory Dullum

It never ceases to amaze me that as we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day, picturing the happiest and most glorious conclusion to God's plan of salvation, the world is preparing to celebrate Halloween, the darkest and most obviously evil holdover from paganism.

On that horrible holiday of Halloween, millions of Americans revel in evil. They focus their attention on the devil, witches, and death. Retail stores are filled with all sorts of pagan and macabre decorations and costumes.

Halloween entertainment includes movies depicting witchcraft, murder, mayhem and madness. Television shows also focus on this theme as well, sometimes offering a so-called "fright night."

## Pagan Origins

The *pagan* origins of this day are PLAIN TO SEE. Turn to any encyclopedia. *The Encyclopedia Americana* states: "It is associated in the popular imagination with the presence of supernatural influences, and is CLEARLY a relic of pagan times" ("Halloween," 1964 ed., vol. 13, p. 649, emphasis added).

*The 21st Century Webster's Family Encyclopedia* adds, "Originally a Celtic festival to mark the new year, welcome the spirits of the dead, and appease supernatural powers, Halloween was introduced to the United States by Scottish and Irish immigrants and is now a children's festival famous for 'trick or treat'" ("Halloween," 1999 ed., vol. 4, p. 211).

Who were the Celts? The Celts were a pagan, prehistoric people whose tribes occupied much of Europe between 2000 and 100 B.C. Their pagan priests were called "Druids" ("Celts," *The 21st Century Webster's Family Encyclopedia*, 1999 ed., vol. 2, p. 154).

*The Encyclopaedia Britannica* states, "[T]he occasion shows clear connections with the religion of the Druids in pre-Christian Ireland and Scotland. The Celtic year ended on Oct. 31, the eve of Samhain, and was celebrated with both religious and agrarian rites. For the Druids, Samhain was both the 'end of summer' and a festival of the dead. The spirits of the departed were believed to visit their kinsmen in search of warmth and good cheer as winter approached. ...

"Divination and auguries for the new year were practised on Samhain. ... It was also an occasion when fairies, witches and goblins terrified the populace. These agents of the supernatural were alleged to steal infants, destroy crops, and kill farm animals. Bonfires were lighted on hilltops on the eve of Samhain. The fires may have been lighted to guide the spirits of the dead to the home of their kinsmen or to kill and ward off witches" ("Halloween," *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1959 ed., vol. 11, pp. 106-107).

*The World Book Encyclopedia* is just as clear when describing the origins of this day: "The modern customs for decorating for Halloween parties with pumpkins, leaves and cornstalks comes from the Druids. The Druids also believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They built bonfires to scare such creatures away. From these Druidic beliefs comes the modern use of witches and ghosts in Halloween festivities" ("Halloween," 1956 ed., vol. 8, pp. 3245).

## The Biblical Truth

These pagan beliefs that originated with the Druids are contrary to biblical truth! There are no ghosts—spirits of the dead who can come back to haunt the living! "For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward .... for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Eccles. 9:5, 10).

There are no ghosts, but demonic spirits can play the part of ghosts (1 Sam. 28:7-20). The use of mediums and witches to contact the spirit world is condemned over and over in the Bible (Ex. 22:18, Lev. 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27; Deut. 18:10-12, Gal. 5:19-21, Rev. 22:14-15).

God does not want us celebrating a day that is filled with pagan symbols and relics of demonic worship.

## Becoming a Christian Celebration

How did the pagan Halloween ever become a holiday in nations which consider themselves Christian?

"There can be little doubt that the Christian church sought to eliminate or supplant the Druid festival of the dead by introducing the alternative observance of

All Saint's Day on Nov. 1. This feast was established to honour all saints, known or unknown, but it failed to displace the pagan celebration of Samhain.

"As Christianity spread gradually over Europe and the British Isles, it attempted to displace or suppress pre-existing pagan cults devoted to the worship of such deities as Apollo, Diana or Ymir. Though the church was able to destroy the temples and outward forms of worship of these heathen religions, it could not completely eradicate the faith and beliefs of their priests and worshippers. These found an outlet during the middle ages in witchcraft which was devoted to the worship of Satan. This cult included periodic meetings, known as witches' Sabbaths, which were given over to feasting and revelry. One of the most important Sabbaths was held on Halloween. Witches were alleged to fly to these meetings on broomsticks, accompanied by black cats who were their constant companions. ...

"By the end of the middle ages, the celebration of Allhallows Eve was an established part of the annual calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. However, after the Reformation, Protestants rejected this feast along with other important ones such as Christmas and Easter. Nevertheless, Halloween folk customs of pagan origin flourished in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, parts of England and in isolated localities such as the Orkney and Shetland Islands. In these places, the inhabitants lighted bonfires on hilltops on the evening of Oct. 31 and played Halloween games such as 'bob apple'" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, p. 107).

## What God Wants

God is very clear when He says, "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them [pagans], after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not enquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God that way .... Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it" (Deut. 12:30-32).

Halloween is just one example of how modern Israel has rejected God's ways. Our sins will bring national punishment upon us (Deut. 28:15-69, 29:24-28)!

# DEACONS: HELPERS IN THE CHURCH

Deacons continue to serve as needed in the New World, sometimes using their homes for services.

By Gregory Dullum  
Part 6

## Deacon Among the Pilgrims

There is conflicting evidence as to whether there were Sabbath-keepers among the Pilgrims when they came to America in 1620. Notice this reference to observing the Sabbath:

“Prophesying had been Plymouth’s custom since 1620 and earlier in Holland, but it was often doubly necessary owing to frequent lack of ministers. Gifted laymen such as William Brewster and other members of the congregation continued the Separatists’ tradition whether there was a minister or not. Elder Brewster was particularly successful, often teaching *twice each Sabbath*, ‘both powerfully and profitably,’ and, according to Bradford, ‘many were brought to God by his ministry’ ” (*Religious Enthusiasm in the New World* by David S. Lovejoy, 1985, p. 55, emphasis added).

This reference to teaching on the SABBATH seems to indicate the Pilgrims were Sabbath-keepers. We must keep in mind, however, that Protestant writers frequently (although erroneously) refer to Sunday as the “Sabbath.”

John Winthrop, governor of Massachusetts, and John Wilson, a minister from Boston, traveled to Plymouth for a friendly visit in October 1632, and worshiped with the Pilgrims. Winthrop’s journal indicates they worshiped on “the Lord’s day.” The Bible tells us the true “Lord’s day” is the seventh-day Sabbath (Mat. 12:8). But again, Protestants erroneously call Sunday “the Lord’s day.”

Winthrop wrote about the Pilgrim’s service and mentions deacons:

“On the Lord’s day there was a sacrament, which they did partake in; and, in the afternoon, Mr. Roger Williams (according to their custom) propounded a question, to which the pastor, Mr. Smith, spake briefly; then Mr. Williams prophesied; and after the governor of Plymouth spake to the question; after him the elder; then some two or three more of the congregation. Then the elder desired the governor of Massachusetts and Mr. Wilson to speak to it, which they did. When this was ended, the deacon, Mr. Fuller, put the congregation in mind of their duty of contribution; whereupon the governor and all the rest went down to the deacon’s seat, and put into the box, and then returned” (*Winthrop’s Journal*, ed. by J. K. Hosmer, Vol. I, pp. 93-94, as quoted by Lovejoy, p. 54).

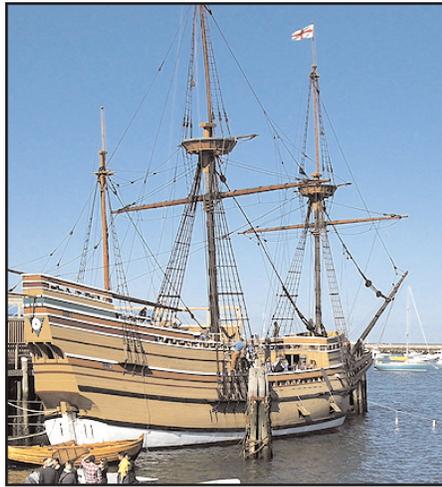


Photo by Greg Dullum

The Pilgrims came to America aboard the Mayflower. A replica of that ship, the Mayflower II, can be toured at Plymouth, Mass.

It seems that deacons at this time were responsible for collecting offerings from their congregations.

By the way—the question being discussed was whether church members should follow the custom of the land and call their neighbors “Goodman.” Jesus had said no man was to be called good, including Himself, while He was on earth—Mat. 19:17 (Lovejoy, pp. 54-55).

Do these historical tidbits give concrete evidence that the Pilgrims kept the Sabbath? No. Do they prove they kept Sunday? No. If the meeting indeed took place on the first day of the week, it could have been a Bible study—it was not held Sunday morning but in the afternoon. And, considering that this took place in October, there is the very remote possibility that this was during the Feast of Tabernacles—a week-long celebration which requires church attendance on Sunday as well as the other days of the week—and this also is a time to collect offerings (Deut. 16:16). While this is mere speculation based on historical coincidence, it is offered as food for thought—and for further research.

## Deacons Involved in Music

Today we meet for services in comfortable surroundings—air conditioned in the heat of summer and heated on cold wintery days. Going to church has not always been so comfortable.

We have record of what services were like in the 1700s. The following descrip-

tion is NOT from a Church of God service but from other “Christian” services in the New World. However, Church of God congregations most likely met *under similar circumstances*. By examining what services were like, we can better understand what our spiritual forefathers went through in the 1700s.

It appears from this description that deacons were a type of “song-leader” and had a musical part in the services at this time.

“Congregational church rituals had in many places grown rather forbidding in the late seventeenth century [1600s]. Sermons frequently lasted almost two hours, psalm singing had lost much of its earlier vigor, and some ministers’ exhortations against sin were as likely to put the congregation to sleep as to promote piety. By the early eighteenth century [1700s], however, revitalization was under way. Congregations still met twice each Sabbath, with the first service in the morning and another complete service commencing in the afternoons. But meetings were now moved closer together so that parishioners living at a distance could get home before dark. ...

“The churchgoers were not deterred from worship by the icy draughts of winter, felt inside as well as outside the church .... Samuel Sewall tells of one Sunday when it was ‘so cold that the Sacramental Bread is frozen pretty hard and rattles sadly as broken into the plates’; at other times the water in the baptismal pool was known to freeze. Such discomforts were eased slightly by portable foot stoves, but only when Sabbath Day or “Nooning” houses were built in the eighteenth century was relief from the unheated meetinghouse assured. These rough structures contained large stone fireplaces around which families would gather to partake of a meal they had brought from home. ...

“Inside the meetinghouse, men and women often sat together in pews rather than in separate sections of earlier times. The minister opened the service with a prayer and a reading from Scripture, after which a psalm was sung, though without musical accompaniment ....

“Church deacons were originally responsible for ‘lining out’ the psalms, or singing out a line which would be returned by the congregation. But as the original inhabitants died off and the psalm books decayed or were lost, the deacons had settled for a few simple tunes on which the congregation improvised as the spirit moved them. The result



Photo by Greg Dullum

The first official Sabbatarian church in the New World built this church building in Newport, Rhode Island.

was anarchy of song ....

“The centerpiece of every worship service was the sermon. In what amounted to a major reform, the length of sermons had been reduced to about an hour by the second quarter of the eighteenth century. And whereas sermons had been delivered from memory in earlier decades, now preaching from notes was becoming fashionable. ...

“Ministers of the early eighteenth century shaped sermons to appeal both to the minds and hearts of their flock. The message was intended to be readily understood and to accord with experience and reason. Frequently sermons were directed toward specific constituencies in the congregation such as women, youths, or servants. At other times they took as themes specific seasonal or current events such as the harvest, epidemics, or war. ... Sermons followed a familiar and beloved formula: text, explication of doctrine and proofs from Scripture, and finally application” (*Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society and Politics in Colonial America* by Patricia U. Bonomi, 1986, pp. 67-69).

### Deacons Part of True Church

The first official Sabbath-keeping congregation of the Church of God in the New World was established in Newport, R. I., on Dec. 23, 1671. The seven founding members were William Hiscox (a minister), Stephen and Ann Mumford, Samuel and Ruth Hubbard, Roger Baster and Rachel Langworthy. They called themselves “The Church of Rhode Island and Westerly” (“The Sabbath Comes to New England—History of the Church of God, Part 10” by Ron Kelly and Jim Franks, *The Plain Truth*, October 1991, pp. 20-21).

As the true Church of God grew, another congregation was started in Piscataway, New Jersey, on Aug. 19, 1705. When this church organized, it set forth its beliefs, and we see according to point

No. 6, that deacons were part of the organizational structure:

“VI. We believe that all Christian churches ought to have church officers in them, as elders, and deacons. Tit. 1:5, Acts 6:3” (*The Seventh-day Baptist Memorial*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 120, 121, as quoted in *A History of the True Religion* by A.N. Dugger and C.O. Dodd, 1972, p. 276).

### Deacon’s Home Used for Church

The Church of God in the New World stayed connected with the Sabbath-keeping congregations in England. They wrote letters back and forth and at times visited each other.

In 1885, the Mill Yard Church in London lost its regular meeting location. From 1885 until 1892, it met at the Commercial Street Baptist Church. During the remainder of the 1890s it met in the Welsh Baptist Church on Eldon Street.

From 1900 until 1903, the church met in private homes to accommodate a scattered flock. One meeting took place in the home of Lt. Col. Thomas W. Richardson. Another meeting was held in the home of the church secretary or a deacon.

But on April 4, 1903, the church found a new home in St. Thomas’ Hall, Gillespie Road, Highbury Vale (Dugger and Dodd, p. 239).

### HWA Meets in Deacon’s Home

In 1931, Herbert W. Armstrong was ordained an evangelist by the Oregon Conference of the Church of God. In 1933, the Church of God was reorganized along spiritual lines. One of “the 70” chosen to lead the church at that time was Mr. Armstrong.

As God revealed more truth to Mr. Armstrong, he ran into opposition from other church leaders. Finally, in 1933, he rejected his \$3 a week allowance so he could preach the truth without restrictions. He wrote, “‘As for me and my house,’ I then said firmly, ‘we shall serve the Eternal our God, and Him ONLY shall we serve. If MEN pay us a salary—even as small as \$3 per week—we have now learned we must preach only what MEN order us to preach. If we are to work for God we must look to God as our EMPLOYER, AND TRUST HIM TO SUPPLY OUR EVERY MATERIAL NEED. And then,’ I added, ‘if

### DEACONS

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### Know Your Bible Answers

1) Satan. 2) Passover. 3) Sin. 4) Ezekiel. 5) Fast.

## Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

Keeping the house clean can be a good way to keep yourself lean. Light housework, doctors have determined, consumes 90 calories every 20 minutes.

## Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

*The Maid and the Queen* by Nancy Goldstone, Viking, 2012, p. 195.

### Overconfidence

“Although René, still accompanied by the lord of Barbazan, commanded the larger force—some seventy-five hundred men in all—Antoine had the benefit of position. The Bergundians were entrenched behind a stream and had taken the precaution of digging trenches and erecting the customary line of stakes behind which stood a crack troop of four hundred archers .... Antoine also thought to bring along some heavy artillery. René had no bowmen in all and was without guns altogether, serious drawbacks that the more experienced Barbazan took pains to point out. But René, with one victory under his belt, was overeager for a second and was superior in rank. He overruled Barbazan and ordered his men to cross the stream and attack. René would later defend this decision by observing that he felt that ‘he had so many men that it seemed he could fight all the world for a day.’

“This sentiment proved optimistic. René’s forces charged directly into a thumping bombardment of cannonballs and a storm of lethal arrows. It was one of the shortest battles in French history.”

**Prov. 16:18, Rom. 12:3, 1 Cor. 10:12**

## Memory Scripture

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

—Prov. 16:18

## Deacons

Continued from Page 5

we fail to serve Him as He commands, He will stop our income.’ ...

“But from that moment when we began to rely solely on God for financial support not only, but also for guidance, direction, and results, the Work began a phenomenal yearly increase of nearly 30% for the next 35 years. It doubled in size, scope and power on the average of every 2-2/3 years. It multiplied eight times every eight years—64 times in 16 years” (*Autobiography*, by Herbert W. Armstrong, Vol. 1, 1986, pp. 525, 526).

On Oct. 21, 1933, a new Church of God was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith. It included a deacon, who contributed to the decision to create a radio broadcast that became “The World Tomorrow”:

“Then, on October 21st, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith, just across the road from Jeans school, 4 miles west of Firbutte [Oregon], a new Church of God was organized, with Mr. E. E. Fisher as deacon, and myself as Pastor. Meetings continued from that date, three times a week, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Sabbath afternoons. Attendance was averaging 22. A first action of the new Church was the decision to go ahead with the broadcast. These new members and the lay brethren of the Oregon Conference all approved it joyfully as an effective evangelistic activity of the Church” (Armstrong, p. 533).

### New Deacon Ordained

In mid-September 1934, plans were made for a personal appearance campaign in the small community of Alvadore, Oregon, less than 15 miles northwest of Eugene. The campaign ran from November 1934 to January 1935. Meetings were held six nights a week and attendance was good. Fifteen people were converted during the campaign including the families of Elder J. M. Day, formerly of the Christian Church, and W. E. Conn.

When the campaign ended in January 1935, its fruit was evident. “A new local church was organized, to meet in the Alvadore school auditorium Sabbath mornings. I ordained Elder J. M. Day as Elder and W. E. Conn as Deacon,” Mr. Armstrong wrote.

He added: “Now I was forced to alternate between Alvadore and Jeans, every other Sabbath morning at each one, and Sabbath afternoon at our home in Eugene” (Armstrong, *Autobiography*, Vol. 1, p. 576).

(To be continued!)



## North Korea Fires Missile Over Japan

“North Korea fired a ballistic missile from its capital, Pyongyang, that flew over Japan before plunging into the northern Pacific Ocean, officials said today [Aug. 29].

“It was an aggressive test flight over the territory of a close U.S. ally that sends a message of defiance as Washington and Seoul conduct war games nearby. ...

“The launch, which appears to be the first to cross over Japan since 2009, will rattle a region worried each new missile test puts the North one step closer toward its goal of an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can target the United States reliably” (“North Korea fires missile over Japan” by Foster Klung and Kim Tong-Hyung, Associated Press, *Southeast Missourian*, Aug. 29, 2017, p. 5A).

North Korea could be preparing to arm itself with the capability of hitting the Middle East with nuclear missiles. Bible prophecy indicates that Europe (the king of the North) will occupy the Holy Land before Christ returns and “kings from the east” will attack (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 16:12-14, 16).

This “rattling of the region” and “worries” about missile tests could be part of the “rumors of war” prophesied to lead up to the end time (Mat. 24:3, 6).

Another result of this missile test is that Japan may be pushed into strengthening its own military, so it, too, may end up contributing to a vast army that is controlled by “kings from the east.”

“Pacifism has been a sacred tenet of Japan’s national identity since the end of World War II, when the United States pushed to insert a clause renouncing war into the country’s post-war Constitution. But there are signs that the public’s devotion to pacifism and its attitude toward the Japanese military, known as Self-Defense Forces, have begun to change, in part at the urging of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

“Mr. Abe’s slow, steady efforts to remove the pacifist constraints on the military may have gotten help Tuesday,

when North Korea fired a ballistic missile that sailed over Japan’s northern island ....

“‘We have been living in peace for such a long time that we believe peace is going to last forever,’ said Ichiro Miyazoe, 74, walking in the Ikebukuro neighborhood of Tokyo after the latest test from Pyongyang on Tuesday. ‘Japan has had a weak attitude, like a losing dog. We must have a stronger military’ ” (“A Pacifist Japan Starts to Embrace the Military” by Motoko Rich, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Aug. 29, 2017, pp. 1-2).

## China Seeks to Replace U.S. as Major Power

“China has made little secret of its long-term goal to replace the United States as the major power in Asia and assume what it considers its rightful position at the center of the fastest-growing, most dynamic region in the world. ...

“China’s path to dominance requires an American withdrawal and a message to American allies that they cannot count on the United States for protection” (“North Korea’s Nuclear Arsenal Threatens China’s Path to Power” by Jane Perlez, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, Sept. 5, 2017, p. 1).

China will likely be one of the kings from the east that will attack European forces outside of Jerusalem just before Christ returns (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 16:12-14, 16).

## Mexico Hit by Quake

“The city [Juchitan] Sunday [Sept. 10] was littered with rubble from Thursday night’s magnitude 8.1 earthquake, which killed at least 90 people across southern Mexico...” (“Earthquake’s death toll rises to 90 as aftershocks rock southern Mexico” by Christopher Sherman, Associated Press, *Southeast Missourian*, Sept. 11, 2017, p. 5A). *The New York Times* said it was the most powerful quake to hit Mexico in a century.

“Earthquakes in various places” is a sign we are in the “beginning of sorrows” leading up to Christ’s return (Mat. 24:3, 7-8).