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# TO TRY AN APOSTLE

*In the book of Revelation, chapter two, verse 2 the Messiah commends the assembly at Ephesus for they, "Tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them LIARS."*

*One has walked among us during these last days proclaiming, "I am God's apostle! I dare anyone to question my authority!"*

*By Jerry Healan*

Having been a member of the World Wide Church of God from 1970 until my excommunication early in 1988, those words struck fear in my heart. When his successor performed some gruesome acts and made alarming statements at the first feast wherein he served as Pastor General in the fall of 1986, on the very opening day of the feast, I was DUMBFOUNDED!

Few, if any others, took notice however, and I reserved my comments, because of FEAR until after the feast. We had been back home for some time and I couldn't stand it anymore.

I called our minister and questioned, "Why or how could a minister of God, especially the church's Pastor General and apostolic replacement (I wasn't utilizing the Sacred Names at the time) hold up a replica of the statue in front of the United Nations and say that, to him, that statue represented Christ?"

We, of course, kept the commandments of our Creator and one, the second commandment, has to do with not making idols in order to represent anything in heaven above, on earth under heaven, or in the sea beneath the earth. We weren't even to conjure up an

image in our mind of the heavenly Father as we were praying.

The statue was:

Naked – The Messiah is not naked but clothed (Rev. 1:13).

The statue appeared black (like Nimrod, the original savior of Babylon) and the Messiah is white (with light).

The statue was a replica of the one placed in front of the U.N. which is an organization of men, trusting in man, not the Creator, to bring about world peace.

The statue was inspired by the RUSSIANS, a godless, god-hating, atheistic nation.

Man actually polluted and corrupted the Creator's word by extracting it from Scripture and placing it on an image of a naked man.

Furthermore, the college students at Big Sandy, Texas made a replica of the statue later that year for their prom and danced and partied around it!!!

To me, it was a symbol of the beginning of



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leading the church into a watered-down faith and eventually idolatry. I had told my wife that the new Pastor General was going to change the church's position on many things which he had said he was NOT going to do. But almost before the ink was dry on the Worldwide News (the church news paper) where he stated that all things would continue as they had been under Herbert W. Armstrong; he began to change them anyway.

When I questioned the minister about the Pastor General's actions, I was commanded, "Don't you dare question God's Pastor General. (Later an apostle?)

Looking back on HWA's history now in retrospect, many things come to mind. He proclaimed, "I am the Elijah who is to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers!" (Didn't happen.)

An examination of Malichi 4 from whence comes this scripture reveals that it would be Eliyah **THE PROPHET**. Yet HWA stated several times that he was not a prophet. Why? Because his prophecies failed to come to pass. Didn't he prophesy that Germany, under Hitler, was the final beast power? He then changed his story when it was obvious that it wasn't.

Didn't he publish a booklet entitled *1975 In Prophecy?* Didn't he proclaim that 1972 was when the great tribulation would begin, which would culminate in the return of the Messiah in 1975, which didn't happen, at least the last time I checked. But how did he determine these dates? He liked to base the end time on the beginning of his own ministry, which supposedly began in 1934. He

claimed that he was given two nineteen year time cycles in order to accomplish the work of publishing the gospel of the kingdom of God. Two times nineteen is thirty eight added to 1934 yields 1972. Another failed prophecy.

At one time it was taught that he and his son Garner Ted Armstrong were the two witnesses who would be witnessing very powerful messages in Jerusalem during the three and one half year great tribulation while the church would be in the place of safety in Petra. Another false prophecy.

During the Falklands War between Great Britain and Argentina, he prophesied that the British fleet would be destroyed by Argentina. Another false prophecy.

What has happened here? One of his own followers who was an anchorman on the "World Tomorrow" telecast put it into proper perspective in a sermon given in Pasadena, which was taped and sent out to the churches. The title of the sermon was "*Fun With Prophecy.*" He admitted that he had been one who taught 1972-1975 in prophecy. He further admitted teaching about Petra as the place of safety. By his own mouth he admitted that he had been a **FALSE PROPHET!!!** QUESTION: If one is a false prophet by his own admission, when does he become a **TRUE PROPHET?**

Frankly, he never would have given that sermon if HWA were alive, or if he had, he wouldn't have been on the church payroll or in the church any longer.

The point is that Yahweh, Himself, stated that if a prophet speaks in His name and the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Yahweh hath not spoken,



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but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: **thou shalt not be afraid of him,**” Num. 18:22.

HWA always denied that he had said any such things after the fact and everyone was afraid to speak out concerning the truth of the matter.

The facts are that EliYah is a prophet, according to the word of Yahweh. HWA denied, finally, that he was a prophet, yet still claiming to be the Elijah! The facts are that he did prophesy and his prophecies failed! His own follower, disciple, and paid minister admitted his failed prophecies making him a **FALSE PROPHET!!!**

## THE APOSTLE

But that isn't all! HWA also claimed to be an apostle. Was He?! HWA always proclaimed that the gospel was a gospel of the kingdom and not of the Messiah. He always turned to Mark 1:14-15 to prove his point, “Now after that John was put in prison, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of Elohim, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

Let's think about this for a minute. There are at least five basic requirements for a kingdom. 1) A kingdom must have a king. 2) A kingdom must have a government. 3) A kingdom must have laws. 4) A kingdom must have subjects. 5) A kingdom must have territory.

Analyzing each point we find:

The Messiah is King of the kingdom of Elohim. Without Him the kingdom would just be a kingdom of man or men, not Elohim.

The Messiah is the Governor that rules the government of Elohim, “And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel,” Mt. 2:6. Without Him, government would never be administered properly.

The Messiah is the One Who personally gave the law to Moses and has fulfilled (performed, kept) it. I know that this is difficult for some, even in the assemblies to understand, but it is true. He is the true Lawgiver and law keeper. He must be in us doing the work, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of Yahweh, and not of us,” 2 Cor. 4:7.

Without the Messiah, the Savior, there would not be any subjects of the kingdom for we were all dead in our sins.

The Messiah is the One through Whom the Father has created all things and is creating a new creation. Without Him there would be no creation, no territory.

So why was the Messiah's evangel not of Himself? Let Him answer, “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true,” Jn. 5:31. “He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory,” Jn. 7:18. The Messiah sought not His own will nor His own glory, but rather the will and glory of the Father's. He didn't speak of Himself, but his works spoke of Him, “But I have greater witness than that of John: for **the works** which the Father hath given Me to finish, **the same works that I do, bear witness of Me**, that the Father hath sent me,” Jn. 5:36.

The Father bore witness of the Messiah



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(Jn. 5:37). The scriptures written by the prophets, witnessed of Him (Jn. 5:39). John the Baptist bore witness of Him (Jn. 1:29-34). **The apostles** were to witness of Him, “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved the Messiah to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things,” Lk. 24:44-48. The Comforter (the Holy Spirit) witnesses of Him (Jn. 15:26-27).

Notice in verse 27 of John 15, “And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.” The apostles were to witness that the Messiah fulfilled the things that He was sent to do. The prophets prophesied, foretold what He was to do. The apostles confirmed, witnessed that He fulfilled, performed, did what was prophesied! The assembly is built upon the apostles and prophets, the Messiah being the chief cornerstone!

No man can be an apostle of the Messiah who removes Him from the evangel. An apostle is to witness of the Messiah’s fulfill-

ment of all things past, present, future.

The scriptures bear witness that one who prophesies a thing that doesn’t come to pass is a false prophet. The scriptures also bear witness that the evangel is the good news about the Messiah Who has the power to usher in the kingdom when the Father desires it to be done! Any apostle who removes the Messiah from the gospel, the evangel, is a **FALSE APOSTLE!!!**

To proclaim that the gospel, the evangel is not about the Messiah, but rather the kingdom of Elohim (God) opens the door to establish the government of Elohim on earth without the Governor; to establish the kingdom of Elohim in the church, the assembly without the king; to enforce the law on others without the true Lawgiver; to establish an hierarchy over the subjects and territory of the Messiah in His absence; to rule as kings and priests over Elohim’s, Yahweh’s heritage!

We have tried Herbert W. Armstrong. He was not a true prophet, nor was he a true apostle! Those groups who seek to continue his teachings, his government, and his ways in their groups are not the true body of the Messiah.

There are others who presently proclaim themselves to be apostles. We will have to utilize the rule of Scriptures that Yahshua did for Himself. If any witnesses of himself, his witness is not true. Do the works of an apostle and let the works be the witness.

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