

FULL TRANSCRIPTIONS (TRUE CHURCH SERIES TAPE # 3)

ONE TRUE CHURCH

HWA 0004

By HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG --(27:43 MIN/ SEC).

00: 21 MIN/SEC

HWA: Where did the very church go which Jesus Christ said he would build? Men have searched history for a large popular growing visible political organized body, in endeavoring to compile the history of the Church. So if you go to libraries and you obtain Church histories., that's what you'll find. That's what historians have recorded. Now, when the actual history of the first two centuries of the professing Church, we saw it was divided into many different sects, many denominations. In one division, the Gnostics alone, there were more than fifty divisions, fifty different sects. But now, let's look into the history of *The True Church*. Remember, that the largest book of prophecy in the New Testament; the book of Revelation. The one great prophetic book in the New Testament pictures the Church in the future. And it shows two churches, not one. I've explain to you that the word church comes from the Greek word, since the New Testament was written in the Greek language, the Greek word, *Ecclesia*, and it means a crowd or group an assembly of people, that's all. There's no sanctity in the word church. And so, if you have a world church, of this world, that's not the Church of God. Then there is the Church of God mentioned in the Bible.

01: 49 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now we find that in the book of Revelation, is a great world church pictured here and it is not the Church of God at all. This is the false church, the deceiving church, the fallen church and this pictures what we saw beginning in the history that we've read to you. And I have read to you from various histories, various encyclopedias but primary from Gibbon's Rome and the past several broadcasts. Now Revelation seventeen. Just notice a little bit of the false church before we get into the actual history of what happened to the real True Church.

02: 30 MIN/SEC

HWA: There came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials and talked with me. Now John is the one who is writing this, he's not the revelator, Jesus Christ is, it's the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him, and God sent and signified by his angel unto his servant John, and John recorded it to writing. Now, the prophetic part of Revelation, as we saw when were going through the book of Revelation. The prophetic part of the prophesies is contained in the visions the things that John saw in vision. Usually it was in symbol, of course. But it was in the vision and the things that he saw. So here is the prophecy, and here is what he saw.

03: 13 MIN/SEC

HWA: There came one of the seven angels that had the seven vials; that is the seven last plagues. And, he talked with me saying come thither, I will show unto thee the judgment of the Great Whore, that sits upon the many waters. That's revelation seventeen, verse one. Now, in the eighteenth chapter, you'll see about the judgment and her name is called Babylon and God's people are told to come out of her that we be not partaker of her sins, that we receive not of her plagues, for strong is the God that judges her. Therefore her plagues are to come to her in one day, death and mourning, and strong is the Lord God that judges her; they're His judgments, these plagues. The kings of the earth have committed fortification and lived delicious with her and so on. And she's called here the great city Babylon. In one hour has thy judgment come. Now, these judgments are the punishments that God is going to send on this professing church because of the false doctrines because of, well it is a church of the world whose God is the devil.

04: 25 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now the people in it are deceived. The people in it are good, sincere people, that is there as good as people are and there is good and bad in human nature, of course. There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, I guess and that's true. But we're carnal., unless we've received the spirit of God to change our minds and our hearts. And so these people in relation to religion have been honest and sincere. They've just been deceived and the devil is the great deceiver but here is an instrumentality that he has been able to use.

05: 00 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now here is that great women. Now in the Bible prophesies, a woman is a symbol of a church. You'll find it in the fifth chapter of Ephesians, where the True Church is the affianced bride of Christ to be presented to Him, a chaste virgin. That's the True Church. And then in second Corinthians, the eleventh chapter, you find again where the symbol of woman is a symbol for the church. So we know this is a church. Now, she's a great church, not a small church, and she sitting on many waters.

(Eph 5:25-27) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

(2 Cor 11:2) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

05: 37 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, that is a symbol, the many waters. But you turn over to verse fifteen here following in the same chapter [Revelation 17] and it says, he says unto me, [the angel explained it](#), the [waters](#) which thou sawest where this great fallen women sits, are [peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues](#).., that is many nations speaking many different languages which mean, of course, many Gentiles nations, speaking many different languages. ([Rev 17:15](#)): And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. Now, the fact that the [woman sits on them](#) means that she has a grip on them religiously and [controls or rules the religion](#). So it is a religion then that has dominated and permeates many nations. Alright, the second verse says whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. In other words, she is actually mixed into the politics of this world's civil government.

06: 37 MIN/SEC

HWA: You know, God is the supreme ruler. God has ordained, however, and decreed that man must choose whether man will accept voluntarily the government of God or whether he will reject it. God has allowed man to set up his own ideas and to organize himself if he pleases which man has chosen to do and all that sort of thing, and God has laid before mankind the truth on one hand, and allowed him to disagree and to take error on the other. God has set before man, for man to choose, life and death, good and evil, and man has usually chosen evil. Of course, man thinks he wants good and he really sincerely thinks he does, but it seems that he usually goes the way of the evil. And so, God has set apart a seven thousand year period, my friends, in which he has decreed as the supreme ruler, that we must choose even though we choose wrong. And he allows us to go wrong. Now we can only go wrong and choose wrong because God allows it and only as God allows it and for any organized rebellion against God on this earth he has allowed just six thousand years. Then there's going to be a thousand years in which God is going to take over the government and is going to rule mankind and all the nations of this earth. And we're coming to that time, the beginning of that seven thousand years in our generation now; this twentieth century.

08: 08 MIN/SEC

HWA: We, my friends, are living at the end of the age. [We're the people that are living in two ages](#), two worlds, and you're going to live into the happy, peaceful, joyous world tomorrow. We're at the end of this world. And here's what's happening at the very end, God is going to finally send His plagues on this great false religious system. Now, in verse five, on her forehead, was a name written, Mystery. Yes, and it's the pagan Babylonian mysteries that she has putting Christian names on them as I shown you: Mystery; Babylon the Great. Now Babylon means confusion. It's confusion, division, many, many, many divisions of religion. Disagreeing, yes, all in

confusion but it's a great system. And there is one thing in unity in the whole system and that's rebellion against God; they don't want what they call works. They don't want obedience to God. They want salvation but they have turn grace into lasciviousness or license to disobey.

09: 09 MIN/SEC

HWA: Jude tells us to content earnestly for the faith once delivered. Now, God prophesied that this thing would happen, that the people would rebel against God. God laid before Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden the truth and the holy spirit; symbolized by the tree of life. But also, He laid before them rebellion and sin and going their own way; and the way that would seem right to a man, symbolized by the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was a mixture of good and evil. That's what we have in human nature. That's what they partook of. They rejected God. They turned the wrong way. My friends, that's what the people did in the professing church that Jesus started. But remember they weren't in the Church. Once they rebelled against God, they were no longer in the Church.

09: 54 MIN/SEC

HWA: The Church is not a visible organization. The Church is an invisible, a spiritual organism that's composed of visible people, of course, flesh and blood people, but it is only those people that have the spirit of God in their hearts. That are being led by the spirit of God whose very lives have been changed by the power of God. And who have completely been broken up about the kind of life they'd always lived, who have repented of it and turned away from it and turned to God. And given themselves to God to let Jesus come into their hearts and lives and lived His life, His holy righteous perfect life, in them and for them. So it is Christ in them and that is the hope of glory and the people in the *True Church* do have Christ in them in the presence of the holy spirit.

10: 43 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, one may be here and one there and again there may be a body attending together all but one who are in the True Church but that one is apostate and is not a real Christian, is not really following the way of God., that one is not in the Church even though he attends with them. You see, it isn't a matter of how many band together and meet in some building and assemble in church pews, or something like that, my friends, and joining a visible organization doesn't get you into the Kingdom of God or buy you any salvation in any way at all. Now, those in any group, many of them might be Christian and some not or many of them might not be and a few might be or they might all be or none of them be. God knows. And we're not the judge and God along can read men minds and hearts and He knows who are His.

11: 37 MIN/SEC

HWA: Well now, this name is Babylon the Great. Not the little, the scattered, the dispersed, the persecuted, the despised..., Oh, no, Jesus said that His Church, the Church that He said He would build, would be the little flock. He said that it would be despised and hated by the world, He said if they persecuted me they will persecute you too. And so the you are the people that formed this Church. He said you're not greater than your lord and master, they persecuted me, they hated me. They spit in His face, they crown Him with a crown of thorns, they beat Him almost to death before He was crucified. He took your sicknesses and your diseases and infirmities on Himself, did you know that? And then they crucified Him and they stuck a spear in His side and the blood gushed out. They gave Him gall and vinegar to drink when He was thirsty. But He looked up to heaven and said, God., Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing. Yes, He had the love of God in His heart; that isn't a carnal love.

12: 35 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, His people were going to be scattered by the popular organizations of this world. And so, here was Babylon the Great: The mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. There my friends, is the professing church that assumes the name of Christ. The Christ name Jesus said, Many false prophets will arise. They'll say that I am the Christ, they'll professed that I am Christ, they'll take my name, they'll use it, they'll call themselves Christians but they shall deceive many. Why here's the picture of it in Revelation 17. That's a prophecy. Did that prophecy come true? Has it ever happened? Is it ever going to happen? It's in the word of God, my friends.

13: 23 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now in the twelfth chapter of Revelation, you find the True Church is pictured and this is a woman clothe with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars, she being with child travailing in birth, pained to be delivered. Now that is, first it's the Church of the Old Testament. My friends, do you realize that God's church, that is God formed a church, it wasn't God's church in one sense, it wasn't called the church of God, but it was a church., and it was the only one that belonged to God in any way; formed under Moses. And you'll find, in the seventh chapter, of the book of Acts in your Bible, that is called the Church in the wilderness.

(Acts 7:38) This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.

14: 11 MIN/SEC

HWA: They called themselves the same name, it's just a synonym, different English word but it means the same thing; the congregation of Israel. But that was the congregation of Israel, the church of Israel, not the Church of God. That church **did not have the holy spirit**. That church did not have salvation. That church was not commissioned to go into all the world and preach the gospel. But my friends, **after** Jesus went to heaven, He sent the holy spirit and on the day of Pentecost, the spirit of God came to enter into the minds and hearts of the people that had accepted Christ and the people who had really repented, and those that now, submitted themselves to God so that God could send His holy spirit, His great power, His very life into their minds, their hearts, and their lives to change them, to convert them, and so they became converted which they hadn't been in the Old Testament. Now, these people had been spiritually begotten, where as they were merely flesh born in the Old Testament. Now, they became **The Church of God**..., not the congregation of Israel.

15: 22 MIN/SEC

HWA: There's a great difference then, of course, between the old and the new. But here first it's speaking of the church as she was prior to the time of being begotten by the spirit of God, why it was even Israel, she being with child cried traveling in birth and pain to be delivered. Well, then here appeared the great red dragon that is called the devil in verse nine, and he stood before the woman that was ready to be delivered and the child is Christ, of course, and the speaking of the birth of Christ, for to devour her child soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her child was caught up unto God until His throne. The time element passes rapidly completely through in the one verse, the birth and the whole ministry and the death and the resurrection of Christ and His ascension to heaven in that one verse five. Now, then, we come in the middle ages where this happens in history, verse six.

16: 23 MIN/SEC

HWA: And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand, two hundred and three score days. In other words that, my friends, in prophetic language, and I have time to explain all of the technical details of it just now. That is a duration of 1260 years and that happens in history. The True Church was a persecuted Church, it was scattered and they had to flee beyond the bounds of the paganized civil governments lest the secret police would get them and completely torture them and finally martyred them unless they recanted and accepted the pagan doctrines that were falsely labeled Christianity. It actually happened. Now, you find the devil being brought into focus here in verse nine, the great dragon was cast out; there'd been a war up in heaven with Michael, the archangel, and his angels and it says that he's call the devil and Satan that deceives the whole world; Satan deceives the whole world..., now is true? Has he? Or, is the whole world all enlightened now, and only a few deceived? My friends, we've believed,

well, of course, naturally we look at what everybody professes and believes is Christianity and [all of these people](#) couldn't be wrong. You know, we believe like for instance [the cigarette manufacturer said that millions can't be wrong](#) and people really believed that. I want to tell you, my friends, in God's word, it the millions who usually are wrong but in this world the way that they look at it, it just the other way around, isn't it? They think that the majority is always right. Well, God shows the majority is usually wrong..., very often.

18: 04 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, here's Satan deceiving the whole world. And, later we find, that the dragon saw that he was cast into the earth, verse 13, let's drop down to that. He came down here in verse 12, having great wrath, the devil, because he knew he had but a short time. Now, and when the dragon saw that he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. He persecuted the True Church and that True Church had been terribly persecuted. And to the woman were given the two wings of a great eagle, that [she might fly into the wilderness](#) unto her place where she's nourished for a time, times and half a time from the face of the serpent. The Church had to flee. Now, the last verse, verse 17, and the dragon was wroth, that's very angry, full of wrath, wroth with the women, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed. Remnant is the last generation, the last remains, the very last portion, a part, that is then [this last generation of the True Church](#). And that time is coming. And we're the generation that it's speaking of and it has not yet happened it's going to happen in your lifetime and mine in the next few years. Now, it's coming a lot sooner than you think. I tell you my friends, it's later than you think.

19: 24 MIN/SEC

HWA: We're living in momentous times. We're living in terrible times. And it's time to wake up. Look at what's happening in the world. Look at the hydrogen bombs. Look at what's happening. Now, I think that the [wars are going to be held back awhile](#) and in fact there a great deal in prophecy to indicate it. I don't think that's its going to break out in a world war in the next month or two. But, I want to tell you it's going to happen in a very few years and in one, two, five, fifteen years whipped by so rapidly today that it's just like a passing breathe of some kind.., like passing another airplane up in the air or two trains passing each other on two tracks. It's just zoomed passed you. And it's a lot later than we think.

20: 06 MIN/SEC

HWA: You know, God is supreme ruler. God has ordain, however, and decreed that man must choose whether man will accept voluntarily the government of God or whether he will reject it. And God has laid before mankind the truth on the one hand, and allowed him to disagree and to take error on the other. God has set before man, for man to choose, life and death, good and evil; and man has usually chosen evil. Of course, man thinks he wants good and he really sincerely thinks he does, but it seems

he usually goes the way of the evil. Now, here's this devil, wroth with the woman, the True Church, and went to make war with our generation now, the Remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God. There aren't many today that believe in that, my friends, the majority of professing Christians today just hate the commandment of God. They despised the commandments of God; just like the devil. The devil despises God's law. Why, his original rebellion was against that. Disobedience to God. Insubordination; refusal to recognize and to submit to the government of God. And trying to make himself the ruler is what made him a devil in the first place. Turn back to Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14 and there it is. And my friends he is deceiving the world by putting that very thought in the minds of the people who profess to be Christians; turning grace into lasciviousness. Oh, my friends, don't let an evil devil, such an evil influence of spiritual delusion and deception deceive you. Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. Now there is the *True Church* being persecuted, scattered, driven away. There you are. Alright, let's go a little farther.

21: 56 MIN/SEC

HWA: Also in this same book of Revelation is an amazing prophecy and almost no one seems to understand it and yet it is so very plain and shows you the actual history of the Church. Of course, it was written in advance, it was prophecy, but now it's history, it's already happened, that prophecy has been fulfilled. And it is in the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation. Revelation 2 and 3. Now, usually, we pass right over the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation. Well, we passed right over this second and third chapters because they of themselves are not part of the main prophecy of the world; they are a prophecy of the True Church which has not been recognized by the world at all. And we were going into the prophecy of what would happen in the world so I skipped that..., but now I'm going go into it. Now I going let you understand just exactly what it says.

22: 49 MIN/SEC

HWA: I see that the time has gone so far, that we're going to, anymore than get started in this program, so, let this be sort of an introduction and listen every single night or every single day; whatever time this program is on in you part of the country and were going to go through this mysterious Revelation 2 and Revelation 3 that almost nobody has ever understood which merely traces in detail more or less detail that is in advance the prophecy of what was going to happen from the very time of Christ on down to now in the True Church of God. Where is that Church? Jesus said, I will build my Church! Well, He did build it. It isn't the Church the world has held up to it's gaze. It isn't the Church that the historians have looked for because they didn't know what to look for. They look for the popular church that prophecy said would deceive the world. So, my friends, when we get church history we're getting

history of the world churches. The churches of this world. Now, if you'll notice, we'll go as far as we have time here just about 2 or 3 minutes.

24: 00 MIN/SEC

HWA: For instance, notice, Revelation 1, verses 12 & 13, John sees a vision of seven candlesticks and Jesus is in the verse midst, the middle, of the seven candlesticks. Now the Bible interprets the seven candlesticks to mean these seven particular church congregations as you read in verse 20. Now Jesus, is here picturing the Church through seven successive stages.., it's only the one Church.., but it's in seven successive stages of different time and different generation. And so He has taken seven churches that did exist in Asia minor. They were on a mail route, and He takes those churches that were on an actual mail route and the mail carrier went around first from the one, from Ephesus, next he came to Smyrna, and then to Pergamos and so on, finally winding up at Laodicea. And so there's the time order, and God uses that to show the successive spirits and well.., events that would happen in the True Church. And He shows the condition in the Church.

25: 06 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, of course, in a sense, you'll find all seven of these characteristics in the Church of God at any one time, in a sense, and actually, for instance in the Church at Ephesus while you'll also find among some of the people in the Church, the Laodicean condition and some of them the Sardis condition.., some of them the Philadelphia condition.., yet the Ephesus condition dominated at that time. And, at the end, the Laodicea condition of lukewarmness dominates. And yet there is a definite succession in these churches. Well, Jesus is pictured as dwelling among them.., He's in the midst of these seven candlesticks and the seven candlesticks are the seven successive phases of the Church. They were a type of the entire Church. Now, Jesus dwells in the entire Church then, that what it shows us by that symbol which is explained in the Bible itself. Now since the vision pictured Jesus dwelling only in these seven churches, those seven Churches picture there actually represent the one Great Church of God in it's seven successive eras or stages of time.

26: 19 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, Jesus chose the seven because they formed a perfect two-fold pattern. Now, first, they were typical of the general conditions among God's people anywhere and at anytime. That's why, we today are admonished to hear what the holy spirit says to all of the seven Churches, not just to the one that might be in our time now. Second, those seven Churches each of which had it's own particular characteristics were chosen because there location in successive order on this long mail route, was typical of the seven successive stages of expansion, of the church of God through all ages. And, of course, these characteristic were typical of those literal churches that existed at that time. And, they were a type of what was going to happen in all the way through. Now, beginning the next program, we're go to begin right there with

that and we're going go right on through and show what the prophecy said and we're going to dig it right out of history. And we're going to show you what history says did happen and I'm going to show you where is that church that Jesus said that He would found. The persecuted Church. The scattered Church. The True Church of God., where is it? And what have they believed and what have they done and what customs have they practiced and followed through every generation down to now. My friends, it's eye opening and it's astounding when you get it-(27:43 MIN/ SEC).

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