

A Dream of Herbert W. Armstrong

The man whom God used to raise up and lead the Philadelphian Horn or Era of the true Church of God, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong had a dream while sleeping. This dream pressed on his mind enough that he told the dream to the church while giving a bible study. I believe that this dream was from God, and that God was giving him some revelation as to what had happened in the church and why it happened, and also to comfort him concerning his son, Garner Ted Armstrong.

I was at a bible study in Muskogee Oklahoma shortly after I was converted to the truth. This was back in nineteen hundred and eighty. We were listening to a taped message from Mr. Armstrong. During his bible study Mr. Armstrong became side tracked and began telling us this dream that he had. Then after he had finished the dream, he remarked something like: "I don't know what would cause a man to dream something like that." I personally felt that he should know why he had the dream. Mr. Armstrong certainly had more understanding than me, yet I was certain that I understood what the dream meant. I had recently learned some of the biblical symbolism, and not after, but during the process of him telling the dream I was applying the understanding of the bible symbol words and their meaning to the dream. I believe that God was giving me understanding of his dream. I felt the need to make his dream known to him, yet I was just a newly converted member of the church, and didn't want to appear to be trying to exalt myself, so I wrote a letter to him and explained his dream, but I didn't sign the letter. I don't know for sure if he ever got the letter, or if mail processing just dealt with it. I'd like to think that God made sure that he did get my letter. Some of you who were in the World Wide Church of God In those years will remember the dream. I have recently felt the desire to write and share this with you scattered brethren. I will tell the dream and its interpretation to the best of my memory below.

Mr. Armstrong dreamed that he was sitting at his desk at work in the top floor of a high-rise building when just for a moment he took a break from his work and looked out the window. He noticed that a dog was out on the ledge outside the window. Mr. Armstrong went to the window and opened it and tried to bring the dog inside. As he reached out to try helping the dog in; the dog started to fall from the ledge. Mr. Armstrong leaned out the window and grabbed hold of the dog. When Mr. Armstrong was leaning out the window holding on to the dog the whole building started to fall. The building was falling to the ground, but before the building completely fell to the ground Mr. Armstrong let go of the dog and then he woke up.

This is the interpretation: The high-rise building was the Temple of God, the Church of God. Mr. Armstrong's position in the church was up at the top just under Christ, of course. He was at work as he always was in Gods Church. The dog was also up at about the same level, but it was not in the building. The dog was outside on the ledge. This dog represented an unconverted person who was up at the top level of this church, but not inside the church. This person was not truly converted. This dog represented Mr. Armstrong's son Garner Ted. By Mr. Armstrong leaning out the window trying to

prevent his son from falling away, the whole church started to fall away from the truth and Gods ways. When Mr. Armstrong realized what was happening he went ahead and let go of his beloved son and he woke up. The whole building didn't fall all the way to the ground. Mr. Armstrong did have to spend several years and much work after this though, trying to "put the church back on Track." This was accomplished, at least in what was being taught, and allowed in outward behavior before his death in Jan 16, 1986. This should have been some comfort to Mr. Armstrong concerning him having to disfellowshipped his own beloved son from the church. Garner Ted may yet be truly converted and become a true and faithful servant of God after he has truly been humbled and truly converted; maybe during the great tribulation. At least he is not yet lost forever.

For those of you who were in the church in those days, you know that this is exactly what happened in the church. If there is a lesson in this for all of us: it must be, that it is better to go ahead and let go of an unconverted member or mate or family member, than to destroy the temple of God trying to save someone whom is not truly converted. God will deal with them in his own way, in his own time.

Your friend and brother in Christ,

Gary Stowers