



CAN HE DELIVER?



The Hidden Danger in EU Crises

JANUARY 2009

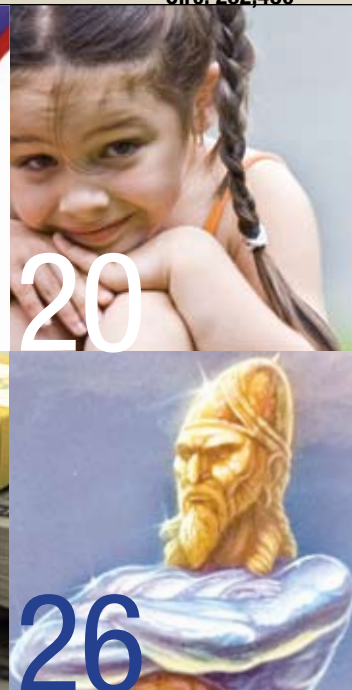
THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET

We the People
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

The Radical Left's Attack on the Constitution



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The Radical Left and the American Constitution



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHEN I SAW THE RESULTS OF AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL election, it left me in profound sadness. Not because of any one man, but because it showed what a radical turn this nation has taken. It showed just how much the extreme radicals have gotten control.

You're going to soon see that this is a very different America than it was before the election.

All the signs show that it really didn't matter *who* won—America is losing its power quickly, and no one man could turn that around. The economy is in a disastrous condition. This will combine with the nation's moral decline and loss of national will to devastate us.

But now, those problems will be made worse by the stranglehold of far-left liberals on the highest echelon of the government. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

Negative Liberties

In a 2001 radio interview, Barack Obama revealed some of his shocking ideas about how the government should run.

Here is what he said about the 1953-1969 Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which was a very activist court: "To that extent, as radical as I think people tried to characterize the Warren court, it wasn't that radical." Notice this! "It didn't *break free* from the essential constraints that were placed by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution" (emphasis mine throughout).

The extremely liberal Warren Supreme Court wasn't radical enough, in Mr. Obama's opinion.

Mr. Obama was talking about how the constraints on the Constitution need to be *removed*. He was revealing where he believes the Founding Fathers *erred* in writing the defining legal charter of the United States!

This is a man who has been in the Senate for only three years—and spent half of that time running for president—who believes he knows where the Founding Fathers were wrong.

"Generally the Constitution is a charter of negative liberties," Mr. Obama continued. "It says what the states *can't* do to you, says what the federal government *can't* do to you, but it doesn't say what the federal government or the state government *must* do on your behalf."

That is true, and it is a major reason the Constitution was so successful in establishing this nation. The Ten Commandments are the same way. They are mostly "thou shalt nots," explaining those things God commands you not to do. That gives a law-abiding people a tremendous amount of *freedom!* Not only are you *free* from those sins that lead to spiritual and physical *slavery*, but also, *everything else* that does not violate that law is good in God's sight.

MR. OBAMA'S STATEMENT WAS NOT ALARMING TO MOST AMERICANS BECAUSE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS MEAN SO LITTLE TO THEM TODAY!

Essayist Bill Whittle wrote this in response to Mr. Obama's interview: "The entire purpose of the Constitution was to *limit government*. That limitation of powers is what has unlocked in

America the vast human potential available in any population. Barack Obama sees the limiting of government not as a linchpin, but rather as a fatal flaw ..." (National Review Online, Oct. 27, 2008).

This is Mr. Obama's view of the Constitution. When he says it should have stated what the government *must* do on the people's behalf, he is talking about federal social programs. As he said in the same radio interview, this means *taking wealth* from some citizens and *redistributing it* to others in the form of health care, welfare and other social benefits.

A lot of that thinking was what destroyed the home mortgage firms Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. That crisis is at the heart of America's financial meltdown.

Still, the radical left think they know *exactly* what should be done on behalf of the people.

Understanding Human Nature

The Founding Fathers created the Constitution to limit the government's power because they had *lived under a tyrant* who decided, according to his own whims, what was fair for the people and what wasn't. The Constitution gave them a certain protection from evil human nature. **THE FOUNDERS BASED THIS CHARTER ON CERTAIN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, NOT JUST HUMAN REASONING.**

What happens if you don't have a Constitution to hold back the liberal left? You end up with a welfare state and a loss of many freedoms!

I believe Mr. Obama sincerely thinks his ideas will solve America's problems, and I'm not saying he is malicious.

But what kind of decisions do you think he will make in office? What kind of judges do you think he will appoint? Judges who will uphold the Constitution? No—he is going to appoint judges who will reject parts of the Constitution and remove its restraints so liberals can do whatever they want with the government!

The mainstream press, which is supposed to be unbiased and is supposed to be our watchman, has also become radicalized. Many of its journalists and commentators will not even consider an opposing view. They go to great lengths to bury the serious flaws of their own candidates, and at the same time they work actively to propagate every negative piece of information they can find to attack any opposing viewpoint.

Liberals want to revive the Fairness Doctrine, which states that the media must present both sides on each issue. But are they doing this because they want to correct the radical, one-sided bias of most of the mainstream press? No—what they really want to do is *shut down dissent*. Conservative commentators, particularly radio talk-show hosts, are concerned that the radical left will use its new power to silence their views.

See **CONSTITUTION** page 5 ►



Can He Deliver?

Why there is reason for hope **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

SAVIOR Among many people, expectations are soaring about what Barack Obama will accomplish as president.

WE CRAVE TRUTH AND hope, do we not? The soul longs for justice, for unity, for prosperity, for peace. And how our spirits soar at the promise of strong leadership to guide us to greatness.

You could read it on the faces in Chicago and around the country as they celebrated Barack Obama's victory. Optimism. Euphoria. Confidence. Hope. *Yes we can.* Tears of joy flowed. On every network, analysts spoke of the transformative nature of this moment in American, even global, history. Hope-filled congratulations and praise poured in from around the world.

For many, many people, expectations of what the coming years will bring are floating in the stratosphere. In his victory speech, the new president-elect mused about the possibility of his daughters living a hundred years and seeing a better world. "What change will they see? What progress will we have made?" he asked. "This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment. This is our time ... to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth, that, out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope."

Oh, how we need hope. In a sick and suffering world, how we need hope.

Obama's campaign effectively turned the U.S. election into a referendum on hope. And his victory, while one cannot discount the matchless effectiveness of his campaign, can fairly be described as a resounding statement of just how Americans yearn for something in which to invest hope.

Now, it must be said: As deep and sincere and justified as that yearning may be, time is about to treat it very unkindly.

We can expect events swiftly to expose the fact that *no* mortal man—even one assuming the highest office in the world's most powerful country—could ever fulfill the hope that people have invested in this individual.

Who Will Save the World?

The weekend before the election, at a rally in Harlem, a state representative stumping for Mr. Obama led an enthusiastic crowd in this call-and-response:

"Who is going to lead us out of poverty?" "*Barack Obama!*"

"Who is going to save the United States of America?" "*Barack Obama!*"

"Who is going to save the entire world?" "*Barack Obama!*"

Mr. Obama made mention in his victory speech of accepting the win "with a

measure of humility." But it was a token mention. The fact is that from the beginning, his campaign clothed itself in grandiosity. The more eloquent the rhetoric and far-reaching the promises, the more his supporters allowed themselves to hope. *All nuclear material worldwide—safeguarded within four years. All nuclear weapons development—stopped. Afghanistan—solved. Al Qaeda—crushed. Darfur genocide—over. The Middle East peace process—brought to a safe, secure conclusion. World poverty—cut in half. Inner cities—revitalized. Immigration law—fixed. Health care—guaranteed for every American. Social Security—saved. Federal waste—eliminated. Taxes—cut for 95 percent of Americans. The economy—completely transformed. Carbon emissions—slashed. Energy crisis—solved.* It seems no problem was too great for this man to fling out a bold promise to solve it.

Perhaps it should have come as no surprise, then, to hear a crowd that apparently believes Mr. Obama can save both the country and the world. Or to realize that many people believe that government can expand while simultaneously cutting taxes for 95 percent of Americans—even though 32 percent of Americans don't even pay taxes. Or to hear a supporter claim, as one did, how excited she was that, once this man is president, "I won't have to worry about putting gas in my car—I won't have to worry about paying my mortgage." Oh, how all those promises stir hope.

But soon, inevitably, reality will set in. Global crises will still occur. The financial meltdown will not go away—it will grow worse under the "fixes" that put the country deeper in debt. Cars will still need gas, and mortgages will still need to be paid. America's next president will soon find himself in over his head.

When these rains of adversity descend, and the floods and winds beat vehemently against people's hope, that hope will fall—because it is founded on sand.

International Relations

Reality about how the world will respond to the coming administration began to loom immediately.

Just hours after Mr. Obama was elected, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced that Russia would deploy missiles inside Europe. He made it clear that the positioning of the new Iskander short-range ballistic missile in Kaliningrad, next to the Polish border, was a direct challenge to America's plans to build a missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. He also said Russia would use electronic warfare

to counter the U.S. shield. "Medvedev's speech then elaborated on the Putin Doctrine: Russia will do what it wants, when it wants, where it wants in the territories that once belonged to the czars," Ralph Peters wrote in the *New York Post* (Nov. 10, 2008). His threat was clearly intended to show the United States that Russia does not fear it.

The same day, Europe gave the new president-elect a to-do list. A six-page letter to Mr. Obama, agreed upon by the EU's foreign ministers, suggested four priorities for the new American administration. The letter called on the future Obama administration to improve its efforts in Afghanistan; acknowledge Russia's newfound power, and intensify diplomatic efforts alongside Europe in order to avoid a confrontation; prioritize the Middle East peace process and accept the EU as a co-guarantor of a peace agreement; and more deeply entrench itself in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the G-8, committing to European-backed reforms of these bodies. Quite the list.

If you think it's odd for foreign leaders to lay out an agenda like this, you're right. But the new president-elect set himself up for it. He has spoken often of the virtues of multilateralism, and campaigned on a promise to improve America's ties to and cooperation with nations abroad. In addition, he was clear about his desire for a more muscular Europe. It shouldn't surprise, then, that Europe interpreted all this to mean that an Obama victory would provide it an opportunity to relieve the U.S. of some of its leadership in world affairs.

A similar message emerged from Asia. The notes of congratulations the president-elect received from Chinese leaders also contained what one analyst called "a subtle reminder that they expected Obama to acknowledge their contentious claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan" (RealClearPolitics, Nov. 10, 2008).

From the Middle East, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also quickly expressed his well wishes. In light of the president-elect's campaign promise to meet the Iranian leader without preconditions, Ahmadinejad expressed a desire for the beginning of a new, more open relationship between the two countries—one predicated, of course, on the acknowledgment and acceptance of Iranian power.

The leader of the Palestinian extremist group Hamas, Khaled Meshaal, also joined in. "Yes, we are ready for dialogue with President Obama and with the new American administration with an open mind, on the basis that the American

administration respects our rights and our options,” he said (Sky News, Nov. 8, 2008).

It is worth remembering that, before he was elected, Mr. Obama received notable if unwanted endorsements from North Korea’s Kim Jong Il, Cuba’s Fidel Castro, and number-two Hezbollah leader Sheik Naim al-Kassim (who said a vote for Obama was a step toward “peace with Islam”).

The undeniable truth is, the large part of the world that wants to level the global playing field by knocking America down a peg appears to see an opportunity in an Obama presidency. And this man’s ideas on foreign policy provide those enemies plenty of cause to justify their enthusiasm.

At a political rally in October, Mr. Obama’s running mate, Joe Biden, warned that some outside powers would see the induction of the new president as an opportunity to exploit America’s weaknesses. “Mark my words,” he said. “It will not be six months before the world tests Barack Obama like they did John Kennedy. The world is looking. ... Watch, we’re gonna have an international crisis, a generated crisis, to test the mettle of this guy. I can give you at least four or five scenarios from where it might originate,” he said, listing Russia and the Middle East among the likely provocateurs.

Signs are that these words will prove true—perhaps even sooner than Mr. Biden expects. You can be sure that nations around the world will continue to try to gain power at America’s expense.

Race Relations

What about back home? Can the new president live up to expectations there? Briefly consider one issue.

Seventy percent of Americans think Mr. Obama’s presidency is going to help race relations, according to Gallup. The majority, among all races, saw his victory as a milestone worth celebrating—a true victory for civil rights. He garnered more support from white voters than any Democratic candidate since Jimmy Carter.

Still, some are convinced his victory would have been much larger if not for those whites who voted against him simply because of his skin pigmentation. The idea that Mr. Obama’s win represents the end of racism in America has also been loudly shouted down by some blacks. Their view is essentially, *Why should whites get to decide that there’s no more racism?*

While there were undoubtedly some whites who simply voted against black, this election also saw an opposite and more powerful trend: white people embracing

Mr. Obama because of his race. His candidacy represented a promise to some whites that they could wash away the stigma of racism. Supporting him was a way to prove that they were not racist. Of course, such contradictory thinking isn’t exactly “post-racial,” as they would like to believe.

The fact that 95 percent of blacks supported Mr. Obama was unsurprising, considering that they typically vote almost 90 percent Democrat anyway. Still, it has been interesting to see the swell in black pride the election has created: T-shirts saying, “My president is black” and such. *The Root*, a sister online magazine of the *Washington Post* written by and directed mostly to blacks, warned its readers (with tongue in cheek) not to act too arrogant about the victory: “Don’t go up to every ‘redneck-y’ looking person and gloat. ‘It hurts don’t it? It burrrrrnsss!’” For an election that supposedly wasn’t about race, it has been a huge topic.

Meanwhile, white supremacist groups are outraged by Obama’s election. The Anti-Defamation League tracked a post-election spike in activity on extremist online discussion forums. The main themes it saw included expressions of what a tragedy it is for the nation; predictions of a race war, as whites rise up en masse against the “injustice”; and calls to violence, or hope that the president will somehow be killed.

Even a few wackos who think like this could wreak havoc—particularly given the soaring hopes and increased black pride that the election engendered. Just one lone wolf could set off a racist explosion. Some of these fringers have said they *want* to increase racial tension in the U.S. by attacking Obama. As Fred Burton and Ben West of Stratfor pointed out, “Such violence would be viewed as positive in this thinking, as open combat between whites and blacks would bring their ideology to the forefront” (Nov. 6, 2008).

Who knows exactly how this will play out, but as much as we would like to side with that 70 percent of Americans who are optimistic regarding the future of race relations, plenty of signs suggest their hopes are unwarranted.

Trusting in Man

The Prophet Jeremiah once wrote, “Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.” Yes, *cursed*. So says God.

Many people are looking to the new president-elect as a kind of messiah. Their credulity shows just *how great* the need for a true messiah is! People *do recognize* many of the pressing problems and crushing

concerns of our age. They can see that the present government does not have the answers.

But what they *do not yet see*—as became plain in this election—is that by seeking those answers simply in *another* politician, they are misplacing their hope.

This nation has yet to realize that *there is no hope in man*.

Soon it will be this *new* government grappling with international security concerns that exceed the military’s capabilities, being mistreated by foreign governments, trying desperately to keep the economy from tanking, sinking deeper into debt and so on. It will be *this* government letting the people down.

True Hope

There is a book you really ought to read. It’s called *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and it was written by the late Herbert W. Armstrong. We’ll send you a copy for free. It explains the spectacular history of these two nations in a stirring way, showing their earliest roots and explaining the true cause of their meteoric rise to global prominence. It also shows, with detailed biblical proof, exactly why the *problems* besieging these countries are increasingly overtaking the blessings. And it gives a frank picture, as spelled out in biblical prophecy, of how we can expect these curses to intensify in the time just ahead.

As strong as people’s hope is that this election was a turning point toward a safer, more prosperous future for America, you need to know the *sure reality* that God has foretold and the curses that are prophesied to unfold before us.

But that isn’t the end of the story. For those curses—trying though they will be—will finally teach us the lesson we are so slow to learn: that *God alone can be trusted*, and it is in God alone that we should hope.

He supplies that hope if we look to Him! Oh, how we need that hope in our sick and suffering world. It exists, and it is a *sure hope!* It is the hope of *Christ’s return*—when He will bring to this Earth the justice, unity, prosperity and peace we all long for.

You can read about it in Gerald Flurry’s booklet *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope* (request your free copy). Set your heart on and *believe* in the sure promise of this truly strong, noble and righteous leadership that will guide us to greatness! It will, truly, make your spirit soar. ■



You see the same radicalization in our educational institutions. There is generally only one side taught in most of our colleges and universities.

Who would have thought, even a few years ago, that we would choose such radical people to rule us? This is only the vanguard of our people's moral and spiritual decline. The radical left is leading the way.

What a huge shift! What happens to make people so drastically different from how they were just 10 years ago? Why is America acting like it is in a *trance* while this radicalization takes place? Because the nation is rapidly degenerating before our eyes.

The Point of No Return

At a campaign appearance in Denver, Mr. Obama had a *hundred thousand people* show up. Why are these gigantic crowds so enthusiastic about him? What is really going on here?

It has a lot to do with human emotion, wild imagination—and desperation. The answer is that people are in distress. They are troubled. They see grave problems facing our nation. And they are looking *desperately* for solutions—for a savior. But people never look in the right place.

There is something *unseen* moving these events, influencing these people. It explains why people are acting as they are. The Bible shows us what that unseen factor is.

Revelation 12:9-10 say Satan the devil has been cast down to this Earth. He is in a white-hot rage and is preparing real trouble for America. He is going to destroy this land! And he is going to destroy Britain and the Jewish nation as well, in the *immediate future!*

Thomas Sowell, a black conservative, said during a television interview just before the election, "Sometimes people will say, 'It is just as well to let those guys get in there and discredit themselves, then we'll win in the backlash.' People said that when Hitler was rising in Germany. And many of those people that said that died in concentration camps. ... There is such a thing as *the point of no return.*"

In my article in our September issue, I used the same phrase. AMERICA HAS PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

We are experiencing the end-time prophetic fulfillment of a statement God made about Judah anciently: "But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was **NO REMEDY**" (2 Chronicles 36:16). In other words, they had passed *the point of no return.*

Can we see what this watershed election means for the future of this nation?

Yes, America is deeply flawed. But no matter what you think of this nation, it has kept a lot of tyrants off people's backs, and it did begin with a wonderful, noble idea linked to God and the Bible.

But the Bible says its time is over. We are entering a period called "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).

We have been anticipating this development for a long time. Herbert W. Armstrong foretold of the time we are in now for some 50 years. This is about to affect *you*, whether you realize it or not.

Verses 12 of 2 Chronicles 36 says Jeremiah delivered **WORDS OUT OF GOD'S OWN MOUTH**, and that God expected King Zedekiah and the people to humble themselves before His prophet.

Jeremiah is an end-time book. **IS THERE A WORK THAT IS LITERALLY SPEAKING FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD TODAY?** There is, and that ought to be sobering to all of us!

God expects us to discern when the words are coming from the Spirit of God. But America, Britain and the Jews as nations

have refused to do that. Just as people don't believe in Satan's flaming wrath, you don't see much interest in God today. They have refused to repent—liberals and conservatives—and have forgotten their past history with God. They have passed the point of no return. They have gotten so far from God that they can no longer be reached by words. As a result, they are going to be victims of Satan's raging wrath!

THOSE ARE THE WORDS FROM GOD'S MOUTH, AND SOMEBODY HAS TO STAND UP AND PROCLAIM THEM! LIKE JEREMIAH, SOMEONE MUST SPEAK FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD! That is sobering, but also should fill us with *joy!*

Hope and Change

Amid all this bad news, we must not fail to see the *good news*. The good news is that these dramatic events are a *sign!* Christ said it would be exactly this way just before He returned. He *is* coming!

Lamentations 2:8 shows God is stretching out a line and measuring the destruction of biblical Israel for its rejecting Him. For a short span of time, this is bad news. But it is leading to the return of Jesus Christ to save mankind from extinction and a time when man will finally learn his own futility and then turn to God!

We have gotten to the point now that if Christ didn't intervene, no flesh would be left alive on this Earth (Matthew 24:22). This is what man has achieved. People want to look to *men* to save them, to be their messiah. And look at man's crowning achievement: the potential to obliterate all mankind off the planet! Christ prophesied about that explicitly, but even professing Christians of this world don't talk about what He said! They only talk about the person of Christ.

It is true that you don't see much joy on the Earth today. Mankind is turning to the most radical and risky of governments for change and hope. That will result in the worst kind of change imaginable—but it will also lead to the return of our true Savior, Jesus Christ. Then, God says, He is going to fill this Earth with *His* government, and with real joy and real hope! ■



FOLLOWING The immensity of the crowd at Obama's victory rally was typical of those that greeted him on the campaign trail.

Europe's history is a series of crises and Germany's crucial reactions to them. That history is not over yet. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

in Europe's Economic Crisis

AMERICA'S BANKING CRISIS TORE into Europe with shocking ferocity. Governments from London to Berlin are assessing the carnage and scrambling to prop up collapsing banks. With more failures expected, and unemployment rising, Europe may be facing its gravest crisis since the 1930s. And when Europe is faced with crisis, history says we had better beware: Earthshaking events often soon follow.

The global depression of the 1930s was not just an economic crisis; it was a political and social one too. That disaster sowed the seeds for the rise of radical nationalistic and totalitarian movements around the world. In Russia and elsewhere, it emboldened communism. In Japan, it empowered the Cult of the Emperor. In Italy, Mussolini's fascists rose to the fore, in tandem with the Falangists of Spain. In France, it was the Croix-de-Feu.

In Germany, it was the Nazis.

People were desperate, and leaders with radical solutions gained power.

The current global economic crisis is

creating desperation in Europe again. We need to take notice: The last worldwide financial catastrophe left more than dead banks. The Great Depression only ended when the world went to war. That economic crisis ended in a global bloodbath!

A Series of Economic Shocks

Right now Europe is shaken. After Lehman Brothers fell in America in September, dominoes across the Continent began cascading. UK mortgage lender Bradford & Bingley came crashing down; so did Iceland's three largest banks, eventually plunging the small Nordic nation into bankruptcy negotiations. In Germany, Hypo Real Estate Holdings, the largest commercial property lender in the nation, had to be propped up by the government in order to keep it from falling and taking a whole lot of people with it.

Then, the biggest shock to that date hit Europe. Fortis, the 300-year-old bastion of Flemish finance, narrowly avoided tumbling into oblivion by a Dutch and Belgian nationalization on September 28.

The next day, Dexia, a financial company whose roots stretch back to 1860, was felled and hurriedly propped up again by the French, Belgians and Luxembourgers. In Switzerland, banking giants UBS and Credit Suisse are teetering on the edge, and it is unclear whether even the Swiss government possesses the resources it would take to save them from falling. In Denmark, a host of smaller banks are ready to tip over.

But the dramatic nature of the European crisis was made most clear after Ireland issued what the *Telegraph* called the "most radical bank bailout" in years—a blanket guarantee covering its entire banking sector (Oct. 5, 2008). Irish taxpayers are now responsible for \$400 billion, twice the nation's gross domestic product. Then Germany went one step more radical and announced it would federally guarantee all private savings accounts, thus setting off a rush of other European governments to guarantee their respective financial industries.

The European banking sector resembles the carnage in America. The *Telegraph* claimed the European Central

Bank may be losing control. “The ECB is no longer able to inject liquidity because the money is just coming back to them again,” said Hans Redeker, currency chief at France’s BNP Paribas (Sept. 30, 2008). UK economist Barry Gills explained that “there is no expectation that loaning money will be profitable and not loss-making” (EUobserver, Sept. 30, 2008). As a result, European banks are taking emergency loans from the ECB, but instead of lending it out to cash-strapped individuals and corporations, they are hoarding it to protect themselves—at the safest place possible: in money accounts at the ECB.

In reality, the European economy is

extremism. “We learned from the worldwide economic crisis of the 1920s (1930s) that an economic crisis can result in an incredible threat for all of society,” said Wolfgang Schäuble in an interview with *Der Spiegel*. “The consequences of that depression was Adolf Hitler and, indirectly, World War II and Auschwitz” (Oct. 6, 2008). Schäuble indicated that a similar scenario could happen again if the current economic crisis is not properly managed.

Time after time, it was the pretext of a “crisis”—economic, religious, social, military or otherwise—that opened the door for Europe’s most notorious leaders—Charlemagne, Louis the XIV, Napoleon,

Bismarck—to rush through and grab power, then unite nations and start bloodbaths.

Otto von Bismarck was a master of using “crisis” to further Germany’s advantage. In Chancellor Bismarck’s day, Germany was booming, and consequently had the most modern and most powerful army in Europe. To further his pan-Germanic

goals, and to break the political deadlock between his royalist party and the liberals who were trying to divest the king of his authority, he decided he needed a crisis that would allow him to cement power.

“If there is to be revolution, we would rather make it than suffer it,” he infamously said. So he *created* a crisis with Austria. Through belligerence and malicious international alliances, Bismarck forced his chosen enemy, Austria, into action—action he could exploit. Austria, seeing the looming threat from Germany and knowing that its outdated and cumbersome military would take many weeks to marshal, began mobilizing for defense. Bismarck pounced on this as the opportunity to claim that Austria was about to attack. The resulting Seven Weeks’ War was an astounding and rapid victory for Germany and its modernized army.

“By defeating Austria ... and consolidating all of Germany north of the Main River, [Bismarck] was able to offer the parliamentarians something that was even more precious to them than their

parliamentarianism: a united national state. It was an offer they could not refuse” (Theodore S. Hamerow, *Otto von Bismarck and Imperial Germany*).

The results were startling. The war ended the political conflict. Elections returned a massive royalist victory, and even the *liberals* now supported Bismarck. As prime minister, foreign minister and chancellor of the new German Confederation, Bismarck was conveniently able to rewrite the Prussian (German) Constitution without opposition. Thanks to a homemade “crisis,” Germany had conquered Austria, and Bismarck had conquered Germany.

It didn’t stop there for the Iron Chancellor. To expand Germany’s reach, and his own influence, Bismarck became a master at instigating crises that in turn swayed opposing public opinion to his side. This allowed Germany to pursue militaristic goals and become the dominant power in Europe, crushing France, Denmark and other countries in the process.

The Euro’s Creators Knew This Was Coming

For years, European leaders have been anticipating an economic crisis such as what we see today—a crisis that would allow them to sweep away national sovereignties and consolidate power “for the greater good.”

The European Commission’s top economists warned politicians back when the euro was created that it might not survive a crisis. Analysts have long envisioned that because it has “no EU treasury or debt union to back it up” and a “one-size-fits-all regime of interest rates [that] caters badly to the different needs of Club Med and the German bloc,” the day would come that economic crisis would threaten the EU (*Telegraph*, Oct. 5, 2008).

The fathers of the euro did not dispute this. They knew the European economic union was risky, but they saw it as an acceptable risk—Bismarck might have even called it a desirable one—as a last-ditch option to force the pace of political union. As the *Telegraph* said, “They welcomed the idea of a ‘beneficial crisis.’” And as “ex-Commission chief Romano Prodi remarked, it would allow Brussels to break taboos and accelerate the move to a full-fledged EU economic government” (ibid.).

Europe’s founders now have their “beneficial crisis.” But it will not be *Brussels* that will come out on top of the federalist European superstructure. We can expect that it will be the European nation with the best economy, strongest banking sector, and the largest gold reserves in Europe



PRECEDENT Bismarck (center) is one of many warlike leaders Germany has turned to during a crisis.

faltering. The eurozone economy shrank during the second and third quarters of 2008. France and Germany are already in recession, and the European Commission expects Britain and Spain to enter recession soon too. Meanwhile, eurozone unemployment hit 7.5 percent in August, and Germany is now expected to join France, Italy and Spain in the ranks of those with growing numbers of unemployed.

Historically, Europe, especially Germany, facing an economic crisis is not a good sign.

Bismarck’s Blueprint for Economic Growth

The rise of the Nazis and Hitler’s grab for power following the hyperinflationary years of the Weimar Republic may be the most infamous case of a radical leader vaulting to power to *save* the people from economic problems, but it was hardly without precedent. Comparisons to this time period are already being made—and by German leaders. Germany’s interior minister warned that an economic depression could turn many of his own people to

Tough Times for Germans

THE seriousness of the effect of the global economic crisis on the German and European Union economies is beginning to dawn on the German people.

Having faced recession only a few years ago, Angela Merkel's government presided over an aggressive export-led recovery leading the German economy into what until recently appeared to be a rosy future of market expansion. However, warnings of tough times ahead are now being sounded from Berlin as the global recession begins to bite all across Europe.

Figures released in November showed the economy contracted by 0.5 percent in the third quarter, following a 0.4 percent drop in the previous quarter. The German government's independent panel of economic advisers predicts no growth for 2009. Other economic forecasts portray an even grimmer situation, with the German economy dropping 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008 and in early 2009.

According to a report from Germany's Ministry of Finance, the country's "crucial export sector is likely to hobble the economy at some point. . . . The report said the 'weakness of the global economy has weighed on exports' that contribute significantly to the economy, given that Germany is the world's leading exporter" (Deutsche Welle, Oct. 23, 2008).

The *Bild* newspaper reported that Volkswagen Chairman Ferdinand Piëch expects the German car industry to face a prolonged downturn, declaring that the problems of the capital market are continuing to damage the already weak German economy (Oct. 23, 2008).

Piëch's gloomy outlook follows a slew of cutbacks in the German automotive industry. Deutsche Welle reported that "German luxury carmakers Daimler and BMW said . . . they would temporarily close factories as a result of slumping sales. General Motors' German arm, Opel, has also announced output cuts, as have Volkswagen's Spanish subsidiary Seat and Czech subsidiary Skoda" (Oct. 26, 2008).

Germany's senior citizens are making connections with similar events embedded in their history of the last century. In the October 27 *New York Times*, a front-page report headlined "Some Europeans Prepare for the Worst" cited the fact that "Germany, where many people lost their savings twice in the 20th century, is one of the richest laboratories of European historical scars—welts that help explain the country's fears of inflation."

The *Times* quoted Tony Pierenkemper, a professor of economics at Cologne University, as insightfully declaring that

"History matters. In times of crisis you really get to know a country and its people. Traumatic events are seared into the collective consciousness and often survive into the next generations."

A significant problem arises when this "collective consciousness" still sees demagoguery as the solution to the confusion of economic, social and political turmoil, as is the case with that element within German society that unfortunately is still moved by a persistent Nazi spirit.

The *Trumpet* has been strident in publicizing a warning to the world that the Nazi spirit that arose amid conditions such as we see ripening in Europe today, never died. As Herbert Armstrong declared, it survived to continue its work underground, biding its time for one last resurrection!

History *does* matter!

Certainly, as Professor Pierenkemper declared, "In times of crisis you really get to know a country and its people." To no people more than the German folk does this particularly apply, especially given their nature to seek to impose order over prevailing chaos using military methods. The German mind hates disorder. The rising crisis in Europe is creating a fertile environment for the revival of the Nazi spirit.

Watch Europe! Watch Germany! And watch for the rise of a demagogue who is right now, no doubt, biding his time, behind the scenes, awaiting his moment to be thrown into the limelight by "flatteries" (Daniel 11:21), captivating the minds of a multitude of followers and their leaders, intent on imposing a very Germanic solution on the emerging chaos that is even now rippling across Europe and around the world. It will be a grand "new" economic system that will soon hold the whole world to ransom! (Revelation 13:16-17).

RON FRASER



TROUBLED

European financial group Dexia had to be bailed out twice in two weeks by three different governments.

and maybe the world. It will be the nation that dominates the European Central Bank: *Germany*.

German banking officials have been awaiting the opportunity to assert control over the European economic union. UK author and political economist Rodney Atkinson wrote in the *Salisbury Review* that a member of the German Bundesbank once commented after being warned that the one-size-fits-all euro could cause serious economic problems, "Good, that means we can use the *crisis* to acquire the kind of power which otherwise might not be given to us" (April 2008).

Watch: The European crisis will not only act as a catalyst to unite Europe, but it will also cement the status of its leader, Germany.

A crisis-responsive, German-dominated, united Europe is around the corner—and history shows that is not a good thing.

A Modern-Day Hitler

The Bible prophesies that just such a European superpower—a revival of the ancient Holy Roman Empire, to be led by Germany—will thrust itself onto the world stage during a time of great crisis and drag the world into war again.

In Daniel 8:23, God says, "And in the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of FIERCE COUNTENANCE, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up." This is the political beast—in the tradition of Frederick II, Otto the Great and Hitler—that is about to rise up and astound the world!

Continuing in verse 24: "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." There will be nine other nations or groups of nations in the beast alliance besides Germany, and this German leader, a "king of fierce countenance," will control them all. But when this prophecy

says "not by his own power," it means that the *real* power behind the beast is Satan (Revelation 13:4).

Continue reading Daniel's prophecy to see what this man is going to do and how he will influence the fate of mankind.

This coming leader may already be working behind the scenes.

Continental European leaders are again blaring warnings of threats to Europe's safety and security. Europe is in "crisis." Don't be caught unaware! A new superpower is about to rise. Europe's war-filled history in such circumstances is about to come to life once again.

To get a more detailed picture of where this European crisis is heading, request a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



Global economic crisis is bringing GERMANY and RUSSIA closer together.

BY RON FRASER

A Marriage Made in Adversity

WHEN RUSSIA ATTACKED Georgia last August, the world took notice. “Russia is back,” shouted the headlines. Pundits the world over reacted to the great bear’s new aggressive foreign policy.

One nation expressed particular alarm. For some time, Germany has been seeking alternative energy sources, fearing Russia’s ability to withhold the flow of gas to Europe, especially in winter. Germany had already suffered twice under that threat in the past. It was seeking access to Caucasus energy resources through NATO-friendly Georgia when Putin invaded and shut that vital energy corridor down.

But how suddenly things change on the world scene in this prophesied time of “no more delay”! (Revelation 10:6; Revised Standard Version).

Within just three months of Russia’s aggression against Georgia, the bottom fell out of Russia’s economy, drastically leveling the playing field between the EU—Germany in particular—and Russia.

Russia may be cash rich through the profits it has reaped via its oil and gas bonanza (Russia is spending \$220 billion to shore up its financial services industry), but problems loom as the nation’s principal market dries up because of the oil price crash. Fully two thirds of the total value has been stripped off the nation’s stock market. The volatility of the Russian

market triggered its intermittent closure during October.

“Russian companies need to refinance a total of \$120 billion in corporate borrowings before the end of the year,” the *Economist* wrote. “The likely upshot is that politically well-connected tycoons will be bailed out, while those less favored (and those who have borrowed rashly) will turn from oligarchs to nanogarchs overnight. Those who control the tap of state spending will decide who survives. It will be interesting how that plays out: collecting debts in Russia may start in court, but end in the morgue” (Oct. 16, 2008).

Now, with Putin diverted for the moment from further aggressive foreign-policy moves as he concentrates on the impact of the global financial crisis on Russia’s economy, Germany is strengthening its commercial links with the EU’s eastern neighbor.

“Troubled finances can strain many a relationship,” the *New York Times* wrote. “But the marriage of business interests between Russia and Germany is strengthening even as the global financial crisis deepens. Despite a rapid downturn in both economies, German companies are planning to ramp up long-term investments in Russia” (Oct. 24, 2008).

What should not be forgotten is that German investment in Russia was crucial in the rebuilding of that nation’s economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The economic symbiosis between these two countries continues today despite their occasional political spats. “Russia’s vast natural resources and Germany’s

engineering skills bring the countries together more often than they drive them apart. Today, the relationship is centered on Germany’s thirst for Russian oil and natural gas, as well as on Russia’s need for capital investment and German manufacturing acumen” (ibid.).

German bankers, financiers and corporate moguls have a history of seeking close links with the Russian economy. At a September meeting of these movers and shakers, the *Times* reported, “Many of the hundreds of guests oozed confidence that, despite the conflict in Georgia and the storm in world finance, Russia and Germany would deepen their centuries-old bonds—perhaps even realizing a dream long held by some of binding Russia closer to the West” (ibid.). This report spoke of how, at this meeting, “German managers from Moscow mingled with Russian officials, and East German veterans of Soviet enterprises chatted up younger Russian entrepreneurs.” Despite all the economic tumult, Russia and Germany continue to pursue ever closer ties.

The *Trumpet* has continually reinforced Herbert Armstrong’s prophetic claim that a Russo-German pact—akin to the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop pact agreed between these two nations preparatory to Nazi aggression triggering World War II—would precede Germany’s pursuing its imperialist foreign goals under the umbrella of a united Europe. The conclusion of a trade pact between Russia and Germany will be but a precursor to a strengthening of political ties between the two, short-lived though that arrangement may be. Bible prophecies race toward their conclusion—the replacing of the whole doomed global system through godly intervention.

Events in Germany and Russia are moving quickly toward the fulfillment of Herbert Armstrong’s prophetic vision for both of these nations. ■

Request a free copy of *The Rising Beast—Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans* for more on this highly topical subject.



King Solomon's Mines—Found!

THE STONES SPEAK This ancient mining site, with more than 20 feet of industrial smelting slag, holds as much rich history as it did Israelite copper.

As politicians seek to sign away chunks of Israeli territory, the stones cry out about Israel's link to the land and testify of the Bible's authenticity. BY ROBERT MORLEY

THOSE WHO RELEGATE KING David and his son Solomon to the realm of petty tribal chieftains, or even myth, are having a lot of explaining to do lately. Archaeology is yielding up proof after proof that not only is the Bible an extremely accurate historical document, but that the nation of Israel's tie to the land is irrefutable.

In a stunning discovery reported in October, archaeologists believe they have uncovered one of the lost mines of King Solomon. It is not a little mine either—it

is a massive structure, and, moreover, the find fits perfectly with what the Bible says about events surrounding the time of Israel's richest king.

Where Did Solomon Get His Brass?

The Bible says King Solomon held sway over an area stretching from Egypt to modern-day Iraq. His father, David, was the famous leader who united the tribes and led them in a series of conquests that put Israelite soldiers on the banks of the Euphrates River, the site of the most powerful cities in the ancient world, including

Babylon and Ur.

But it was King Solomon who was responsible for solidifying David's empire and turning the military victories into vassal regions that sent tribute of all kinds to Israel's capital city, Jerusalem. The Bible records that massive caravans of wealth flowed into Israel from as far away as Ethiopia, and from such renowned personalities as the Queen of Sheba.

The mining site now being investigated is part of a complex that incorporated 100 structures including a mine, a smelter, and a large fortress to protect it. The area,

located 30 miles south of the Dead Sea and 30 miles north of the famed ruins of Petra in modern-day Jordan, is said to be the largest Iron Age copper factory in the Middle East. The site was so rich in copper that mining took place there for hundreds of years.

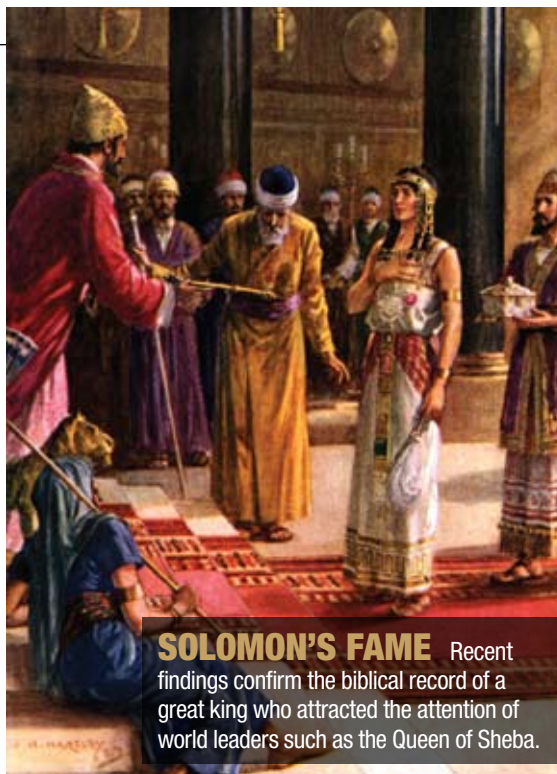
For Bible scholars, the discovery of the mine is important because it reveals a possible source for the stockpiles of brass King Solomon is said to have used in the construction of the first temple (1 Kings 7). More famous for the gold, silver and gems that flowed into the kingdom, the Bible says Solomon acquired such quantities of brass that it became a common material, not worthy of being enumerated: “The [brass] vessels were *unnumbered ... because they were exceedingly numerous*, and it would have been an endless thing to keep the account of them; neither was the weight of the brass, when it was delivered to the workmen, searched or enquired into; so honest were the workmen, and such great plenty of brass they had, that there was no danger of wanting” (*Matthew Henry Commentary*).

Although the Bible doesn’t specifically mention where the copper, which was used to make brass, came from, 1 Kings 7:46 relates that the molding of the copper into temple vessels was done “[i]n the plain of Jordan ... in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarthan.” Logistically it makes sense that the copper would have been sourced from the closest available mines. Is it possible this is the very mine that supplied the copper used for the temple vessels, the ornaments and the two massive pillars, named Boaz and Jachin, that stood on the porch of the temple? Some scientists are now beginning to think so.

Fresh Evidence

Back when the mine was first discovered in the 1930s, archaeologists dated it to the early 10th century B.C., the time of King David and Solomon. In the 1970s, new researchers redated the site to at least 300 years after the reign of Solomon, assigning a new date that fit neatly with the prevailing belief that there were no complex societies in Israel or Jordan (biblical Edom) capable of building fortresses and monuments or other technologically advanced construction, such as a large Iron Age mining operation, during the time of David and Solomon.

It’s hard to argue with stones, however.



New technology and further digging is proving that not only was the mine fully operational during the time of Solomon but was most likely also functioning during the time of David.

“This is the most hotly debated period in biblical archaeology today,” said archaeologist Thomas E. Levy of the University of California–San Diego, who reported the new radiocarbon dates for the copper smelting operation in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We’re not answering the question” of whether King Solomon actually existed, he said, “but we’ve brought empirical data that shows we have to reevaluate those questions” (*Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 28, 2008).

According to archaeologist William Schniedewind of the University of California–Los Angeles, so far, “The scientific evidence seems to be going in [Levy’s] favor” (*ibid.*).

And although all of the most recent results have not yet been released, much of what has been made public is quite compelling.

Among the evidence unearthed is charcoal, a product of the wood burned to produce heat for the smelting of copper. Two years ago, after dating the charcoal, Levy reported radiocarbon dates that indicated that mining was taking place in the 10th century B.C.—the time of David and Solomon. His findings ignited criticism from several Bible skeptics, including Tel Aviv University archaeologist Israel Finkelstein, who said it was impossible for these

early dates to be correct because no nearby habitations dated to that time period had been found.

So Levy set out to collect more data. His team excavated through a 20-foot layer of slag near the center of the site, carefully documenting the locations of each bit of charcoal and other artifacts that were found. The charcoal was then dated by an Oxford University physicist. The results are very intriguing.

Artifacts From Egypt

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, “the bottom stratum of the site revealed a period of extensive mining that lasted for about 40 years around 940 B.C. and produced 9 feet of slag. There was then a *major disruption* in mining about 910 B.C., followed by resumption in the 9th century B.C.” (*ibid.*, emphasis mine).

Here is where it gets really interesting for Bible critics.

In the layers associated with the disruption, Levy’s team found an Egyptian scarab from the Eastern Nile region and an amulet linked to the Egyptian goddess Mut. And guess which general time period the layers and finds associated with the mining disruption correlate with? The period, as recorded in 1 Kings 14:25, in which the Bible says Israel and Judah were invaded by Shishak, the Egyptian pharaoh, who began raiding and conquering much of Palestine beginning around 925 B.C., after Solomon’s death. And secular records in Egypt also seem to confirm this, documenting that Shishak’s troops occupied the city of Hazevah, which is about 8 miles from the mining complex.

So now skeptics are left with an advanced mining center, complete with charcoal-layered mining slag piles and artifacts that confirm the biblically recorded invasion of Israel by Egypt—and all dated to a time period during which conventional theory says it shouldn’t have existed.

A Series of Discoveries

Actually, when you start counting, it is pretty astounding the number of Bible-confirming archaeological discoveries that have emerged over the past couple of years.

Back in 2005, in an earth-shattering announcement, archaeologist Eilat Mazar revealed the discovery of King David’s palace—located just as the Bible described it. Excavations are still ongoing, but the many exciting discoveries include bullae belonging to biblical personages and, most

recently, the secret tunnel that David's army commander Joab most likely used in conquering Jerusalem (article, below).

In 2007, the wall built by Nehemiah was found. This discovery likewise set off a firestorm of activity among Bible skeptics who had continually pointed to the lack of archaeological evidence supporting the book of Nehemiah's claim that the returning exiled Jews rebuilt Jerusalem's city wall and restored the gates of the temple.

In October 2008, the Associated Press reported that another ongoing dig at a site now dated to King David's time, near the modern Israeli city of Beit Shemesh, is yielding up additional proof that Israel really did become a regional power under King David and Solomon. The excavation of the massive fortified stronghold has offered up what may be the oldest known Hebrew writings—also dated to the time of King David—giving further evidence of

a language and culture much more highly developed than Bible minimalists admit.

The archaeological proof keeps coming and coming: preserved beehives, the tomb of Herod the Great, Jezebel's royal seal.

It really is sad, then, to see so many Israeli politicians considering turning over ownership of the land that is not only rightfully Israel's in a modern sense, but in a historical and religious sense too. And in exchange for nothing but paper promises of peace with a people that for the most

part aren't interested in peace.

As Dr. Eilat Mazar once said, "In the end, the stones will speak for themselves."

The stones *are* speaking for themselves! They are crying out in anguish—in testimony—against a people that seem to so lightly value the land God gave them and their forefathers. But today, few are listening. And that too is prophesied in Scripture.

The detailed accuracy of the Bible is continually being proven correct—word by word, stone by stone, day by day. ■

Did King David Conquer Jerusalem Using This Tunnel?

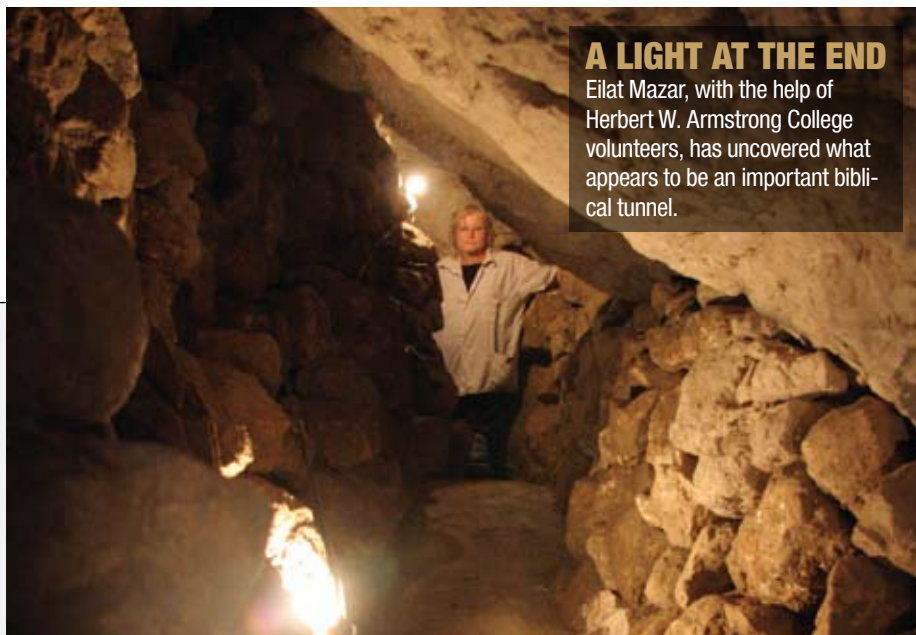
BEFORE he united ancient Israel under one, undivided throne, King David had to conquer the Jebusite stronghold on a hill later renamed the City of David, located in the modern-day city of Jerusalem. The Jebusites, the Bible relates, were so confident in their defense against David's attack that they taunted the mighty king, saying the blind and lame could sufficiently defend the city (2 Samuel 5:6).

This angered David. He challenged his top military generals by offering command of his army to the warrior who could successfully capture the fortified stronghold. The Bible says Joab coordinated the sneak attack on the Jebusite city and that a water conduit—*tsinnor* in Hebrew—factored into the successful conquest (see 2 Samuel 5:8).

For the past four years, one of Israel's top archaeologists, Dr. Eilat Mazar—with hands-on help from Herbert W. Armstrong College students—has been digging up ruins left from the ancient City of David. In 2008, Mazar accidentally discovered an opening to a tunnel dating to the 10th century B.C. while excavating around the top half of the famous Stepped Stone Structure, also known as Area G.

"The tunnel's characteristics, date and location testify with high probability that the water tunnel is the one called *tsinnor* in the story of the King David's conquest of Jerusalem," said Mazar, who is working on behalf of the Shalem Center and the Ir David Foundation and under the academic auspice of the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Layers of debris dating to the end of the First Temple period (sixth century B.C.) had buried the entrance to the tunnel, Mazar said. After stumbling upon the opening toward the end of her fourth excavation season, Mazar soon discovered a tunnel wide enough for one person to pass through, which runs north-south and measures 50 meters in length so far. Both ends, at this point, are blocked by debris and fallen



A LIGHT AT THE END

Eilat Mazar, with the help of Herbert W. Armstrong College volunteers, has uncovered what appears to be an important biblical tunnel.

stones. She says that further excavation will require the construction of proper reinforcements.

The tunnel walls follow a natural cavity in the bedrock that runs along the upper part of the eastern slope of the City of David. Three years ago, directly above the tunnel, atop the hill, Mazar discovered a Large Stone Structure, which she later identified as King David's palace (2 Samuel 5:11). She believes the tunnel was integrated into its construction and might have been used to channel water to a man-made pool built on the southeast side of the palace, referred to in Nehemiah 3:16.

"Toward the end of the First Temple period (sixth century B.C.), the tunnel was converted to an escape passage, perhaps used in a manner similar to King Zedekiah's escape during the Babylonian siege (2 Kings 25:4)," Dr. Mazar wrote. "During this phase, additional walls were constructed in order to prevent the possibility of anyone entering the tunnel from the slope of the hill and to prevent penetration of debris inside the tunnel. Complete oil lamps were found on the ground of the tunnel, characteristic of the end of the First Temple period. These lamps testify to the tunnel's last use."

Once the Babylonians laid siege upon the city in 585 B.C., however, the tunnel was lost from world view and forgotten—until now.

In an interview with the *Trumpet*, Mazar said the discovery was "completely unexpected." And since it was found near the end of a digging season, she believes there is much more to be learned about the passageway. "We have a general knowledge of the tunnel," she said, "but we are far from having a complete picture."

She hopes to excavate the area further during her next phase of digging, tentatively set for some time in 2009.

STEPHEN FLURRY

The Strong-Dollar Illusion

The truth behind the bounce in the greenback

BY ROBERT MORLEY

IT HAS GAINED IN RELATION TO THE once mighty euro and the Swiss franc. It has humbled the British pound, the Canadian dollar and the Russian ruble. It has made the Asian tigers look like pussycats.

Once again, the U.S. dollar appears to be everyone's favorite currency. Surprising as it may be, it has experienced its best gains in 16 years against the currencies of six major U.S. trading partners. But is it a sign of the end of the economic crisis and the return of America's economic health as one might be led to believe?

Typically, the value of the dollar is a good barometer as to the health of the underlying economy. Over the past several years, the dollar has fallen, accurately indicating the overall deterioration in U.S. economic health.

Today, America's biggest financial institutions are insolvent and failing. The government is spending billions propping up everything from banks and insurance companies to auto manufacturers. Commercial real estate is following residential real estate down the sinkhole, consumer spending is drying up, and the global economy, led by America, is on the verge of breaking down. Still, the dollar is soaring. What gives?

It has now become evident that the developing world may be falling apart even faster than the U.S. This has led to the collapse of what is termed the carry trade. The carry trade is the process by which investors borrow money in low-yielding, weak currencies, such as the yen and U.S. dollar, and invest in high-yielding currencies that might appreciate in value. The carry trade had been very profitable over the past few years as the dollar and yen tumbled. But now that emerging markets are facing collapse, investors are trying to move their investments out of pesos, reals, forints and won, and back into America (and also Japan). This drives up demand

and thus the value of the dollar. And as the global banking crisis/credit crunch has unfolded, it has also created a massive scramble for dollars as banks have reined in lending, cut credit lines, and desperately tried to raise reserves.

These factors have created the perfect environment to send the dollar soaring. In essence, the severity of the crisis spooked people back into the most liquid, easily tradable asset available: the U.S. dollar—despite the fact that the U.S. has a compromised economy and dying financial system.

But in reality, a strong dollar resulting from market panic, as opposed to economic fundamentals, is a recipe for disaster. It hurts the economy by making foreign-made goods cheaper for American consumers and businesses, and U.S.-made goods more expensive for foreigners. U.S. exporters are about to get doubly hammered by a slowing global economy and volatile exchange rates. The trade deficit will shoot up, and hundreds of billions of dollars per year will leave the country through trade.

So what will be the government's solution? Each time America has been faced with an economic crisis in the recent past—September 11, the dot-com bust, the Long Term Capital Management failure—it has inflated its way out by goosing the money supply and devaluing the currency.

The stimulus plan proposed by the president is

hardly different from a Zimbabwe policy. America is broke. To get more money, the government must either borrow it from foreigners, or print it. The first solution burdens us with more debt, the second with inflation. Both undermine the economy.

Since borrowed money eventually needs to be repaid, politicians may see creating money as the only realistic way to pay for America's liabilities. Already the Federal Reserve is working overtime to expand the money supply, increasing lending and slashing interest rates. In fact, as of November 6, total Federal Reserve credit had increased to \$2.108 trillion—more than *doubling in just eight weeks*. "We have never before seen such an increase in Federal Reserve credit in such a short time as we are presently seeing," says economic analyst Ron Muzzy. Combined with the fact that the Fed has now slashed interest rates to 1 percent, America could eventually be in for an inflationary nightmare.

CNNMoney.com even said that a rate cut to nearly 0 percent, as in Japan during the 1990s, is no longer out of the question. "There's a hesitation to do it because it looks like desperation," said David Wyss, chief economist with Standard & Poor's. "But they're getting desperate" (Oct. 28, 2008).

According to Muzzy, the reason America isn't already experiencing inflationary horror is that the Federal Reserve's money creation has so far been overwhelmed by the massive losses on Wall Street.

So for now, the world continues to buy dollars—mostly for lack of a better option (although a truly unified European power bloc will soon provide an alternative). The dollar's strength, however, will prove temporary. Just as investors have panicked into the dollar, people will just as quickly panic out. The only question is how soon. ■



How Political Correctness Wrecked the Economy

What started as an attempt to help low-income minorities ended up hurting them—and pushing America to the brink of financial ruin. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

WHILE THERE'S PLENTY OF blame to go around for America's mortgage meltdown, one cause that few are talking about is the hazardous lending practices the federal government actually encouraged throughout the 1990s in order to placate activists who criticized mortgage lenders for discriminating against minorities.

In 1992, for example, the Federal Reserve Board released the results of a study that found, among other things, that blacks were twice as likely as whites to be denied mortgages. The chairman of Freddie Mac said the study was "very disturbing." He concluded, "It is incumbent upon the industry to work together to eliminate any discriminatory lending practices, whether they are deliberate or inadvertent" (*Washington Post*, Oct. 28, 2008). The chairman of Fannie Mae expressed similar concerns.

On Capitol Hill, Rep. Kweisi Mfume, a Democrat from Maryland, said the study proved that lending agencies were racist. "People are being discriminated against by mortgage lenders based on the color of their skin," he said. "Banks have a long way to go for meeting the legitimate needs of neighborhoods" (Reuters, May 8, 1992).

Liberal activists were angry too. One representative of ACORN—an association of community organizations for low-income people—said, "Once again we are presented with overwhelming evidence that discrimination is alive and well in our banking system." She asked, "What is the government going to do about it?" (*Washington Post*, op. cit.).

As it turns out, the government did a whole lot. But instead of concentrating on any individual instances of credit-worthy minorities being discriminated against, it enforced sweeping policies designed to arm-twist banks into making loans available to practically anyone—even those with horrible credit ratings. As the *New York Times* reported in 1993, "Shamed and embarrassed by their poor

lending records, mortgage lenders are finally opening their doors a little wider to poor people and members of minority groups seeking home loans." Later in the article, the *Times* wrote, "Many lenders have a second review process in which applications from minority-group members that are denied are looked at a second time by superiors, who are charged with finding a way to approve the loan" (Aug. 30, 1993, emphasis mine throughout).

In 1994, Fannie Mae—at the time, America's largest source of mortgage money—announced that it would commit \$1 trillion to help finance 10 MILLION homes for low-income families before the end of the 1990s. That "investment," the *Christian Science Monitor* reported, was "the largest commitment ever made by a public or private corporation" (April 6, 1994).

Besides pumping trillions of dollars into low-income housing programs, the government aggressively went after banks it considered to be discriminatory. "The Clinton administration," the *Economist* reported on Aug. 30, 1997, "clearly smells racism in the lending process." According to the article, the Department of Justice's "tough enforcement of anti-discrimination laws" prompted lending institutions to fight back in order to clear their names. Banks defended themselves by pointing to the sharp increase in black homeownership. Indeed, a number of banks were putting themselves at great risk, the article pointed out, by making loans to minority applicants with dodgy credit ratings.

By the end of President Clinton's administration, many of his supporters viewed his radical reforms within the lending community as one of his great accomplishments. The *New York Times* praised him for making "homeownership among minorities a priority" (Nov. 14, 1999). The *Los Angeles Times* called it "one of the hidden success stories of the Clinton era." According to the *L.A. Times*, "In the great housing boom of the 1990s, black and Latino homeownership has surged to the highest

level ever recorded. The number of African Americans owning their own home is now increasing nearly three times as fast as the number of whites; the number of Latino homeowners is growing nearly five times as fast as that of whites" (May 31, 1999).

Not surprisingly, the housing market enjoyed explosive growth during the last half of the 1990s and the first few years of this decade. And with practically everyone approved for a mortgage, the demand for homes skyrocketed, which simultaneously drove real-estate prices sky high. And as long as home prices rose, everyone felt secure inside the temporary bubble of prosperity. Lending institutions made money hand over fist by accumulating new loans and then reselling them to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. They, in turn, made huge profits by bundling their loans into securities and selling them on the bond market.

Irresponsible homeowners were happy too—even if victimized by predatory lenders who lured them into the scam with "subprime" loans that seemed reasonable up front, but later ballooned into huge payments, loaded with interest. For banks, it was worth the foreclosure risk as long as the housing market surged. And for the delirious buyers, it made sense too. Even if they couldn't make their payments, they could at least sell their homes for a profit—or perhaps take out a second mortgage on the home's appreciation in value.

Even those with good credit wanted a piece of the real-estate pie. In hopes of building equity in the overheated market, many hurriedly upgraded their living arrangement or purchased a second home before prices skyrocketed further. Those who stayed put could also get in on the action by seeking a line of credit or a second mortgage in order to remodel the house or buy a boat.

During the carnival-like joyride, a few politicians, economists and journalists sounded the alarm. We certainly did. But no one

listened.

And so, the disease continued to spread.

In March 2000, fresh off his \$1 trillion commitment to low-income homeownership during the 1990s, Fannie Mae Chairman Franklin D. Raines pledged \$2 trillion in loans for minorities, single moms, new immigrants and, according to the *Washington Post*, “other undeserved consumers” (March 16, 2000).

Everyone deserved a house!

According to the *Post*, Raines said it would be a “stretch” for Fannie Mae to meet its \$2 trillion goal, but by developing “new, more flexible ways to assess the creditworthiness of borrowers, especially those who have had troubled credit histories,” he felt good about its chances.

As challenging as it was to dole out that many more bad loans, Fannie Mae managed to pull it off! It did so by removing the few remaining credit requirements that had survived the 1990s. Even the leftist *New York Times* foresaw a potentially catastrophic end to such reckless, government-regulated deregulation. “In moving, even tentatively, into this new area of lending,” the *Times* warned toward the end of 1999, “Fannie Mae is taking on significantly more risk, which may not pose any difficulties during flush economic times. But the government-subsidized corporation may run into trouble in an economic downturn, prompting a government rescue similar to that of the savings and loan industry in the 1980s” (Sept. 30, 1999).

Now that the housing bubble has popped, commentators, economists, academics, activists and especially politicians have laid blame on just about

anything and everyone—government deregulation, greed on Wall Street, “golden parachutes” for CEOs to bail out of failing companies, President Bush’s bad economic policies, Democrats like Barney Frank who assured Americans a few years ago that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were not facing a financial crisis, Republicans who warned of a financial meltdown at that same time but who failed to take any meaningful action at a time when they controlled Congress and the White House—and on and on it goes.

To be sure, there’s plenty of blame to go around. But if you want to talk about root causes of

the financial crisis, a conversational centerpiece has to be POLITICAL CORRECTNESS run amok. The seemingly noble idea of removing even the most basic mortgage underwriting standards in order to dramatically increase the chances of minority homeownership—not to mention loans for single moms, new immigrants, etc.—resulted in the biggest housing bubble in history.

Now, after shattering the entire mortgage and lending industry after just 15 years, the housing collapse is dragging the U.S. ECONOMY—and perhaps the entire global financial system—down with it. ■



WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

IN SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS, Austria's far right had its best performance since World War II, with the two leading far-right parties winning a combined 28 percent of the popular vote (article, page 23).

Some German politicians now fear that their country could follow the same path of extremism. The global financial crisis could breed political extremism in **Germany**, the country's finance minister, Peer Steinbrück, said on Nov. 11, 2008. If Germans blame unrestrained capitalism for their woes and lose faith in the economic system, he said, they could turn to far-right parties. With Germany in its worst recession for 12 years, this is a real concern (article, page 6).

Europe continues to take cautious steps toward its military goals. In November, the European Union launched its first-ever naval mission off the coast of **Somalia** to protect UN shipments and commercial vessels from pirates. Twelve EU defense ministers also pledged to support the European Air Transport Fleet. This would ease logistical problems faced by Europe's military and humanitarian missions worldwide by having members of the group provide planes for missions and resources to maintain the fleet.

In October, the British defense secretary backed French plans to create an EU army. **French President Nicolas Sarkozy** wants European nations to commit to creating a force capable of deploying 60,000 troops with naval and air support within 60 days. **German**



Chancellor Angela Merkel and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier have also both publicly called for an EU army.

Meanwhile, Europe continues to expand its power in the Balkans. In October, Germany announced it would put up €7 million to help **Kosovo** train and equip its own security force. The EU also announced in November that **Croatia** is still on track to join the Union by the end of 2009 despite the fact that an annual review highlighted the high levels



of corruption and organized crime in the country. The report also suggested that **Serbia** could begin the formal application process in 2009, though it was critical of **Turkey's** prospects. Europe is consolidating its conquests in the Balkans.

Poland has adopted a detailed timetable to change its currency, the zloty, to the euro in 2012. It is the credit crisis that, in part, is driving Poland to the euro. "The world crisis

has shown that it's safer to be with the strong, among the strong and to have influence on the decisions of the strong," Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk explained. Watch for Europe to use the credit crisis to accrue more political and economic power.

MIDDLE EAST

A REPORT RELEASED BY the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point on Oct. 13, 2008, details how **Iran** has a dual strategy in **Iraq** of providing military aid to Iraqi militia while giving political support to Iraqi political parties. The report notes that "Iran's two-pronged approach obscured the importance of Iran's political influence in Iraq by focusing the international media and U.S. policymakers on Iran's lethal aid to militia groups."

Iran's political influence has come to bear in the year-long negotiations between the U.S. and Iraq over the Status of

Forces Agreement (SOFA) that would detail the terms of a U.S. military presence in Iraq after the end of 2008, when the UN mandate expires. During most of 2008, Iran worked hard to undermine support for the security pact. As part of its efforts, Tehran used its Shiite allies in Baghdad to repeatedly delay the signing of the SOFA. At the same time, Iran sought to turn Iraqi Shiite public opinion against the agreement through the influence of Shiite clerics.

On November 16, however, the Iraqi cabinet approved the SOFA, which was then sent to parliament for ratification. The day after the cabinet's approval, in an about-face the head of Iran's judiciary praised the agreement. "The change in tone," wrote Stratfor, "suggests that the agreement has been tweaked to allay Iranian concerns, and it indicates a desire in Tehran to engage in fruitful negotiations with Washington. ... To have Iran to give a nod to the SOFA

Venezuela
Colombia
Ecuador
Brazil
Peru
Argentina



at this stage in the game, the United States surely must have offered Tehran something in return” (Nov. 17, 2008).

To get the Iraqis to sign the pact, the U.S. had to make significant compromises. Under the terms of the agreement, the U.S. cannot use Iraqi territory as a launch pad for any attacks on neighboring countries (a key Iranian demand); Iraqi authorities have extensive control over the operations of U.S. forces; U.S. forces must withdraw from Iraq by Jan. 1, 2012, and from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009; judicial immunity for foreign contractors and U.S. soldiers in Iraq is eliminated; and the Iraqis will have the authority to inspect incoming and outgoing U.S. parcels.

Meanwhile, Tehran welcomed the election of Barack Obama as the next U.S. president. Iran expects the policies of an Obama administration to allow it to strengthen its position in the region. Back in June 2003, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry asked whether the U.S.’s removal of Saddam Hussein had “cleared the way for Shiite Iran to rule

over Shiite Iraq.” Keep watching as this scenario comes closer to fruition.

Israel’s Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni called for a snap general election on October 26 after the collapse of coalition talks with the Shas political party. The announcement came a month after Israeli President Shimon Peres appointed Livni to form a government to replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who resigned amid corruption allegations. Elections have been set for February 10.

On October 9, in the midst of a worsening insurgency in **Afghanistan**, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the U.S. would be open to negotiation with the Taliban if it meant an end to the war in that country. The previous week, Kabul publicly offered to hold peace talks with the Taliban. This basically is what the Taliban has been fight-



ing for the past seven years: to bring the West to the point of capitulation. This development is a shocking example of what happens when a nation’s pride in its power has been broken (Leviticus 26:19).

Next door in **Pakistan**, the Islamist insurgency continues to escalate also. On September 20, **the biggest terrorist bomb ever in that country exploded in Islamabad**, killing 53 people and wounding more than 250. A suicide bomber rammed a truck containing a 1,300-pound bomb into the security gates of the Marriott Hotel,

leaving a 24-foot crater and destroying the entire front section of the hotel. While the government vowed to go on the offensive against the terrorists, it is unlikely to be too effective seeing as the populace blames Islamabad’s cooperation with the U.S. for the Islamist insurgency.

Meanwhile, relations between Washington and Islamabad are tense, exacerbated by U.S. cross-border raids into Pakistan and Pakistani forces firing at U.S. helicopters. Tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan are likely to increase.

ASIA

Russia welcomed America's new president-elect with **President Dmitry Medvedev** announcing the day after the election that it will deploy Russian missiles near the Polish border. Europeans are growing nervous as they realize that the U.S. can no longer guarantee their security. As European nations come to grips with this fact, they will rise up to unite into a military power capable of defending itself from eastern aggression.

The Chinese responded to Obama's election more diplomatically, but still made it clear that they hope to use America's regime change for their own ends. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told journalists in Beijing on November 5 that the Chinese government urges the Obama administration to oppose Taipei independence and to cease all arms sales to **Taiwan**. One of Obama's senior foreign-policy advisers has already claimed that the incoming administration fully plans to continue America's policy of opposing Taiwanese independence. The Taiwanese are going to be forced into the Chinese mold because America lacks the will to defend them.



India successfully launched its first lunar mission on October 22 as **the Chandrayaan 1 spacecraft blasted into orbit.**

This launch is regarded as a major step for India as it seeks to keep pace with

the other space-faring nations of Asia. As the global economic crisis drives these Asian nations closer together, expect increased cooperation between their national

space agencies. Senior Chinese scientist Ouyang Ziyuan has already called for more cooperation between Asia's space powers. They realize that dominance of outer space leads to dominance on Earth. Russia, **China**, India and **Japan** are evolving into a gargantuan space alliance powerful enough to act as a counterbalance to the space programs of both America and Europe.

This developing alliance will be hastened by the growing global economic turmoil. One Russian government official stated in late October that his country is now enacting a plan wherein it will shift its focus on foreign trade from Europe to Asia. "China and India in future will replace Europe as Russia's main



dent Felipe Calderon. About 4,000 people have died in drug violence this year.

Ties between Europe and South America are strengthening. **Brazil's** Defense Minister Nelson Jobim announced in September that a formal deal with **France** to develop Brazil's nuclear submarine program may be signed by the end of 2008. Paris also offered to help **Venezuela** develop a civilian nuclear power program, and the French foreign minister even suggested using Venezuela as a go-between in discussions with Iran.

Not content to leave Venezuela to European

trading partners," he said. "They are key markets which have been growing more dynamically than the European Union" (*The Hindu*, Oct. 29, 2008). Russia is also pushing for closer economic relations with former Soviet allies **Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan** and **Mongolia** in an attempt to form a regional power bloc insulated from the economic ups and downs of the rest of the world. Request a free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy* for more information on this emerging trade bloc.

influence, Russia agreed to loan \$1 billion to Caracas for defense materials and also offered to help it develop nuclear power. Currently, only two South American countries have nuclear power plants: **Argentina** and Brazil. Now, two major powers are offering to develop nuclear power in a country whose leader regularly refers to the U.S. as the evil empire and its president as Hitler.

After failed economic negotiations between the EU and Latin America's Andean Community, **Colombia, Ecuador** and **Peru** have each announced they will pursue individual bilateral trade agreements with the EU. Ultimately, these Latin American countries will establish much stronger relationships with the EU; whether those relationships are formed by individual nations or larger trade blocs remains to be seen, but from Europe's perspective, there is an advantage to having several small powers becoming dependent on it rather than having to deal with a single, stronger regional bloc.

Venezuela's president, Hugo Chavez, may find it hard to retain power if the price

LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

TWO MEN THAT STRATFOR called "the brains behind **Mexico's** operations against drug cartels" **were killed in a plane crash in November.** The loss of Interior Minister Juan Camilo Mourino and former Deputy Attorney General Luis Santiago Vasconcelos was a major blow to Mexican Presi-



of oil continues to drop. Venezuela is especially dependent on oil revenue, as it accounts for more than 90 percent of its exports and over half of government expenditure. The Public Policy Center in Caracas said that while there is no chance of an economic collapse this year, “sooner or later the bomb will explode.”

Brazil and Argentina are also facing economic problems as a result of the global financial crisis. Bloomberg reported November 12 that Brazil’s currency had depreciated 30 percent in the previous three months. Argentina’s debt is rising to nearly the levels that caused its 2002 default, and increasing nationalization prevents the private sector from recovering from economic problems on its own.

“An orgy of brutality” across **Zimbabwe** has killed any hope of dialogue between President Robert Mugabe’s Zanu-PF party and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai’s Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), according to the MDC. Also, political instability in **South Africa** continues to mount as the African National Congress (ANC), having ousted President Thabo Mbeki, threatens his supporters with banishment also.

ANGLO-AMERICA

America’s financial ship has struck shoal after shoal. In early October, legislators passed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, conceived by Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson. The fact that it was the largest government intervention since the Great Depression helped inspire fears that taxpayers were financing a \$700 billion play-

ground for corruption. Politicians insisted that safeguards were in place (450 pages’ worth) and the \$700-billion bad-mortgage fund would keep the nation from sinking into economic oblivion. On November 12, Paulson buried the idea and said the Treasury would instead use the \$700 billion to recapitalize banks and financial institutions, including the financing divisions of American automakers, which themselves are now pleading for government money. Stunned legislators called it a dishonest “bait and switch.” Down in the engine room, the U.S. stock market has rocked wildly between 300, 500 and 800 point swings and remains largely unbuoyed by the government’s multibillion-dollar flotation device—further proof that no quick fix can salvage a financial system founded on the unsound fundamentals of credit and debt and built by greed, gambling and dishonesty.

Other bulkheads of the economy, including manufacturing and jobs, are also suffering. In October, government statistics showed that new orders for American manufactured goods fell a

surprisingly steep 4 percent, and in November the Labor Department reported 1.2 million jobs lost since the beginning of 2008, equating to unemployment hitting a 14-year high.

In November, **homosexuals and their supporters went on the march** after citizens voted “yes” on a ballot to overturn the California Supreme Court ruling that legalized homosexual “marriages” in California. Similar bans also passed in Florida and Arizona. This trend does not signal a moral renaissance in America, however. Besides an even more morally liberal House of Representatives and Senate being simultaneously elected, another state supreme court legalized homosexual “marriage”: Connecticut. At the same time, angry homosexuals, who might otherwise be lauding “the will of the people” if the vote had gone their way, staged protests day after day throughout California after the people overturned the state supreme court ruling. They have also filed three lawsuits asking the state supreme court to overturn the people’s decision—which overturned the state supreme

court decision. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said, “It’s unfortunate, obviously, but it’s not the end. I think that we will again maybe undo that, if the court is willing to do that, and then move forward from there.”

In November, Britain’s *Telegraph* newspaper reported that a leaked government report states that **Britain** continues to be a high-priority target for terrorists aligned with al Qaeda. In particular, the report says, Britain faces a threat from British nationals, including Muslim converts.

And finally, two teams of American astronomers published the first photographs in history of planets orbiting stars other than our sun. One planet, Fomalhaut b, 25 light-years away, was photographed by the Hubble telescope. Three others were snapped using telescopes in Hawaii. Although America, Britain and the rest of the world face violent times ahead, these are temporary. Man’s ultimate potential—which lies with the stars and their planets—is not. To learn more about that future, request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*.



What Is Your Child's Attitude Really Like?

Three of the most important yet overlooked keys to child rearing

BY GERALD FLURRY AND WAYNE TURGEON

WHAT IS YOUR CHILD'S ATTITUDE LIKE? IS HE generally a happy and joyful child? Or is he moody and unhappy? Does he honor Dad and Mom?

A child is a wonderful blessing from God (Psalm 128:3). In fact, your child has an amazing potential beyond what you probably realize.

We must work with our children so God can work with them as adults. We certainly have our work cut out for us, as human beings have a carnal nature (Romans 8:7).

Let's examine three basic ways to properly develop a child's attitude.

LOVE

WE MUST LOVE THEM FIRST. 1 JOHN 4:19 SAYS, "We love [God], because he first loved us." The Father loves us first. It follows that we as parents have to love our children first. You cannot force your child to love you. You do it by loving him first.

As fathers and mothers, do we lead the family by developing a strong bond with our children? There has to be a loving bond between the child and his parents in order to have a successful family relationship.

The attitude we develop in our child, whether good or bad, will come back to us in the future.

The Bible prophesied of an Elijah whose job was to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:5-6). That is a beautiful goal for our families.

If all you do as a parent is discipline your child without love, then you will raise a hostile child who, when grown, will not be *turned* to Dad and Mom. If the dad leads the family in love, then the

children are more likely to return that love.

Our children truly belong to God (Psalm 127:3). He gives the privilege to have children. He expects those of us who have them to rear them so they will turn to Him spiritually when they are grown. To do this, we must make it easy for our children to love us. It all gets back to building a loving family relationship just like the love God the Father and Jesus Christ have for us. This does not mean being permissive. Real love is always based on God's law. That means government.

TEACH

THE SECOND WAY TO PROPERLY DEVELOP a child's attitude is by teaching through example and instruction.

For instance, when we as adults have a problem, we should go to God and ask for help, seek the answer, and then take action, fervently putting the answer into practice. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). Your children receive an excellent example when they see you take a problem directly to God and ask for His intervention. The biggest problem is when parents won't seek God's guidance. How can we expect our children to do this if they don't see us doing it? Fathers must lead the way in this area.

Do our children see us pray and study every day? Do they see the father as the head of the family with the mother fully supporting her husband? Children can immediately spot hypocrisy. If we set the proper example early, our children will, in most cases, follow in our footsteps. Parents who are most successful in rearing children are those who are closest to God.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them" (2 Timothy 3:14). If a problem arises in our child's life, he should be taught first and foremost to take it to God in prayer. Soon it will become automatic.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:32). Do we teach our children to respect the elderly? Do our older children stand up when an elderly person walks into the room? This is even a lost art for adults today!

Our Western society has deteriorated to such a dreadful state that our elderly are pushed aside, shamefully treated and ignored by young people. This should not be so. This world idolizes youth WHEN

IT SHOULD BE GREATLY ESTEEMING THE ELDERLY! If our children are taught to respect the elderly, the elderly can share much wisdom and advice with them.

What about other guests, relatives and friends with whom we come into contact? Our children should respect all adults. We need to teach our children to respect authority whether it be a teacher, a policeman or a neighbor. Obviously, if a child is being mistreated by someone in an authoritative position, that is a different situation which may require us to intervene. But more often than not, in this immoral and permissive society, parents intervene when they should not—they "stick up" for their children even when they have done something terrible. It used to be that if a child got in trouble at school, he also got in trouble when he returned home that night. But today, teachers and other public officials are afraid to properly discipline children for fear of how parents will react. Parents should stand behind and support other authority figures in their children's lives.

Our children are bombarded with numerous negative influences from our evil society (Galatians 1:4), much worse than when we were growing up. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). When we teach our children, we should teach the *how* and *why* of our instruction so they will thoroughly understand it. Rear your children so they will want to choose God's way.

Placing your children in certain school activities, music or dance lessons will help in making them well-rounded. Find out what your children's talents and abilities are and then guide them in that direction, as long as it is in keeping with God's laws.

When our children are involved in games or sports activities, what is their attitude like if they lose? Character means being a good sport. Certainly we should teach our children to strive to win and do the very best they can. But win or lose, they should have a good attitude about it. Then, as our children begin to succeed, they will become motivated children who want to succeed later in life.

Teach your children the five most important words of the Bible for them: "Hon-

or your father and mother." Notice Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up

in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Tragically, we don't see this in Western society today. Rather, civilization is falling apart because families are falling apart. Many children speak evil of their own parents and think nothing of it. When they have problems, they inevitably want to blame their parents. But if we

do our part, our children should want to please us out of deep love and respect.

Teach your children the five most important words of the Bible for them: "Honor your father and mother."

DISCIPLINE

THE THIRD WAY TO DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S attitude is by correcting the child. First, realize that correction, when done right, is love (Proverbs 13:24). So in that sense, this point overlaps with the first one. But correction deserves its own space because we need to know how to administer it to make sure it is done in love.

When children are young, they should be taught the meaning of the word "NO." This simple two-letter word, in too many cases, is not properly adhered to. You should only have to say NO once; if the child doesn't obey, then that is your invitation to properly train and correct the child. If we fail to react, the child thinks NO isn't a word to fear. This could result in much more serious consequences than if we had punished the child for disobeying. If the child knows that NO means NO the first time, you may even save him from a life-threatening situation. If a child wanders away and begins running toward a busy intersection, "NO!" may be the only thing that can save him. In that situation, how thankful a parent would be if the child had been reared to understand what NO meant.

Consistency is the key. If you are inconsistent with following through on the NO command, it only confuses the child and gives him the chance to disobey because he knows Dad or Mom probably won't follow through. This will also develop an attitude of resentment and rebellion because

the child doesn't have definite guidelines to follow. Children, like adults, respond better to definite limits, or boundaries.

Rebellion in a child requires you to bring him under the law. If you do not, the child, rather than the father, rules the household. When a child breaks a rule because he resents authority, that is a serious problem which must be dealt with. We live in an age where we see many helpless parents openly challenged by their children. Young people need parents who care enough to challenge them when their behavior might lead to tragic consequences. Parents have a God-given duty to provide their children the security of clearly established limits in behavior.

Every child will challenge his parent at some point. When he does, you must rise to meet the challenge. Otherwise, the child knows he has won, and then problems will be continuous and ongoing.

Do not make the mistake of physically disciplining for every infraction. We must always make sure the punishment fits the crime. Yes, the Bible does endorse corporal punishment (Proverbs 29:15). But the main reason we should spank is for *rebellion*—when a child *deliberately disobeys*. In 1 Samuel 15:23 we read that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Rebellion comes from Satan (John 8:44). This would include punishing for a wrong attitude—a rebellious spirit. If a child's attitude is one of anger, pouting, moodiness, disrespect—then deal with it immediately.

After a child is punished for breaking a rule or disobeying a parent, he should be very repentant for what he did! If he is truly sorry, then you will soon see a happy child. If the child is not repentant after punishment occurs, we must stay with the correction until he does become repentant, no matter how long it takes. When a child's attitude is still wrong after correction, that child's attitude of rebellion has not been broken. There is resentment toward authority, either open or subtle, and it must be rooted out. If we can't get our children to properly fear us quickly, we are in for a long lifetime of needless pain and suffering for all involved, especially the child.

The so-called experts only report on spanking that is not administered properly. Too many parents, with their hectic

lifestyles, are unwilling to take the time to first train their children in the right behavior they desire. Then, if they do spank, they do so in frustration or anger. This kind of punishment is wrong and harmful to the child's development. But proper, safe but effective spanking, when combined with clear teaching and lots of love, is absolutely vital in rearing children properly.

How Your Child Can Give You Rest

Is your child under control? How does he behave at the dinner table? How does he act in other people's homes? You won't be invited out very often if your child is unruly. Does your child wear you out? If

we have problems in these areas, the first thing we must do is take them to God.

Do we diligently seek after God's knowledge, fully intent on applying it? Or, like so many, are we *experimenting* with our children, hoping to find some method that will finally work?

We all have our strengths and weak-

nesses in child rearing. In addition, there may be other contributors to children misbehaving, like allergies or poor health. But other factors and personal weaknesses must not become excuses for our failures in properly rearing our children. As Herbert W. Armstrong said, there is CAUSE AND EFFECT. There is a reason why children become rebellious.

What about silliness in our children? Obviously, we want our children to laugh and have a good time, but it should not get

out of hand. When this begins to happen, the parent who is in tune with his child will say, "I want you to settle down." The child should respond immediately.

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15). This scripture mentions the mother, but it also brings shame on the family name, which is the father's heritage.

Rearing children is a difficult, lifelong process. We will make mistakes from time to time. *Righteous character* is the goal we are shooting for. We want to rear our children so they will embrace God's way of life when they are older. To build holy, righteous character in a child takes diligent effort on the part of both parents. It takes time. "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Proverbs 29:17).

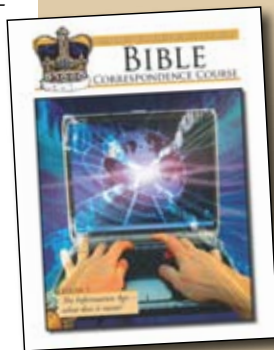
To have happy, well-adjusted children with a right attitude, remember to love them, teach by example, and to discipline in love. It boils down to 85 percent love, 10 percent teaching by example, and 5 percent correction in love. None of us will ever do it perfectly 100 percent of the time, but it certainly is a goal that God wants each of us to attain.

God is building family government through the physical family as a type of what He is ultimately building spiritually. We as parents have the sobering responsibility of rearing our children to love God's way and for the awesome future of being a part of God's Family.

We are God's children. He is our Father. God is a Family. Let us strive to administer God's loving family government in our own homes so that we—husband, wife and children—will acquire God's own image and character. ■

Parents have a God-given duty to provide their children the security of clearly established limits in behavior.

The Answers!



TO MANY, THE BIBLE IS A MYSTERY. A patchwork of ancient writings that is at once profound and puzzling, it can be distant and frustrating to those who read and study it. But it need not be!

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Austria Returns to the Far Right

LOOKING RIGHT
Heinz-Christian Strache

Seventy years after the Nazi Anschluss of Austria, the government in Vienna is again being filled by those who sympathize with Adolf Hitler. BY ANDREW MILLER

THE WORLD WAS SHOCKED BY THE results of the election; but not nearly shocked enough. On Sept. 28, 2008, two pro-Nazi parties won nearly one third of the vote in Austria's federal election. This means that between the two parties, right-wing extremists control one out of every three seats in Austria's parliament.

The election was the Austrian far-right's best performance since the end of the Second World War.

Since no party in the election received over 30 percent of the vote, talks have been under way between the two parties with the most votes, the Social Democrats and the People's Party, to form a coalition government. While a right-wing coalition of the conservatives and the two far-right groups Freedom Party and Alliance for Austria's Future was initially considered a possibility, it is now likely the far-right parties will hold the balance of power in a governing system that cannot effectively exclude them from the decision-making process.

At the time of the election, the Freedom Party was led by Heinz-Christian Strache and the Alliance for the Future of Austria was led by the infamous Austrian neo-fascist Jörg Haider. Just a couple weeks after the election, however, Haider died in a high-speed car crash. Thirty thousand mourners gathered in the south-

ern Austrian city of Klagenfurt on October 18 to attend the funeral of a man who admired SS soldiers as men of honor and once praised Hitler's economic policies as superior to those of the current Austrian government.

Now that Haider is dead, many fear that his far-right constituency might unify with that of Strache. Haider and Strache had a personal dislike for each other, but their core beliefs were almost identical. Strache—a man who wants to repeal a law banning the use of the Nazi swastika in Austria—has already claimed to be Haider's heir in the right-wing “third camp” of Austrian politics. If Austria's two pro-Nazi parties unify in one camp, the power of Austria's centralist political parties would be greatly undermined.

The fact that a third of voters in Austria would cast a ballot for one of these two parties reveals a dangerous shift in the national mindset. “There is something rotten in the psyche of Austria that allows a protest vote against mainstream political parties to morph into an endorsement of the extreme right,” wrote the *Scotsman*.

“Make no mistake,” it continued. “Getting a third of a country to put their X next to the names of men who think SS soldiers were honorable, who want to deport any immigrant caught so much as shoplifting and who want to repeal a law banning Nazi imagery, takes more than

mere political chicanery.

“It takes a national will. The victory for the immigrant-hating, Nazi-idealizing rightist parties on Sunday was a stunning example, if any more were needed, of this land's inability to deal with a monstrous past” (Oct. 1, 2008).

History of the Anschluss

Especially key to understanding Austria's current shift toward right-wing extremism is the astounding fact that Austria was never effectively denazified after World War II.

The reason for this failure in Austria's denazification was that the Soviets captured Vienna and set up an Austrian government that immediately declared its union with Germany null and void. Because of this declaration, Austria was treated by the Allies as a Nazi victim instead of a Nazi accomplice.

Yet the truth is that Austria was a central support and arch-enabler of both Nazism and the Third Reich. In fact, Austria's National Socialist Party came so close to staging its own coup d'état in early 1938 that Austrian Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg thought to defeat this conspiracy by meeting with Hitler. Instead of helping Schuschnigg, however, Hitler came down on the side of the Nazi conspirators and helped them gain control of the country. Then, when Hitler announced the annexation of Austria to the German Reich one month later, the proclamation was met with overwhelming enthusiasm from many Germans and Austrians alike.

In fact, many Austrians were more dedicated to Nazism than their German counterparts. In his book *Hitler's Austria: Popular Sentiment in the Nazi Era*, Evan Burr Burkey notes that even though they only constituted 8 percent of the Third Reich's population, Austrians comprised 14 percent of the SS and 40 percent of Nazi personnel involved in genocide.

Of course, not all Austrians were Nazi accomplices. Many heroic Austrians stood up against Hitler's evils. Yet there were also many Austrians who supported him wholeheartedly. These Nazi sympathizers were allowed to influence the political, industrial and academic landscapes of both Austria and Germany after the war.

Could this be a major reason why a third of Austria's voters can support pro-Nazi parties today?

The Future of Europe

Problems such as economic hardships, illegal immigration and Islamic terrorism

See **AUSTRIA** page 34 ►

A Suggestion for Correcting the Economy

America and much of the rest of the world is in financial meltdown, and the prescriptions to stop it are failing. Here's a solution guaranteed to work. BY JOEL HILLIKER

IS THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS “THE END OF American capitalism?” a *Washington Post* headline asked.

“Since the 1930s, U.S. banks were the flagships of American economic might, and emulation by other nations of the fiercely free-market financial system in the United States was expected and encouraged,” the article read. “But the market turmoil that is draining the nation’s wealth and has upended Wall Street now threatens to put the banks at the heart of the U.S. financial system at least partly in the hands of the government” (Oct. 10, 2008).

Market purists are concerned. After all, the transfer of power from the free market to the government goes against everything the capitalist system is about. “Yet the administration may feel it has no choice,” the article continued. “CREDIT, THE LIFE-BLOOD OF CAPITALISM, ceased to flow. An economy based on the free market *cannot function that way*” (emphasis mine).

CREDIT is the LIFE BLOOD of America’s economy. The system is based on the ease with which one can borrow money. Standard & Poor’s says that because of the frozen credit market, 2009 could see as many as 125 more *major companies* default on their debts. Without credit, our economic system cannot function.

This economic meltdown in America is historic. Our great economic system—which we have praised and worshiped and tried to market aggressively to the rest of the world—is being exposed as a fraud and a sham. It will never, ever be resurrected to its former prominence. America’s global financial dominance is over—which means that *America’s global dominance* is over.

Government officials are scrambling to

try to prevent that inevitability. But their prescriptions and plans are guaranteed to fail because they do not address the cause of the problem. In fact, their “solutions” *contribute* to the cause.

Here is a suggestion on how to fix our economy. It is radical, because it undermines the entire system. But it is guaranteed to work.

Criminalize usury.

That’s right. Make it *illegal* to loan money with interest.

Why This Will Work

This prescription will solve the problem. It will heal many ills that wrack our economy and produce countless positive effects. The reason this solution will work is that it comes from the greatest economist who has ever lived.

God.

The Bible mentions interest, or usury, 24 times, and every time, there is evidence that God doesn’t approve of it.

In Deuteronomy 23:19, as well as other places, He directly forbids it: “You shall not charge interest to your brother—interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest” (New King James Version).

The idea that God only outlawed charging interest to the *poor* is incorrect. True, there are places where God specifically forbids charging interest to the poor, but there are others, such as the above scripture, where He makes no such distinction.

The idea that *usury* refers only to exorbitant interest—that a little interest is okay—is also erroneous. Read Nehemiah 5, where God specifically condemns charging even 1 percent interest.

The only time God said it was okay to

charge interest was when it was charged to foreigners (verse 20). That was His way of protecting the Israelites from being taken advantage of by foreigners, who, when they found out interest was illegal in Israel, would surely have gone hunting there for interest-free loans.

The fact is, God doesn’t want anyone to profit off someone else borrowing money. That’s because, if at all possible, He doesn’t want people borrowing money!

The moment it becomes *profitable* to help other people get into debt, then you have people actually *encouraging* others to get into debt!

Just look around. The American economy is built on it. Credit card offers, mortgages and refinancing plans, buy-now-pay-later schemes, “Bad credit? No problem!” television commercials—our culture is utterly saturated with debt-oriented thinking. If you don’t have the money for something, you just buy it on time payment. You don’t have to wait for anything—you can have it all now!

Right at the root of the current economic crisis were lenders giving home loans to people who couldn’t afford them. In our society, there is absolutely no shame in living under a mountain of debt. Everyone does it. Everyone accepts it. The worst offender of all is the American government, which is buried under an incomprehensible \$10 trillion in debt. (Of course, America is paying usury on all that, a line item that sucks up an increasingly ridiculous percentage of our tax dollars.)

The Benefits of Keeping This Law

The availability of easy credit teaches self-indulgence and financial irresponsibility.

It puts people in debt, which is a form of slavery, and it leads to financial ruin.

Criminalizing usury would teach the value in financial discipline, patience, self-control and hard work. In the long run, it would do much to increase individual and family wealth.

Consider. If you take out a mortgage to buy a \$150,000 house, chances are you are going to end up paying \$300,000 or more for that house. That's \$150,000 going into the hands of a banker—\$150,000 that would have been put to far better use by you and your family. It could have gone toward your retirement, or your children's inheritance.

In a non-usury-based system such as God commands, you would have to wait longer for that house. But when you did buy it—with cash—that additional \$150,000

could remain in your family. As a result, wealth within families would increase.

Interest always tends to take money from the poor and give it to the rich. This increases the economic disparity between these two groups, which creates other social problems. In a Bible-based economy, loans are actually a form of welfare, given to benefit the poor, not the rich.

In our system today, the whole banking industry is built on usury. People lend money to banks so they can receive interest, and the banks lend that money to other people at even higher interest rates.

By outlawing usury, God's law effectively eliminates much of the power associated with money today. It removes the means for the few to make enormous fortunes off the backs of the many.

Outlawing interest would eliminate many hidden costs in the economy, including inflation and the loss of purchasing power of a currency. That \$150,000 house would likely be far less expensive in a non-usury-based economy.

This prescription will solve the problem. It will heal many ills that wrack our economy, and produce countless positive effects. The reason this solution will work is that it comes from the greatest economist who has ever lived.

A Law Still in Effect

Most people reject God's laws. Many try to convince themselves that those laws are not binding on us today. They reason that those laws were dreamed up by an unsophisticated, ancient desert people.

Wrong. The truth is that they came from *the Almighty Creator*. His understanding of

law—governing all aspects of physics, biology and chemistry, of health, of human relations, family, government, religion and international relations, as well as of economics—makes the most brilliant minds in our world today look like children. He designed a perfect economic system, and all you have to do in order to make it work is follow His law.

The top financial experts in this world are so arrogant that they would ridicule that system. But the fact is, they are suffering, and they are losing billions of dollars, and many are unemployed today, because

they have broken God's financial laws.

God's law would prevent anything like this financial meltdown from ever happening. It is a law based on the way of *give and love*.

Herbert W. Armstrong studied God's financial laws as spelled out in the Bible, of which the forbidding of usury is only one. In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, he described how these laws will be implemented worldwide when God sets up His Kingdom on Earth: "A fixed [monetary] standard will be set up, and values will never change.

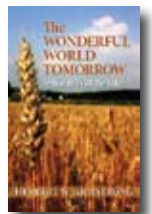
"No more speculating or gambling on other people's ability.

"Never again will any person become rich from investing in the labors and creative ability of another person. No more stock markets, world banks, financing centers, insurance companies, mortgage companies, loan agencies, or time payments.

"In God's abundant government people will buy only what they need, when they can afford it, when they have the cash to pay for it. No more interest. And no more taxes. ... But the tithing system will be universal."

Yes—this economic system is about to be established worldwide. Once it is, no one will ever again make money off someone else's debt. What a wonderful world that will be. ■

To learn more about God's plan to care for the needy and reduce poverty, to expand individual wealth and create universal prosperity, request a free copy of Mr. Armstrong's masterwork, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



What You Might Not Know Ab

HISTORY TODAY IS GROSSLY UNDERRATED. It is maligned and devalued by modern education, abhorred by students, and forgotten by too many politicians, intellectuals and journalists.

Ironically, even most historians and others who enjoy and value history fail to grasp the critical importance of their beloved subject. In fact, history is perhaps the most underrated subject on Earth!

Whether you enjoy reading history or not, chances are that *you too* have underestimated the value of studying the past. Perhaps *you* have never fully grasped the *supreme truth* about history.

What is that truth? That *secular history proves God's existence!*

It's true. Documented history, be it of the Sumerians in Mesopotamia, or the ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks or Romans, or Napoleon or Hitler, is real, concrete, irrefutable proof of God's existence and the veracity of His Word.

The Scriptures and History

This fact should not be startling. After all, God tells us plainly He guides and influences world events. "Remember the former things of old," He said through Isaiah the prophet, "for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, *declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done, saying 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'*" (Isaiah 46:9-10, Revised Standard Version).

God did not allow history to unfold haphazardly.

King David of Israel knew this: "Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth. The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations*" (Psalm 33:8-11, RSV).

The Apostle Paul also recognized God's central role in secular history, and wasn't afraid to tell a crowd of Greeks as much while visiting Athens. *Men of Athens*, he said, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious," *but you cannot see the one*

Want to get to know God and prove He exists? Study history.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

true God, who made the world and everything in it. "[God] made from one [man] every nation of men to live on all the face of earth," preached Paul, "*having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation . . .*" (Acts 17:22-23, RSV).

Paul knew that the *rise and fall of entire civilizations, even the geographic locations of peoples, were determined by God!*

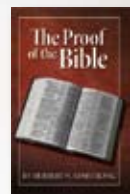
These men of the Bible all recognized a profound and moving truth: *They knew history was a product of God's will and power. They knew that much of history was written by God before it actually happened—or was shaped and determined by God as it was occurring.*

How awesome is that? That means HISTORY itself provides EVIDENCE of God's existence. It means the history books collecting dust on your shelf—the history you studied in school—the history devalued, neglected and ignored by most people today—is PROOF OF GOD'S EXISTENCE!

Yet how many people see God's presence in secular history?

Put God to the test on this. Consider doing an in-depth study of ancient Egypt, or Assyria, or Persia, or Greece or the Roman Empire. Use the Bible as a textbook in your study. You will be floored at how closely events recorded in secular history books align with events recorded, *often in advance*, in the Bible.

Studying world history, especially that of Western civilization, in the context of the Bible is one of the most profound and enlightening studies you could undertake. If you're interested in learning more about the spectacular link between secular history and the Bible, you should study *The Proof of the Bible* by Herbert W. Armstrong. Here, let's consider one of the clearest and most powerful accounts of secular history proving God's existence, and proving His Word true.



The Image of Daniel 2

The succession of dominant empires in Western civilization beginning in the 7th century B.C. is widely accepted by historians and scholars. That succession of empires, which you can find explained in detail in most any general history textbook, is as follows:

The *first* world-ruling empire was the BABYLONIAN/CHALDEAN EMPIRE, which became the dominant power in the 7th century B.C. after its famous King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Assyria and invaded Syria and Judah.

The *second* dominant empire was the MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE, which, under the innovative leadership of Cyrus the Great in the 6th century B.C., defeated the Babylonians, and dominated territory from the shores of the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.

The *third* dominant civilization was the vast and influential GRECIAN EMPIRE established by Alexander the Great in the mid-4th century B.C. and maintained by four of Alexander's generals after his death in Babylon in 323 B.C.

The *fourth* and largest world-ruling civilization was the ROMAN EMPIRE, which emerged in the first century B.C. and went on to dominate Western civilization, to varying degrees, for the next two millennia.

The succession of these empires is recognized and chronicled in detail in history books the world over. Of course, other civilizations and peoples, many influential and impressive, existed alongside these four—but these four were the dominant civilizations of their time and form the backbone of history.

While history books do an excellent job detailing the rise and fall of these world-ruling empires, the Bible actually explains *why* they came about. It shows *why* there were four—first the Babylonians, then the Medo-Persians, then Greece and then Rome, in that order. These remarkable truths are found specifically in the book of Daniel.

The time setting of the book of Daniel is the 6th century B.C. In fact, read the first chapter of Daniel and you'll see that it's describing the sacking of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 587 B.C. and his relocation of the Jews back to Babylon.

out History

Secular history textbooks describe these same events occurring at exactly the same time. Among the Jews captured by Nebuchadnezzar and taken back to Babylon was Daniel, a bright Jewish lad with the gift of interpreting dreams, who quickly became a confidant of the king.

Soon after returning to Babylon, the king had a dream that the Babylonian priests and magicians could not interpret. Daniel 2 shows that young Daniel was brought in to explain the dream to Nebuchadnezzar. Notice that the king did not explain his dream to Daniel. God revealed both the *imagery* and the *meaning* of the dream to Daniel, which he then explained in vivid detail to Nebuchadnezzar.

Read the young prophet's explanation in Daniel 2:31-35. The king's dream was detailed and impressive. He saw a great image, or statue, which was clearly divided into **FOUR DISTINCT PARTS**—its head comprised of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, and its legs of iron, with feet of a mixture of iron and clay. In the dream, the image was struck in its feet by a flying stone, which caused the image to crash to the ground, whereupon the shattered debris was blown away, and it was as if the image had never existed.

This dream, as Daniel explained further to Nebuchadnezzar, was a **FOUNDATIONAL EVENT IN WORLD HISTORY!**

After relaying the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel explained its meaning: "Thou, O king . . . *art this head of gold*. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron" (read verses 37-45).

Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that he, the king of the Babylonian-Chaldean Empire, was the head of gold, the first of the world-ruling empires—a *fact recognized and confirmed by history books!*

Daniel then told the king—the time setting, remember, is in the *6th century B.C.*—that after the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire there would arise *three* successive empires, which were pictured by the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and the legs of iron.



God was revealing through Daniel how the next 2,500 YEARS OF SECULAR HISTORY WOULD UNFOLD!

The Medo-Persian and Greek and Roman civilizations at the time of this prophecy were mere kernels of their latter glory. God was revealing through this image that they would become world-dominant civilizations! Daniel 2 was a prophecy about the rise and fall of four world-ruling civilizations.

How can we know God was referring to these four *specifically*? Because the *documented histories*, which fill millions of pages of textbooks, of these civilizations unfolded *exactly* as God said they would in Daniel 2 and other prophecies in the book of Daniel. Take Daniel 8, for example. Here God revealed that the second world-ruling empire, pictured by the breasts and arms of silver in the Daniel 2 image, would be a combination of *two distinct peoples* that would come together to dominate civilization. If you know Persian history, you know that it was the joint efforts of the *Medes* and the *Persians* that defeated the Babylonians and established the great Persian Empire.

God revealed similar details about the Greek and Roman empires, even though they didn't emerge as world-dominant civilizations until two or three hundred years later.

If you study the entire book of Daniel, you will realize it's filled with history recorded before it actually happened!

There are countless thrilling details revealing God's presence and role in history. Daniel 2 is simply one example. To learn more, request and read *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*, *The Proof of the Bible* and, most importantly, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Study this literature in conjunction with some good secular history books, and you'll be flabbergasted at the connection between secular history and the Bible.

Let's stop rejecting and underrating history, and learn to study the past in the context of the Bible. Doing so makes studying history a riveting and moving experience—one that helps prove the existence of God and the absolute accuracy of His Word. ■



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is part one of the 22nd chapter.

S T E P H E N F L U R R Y

Offensive Warfare

PART ONE

“The way we look at it, this preface gives us much greater opportunities in the upcoming depositions and trial. I believe this is the only way we can win.”

— Gerald Flurry, *Letter to legal team, June 11, 2002*

LIKE TKACH JR.’S “CHRISTIAN DUTY” FOOTNOTE IN *Transformed by Truth*, Feazell’s preface backfired. For one, it showed how phony the e-publishing scheme really was. They weren’t about to produce Mr. Armstrong’s literature unless it was introduced by Feazell’s remarks. And there is no way we would have ever directed prospective members to download that filth. Though we knew it all along, the preface fully revealed just how interested they were in “helping” fulfill our spiritual needs. The whole e-publishing sham, as it turns out, was just another way for them to trash Mr. Armstrong’s legacy.

But the preface’s impact on our legal arguments was minor compared to the way it impacted *us*. I won’t say it surprised us—not after witnessing Tkachism’s destructive assault on the church the previous 16 years. But it did serve as a jolting reminder of what we were fighting against: people who HATE *everything* Herbert W. Armstrong stood for. We couldn’t reason with them. We couldn’t deal with them—all we could do was fight.

So from that point forward, everything in the lawsuit would turn on Feazell’s preface—at least, as far as we were concerned. My father wrote to our legal team on June 11, 2002, “The preface to the WCG e-publishing sham is the opportunity we have been waiting for. Ever since Judge Letts was involved, I feel like we haven’t been able to thoroughly get across what really happened in our church.

“This preface has opened up a tremendous opportunity to do that again. I feel like we can now go on the offensive as never before with an even bigger goal in mind (RFRA, writing a book, etc.). I strongly believe that our answer to the preface is going to make them feel the heat. ...

“Perhaps we lost the appellate court decision because the WCG made a few comments labeling us a cult. ... The preface allows us to answer the *cult* attack. But it gives us a greater opportunity. We can now expose them for what they really are—a cult and much worse. At the same time, I believe we can help the judge and jury to understand the PCG’s true motives.

“They say a battle is 50 percent won when you go on the offensive. The way we look at it, this preface gives us much greater opportunities in the upcoming depositions and trial. I believe this is the only way we can win.”

Over the next two months, our attorneys probably heard the word “preface” so often, they might have thought we were a broken record. Of course, they still had to accumulate evidence to support all of our legal arguments, insofar as copyright law is concerned. But since the WCG now wanted to insert Armstrong-bashing into the case, we insisted on telling the behind-the-scenes story, whether during a deposition, before a judge or jury, or within court documents. In fact, as you can see from the letter above, the preface is what prompted the whole idea for this book. The case had now gotten much bigger than just fighting for the right to distribute Mr. Armstrong’s literature. Now we had to obtain the literature—and EXPOSE THEM in the process.

■ TURNING POINT

Even though we were technically going into the damages trial as the “loser” (with respect to *Mystery of the Ages*), my father believed something dramatic would happen, whether in court or out, that would eventually turn the tide in our favor. “If God is with us,” he said, “we will win this. If He’s been with us, He still is with us—that is, if we keep the faith.”

Judge Snyder was hoping for a mid-October 2002 trial, which meant discovery and depositions needed to be completed by the end of the summer. As we geared up for a busy summer, my dad instructed his entire staff at Edmond to make the court case their top priority. More than a dozen people involved themselves in gathering information and helping to prepare for the depositions of the WCG’s key witnesses—Joseph Tkach, Michael Feazell, Ron Kelly, Ralph Helge and Bernard Schnippert, as well as a few others. My father relieved Dennis Leap and me from some of our youth camp obligations that summer so we could

devote more time to researching for depositions. PCG ministers Gary Rethford and Tim Thompson were also instrumental in digging up information for our lawyers.

This was a real turning point. In 1998, the bulk of deposition preparation was left to our attorneys, although Dennis and his wife made sure they were supplied with church documents and literature. We also offered a lot of feedback during conferences we had before depositions. But, for the most part, the lawyers were responsible for doing most of the research and drawing up the questions.

In 2002, the lawyers still did all that, *it's just that we did too*—only coming at it from the *preface* angle. If Tkach's fellows wanted to talk about Mr. Armstrong's heavy-handed approach to governance, then Tkach Jr. and Feazell were going to be asked about the legacy of Tkachism—how it forced people to go along or else FORCED THEM OUT OF THE CHURCH. If they wanted to bring up how Mr. Armstrong supposedly “hooked” people into his system of beliefs, then they would have to testify about all the lies Tkachism told in order to lull unsuspecting members to sleep so they wouldn't lose their tithes. If they wanted to bring up Mr. Armstrong's lack of “study” and “seminary training,” then we were going to ask them about Tkach Sr.'s academic and theological credentials. If they wanted to talk about how burdensome it was in the church under Mr. Armstrong, then they were sure to hear about Tkachism's heavy legacy. And if they wanted to bring up Mr. Armstrong's “extravagant” lifestyle, then we would ask, *Well what did Tkachism do with its billions?*

So as we got ready for the 2002 depositions, our attorneys prepared *their* questions and documents and *we prepared ours*. Then, in a status conference before the depositions, we worked to blend the two together.

■ JOSEPH TKACH JR.

In the Tkach Jr. deposition on Friday, Aug. 23, 2002, Mark Helm wasted little time in setting off explosives. Fifteen minutes into the deposition, Allan Browne instructed Tkach not to answer on account of Mark's “harassing and oppressive” questioning. Thirty minutes after that, he threatened to leave unless Mark lowered his voice!

Mark began by reviewing the Dec. 4, 1998, Advisory Council of Elders minutes—where the WCG officially explained its position on discontinued literature and how it had plans to use the material again. In the case of *Mystery* being discarded, the WCG minutes explain, “As a consequence, an ecclesiastical determination was made that MOA and other such works be retired from circulation and not be distributed *until appropriate revisions could be effectuated*, compatible with the Bible.”

Now that the WCG intended to e-publish these works, Mark wondered if the preface counted as an “appropriate revision.” After Tkach said “no,” Mark then asked if the ecclesiastical determination had changed. Tkach indicated that they hadn't changed their decision, but that they felt comfortable enough e-publishing the literature as long as it had a preface to provide background. Since the WCG had made statements throughout the lawsuit that they would have considered licensing the works, Mark was trying to pin Tkach down to see if the terms for the hypothetical licensing meant the literature had to be prefaced by derogatory remarks about Mr. Armstrong. He also exposed the degree to which the WCG

wanted to control the literature if a licensing agreement ever happened.

Later, he got Mr. Tkach to talk about Gerald Flurry. Tkach said he thought my father was mentally unbalanced, that he taught heresy, approved of lying and was engaged in unethical conduct. Mark then asked if Tkach's personal views toward Mr. Flurry might factor into any decision considering the PCG as a possible licensee. *It was brilliant*. Tkach answered, “I think the key here is that in developing a license agreement, we would be in a position to police or control that by the terms we dictated in the license agreement.” That's exactly the point. Assuming Tkach ever licensed the literature to a mentally deranged, heretical liar, he would only do so if the WCG maintained “control” and was able to “police” our actions. In that scenario, what would prevent him from then pulling the plug on the license agreement after litigation ended?

Later in his deposition, Tkach Jr. complained that we had misrepresented his “authorial intent” in saying he had a “Christian duty” to keep *Mystery of the Ages* out of print. When asked what he meant by “out of print,” Tkach said he was “expressing a feeling, but not a course of action.” Of course, with that kind of reasoning, you can back away from practically any hard-and-fast position. But the facts prove that their whole reason for filing suit in the first place was to prevent us from distributing *Mystery of the Ages*—to ACT on their Christian duty. In his book, Tkach Jr. also made this statement about another one of Mr. Armstrong's works: “... don't bother writing for a copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. You won't get it from us.” Was that just a feeling or do the fruits prove that they acted on that conviction? Tkach wrote, “Today we reject what is well known as ‘Armstrongism,’ that is, adherence to the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong” Feeling or action?

■ BOTH SIDES OF HIS MOUTH

Four times during his deposition, Tkach Jr. accused Mr. Armstrong of speaking out of “both sides of his mouth”—particularly with respect to his role as an *apostle*. At times, Tkach explained, Mr. Armstrong seemed to think he was right up there, on par with the apostles of the first century. Yet on other occasions, he apparently made statements relegating his apostleship to something less than first-century-like. But as we have already seen in this volume, it is Joseph Tkach Jr.—not Mr. Armstrong—who spoke from both sides of his mouth.

In his 1997 book, Tkach Jr. wrote, “Over two or three decades he claimed rank on a par with the first-century apostles”—a very definitive commentary on Mr. Armstrong's views. *Two or three decades!* But on March 16, 1992, in a letter the WCG turned over in discovery, Tkach Jr. wrote, “It is good to remember, however, that Mr. Armstrong's role was not synonymous with the original 12 apostles.” Later, he wrote, “Mr. Armstrong *never* claimed his writings were equivalent to Scripture.”

We reminded Tkach Jr. about what his father said two days after Mr. Armstrong died—that he was “confident that the same policies, doctrines and everything else which [Mr. Armstrong] taught would be preserved and carried out.” We asked if this comment contradicted what his father said about the “deathbed repentance”—that Mr. Armstrong commissioned Tkach Sr. to make the very changes in doctrine that had been made between 1986 and 1991 (a list of changes so extensive, you will recall, that he wanted a tape recorder so he could remem-

ber all of them). Tkach Jr. responded, under oath, by saying “no”—there is no contradiction.

We asked him about this statement from his book: “It is said that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Mr. Armstrong may have never wielded absolute power in our church, but by that same token, there weren’t many who would challenge him on an issue.” Tkach defended the statement this way: “The audience for this book was not only church members They were counter-cult ministries who viewed Mr. Armstrong in this way. And I’m explaining for the historical record that that was inaccurate for them to view him that way.” So the comment was actually intended to *defend* the manner in which Mr. Armstrong led the church!

Earlier in the deposition, Tkach described the manner in which Mr. Armstrong would sometimes deal with subordinates. “When he would correct people at times, he would ask, *Do you believe I’m an apostle? Do you believe I’m an apostle just like Peter and Paul are apostles?* And the person would be generally trembling and responding in the affirmative.” He then described an incident where Mr. Armstrong called Tkach Sr. about a Bible study given in Pasadena. According to Tkach Jr., Mr. Armstrong “was very angry and yelled at my dad for about 40 minutes.” Yet at the same time, what he wrote in *Transformed by Truth* about Mr. Armstrong’s governing style was supposedly a *defense* of the church’s founder.

We reminded Tkach about the changes in government he promised in his 1997 book and got him to admit that nothing had changed in the five years since the book was released. He still retained all the absolute powers he is quick to condemn Mr. Armstrong for.

When asked about his description of the PCG in his book—that we are a “militant church of God”—he explained that we would “confront” their members and tell them if they didn’t accept *Malachi’s Message*, “they were going to burn in hell” He said that “numerous people were confronted that way in restaurants and grocery stores.”

When we asked him earlier about whether or not he thought the PCG was a cult, he responded, “Unquestionably.” He went on to explain that there are two types of cults—theological and sociological. “Theological cults would be the ones that misrepresent history and Scripture but aren’t necessarily pathological in nature. And then you have sociological cults, groups that are dangerous, David Koresh, Jim Jones, Heaven’s Gate.” At least we only made it onto his list of theological cults. But “we’re concerned,” he went on to say, “that [the PCG] may be crossing the line into the sociological realm.”

For clarification, Mark asked, “So you have concerns that the Philadelphia Church of God may be a cult in the sense that it is dangerous, sociopathic?”

“Certainly,” Tkach answered.

Yet they wanted, all along, to license Mr. Armstrong’s literature to us as a “benefit” to our work.

Talk about speaking from both sides of your mouth.

We also made sure to compare Mr. Armstrong’s academic

background with Tkach Sr.’s, which made the younger Tkach very uncomfortable.

■ MICHAEL FEAZELL

Since he was primarily responsible for authoring the preface, we were quite anxious to depose Mike Feazell. At our Edmond offices, our employees combed through Feazell’s book and other writings of his, as well as documents that were written about him.

We assembled at the Los Angeles offices of Munger, Tolles and Olson for his deposition on Wednesday, July 24, 2002. Early on, Mark Helm quoted from Feazell’s book, where he spoke of the church’s transformation.

“One by one these core values shriveled and fell from the WCG tree. As they did, leaders and members became increasingly unsettled, fearful, and frustrated. ‘How are we different anymore?’ ‘Where is all this leading?’ ‘What will be changed next?’ they asked.

“The church these people had come into had *slowly ceased to exist*.”

Any time we found statements by WCG officials describing the WCG today as being completely different from what it once was, we made note of them. If the *old* church no longer existed, why should the *new* church be allowed to keep others from continuing to distrib-

ute the traditional teachings?

When Mark asked him about his comparison of life in the Worldwide under Mr. Armstrong to a rape victim, which we discussed in Chapter 1, Feazell tried to brush it aside as a “figurative expression.” Mark pressed further. “But by using the figurative term ... ‘raped,’ that is a feeling of the highest order, correct? It’s not a casual feeling of unpleasantness, it’s—it’s a very serious feeling that you’re trying to describe here; isn’t that right?”

Feazell’s lawyer tried to intervene repeatedly for his client by interrupting Mark. But Mark ignored him and insisted that Feazell answer the question. “Is rape a terrible crime?” Mark asked. Feazell’s attorney asked Mark to calm down, but he refused. “No ... he is trying to walk away from what’s clearly stated here, and acting as though ... ‘spiritually and emotionally raped’ ... [is like] a typo in a memo.”

After Feazell wouldn’t answer, Mark came at the subject from another angle: “When you said you had been spiritually and emotionally raped, were the feelings that you experienced akin to having had a terrible crime committed against you?” Feazell said *no*, repeating that he only used the term in a figurative sense.

“So when you figuratively used the term *rape*, it’s not a terrible thing?” Mark followed. It was as heated as we had ever seen Mark during a deposition. It made Feazell noticeably uncomfortable.

Later, Feazell said he believed the PCG is a cult “at least in the sense of its submission to the authority of one individual

Since Ron Kelly is mentioned in *Transformed by Truth* as having heard Mr. Armstrong supposedly say “I am Elijah,” we were anxious to hear what he had to say under oath. Not surprisingly, Mr. Kelly could not remember where or when he heard Mr. Armstrong say that.

and his personal interpretation of the religious views of the organization” In his book, he wrote about how Mr. Armstrong’s authority had brought the church to a virtual “stand-still administratively.” He said “decisions of any significance could not be made without” Mr. Armstrong’s approval. So at the deposition, we pointed Fezell to other statements in his book that talk about the authority Tkach Sr. inherited from Mr. Armstrong: that Tkach would not have been able to transform the church “without the unfettered hierarchical authority delegated to him by Armstrong”; that the changes would have never happened unless Tkach had “total authority.” We then asked about Tkach Jr.’s supposed plans to dismantle the authoritarian approach to governance in the church—and how that was one of his first goals after becoming pastor general in 1995. But as of 2002, when we asked Fezell if the younger Tkach had the same powers that Mr. Armstrong did, he responded, “[T]hat may well be true.”

On page 107 of his book, Fezell wrote, “In the Worldwide Church of God, however, we found ourselves in the no-win situation of having to change the core values. The changes we were forced to make devastated the very sense of identity of our church and its members.” Since the Tkaches had “total authority” to change the church’s “core values,” we wanted to remind Fezell that they forced their transformation on the ministers and members of the Worldwide Church of God. In response to that charge, Fezell testified, “The church no more forced ... itself ... on the ministers after the changes than it did before the changes.” To which Mark brilliantly responded, “But after the changes took place, these were ministers who had joined a church [that] had different doctrines and were now being told: *Either teach the new doctrines or hit the road.* That is different from the ministers under Mr. Armstrong, isn’t it, who joined the church knowing what the doctrines were and believing in them?”

Fezell couldn’t see how that was different at all.

■ RON KELLY

Since Ron Kelly is mentioned in *Transformed by Truth* as having heard Mr. Armstrong supposedly say “I am Elijah,” we were anxious to hear what he had to say under oath. Not surprisingly, Mr. Kelly could not remember where or when he heard Mr. Armstrong say that. We then showed Mr. Kelly the letter Tkach Jr. wrote to Mr. Leap in April 1990, where Tkach insisted that the Elijah prophecies had been fulfilled *by the work of the church* and that Mr. Armstrong NEVER claimed to be the exclusive fulfillment of them. We asked Mr. Kelly if he made his “I am Elijah” comment before or after Tkach wrote the letter to Mr. Leap. He said it “would have been made much later than this letter, which was April of 1990.” But Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. And in *Transformed by Truth*, Tkach Jr. indicates that Kelly came to him *after he heard* Mr. Armstrong say “I am Elijah.” It wouldn’t make sense for Kelly to go to Tkach Jr. “much later” than April 1990 about a comment he heard Mr. Armstrong make. But that’s the illogical chronology Kelly had to go with during his deposition, otherwise he would have been forced to admit that Tkach Jr. spoke from both sides of his mouth.

Ron Kelly went to Ambassador College in 1956 and went into the ministry after he graduated in 1960. He became the first dean of students at Ambassador College in Big Sandy in 1964. After Big Sandy closed in 1977, Mr. Kelly transferred to

Pasadena and soon after settled into the field ministry as a pastor serving in Colorado. He returned to Big Sandy briefly after the campus opened in 1981. In 1982, he moved back to headquarters in Pasadena to fill a position in the editorial department. Two years after Mr. Armstrong died, Mr. Tkach appointed him to manage the editorial department. In 1991, Mr. Kelly transferred to Church Administration, where he directed pastoral development. In 1998, he became the church’s controller in the finance and planning department. That was the position he held when we deposed him Aug. 1, 2002.

In our preparations for Mr. Kelly’s deposition, several articles and messages of his stood out because of his long history in the church. One document was particularly interesting. It was a sermon transcript the church produced in 1987—a year after Mr. Armstrong died. He built the sermon, titled “Principles of Living,” around lessons he learned from Mr. Armstrong. He said, “Twenty-nine years ago, I began to sit at the feet of Mr. Armstrong and listen to what he had to say.” Later, he said, “I would especially like to bring out those points and principles that I feel Mr. Armstrong was *uniquely* able to instruct us in.” In his deposition, Kelly acknowledged that he had learned from Mr. Armstrong, but that today he wouldn’t use the word *uniquely*. “I look at things from a more mature point of view,” Kelly said. “I realize Mr. Armstrong had wonderful things to teach. They weren’t always unique to him.”

Mr. Kelly then highlighted several of Mr. Armstrong’s teachings that he now considers burdensome. Of course, he didn’t think that way before embracing Tkachism—and we reminded him of that. “Mr. Armstrong taught me how to love my wife,” he said in that 1987 sermon. “I told him so, and I hope it pleased him to realize that what he taught did work.”

Here is how he once described life for his children in the WCG: “My children have been reared all their lives with a knowledge of God’s festivals. Now that some are grown, many of their fondest memories are of keeping the holy days. We have saved for trips to England and Australia. By observing the holy days with God’s people, we have traveled as a family throughout most of the United States and Canada. ... We have grown each year in spiritual understanding and have profited from the education of travel.

“No one can ever tell me keeping God’s feasts is a yoke of bondage and a burden.”

Those memories have seemingly faded from view, along with the practical, biblically based way of living Mr. Armstrong taught and recorded in huge stacks of written works.

In March of 2005, someone contacted me anonymously about a bound collection of almost all the WCG’s periodical literature, including the *Plain Truth*, *Good News*, *Tomorrow’s World* and *Youth* magazines, between 1934 and 2004. The collection also included a complete set of the 58-lesson Bible correspondence course, produced during the 1960s. The individual wanted \$10,000 for all the magazines and another \$500 for leather-bound volumes of all Mr. Armstrong’s books, including *Mystery of the Ages*.

My father thought the collection would be a great addition to our college library. So we made a lower offer and ended up settling on \$5,000 for everything. We didn’t know who to make the check payable to until about a week before we arranged to pick up the materials.

As it turns out, the anonymous seller was the same man who, because of Mr. Armstrong’s teachings, learned how to really love his wife. ■

CHURCH AND STATE

Pope Benedict is extending the long history of the Catholic Church's deep involvement in world politics.



A Warning From the Pope

What Benedict XVI's visit to France reveals about the future of Europe

BY BRAD MACDONALD

AMERICA'S TANKING ECONOMY AND presidential election have saturated the news in recent months. But one of the most alarming statements in the *New York Times* last September had nothing to do with either of those things.

"This pope is looking to RECONQUER EUROPE," wrote Rachel Donadio, "if not in numbers, then at the political table" (Sept. 19, 2008; emphasis mine throughout).

The Catholic Church has been Europe's single greatest and bloodiest constant for nearly 2,000 years. History books overflow with examples of the Vatican exploiting political relationships in order to fulfill dark papal ambitions. They also prove that European leaders seeking military and political dominance *always* seek sanction and support from the pope. Have we forgotten Justinian's imperialistic restoration or Charlemagne's astounding but bloodstained accomplishments? Can we forget the Crusades, Napoleon and Hitler's Third Reich? The Vatican was complicit in each of these events.

Now Pope Benedict XVI is, as the *Times* put it, trying to "reconquer Europe" and lock down church-state relationships across the Continent.

History is screaming at us. It's saying we ought to be alarmed when a pope goes on a personal crusade to conquer Europe!

Donadio began her article by asking, "Is the Catholic Church a beleaguered underdog, fighting for a voice in secular Europe, or a still-mighty power, wielding its influence on European law through friendly center-right governments?" That question, she wrote, "has been building momentum throughout Pope Benedict XVI's three-year-old papacy"

Donadio recognizes, as many in the mainstream now do, that Pope Benedict XVI is on a personal crusade to restore Catholicism to the heart of European politics. But while many recognize the ambitions of this pope, few, including Donadio, are concerned. We ought to be: It would be foolish to underestimate the power and craft of a 2,000-year-old institution with more than a billion adherents and a long legacy of empowering tyrants, slaughtering enemies and dominating Europe.

History tells us that the harder the Vatican works to establish Catholicism at the heart of Europe, the closer it ought to be watched.

Undermining France's "State Religion"

With this in mind, let's evaluate the pope's jaunt to France last September. That trip—made during a tumultuous period for Europe—was a significant event for France and the whole CONTINENT.

When Benedict's plane touched down on September 12, President Nicolas Sarkozy rejected the tradition of greeting leaders at Élysée Palace and actually welcomed the pope at the airport. Sarkozy escorted Benedict to Élysée Palace, where the two quickly laid the groundwork for what could be the biggest change in France since the French Revolution.

The dominant theme of Benedict's trip was that France needs to rethink and redraw its church-state relations.

Speaking first at Élysée, the Catholic president added to remarks he had made to the pope during a visit to the Vatican in December 2007, where he advocated a "positive secularism" that allows religion to play a greater role in government and improve society. Speaking before fellow politicians and a delighted Benedict, Sarkozy said blatantly that it would be "madness" for France, which "accepts its Christian roots," to "deprive ourselves" of religion.

If a French president made that statement a few decades ago, he would likely have been roundly castigated by the French press and politicians.

France is a deeply secular state. In France, secularism, as Henri Astier observed, "is the closest thing the French have to a state religion" (BBC News Online, Sept. 1, 2004). The law of *laïcité*, or secularism, strictly separates church and religion, and has been the backbone of French political thought since the French Revolution and

the foundation of the current political and legal system established in 1905. Religion in France is strictly a private matter. It is kept completely out of public life, is not taught at all in schools, and the government is forbidden to subsidize any religion.

For 200 years, the principle of secularism in France has been *the* untouchable. It is the one uncompromisable issue in French politics.

Or it was—before Nicolas Sarkozy and Pope Benedict xvi came along.

Here's how the pope responded to Sarkozy's flattery: "At this moment in history when cultures continue to cross paths more frequently, *I am firmly convinced that a new reflection on the true meaning and importance of laïcité is now necessary.* In fact, it is fundamental ... to become more aware of the irreplaceable role of religion for the formation of consciences and the contribution which it can bring to—among other things—the creation of a basic ethical consensus within society."

France, redefine laïcité now! Strip away the subtlety and Orwellian doublespeak, and that's essentially what Benedict was saying. Pope Benedict xvi basically told France to rethink arguably its most culturally definitive law! Together, the pope and the French president waged a spectacular assault on the political and legal underpinnings of the French state. The pope's visit may well represent France's first steps away from secularism.

Sarkozy Plagiarizes the Pope

The intrigue doesn't end there. Agnès Poirier, writing for the *New Statesman*, revealed the high level of strategic cooperation Benedict has extracted from the president of France. Sarkozy's notion of "positive secularism," said Poirier, is a carefully concocted "Trojan horse" designed to result in the eventual redefinition of French politics and France itself. Now here's where the story gets especially gripping: "The term 'positive secularism' was actually coined in 2005 by the then Cardinal Ratzinger, whose views have inspired two of President Sarkozy's close aides and speechwriters, the practicing Catholic, Emmanuelle Mignon, and the Dominican friar, Philippe Verdin" (Sept. 18, 2008).

Imagine that! Sarkozy's notion, even his *phrasing*, of "positive secularism" was originally concocted by Joseph Ratzinger, former head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the man he now affords unprecedented state honors and

key compromises: Pope Benedict xvi.

"So what we have witnessed," continued Poirier, "is Nicolas Sarkozy pretending to have an idea that *originated at the Vatican, while the pope, its delighted author, sits back and waits for the president to implement 'his' idea.*" That's impressive foresight on Benedict's behalf. It appears he's been making plans to undermine the secular French government and society for at least three years. "A few days ago," concluded Poirier, "in an interview with the Catholic French daily *La Croix*, Benedict's private secretary clearly stated that the holy father *expected the president of France to diligently transform this idea into acts.* Machiavelli would be impressed."

If the pope is prepared to confront secularism in France, he's more than prepared to tackle it elsewhere on the Continent.

If Sarkozy comes through, we could very well see a Catholic revival in France!

Peter O'Neil, European correspondent for the Canwest News Service, agrees: "Analysts say French Catholics, with the lowest church attendance rate in Europe, feel threatened by the growing number of Muslim immigrants and *might therefore be more open to greater recognition of the Catholic Church's role in French culture and history*" (Sept. 12, 2008).

We should also realize that the pope designed this church-state campaign in France for a wider audience. Like everything this pope does, his push for improved church-state relations in France was intended to resonate with political leaders and citizens across Europe.

Pope Benedict xvi is concerned about a "progressive secularization of *European institutions*," said John Allen Jr., a *National Catholic Reporter* columnist (*New York Times*, Sept. 19, 2008). Benedict is deeply concerned about and in the process of addressing the secularism rooted in societies throughout Europe. The reason he went after secularism in France is that he believes the rest of Europe, as Allen expressed, is being "*heavily influenced by the French model.*" Benedict knows that if he can stem secularism's rise in France, the bastion of European secularism, he can do so across Europe.

And be assured, if the pope is prepared to confront secularism in France, he's more than prepared to tackle it elsewhere on the Continent!

"Let's not make mistakes, *there are laws in Europe that the Vatican would like to*

change," said Allen. The pope's remarks to France were "*not an apolitical reflection,*" he said. Benedict makes no pretense of being above or clean from political matters. Allen is absolutely right: Benedict's remarks were a cannon shot across the bow of European national governments—and even the now-forming European supranational government!

"... Benedict's insistence that religion and politics be 'open' to each other," explained Rachel Donadio in her *Times* article, "coupled with his strong renewal while in Lourdes of the church's opposition to same-sex couples, communion for the divorced and euthanasia—*sends a direct message: The church doesn't want European law to be at odds with church teaching, and he wants Roman Catholics to make some noise about it.*"

Truly, as Donadio said, Pope Benedict xvi is on a crusade to "RECONQUER EUROPE"! That's what his trip to France was all about. That's what his remarks about the need for France to rethink its secular underpinnings were all about. He was warning France, and all of Europe, that he is on a quest to reestablish Catholicism at the heart of Europe.

If you haven't studied much European history lately, dust off those history books and look into the Vatican's historic relationship with Europe. It's a truly frightening relationship.

Nothing is more alarming, more brutal, more devastating, than the Continent when it has been conquered and steered by Roman Catholicism!

How long will we ignore the terrifying ambitions and cunning actions of Pope Benedict xvi? How much longer can he get away with craftily attacking secular governments and encouraging Europe to return to its Catholic heritage before the world realizes that he intends to RESURRECT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE?

Pope Benedict xvi is looking to reconquer Europe! *This* is the context in which we must analyze news as it unfolds on the Continent. The *Trumpet* can give you both historical and prophetic insight into Benedict's actions. For nearly 20 years now the *Trumpet*, under the stewardship of Gerald Flurry, has upheld and declared the words of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, the editor in chief of the *Plain Truth*, and a man who for 40 years, *beginning in World War II*, declared the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!

To learn more about the prophesied future of Europe, request a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ■

are driving more and more Austrians to extreme-right-wing politics. Yet this trend does not stop in Austria. "In Norway, the anti-immigrant Progress Party is now the largest in the land," wrote the *Independent*. "Like other right-wing parties in Scandinavia, it has enjoyed surging support since the Islamic cartoon affair two years ago. In Switzerland, Christoph Blocher's Swiss People's Party won the general election last year after a campaign condemned as racist by UN monitors. In Poland, the League of Polish Families, a member of the coalition government until a year ago, campaigns for the elimination of Jewish influence in business and the professions. The Vlaams Belang in Belgium is strongly anti-immigrant. Even in ultra-liberal Denmark, the nationalist and anti-immigrant Danish People's Party is now the third-largest party. In Italy, Silvio Berlusconi's Party of Freedom is sandwiched in the ruling coalition by the anti-immigrant Northern League and the post-fascist National Alliance" (Sept. 26, 2008).

In Germany, neo-Nazi parties like the National Democratic Party are also moving closer to the political mainstream. Even major centralist political parties like the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party are taking on more right-wing views in the face of surging illegal immigration and the global economic crisis. This shift to right-wing conservatism is acting as a unifying force in the European Union as nations across the Continent take a common view on how to solve their problems.

Such a unified approach also presents the perfect scenario for a single European nation to rise up as the leader of a united continent.

Biblical passages such as Revelation 17:12-13 show that in the end time, 10 dictatorships are to rise up and give all their military power to an over-arching emperor who will resurrect the Holy Roman Empire. The late *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed for over 40 years that these 10 dictatorships would rise up in Europe and merge into a fascist empire dominated by Germany.

In both Austria and Italy, pro-Nazi parties already control a substantial number of parliamentary seats in their respective national legislatures. The world needs to take heed of these horrifying developments. They foreshadow both the worst and the best news anyone could ever hear. To find out about this news, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun



Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/
 WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am,
 Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30
 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am,
 Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri;
 WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am,
 Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU
 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am,
 Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT
 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-
 DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30
 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am,
 Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KQWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPRX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL
 12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGFX 6:00 am, Fri
**Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kenne-
 wick** KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT
 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am,
 Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30
 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30
 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA

Australia Nationwide Network 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Adelaide, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Brisbane, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Melbourne, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Perth, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Sydney, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am
 ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision
 TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel
 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun;
 CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30
 pm, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias
 TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Barbados CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00 am, Sun

America's Financial 9/11

I LOVE THIS ARTICLE ("AMERICA'S FINANCIAL 9/11," November-December 2008). It's so understandable in a world of hard-to-understand facts and fiction. I know that our Lord has told us to not be afraid, but I hate to see what's happening to our country. There just doesn't seem to be any turning around of these problems, and politicians are making it worse, not better. Thank you for telling us the truth as seen through the Bible.

Cindy Brunson—MISSISSIPPI



"In God We Trust"

IT REALLY IS MIND-BOGLING JUST HOW much God had revealed to Mr. Armstrong ("The 'In God We Trust' Dollar," November-December 2008). It's all playing out according to the script—God's script, not man's. The USA and the rest of the Israelite nations have shoved God out of the picture; let's see how far that gets them.

Bill—AUSTRALIA

GERALD FLURRY'S COMMENTS ON THE sad state of America's people ("The 'In God We Trust' Dollar"), particularly its young, are tragically accurate. People fail to see what is happening and are totally ignorant of history and in particular the causes behind its events. They fail to understand that during the World War I and World War II eras, American people not only respected God and His laws, but feared them. This is why we won both wars. We believed in God whereas the enemy did not! Today our society no longer believes in God or even in Satan. Rather they believe in themselves. This is our downfall as this belief system is perverted and basically says that there is no God but rather that each person is his or her own God. How dangerously deceived, and how awful that we may pay the price for society's arrogance. ...

Danny—NEW YORK

No Longer a Skeptic

I HAVE BEEN READING YOUR MAGAZINE for approximately four years now. I would occasionally pick up a copy at the train station ... just something to pass the time on the ride to work. But then I started to really read, re-read and pay attention to the articles when I saw world events shaping up exactly as you had written, many times before the events happened. What

really caught my attention is the fact that Mr. Armstrong had predicted many events that actually came to pass and that he had done so well in advance of the

events happening (i.e. Germany, European Union, demise of the U.S. as a formidable force, and the list goes on). Still, I was extremely skeptical of your religious views—after all, I was a bona fide born-again Christian Fortunately, my interest in all your political, moral and worldwide views kept me reading—so much so that I found myself extremely disappointed every time I missed an issue at the train stand. In order to remedy the situation, I got myself a free subscription. (I could hardly believe that the foremost authority on news, real news, was free!) Since you were so correct on everything else, I also made sure I read your more religious articles, and I ordered several of your publications in order to research this for myself. I did so in order to solidify my own position on Christianity and debunk yours. At this point, I'm certain I don't need to tell you who looked the fool when the dust had settled. ...

Keith Freedman—ILLINOIS

Prosper in a Recession

EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON TITHING ("How You Can Prosper in a Recession!," November-December 2008). Great Bible references were tied together to reinforce God's promises. My brother and I have been aware of this for a few years now, but I wish I had seen this article sooner to give the big picture. Thank you.

Vincent Bellipanni—LOUISIANA

Politics of Family Values

YOUR ARTICLE ("THE POLITICS OF FAMILY Values," November-December 2008) could have gone even further in that the reason women such as Sarah Palin work in a professional capacity is because men no longer are leaders in the home and/or outside the home.

Jennifer Blazak

Pakistan's Ominous Future

I HATE TO AGREE WITH YOU ON WHAT seems to be a disaster in the making ("Pakistan's Ominous Future," November-December 2008). As I keep observing world politics, I begin to wonder if democracy is the way to a safe future. I have seen how democracy put extrem-

ists in power and placed the moderate ones in limbo. Palestine is one example of this decaying democracy. Now again democracy is being used with the help of Americans who truly believe in democracy to potentially hand the nuclear-power country to the mullahs. I hope the American leaders can wake up and see what is going on around the world in the name of democracy. ...

M.A.

Russia's Return

I HAVE JUST FINISHED READING "Russia's return" (October 2008) and I must commend you for the way you've presented the facts. Thank you for keeping us informed. But we must be honest to ourselves: The U.S., NATO and Europeans are hypocrites, because if they supported Kosovo's breakaway from Serbia, why won't they support South Ossetia and Abkhazia's breakaway from Georgia? What is good for the goose should be equally good for the gander. NATO and the U.S. are the guilty ones here. They should have kept the promises made to Russia of not expanding into the former Soviet Union. The underlining factor here is that they are only pursuing their interests, and not the welfare of the people involved.

Baban-Uwa Abubakar—GHANA

Understanding the Bible

FOR SEVERAL YEARS I HAVE REQUESTED your literature, and I must say that the information I have received from you is the most thorough and easily understood guide to understanding the Bible that I have ever encountered. I have never been one to accept another person's leadership with regards to Bible interpretation. Your approach of allowing the Bible to interpret itself is not only correct but crucial to our understanding. ...

Larry Boyett—TEXAS

Living in the Last Days?

WHOEVER WROTE THIS IS SPOT ON ("ARE We Living in the Last Days?," September 2008). I am a Jehovah's Witness and ... I must say that I am very impressed. I feel very strongly that the world we are living in now has not got long left for survival ... and God has given us ample warning of His (coming) intervention.

Janet Learoy'd—ENGLAND

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

Putting On Ayers

A radical terrorist and political outcast finds a cozy home in academia. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

MUCH HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT BARACK OBAMA'S ASSOCIATION with William Ayers, a man who hasn't expressed one ounce of remorse for his terrorist attacks on federal targets during the 1960s and 1970s. In fact, he wishes his organization could have committed *more* murderous acts of domestic terrorism.

Mr. Obama's critics rightfully said that his friendly relations with Ayers should have disqualified him from the presidency. And yet, we heard little about ANOTHER disturbing relationship involving Bill Ayers—and one that is *far more dangerous* than his association with Obama.

You see, Mr. Ayers still serves as a “distinguished” faculty member at a respected university in Chicago. Should an unrepentant terrorist be disqualified from teaching America's *future* leaders?

Bill Ayers grew up in a wealthy family during the 1950s and '60s. He attended private schools before enrolling in the University of Michigan, where he turned into an antiwar protester and dangerous political activist. On May 19, 1972, he bombed the Pentagon. In his memoir, *Fugitive Days*, he recalled, “Everything was absolutely ideal on the day I bombed the Pentagon. The sky was blue. The birds were singing. And the [expletives] were finally going to get what was coming to them.”

Nearly 20 years after that, the *New York Times* interviewed Ayers shortly before the publication of *Fugitive Days*. The *Times* said Ayers “writes about the Weathermen's sexual experimentation as they tried to ‘smash monogamy.’ The Weathermen were ‘an army of lovers,’ he says, and describes having had different sexual partners, including his best male friend. ...

“Mr. Ayers ... in 1970 was said to have summed up the Weatherman philosophy as: ‘Kill all the rich people. Break up their cars and apartments. Bring the revolution home, kill your parents, that's where it's really at ...’”

According to his book, Ayers had a hand in bombing the New York City Police Headquarters in 1970, the Capitol building in 1971 and the Pentagon in 1972. When the *Times* asked if he had any regrets for his violent behavior, Ayers said, “I don't regret setting bombs. I feel we didn't do enough.”

Not surprisingly, the Ayers interview received little attention on the day it was published in the *New York Times*—Sept. 11, 2001. Talk about bad timing. Yet, even with the rest of the country reeling from the 9/11 attacks, Ayers seemed unaffected. Five days after 9/11, Ayers told the *New York Times Magazine* that he still didn't trust *America*. “You can't live in a society like this in equilibrium and not sell your soul. This society is not a just and fair and decent place,” Ayers said. Later, he continued, “We're living in a country where the election was stolen, and we didn't have a mass uprising. It's incredible. We're all asleep. The pundits all pat themselves on the back: [W]hat a great country. You know, we could have had a constitutional crisis, but instead, we let him steal the election. Isn't that great. What a country. It makes me want to puke.”

Mr. Obama denounces Ayers the '70s radical. But he also PRAISES *Ayers the present-day educational reformer* without any fear of negative backlash. Could anything better illustrate the despicable state of modern education today?

In October, more than 3,200 supporters of Ayers—most from the field of academia—signed a petition expressing their support for the educational “reformer.” The list included the likes of Palestinian activist Rashid Khalidi, who worked for the official Palestinian news agency when the Yasser Arafat-led Palestinian Liberation Organization was engaged in terrorist activities against Israel, and Ward Churchill, who compared the victims of 9/11 to Nazis.

Ayers's participation in “political” activity 40 years ago, the petition reads, is HISTORY—“what is most relevant now is his continued engagement in *progressive* causes, and his exemplary contribution—including publishing 16 books—to the field of education.”

He may be an unrepentant terrorist, but look at what he's done for education.

During the educational upheaval of the 1960s, even as Bill Ayers was sowing the seeds of hatred and rebellion, Herbert W.

Armstrong said, “The future welfare and even the existence of civilization is dependent on the educational system” (*Plain Truth*, December 1965). During the same period of nationwide student revolt, one national leader warned: “We live in an age of anarchy both abroad and at home. ... Here in the United States, great universities are being systematically destroyed.”

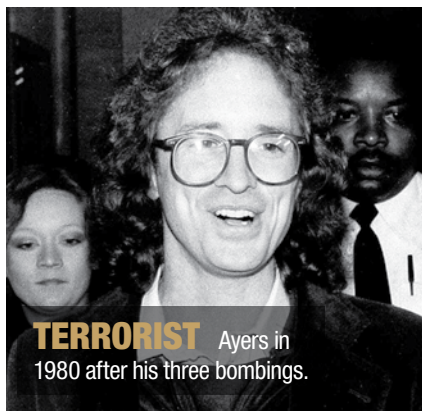
A cultural revolution was sweeping across the Western world. Mr. Armstrong wrote in his 1964 book *God Speaks Out on “The New Morality,”* “The revolt is on against prudery, repression and ignorance.” Almost overnight, our system of education turned into something that was grossly immoral, radically materialistic and blatantly hostile to all forms of authority.

That was four decades ago. Today, sexual experimentation, whether you are a liberal or a so-called conservative, is seen as neither controversial nor dangerous. Radical individualism and materialism is not seen as selfish or reckless, but rather as something everyone deserves by right of birth. Added to that, we've “progressed” so far in our pursuit of knowledge that even the most infamous rebels of the 1960s are now seen as distinguished professors.

Is it any wonder that, as my father wrote in our September issue, we have passed the point of no return? We are where we are today largely because education has failed us. The god of this present evil world (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9) is now in complete control of the Western system of education. And every year, he brings in millions of new recruits with the express purpose of driving them further and further away from God's way of life.

Instead of disseminating knowledge capable of solving the world's mounting problems, education itself is RUINED. ■

To learn about the educational system God is about to raise up, request our booklet *Education With Vision*.

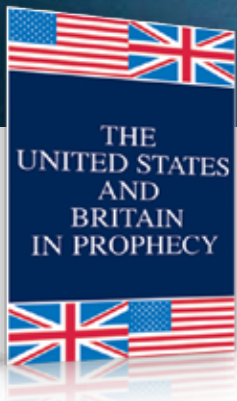


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