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SPECIAL REPORT
**THE HOLY
ROMAN EMPIRE**

America's
Racial
Time Bomb



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Is
Germany's
New
Charlemagne
About
to Appear?





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Managing Editor Joel Hilliker Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Ryan Malone, Brad Macdonald, Robert Morley, Philip Nice
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Research Assistants Adar Kielczewski, Aubrey Mercado, Richard Palmer
Proofreader Nancy Hancock Circulation Shane Granger
International Editions Editor Wik Heerma
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Is Germany's Charlemagne About to Appear?

AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE, GERMANY IS JUST WEEKS from electing a new chancellor. That election and events to unfold from it are going to bring devastating consequences to this world. A dangerous political structure has been built in the European Union, and it's about to get a lot worse. HISTORY THUNDERS ITS STRONGEST WARNING EVER! It's time that people understood that history.

But there is a lot more than history involved in understanding European politics.

What is happening in the European superstate is a mystery to most of the world. But that mystery is beginning to be removed.

Bernard Connolly wrote a bombshell book in 1995 titled *The Rotten Heart of Europe*. For years he served at the heart of the Exchange Rate Mechanism for the European Union. He headed the commission unit responsible for monitoring and servicing the system. He labels the European superstate as *rotten*. Since he had a vital job on the inside, his comments deserve our attention.

The Spirit of Charlemagne

"It is the battle for control of the European superstate," Mr. Connolly wrote, "in which French technocrats confront German federalists, both sides claiming to fight under the BANNER OF CHARLEMAGNE. THE 'COLLATERAL DAMAGE' FROM THIS BATTLE LIES MAINLY IN THE FUTURE, BUT IT COULD BE GHASTLY" (emphasis mine throughout).

"It could be ghastly." That is an understatement!

Who will get control of this great superstate? And just how *ghastly* is it going to be? The battle can be narrowed down to two nations—France and Germany. Do knowledgeable people really doubt who has already won this battle? The nation that controls the money will reign supreme. Of course, that has already proven to be Germany.

Just what is "the tradition of Charlemagne"? It is far from what most people think it is—even Europeans!

"Across the Rhine, successive German governments have, in their pursuit of a 'EUROPEAN' CLOAK FOR GERMAN AMBITIONS, been prepared to accept an apparent cession of national monetary authority—as long as the new European monetary authority looks, sounds, smells and acts exactly as the German monetary authority now does" (ibid.).

The EU system has already been called a Trojan horse. Mr. Connolly says it is a "CLOAK FOR GERMAN AMBITIONS."

Just what are those ambitions? And why should every person on Earth be deeply concerned?

Otto von Habsburg was one of the key figures in creating the European Union. He had this to say about that union: "The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don't know by what heritage they live."

Twenty-seven countries are members of the EU today. Most of them don't know that they are "living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire." It is a mystery to them.

According to Bible prophecy, the number of member nations or groups of nations will be reduced to 10 rulers. There are simply too many nations in the EU now for the Union to be ruled in the spirit of Charlemagne. Only after it has been severely reduced in member countries can the Holy Roman Empire function as it has in its extremely bloody past.

Mr. Habsburg also said, "We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally; THIS IS THE CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH EMBODIES THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE."

Just what is "the tradition of Charlemagne"? It is far from what most people think it is—even Europeans!

Charles the Great

The Franks were the first barbaric tribe to embrace Catholicism, but it was for political gain, not religious reasons. Mostly of Germanic origin, the Franks used the Catholic Church to support their expansionist policies, while the church relied on Frankish rulers for protection. It was a union based on politics alone.

The Frankish kingdom reached the pinnacle of its power during the rule of Charlemagne (Charles the Great). Before Charlemagne's emergence as world ruler, the political scene in Europe was greatly divided. Germany was sliced into many different tribes. Much of Italy was occupied by the Lombards. Byzantium was recognized as the successor to the eastern region of the old Roman Empire. Charlemagne, in conjunction with the papal throne, eventually

changed all that—BUT NOT WITHOUT MUCH BLOODSHED.

Historians call his rule the First Reich—even though Charlemagne was the second ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. Adolf Hitler's rule became known as the Third Reich.

Charlemagne felt it his duty to defend the church. In 774, at the request of Pope Leo III, he entered northern Italy and conquered the Lombard kingdom, uniting Italy for the first time in centuries. In 799, he again came to the aid of the pope, who was assaulted, brutally beaten, and thrown into prison by a band of conspirators. With the military backing of Charles and his Frankish troops, the pope was exonerated of all wrongdoing and reinstated to his ecclesiastic office.

The following year, in Rome, while Charlemagne was kneeling in prayer during a Christmas celebration inside old St. Peter's Church, the pope placed a crown upon his head, pronouncing him "the 73rd emperor of the fourth world empire."

See **GERMANY** page 33 ►



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF



**ONCE AND FUTURE
SUPERPOWER**

The double-headed eagle, symbol of an empire that dominated east and west.

RESURRECTING!

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE OF THE GERMAN NATION

A giant imperial power, destined to soon dominate the globe, is suddenly emerging from behind its benign facade! **BY RON FRASER**

IN FEBRUARY 1934, HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG launched a magazine, using biblical prophecy as his guide, and history and current world events as his frame of reference. It was to become the most widely circulated of all periodic publications during the 20th century. Called the *Plain Truth*, the first edition of that fledgling publication carried a cover article headlined dramatically, “Is a World Dictator About to Appear?”

By August of that year, Adolf Hitler, whose declared goal was global rule, became the *führer* of Germany.

Yet Hitler, in alliance with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, was not destined to realize his dream of global rule. He was but a link in the chain of events leading to one final attempt by one powerful individual to become a “world dictator” before Almighty God intervenes to impose His own royal rule on this Earth (Revelation 19:16).

In a letter Mr. Armstrong wrote on July 24, 1983, he spoke about that first *Plain Truth* issue. “The article starting on the cover page warned of a coming sudden appearance of a resurrected ‘Holy Roman Empire’ in Europe—a union of 10 nations in Europe under one government, with one united military force. For 50 years I have been crying out to the world the Bible prophecies of this coming ‘United States of Europe’—a NEW UNITED SUPERPOWER PERHAPS MORE POWERFUL THAN EITHER THE SOVIET UNION OR THE UNITED STATES!”

There is *one core message, one key, unfolding world event* that the *Trumpet* has continued to monitor from the time that Germany united, east and west, back in 1990, coincident with this magazine’s birth. That is the same event headlined in the first issue of the *Plain Truth*: the rise of a *European superpower*. In reality this is none other than the *seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire*, which, due to its historic dominance by a succession of Germanic emperors, became known as the *Holy Roman Empire of the German nation!*

Seventy-five years on from Herbert Armstrong’s cover story in that first edition of the *Plain Truth*, concerned observers of the rise of the European Union are noticing that certain elites within Germany and the Vatican, in addition to banking and corporate moguls, are coming out of the closet. These elites are united in their vision for the revival of an imperialist Europe.

This is a story to which the press and mass media are largely blinded. Yet it is the most powerfully imminent event of global importance. It is even now so

advanced in its development that it will *suddenly, very soon*, literally burst upon the world scene with an impact that will take our breath away!

As history demonstrates, there exist two prime entities that, when they operate in concert with each other, have created great havoc and resulted in the shedding of the blood of countless millions: the Vatican and Germany.

Revisionists would have us believe that these particular leopards have changed their spots, the one becoming an embattled spiritual institution of little effect in a secular world, the other having miraculously morphed into a genuinely capitalistic, freedom-loving democracy of the highest order.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Most integral to the ultimate fulfillment of the Nazi vision was control of the global banking system.

We have written much on Vatican involvement in the successive seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire prophesied in your Bible (Revelation 12, 13, 17). It is not our intention to dwell on that aspect of the equation in this article. Our purpose here is to highlight the very advanced state that German elites have reached in fulfilling the old imperial Teutonic dream of global conquest.

The German Elites

In instructions to his generals, Frederick the Great declared, “In war, the skin of a fox is at times as necessary as that of a lion, for cunning may succeed when force fails.”

During the last century, Germany failed twice, within just 30 years, in its bid for world rule. Those losses taught the German elites a lesson. These Nazis went underground to develop their plan for a third attempt at global rule. They emerged from their foxholes during the Cold War period clad in the skin of Reynard, the fabled red fox trickster.

After witnessing the 1945 meeting in San Francisco that inaugurated the United Nations, Herbert Armstrong observed: “We don’t understand German thoroughness. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the

first—and they have carefully, methodically planned, in such eventuality, the third round—World War III! ... [T]he Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND. ... They plan to COME BACK and to win on the third try.

“The Bible foretells that third round ... The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by ‘BABYLON’—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927” (*Autobiography*, Volume 2).

Sigrid Schultz, who reported for the *Chicago Tribune* from within Germany after World War I through the early years of World War II, wrote, “[T]he Germans have brought *chaos* and agony to every country within their long reach. They will cry *chaos* again, and still again ... at the first sign of weakness on our part, *they’ll try it again*” (*Germany Will Try It Again*; emphasis mine throughout).

On May 9 this year, the Mail Online reported on a previously discovered secret World War II document. “The paper is aged and fragile, the typewritten letters slowly fading. But U.S. Military Intelligence report EW-Pa 128 is as chilling now as the day it was written in November 1944.

“The document, also known as the Red House Report, is a detailed account of a secret meeting at the Maison Rouge Hotel in Strasbourg on Aug. 10, 1944. There, Nazi officials ordered an elite group of German industrialists to plan for Germany’s postwar recovery, prepare for the Nazis’ return to power and work for a ‘strong German empire.’ In other words: the Fourth Reich.” (This intelligence report is reprinted in full in our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.)

Sigrid Schultz described how the Nazi organization was set up as far back as 1940 to continue to pursue the Nazi dream of world conquest *underground* in the event of German defeat in World War II. “The broad outline of the campaign aims at a ‘scientifically provoked and directed *chaos*,’ with which they feel certain to win ultimate victory,” Schultz wrote.

Most integral to the ultimate fulfillment of the Nazi vision, Schultz noted, was *control of the global banking system!*

How They Gained Control

In 1982, Herbert Armstrong could foresee the very financial and economic chaos that is now a fact of daily life in the global economy. Speaking from Vienna in a message to his supporters, he declared that the failure of any major bank in the U.S. “will affect the banks in Britain, in Paris, in Tokyo, and in the capitals of the world.

MILITARY EMPOWERMENT BY STEALTH

THE recent ruling by the German Constitutional Court arguing whether the German-created Lisbon Treaty is constitutional has more far-reaching effects than most have realized. At its roots, the ruling has more to do with *empowering Germany's military force* than anything else!

The Lisbon Treaty, which is really the European Constitution in new clothes, opens the way for the European Union to exhibit vastly more military clout than is apparent at present. Should the treaty be finally ratified, the next-to-last element cementing the EU's global superpower status would be in place: the opportunity to become a *united global military power*, with an initial combined force of 2 million men at arms and a unified military equipment industrial output spanning the whole continent.

To counter the United States, the EU has superseded the U.S. in diplomatic, economic and informational power. But the EU has yet to *match*, let alone *exceed*, U.S. military might. This is the full intention of EU/German elites, as it has been since their ideological forebears went underground to pursue their dream of global conquest by subterfuge during the closing stages of World War II.

However, what recently became obvious to German elites is that the very constitution of their making, known as the Lisbon Treaty, had a glaring gap: While it creates the avenue for the formation of that penultimate element of national power to become a reality under German dominance of the European Union, it denies Germany its sole sovereign right to decide on the deployment of its military forces. The fact that all other 26 EU member nations were denied such a right is beside the point. Since the resurrection of the German High Command under its rather innocuous title of the Military Command Council, German military and political elites have intended to secure sole power over the command of Europe's 2 million-man combined military force.

The German Constitutional Court sought to fix that problem. "[T]he court used a trick by declaring the treaty per se as constitutionally compliant, but at the same time declaring that part of the accompanying legislation as unconstitutional, which was used by the Bundestag (lower house) and Bundesrat (upper house) to ratify the treaty *An important aspect is the decision-making process regarding military deployments of the European Union*" (Informationsstelle Militarisation, August 6; emphasis mine).

Yes, "The Lisbon Treaty creates vast new military competence for the EU," this article continues. However, "One of the questions was, who is going to decide whether the German federal army will participate in a military operation of the EU? The judges of the Constitutional Court have now clarified that this is the exclusive authority of the Bundestag."

Through this "trick" of the German Constitutional Court, Germany must give the "go" on any deployment of any EU battle group. In other words, should the Lisbon Treaty be ratified by all EU member nations, following the forced Irish vote in October, the EU will find that not only are the most vital EU parliamentary committees now dominated by Germany, but the deployment of EU battle groups—should the relevant changes to German legislation be endorsed by the German parliament—will be essentially at the direction of the German High Command under German parliamentary approval!

To be sure, certain legal challenges will have to be faced in Germany so the parliamentary process does not inhibit rapid deployment of EU battle groups when required. But with Germany now having a firm hand on the whip of the European Parliament, and a legal prerogative likely that will trump the EU in the event of any legal conflict between that parliament and the German national will, it becomes patently obvious that the pace and the direction of the development of EU military power will be essentially Germanic!

Once this element of power—military force—is in place within the EU, it will remain for just one final element of power to be added: the ideological glue that will bind the EU together: the Roman Catholic religion (article, page 11). Should the Lisbon Treaty proceed to ratification, then watch 2010 very closely for the Vatican to move ahead aggressively to enable that final element of power to become a reality!

RON FRASER



THE WAY IT IS The German Federal Constitutional Court says submitting to the EU treaty is fine—so long as Berlin dominates.

And the heads of the governments in those countries know it. The banking system is so interlocked between nations that if one goes under they will all go under, and that's going to mean *chaos*—economic *chaos* all over the world for many nations and millions and billions of people."

Well, that prophesied economic *chaos* is now affecting the daily lives of so many, and the best of the pundits predict even greater financial *chaos* ahead.

In the light of Herbert Armstrong's prophecy and Sigrid Schultz's observations, it is interesting to note the timely manner in which certain German, Italian and Swiss banking elites have maneuvered into a position to gain control, via the EU, of the regulation of

the whole global economy!

Here is how it came about.

Sept. 29, 2008: Coming hard on the heels of the failure of subprime lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, stock markets crash in the wake of Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy.

October 10: Finance ministers from the G-7 (the United States, Canada, Japan, Britain, France, Germany and Italy) meet in Washington to agree on a strategy to stabilize the global economy. The EU member nations propose a plan for centralized regulation of the world economy.

October 18: EU President Nicolas Sarkozy and EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso fly to Washington for an emergency meeting with President George W. Bush concerning the global economic meltdown.

November 14-15: Leaders of the world's top 20 economies, known as the G-20, meet in Washington to consider global financial and economic regulation. The EU plan is submitted to the leaders of these 20 leading world nations. Commentator Dick Morris observes, "The results of the G-20 economic summit amount to nothing less than the seamless integration of the United States into the European economy. ... Sovereignty is out the window. Without a vote, we are suddenly members of the European Union. ... [M]erging with the Europeans is like a partnership with death."

April 2, 2009: The G-20 meet in London and agree to adopt the EU plan for centralized regulation of the global economy. Dick Morris declares, "I've had a long experience in dealing with the European Union, and *this is how they operate*. ...

[T]hey slip this in under the radar, which is absolutely creating an international economic union. ... Literally from April 2 of this year ... it's a whole new world of financial regulation in which, essentially, all of the U.S. regulatory bodies and all U.S. companies are put under international regulation, international supervision. It really amounts to a global economic government."

Out of the chaos a beast arises, a regulatory authority ruled by a banking cabal significantly hailing from Rome, Berlin and Berne, with the innocuous name of the Financial Stability Board. Its work is done in secret, behind closed doors. The outcome is prophesied in your Bible in Revelation 13. Deeply involved in lobbying the central bankers of Europe are the powerful global merchants (Revelation 18)—many of whom head the very corporations, on both sides of the Atlantic, that aided Hitler in his drive for global power. Coincidence?

Men in Gray Suits

In his book *The Grand Design*, Bavarian statesman Franz Josef Strauss openly admitted that the only hope Germany had of returning to world power status was to hide behind the facade of "being good Europeans." The fact that Germans had never in the entire history of Europe been "good Europeans" was beside the point. As Dr. Strauss viewed it, for Germany to make a comeback as a global power, it would have to be seen as being "a member of an international family, a member of a European Federation, [rather] than as a German Reich, a single national state. ... We must understand that our European attitude was the only escape hatch that we had, the only approach that made comeback possible."

Over the 44 years since Strauss penned those words, Germany has effectively used the cloak of being a "member of a European Federation" to unify and develop the "single national state" of Germany into a political, economic and increasingly military powerhouse energizing the entire federation of 27 nation-states that comprise the European Union. Much of this has been achieved not by armies in military uniform as in the past, but via the penetration of German institutions and business entities into foreign nations by armies in gray flannel suits.

Consider just two examples.

First, note that the official EU map of Britain contains no country, nor county, boundaries. On that map, England does not exist. The British Isles are divided into EU-designated regions.

Within the largest county in England, Yorkshire, Brussels/Berlin is conducting a

highly strategic experiment.

Four years ago, some of the most astute observers of the German condition, the team at German-Foreign-Policy.com, reported that "Europe's largest media company, the German firm Bertelsmann AG, is taking over official tasks normally performed by public authority in Great Britain. From July 2005 a Bertelsmann subsidiary will undertake the majority of public administration in a British local authority. The plan is regarded by the German firm as a 'pilot project of strategic importance.' ... Across Europe, Bertelsmann aims to expand within the framework of the so-called 'Public/Private Partnership' into areas which are presently under the control of nation-states and to carry out activities ... normally reserved [for] publicly responsible local authorities" (translation by Edward Spalton; April 5, 2005).

In an introduction to that piece, British political economist Rodney Atkinson com-

German elites have moved rapidly to consolidate Germany's position at the head of a European superpower.

mented that this very same Bertelsmann was "both a loyal propagandist for the Nazis in their rampage across Europe in the 1940s and [is] a loyal propagandist for the European Union, the European Constitution and the euro today. In the 1940s they published propaganda for the German armed services." Now, they have taken over "administration of 350,000 Britons in Yorkshire" (Free Nations, April 14, 2005).

Our second example involves the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation, which is affiliated with the German Free Democratic Party (FDP). German-Foreign-Policy.com reported in July that this foundation "is directing the creation of a worldwide lobbying network" and is "coordinating the FDP's local lobbying. The Naumann networks are already spanning all continents and include several thousand executives, including government officials. ... The target groups include ... 'eminent leaders and multipliers from politics, the economy, science, the media and the security sector.' The academy is particularly courting 'young leaders from liberal parties' all around the world" (July 13).

Proof exists that operatives from the Naumann Foundation were actively involved in recent political turmoil in Honduras and in western China, as they are in various other South American and African political developments.

It is interesting to note that Chancellor Angela Merkel's choice for a coalition partner, should she succeed in regaining the chancellorship in September, is the Naumann Foundation's affiliate, the FDP.

Few have noted the fact, as reported by analyst Christopher Story, that "Angela Merkel was an activist in the East German Communist Party, and while she was attending Karl Marx University in East Berlin, she was the secretary for agitation and propaganda in the Communist Youth Wing operating in that establishment.

"The East German secret police, the Stasi, operated throughout the Cold War period as a foil and substitute for the pan-German Nazi Abwehr (military counterintelligence), today's DVD [Deutsche Verteidigungs Dienst—German Defense Service]. Merkel is almost certainly a 'former' Stasi operative" (*Global Analysis*, Dec. 2, 2007).

After Germany's reunification, Stasi operatives, Story observed, "poured into the German political structures," including the FDP. One of the most infamous was West German parliamentarian and chairman emeritus of the FDP William Bomm.

Given these facts, it ought not be surprising that Chancellor Merkel would seek out such bedfellows as a replacement for her present coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party, which is the political partner of her election opponent, Germany's Vice Chancellor Frank Walter-Steinmeier.

The above are but two examples of the methods that Brussels/Berlin has used to penetrate EU institutions, as well as all continents, with emissaries of influence, to prepare for the takeover of whole national economies by the monolithic European Union.

Political Developments

During the past 12 months, German elites have moved rapidly, before all EU states ratify the Lisbon Treaty (which is, in reality, the EU constitution originally envisioned by the EU's founding fathers), to consolidate Germany's position at the head of a European superpower. This, at the very time when their old Anglo-Saxon enemies, Britain and America, are facing the total collapse of their national economies.

Space precludes us from going into

NAZISM IS RETURNING

Just as Herbert Armstrong warned it would **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

“ONE day we shall come back. Until then, *à bientôt*.” Those ominous words—*à bientôt*, “bye for now”—were spoken by an anonymous German military spokesman on Nazi radio on Sept. 1, 1944. By that time, defeat was knocking on Hitler’s door. But that didn’t deter one of his cocksure officers from going on radio to forecast the *future resurrection* of the Nazi death machine.

This man was not alone in his sinister prophecy. At the end of World War II, *thousands* of Germans believed and hoped Nazism would one day return. The majority in the West, however, underestimated Nazism’s resilience.

Herbert W. Armstrong was among the select few who escaped this deception. As early as spring 1945, he began warning that although Nazism had been disfigured and dismembered, its heart was still beating—slowly, quietly, undetected—in dark crevices across the planet.

“Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over,” he told listeners of his *World Tomorrow* radio program on May 9, 1945. “*And the Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND. . . . They plan to COME*

BACK and to win on the third try” (emphasis mine throughout).

It was a bold forecast—one that time is proving to be alarmingly accurate!

NAZISM SURVIVES

When World War II ended, the British Ministry of Economic Warfare estimated that the Nazis looted nearly \$27 billion from the nations they had conquered. Michael Sayers and Albert E. Khan followed the dollars in their 1945 book *The Plot Against the Peace*: “Since 1943, Nazi money, jewels and other valuables have been streaming across the Reich frontiers and finding their way by clandestine channels into Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and North and South America. . . . With these vast hidden sums at their disposal, *the Nazis have already reconstituted and reorganized their wartime international fifth columns and set up new propaganda agencies and terrorist leagues for the postwar period.*”

Edwin Hartrich confirmed this years later in his book *The Fourth and Richest Reich*. He noted that when Allied forces moved into Germany at the end of the war, they found plenty of Nazi soldiers and sympathizers, but little evidence of

Nazi leaders and organizations. “It was soon obvious that many high-ranking Nazis, especially members of Himmler’s dreaded Gestapo, the SS, and S-D organizations, had disappeared; they were hiding behind false identification papers until such time as they could escape to South America or some other receptive asylum for ex-Nazis,” he wrote.

The Nazi brain trust slipped out of Germany before the war ended. Then, loaded with billions in cash and the belongings of millions of incinerated Jews, they began planning World War III!

But the war ended over 60 years ago. Is there evidence of Nazism’s existence or reemergence today?

A NAZI RENAISSANCE

Conditions are ripe for the emergence of Nazism in Germany and across Europe. Commenting on the global financial crisis in October last year, German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble drew some eerie parallels between it and the economic woes that preceded World War II. “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. *The consequences of that depression was Adolf Hitler and, indirectly, World War II and Auschwitz.*”

Just a little over a month later, German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück issued a similar warning, saying, “Germany’s . . . rescue package for its financial sector *could be used to stir up feelings of social injustice that would benefit far-right parties . . .*”

These mainstream German politicians are looking at the nation’s social climate, seeing that it’s alarmingly similar to that of the 1930s, and suggesting that history could repeat itself.

If we look closely, we see that it already is.

In July this year, the German weekly *Der Spiegel* ran a cover story suggesting that the Treaty of Versailles is why the “Second World War had to follow the First.” Imposed on Germany in June 1919, the post-World War I treaty was “humiliating,” “harsh” and too demanding of the debilitated German state, lamented *Spiegel*—thus it was a justifiable pretext for the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. Hitler’s propaganda machine preached the same message about Versailles during the late 1920s and the ’30s to foment hatred and instill a desire for retribution among Germans.

This banter about Allied guilt for causing World War II is not occurring in whispers among

detail. Again, two examples of German empowerment within the European Union will suffice to demonstrate the point.

German parliamentary members have been elected to three of the most powerful legislative committees in the new European Parliament: the influential industry, research and energy committee; the environment committee; and the new legal affairs committee. In addition, a German member of the European Parliament now heads a special committee investigating the financial crisis. Industry, energy, environment, legal affairs and the financial crisis—about the sum total of all major EU business—are now under German leadership in the European Parliament!

With such powerful influences in the formulation of EU law—even without the

Lisbon Treaty’s ratification—Germany has jumped to the lead as the most dominant political and legislative power in Europe!

If Germany ratifies the Lisbon Treaty, and the remaining dissenting nations—Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic—also sign up to it, the political power Germany will then gain will be significantly greater, even above and beyond what it won in the European Parliament in June. *European Voice* commented, “If and when the Lisbon Treaty comes into force, Germany stands to be the big winner. The introduction of a system of voting in the Council of Ministers by double majority, taking into account the population represented by the member states as well as their allocation of votes, will favor Germany” (July 9).

Our second example of Germanic

politicking designed to ensure Germany’s dominance of the developing European superpower is more intriguing. It involves Germany’s own Constitutional Court having ruled, in effect, that the Lisbon Treaty, a German creation from the beginning, *is not legal* under Germany’s own national constitution.

That court ruled in June that Germany could only ratify the European Constitution (Lisbon Treaty) given certain changes to its own sovereign law. This involves applying certain conditions to Germany’s pending ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. These conditions, for Germany, would assert the *primacy of German law over EU law*. In effect, they would overturn the present situation where EU law trumps any member nation’s sovereign law. *This*

Nazi sympathizers in log cabins in the backwoods of Germany. This was a *cover story* in a popular weekly newsmagazine which, like *Newsweek* or *Time* in the United States, shapes national conversation in Germany. And as translators at German-Foreign-Policy.com observed, the German daily *Die Welt* “takes a similar position” to *Spiegel* on this issue, as does the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the most popular newspaper in southern Germany.

Like all peace treaties, the Treaty of Versailles had its imperfections. But it was *no harsher* than previous peace accords imposed by Germany on France and Russia—and, after all, Germany had caused a conflict that *ultimately snuffed out 10 million people*. The Treaty of Versailles was not the true cause of the Second World War. World War II occurred because the minds of Adolf Hitler, his henchmen and millions of Germans were taken captive by the war-inducing *spirit of Nazism!*

Now that spirit of Nazism is being resurrected.

“A specter is haunting Europe,” the *Times* wrote last year. “It wears jackboots, a swastika and a delicate tear-stained expression of angst-ridden introspection. *And it’s called the Touchy-Feely Nazi*. It can be found in your local multiplex in a quartet of high-profile movies

... that take a fresh ... new look at the Second World War almost *exclusively and often sympathetically from the Nazi point of view*” (Dec. 22, 2008).

The history of Nazism is being rewritten. “What these films share is a *common revisionist tone*,” the *Times* continued. “‘Look,’ these movies seem to say, ‘being a Nazi wasn’t that easy, and furthermore not everybody caught the bug.’”

This is dangerous fiction. “There is a tendency, perhaps derived from the sources that filmmakers use for these films, to show everyone as being very rational and reasonable,” said Richard Evans, regius professor of modern history at Cambridge University and the author of a definitive Third Reich historical series. “Whereas only Hitler and just a few people around him—the top-level Nazis—are seen as absolute raving maniacs. *And the fact is that Nazi ideology did go fairly wide and deep.*”

Those who fail to understand Nazi history will not recognize when that history is being repeated.

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Both history and prophecy prove that Nazism was not a historical anomaly. As Sayers and Khan observed, “[A]lmost all the peculiar features of Hitler’s regime, its unbridled aggressiveness, its

inordinate brutality, its homicidal racial chauvinism, *have been characteristic of past political manifestations of the Pan-German secret ruling combine of Junkerism, Prussian militarism and economic feudalism.*”

World War II was a short and vicious eruption of what historians admit is a long-held German goal for continental subjugation—and world dominance. Mr. Armstrong understood this reality, which is why he warned—as *early as*

Mainstream German politicians are looking at the nation’s social climate, seeing that it’s alarmingly similar to that of the 1930s, and suggesting that history could repeat itself.

1945—that Nazism did not die, but went underground.

Mr. Armstrong used another term to describe Germany’s long-standing quest for global domination: the Holy Roman Empire!

The Holy Roman Empire is a political, religious and military conglomerate that has risen and fallen from power in Europe over the past 1,500 years. As is explained in our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, this deadly empire began in A.D. 554, when the Roman Emperor Justinian recognized the supremacy of the pope and forged an alliance between Rome and the Vatican.

There have been five

resurrections of this empire in Europe since Justinian’s Imperial Restoration. In each case—be it Charlemagne’s vicious empire in the 8th century, Otto the Great’s German empire of the 10th century, Napoleon’s in the early 19th, or Hitler’s in the mid-20th—the Vatican was the primary influence over the empire. That’s why it’s called the “Holy” Roman Empire, though the use of the term “holy” is one of history’s cruelest misnomers.

The spirit of Nazism is the same spirit as that of the Holy Roman Empire!

Bible prophecy reveals there will be *seven* total resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire. History shows that six of those resurrections have occurred. Current events show that right now, in Germany and the Vatican, and in Europe, the final resurrection—fueled by the reviving spirit of Nazism—is raising its terrifying head. ■

You must know where this trend will end. To find out, request your free copy of *Who and What Is the Prophetic Beast?*



is the very reverse of the situation Germany has forced on other EU member nations to ensure that they toe the EU line.

The first reading in German parliament of the rushed legislation to conform to the Constitutional Court’s ruling is on August 26 (after this magazine goes to press). The bill’s final reading is set for September 8. The Bundesrat, Germany’s upper house of parliament, is then due to pass the final bill on September 18, just before German elections on September 27.

But whichever way you slice the cake in Europe’s constitutional challenge, Germany wins. If Lisbon fails, Germany wins by virtue of its dominance of the EU Parliament. If Lisbon is ratified, Germany’s own sovereign law would trump EU law should a conflict develop between the two.

Crucial Election

This all makes for a nail-biting run-up to the German federal election. Should any part of the German or EU constitutional process falter, the whole political process in Germany and the EU could descend into chaos.

Until Germany’s challenge to the EU legal powers is settled, the very future of the European Union hangs in the balance. Chancellor Angela Merkel can ill afford a constitutional crisis at home as Germany’s federal election looms.

What will be the outcome of this current political and legal crisis in Germany and the EU? The effects will be *enormous* for the future direction of both.

What will be the outcome of Germany’s September elections? Who will lead

Germany into the next crucial decade?

Of the importance of this election, our editor in chief has warned, “You need to watch the September 27 election this year in Germany. It could very well produce the political leader of the Holy Roman Empire—and through devious means. The Bible prophesies that this man will come to power with deceit and flatteries” (theTrumpet.com, April 6).

There’s the real *key* to the upcoming German elections. The one destined to lead the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire will be one who gains office “through devious means ... with deceit and flatteries” (Daniel 11:21).

The final quarter of 2009 is crucial to EU elites in finalizing their dream of forcing an overarching constitution on the

27-nation EU bloc. If Lisbon is ratified, two powerful positions will be created to be filled by officials unelected by EU constituents: the powerful EU foreign minister, and the president of the European Union. Technically, each will sit above the presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministries of all EU member nations. Under Lisbon, the EU would then proceed to institutionalize its vision of a revival of former “Holy” Roman greatness in an orderly fashion.

If Lisbon fails, this could prove to be a catalyst for the elites of Brussels/Berlin to move in aggressively and carve up the EU into major regions, and subservient minor regions. Out of the resulting chaos could well emerge, even more rapidly, the final prophesied order of 10 leaders over 10 regional groupings, all yielding to one ruling authority (Revelation 17:12-13).

It should be obvious to all that the economic, financial, commercial and

political components of the resurrecting Holy Roman Empire are now extremely well developed. It remains now for its military power to be consolidated, and finally for the “holy” element to be enforced. The year 2010 could see both these final elements of power rapidly instituted.

The Great Hope

There exists the greatest of hope in the vision of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire: It is *the most powerful of indicators as to the very closeness of the return of the Savior of mankind* to overcome all earthly powers and impose the ultimate government on Earth (Isaiah 9:6-7).

That’s the great hope that exists in the prophecies of the rise of this beastly power, even now resurrecting on the European continent, as revealed in the books of Daniel and Revelation, and in many other prophecies in your Bible.

You need to realize how close it is to

SUDDENLY bursting upon the whole world!

Remember, Jesus Christ said, “when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:33).

Watch events in Europe! Dramatic, prophesied world events will increasingly swirl around this region, right on up to the doorstep of Jerusalem!

Remember the words of your Savior. His repeated admonition to His disciples was, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

Request a free copy of our booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation* for a more thorough understanding of the dramatic prophesied events that are leading to the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation.



THE RUSSIA FACTOR

Besides the world economy, another powerful force is bonding Europe together: the Russians.

AFTER the Soviet Union fell in 1991, Russia had no seat at the table of major world affairs. Then came the 2000 Russian elections.

Vladimir Putin took office. Things changed.

The Russian strongman—who called the Soviet implosion the “greatest geopolitical catastrophe” of the 20th century—has brought the Russian bear back to power as a force to be reckoned with. And the *Europeans* have taken sharp notice. They still remember how violent Russia was in World War II—and it now has massive piles of nuclear weapons.

Europe and World War II-foe Germany watched closely as KGB veteran Putin consolidated his own power and then his country’s. In the 2003 parliamentary elections, he staged his own coup, used his presidential powers to manipulate the process, decimated the anti-authoritarian opposition in both chambers and won a two-thirds majority for his United Russia party. He would later consolidate even more power in the Kremlin. Consider modern Russia now post-democratic.

But Putin was about to grab control of something besides his own government: oil. In 2003, the government began pressuring and even arresting the country’s richest energy oligarchs, and taking over their companies at rock-bottom prices. The Kremlin forced foreign companies to sell out or face heavy fines for trumped-up charges.

Energy prices soared from 2003 to 2008, and cash flowed into the world’s second-largest oil supplier, much of it from Europe, which depends heavily on imported Russian energy. Europe soon learned, however, that

Russia could also use its energy as a potent weapon.

In the winter of 2005 to 2006,



RUSSIA 2.0 Vladimir Putin is nourishing the Russian bear back to a world superpower.

Putin turned off the pipeline to Ukraine for flirting with the EU and the West and demanded far higher prices.

The message was not lost on Germany, Italy and France, who import 90 to 95 percent of their energy and the vast majority of their natural gas.

But the new Russia isn’t afraid of even more overt aggression. In 2007, it launched a massive electronic attack against Internet-reliant Estonia. Later that year, the Russian Air Force resumed Cold War-style nuclear bomber patrols. At the end of his second presidential term in 2008, Putin became prime minister and from there went to outright war on Georgia to keep Western influence away from Russia-controlled energy infrastructure and to maintain Russia’s ability to pull Europe’s plug whenever it pleases.

Russia’s bold moves are triggering a fear within Europe. This is another factor that will hasten the uniting of the European Union. It demands a strong, united response. The powerhouse of Europe, Germany, cannot help but react. Fear will motivate Germany and other European nations to want stronger leadership. Throughout history, Germany has often sought a strong leader. Bible prophecy says it will do so again—for the last time!

—Adapted from *Russia and China in Prophecy*, 2009 edition



The Trumpet staff has updated and expanded one of our most heavily read prophetic booklets, *Russia and China in Prophecy*. Even if you already have a copy, request a new, revised edition today!

THE GREATEST HEIST OF ALL TIME

Germany is conquering Europe without firing a shot. BY ROBERT MORLEY

NOV. 9, 1989, WAS A MOMENTOUS day. It was the day the Berlin Wall came crashing down. The Soviet empire began to retreat from Europe, releasing the Continent from the clutch of communism.

Nineteen years later, another—possibly even greater—event shook the world, one that had a similar emboldening effect on Europe. The sudden collapse of America's banking system in September 2008 opened the way for the emergence of a European economic superpower—and for the nation hijacking it.

Last fall, America stood in stunned silence as it witnessed the *largest corporate bankruptcy* in history (Lehman Brothers), the *largest insurance company failure* in history (American International Group) and the *largest corporate seizure* in the history of finance (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).

"The week surrounding September 11 of this year will prove to be a *more significant turning point than the one that occurred seven years before*," we wrote in our November-December 2008 issue. "It was a stark, blaring announcement to the world that the American economic system has passed the point of no return. And when America's economy goes, **THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT WILL BE RADICALLY TRANSFORMED.**"

Nowhere is the transformation more pronounced than in Europe. The global economic crisis is sweeping away national powers and forcing an unnatural union of European states. It is hastening the rise of a new global superpower!

Politicians, business leaders and military planners alike are about to be stunned by Europe's sudden rise to prominence. The international balance of power is already shifting. New alliances are taking shape. Economic systems are being challenged.

Yet the events shaking the world today were forecast many years ago.

Back in 1984, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the globally circulated *Plain Truth* newsmagazine (the precursor to

the *Trumpet* magazine), warned that a massive banking crisis in America could "suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S." (member and co-worker letter, July 22, 1984).

During a message given that same year, Mr. Armstrong related: "[I]n London, the economic conference was on while we were there. ... And I can tell you now that I learned things while in London that have alarmed me very greatly. And I can see now the *event that is going to trigger the formation of the reunification in Europe* I believe that some event is going to happen *suddenly*, just like out of a blue sky, that is going to shock the whole world,

The global economic crisis is sweeping away national powers and forcing an unnatural union of European states. It is hastening the rise of a new global superpower!

and is going to cause the nations in Europe to realize they must unite! ... Well, now I think I can see what may be the very event that is going to trigger it, and *that is the economic situation in the world*" (July 7, 1984; emphasis mine throughout).

No one can argue that the world isn't locked in a global economic crisis that originated in America. But now witness how fast the prophesied united European superpower is rising.

Europe Blames America

The disparate leaders of Europe most of-

ten can't agree on anything—but they *are* united in one strange, ominous way: They blame the United States for wrecking the global economy.

German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück summed up European sentiment in October last year: "The origin and the center of gravity of the problem is clearly in the U.S." German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy agreed. *It is America's fault, and now the world has to deal with it.* More recently, in his encyclical released in July, Pope Benedict XVI joined the chorus, calling for a *new* world financial order independent of the U.S.

But it is the Franco-German solution to Anglo-Saxon recklessness that is so ominous. During the G-20 economic summit last November, the world's most powerful economies quietly signed over their sovereign rights to regulate their own economies. A new overarching international body charged with preventing future economic accidents, the Financial Stability Board (FSB), will now trump the national law of individual signatories (article, page 2). Virtually overnight, the new head of the FSB, Mario Draghi, has become the most powerful regulator of banking, finance and commerce in the world. Mr. Draghi, a former Italian banker, is also known for his close ties to the Vatican.

The motive behind the creation of the FSB may be far more sinister than just to make sure banking crises do not occur again. In the past, Paris and Berlin, supported by Italy, Spain and most of the older EU nations, have repeatedly attacked the U.S.-British free-market economic system. The worry now is that Germany and France are using their newfound strength to *loot it*.

According to independent news agency EurActiv, a "new balance of power" is being worked out in Europe. "France and Germany are openly challenging the rule of the City of London as Europe's main

financial hub, and are keen to see Paris or Frankfurt as powerful financial centers in a new, more regulated global system” (July 31). It is proposed that the derivatives industry, which has been a huge source of growth for London’s financial institutions, be regulated by new “clearing houses” based elsewhere. Additionally, new financial regulations will remove the advantage of registering as a UK-based hedge fund. Large financial institutions may be forced to flee London to escape scrutiny.

And the FSB’s authority will stretch far beyond the G-20 nations. Any bank that wants to conduct business with a G-20 member will have to comply with FSB guidelines.

Meanwhile, the EU is also creating other new regulatory bodies with vast power over EU nations: a European Banking Authority in London; a European Insurance Authority in Frankfurt; and a European Securities Authority in Paris. All three of these agencies will report to Brussels.

Some officials in Britain are warning that all the new regulations are thinly veiled attacks on its financial industry. But London has little power and few allies in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

The big losers in the financial crisis are easy to identify. But one winner has flown under the radar.

The Real Winner

The forces unleashed during America’s financial 9/11 quickly spread the economic carnage to London, and from there to Frankfurt, Paris, Madrid and beyond to vulnerable Eastern Europe. Credit froze up, asset values plummeted, exchange rates diverged, insolvency swept venerable banking institutions, and government revenues plunged.

A year after the initial crisis, Western Europe remains in economic malaise, but Eastern Europe—including the Balkan states, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania—stands on the edge of the abyss. It is these eastern countries that, according to Stratfor, have “borne the brunt of the global financial crisis.” They are the new “ground zero” of the global recession.

These Eastern European nations are burdened by vast debts that have become impossible to finance. Making the matter worse, much of this debt is denominated in foreign currencies. This means these nations are caught in an economic Catch-22. They need strong currencies to pay back the loans, but with their economies in

turmoil, the only way they can earn money is to devalue their currency to increase exports. As a way out, they have looked to buy time by borrowing even more money.

France and Germany initially came to the rescue. “Sweeping bank bailouts unite Europe,” was the *Los Angeles Times* headline on Oct. 14, 2008. “Like soldiers falling into step, governments across Europe” followed France and Germany’s lead to bail out the banking system. “The time of going it alone is fortunately over,” declared President Nicolas Sarkozy. “United Europe has pledged more than the U.S.”

Despite the confident rhetoric and the magnitude of the bailouts, Eastern European countries still wobbled on the edge of disaster. Analysts feared a second round of crisis loomed. This was especially bad news for Sweden, Austria and Greece. Over the previous decade, Sweden lent very heavily to businesses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Now those loans were threatened, and Swedish banks themselves faced default—imperiling Sweden itself. Similar precarious situations existed for the big banking houses in Austria and Greece that invested in the Balkans and East-Central Europe.

But another rescue was being put together. According to Stratfor, the only long-term solution for these Eastern European countries and their banks “is a mad dash to the eurozone” (ibid.). The Eastern Europeans know this, and consequently they looked to the European Central Bank (ECB) as a savior.

The European Central Bank is dominated by Germany.

On June 24, the ECB opened up an “unlimited” supply of 1 percent one-year loans to European banks as a means of keeping them afloat. Eastern Europe breathed a collective sigh of relief and quickly borrowed over \$620 billion. Germany became the white knight of Europe.

But on some levels, the relief might be short-lived. Additional bailouts may be needed if the economic downturn is more prolonged than expected. Additionally, Eastern European states (as well as Sweden, Austria, Greece and other countries) are now incredibly indebted to the German-run European Central Bank, regardless of whether or not their economies recover. Plus, the rescue loans come due in only a year. How will that money be paid

back? *Much of Europe is about to find out it is utterly dependent on Germany for its livelihood.*

And here is the great irony in it all. The ECB, like its counterpart in America, the Federal Reserve Bank, creates money by fiat. The money it has lent out to Eastern Europe is just electronic bookkeeping entries—there are no tangible assets behind it. No gold or silver was collected and sent out. What this means is that the nations of Eastern Europe, by accepting both the ECB loans and regulations, *have sold their sovereignty for literally nothing*—not even bits of paper.

It is the coup of the century. The biggest heist of all time! Germany is stealing Europe. History books will show that Germany conquered Europe without firing a shot.

How Could He Have Known?

Go back and reread the forecasts made by Mr. Armstrong about the unification of Europe, the rise of a European superpower, and the event that would set it all in motion. Remember: Mr. Armstrong made those statements when the Soviet empire completely dominated Eastern Europe and Germany was still disunited. The European Union didn’t even exist until almost a decade later, and it would be 14 years before the European Central Bank would be created. Yet Mr.



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Armstrong clearly forecast the future of Europe. How could he have known?

Readers familiar with the *Trumpet* know that we have been proclaiming Mr. Armstrong’s Bible-based warnings concerning Europe and the world. And that is where the hope is. God warned America and this world that these events were coming. He foreordained that they would happen, and He recorded them in the Bible for us today so that we might be prepared.

God also recorded the ultimate conclusion of these events for us. The Bible reveals the future. As Mr. Armstrong said in 1984, the Bible predicts that European unification “in turn, could bring on the Great Tribulation [a prophesied period of warfare in the end of the age] suddenly. And that will lead quickly into the Second Coming of Christ ...” (July 22, 1984).

That’s where America’s economic collapse and Europe’s unification under German leadership is leading: to the return of Christ. ■



THE POPE'S WAR

Positioning the church to fulfill its part in a revived European empire BY JOEL HILLIKER

IT'S A MOST UNHOLY MARRIAGE. THE union of church and state on the European continent—the combination of spiritual influence and unifying power with military muscle and civil discipline—has been history's most lethal.

Six resurrections of the “Holy” Roman Empire have come and gone through the ages. The Bible prophesies that a seventh is upon us.

Looking at present conditions in the historic seat of “holy” imperial power, many would scoff at the idea. Not only is modern Europe politically fractious, but it also seems incurably *secular*. The idea that it could give rise to another kingdom intoxicated by religion may seem, to some, highly unlikely.

But there is one powerful man who clearly will not accept that.

His name is Pope Benedict XVI. His 4½-year papacy has provided ample evidence of his zeal to reassert Roman Catholic relevance in the 21st century.

Inside the church, he continues his decades-long campaign to expel liberals and stack the deck with conservatives.

In Europe, he is working to reestablish a Catholic continent. Among non-Catholic Christians, he seeks to draw worshippers under papal authority. In the world, he is leveling a strong attack against secularism and godlessness. And to Islam, he has unmistakably shown a resistance, a toughness, that promises to grow stronger.

What Pope Benedict has done, in fact, is position the Roman Catholic Church to fulfill its prophesied role in coming European and world events.

First Moves

After assuming office, Pope Benedict XVI began placing his hand-picked conservative troops in the top spots within the Catholic Curia (governing body). He eliminated two senior positions and chose a notoriously shy, controllable man for his old job, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He switched out the cardinal in charge of Vatican relations with the developing world, replaced the Vatican's longstanding press officer with a Jesuit priest, and shuffled the Vatican City governate and foreign-policy offices.

He replaced the Vatican secretary of state with his trusted former deputy in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, a man who would help him clean house at the Curia and catholicize the masses.

“I, bishop of Rome and pastor of the universal church ... send to you, age-old Europe, a cry full of love,” the pope said July 24, 2005, quoting his predecessor, John Paul II. “Return to yourself. Be yourself. Discover your origins. Revive your roots. Revive those authentic values that made your history glorious and your presence beneficial among the other continents.”

In March 2006, Pope Benedict XVI chose to drop “patriarch of the West” from his list of official titles. Why? The Eastern Orthodox synod said the move implied that the Catholic Church still sought “universal jurisdiction of the bishop of Rome over the entire church.” The pope retains the titles “vicar of Christ” and “supreme pontiff of the universal church.” He cast off the title “patriarch of the West” not because it gave him too much jurisdiction, but not enough.

Striking Out, Causes Offenses

By May 2006, after settling into his office, Ratzinger took the opportunity to lash out against European secularism—and Islam—in his book *Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam*. In it, Benedict wrote that the only solution to Europe's paralysis and the “advance of Islam” is Roman Catholicism.

In September that year, Pope Benedict traveled home to Bavaria for a six-day visit. There he discussed injecting “Christianity” (read Catholicism) into the European Constitution, and talked with German President Horst Kohler about the dangers of Islamic penetration into German society. But his most famous speech was a lecture at the University of Regensburg, where he quoted Catholic Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus: “Show me just what Mohammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.” Benedict was drawing his line in the sand.

The pope also visited the Auschwitz Nazi death camp, where 1.5 million victims, mostly Jews, died during World War II. In his carefully selected words, the self-styled “son of Germany” failed to even mention anti-Semitism or Nazis or Jews. A German pope. Speaking at *Auschwitz*.

The King-Breaker

On Feb. 19, 2007, the Vatican summoned Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and

a contingent of senior Italian government officials. The topic: homosexual couples. On the 23rd, Catholic World News reported, “New Italian government would not require allies to support civil-union bill.” The article showed that Prodi had caved on the issue in order to gather enough support to return to office. The Vatican had shown Prodi, and the world, *who rules Italy*. The incident echoed of the Vatican’s past as Europe’s kingmaker, the unifying political power that forged the Holy Roman Empire.

Soon after, Benedict extended his reach into Italian politics issuing his command to faithful followers: Vote Catholic. He told Italian politicians March 13 they must not vote for laws that went against the church’s “non-negotiable values.”

Around the same time, the *Times* of London reported, “Radical proposals to reunite Anglicans with the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of the pope are to be published this year. The proposals have been agreed by senior bishops of both churches. In a 42-page statement prepared by an international commission of both churches, Anglicans and Roman Catholics are urged to explore how they might reunite under the pope” (Feb. 19, 2007).

March 24 that year was the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the agreement that led to establishing the European Union. Benedict took the occasion to warn that Europe is sliding into “apostasy.” He demanded that EU leaders recognize that they had failed to embrace their spiritual and cultural heritage, and expressed dismay that the Rome Declaration made no mention of the influence of “Christianity,” meaning Catholicism.

Agitating the Masses

In mid-May, the pope traveled to Brazil to open an assembly of the Latin American bishops’ conference—not by invitation, but by personal choice. There he challenged the bishops to galvanize a continent-wide crusade against competing non-Catholic religions (“sects,” he called them), such as North-American evangelicals. Latino bishops jumped on board, and began lobbying national governments for legislation to ban and obstruct non-Catholics’ operation in Latin America. The visit illuminated Benedict’s aims to re-energize Catholicism not only in Europe, but around the whole globe.

Later that month, Pope Benedict prodded Catholics: It’s time to evangelize. He spoke of the “urgent need to relaunch missionary activity to meet the many grave challenges of our time.” He also called

missionary work “the church’s primary service to humanity today.” The message was clear: The church’s most important job is to convert the world.

To that end, the pope resurrected the Tridentine Mass, a Latin-language ceremony codified in 1570. In the 1960s, the church restricted the use of the ultra-conservative Tridentine prayer book, which is peppered with references that make Jews and non-Catholics bristle (asking God to “lift the veil from [their] eyes,” and that Jews “be delivered from their darkness” and converted to Catholicism). The more inclusive, modern mass the church adopted in its place was scorned by hard-core Catholics, one of whom was a younger Joseph Ratz-

♦

Remarkably, this sequence of provocative moves seems to have helped rather than hurt the pope’s popularity.

♦

inger. In July, Pope Benedict reversed that restriction, reconnecting the church to its medieval past. German rabbi Walter Homolka said, “This kind of signal has an extremely provocative effect on anti-Semitic groups. The Catholic Church does not have its anti-Semitic tendencies under control.”

That same month, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith restated the doctrines of “Dominus Iesus,” a document Cardinal Ratzinger had signed in 2000 to proclaim that non-Catholics were “gravely deficient” and that Protestant churches are “not churches in the proper sense.” The restatement added that Orthodox churches suffer from a “wound” because they do not accept the pope’s authority, a wound “still more profound” in Protestants. The document, approved by Pope Benedict, said that denominations outside Roman Catholicism are defective or not full churches. “Despite the fact that this teaching has created no little distress ... it is nevertheless difficult to see how the title of ‘church’ could possibly be attributed to them,” it said.

Remarkably, this sequence of provocative moves seems to have helped rather than hurt the pope’s popularity. It’s been said that crowds came to see Pope John Paul II, but they come to *hear* Benedict XVI. Over his pontificate, Benedict has

consistently attracted larger audiences to witness his weekly homilies in St. Peter’s Square than did his predecessor.

“A New Generation of Christians”

In a homily in September 2007, the pope made it clear that Sunday worship is a “necessity” for all. “Without the Lord’s day we cannot live!” he declared. “Give the soul its Sunday, give Sunday its soul!” It was a strong call for Christians to revive Sunday-keeping as an all-important religious practice. The underlying message: Your life depends on worshipping on Sunday.

The Vatican went back to king-breaking in January 2008, when it forced Prodi to resign, bringing down the government of Italy. Prodi lost a vote of confidence in the Senate after the Catholic leader of Italy’s Udeur Christian Democrat Party withdrew the party’s support from the coalition government, taking away Prodi’s majority in the Senate. According to the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*, this was directly the work of the Vatican. “Prodi’s government dared to challenge the ecclesiastical hierarchy for the second time and this time it has had its hands burned,” it wrote.

In March, the Vatican again meddled in national politics, launching a large campaign against Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero, another supporter of homosexual “marriage,” abortion and easier divorce. The Vatican’s political campaign cut Zapatero’s lead drastically and nearly won the election single-handedly.

In April, Benedict came to America, inspiring a press frenzy reminiscent of John Paul II’s funeral. In a society where God and the Bible are often ridiculed, the secular news media’s fawning praise for the pope was astounding. Tens of thousands filled stadiums and lined streets to hear or glimpse the white-clad “holy father.” While in America, the pope addressed the grotesque record of homosexual pedophilia in the priesthood of what he called “the church in America”—by blaming much of the scandalous behavior on *America’s broken society*. He accepted no responsibility for cleaning up the problem.

In September 2008, Pope Benedict spoke out to defend World War II Pope Pius XII. Benedict praised him for being “courageous” in trying to save Jews: “Wherever possible he spared no effort in intervening in their favor either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church.” The historical record shows that this is pure fiction: Pius conspicuously ignored the Holocaust and failed to come to the Jews’ aid.

Yet Benedict wants to make him a saint.

Benedict XVI again pushed in early September for “the birth of a new generation of Christians involved in society and politics.” He challenged Catholics who, “as far as the formation [of] new generations involved in society and politics is concerned, seem to be falling asleep.” That same month, the pope traveled to France, where he convinced President Nicolas Sarkozy that the country needs to rethink and redraw its church-state relations. The two leaders laid the groundwork for what could be the biggest change in France since the French Revolution—a move from a firmly secular society to one that accepts, as the pope said, “the irreplaceable role of religion.”

In November, it emerged that the Catholic Church wants Sunday observance enshrined in EU law. Specifically, the Vatican wanted a clause inserted in the Working Time Directive that would *force* every citizen in the European Union to rest on Sunday. Some members of the European Parliament tabled an amendment saying the minimum rest period “shall in principle include Sunday.” The Brussels-based Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Community said the directive should state “*the minimal weekly rest must include Sunday.*”

In January of this year, the pope again hurled a challenge at the Jews. The Vatican has been demanding the handover of six sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel. Catholic media reports indicated that these negotiations were nearly finished, and IDF Army Radio said President Shimon Peres was pressuring Interior Minister Eli Yishai to cave in to the Vatican. It said he may find a way to sign away the sites without Yishai’s approval if necessary. Biblical prophecy shows that soon, the Vatican *will* gain control over the territory it seeks within Israel.

Also in January, Pope Benedict lifted the excommunication of Bishop Richard Williamson, a fellow arch-conservative who rejects the modern Vatican II changes and is a Holocaust-denier. The move attracted an outcry from Jews and from German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who openly criticized the pope for his decision. We watch to see whether her outspokenness adversely affects her political career.

As the world economy came apart at the seams like a cheaply sewn liturgical vestment, the pope descended from on high to suggest his own solution: “a true world political authority.” On July 7, the pontiff released a 144-page encyclical, “Charity in Truth,” which took a swipe at



PONTIFF PREY Former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi crossed the Vatican and got axed from his job—twice.

the U.S.-style capitalism that many blame for the financial crisis. He called for regulation with “real teeth,” administered by a global political authority. Biblical prophecy shows this is exactly what will happen: That authority will be European, and the Vatican will have control.

The record is impressive: Pope Benedict XVI has been active, determined and aggressive in asserting Roman Catholic authority and positioning the church to play a larger role in the time ahead. He even seems to view his actions in their historical context—facilitating yet another revival of that ancient church-state union.

Looking to Benedict

In April 2008, during a regular weekly address in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict made a telling statement about European unity. He said that his namesake, St. Benedict, “exercised a fundamental influence on the development of European civilization and culture.” The pope praised St. Benedict for helping the Continent emerge from the “dark night of history” that followed the fall of the Roman Empire.

This pope identifies strongly with his namesake, whose monastic system galvanized Europe during Justinian’s revival of the Roman Empire. Clearly, he is trying to spark a similar revival today.

By alluding to the period between the fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476 and its revival under Justinian in A.D. 554 as the “dark night of history,” Benedict seems to be implying that modern Europe has endured a similar “dark night” from which it is now emerging under his influence.

The pope also said St. Benedict had sparked “a new cultural unity based on

Christian faith” within Europe—which united an otherwise fractious European populace into a mighty empire. Ever since, the “cultural unity” created by Roman Catholicism has helped Europe to unify time and time again as the Holy Roman Empire.

The pope is working to sway Europe to embrace the religion of Rome today—to once again serve as the cultural glue enabling the restoration of that empire.

The Bible informs us that he is destined to succeed. It will happen just as Herbert W. Armstrong, based on the Bible’s prophecies, repeatedly said it would. “I have been proclaiming and writing, ever since 1935, that the final one of the seven eras of the Holy Roman Empire is coming in our generation—a ‘United States of Europe,’ combining 10 nations or groups of nations in Europe—with A UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE!” he wrote in the January 1979 edition of the *Plain Truth*. “The nations of Europe have been striving to become reunited. They desire a common currency, a single combined military force, a single united GOVERNMENT. They have made a start in the Common Market. They are now working toward a common currency. Yet, on a purely political basis, they have been totally UNABLE to unite.

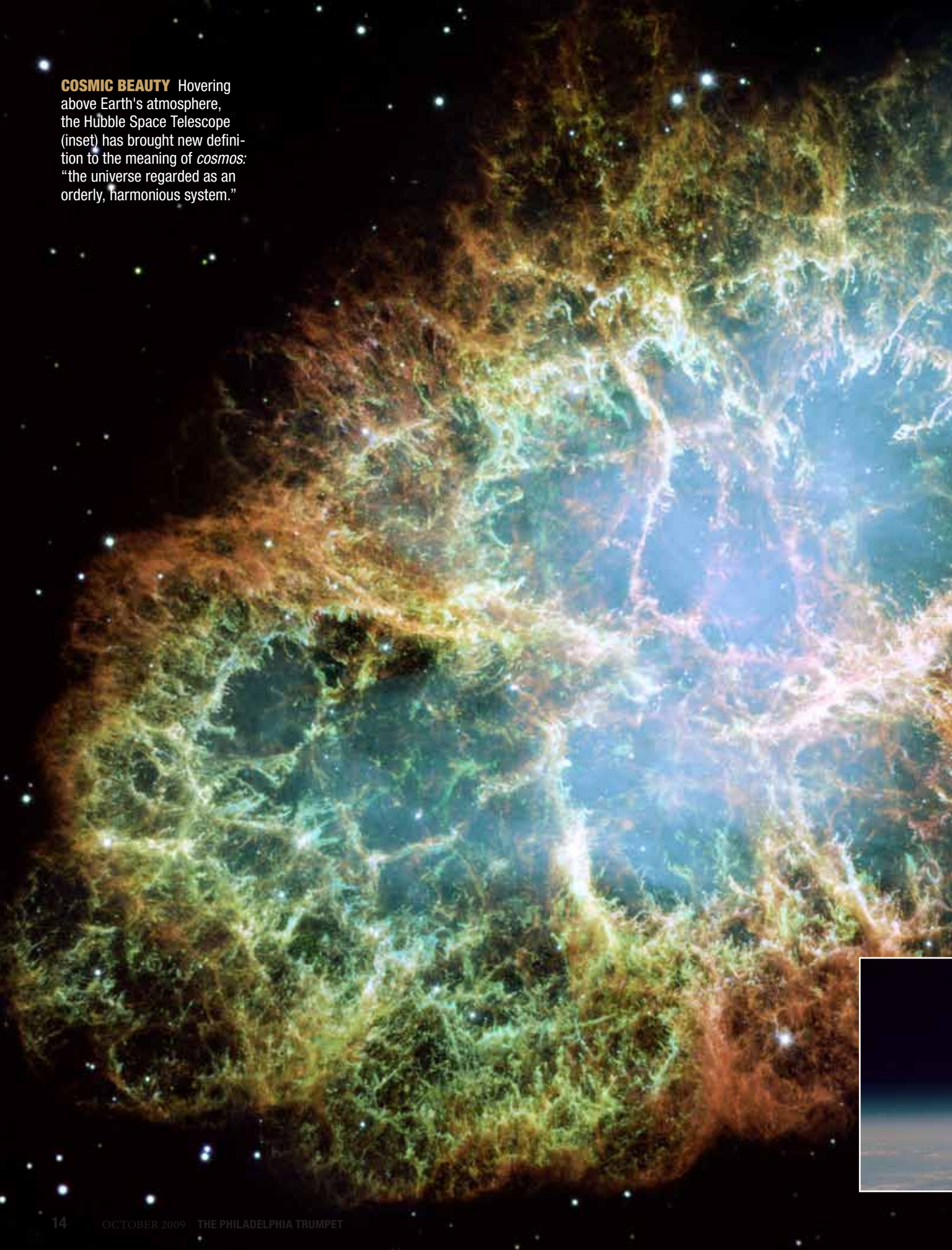
“In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the ‘good offices’ of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling (Revelation 17:1-5).”

The European Union is now the greatest united trading entity in the world. It is aggressively developing a combined military force. With its constitution nearing ratification, it could soon weld together politically as one supra-European continental government. Yet it still lacks that key element: the ability to totally unite. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in the Aug. 28, 1978, *Good News* magazine, European leaders “well know there is but ONE POSSIBILITY of union in Europe—and that is *through the Vatican.* ... [T]his political union will put the Catholic Church right back in the saddle as it was from 554 to 1814—with the power of police and military to enforce its decrees!”

Today we see Pope Benedict working feverishly to enable that spiritual “vital lifeblood” of European unity. The resulting wave of evangelism will sweep the Continent into Rome’s arms in a bonding of church and state.

It is all now so close to coming to pass. We are witnessing the beginning of the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. ■

COSMIC BEAUTY Hovering above Earth's atmosphere, the Hubble Space Telescope (inset) has brought new definition to the meaning of *cosmos*: "the universe regarded as an orderly, harmonious system."



The Perfect Seat for Viewing the Universe

The heavens have a message for us.
Do you hear what they are saying?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HUNDREDS OF MILES above the surface of our planet, the Hubble Telescope orbits the Earth every 97 minutes. This 11-ton, 43-foot-long instrument has made more than 100,000 trips around our planet, covering 2.5 billion miles.

And as it flies through space at 17,500 miles per hour above the gasses of Earth's atmosphere, it is taking some of the most captivating photos ever seen.

We see breathtaking images of purple and blue-hued nebulae, and sparkling diamond-like fields of galaxies where we thought there was nothing but empty space. We see awe-inspiring, brilliant pictures of stars and galaxies and clusters in whites, golds, oranges, blues and greens. We see infrared, luminous, ultra-luminous, radiant views of objects so far away, so gigantic, so dazzling our minds can't even process them.

From the Hubble, we have seen supernovas, galaxies in their early stages, and massive stars collapsing. We have seen comets striking planets, and births of stars; we can recognize black holes. These images give us spectacular views of our expanding universe.

Some scientists believe these views are

the greatest discovery of the past century.

Hubble makes about 20,000 observations per year. It has recorded more than half a million pictures over the past two decades. These dazzling images inspire more questions. *What are the laws of the universe? Where does it end? Where did it all come from? WHY is it here? Why, for that matter, am I here?*

The Scientists' Message

Besides observing, scientists are also trying to answer some of these major questions: *Why does the universe follow such mathematical laws? How did it get here in the first place? Is there any meaning behind it all?* They have written volumes and volumes about the Hubble data. Using findings from the Hubble Telescope, astronomers have published over 7,500 scientific papers, and writers have published 35,000 reports about the Hubble.

The Hubble scientists are really getting their message out! In all the thousands of papers and articles about these fascinating discoveries, scientists are working to tell people why it is important, what it is all about—what it *means* for all of us.

These scientists deserve credit for building a masterpiece instrument and capturing these spectacular, previously unknown views of our universe. But there is a problem. They are ignoring the *most important source* for answering those questions!

Have you heard a single astronomer on this project mention one thing about the *Creator* of the stars?



The Hubble Telescope is helping us coax the cosmos into revealing its secrets and mysteries. And the more we study, the stronger the evidence becomes of an absolutely remarkable truth: There is an *Author of the cosmos*. And He INTENDED for us to be able to study the stars—to help us COME TO KNOW HIM!

Beautiful Darkness

Walk outside and look up on a clear night. You will see several hundred stars—perhaps a few thousand if it is dark enough and your view is unobstructed.

Do you realize how *unusual* and *special* that view really is?

Could you contemplate the night sky if all you ever saw was a canopy of impenetrably thick clouds? Happy for us, Earth's atmosphere is transparent. Not only is our oxygen-rich air necessary for life, its invisibility also happens to make gazing up at the stars a whole lot more interesting and informative than would be the case on most planets.

This is only one of *several* unique physical conditions that make our study of the heavens possible, and so richly rewarding.

Another favorable circumstance: our position within our galaxy. The Milky Way is an incomprehensible 100,000 light years across, and we sit in its slim “galactic habitable zone” (GHZ)—just far enough from the center that we're not killed by radiation, but just close enough that sufficient heavy elements needed for life are present. At the same time, our position is a perfect seat for viewing the rest of the cosmos.

For one, it is so beautifully dark here. Light can be the enemy of astronomical discovery—for basically the same reason that you want the lights off in the theater while watching a movie. Conveniently, our solar system is in the darkest part of the galaxy's GHZ, almost exactly halfway between the Milky Way's spiral arms, which are crowded with radiant stars and thick dust clouds that would obscure our view. Our vision is also free of any nearby gaseous nebulae or blinding star clusters.

The Milky Way also happens to be in the darkest habitable area of its galaxy cluster. While a typical galaxy cluster has over 10,000 tightly packed galaxies, ours has only about 40, all but two of which (one being the Milky Way) are small or dwarf galaxies. On top of that, our galaxy cluster is in the darkest habitable part of the Virgo supercluster of galaxies. Thus, there is virtually nothing in the way of our peering deep into the outer reaches of the cosmos.

Another convenient feature of our cos-

mic vantage point is how protected we are from collisions. The four gas giant planets in our solar system—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—shield Earth from dangerous space projectiles like asteroids and comets with their gravitational pull, without being so close as to block our view. Yet they're not *too* efficient: The few smaller asteroids that have made it through and hit Earth have actually aided in scientific discovery without wiping humans out.

Not Just Luck

The more scientists learn about the universe, the more of these outstandingly helpful conditions they identify. “For some reason our earthly location is extraordinarily well suited to allow us to peer into the heavens and discover its secrets,” say the grateful astronomers who authored *The Privileged Planet*. A host of finely tuned factors “are not only necessary for Earth's habitability; they also have been surprisingly crucial for scientists to measure and make discoveries about the universe. Mankind is unusually well positioned to decipher the cosmos.”

Even *this moment* in the history of Earth and the universe is uniquely suited to studying the cosmos. For example, the fact that the universe is expanding suggests that earlier in its history, all the bright matter would have been too close together for decent visibility. Today, everything is spread apart enough that we can see everything with remarkable clarity.

Scientists have come to refer to Earth as a “Goldilocks planet.” That is, in every conceivable way, conditions aren't too hot or too cold, too large or too small, too close or too far—too anything. No matter what is measured, it is “just right.” Not only for the existence of life, but also for *discovery*. And to a mind-boggling level of precision. Even the *minutest deviation* would make cosmic observation difficult or impossible—or would wipe out the prospect of life.

Maybe it's not luck after all.

A growing number of astronomers are acknowledging the possibility—though, sadly, it banishes them from mainstream science—not only that the precise conditions for life on Earth were specifically, painstakingly established by a creative mind of extraordinary intelligence, but also that this Power ensured we would be able to follow the signs back to their source. The multiplicity and exactitude of these signs “reflects masterful engineering at a level far beyond human capability—and even imagination. It testifies of a supernat-

ural, superintelligent, superpowerful, fully deliberate Creator,” wrote Dr. Hugh Ross (*Why the Universe Is the Way It Is*).

Think about that the next time you look up at the stars. A superintelligent Creator went to a lot of trouble to make that view possible for you!

Think about this too when you study the images produced by the Hubble Telescope. We can't give all the credit to the scientists. We have to acknowledge the superpowerful, deliberate hand that opened these magnificent cosmic vistas to us.

Do that, and then you have to ask yourself, just *why* did He go to such lengths to ensure we could see all that?

The Heavens Declare God's Glory

As King David wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day [after] day uttereth speech, and night [after] night sheweth knowledge” (Psalm 19:1-2). The word translated *uttereth* means *pours forth*. It could also be translated *prophesies*.

Yes, GOD'S UNIVERSE CREATION IS CONSTANTLY POURING FORTH PROPHECY! Do you know what it is saying? What are the heavens communicating to us?

They are pouring forth evidence of a Designer, and—it is becoming more and more clear—a Sustainer as well. All those heavenly bodies are like a great orchestra that God is conducting! They demonstrate perfect adherence to the laws given to them by their Creator—a trait we would do well to emulate.

God clearly *wanted* us to make these cosmic discoveries. Romans 1:20 says that “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made” (Revised Standard Version).

“Clearly, Someone wanted human beings to exist and thrive. Just as clearly, Someone wanted us to see all He had done in the universe,” Dr. Ross continued. “His purposes for human existence must be *highly valuable*” (emphasis mine).

Indeed.

A Message of Hope

Today we live in dangerous times. Biblical prophecy shows that we are about to plunge into the blackest, darkest period in human history. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction casts the *survival of our race* in doubt. In fact, Jesus Christ prophesied that *if not for His Second Coming, NO FLESH ON THIS PLANET WOULD*

See **UNIVERSE** page 34 ➤



Never Too Old to Learn

But we had better get busy, while there's still time. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

I ONCE SPOKE TO AN 80-YEAR-OLD woman whose numerous physical frailties had deeply discouraged her mental outlook. “Sometimes I think I would be better off dead,” she said to me. “I mean, what can I do?”

Her question reminded me of a story related in a *Good News* article years ago. It was about life on the frontier, almost 190 years ago, before there were matches. People in that age used to “borrow fire” from neighbors by loading a bucket with a few hot coals. It sure beat trying to start a fire with sticks.

As the story goes, one old woman on the frontier felt just like the one I talked to. She had spent her long life learning so many different things. She had raised many children; she saw those children raise her grandchildren. She had traveled far and wide across the prairie. She was a woman of the land; knew the names of most plants and animals in her region. She was a wise old woman. But toward the end of her life, she felt she had learned everything there was to know. “I’m just going to cuddle up in this rocking chair next to the fire every day,” she said, “until I die.”

One day, there was a knock on the door. The agitated old lady opened the door to a little girl, dressed in tatters, whose face was smudged with soil. “Can I borrow some fire?” the girl whispered softly.

“What?”

“I’d like to borrow some fire,” the girl repeated a little louder.

“Well where’s your bucket?” the woman asked impatiently.

“I don’t need one.”

“Well then, how are you going to get the coals home?” the lady snapped back.

“Easy!” said the little girl, smiling as she brushed past the old woman on her way to the fireplace. She scooped up a pile of cold ashes into the palm of her hand and plopped the coal on top of the ash

heap. “Thanks!” she said on her way out.

The old woman shut the door and shook her head. “If I can learn something brand new from a little farm girl, there must be a lot I still don’t know. *I better get busy while I still have time.*”

Herbert W. Armstrong also answered a “knock at the door” during the twilight years of his fruitful life. Some of our readers may not know that he nearly died of congestive heart failure in 1977 at the age of 85. He had lived a long, productive and prosperous life—50 years of which he spent diligently serving God.

At the time of his heart failure, humbly, he would have rather died right then, he later wrote. But he instead rose from his deathbed to answer God’s “knock.” As an elderly man in poor health physically, Herbert W. Armstrong almost single-handedly put the Worldwide Church of God, which had been derailed by internal strife and division, **BACK ON TRACK!**

While recovering in 1978, Mr. Armstrong intensified efforts to write more for the church’s publications. He completed work on his best book to that point, *The Incredible Human Potential*.

After a 12-year hiatus from television, he resumed full broadcasting responsibilities on *The World Tomorrow*, turning it into one of the highest-rated religious programs of its day.

In 1979, Mr. Armstrong forcefully confronted an attack brought on by six ex-members of the church who were working in cahoots with California’s attorney general. In the end, Mr. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God successfully prevailed against the unconstitutional attack.

As the church entered the 1980s, Mr. Armstrong concentrated much of his energy on *family*. He understood that the church’s underlying strength depended in large part on the stability of its individual families. His two-fold plan—Youth

Opportunities United for teenagers and Youth Educational Service for pre-teens—was designed to bring families closer together and to support parents in educating their children in the ways of God.

In 1981, at the age of 88, Mr. Armstrong started a new magazine for young people—*Youth 81*. He regularly visited the church’s youth camps during the 1980s. In fact, it was while Mr. Armstrong was visiting a camp in Orr, Minnesota, in 1985 that he became too ill to continue with his travels, which prompted his early return to Pasadena and eventual death. His last field visit in 1985 was to a *youth camp*. Then, back in Pasadena, one of his last public appearances was before students at Ambassador College.

Mr. Armstrong wrote his best book, *Mystery of the Ages*, in the last year of his life, while nearly blind. “With the writing of the new book *Mystery of the Ages*,” he wrote, “God has helped me this year to do the **BEST WORK** of my 93 years of life!” Before he died, Mr. Armstrong said he understood more in the last 10 years of his life than he had in *all the previous decades put together*.

That’s a tremendous level of achievement for a man who would have rather died at the age of 85. His greatest work came *after* God extended his life in 1977. During the last eight years of his life, as a nearly blind, elderly victim of heart failure, he got the Worldwide Church of God back on track, defeated the state of California in a nationally known lawsuit, became one of the most popular religious personalities on television, nearly quadrupled the church’s growth in every major category, raised up and promoted numerous youth programs, traveled the world to meet with presidents and prime ministers, and wrote a 363-page book.

Like that wise old woman, Mr. Armstrong took full advantage of the extra time he had late in life in order to fulfill all of God’s will. He had learned early on in his training that education is **FOR LIFE**—that you are *never too old to learn*.

It’s easy, at times, to feel we are limited by age—or that we’re past our prime, or maybe maxed out on the job, or at home, or in our local church congregation. Even those who are *still young* can be hindered by such debilitating thoughts.

Whatever your lot in life, don’t limit your development and growth as a Christian, or as a husband or wife, a parent, a student, or as an employee on the job. **ANSWER GOD’S KNOCK**. Then get busy while there is still time. ■

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

Germany SHOULD LAUNCH an unmanned lunar mission, German Economy Ministry State Secretary Peter Hintze said August 12. "A German moon landing is possible during the course of the next decade, around 2015," he told ZDF television. It would cost \$2.2 billion, but would help Germany develop vital technology, said Hintze, who is also the government's aerospace coordinator. Watch for Germany to increase its expertise in this important military arena.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met in Munich July 16, where they announced agreements on a joint energy agency, trade and greater cooperation in science. In exchange for energy security, Merkel said Germany would provide credit insurance to promote bilateral trade between Germany and **Russia**, which has seen trade collapse during the economic crisis. Watch this growing relationship. As the *Trumpet* has explained before, a burgeoning German-Russian relationship has historically indicated that Berlin and/or Moscow are preparing for conflict.

Four disgruntled dairy farmers from Germany set out on their tractors for the Vatican on July 17 aiming to ask Pope Benedict XVI for help. **Dairy farmers across Europe are suffering economic hardship**; many are losing faith in the ability of European politicians to solve their problems. The convoy traveled under the motto, "We have lost our faith in politics, but not in the church." Expect this to become a growing trend: Europeans looking to the Vatican for guidance and solutions.



Iceland took its first formal step toward EU membership July 27: EU foreign ministers asked the European Commission to examine Iceland's legal preparedness to begin membership negotiations. However, a Gallop poll shows 48 percent of the nation is against joining the EU, with only 35 percent in favor. Iceland is a strategic location for controlling the Atlantic. Watch for the EU to try to bring it under its control, with or without the consent of its people.

For the first time in NATO's 60-year history, a non-American is taking over one of its two strategic commands. **Gen. Stephane Abrial, chief of staff of the French Air Force**, becomes Supreme Allied Commander Transformation on September 9. **France** has been outside of NATO's command structure for 43 years, although it has remained a member of the alliance. In return for rejoining NATO's integrated command, France has said the **U.S.** must accept the EU developing a military role

independent of NATO. Europe wants to increase its military power, either outside of NATO or by using NATO as a tool.

Three days of severe riots, sparked by the worsening economic downturn, ripped through France in mid-July, which celebrated Bastille Day on July 14. Much of the rioting appeared to have originated with angry Muslims and powerful union elements. With economic hardship expected to worsen across the Continent in coming months, the risk of social unrest remains high. Europe's social turbulence is creating ideal conditions for the emergence of more extreme forms of leadership on the Continent.



MIDDLE EAST

A BRITISH GOVERNMENT spokesman admitted in

July that the UK is financing projects aimed at halting Israeli settlement activities. British spokesman Martin Day said, "One of these projects seeks to build new Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and save Palestinian houses from demolition." Day's comments further reveal the fissure in Israeli-British relations. The UK's encouragement of Palestinian settlement in East Jerusalem will only add

more tension to this prophetic fault line. As U.S. operations in **Iraq** wind down, Islamic terrorists are moving into the Gaza Strip. *Haaretz* reported in August that dozens of Sunni Muslim terrorists had entered Gaza during the previous 12 months. Foreign terrorists in Gaza are symptomatic of the West's fundamental problem in its approach to terrorism.





As terror expert Michael Sheehan has said, it is just swatting the mosquitoes instead of draining the swamp.

A Stratfor source has reported that Hezbollah security chief Wafiq Safa has vastly increased his authority over Shiite officers in **Lebanon's** military. Safa now has input concerning all appointments, promotions and deployments of these officers. He also reportedly has an arrangement with the Lebanese Army command whereby he is informed of all the army's movements and plans. Stratfor sources in the Lebanese military admit "that the army has neither the capability nor the will to stand up to Hezbollah."

Hezbollah is also making gains politically. In early August, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, head of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, threatened to withdraw from the ruling March 14 alliance, which may open the door for Hezbollah to woo the Druze leader. Jumblatt has backed away from his traditional hos-

tility toward **Syria**. Jumblatt is moving away from Lebanon's pro-Western forces in favor of **Iran**, Syria and Hezbollah most likely because he senses momentum swinging in their direction as America's influence in the region wanes. As of mid-August, a new Lebanese government—following parliamentary elections in June—still had not been formed. Jumblatt said his party would still be part of a national unity government.

On August 3, **Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** officially approved President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's reelection. The divisions within Iran's leadership, however, remain. Khamenei chose Ahmadinejad because he saw him as the leader who could extract the most concessions in negotiations with the U.S., according to Stratfor (August



A Palestinian man near the disputed neighborhood of Har Homa

4). But because Khamenei was forced to come out in open support of Ahmadinejad as a result of election protests—thereby yielding up his public appearance of impartiality—the president's hand has been strengthened. We may now see Ahmadinejad pursue an even more aggressive foreign policy.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri

al Maliki visited with President Obama in Washington on July 22. The meeting came three weeks after U.S. troops pulled out of Iraqi cities and towns. All combat troops are scheduled to leave Iraq by August next year. President Obama said he pressed Maliki to include in his government and security forces all ethnic and religious groups to prevent a resurgence of ethnic violence in Iraq. The reality is, however, that with the U.S. retreating, Maliki's Shiite-dominated government will likely make more concessions

to neighboring Shiite Iran than to the Sunnis and Kurds.

Meanwhile, a rift is emerging between U.S. and Iraqi forces in the wake of the U.S. troops' departure from the cities. In July, insurgents attacked an American convoy; when U.S. soldiers returned fire and pursued their AK-47-armed attackers, they killed three Iraqis. A senior Iraqi Army commander charged the American troops with firing indiscriminately at civilians, and ordered them to be taken into custody. While the confrontation was defused, the incident demonstrated both the dwindling authority the U.S. has in Iraq and the emerging hostility toward America among Iraqis. Iran is certain to fill the void America leaves behind.

ASIA

Japan's DEMOCRATIC PARTY leader, Yukio Hatoyama, published an essay August 11 outlining his staunch support for an East Asian alliance of nations. Because Hatoyama is poised to become the next Japanese prime minister after August 30 elections, his political philosophies give an indication of Japan's probable geopolitical direction in the near term. The essay, published in the Japanese journal *Voice*, revealed Hatoyama's desire to distance Japan from "U.S.-led market fundamentalism." Rather, he supports a drive toward political integration into "an East Asian community," specifying that the community should be modeled after the EU. The shift in Japan's priorities—away from the U.S. security alliance and toward stronger ties with **China**—is not new, but it will likely gather momentum under Hatoyama.

Japan has for the first time explicitly stated that it recognizes the need to develop space-based systems

for military purposes. Japan's Ministry of Defense, in its annual white paper on defense released July 17, called for an expansion of the Japanese military's capabilities, including exploiting space to strengthen national security. Japan has already changed its laws to align with its increasingly aggressive stance on space militarization. With Japan's security guarantor, the U.S., declining in power in the region, Japan has pretext to further develop its own already very capable, technologically advanced military. **North Korea's** nuclear tests earlier this year give Japan additional cause to remove its remaining constitutional restrictions and ramp up its space efforts.

Burma may be trying to develop a nuclear bomb, according to accounts by two Burmese defectors. The defectors—who had never met—both described a secret nuclear complex that Burma was constructing with North Korean help. "The evidence is preliminary and needs to be verified, but this is something that would completely change the regional security status quo," said the head of **Thailand's** Institute of Security and International Studies, Thitinan Pongsudhirak. If Pyongyang is helping Burma get the bomb, the big question is, who else has it helped?

China launched its largest-ever annual tactical military exercise on August 11. During the two-month exercise, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will transport 50,000 troops thousands of miles and undertake live-fire drills. Among these drills, according to one of the directors of the exercise, will be practice in disrupting an enemy's electronic devices and countermeasures under a complex electromagnetic environment. From the nature of such exercises, it is clear that the PLA is practicing for warfare against

a high-tech enemy. With 2.3 million troops, China has the largest standing army in the world, and it is growing rapidly. Associated Press reported August 11 that China had announced a 14.9 percent rise in military spending in its 2009 budget, to 480.6 billion yuan (US\$70.3 billion).

Over the past two years in little-reported incidents, **Pakistan's** nuclear sites have been attacked at least three times by homegrown terrorists, the *Times of India* reported August 11. This suggests that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is not as secure as one would like to think. Pakistan insists that there is no chance of its nuclear weapons falling into terrorist possession. However, the steps it has taken to safeguard its nuclear weapons were originally designed to protect them from external attacks, and today's Pakistan is more vulnerable to *internal* attacks.



A Pakistani soldier guards the site of a suicide bombing attack.

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

ON AUGUST 12, **Argentina's** defense minister announced an immediate slashing of the country's military budget by 50 percent. Another 30 percent cut is anticipated for the next quarter. Argentina has the distinction of having

defaulted on foreign debt to the tune of \$92 billion in 2001, so the country's creditworthiness hangs under a dark cloud. Since President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner has attempted to bolster her popularity by expanding social programs, Argentina has taken out loans with poor interest rates (due to its poor credit). The global economic crisis has made its financial trouble even worse, necessitating the severe cutbacks.

The Venezuelan government concluded a \$7.5 billion contract with a Chinese firm on July 30 to construct 290 miles of railway connecting four states. This is the largest Venezuelan/Chinese contract to date outside of the oil industry. Venezuelan officials also signed several agreements with Russia on July 27 for \$4 billion covering energy, military and agricultural cooperation. President Hugo Chávez continues

to prepare his country for an economy that doesn't rely on U.S. participation.

South American trade bloc Mercosur wants to increase the use of local currencies in place of the U.S. dollar. Argentina and **Brazil** introduced this system in 2008, but to date, relatively few industries have adopted it. It will take time for this system to spread, but that time is getting shorter. When it is up, U.S. influence in the region will be gone.

The U.S. State Department revoked the visas of four Honduran officials on July 29, confirming U.S. support for the return of the ousted Manuel Zelaya. Nicaraguan politicians announced that they don't want the exiled president in **Nicaragua** either. The border curfews between Nicaragua and **Honduras** have cost about \$3 million per day in trade while Zelaya makes his symbolic stand on the border of Honduras rather than face prosecution at home.

Nigeria exploded in violence in late July with 700 being killed. After five days of clashes between an Islamic sect called Boko Haram and the Nigerian government, the leader of the sect, Mohammed Yusuf, was captured, then killed while in police custody on July 30. Boko Haram wants to establish sharia law in Nigeria. The new leader of the sect, Sanni Umaru, has promised to continue a religious war against the state in order to Islamize Nigeria.

ANGLO-AMERICA

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE officials said in early August they expect the Postal Service to lose over \$7 billion this year and are debating whether to cut out one day of mail delivery, close hundreds of post offices across the nation, and/or issue 100s.

U.S. debt now stands at \$11.5 trillion, and the administration is talking about another round of stimulus expenditures. Interest payments alone on the debt cost \$452 billion last year—the largest category of federal spending after Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security and defense.

The White House is dealing with approval ratings that dropped to 50 percent for the first time August 6. The *Times*



reported that Americans were reacting to the president's health-care plan and frustration over the nation's economic problems. The administration responded to criticism of its agenda by releasing an e-mail to Obama's supporters that characterized opponents of the plan as right-wing extremists, "a tiny minority being stirred up by special interests."

Unemployment insurance is the only thing keeping many Americans in their homes and off the street. But time is running out. The National Employment Law Project, a national advocacy group, released a study at the beginning of August showing that over 140,000 people in America had collected the maximum unemployment benefit available under the law—despite the fact that Congress extended payouts for an additional 33 weeks. Waves of workers will lose their aid as the year progresses, leaving 1.5 million jobless Americans who have exhausted their insurance by December. "[M]any will have nothing left to get by on even as work keeps getting harder to find," says Maurice Emsellen, a policy director of the Employment Law Project. This unemployment catastrophe is a formula for trouble at both local and national levels.

Once the safety nets expire, a deluge of social discontent could be on the way.

In anticipation of an **Afghanistan** war assessment from Gen. Stanley McChrystal, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said August 13 he didn't know how long the war there would last and said the "economic and institution building is a decades-long process."

After U.S. President Barack Obama arrived home from Russia with a promise for a pact with Russia to reduce nuclear weapons, it emerged that in U.S.-brokered talks, Britain agreed to reduce its 160-warhead nuclear arsenal in exchange for proof from would-be nuclear states that they were halting their weapons programs. Meanwhile, these weapons are proliferating among the enemies of America and Britain.

On August 1, the BBC reported that hundreds of Britons turned out and lined the streets for the funeral of one of **Britain's** two last World War I veterans. Henry Allingham, who served in the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force, was the world's oldest man when he died July 18 at 113 years old. Harry Patch, Britain's last World War I veteran, died a week later.

In its August 1 article, "Forget the Great in Britain," *Newsweek* said the economic crisis will rapidly shrink Britain's last pretenses of empire. Due to its dissipating economic strength, 100-percent-of-GDP debt, "the worst public finances of any major nation," and incoming unfavorable international regulation, "the country is having to rethink its role in the world—perhaps as Little Britain, certainly as a lesser Britain."

British police arrested 33 people in Birmingham in early August after a clash between Unite Against Fascism and right-wing groups transformed the city into a war zone. Violence broke out when a group of white males began chanting, "England, England" in the city center and a larger group of black and Asian people arrived. One witness said it seemed to be "very systematic," with groups arriving in cars and joining in the violence.

In early August, Australian police conducted pre-dawn raids in the Victorian state capital of Melbourne, arresting a number of suspected terrorists with Somali-Islamist associations, allegedly engaged in a plot to conduct a suicide mission on one of **Australia's** best-known military bases.

ARMSTRONG AUDITORIUM

Construction Update

BY PHILIP NICE



TWELVE PILLARS (Above) Soaring above the surrounding Oklahoma countryside, the five-story-high columns of Armstrong Auditorium stand watch over the building's rapidly transfiguring lobby, where three massive, glittering crystal chandeliers (far right) will dangle above concertgoers as they view twin crystal candelabra (right).





ONE-OF-A-KIND DISTINCTION (Left) An artist's rendering of Armstrong Auditorium's final appearance.

EIGHT HUNDRED EXPERIENCES (Below) Armstrong Auditorium's theater, a venue for up to 800 visitors at a time, who will enjoy luxurious appointments and fine art performers benefiting from the best on-and-off-stage facilities.



INSIDE THE *TRUMPET* OFFICES, STAFF MEMBERS SCRUTINIZE WORLD NEWS AS DAILY headlines continue to fulfill Bible prophecy. But they are also excitedly watching another inspiring development—right outside their windows. Less than 100 yards from the *Trumpet* administration building in Edmond, Oklahoma, stands a staggering sight. It amazes visitors as they enter the campus and stops staff members in their tracks as they walk out the office doors.

Armstrong Auditorium is taking shape.

Across the parking lot stands the building's stately frontispiece stacked with 12 mighty, 48-foot pillars, behind which girders, ductwork, conduits, pipes, brick, glass, stone and concrete are transforming into an elegant concert hall, the crowning jewel of the campus.

The capitals of these 12 iconic columns, almost complete as this issue goes to press, support an overhanging roof that shelters a grand lobby, to be encased in five-story-high glass walls, the frames for which professional glaziers have already installed. Ironworkers and other laborers have completed the structure of the lobby and the hallways that flank the auditorium, and are now preparing the site for glass, sheetrock and carpet installers and the artisans who will insert the final elegant finishes for the building's

NEWS OF THE WORK

44,775 square feet: Crema Marfil and Emperador marble from Spain, caramel onyx from Iran, and American cherry wood.

The shimmering jewels of the building are also being prepared for completion and transport to the lobby. Three diamond-shaped chandeliers, up to 12 feet wide and weighing 4,800 pounds, will hang from the ceiling, each trimmed with thousands of pieces of the finest crystal in the world: Swarovski Strass. Below, two 7-foot crystal candelabra, originally commissioned by the shah of Iran, will frame a caramel onyx wall, on which the building's plaque will be affixed.

Past this dazzling display, through two sets of double doors, workmen are transforming the scene into the warm heart of Armstrong Auditorium. Here, architects and acoustical engineers have created what will be a rich concert experience with ideal volume-to-seat ratio and a reverberation time of two seconds. This ratio will exceed those of Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Boston's Symphony Hall, and Vienna's Musikverein, the three world standards used for acoustic quality.

Workers are now readying the floor, ceiling and walls of the theater for craftsmen who will install approximately 800 plush seats, royal purple carpeting, elegant lighting fixtures, acoustical enhancements, electrical wiring, plumbing and air conditioning for the seating area, the spacious stage, the orchestra pit, the dressing rooms, and the storage rooms created to house two concert grand pianos.

Offering performers their choice between two of the finest-grade pianos is standard among fine concert halls. The Philadelphia Church of God—which sponsors the *Trumpet*, Armstrong Auditorium and the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation—already owns one 1983 Model D concert grand Steinway piano, an artifact from the acclaimed Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California. The church will purchase its second Steinway on November 24, when two of its musicians will travel to Hamburg, Germany, to select the exact piano for delivery by the end of December.

December will mark the homestretch for the contractors, laborers, craftsmen, consultants, engineers, architects and other workers to see their work through to completion for Armstrong Auditorium's dedication and inaugural concert. The inaugural 2010 season begins February 14, with the Band of Irish Guards and the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The King's Singers will perform two days later. The season continues with the Canadian Brass, pianist André Watts, mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade and bass-baritone Samuel Ramey, and the Romeros Guitar Quartet. It will conclude with a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* featuring members of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and the Herbert W. Armstrong College Choral Union.

Greeting concertgoers as they stream through what will be a beautifully landscaped mall into Armstrong Auditorium will be another restored treasure from Ambassador College, *Swans in Flight*. Herbert W. Armstrong originally commissioned this striking 12-by-15-by-25-foot sculpture in 1968 from the great English sculptor Sir David Wynne. The PCG has purchased *Swans in Flight* from Ambassador's campus in Big Sandy, Texas, and is currently refurbishing it in Norman, Oklahoma.



Why would the *Trumpet* and the Philadelphia Church of God invest such time and resources into this \$18 million project? Because of this: As the *Trumpet* spreads God's critical message of warning, it also spreads a message of hope.

Armstrong Auditorium embodies that hope. Guests to the campus's crown jewel will enjoy rich environs where people try their best to live God's happy, law-abiding, dynamic way of life. Visitors will come to Armstrong to share in the best of God's creation: the human body and mind expressing the art, finesse, emotion, and zeal of life in a pure, uplifting way: fine music. Together, performers and listeners will have the opportunity not just to *read* about, but to *celebrate* the excitement, the humor, the contentment, the insight and the joy of seeing and striving to live God's way.

This tiny, work-in-progress microcosm of sharing God's creation and way of life is just the beginning. The Bible prophesies of a fabulous *hope* ahead of the conflicts and woes of today's evil world. A better, a happier, a most wonderful world is coming! Armstrong Auditorium is a place to shout out that hope. Armstrong Auditorium will be just what its founder, Gerald Flurry, has called it: the first building of the wonderful World Tomorrow. ■

Wh Pan Am F



Twenty years on, the question is still up for debate. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

THE ONLY TERRORIST EVER CONVICTED in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 was released from prison in August on "compassionate grounds" due to a terminal illness. Relatives of the victims were understandably outraged.

"He showed no compassion when he murdered our son along with 269 other people, and I see no reason why we should show compassion anywhere but in the prison cell he is currently in," said one victim's father.

In December 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, 38 minutes after departing from London. The explosion killed everyone on board, the majority of them Americans. Falling debris from the explosion killed another 11 Scottish civilians on the ground.

To this day, it is Britain's deadliest terrorist attack ever. It would be for America too, if not for 9/11.

Charade of a Trial

In 1991, American and Scottish authorities indicted Libyan intelligence agents Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fahima for carrying out the attack. It wasn't until 1999, after years of oppressive sanctions, that Libya's leader Muammar Gadhafi agreed to hand over Megrahi and Fahima to international au-

o Bombed light 103?



“RAIN BLOOD” After Iran’s supreme leader said these words, 270 people died in the worst terrorist attack on Britain or America besides September 11.

thorities. Gadhafi did so on the condition that the trial be STRICTLY LIMITED to examining only the two suspects—*no other groups or states could be held responsible for ordering the attack*. In 2001, the trial resulted in Fahima being acquitted of all charges, whereas Megrahi was convicted of planting a suitcase bomb on a plane in Malta that was later transferred to a Pan Am flight in London.

Megrahi was sentenced to life in prison. And that was that—a neat-and-tidy end to a story about a crazed lunatic loner who constructed a sophisticated explosive device in order to destroy a 747 en route to New York.

What a charade that trial turned out to be. “Britain and America insist on the trial as a show of strength,” we wrote in June 2000. “But all we are doing is parading our pathetic weakness before the world.” The real story, we observed, was that the United States and Britain *refused to go after the state sponsors*: “The evidence STRONGLY INDICATES that Syria and Iran were also involved in placing the bomb on the Pan Am Flight 103. But that evidence can’t be presented at the trial either. We are afraid to offend these terrorist nations. They too are probably guilty of mass murder against our peoples” (emphasis mine throughout).

As if that isn’t bad enough, now even the evidence compiled against *Megrahi* is being called into question. In 2007, after a four-year study, a Scottish court granted Megrahi his request for appeal and indicated the Libyan might have been wrongfully convicted.

David Horovitz, *Jerusalem Post* editor, investigated the 800-page judicial review in October 2007. “There was certainly no smoking gun,” Horovitz wrote. “No witnesses or forensic evidence tying Megrahi to the bomb itself.” He quoted several analysts and intelligence officials—even a relative of one of the bombing victims—who all maintain that Megrahi was wrongfully accused and that he would eventually be set free through the appeals process.

Amid widespread speculation in August that Scottish authorities would release him on “compassionate grounds,” Megrahi abruptly decided to *end* his appeal. (According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the appeal process could have continued even if Megrahi had been granted sick leave.) Within days of dropping his request for appeal, Megrahi was set free. One member of Scottish Parliament told Reuters that unidentified Scottish authorities had been “exerting undue pressure” on Megrahi to drop his appeal in order to prevent evidence in the case from being reexamined.

What’s pathetic about all the turns and twists in this story is that the most important question of all has been intentionally swept aside: Who was *behind* the Lockerbie bombing?

“British relatives of the victims are convinced of [Megrahi’s] innocence and had hoped that the appeal would help reveal who was behind the bombing,” the *Telegraph* wrote (August 18). No chance for that now.

Investigating Iran

For more than a year after the Lockerbie attack, the international investigation concentrated on an *Iranian*-backed, Damascus-based offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization, known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command (PFLP-GC), headed by Ahmed Jibril. According to a report that appeared in the *Guardian*, early on, “the widespread view was that the bombing was funded by Iran in retaliation for the mistaken shooting down of an Iranian airliner by the USS Vincennes, over the Persian Gulf in July 1988” (August 13). Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, vowed revenge, saying the skies would “rain blood.”

Dr. Jim Swire, whose daughter was killed in the Lockerbie attack, also blames Iran for the bombing. “The Iranians had told the world that they would seek revenge for the Vincennes attack,” he told Horovitz in 2007. “They had colluded in the past with the PFLP-GC under Jibril, and now they colluded again.”

So, if true, why did American and British investigators back off the Iran-sponsored PFLP-GC in 1990 and instead assign blame to Libya—another infamous U.S.-antagonist at the time? The *Guardian* wrote, “Those who question Libya’s involvement note that the U.S. and Britain changed tack after the Gulf War in 1990, when they badly needed the quiescence of Iran and the support of Syria, which was then protecting Jibril.”

Margaret Thatcher’s memoirs add significant weight to this argument. Thatcher, who was prime minister at the time of the Lockerbie bombing, failed to even mention the attack in her book, which was released in 1993. She did, however, refer to President Reagan’s air strike against Libya in 1986, which killed Gadhafi’s daughter.

After the 1986 air strike, Thatcher wrote, “There was a *marked decline* in Libyan-sponsored terrorism *in succeeding years*.” As Horovitz noted in his investigation, it is difficult to imagine her writing something like that if Libya had been the primary sponsor behind the Lockerbie bombing, which happened two years *after* U.S. fighter jets bombed Tripoli.

Writing in the early 1990s, Thatcher, like so many in the intelligence community, must have blamed Iran for the Pan Am massacre.

That’s not to say that Syria, or Libya, or the PFLP-GC—or Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, for that matter—are without culpability. But debating over who pulled the trigger misses the more important point. It’s been *more than 20 years* and the STATE SPONSORS responsible for ordering the 1988 hit have *not* been prosecuted! And so, the hits keep right on coming: the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993; the 1995 attack on a U.S. military base in Riyadh; Hezbollah’s 1996 bombing at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia; the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and so on.

In his June 2000 article on the Lockerbie trial, my father wrote, “We are a ‘superpower’ too weak to administer justice for the victims and their families. We have the power but *lack the will to use it*.”

“So,” he concluded—writing just a few months before the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen; and a little more than a year before 9/11—“expect terrorism and violence to intensify against our peoples! This is the inevitable fruit of our shameful weakness.”

And, since the primary state sponsors of the USS Cole attack and 9/11 also have not been prosecuted, we can say once again: Expect terrorism and violence to intensify against our peoples. ■

Why Joseph Should Be in Charge of the Economy

The fat cows have been eaten. The lean years are here. But hope for future prosperity remains. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

ALL POLITICIANS SHOULD BE forced to read Genesis 41 before taking office. So should Federal Reserve chairmen. The economic famine that grips the nation was avoidable—if those in charge had the humility to learn from Joseph.

Pharaoh had had a dream of seven fat, healthy cows being eaten by seven scrawny, sickly cows. None of his wise men or soothsayers could tell him what the dream meant. But Joseph could.

This humble slave told Pharaoh that Egypt would enjoy seven years of great abundance followed by seven years of famine. More importantly, he told Pharaoh what he should do: Save during the good years so the people would have food during the lean.

You probably know the story. But our modern politicians and economic wise men have missed the whole point: You actually need to save for the lean years!

During America's good years—when secretaries and engineers alike quit their

jobs to become real-estate agents, when bankers were rock stars, and seemingly limitless money let janitors buy half-million-dollar homes—our leaders should have been telling the nation to stop borrowing and start saving. At the least, the government should have put its own house in order.

But no. Even amid the best years of the last decade, *not once* did the government run a budget surplus. During President Bush's last term, America ran the highest deficits in history. Hardly a single voice urged people to live within their means.

Instead, the Fed encouraged people to eat their grain—and not only that, but to borrow food from their neighbors and other nations and eat that as well!

Now the famine is here, and America is resorting to radical, harebrained shenanigans to keep the economy going. The people need food, so the government is handing out funny money as fast as it can. The national debt is growing like a nuclear mushroom cloud.

The Time of Reckoning

But where is the money coming from?, one may ask. *I thought America was broke.* It is the greatest scam in history. The money is either fake—created out of thin air—and thus will eventually destroy the value of the dollar, or it is borrowed, which means it has to be repaid out of future consumption.

And repaying that debt will not be easy. Foreigners are catching on. It used to be that the Japanese or Germans would lend America money for 30 years—content that the interest earned would be worth the risk. Not anymore. Today, most lenders only lend short-term. The risk of not getting their money back is too high. For America, that means that the trillions we are borrowing to keep the economy from collapsing will have to be paid back next year, or over the next few years, rather than in decades. America is about to be exposed.

Making matters worse, the trillions of “stimulus” dollars haven't done much of

anything to fix the economy. Much has been squandered—spent on things that have nothing to do with creating growth. Yet over the next few years, America will have to take all that money back out of the economy to pay off the loans—plus interest. Where is the money going to come from? How will the economy be saved then? Through more fake money?

And now, in an astounding, almost laughable turn of events, the Federal Reserve and its chairman, Ben Bernanke, say they are ready to assume the role of financial regulator for the big banks and stock markets. They didn't see the economic catastrophe coming, and they don't know how to fix it, but America is supposed to trust them with new, powerful regulatory control. In actuality, the Federal Reserve was possibly the one agency most responsible for the crisis in the first place. It was the bankers' banker that made so much easy money available to people who couldn't afford it in the first place.

But for the first time, the Federal Reserve faces scrutiny; both internationally and nationally, its reputation is in tatters. Even now there is a proposal in Congress to audit the Fed. More than 222 co-sponsors have signed on. At present, the Democratic leadership is blocking the bill.

So far the Federal Reserve seems to be misjudging the depth of opposition growing against it. People want to know where the money is going, why a private group of bankers has the sole right to create the nation's money, and why the government has to pay interest on its own money created by the Federal Reserve.

"I don't think the American people want Congress running monetary policy," said Ben Bernanke on PBS's *NewsHour*. "And I think that's very, very critical for people to understand."

Bernanke is half right. It would be terrible to give Congress control of the printing presses. Congress has proven totally incapable of balancing a budget. But leaving monetary policy in the hands of a private bank, run by private individuals, with virtually zero accountability except to their undisclosed shareholders, is probably just as irresponsible.

America's system is broken. The trashed economy proves it.

Had We Heeded Joseph

Heeding Joseph's advice would have prevented much of this mess. Had America promoted savings instead of spending, and hard work and thrift as opposed to immediate gratification and borrowing, a bubble wouldn't have formed in the first place. And if for some reason disaster did strike, or if some unforeseeable event did occur, the nation would have abundant savings to fall back on. Instead, America has an enormous pyramid of debt.

Pharaoh was smart enough to take Joseph's advice. As the famine took hold, the economies of neighboring nations were destroyed. But Egypt became incredibly wealthy. The surrounding nations were

The good news is that God wants you to prosper, even during severe economic depressions.

forced to bring their flocks and herds and whatever other wealth they had into Egypt to exchange for food.

Egypt went into the crisis from a position of strength. And it was Joseph's advice that turned Egypt into a superpower. As a result, Pharaoh promoted Joseph to second in command of all Egypt. He was held in such high esteem that Joseph's Israelite family was given the choicest agricultural land in Egypt (Goshen) to live on.

Unfortunately, America is heading into this crisis from a position of virtual bankruptcy. America is about to become subservient to the nations that stored up food for the famine.

The good news is that God wants you to prosper, even during severe economic depressions. In the Bible, Joseph was synonymous with "prosperity." "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and... the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand" (Genesis 39:2-3). If God could prosper Joseph when he was a slave, and even when he was unjustly

thrown in jail, He can prosper you no matter your condition.

But God prospered Joseph for a reason. He prospered him because Joseph understood and followed God's laws.

Joseph's Role in the Future?

Believe it or not, this whole world could soon have the opportunity to benefit from Joseph's economic management.

Longtime readers of this publication know that, thankfully, America's—and the world's—economic situation is not hopeless. Humanly, of course, it is. But God will soon personally intervene in the affairs of this world and save humanity from itself, ushering in a new world of peace, and prosperity for everyone (Micah 4:1-4).

In his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, Herbert W. Armstrong described this future time, when God's laws on economics will be put into practice worldwide. "[Joseph's] specialty was dealing with the economy—with prosperity. And what he did, he did God's way. It seems evident, therefore, that Joseph will be made director of the world's economy—its agriculture, its industry, its technology, and its commerce—as well as its money and monetary system. These systems will be on the international level, the same in every nation.

"Undoubtedly Joseph will develop a large and perfectly efficient organization of immortals made perfect, with and under him in this vast administration. This will be an administration that will eliminate famine, starvation, poverty. There will be no poverty-stricken slums. There will be universal prosperity!"

Universal prosperity! True utopia. This is the future that is prophesied to follow the coming lean years. This is where the true hope lies for America and the world. ■

To read a thorough explanation of the Bible's description of this soon-coming new world and how it will be implemented, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



America's Racial Time Bomb Is Ticking

A powerful historical example tells us why. BY BRAD MACDONALD

TO MOST PEOPLE, NOAH'S FLOOD IS little more than a folk tale. But the Bible's account of this earth-wide cataclysm is worthy of deeper study.

Believe it or not, the history of God becoming angry with an evil world and wiping out mankind, save one family, in a deluge contains profound insight into *current world conditions, and where they are headed.*

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ explained to His disciples the conditions that would prevail in the world just before His Second Coming. In verses 38-39 He said, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; *so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*"

Jesus stated explicitly that the conditions surrounding His Second Coming would be similar to those that preceded the destruction of mankind in the Flood. Thus, the more familiar we are with that history, the clearer we will see the inevitability and imminence of Christ's return.

What were prevailing conditions just prior to the Flood? What activities and trends were so dire that God realized He needed to wipe the slate clean and start again? We must know. The story of the Flood is anything but a fairy tale—it's a warning to mankind!

The Cause of Noah's Flood

When God looked down on man before the Flood, He was so mortified by the universal

wickedness and destruction that He actually regretted His decision to create humans (Genesis 6:1-6). Christ informs us in Matthew 24 what upset God so much: People were "eating and drinking" (verse 38).

That sounds pretty innocuous, especially since God created humans with the need for physical sustenance. Why was God so upset? Well, He was troubled by the *pervasive abuse* of food and alcohol. When God scanned the planet, He saw mankind consumed by a self-gratifying "party spirit" that reveled in drunkenness, promiscuity, sexual perversion and violence.

But God was also saddened by the people "marrying and giving in marriage" (verse 38). Again, why would God be upset at this? He created marriage. The reason is, humans were *abusing* marriage as God intended it. This is obvious if you study the first six verses of Genesis 6. By the time of Noah, interracial marriage and racial conflict had become widespread. In fact, it was so pervasive, the Bible says only Noah remained unblemished, or "perfect," in his generations, or his ancestry.

An honest and objective study of both Genesis 6 and Matthew 24 shows that RACE had burgeoned into a major issue by Noah's day. Notice what the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about racial tension in Noah's time, and the CENTRAL ROLE it played in God sending the Flood. "[T]he chief cause of the violence and chaos of world conditions [prior to the Flood], was RACIAL HATREDS, interracial marriages, and RACIAL VIOLENCE caused by man's

efforts toward integration and amalgamation of races, contrary to God's laws" (*Mystery of the Ages*).

We must push aside sensitivities and prejudices, and consider this towering lesson. Jesus was warning us in Matthew 24 that, just as it was before Noah's Flood, racial tension and racial violence would be pervasive in this world immediately before His Second Coming.

This world has long been wracked by racial tension and violence. But look around. It's steadily growing worse, particularly in the United States.

America's Racial Healer?

As a presidential candidate, Barack Obama sold himself as the antidote to America's enduring racial infirmities. Many Americans believed Mr. Obama's election heralded a new era of post-racial political and societal progress. Identity politics would begin to fade into irrelevance; America's festering race wounds would begin to heal. America, united under its first black president, would now explore new and better frontiers in race relations.

They were wrong. Rather than soothe old wounds and diffuse racial tensions by avoiding race-based politics, America's president is making them worse.

By "consistently emphasize[ing] racial identity to further his own advantage," wrote historian Victor Davis Hanson, Mr. Obama has knowingly, perhaps intentionally, inflamed existing race wounds. Instead of leading America out of its "racial



BEER SUMMIT President Obama (far right) and Vice President Biden (far left) attempt to douse the racial flare-up the president fueled between his friend Henry Louis Gates Jr. (left) and James Crowley (right).

Already in his presidency, three major instances have arisen where Mr. Obama had the choice to either stoke or douse a racially charged issue. In each instance, the president chose to allow the issue to flare into a firestorm.

morass,” the president so far has “only pushed us far deeper into it” (*National Review*, July 27).

President Obama’s sensitivity to the issue of race became fully apparent during a nationally televised address July 22. The speech primarily revolved around the president’s controversial health-care plan, but in the question-and-answer session afterward, he reignited a hot national debate on race.

The president is an intelligent man, well familiar with how combustible the race issue is, particularly when oxidized by the mainstream media. He *knew* he had been handed a loaded gun when he was asked to comment on the July 16

arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., who is black, by James Crowley, a white sergeant in the Cambridge Police Department. The president was given a choice: Disarm the loaded question (a simple statement saying he couldn’t comment because he did not know the details would have sufficed)—or pull the trigger.

Mr. Obama chose the second option.

After admitting on live television that he was not there and did not know all the facts, the president confidently stated that the Cambridge Police Department had “acted stupidly” in arresting his friend, Professor Gates. He then segued into a short sermon on the problem of racial profiling that he evidently believes exists

in America: “[T]here is a long history in this country of African Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately. And that’s just a fact.”

The statement touched off a national brouhaha. Police forces and unions across the nation marched to the defense of Sergeant Crowley; liberal elites defended the president. For a man so educated in and sensitive to the race issue in America—not to mention a “post-racial” president supposed to help ease racial tension—President Obama showed a remarkable absence of wisdom by weighing in on this issue in this manner. This was a racially charged situation from its beginning on Mr. Gates’s doorstep, and the president transformed it into a national debate on race. Why?

Two More Examples

With the Gates story still front-page news, Americans got another glimpse of Mr. Obama’s tendency for race-based politics less than a week later when on July 28 the Senate Judiciary Committee approved his nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Sotomayor is renowned for the race-based underpinnings of her moral and judicial thinking, particularly her infamous racially charged remark: “I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn’t lived that life.”

Mr. Obama did not merely select a judge with an undeniable tendency for making decisions based on racial identity. His relative silence on the issue and unwillingness to condemn Ms. Sotomayor’s racist remarks indicates that he more than likely agrees with the judge.

Then there’s Eric Holder, President Obama’s feisty attorney general. In a speech in February commemorating

caused by the man he appointed, the president told the *New York Times* that had he been advising the attorney general, “We would have used different language.” During the interview, the *Times* reported, “the president said that despite Mr. Holder’s choice of words, *he had a point*” (May 7, emphasis mine).

Already in his presidency, three major instances have arisen where Mr. Obama had the choice to either stoke or douse a racially charged issue. In each instance, the president chose to allow the issue to flare into a firestorm.

Is this really in America’s best interests? Tension between the races has been an enduring problem in American history. These days, with the economy worsening,

ham. “It was chaos,” said Hannah Taylor, from London. “I had only come up to do a bit of shopping, and found myself in the middle of a full-blown riot. People with small children were running into shops for cover. The whole city center just descended into some kind of war zone.”

On August 8 in Glasgow, an Asian man was attacked by a gang shouting racist slogans. Meanwhile, figures released by the Community Security Trust, a Jewish community organization, showed that anti-Semitic hate crimes reached an unprecedented high during the first half of 2009—more than double what had occurred in the first half of 2008.

In the coming months and years, sadly, we should expect racial tension and racial violence to worsen, particularly in the U.S. and Britain. Like so many of the solutions concocted in the minds of men, the antidotes to this world’s race problems offered by our leaders and intellectuals will continue to fail. In many instances, these solutions will exacerbate the tension and make conflict all the more inevitable.

As you watch this phenomenon develop, remember Noah’s Flood and Christ’s prophecy in Matthew 24. Jesus warned that His Second Coming—and the earth-shaking conditions that will accompany that event—will come upon man *suddenly* and *surprisingly*, just as the Flood came upon the people in Noah’s time.

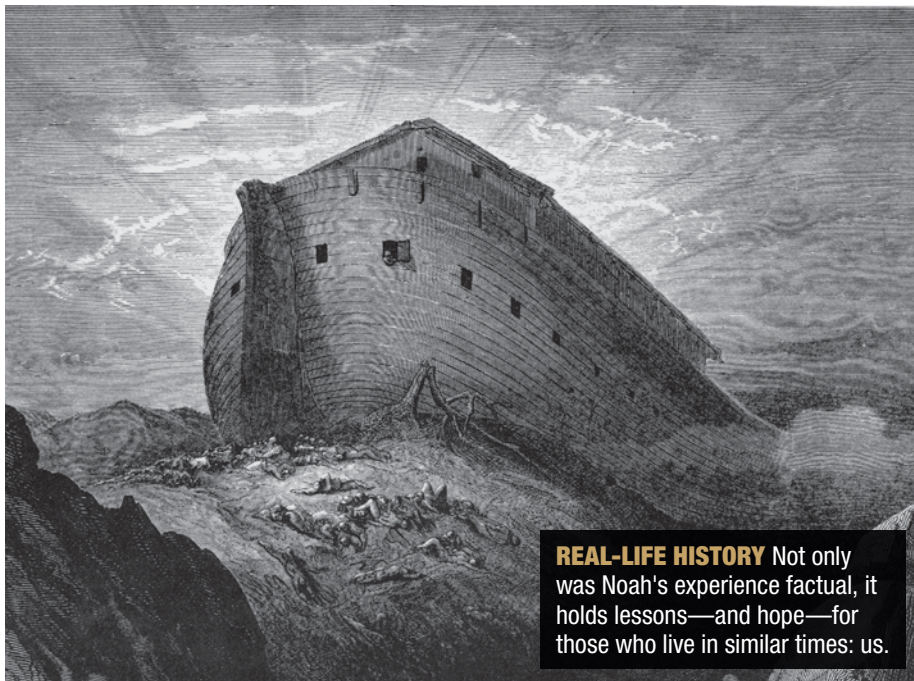
But you don’t have to be caught off guard, as so many were when the rains started pouring down in Noah’s time. Perhaps the most beautiful lesson embedded in the history of the Flood is that God always sends prior warning—and then provides an escape for those who love Him and obey His laws.

Today a nuclear flood approaches—and God is providing an “ark” for those who heed His warning. In Scripture He promises to supply a way to escape these terrifying events if we are striving to obey His laws and follow His direction.

In the meantime, racial tension and violence will only grow worse—until God intervenes and sends His Son to Earth to solve such problems. How will He do this? By removing human nature and replacing it with the loving nature of God, imparted by the power of the Holy Spirit. He will create a world where people of ALL races will prosper and live in peace!

That time is nearly here. Until it arrives, remember the message in Noah’s Flood: Racial tension and violence are a precursor to the glorious return of Jesus Christ! ■

Perhaps the most beautiful lesson embedded in the history of the Flood is that God always sends prior warning—and then provides an escape for those who love Him and obey His laws.



REAL-LIFE HISTORY Not only was Noah’s experience factual, it holds lessons—and hope—for those who live in similar times: us.

Black History Month, Mr. Holder roasted the American people as a “nation of cowards” for not regularly discussing and confronting America’s racial problems. As the controversy flared, conservatives criticized Mr. Holder’s address to Justice Department employees for being abrasive and provocative, actually representing a partial explanation for people’s unwillingness to discuss race.

In an effort to soothe the controversy

unemployment rising, and many Americans growing increasingly disgruntled with the administration in Washington, the atmosphere is primed for greater racial strife and social upheaval.

Noah’s Hope

Britain is also being primed for increased racial tension and conflict. In August, 33 people were arrested after a violent race-based riot erupted in the city of Birmingham.

“Moderation” in the Middle East

“THE GOOD GUYS” Members of Fatah

Fatah claims to be moderate. But it is working with Iran to take Israel down. BY RICHARD PALMER

MARWAN BARGHOUTI IS SERVING five life sentences in an Israeli jail for his crimes as head of Fatah’s Tanzim terrorist group and founder of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. He “led, operated, assisted, incited and participated in acts of terror carried out by field commanders and terror activists who were subordinate to them, and thus willfully caused the deaths of hundreds of Israelis,” the 2002 court ruling stated. Yet liberal Israeli politicians clamor for his release, because he is a “moderate.”

Abu Maher Ghneim is “an unrepentant hardliner, an open opponent of the Oslo agreements,” according to Barry Rubin, who directs the Global Research in International Affairs Center. He was a close associate of former Fatah leader Yasser Arafat, fighting alongside him as a terrorist in the 1960s before being barred from the region because of his terrorist activity. Ghneim was one of the founders of the “moderate” Fatah movement.

“We do not demand that the Hamas movement recognize Israel,” said Mohammed Dahlan, a top adviser to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in March. “On the contrary, we demand of the Hamas movement not to recognize Israel, because the Fatah movement does not recognize Israel, even today.” YnetNews called Dahlan one of Fatah’s “most moderate figures.”

Aside from being “moderate,” what these men have in common is that they are some of the most popular leaders in Fatah. On August 11, all three were voted onto Fatah’s 21-strong Central Committee, the party’s most powerful

decision-making body. Ghneim, who returned to the West Bank at the end of July, received two thirds of the vote, and many see him as a likely successor to Abbas. “Watch this man,” says Rubin. “He is the future of the Palestinian movement.”

It’s hardly surprising that these men are popular. Recent surveys suggest that 52 percent of Palestinians support armed attacks against civilians inside Israel. “[T]he desire for popular support has not moderated Hamas, but has radicalized Fatah,” wrote David Schenker in *Foreign Policy* (August 4).

The Middle East definition of moderation, it seems, is merely, “not a member of Hamas.” In truth, however, Fatah is one of Israel’s most dangerous enemies.

A Historic Conference

From August 4 to 11, over 2,000 Fatah members gathered for their first conference in 20 years to discuss the group’s future. Right at the start of the conference—in the opening line of the opening speech—President Abbas praised the “martyrs” who had died in terror attacks against Israel.

The conclusions of the conference were far from moderate. Fatah endorsed the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades—which has killed or helped kill over 100 Israelis in terror attacks since 2001—as its official security force. It accused Israel of murdering Yasser Arafat. It adopted a new platform that declared Jerusalem the “eternal capital of Palestine.” The platform stated that “Fatah will continue to sacrifice victims until Jerusalem returns [to the Palestinians], devoid of settlements and settlers.” In its revised platform, Fatah made the obligatory

nods toward negotiation to keep the West happy, but made it clear that violence remains very much an option.

“The fact is that in hopes of drawing support away from Hamas, Fatah is increasingly and publicly drawn to its radical roots,” the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Policy said in response to the platform. “And the reality for American and European policy-makers who think they have the answer to the conflict is that Fatah, no less than Hamas, believes in Palestine from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea and ‘void’ of Jews.”

Fatah’s relationship with Iran was also on the congress’s agenda. A draft leaked before the conference stated, “We must work toward opening a strategic channel to Iran.” In July, the Palestinian Authority and Iran held their first-ever high-level meeting. Fatah’s Jerusalem affairs liaison openly called for a stronger relationship with Iran three days before the Fatah conference in comments to Ma’an News Agency.

Iran and Fatah already cooperate, but an open “strategic” dialogue would bring their relationship to a new level. Fatah could soon become another Iranian proxy, just like Hamas and Hezbollah. An Iranian-backed Fatah could be even more dangerous than the other groups, as it operates right in the heart of Israel.

Fatah wants to work more closely with a nation whose stated aim is to wipe Israel off the map: hardly the position of a moderate party.

To the north, Hezbollah is getting stronger. The Iranian-created and -sponsored terrorist organization reportedly has up to 40,000 rockets and is training fighters to use ground-to-ground missiles that can reach as far as Tel Aviv. It is gaining more control over both Lebanon’s military and government.

These developments pose an enormous threat to Israel. Iran could encourage Hamas and Fatah to put aside their differences and focus on uniting to fight Israel. With Hezbollah threatening from the north, enhanced cooperation between Iran and Fatah would leave Israel surrounded and put Iran right on the doorstep of Jerusalem.

Watch closely. All it will take is for Iran to kick down that door, and the world will become a very different place. ■

For more information, request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



SOCIETYWATCH

IN BRITAIN, STUDENTS WHO speak English as a first language are in the minority in 13 out of London's 33 boroughs, according to official figures released in August. Fifty-six percent of children in elementary schools in inner London do not speak English as their first language. Throughout the country, English is not the mother tongue to one in seven elementary-school-aged children.

High numbers of students unskilled in English are putting a heavy burden on Britain's education system. Far more disturbing, however, is that these figures show how much immigration is changing Britain. They "confirm the huge impact immigration is having on our society," said Sir Andrew Green, from the Migrationwatch think tank. The situation has gotten so bad that, as Green pointed out, "In inner London it's hard to know who immigrant children are supposed to integrate with since they heavily outnumber local children."

THE TELEGRAPH REPORTED July 27 that divorce damages a person's health: "Divorce and widowhood have a long-term negative effect on physical well-being that is only marginally ameliorated if the person finds a new partner."

According to a University of Chicago study, the stress of divorce can affect a person's health for decades and divorced people have 20 percent more chronic health conditions than married people. The health benefits of marriage, which are well-established, are actually significantly reduced in a second or third marriage, the new study found.



THE POST-FEMINIST GENERATION is failing abysmally at raising teenage girls, observed British author India Knight in the August 2 *Sunday Times*. "The number of 15-year-old girls experiencing psychological distress is rocketing; the [recent study, "GHQ Increases Among Scottish 15-year-olds 1987-2006," published in *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*] shows they are the most mentally ill group of people in the country, with 43 percent emotionally distressed and 27 percent suffering mental illness (severe depression or anxiety)."

Dr. Dee Dawson, medical director at Rhodes Farm clinic in London, a center for anorexic children, says teenage girls are coming under enormous pressure to achieve academically, far more than in the past, and that that competitiveness is seeping into all parts of their life. Some girls say they are made by their parents and teachers to feel that unless they get great grades and go to university, they will be a failure for life. Their peers and the glossy magazines make them feel that unless they have the "perfect" body, they are worthless. Additionally, the



loss of family stability through parents' divorce—or fear of it—leaves many girls searching elsewhere for attention.

DESPITE ALL SORTS OF innovative plans implemented in the American school system over the past 30 years, American education is in deep trouble. "Today, America is the only industrialized nation in the world where children are less likely to graduate from high school than their parents," noted the *Washington Times*. "A student drops out of high school every 26 seconds, 1.2 million children each year. Three in 10 students fail to graduate with their class, a percentage that doubles for minority, urban and low-income students" (July 19).

How bad is this national crisis in education? "Simply put, the high school dropout and college-readiness crisis is the greatest long-term threat to our economic security and moral authority as a nation" (ibid.; emphasis ours).

USE OF ANTIDEPRESSANT drugs in America doubled between 1996 and 2005, two medical researchers revealed in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* in August. In 1996, roughly 13 million people—about 6 percent of the population—had been

prescribed antidepressant medication, noted Dr. Mark Olfson of Columbia University and Steven Marcus of the University of Pennsylvania. By 2005, 27 million Americans—more than 10 percent of the population—were found to be using antidepressants.

"Significant increases in antidepressant use were evident across all sociodemographic groups examined, except African Americans," wrote Olfson and Marcus. The two conducted the survey by analyzing data from Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys performed by the U.S. Agency for Health-Care Research and Quality, involving more than 50,000 people in 1996 and 2005.

BEING NEGATIVE IS BAD for your heart. Not only is that a paraphrase of Proverbs, it also encapsulates a new medical study on heart disease. The analysis spanned 15 years and included 97,000 healthy senior women. Surveyors found that women who answered "yes" to questions like "If something can go wrong for me, it will" and "It is safer to trust nobody" were 16 percent more likely to die. Women who answered "yes" to questions like "In unclear times, I usually expect the best" had a 9 percent lower risk of heart disease and a 14 percent lower risk of death from any cause.

Pessimists were more likely to have diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and depression. "We don't know exactly why, but attitude does appear to matter when it comes to heart disease and health," one doctor said of the impact personality has on health. The writer of Proverbs seems to have had more insight: "A merry heart doeth good [like] a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

At this point, we should note that throughout the Middle Ages, many scholars, theologians, *even popes*, knew the Roman Empire was the fourth world-ruling kingdom. MANY OF THEM EVEN IDENTIFIED THIS FOURTH KINGDOM WITH THE ONE DANIEL SPOKE OF IN HIS PROPHECY (see Daniel 2:37-43). That's why Europeans and Catholics kept trying to revive the empire! The Bible said there would only be *four* such empires. However, the fourth empire would have 10 resurrections, according to Bible prophecy. The last seven of those resurrections would be called Holy Roman Empires, because they were ruled by church and state.

As king of the Franks, Charlemagne was able to subjugate every single German tribe but one: the Saxons. The Saxons clung to their own faith and refused, even on pain of death, to submit to Roman Catholicism. Charlemagne determined to force his brand of Christianity on them with the sword. For years the Saxons obstinately resisted. AT ONE POINT, OUT OF SHEER FRUSTRATION, CHARLEMAGNE EXECUTED 4,500 SAXON PRISONERS. This barbarous act angered the Saxons even more.

It took 30 years for Charles to completely extinguish the "Saxon" problem, but not before multiple thousands had been executed for their religious beliefs. After more than 18 conquests against the Saxons, Charles finally prevailed. IN THE END, SAXONS EITHER SUBJECTED THEMSELVES TO THE RULE OF CHARLES, OR THEIR DEFIANCE ENDED IN DEATH.

The Holy Roman Empire has NEVER been democratic. It could never be. Even Pope Pius XII said the church had twin enemies: the democracies and communism. He was pope at the peak of Communist power.

As emperor of the "Holy" Roman Empire, Charles felt it his duty to spread the Christian faith using whatever means necessary. The *New Encyclopedia Britannica* says, "The violent methods by which this missionary task was carried out had been *unknown to the earlier Middle Ages*, and the sanguinary [bloody] punishment meted out to those who broke canon law or continued to engage in pagan practices called forth criticism in Charles' own circle" ("Charlemagne, Emperor").

THE VIOLENCE CHARLEMAGNE USED TO ENFORCE THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ON HIS SUBJECTS WAS SIMPLY UNKNOWN IN EARLIER EMPIRES! He forced his brand of Christianity on everyone. His empire may have had distinct ties to the ancient Romans, but it was certainly not "holy"—even if there was a great church guiding it.

Saxons either subjected themselves to the rule of Charles, or their defiance ended in death.

And yet, for centuries to come, the aim of succeeding emperors was to restore the traditions of *Charlemagne* in their quest to revive the Roman Empire!

Even today, Germany and a great church are working to restore the tradition of Charlemagne. They have almost completed the structure. Still, it is *a mystery* to most of the world's inhabitants.

Let the world beware! That power structure is ready to burst on the world scene—again!

Charlemagne's bloody conquests were the worst ever in the history of the previous empires. The conquests of the *next* Holy Roman Empire are going to be the worst suffering ever inflicted on human beings in the history of man! (Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:1-10).

It will all be done in the spirit of Charlemagne. Most people won't awaken out of their stupor until it's too late!

Charlemagne's empire, one of the greatest ever to rule in Europe, did not even outlive his son and successor. After it

dissolved, the peoples on the western side of his empire eventually became known as French. The German-speaking peoples between the Rhine and the Slavs in the east developed into Germany. The fact that he ruled over both peoples is why some dispute the national heritage of Charlemagne.

Hitler and the Crown Jewels

Look again at what Otto von Habsburg said about the crown jewels: "We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally; THIS IS THE CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH EMBODIES THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE."

Adolf Hitler was the leader of the sixth Holy Roman Empire. He knew all about the crown of Charlemagne and the crown jewels.

Much of the world looks upon the Jews as God's chosen people. In Vienna, Hitler came to believe that God had replaced the Jews with the Germans and the Holy Roman Empire. He believed *the Germans* were God's chosen people. This is why the crown jewels of that empire meant so much to him.

In 1938, at a rally in Nuremberg, "Hitler had brought from Vienna, after 140 years, THE INSIGNIA OF THE FIRST REICH [Charlemagne]—THE IMPERIAL CROWN, the orb of empire, the scepter and the imperial sword. At the presentation of these symbols of imperialism he SOLEMNLY VOWED THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN IN NUREMBERG FOREVER" (John Toland, *Adolf Hitler*).

That was a strong statement. He "solemnly vowed" that the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire were to "remain in Nuremberg forever." This is like a death-defying commitment to the Holy Roman Empire and his god! He made a vow forever!

Hitler ruled the Third Reich. He knew the crown jewels would be a powerful symbol of Charlemagne's First Reich.

HITLER CAME IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE! HE, LIKE CHARLEMAGNE, SAVAGELY AND BRUTALLY DESTROYED PEOPLE AS NO EMPIRE BEFORE HIM!

The next leader of the Holy Roman Empire is going to commit the most monstrous crimes ever against humanity. It's ALL GOING TO BE DONE IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE! IT'S TIME FOR THIS WORLD TO WAKE UP TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EUROPE!

Many scoffed at what Margaret Thatcher said in 1995: "You have not anchored Germany to Europe; you have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you'll find it will not work."

Mrs. Thatcher knew it would have a bad ending. She knew it "could be ghastly," as Bernard Connolly said. It will be ghastlier than you can even imagine!

We have forgotten our own recent history. Hitler started World War II. About 50 million people were killed.

After the Allies defeated Hitler in World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt signed a document to prevent Germany from ever coming in the tradition of Charlemagne again. They said, "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world."

Germany started both world wars. It has a history of starting wars. Churchill and Roosevelt understood Germany's history of warfare. But America and Britain have forgotten that history today. That lapse of memory will be the costliest ever for both nations. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

Germany is about to start World War III—according to your Bible. It will be the deadliest war ever on Earth. Thankfully, the seventh and last head of the Holy Roman Empire will usher in the coming of the Messiah. No nation will ever again be ruled in the tradition of Charlemagne. ■

SURVIVE (Matthew 24:21-22).

As conditions worsen and get nearer to their violent climax, people's hearts will be failing them for fear (Luke 21:26).

This is a time when the world NEEDS HOPE.

It is no coincidence that *right now*, amid these dire global threats, we are also in an astronomy revolution! We are probing deeply into the universe as never before—observing the Creator's handiwork, which declares His glory. You can be sure God is paying close attention—maybe even *blessing* these endeavors.

Those Hubble pictures should give this *whole world* great HOPE. Not only because those countless awesome galaxies point us to their Creator and His limitless power, but also because *they expand our understanding of the INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL God has given us!* Our increasing knowledge of the stars reveals not only what God has already done, but also *what He is about to do.*

Do you know WHY this vast, sparkling, shimmering, powerful universe exists?

The Philadelphia Church of God began proclaiming its message in January 1990. The PCG's founding was specifically prophesied in *several* biblical passages (request a free copy of *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today* for proof).

Just four months before the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into Earth's orbit in April of 1990 to study the heavens, the Creator of those heavens began proclaiming a message through the Philadelphia Church of God. In our view, the PCG and the *Trumpet* bear a certain responsibility. The heavens are prophesying—but how many people understand what they are saying? God wants us to know. A suffering mankind *needs* to know!

The Philadelphia Church of God is *all about hope.* We proclaim the Bible's message that God and His way of life give us bright hope!

The images from the Hubble Space Telescope are *criying out* for us to *explain them* to you! They are crying out for us to show the remarkable hope they offer! The understanding of the cosmos we are gaining as a result of this marvelous technological wonder should be inspiring the whole world! ■

To learn about the Creator's highly valuable purposes for human existence—and His plan for the universe—request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's inspiring book *The Incredible Human Potential*.



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 KPXX 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 KPXX 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; KWGN 10:00 am, Sun

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, Kaula 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 21.2 9:30 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 KPFX 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, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, 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



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 KWWT 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 WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, 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 KGPX 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

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; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu
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

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 K SXF 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
Nebraska, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 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; WUTV
 10:00 am, Sun
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

War Against Family

TO OUR DISGRACE, WE HAVE BECOME A world of political correctness and compromise (“The War Against Family,” September). We bask in the theory of “whatever feels good is right for you.” This thought process has moved us to a place far beyond Sodom and Gomorrah.

Anita Lloyd—MORGANTOWN, W.VA.

ALL THROUGH HISTORY, THE foundation of every productive society has been the family unit. Without a stable family, empires, nations and kingdoms fail. Everywhere around us, it is evident that the traditional family is being torn apart and radically redefined, even rebuilt into something very different. ... When God’s way of life is totally ignored or lampooned as out of date and hopelessly sneered at, it only makes matters worse. ... God’s intervention is what we need, and I can’t wait until it takes place. As Christ instructed us to pray, “Your Kingdom come, your will be done in earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Doug Cline—CHAPMANVILLE, W.VA.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?

PERSONALLY, BRAD, I THINK THE DEEPENING of ties between Germany and Russia is a good thing (“Another Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?”, September). Besides the two world wars, our countries have enjoyed friendship and cooperation for centuries prior to that. Even Otto Von Bismarck said that for Germany to be successful it must maintain good relations with the Russian empire. And he was the father of German unification! We partitioned Poland together and prevented another power from rising in Europe and destabilizing the situation even further. It is Europe’s fault that Russia and Germany fought two bloody wars. It is largely Great Britain who longed for its lost empire and did everything possible to prevent a Russo-German union which would dominate European geopolitics. In my opinion, in World War I Germany and Russia should have fought on the same side. But we did not. Result, we both came out as losers and our nations crumbled. Instead we allied ourselves with the entente whose best interest was to see the Russian empire fall—especially Great Britain, with whom relations were always extremely tense. Hopefully what we are seeing now

is Russia and Germany trying to reconcile their past mistakes in the relationship, which have left two great nations killing each other This is another sign that although the U.S. will still be a big player in world politics, it will no longer be the boss of everything. I think your article in some ways reflects this fear. *Dmitry—RUSSIAN FEDERATION*



Michael Jackson

WITH ALL THE JACKSON-mania, I thought I was the only one who was not a fan of

M.J. (“America’s Decline—From Sinatra to Jackson,” September). Wonderful article. I wish the whole world could read it and wake up. Thank you so much.

Audrey Clarke—TRINIDAD

AS A CONSERVATIVE, I TOO FELT THAT Michael Jackson was weird in the presentation of himself and his music. However, he was a troubled child. How many of us know how we would have turned out with the same set of circumstances? Still he poured all his energy into what he knew best! ... Was he perfect? He was a far cry from perfection, and so are we! He created what he did musically to escape the ravages of inner pain, grief, and deep sorrow. ...

Dorothy Johnson—BALTIMORE, MD.

I AGREE WITH THE THRUST OF YOUR ARTICLE, but disagree on some points. You mention the decadence of Elvis Presley. What decadence? His movies are constantly replayed on television and he portrays a very decent person. That was his public image as well, and it’s only after his death that his drug problems became known. ...

Bill Shaun—PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Shaking the Nations

MR. FLURRY’S EDITORIAL IN THE LATEST *Trumpet* (“How President Obama’s Cairo Speech Will Shake the Nations,” August) is fantastic. You’re not going to find anything like that in the *New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal*.

Don Burke—MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

American Gold?

VERY GOOD ARTICLE (“AMERICAN GOLD? No Thanks!”, August). I had some deposit in USD. I got rid of it in 2004. My heart bleeds for those guys still holding the stuff. Let them keep holding.

Tomy Mathew—AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Radical Social Engineering

I JUST FINISHED READING YOUR ARTICLE, “Radical Social Engineering” in the July 2009 issue of the *Trumpet* magazine. You are to be commended on how well you have covered this subject. I wish everyone in the U.S. could read it, and maybe enough people would wake as to what is happening and do something to stop the gay rights march. I do not understand the apathy of people in general on this subject, and especially those within our church organizations. Every time I broach the subject, I get the brush-off. ...

David H. James—POCAHONTAS, ARK.

FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO THANK GOD FOR you, and all the work you are doing, in spreading His true meaning of what the Scriptures say. I was raised as a Catholic ... I had always felt that there was something wrong about what they preached. I asked myself, “How could a loving God be so cruel?” I searched for the truth through other religions, but still was frustrated with the information I got. I knew and believed the Bible was the inerrant Word of God, and so I started reading it from cover to cover, but I was having trouble understanding what was written. When I was a young man in my early 20s, I finally gave up trying, and I prayed with all my heart to our Lord to show me the truth of how He wanted me to be and what I should do. He gave me my answer through Herbert W. Armstrong. I was first introduced ... while listening to Herbert W. Armstrong on my radio while on police patrol many years ago. I also found copies of the *Plain Truth* magazine at a supermarket that I shopped at. I didn’t know it at the time, but God was giving me my answer. ... I am at present taking your Bible course, which I have found to be both enlightening and spiritually rewarding. ...

Michael Beeson—WITTMANN, ARIZ.

ALTHOUGH I AM NOT A VERY RELIGIOUS person, I do appreciate your magazine and some of its views. Our “public” news sources are junk, on the whole, and lacking for propaganda of poor merit. Thanks again for your free gift—a true gift.

David Varner—NORTH RICHLAND HIGHLANDS, TEX.

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
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Respect President Obama

Why the office should not be maligned. BY MARK JENKINS

LAST YEAR, PRESIDENT BUSH WAS ON THE RECEIVING END of an airborne shoe. Rather than express outrage, other leaders mocked the incident. Dozens of games appeared online where people could throw shoes at a digital President Bush. Still, the shoe incident was mild compared to the verbal bombs hurled at him for the last eight years.

Now, President Obama's visage is plastered across conservative websites made up to look like Heath Ledger's Joker, a grotesque caricature of a clown bent on destruction. President Obama is now subject to similar harassment as that which his predecessor suffered.

Regardless of politics, religion, social class, gender, race, the president represents the highest office in America. When the leader of what claims to be the most powerful country in the world is insulted, do we add our voice to the discontent—or do we register our disagreements *respectfully*? This matter isn't about Barack Obama as a man; it's about his lawfully obtained office and the country he represents.

But his agenda!, some might respond. And yes, the cap-and-trade, auto-bailout, universal-health-care, quasi-socialist agenda he promotes incenses many of us. His support of abortion, homosexuality and other parts of his stated intent for our country directly contradict the Bible. We can and should attack sin—and the *Trumpet* does—but that does not justify disrespecting the office President Obama holds.

In ancient Israel, was David against King Saul's agenda to murder him? Of course, but David still knew it would be wrong to kill King Saul when the opportunity came, instead cutting off only a small piece of his robe (1 Samuel 24:3-4).

Even that turned out to be more than the future king could stomach (verse 5). King Saul was no longer in favor with God, prophesied to lose his office, and chasing David himself like a wild animal for slaughter. Still, David's respect for King Saul's God-ordained office came first: "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord" (verse 6).

Jesus Christ showed respect to every human ruler He came into contact with—not because of the men, but because of the offices they held. He didn't even rail against those who murdered Him!

Jude 8-10 warn about speaking evil of dignities, pointing out that the archangel Michael, while contending with Satan for Moses's body, "durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things

which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." That was talking about the most evil being ever to exist.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed ..." (Romans 13:1; Revised Standard Version). We may have elections, but no man takes office without God allowing him to do so.



The spirit of rebellion against those in office comes from Satan. He expressed his own desire to overthrow God's government. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isaiah 14:12-15).

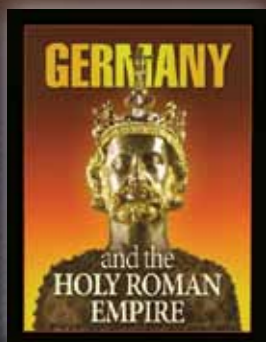
A person might say, though, *God's government is perfect. President Obama's is not!* Well, neither was Pontius Pilate's; neither was King Saul's. Neither was Ronald Reagan's or Winston Churchill's. No human leader has *ever* led a perfect government. God does not sanction abusive leadership, but *He* will judge those men—not us.

The real question here, then, is not about the men who hold these positions of power. It is about *us*, our respect for their offices—and our respect for the God who allows them to hold their offices!

The next time you read a news source slamming one of this world's leaders, ask yourself what the intent is. The United States was built on freedom of speech, and every man should have a voice—especially as we see the American economy systematically dismantled and society collapsing morally. But there is a difference between simply exposing a wrong agenda and disrespecting a dignitary—something a true Christian should never do. Do the news sources you use deliberately strip *President* Obama's title as a means of removing the dignity of his office? Do they mock him with cartoons and use the worst images of him they can find? Do the discussions you join go beyond attacking a wrong agenda—attacking sin—and descend into speaking evil of dignities?

Rather than join in with a show of disrespect, honor the highest office in the country—the president of the United States—by attacking sin, not the sinner, just as Jesus Christ would. ■

The Fourth Reich is rising.



And the Bible said it would happen.

Did you know that the German atrocities of World War II were part of a much larger legacy? Hitler's was merely the latest resurrection of a war-making empire with a long and bloody history. The Bible prophesied of his regime—as well as the terrible emergence of one final resurrection to come in *our* day. It is rising now in Europe.

Startling events prophesied for the next few years will violently affect the United States, Britain, Western Europe and the Middle East. The time to understand prophecy is now.

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