



How to Pick
the Perfect
President

Beware Global
COOLING!

Teach Dollars
and Sense

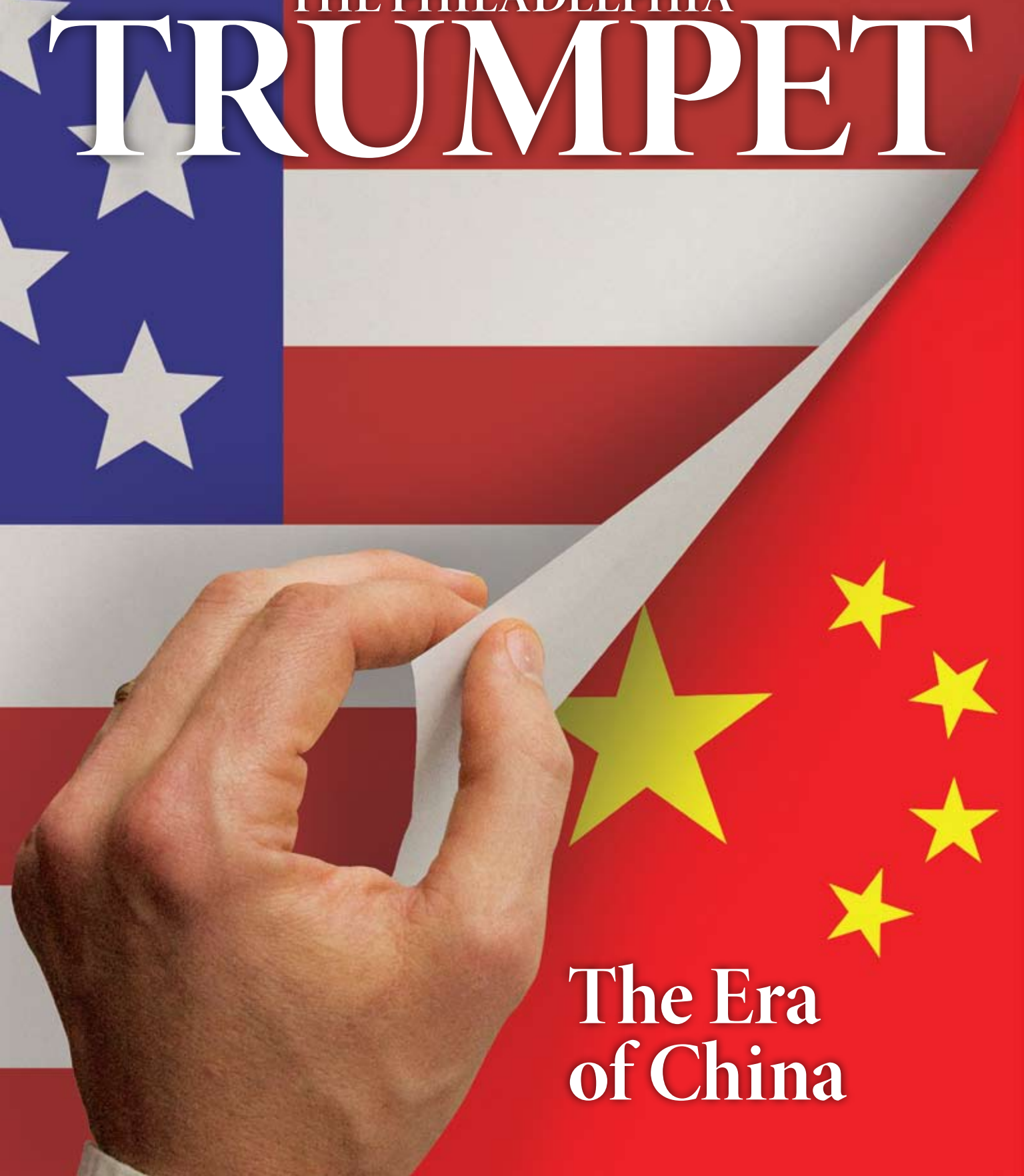


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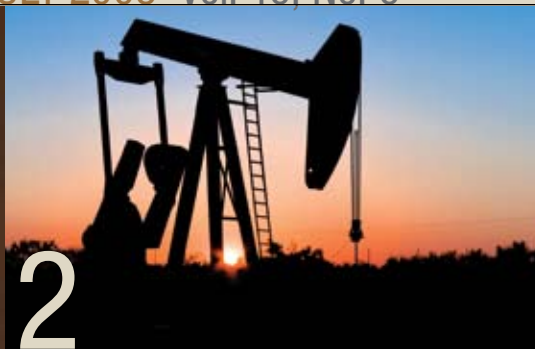
TRUMPET



The Era
of China



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COVER The era of America is over. Analysts say we have entered the age of Asia. (Trumpet photo illustration)

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Europe Has Found Its Deadly “Christian Roots”

Pope John Paul II famously encouraged Europeans to “find your roots!” They have accepted the challenge.

THE HABSBURGS WERE THE SWORD OF THE HOLY ROMAN Empire throughout the Middle Ages. They did their killing while supporting artists like Bach, Mozart and Schubert. They were very sophisticated as they slaughtered people.

Adolf Hitler used to love to attend the opera. He idolized the composer Richard Wagner. He even said that one couldn't understand the Third Reich without understanding Wagner. That German composer was a sex pervert and an anti-Semite, yet Hitler was intoxicated by him.

In 1983, Pope John Paul II was in Vienna—300 years after that city was attacked by the “barbarian Turks” and the Polish king rallied the European kings and drove them out. John Paul said at that time that Europe needed to return to its “Christian roots.” The present pope delivers the same message. But does this world know what those Christian roots really are?

The Vatican leaders understand their history. That is not true of most of the world, which is why many millions of people are so easily deceived about what the pope believes.

You can travel around Europe and see the Habsburg castles even today. Many of them have dungeons below them. Tour guides will tell you that the Habsburgs would have great feasts upstairs, listening to the finest classical music, while people were being tortured to death below. Similarly, Hitler could listen to beautiful opera while his minions were committing unspeakable atrocities.

In 1926, Hitler stated, “Christ was the greatest early fighter in the battle against the world enemy, the Jews The work that Christ started but could not finish, I—Adolf Hitler—will conclude.” He did not consider Jesus a Jew, but only a half-Jew because He was begotten by God.

However, the biggest problem Hitler posed to the world was not his fanatical anti-Semitism. That is only part of the story.

This is where many people are deceived. Hitler was the political head of the Holy Roman Empire.

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 embraced that idea in that cultured city, looking at the crown jewels and the opulence of the Habsburgs.

Hitler believed the *Germans* were God's chosen people. This is why the crown jewels of that empire meant so much to him.

In 1938, Hitler had brought the insignia of the First Reich—the imperial crown, the orb of empire, the scepter, and the imperial sword—from Vienna to Nuremberg. At a rally, he vowed that they would remain there forever.

Among those imperial objects is also a spear called the spear of destiny. Many believe it is the spear that killed Christ—which

is pure nonsense. The spear is supposed to have mystical powers. The legend states that if you look at this spear long enough, it will endow you with magical power. Hitler went there often and undoubtedly was mesmerized by it.

Lange's Commentary says this about the fall of Jerusalem to the Roman armies in A.D. 70: “[T]he stamp of divine retribution was impressed upon the fate of Jerusalem and the temple, even for heathen eyes. We may call to mind the expression even of ... Titus: “That God was so angry with this people that even he feared His wrath if he should suffer grace to be shown to the Jews'”

Caesar Titus believed that God had commissioned him to punish the Jews. The “Holy” Roman Empire grew out of that mighty empire.

Lange's continues: “[H]e refused every mark of honor on account of the victory obtained, with the attestation that he had been only an instrument in God's hands to punish this stiff-necked nation. Compare the well-known expressions of Josephus, as to the height which the wickedness of his contemporaries had reached.”

Has evil reached this height in America, Britain and the Jewish nation today? Is God concerned about our wickedness?

Josephus said that Titus killed 1.1 million Jews and took 97,000 slaves. There are over a hundred prophecies that tell us biblical Israel is going to be punished by that same empire in the end time. Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for a full explanation.

The seventh Holy Roman Empire has almost been completely resurrected in Europe today. Pope Benedict XVI is the spiritual head of that empire.

Many leaders in Europe are working feverishly to complete the Holy Roman Empire. Some say that to complete the process they only need a *new Charlemagne*—a strong leader after the image of the man who was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in A.D. 800. Then they will have found their *Christian roots*.

What happened with Rome and Jerusalem in the first century is only a *type* of what is going to happen on a much greater scale in this end time, according to Bible prophecy. Our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains this thoroughly.

Few people, even in Europe, understand their own *Christian roots*. But they should understand. If they did, and knew where a return to those roots is leading the Continent, they would never want to find them again! The Holy Roman Empire is about to radically change the course of world history!

Biblical prophecy also shows that the resurrection of that empire is *directly* tied to the best news you could ever hear. ■



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

OIL SHORTAGES Here They Come

BY ROBERT MORLEY

RUSSIA IS THE WORLD'S SECOND-largest oil exporter. But something ominous is happening: Its oil production fell for each of the first three months of this year. Russia is now pumping less than it was last year.

Investment bank USB predicts a 1 percent drop in Russia's oil production this year. One percent might not sound like much, but when global markets are as tight as they are, and when you produce 9.77 million barrels per day, that's a big deal.

If there is a supply crunch on the horizon, America is in serious trouble.

Look at America's oil needs. The U.S. currently consumes *21 million barrels of oil per day*. Twenty-one million barrels laid end to end would stretch from Los Angeles to Moscow and back, and halfway back again. America consumes that much every day!

Of those 21 million barrels, America produces only 5 million domestically. The rest has to be imported. So America is tremendously dependent on imported oil. And according to some estimates, 85 percent of global oil supplies are found in countries not especially friendly to the United States.

And the domestic drill bit isn't going to be able to fix things. As oil prices have soared over \$100 per barrel, oil companies in the U.S. have doubled the number of wells drilled per year—and still production is dropping. Hundreds of thousands of old wells are each producing a little less oil each day, and new production isn't getting close to covering the drop-off.

Despite popular opinion, opening up the Alaska Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR) and other off-limit areas to drilling isn't a magic bullet either. These areas may temporarily provide a source of oil, but will ultimately be just a drop in the

bucket of what is needed. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates with 95 percent probability that ANWR holds 5.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil. At current consumption levels, that would last 271 days.

The big problem for America and the rest of the world is that additional oil is getting much harder to come by. Oil production isn't only falling in America, it is falling just about everywhere—Kuwait, Britain's North Sea, Mexico's giant Cantarell field (which Energy and Oil says is "simply crashing"). In fact, 54 of the top 65 oil-producing countries have declining production rates. Make that 55 counting Russia.

Still, millions of Americans, Canadians and Britons remain oblivious to the fact that their lives are about to radically change. Many think they have seen it all before during the oil rationing and embargoes in the 1970s, that soon oil prices will fall, that \$2-a-gallon gasoline will return.

Today's looming oil crisis is very different than that of the 1970s. Back then it was because certain OPEC members purposefully stopped selling oil, and then Iran and Iraq went to war, that prices were driven sky high. This time it is growing demand from 2 billion Asians and stagnating global oil production. There may be short-term pullbacks, but the long-term price trend will most likely be up.

There are those who see it coming.

In March, Edward Lazear, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, said America should "have been thinking about all of this 10 to 15 years ago when it comes to alternatives or new exploration, and we weren't." He implied that today's efforts are too little, too late.

Also in March, Assistant Energy Secretary Alexander Karsner said, "The places where oil can be found and extracted and brought to bear in the world are decreasing. It will get harder, and demand will outstrip supply for probably the rest of my lifetime."

Actions speak louder than words. Despite America already possessing the world's largest strategic petroleum reserve and filling it to over 96 percent capacity (a record 701 million barrels of oil), and despite record-high oil prices and calls from all three presidential candidates to stop filling it, the current administration continues to buy oil and pursue plans to double the reserve capacity to 1.5 billion barrels. Clearly, someone realizes oil shortages are coming.

U.S. military leaders know oil shortages and higher fuel prices are on the way: They are now using \$225-per-barrel oil in their planning projections. Congress has directed the Navy to use nuclear power for all future large surface combatant ships. The Air Force is looking for alternate fuel sources to fly its jets. The Army is examining the fuel efficiency of ground combat vehicles.

Globally, the competition for resources will continue to heat up. China, India, Japan and the European Union are massive oil importers, and their needs are growing. Most of Russia's oil currently goes to Europe. If that supply starts to diminish, Europe will need to seek additional oil elsewhere. Our March 2006 article "The Battleground" (available online at theTrumpet.com) explains where Europe will get the oil it needs.

"The battle for global resources has already begun," says commodity analyst Kevin Kerr. "[T]he borders are being drawn and the players are suiting up."

Resource scarcity will have major implications for our way of life and society. At first we

will see a general trend of rising prices—for everything from gasoline and fertilizer to plastic bags, as will anything that is trucked to market. Eventually we can expect cities to be gutted and suburbs abandoned as people are no longer able to afford the commute.

More than any country in the world, America relies on oil. Change is on the way. America's days as a superpower are ending. Its over-reliance on imported oil is just one of the contributing factors. For information on the fundamental reason America is losing its superpower status, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ■



U.S. DAILY OIL USE
where it comes from
(millions of barrels)

★ HOW TO ★ PICK

★ THE

PERFECT
PRESIDENT



A view of
American
democracy
from higher up

BY JOEL HILLIKER



THE LONGER THE TWO DEMOCRATIC presidential contenders lock horns, the more ugly revelations about them surface. Meanwhile, Republicans have ended up with a candidate reviled by many prominent conservatives. By the time America's election rolls around in November, about a billion dollars will have been spent to empower an individual whose flaws and dirty laundry will have been the subject of public scrutiny for months—an individual whom roughly half of the electorate deeply opposes, and many of the other half are simply settling for.

Power to the people.

This is the approximate system of government, by the way, that America proposes to export to some of the most ideologically hateful and violent nations on Earth in order to solve the problems of the world.

Have you ever asked what God thinks of all this?

Does God believe in “power of the people”? Does He influence the outcomes of elections? Does He even care who assumes big governmental offices?

Most people would not even presume to guess. But answers to these questions do exist. They are plainly revealed in

Scripture—it's just a matter of whether we are willing to accept them.

God Is Supreme

The Bible makes clear an important truth—something the average independently minded voter would be loath to accept.

Who really chooses world leaders? Is the ballot truly the ultimate authority in American democracy? According to God's Word, the answer is no.

The ultimate authority over all governments, worldwide, is God. Every election, every appointment, every coronation, every revolution, coup and political

mutiny—in every country and throughout history—God has allowed, or influenced, or *orchestrated to the detail*.

The Prophet Daniel explained as much, codified as part of inspired Scripture, in this statement he made to the most powerful of world leaders in his day, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon: “[T]he most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and *giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men*” (Daniel 4:17).

The Apostle Paul supported the same doctrine in the New Testament, in a letter to Church members in Rome—the epicenter of the mighty Roman Empire, even the world, at the time: “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For *there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God*” (Romans 13:1).

In other words, there is no world leader that doesn’t owe deference to God as the source of his power.

How many heads of nations, not to

mention the masses that elect them or otherwise pay them homage, understand this point of truth?

Read for yourself what the Prophet Isaiah quotes this great God Himself as saying: “To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. ... I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me” (Isaiah 40:25; 46:9).

Presidents, prime ministers and kings contrive great plans and frame elaborate policies, convinced of their own preeminence. Here is how the supreme Creator God describes their schemes: “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a *vain thing*? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord ...” (Psalm 2:1-2). And

how does God then respond?

“He that sitteth in the heavens shall *laugh*: the Lord shall have them in derision. ... [God] shalt break them with a rod of iron; [He] shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. *Be wise now therefore, O*

ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (verses 4, 9-11).

What does God think of our democratic system? The best answer is that He looks down upon *any* government or leader that refuses to acknowledge His supremacy. God would shower favor and blessings upon a democracy or other nation that truly recognized its indebtedness to Him and set its heart to obey Him. But when it doesn’t, His judgment is justly severe.

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. ... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity” (Isaiah 40:15, 17).

God “bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. ... [He] shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble” (verses 23-24). The authorities of this world would be well advised to heed the warnings of this mighty Being, who claims indisputable superiority over the greatest of superpowers.

Do you believe these scriptures?

What does this mean for the kingdoms of this world? Will God one day fulfill these threats—or is this mere bluster?



How Does God Choose His Leaders?

THE Bible contains biographies of several great men and women, many of them powerful leaders—kings, pharaohs, judges, priests, prophets, apostles.

What follows then is simply a matter of history: Within His chosen nation, Israel, and chosen people, the New Testament Church, what system did *God* use to place an individual into a position of authority?

And then—just as important—how did those leaders perform in their offices?

Studying this history provides some instructive contrasts to the system currently employed by superpower America.

The example of David, the renowned king of Israel for 40 years, is well known, and found in 1 Samuel 16. Israel was languishing under the despotic rule of Saul, whose reign was coming to an end. God sent the Prophet Samuel to a man named Jesse, explaining simply, “I have provided me a king among his sons” (verse 1).

There was no election, no conclave of officials—no campaigning, stumping or intriguing—no debate, no arguing or legal tussling. God Himself just looked down and single-handedly chose and appointed Saul’s replacement to lead the nation.

Not only that, but notice the method by which God made the choice.

When Samuel arrived and explained his intent, the proud Jesse presented before the prophet his eldest, and apparently most impressive, son. Here is what happened: “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look

not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the Lord seeth not as man seeth*; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but *the Lord looketh on the heart*” (verse 7). Discerning the heart of this striking young man, God refused him.

In fact, not only him; God likewise refused each of several sons Jesse presented (verses 8-10). Other scriptures verify God’s omniscience, and His ability to discern a person’s thoughts (e.g. Job 34:21; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20). God perceived supernaturally that not one of these fine young men would be fit for the rigors and responsibilities of the kingship. Finally, Jesse had to call from the fields the youngest of his sons, David—whom no one had even thought worthy of *consideration* by Samuel.

Clearly, God chooses His leaders using an entirely different set of criteria than men do.

Elsewhere in the Bible we see this same pattern. Moses was 80 years old, tending sheep in the desert, when an angel of God appeared to him in a burning bush to give him the commission of leading the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3). Elisha was plowing in a field behind 12 oxen when the Prophet Elijah walked up and cast his mantle upon the young man, indicating Elisha would be his successor (1 Kings 19:15-21); notice too from this passage that God told Elijah the men He had chosen to be kings of both Syria and Israel, giving Elijah instructions to anoint them.

In the New Testament, the apostles selected other ministers by casting lots, putting the matter into God’s hands: “And they prayed, and

The True Gospel

You probably don't realize it, but the gospel message of Jesus Christ was, at its heart, about this very subject. Christ announced the soon-coming destruction of all human, imperfect, ill-devised governments, to be superseded by one world-ruling kingdom under God the Father.

"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and *the kingdom of God is at hand*: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15). When Christ spoke of a kingdom, He was referring to *a literal government*. The leaders of Christ's day certainly didn't pass His declaration off as some fuzzy spiritual concept: They took it very seriously. In fact, they perceived it as a threat against them—a direct challenge to their cherished positions of authority—and they killed Christ for it! (You can read a phenomenal explanation of Christ's gospel message by ordering a free copy of our book *The Incredible Human Potential*.)

Yes, soon God will strip all power away from the kingdoms of this world. "And in the days of these kings shall *the God of heaven set up a kingdom*, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great

voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord*, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

The Kingdom of God will rule the Earth—the very territory now controlled by a teeming multitude of assorted governments. This divinely ruled kingdom will have all the characteristics of kingdoms today: leaders, administrative bodies, judges, citizens, laws.

So, what sort of system of government will God establish? Will He govern through "power of the people"?

No. *God alone* will decide who fulfills the offices in His Kingdom. He will choose those individuals for their obedience to His perfect law, which will be the absolute standard of conduct taught throughout the kingdom and expected of everyone (Isaiah 2:2-3). He will ensure that they are deeply humble people, so He can trust that even with great authority they will always serve the citizens before themselves (Matthew 20:25-27). He will choose those skilled in administering judgment with mercy. They will have rock-solid character and a proven readiness to handle power graciously.

These fundamental, premier qualities of leadership cannot be categorically determined by any of the methods of choosing leaders currently employed. Only God can evaluate with perfect discernment based on

perfect criteria.

That is the government that is about to rule this world. It will eradicate the myriad of problems rampant today, leading eventually to this beautiful result: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

There is a perfect government—the government of God!

If you want to know more about this coming government—and your potential part in it—request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Understand and set your heart on the *true hope* of the gospel—the gospel of the Kingdom of God!

FREE BOOKLET OFFER
Read online or request at theTrumpet.com



For more on how perfect government will come about and function in the future, request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two *thou hast chosen*, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship . . ." (Acts 1:24-25).

Another famous New Testament example: that of the religious zealot Saul, who was struck down by God Himself on his way to Damascus (Acts 9). Saul soon realized he had been persecuting the very people of God; he converted to their religion, and later became the Apostle Paul. Understandably, His initial presence in the Church caused much chagrin among the people he had persecuted. But God's explanation was simple: "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

One may reason that these were all spiritual leaders—priests, ministers—and perhaps God wouldn't choose a civil head of government the same way. But in addition to the examples above of God choosing the kings of Israel and Syria, who administered the civil laws in those nations, there is the example of King Saul, who was specifically chosen to replace the reign of the Prophet Samuel with a secular-type king. Here was an instance where *the people* rose up to *demand* a change in government; God heard and allowed them to have the leader they wanted. A victory for democracy? No. Even in this special case, it was again God Himself who did the choosing (1 Samuel 9:15-17), to teach the people a vital lesson; and though Israel was pleased at first (1 Samuel 10:23-24), in the end Saul's failure reinforced the lesson that *the people's* judgment is hopelessly flawed.

Again, in God's system of government historically, there are no political campaigns, no elections. *It is not a democracy*, but a theocracy. Rulership isn't administered or ordered from the bottom up, but decidedly from the top down.

The only "election campaign" waged by God's leaders is simply to become as righteous as possible—to develop character through obedience to God's law. There is no need for them to convince anyone else of their plans, their competencies and capabilities. God places them in office and the people are obliged to follow.

But now, a vital question: How did these leaders perform? The simple answer is, exceedingly well—as long as they followed God!

After his death, though he made serious mistakes in his life, David was praised for having been Israel's greatest king, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Moses, despite having tremendous and binding authority, is described as being the meekest man on Earth (Numbers 12:3)—a godly trait most unusual, and beneficial, for someone in a powerful position. Elisha and Paul were among the most effective men God ever used.

The fact is, zealous, morally upright leaders who are humble and submissive to God bring great blessings upon those they shepherd. *As a leader follows God, he leads his followers to God*. That is how a nation can truly have the peace and prosperity that all people seek. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2).

Who better to choose those leaders than the one and only Source of all righteousness?

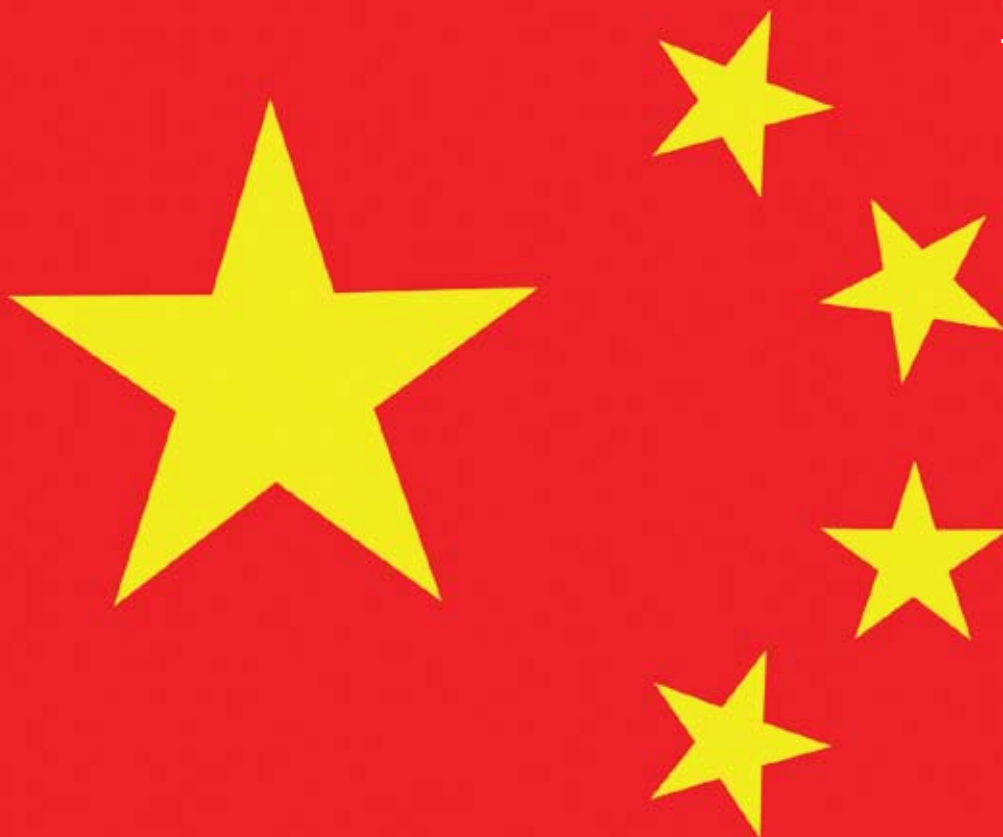
JOEL HILLIKER

THE RISE OF CHINA

AND AMERICA'S DAY OF RECKONING

Current headlines confirm
the pinpoint accuracy of a
40-year-old prophecy.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY
AND ROBERT MORLEY



THE 19TH CENTURY was the British century. The 20th century was the American century.

The 21st century, says Anthony Browne of the *Daily Mail*, is the Asian century.

This is a *staggering* turn in world events.

“The global power shift from the West to the East is no longer just a matter of debate confined to learned journals and newspaper columns—it is a REALITY that is beginning to have a HUGE IMPACT ON OUR DAILY LIVES” (April 11, emphasis ours throughout).

What makes this especially staggering is the fact that it so vividly attests to the pinpoint accuracy of a prophetic warning issued *four decades ago* by Herbert W. Armstrong.

That’s right: Herbert Armstrong wrote about this massive shift in global power decades before the “debate” even made it into leading journals! “The handwriting is on the wall!” he cried in the 1967 version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

No Exaggeration

Over 40 million copies of Herbert W. Armstrong’s books and booklets were distributed worldwide during the 20th century. His most popular title was *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. SIX MILLION PEOPLE requested the book from the mid-1930s to the late 1980s. Mr. Armstrong’s last version of the book was printed in 1980. Here is what he wrote *nearly three decades ago* about the once-mighty English-speaking nations: “Between them the British and the American peoples had acquired more than two thirds—almost three fourths—of all the cultivated physical resources and wealth of the world. All other nations combined possessed barely more than a fourth. Britannia ruled the waves—and the world’s commerce was carried on by water. The sun never set on British possessions.

“Now think!

“Could the British and American peoples be ignored in prophecies of world conditions that fill a third of the entire Bible—when some 90 percent of all those prophecies pertain to national and international world happenings of *our time, now?* “Staggering?

“Indeed it is. And yet, precisely as prophesied, Britain’s sun has now set. As these same prophecies that foretold Brit-

ain’s greatness revealed far in advance, Britain has already been reduced to a second-rate or third-rate power in the world.

“And the United States? Today America finds herself heir to just about all the international problems and headaches in this post-World War II, chaotic, violent world. And the United States has won her last war—even little North Vietnam held her at bay. Many other nations sap America’s national strength, ‘and he knoweth it not,’ as God long ago foretold!”

At the outset of the Reagan-Thatcher era, those comments might have seemed like a stretch to some. BUT NO ONE WOULD CALL THEM AN EXAGGERATION TODAY!

Anthony Browne’s *Daily Mail* piece highlighted just what a historic shift in world events is occurring. “[T]he hand-over of global power from the UK to the U.S. was trivial compared to what is happening now,” he wrote.

The Rise of the Rest

Newsweek’s May 12 cover featured a photo taken from behind the Statue of Liberty, next to this headline: “The Post-American World.” Fareed Zakaria wrote, “We are living through the third great power shift in modern history.” The first, he said, was the rise of the West. “The second shift, which took place in the closing years of the 19th century, was the rise of the United States.

... For the last 20 years, America’s superpower status in every realm has been largely unchallenged—something that’s never happened before in history, at least since the Roman Empire dominated the known world 2,000 years ago. During this Pax Americana, the global economy has accelerated dramatically. And that expansion is the driver behind the third great power shift of the modern age—the *rise of the rest*.”

The new world order we’ve grown so comfortable with over the last century, as Browne noted in his column, is nearing its end. This new balance of power features a developing Asian superpower that, only 40 years ago, was an isolated, poverty-stricken nation, barely hovering above Third World status.

Today China is rocketing into the modern world, experiencing a massive industrialization just like America at the turn of the last century and Britain a century be-

fore that. Consequently, cities are springing to life all along China’s eastern seaboard.

Each year, close to 8 million rural Chinese trudge to the coasts in search of jobs and a better life. To accommodate these new urban dwellers, China constructs the equivalent of Detroit plus Chicago each year—and has been doing so for about the past decade. As of last year, there were more Chinese with cell phones than there were people in the United States.

The “boom town” of Shenzhen, located cross the bay from Hong Kong on the southern coast of China’s Guangdong Province, typifies this explosive growth. Thirty years ago, Shenzhen was mostly dirt roads with rice paddies, where farmers gazed across chain-link fence at the prosperous British colony. Today this cosmopolitan city of 18 million is twice the size of Los Angeles, and its densely packed skyscrapers rival downtown Manhattan—except that most of Shenzhen’s towers are brand new. Multi-story shopping malls and luxury condominiums line its broad, landscaped boulevards. A burgeoning foreign national community avails itself of

Shenzhen’s world-class restaurants and amenities including nearby Mission Hills, the world’s largest golf course, with 216 championship holes. Most of all, though, Shenzhen boasts factories—thousands upon thousands of factories.

But China’s rapid growth is causing some people to worry. And there is good reason, particularly for Americans. After all, China’s growth has largely come at America’s expense.

Today China is rocketing into the modern world, experiencing a massive industrialization just like America at the turn of the last century and Britain a century before that.

The Deindustrialization of America

America used to be the world’s factory. China has largely usurped that role.

Following World War II, America quickly rose to economic dominance. “Made in the U.S.A.”—stamped on exports sent around the world—was synonymous with quality as well as quantity. The U.S. produced just about everything and had need of nothing.

In the 1950s, for example, America manufactured half of all machine tools in the world. Machine tools, such as lathes, milling machines, grinders, stamping machines and the other large, motorized tools used in factories, are the most essential component of a nation’s industrial base.

All these were manufactured in America.

The U.S. now makes less than 6 percent of the world's machine tools, and those found in America are more likely stamped "Made in" some other nation. Similarly, virtually all the hand tools in Wal-Mart and K-Mart are China-stamped—as are most of the clothes, plastic household goods, appliances, electronics and toys—pretty much the whole store.

As of 2005, America imported 35 percent of its agriculture and construction machinery; 36 percent of industrial machinery; 43 percent of electrical lighting equipment; 44 percent of all engines, turbines, and pow-

current trends continue, in another decade China will surpass the United States as the **WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMY**.

The American Century Has Ended

We need to wake up to the fact that these now-regular reports of our demise are no longer prophecies for the future. **THEY ARE HAPPENING NOW!**

For example, "The desperately weakened American dollar," Browne wrote, "appears to be on the verge of losing its global dominance, in the same way as sterling lost it a lifetime ago."

Mr. Armstrong, we should note, told us

However, the new world order features a developing Asian superpower that doesn't play by Anglo-Saxon rules.

We **MUST KNOW** where this trend is leading because the stakes are much higher than simply losing some of the comforts and conveniences we have grown accustomed to. The same prophecies that point to the demise of the Anglo-Saxon nations also warn that this world is about to explode! Bible prophecy says a massive Asian power bloc, led by a modernized Russia and China, will dramatically alter the course of human history. This conglomerate of peoples, comprising more than one fourth of the world's population, will play a lead role in the climactic struggle for world dominance right at the end of mankind's 6,000 years of self-rule!

Day of Reckoning

Today's headlines confirm that the **DAY OF RECKONING** is here, to use a phrase Patrick Buchanan chose as the title for his most recent book. "It is the belief of the author and premise of this book," Buchanan wrote last year, "that America is indeed coming apart, decomposing, and that the likelihood of her survival as one nation through mid-century is improbable—and impossible if America continues on her current course. For we are on a path to national suicide."

Herbert W. Armstrong, however, wrote about our "day of reckoning" in *all* his editions of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. In 1980, he wrote, "God warns us through prophecy that our sins are fast increasing. And now the day of reckoning is here! **THE FOREIGN SWORD ALWAYS HAS ATTACKED US.**"

Sobering words indeed—and proclaimed for more than 50 years by Herbert W. Armstrong in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. You owe it to yourself to join 6 million others who read the 20th century's **MOST IMPORTANT BOOK** on Bible prophecy.

If you've ever wanted to truly understand why world events continue to worsen—and where these events are ultimately leading—this is your opportunity!



SHENZHEN BOOM

China's explosive growth saturated this small-time city with 3,100 percent growth and a current population of 18 million.

er-transmission equipment; 53 percent of communications equipment; 58 percent of commercial and service industry machinery; 75 percent of apparel; 79 percent of computer equipment; 90 percent of audio and video equipment; and 92 percent of the nation's footwear. And these percentages have most likely risen since then.

Although not all of the above imports come solely from China, a large proportion does. For example, according to the Census Bureau, America's trade deficit with China was \$256 billion during 2007, which means that America spent an astounding \$256 billion more on Chinese goods than China spent on U.S. goods last year.

Now it is Chinese goods that are sold in markets once dominated by the U.S.

Just a year and a half ago, China surpassed the U.S. to become the world's second-largest exporter. It was only a short five years ago that America exported more than double the amount of China. And if

a lifetime ago this would happen. "You have seen that the U.S. dollar—long thought of as the stablest currency in the world—is in immediate jeopardy of being **DEVALUED!**" *He wrote that in a letter 40 years ago.* Today, politicians openly talk about purposefully devaluing the dollar in an attempt to save American manufacturing.

As with Britain a lifetime before us, the sun is now setting on America's reign as the globe's economic superpower. Only this time, the transition of global dominance from the U.S. to China is sure to be much more disruptive than the handoff that occurred from Britain. The U.S. was Britain's offspring, based on the same values and the same language. It, too, was an Anglo-Saxon country, and passing the baton across the Atlantic ensured the continuation of the Anglo-Saxon world order based on democracy, free trade and a belief in human rights, upheld through international institutions that both powers supported.

FREE BOOKLET OFFER

Read online or request at theTrumpet.com

In addition to *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, you'll find a detailed biblical explanation of what is ahead for China and the rest of Asia in our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. Request a free copy today.



Are You Watching the Food Riots?

Global civil unrest over skyrocketing food prices gives us an unpleasant glimpse at what human nature can do. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**



WATCHING CIVIL UNREST AND riots spreading nation to nation like a communicable disease raises some important questions. We do ourselves no favors by ignoring them.

Rising energy and food prices are hitting pocketbooks worldwide. Developing countries—which tend to be the most populous—are being hurt worst, as staple foods grow too expensive or too scarce. Global grain supplies are dangerously low. Exporting nations, out of self-preservation, are getting stingy and turning the export spigot way down.

The resulting hunger pangs are being felt around the world. Why? Because they're turning up on our television screens—in the form of angry protests, which are turning into violent food riots and social breakdown. Several African nations, including Egypt, Ivory Coast and Cameroon, have had citizens killed in riots. There is talk the government in Bangladesh could be toppled over soaring food prices. Unrest is breaking out in Central Asia, Southeast Asia and South America. In the Philippines, armed soldiers stand watch over rice distribution. Closer to home for Americans, demonstrations have seized Mexico and Haiti. The World Bank's president es-

timates that 33 nations are at risk of "conflict and social unrest because of the acute hike in food and energy prices."

That's a lot of suffering. And suffering tends to bring out the worst in human nature.

It's easy to click away or change the channel when you've got plenty to eat yourself. But America and other First World nations are hardly invulnerable.

Even in America

In fact, food rationing has already begun. At certain Costco stores across America, store managers have said no to shoppers wanting to purchase more than their allotted amount for certain food stuffs, including flour, rice and cooking oil. "Due to the limited availability of rice, we are limiting purchases based on your prior purchasing history," read one sign in a store in Mountain View, California. In Queens, New York, quotas are being imposed on oil and flour purchases.

For over 12 years, the *Trumpet* has warned of food shortages gripping the United States; now, they are starting to arrive.

Stockpiles of wheat in the U.S. have hit a 60-year low. And 60 years ago, America had a population of less than half of what it does now.

The Department of Agriculture says that in the year ending May 31, U.S. wheat inventories could be down 47 percent from a year earlier, to 6.6 million tons. That means there is a U.S. emergency wheat reserve supply of only about 43 pounds per person. And low supply means high prices.

The dollar is quickly losing value, and the U.S. is more dependent on foreign food production than ever. Already, grocery bills are rising quickly. Coupled with energy prices pushing skyward, more and more Americans are feeling the pinch.

Not yet a pinch like Indonesians are feeling—but then again, Americans are used to a far higher standard of living. Suffering can be relative.

Also, that higher standard of living means we have much further to fall.

Look at those riots spreading globally, and ask yourself: What if grocery prices got completely out of reach here at home?

What If?

What if the convenient food ran out—if Americans by the millions faced boarded-up fast food joints and grocery stores with empty shelves?

What would happen if gasoline first became too expensive to afford—and then too scarce to find?

And in this age of nuclear terrorism, what if far more sudden and catastrophic disruptions multiplied these problems?

How much patience would Americans exhibit? For how long would they peacefully suffer such conditions?

How well would they work together under the rule of law?

Perhaps the vast majority would bear up relatively well. But what about the rest? And how long before the criminals emerged?

The reason these questions are so important to contemplate is that the Bible actually prophesies such terrifying circumstances besieging America—as well as Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other affluent countries.

Try to envision it.

Imagine that the U.S. economy continues to slump. The dollar is shedding its value. Factories are shutting down. The number of homeless and hopeless grows in the cities. Shipping grinds to a halt as companies close and energy prices climb.

The inner-city poor are hit hardest. Charity efforts are unable to meet demands. Lines form at grocery stores for dwindling supplies of food at rising prices. Some, desperate for sustenance, resort to crime.

Racial tensions and resentment against the government escalate. Police officers are trapped between restoring order and being indicted for discrimination. As more people are victimized, both by economic depression and rising crime, emotions boil over.

The evils of human nature begin to emerge in force. Riots and looting break out in a handful of cities.

And then, capitalizing on this edgy atmosphere, terrorists detonate a crude nuclear bomb in New York or Chicago.

Eighteen thousand people are instantly vaporized. Power is out; the sanitation system has been disabled; there is no water; electronic communication from the area dies; information is blacked out; interstates clog with city-dwellers desperate to escape and suffering the first symptoms of radiation sickness.

Emergency units from neighboring states rush in to tend to the untold tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands who are slowly dying from radiation exposure, straining state and federal crisis management resources to their limits within days. Vast mobs of refugees migrate to neighboring cities.

The ripple effects of the strike further paralyze the country's already-crippled economy and overtaxed police force. Effects

are felt nationwide. Reports emerge of people starving to death in what until recently was the most prosperous nation on Earth.

As disorder mushrooms, government intervention buckles. Urban predators go on the offensive. Gangs take over. Pillaging and rioting increase. Buildings burn in the night. The worse the violence and burning become, the worse the famine gets. The worse the famine becomes, the more intensive the violence gets.

In the midst of the chaos, reports emerge of a spreading sickness. Unsanitary conditions in the city have facilitated an aggressive outbreak of cholera and a particularly deadly influenza virus. People begin dying in dozens, then hundreds. Then, the diseases begin popping up in neighboring cities—spread there by the refugees. A massive quarantine effort is needed, but with local law enforcement at its breaking point and the military already maxed out, only so much can be done. The plague spreads, and with it the crime.

Don't Be Caught Unawares

This is only one of a thousand possible scenarios we may soon witness. Independent analysts and federal officials are imagining such eventualities based on observable evidence in order to plan their responses and to mitigate the devastation.

What these individuals don't realize is that—barring national repentance—these disasters are prophesied to claim the lives of an *enormous* number of the people within our borders. Read our book *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* to grasp the severity of these forecasts (available free upon request).

The human mind rejects such scenarios—even after we have seen them play out to no small degree in New York and Washington on 9/11, in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Naturally we want only to put such thoughts out of our minds. We want things to stay as they are.

It is because of this tendency that Jesus Christ warned specifically, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so *that day*”—that is, the period of destruction just ahead of us—“come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth” (Luke 21:34-35).

That day should not come upon *you* unawares; it need not ensnare *you*. The same great God who is measuring this

destruction of America and the nations of Israel also seeks *your* repentance. And to those who truly turn to Him with supple hearts, He offers individual protection—*escape*—from the worst of the coming storms (verse 36).

There is *purpose* in prophecy. In the midst of terrifying and tumultuous events, prophetic warning is nothing less than our Creator reaching out to His creation.

A terrible period of darkness is prophesied to occur. But also prophesied is that within this darkness—shining in a sin-sick and war-weary, increasingly terrorized world—would be a burning light: a bold message calling for repentance and proclaiming, beyond the darkness, the glow of *eternal hope*.

Luke 21:27-28 declare that hope to the disciples of Jesus Christ: “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

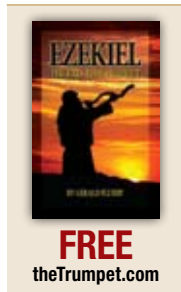
You've heard us quote the Bible time and again.

But don't just take our word for it.

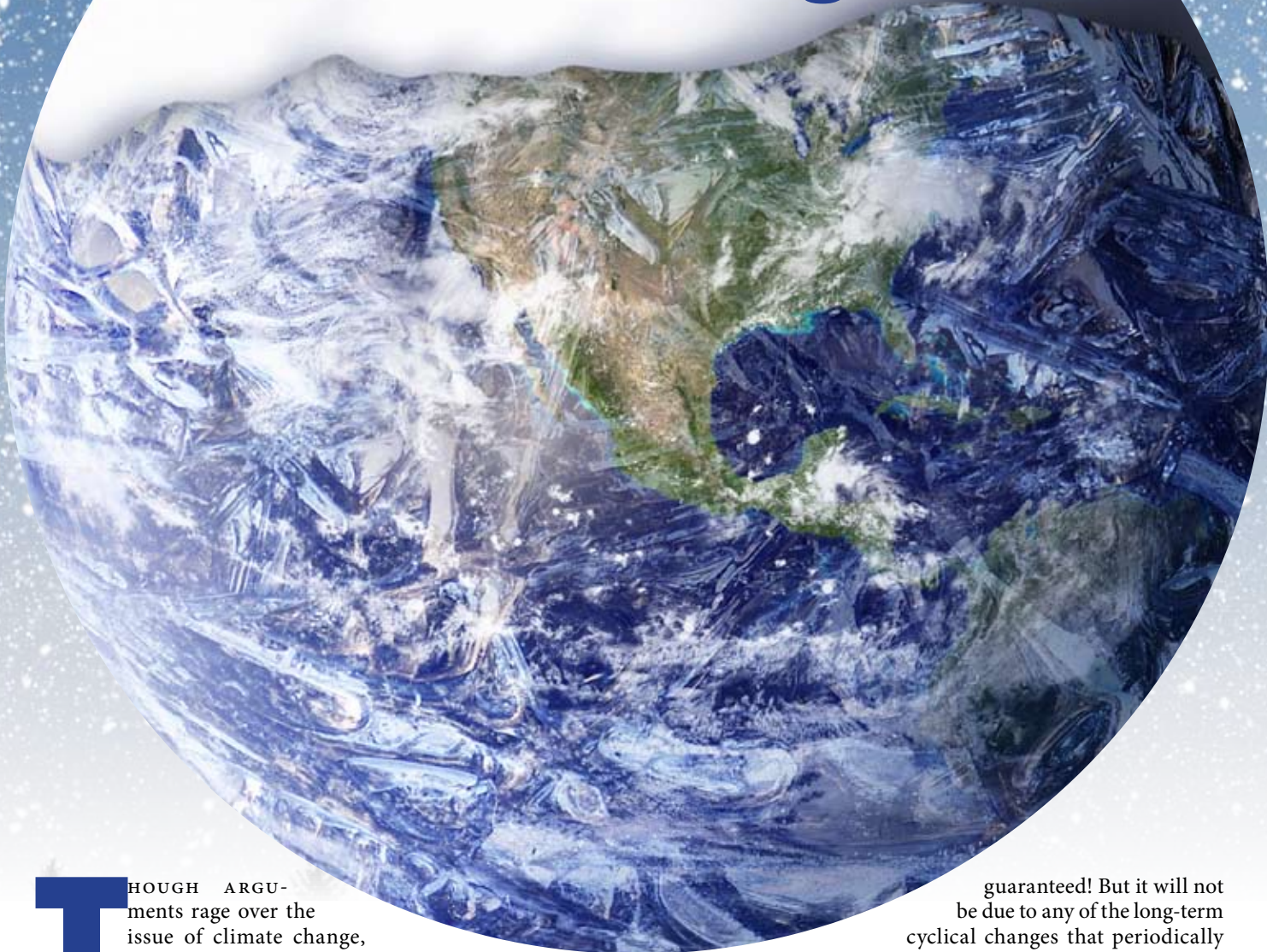
Have you ever proved whether, as the Book itself purports, it is the authoritative Word of the Creator God? Rather, have you not simply assumed, from what you have heard, read or been taught, either that it is authentic, or else that it is the religious writing of a small ancient Jewish race, groping in the darkness of human ignorance and superstition, trying to develop a concept of God?

Isn't it about time that you prove this important question once and for all? After all, if the Bible is in fact the

inspired, authentic Word of a living, all-powerful God, then your eternity will be judged by it. Request your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet ***The Proof of the Bible.***



Global Cooling Is Coming!



THOUGH ARGUMENTS rage over the issue of climate change, only one side is getting the lion's share of the publicity. The global warmists win hands down on that score. The realists' argument is plainly not fashionable. It does not win votes, it does not win business, and it's certainly not appealing to the mass media!

That the Earth's climate is undergoing change is without question. As to its reasons and its history, they are the nubs of the arguments posed by both the short-term pro-global warming pundits and those who take a longer view.

Believe it or not, in the not-too-distant future, this Earth is in for a big *freeze*—

guaranteed! But it will not be due to any of the long-term cyclical changes that periodically contribute to either a rise or fall in the Earth's temperature. This freeze will, indeed, be brought on by the hand of man! More on that later.

Politics and science are at loggerheads over the question of global warming. The reality is, imminent global cooling is a greater threat to humankind!

BY RON FRASER

Pure Science

Take away the intense politics surrounding the global warming debate. Take away the self-interest groups, business interests, legal, bureaucratic and mass media influences that all seek to make a buck out of driving public hysteria over the fads and fashions of the age.

Pure science—given the history of cyclical changes in the Earth's tempera-

tures—reveals that man has little influence on the overall surface temperature of the Earth. Man’s influence on temperature is localized at best.

Scientists all agree that the greatest single driver of Earth’s climate is the sun, the source of our Earth’s energy. Only 160 years have elapsed since the end of the Little Ice Age. It was the onset of the Little Ice Age in the 12th century that drove the Viking residents of Greenland from their previously lush pastures on that large island to settle south in warmer climes. During the Little Ice Age, the evidence tells us that glaciers expanded, threatening many a mountain village with destruction. Since 1850, with the end of that cooling cycle—well before the Industrial Age began to add its pollutants to Earth’s atmosphere—the world’s ice packs have been receding.

The problem with the global warmists is that the theories of their politicized pseudo-science do not match the more exact science of those responsible for accurate measurement of global temperatures.

Ocean temperatures are these days measured by 3,000 automated Argos buoys deployed in the seas. These buoys present a challenge to global warmers. “The Argos buoys have disappointed the global warmongers in that they have failed to detect

any signs of imminent climate change. As Dr. Josh Willis, who works for NASA in its Jet Propulsion Laboratory, noted in an interview with National Public Radio, ‘there has been a very slight cooling’ over the buoys’ five years of observation, but that drop was ‘not anything really significant.’ Certainly not enough to shut down the Gulf Stream” (Brookesnews.com, March 31).

Added to this challenge to the global warming theorists is the evidence produced by NASA’s eight weather satellites. “In contrast to some 7,000 land-based stations, they take more than 300,000 temperature readings daily over the surface of the Earth. In 30 years of operation, the satellites have recorded a warming trend of just 0.14 degrees Celsius—well within the range of normal variations” (ibid.).

In a widely publicized—and criticized—interview with NPR, Michael Griffin, the administrator of NASA, in response to a question regarding the legitimacy of spending money on space projects rather than concentrating efforts on attending to global warming, stated, “I have no doubt that ... a trend of global warming exists. I am not sure that it is fair to say that it is a problem we must wrestle with. *To assume that it is a problem is to assume that the state of Earth’s climate today is the optimal climate, the best climate that we could have or ever*

have had and that we need to take steps to make sure that it doesn’t change. First of all, I don’t think it’s within the power of human beings to assure that the climate does not change, as millions of years of history have shown, and second of all, I guess I would ask which human beings—where and when—are to be accorded the privilege of deciding that this particular climate that we have right here today, right now is the best climate for all other human beings. I think that’s a rather arrogant position for people to take” (May 31, 2007).

Mr. Griffin highlighted that leftists, who tend to be thick within the ranks of the greens and global warmists—most of whom are avid evolutionists who deny the reality of a Creator—generally have no compunction about playing god in efforts to impose their will on the masses.

A Dangerous Religion

Suddenly, in the general absence of common sense prevalent in today’s society, the whole global warming nonsense has become a religion, and a very dangerous religion at that.

Food riots in various parts of the world are highlighting the ludicrous nature of government policies that have taken traditional food crops out of the food chain in efforts to create so-called green fuels.

The Answers!

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

The **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course** offers in-depth understanding into the most profound book on Earth. Is the Bible true? Does it apply to today’s daily living? In its monthly lessons, this course addresses these questions and many more. It is written

in a dynamic question-and-answer format that requires you to read the scriptures and dig out the answers from your own Bible! You will really come to *know* the awesome Book of books as never before.

The Trumpet is offering this THREE-YEAR COURSE to you ABSOLUTELY FREE—no catch! Enroll in the **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course** today. See the back cover of this magazine for information on how to enroll by phone, e-mail or post.



The carbon credits fiasco is proving quite a scam for corporatists whose sole interest, far from benefiting global climate, tends to be an increase in corporate profits.

Politicians who find difficulty in gaining consensus between political parties on issues of vital importance are suddenly finding common ground on the global warming issue. One prime example was Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel.

mandate would have a lifetime €259 billion price tag. "This is a scandalous waste of human resources," he wrote, "and all based on the myths of MMGW [man-made global warming]."

This is a problem of global proportions. Already many economies are reeling from the cumulative effects of the global credit binge, plus the escalation of energy costs and the flow-on effects of rising costs

mate change seemed to them a gift from heaven—literally!"

This commentator calls this man-made global warming craze a "modern equivalent of medieval religious hegemony" that "terrified the ignorant and uneducated into submission. The new enslavement may be reliant on the new gods of politically perverted science, but the effects of its myth-making and global costs are no less terrifying than the Inquisition."

The problem with the global warmists is that the theories of their politicized pseudo-science do not match the more exact science of those responsible for accurate measurement of global temperatures.

When faced with great divisions within the European Union on a range of issues during her leadership of last year's EU summit, she cleverly played the global warming card, raising that issue to the top of the summit agenda. Predictably, all parties fell fashionably in line behind her on this one single issue. By thus achieving consensus on what the media has seized upon as an issue of vital global importance, Merkel was able to snatch victory out of the jaws of what may well have otherwise been billed as a debacle.

Not only that, the German chancellor can now strut her global EU warming stuff on the world stage, greatly enhancing her country's prestige in the great ongoing global warming debate—a sure winner when it comes to attracting the attention of the global media!

But there is a cost to such politicking. Governments are imposing crushing tax burdens on industries and individuals in efforts to "solve" this illusory problem. As one common-sense commentator, British political economist Rodney Atkinson, wrote of Britain's "climate change" levies, "Those levies in the UK have raised energy costs by at least 6 percent, which (together with other government disasters like fuel taxation and the failure of the EU gas market) has contributed to a crisis of energy poverty among millions of British households (when 10 percent or more of income is spent on fuel bills)" (www.ukconservatism.freeuk.com, April 24). He cited one government-commissioned consultant who estimated that efforts to comply with an EU renewable-energy

on staple foods. It seems crazy for governments to be adding to their own and others' mounting financial crises by feeding the fire with policies that continue to escalate the price of anything that needs manufactured heat, light or motorized energy to produce it.

On top of these costs are the millions of dollars in taxpayers' money going toward research intended to prove the global warming theory. "Little or no government funding has been made available to those who have questioned MMGW," Atkinson continued. "There has been massive politicization of science by MMGW fanatics in governments. Those bent on acquiring greater power for supranational organizations have sought to create public concern—regardless of the truth. Some have let their political and ideological intentions out of the bag!"

He then quoted Christine Stewart, a former Canadian environment minister, as saying, "*No matter if the science is all phony, there are collateral environmental benefits [C]limate change provides the greatest chance to bring about justice and equality in the world.*"

Atkinson concluded, "There is no greater danger to mankind than those politically motivated global power seekers who use scare tactics to acquire control over the masses and supranational constitutional control over free nations. The quality of politicians in the rich Western democracies is now so poor that groups of scientists and businessmen and ideologically motivated world government enthusiasts can easily manipulate them. Cli-

The Truth About Global Cooling

Now to the *reality* of an imminent, truly man-made, global *cooling* phenomenon.

It is a fact of history that never has a weapon of war been manufactured without an intention to use it. We live in a terribly destabilized and destabilizing world. Nuclear weaponry has been trafficked all over the world. Pip-squeak nations vie with the great global powers to establish their own nuclear weapons programs. The world lives in fear of a madman triggering nuclear warfare. Only quite recently, Israel wiped out a nuclear weapons manufacturing establishment in Syria.

There are prophecies in your Bible that indicate, far from global warming being a threat to mankind, *nuclear winter* is a real prospect for the future (Matthew 24:20-22).

That's the problem that ought to be of greatest concern to us today.

Yet, to our great detriment, due to a real poverty of true leadership within our Western democracies today, we can expect little progress toward preventing such a catastrophe. This deficit of leadership is also prophesied in your Bible (Isaiah 3:1-4).

Yet, thank God, this "modern equivalent of medieval religious hegemony" will be short-lived. In fact, its very presence on this globe is a harbinger of better, far, *far* better times to come!

As our editor in chief wrote following the 9/11 terrorist attack, "But realize also the positive side of this—there is a voice out there warning our people. ... Though it comes with a lot of bad news—so much so that the land will eventually not be able to bear our words (Amos 7:10)—it also comes with the greatest news mankind has ever heard" (November 2001).

What is that news? Read it for yourself in Revelation 1:7: "BEHOLD, HE COMETH with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him"

That's the real hope, and the only hope, for a future free of the enslavement of minds to such lies as the great global warming hoax! ■

YOUR CHILDREN ARE WHERE THE MONEY IS, AND MARKETERS know it. Corporations invest millions of dollars in TV commercials, Internet advertisements and viral marketing campaigns geared toward getting a piece of the nearly \$200 billion spent by today's tweens and teens.

"We have become a nation that places a lower priority on teaching its children how to thrive socially, intellectually, even spiritually, than it does on training them to consume," wrote Juliet Schor in *Born to Buy*. Almost from birth, our children are taught to consume at a dangerous, unsustainable pace. Chances are, your children are picking up the message: *Buy at all costs*.

Do you want these business moguls teaching your children how to use money?

Maybe you trust your child's school to instruct him or her in money management? It's probably not going to happen. Not only are personal finance classes dropping from curricula faster than Bear Stearns stock, the school environment is one of the most consumer-charged, peer-pressured places around.

The only person who can really teach your child is *you*.

Instructing your child to manage money may seem like common sense, but according to a survey sponsored by Charles Schwab & Co., parents are about as comfortable talking to their children about money as they are about sex. Often they just avoid the subject altogether. Thus, children are left to acquire their knowledge from the gutter and the school of hard knocks. And as with sex, young people can make huge money mistakes, with lifelong repercussions, at a tender age.

On the other hand, forming productive fiscal habits while young will set a child on the fast track to financial stability for life. As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Though the showdown between parents and commercial industry may be challenging, take courage. A loving parent's instruction will resonate even above the din of advertisements from Coca-Cola and Tyco and the sound of the hip-hop ringtones on friends' iPhones. You *can* teach your child how to be responsible with his wallet, be it Velcro or leather.

There are five areas where you can drastically improve your child's chances for a stable future with just a few simple instructions. But first, you must be employing these same principles in your own life. True, a parent's instruction can drown out multi-billion-dollar companies—but likewise, a parent's bad example can undercut that instruction. If you are struggling financially, you can imple-

ment these points on a larger scale while teaching them to your children. Besides reinforcing these principles to your kids, this may be a prod to help you keep your finances in order as well.

Make sure it is a positive learning experience, and remember that different children will respond in different ways.

Even if your parents didn't teach you, you can start teaching your children. Get involved in your child's financial life! Start now to help your child toward future financial success.

Do Your Children Know How to Handle Money?

BY ANDREW LOCHER



FIVE FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

1. EARNING

Teach your children that the way to make money is through *work*. Earning their own money teaches your children its value and its relationship to time, skills and energy. Making money takes effort. Children who immediately get whatever they want will never learn the value of the things they own. It's entirely different to blow \$10 of their parents' money on an album than it is to spend the \$10 they earned for mowing the neighbor's lawn last week.

You can start teaching this concept by paying them for extra chores around the house. Remember, though, that some responsibilities should be expected and not paid. Paying your daughter to clean her room, for example, teaches a bad habit: Only work when there is money involved.

For any money your children earn from working—even an allowance for doing their chores—it is essential that you instill in them the habit of tithing on it first. In addition to helping them fight greed, obeying the biblical mandate to give God a tenth of their income teaches them about God's involvement in their financial life (Deuteronomy 14:22; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10). Tithing is God's way of financing His work. For more on tithing, request a copy of our reprint article "The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe."

Eventually, your child may get a job outside the house. When he does, he may seem more financially independent—but this actually affords you greater opportunity to teach responsibility. You are the parent, and you can still govern the use of his money.

An important point to remember: It may be necessary for children to realize that it costs money to make money. For example, if you take them to work, or let them use your car, you might charge them or split the costs for gas or the use of the vehicle.

2. SPENDING

Today's tweens and teens spend five hours shopping for every hour they are outdoors. Twice as much time is spent shopping as reading.

Advertising has intentionally blurred the line between needs and wants, an important distinction your children need to understand. Heavily stress this difference. You may remember the feeling when you were a child and thought you might actually die if you didn't get a G.I. Joe or dollhouse. Saying no as a parent to those types of arguments may seem mean, but the lesson is literally priceless.

Children like to spend money. My daughter loves toy horses. Her collection grew to the point where there were simply too many horses. So, she now has to buy her own. Looking at the price tags and realizing she'd have to save her allowance for several weeks to buy one, she realized the difference between needing more toy horses and simply wanting them.

Responsibility for their financial actions is another lesson parents can teach their children. If they buy something of poor quality and it breaks, they learn about getting what you pay for. A few small lessons like this won't harm your children, and will save them more significant financial angst in the future.

Making your children responsible for some of their own purchases can teach them to look for bargains and shop around.

Also, instill the habit of tracking income and expenses on a ledger or spreadsheet. A visual where they can see where their money is going has a bigger impact than suddenly realizing they have no money. Small expenses like candy bars, sodas and other wants can quickly add up!

As they get older, be realistic with your children about the costs of living. You might show them how you conduct online banking or pay your bills through the computer. If you think this is awkward, realize it is far less awkward than having to help your children deal with collection agencies later on.

3. SAVING

The average American savings rate today is negative. Most Americans have nowhere to turn if a crisis hits, besides maybe taking out a second mortgage or borrowing more money.

After they have paid their tithe to God, teaching children to put aside savings *first* instills an excellent habit at a young age. Separating another 10 percent for themselves may be a good place to start. The more their savings grows, the less likely they will be to want to dip into it. Saving money also teaches children to live within their means. Plotting the growth of their savings on the same chart with their income and spending will give them a good idea of how quickly savings can grow, and how quickly it can be depleted.

Impulse buying is the enemy of savings, so watch your child's spending carefully. With my daughters, if one wants to buy something immediately, I remind her of something more expensive that she wants. Usually, she'll decide to save her money for that instead, learning to delay gratification. Besides being good monetary policy, this also teaches patience.

Melody Hobson of Ariel Capital Management suggests matching, or adding 50 percent of your own money to what your child saves at the end of the month or year as an added incentive to save. If he or she saves \$16, add \$8 of your own money. Spending \$10 to \$20 in order to establish sound financial habits is one of the cheapest investments with the biggest return.

Remember, you are an example! If you aren't saving, your children probably won't either! If you're preaching savings to them, children will ask questions like, "How much have you saved up?"

4. BORROWING

Most children don't know where money comes from. Some probably think it is magically dispensed by ATMs. Tell your children about the banking system. Take them to the bank. Show that you make house or car payments. Explain the concept of interest, and how companies make money by lending money. After all, who else is going to teach them?

If your child needs to borrow money, be firm that he pay it back; perhaps even make a note. If you are not going to make him pay it back, then don't lend it—make it clear you are giving it to him. If he can learn not to default on Dad and Mom, he will probably avoid defaulting with a bank later on.

In today's society, people are borrowing money for increasingly ludicrous reasons. Your child should understand what is worth borrowing money for and when loans should be avoided.

Often, money troubles can try someone's character. Establishing godly monetary habits early can help build strong traits like patience, responsibility and desire for education.

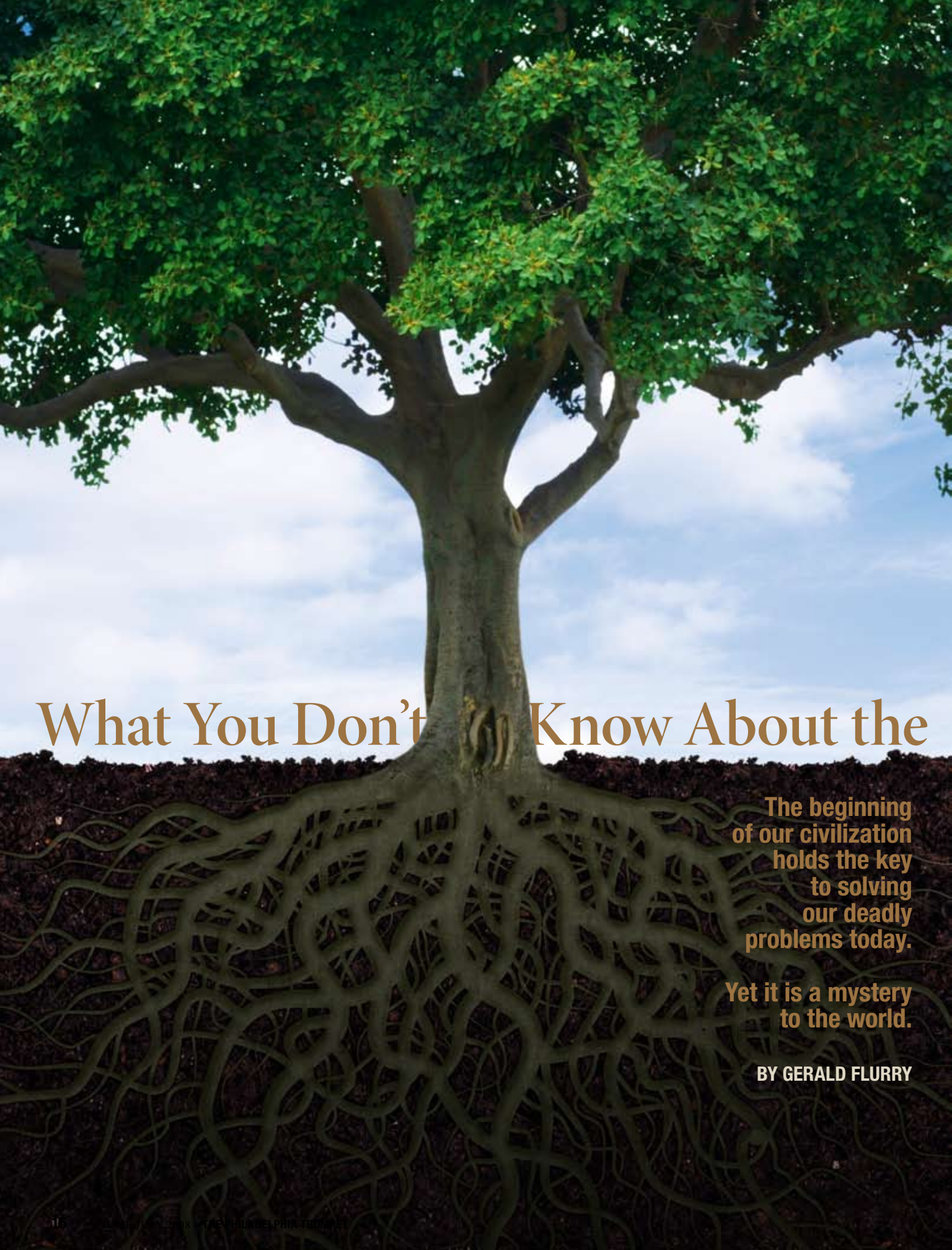
5. SHARING

While the primary focus today is on getting—as much money or as many gadgets as possible—God's way is one of *giving*. This is one of the most important concepts to teach your child.

Tithing is the first type of sharing children should become familiar with. God is the source of all good things, including your child's money. Everything that God owns, He shares. As parents, we should follow that example and try to help our children live that way as well.

Teach giving to other people, family or friends, for example. There are plenty of ways to do this that don't cost much, if anything. Show them the joy that giving brings. It will help them in many aspects of life.

Being a giver will protect your child from becoming a freeloader, always relying on others' generosity instead of paying his own way. We all know people like this; you don't want your children to have that reputation. ■



What You Don't Know About the

The beginning
of our civilization
holds the key
to solving
our deadly
problems today.

Yet it is a mystery
to the world.

BY GERALD FLURRY

OVER 25,000 people die each day of starvation, according to the United Nations. Some 854 million people are undernourished. A billion people live on less than one dollar a day.

How can we solve problems of such crushing magnitude?

Usually, our efforts fall woefully short. Attendees at the 1996 World Food Summit set a goal to cut the number of undernourished people worldwide in half. Over a decade and billions of dollars later, the number is unchanged. Trends in rising food costs and decreasing production suggest the crisis is about to get far worse.

Starvation is only one of literally thousands of major problems plaguing civilization: sickness, disease, pollution, illiteracy, family breakdown, moral collapse, crime, corruption, slavery, racial hatred, religious tension, terrorism, warfare, the spread of WMDs—the list goes on and on. It seems that for every crisis we tamp down, three more rise up in its place.

Our knowledge is not solving our prob-

God's First Instructions

Genesis 1 talks about God creating man. That is truly important history. But just as important is this: After He created him, what did God teach him? What *message* did God have for man from the very beginning?

Read the next chapter, and you will see that God's fundamental instruction involved *two trees*—the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9, 15-17).

Considering that God discusses this *immediately* after the creation of man, these two trees must be extremely important. God must have wanted man to understand this lesson first of all!

Yet this subject is a mystery to most people. How many people—even religious leaders—talk about this foundational subject? Christ said we are to live by every word of God (Luke 4:4), and that certainly includes the first three chapters of the Bible!

These two trees illustrate the *foundation* of the world that you and I live in today. WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND EVENTS IN OUR WORLD IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS FOUNDATION.

At the same time, this history shows very clearly how to solve our problems.

substance from the ground—they were mortal—and if they took and ate of the forbidden fruit *they would SURELY die!* It was SURE!" (*Plain Truth*, January 1971).

Nevertheless, Adam and Eve both took of that tree. Sure enough, soon their lives were plagued with violence and death.

That act was the foundation of the world as we know it today! That is where our civilization started—with that seminal act of rebellion against God.

The Serpent's First Attack

Where did Adam and Eve go wrong? That is explained in the third chapter of Genesis: "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, *Ye shall not surely die:* For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for

Roots of Civilization

lems. In fact, as our knowledge increases, so do our problems. Clearly, something is missing in our knowledge.

The reason we cannot gain ground on these civilization-destroying troubles is that we fail to confront their *real cause*.

That cause is rooted in the very *foundation* of our civilization—a foundation well documented in history.

Yet most of our most exalted decision-makers contemptuously ignore it. Even those few who study it do not understand how important it is in unraveling the most puzzling challenges facing mankind today. That crucial history actually holds the almost universally overlooked **KEY TO SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS**.

Believe it or not, that history can be found in *the first three chapters* of a book YOU ALREADY OWN. You may even have multiple copies sitting on your shelf.

It is the book of Genesis, the first book of the Holy Bible.

The Tree of Death

Here was God's instruction to Adam: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). Those are strong words. This tree caused *death*. You could call it the tree of death.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented mankind taking to himself the ability to produce knowledge of what is good and evil, what is right and wrong (see Genesis 3:22). Herbert W. Armstrong explained, "Our first parents' Maker forbade them to take and eat of this forbidden fruit. **WHY?** Because it represented the **CAUSE** of every evil and unwanted result—the **CAUSE** of unhappiness, suffering, strife, violence, death. Because it was **BAD** for humanity! Their Maker told them they were made only of material

food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (verses 1-6).

Again we see the *foundational importance* of the two trees. Not only did God's *very first instruction* to human beings revolve around them, but so too did the *very first test* human beings faced. Satan used *one of those trees* to launch his first challenge to human beings and to what God had taught them!

Satan knows how important this subject is. That is why he directly contradicted God's instruction about it, shrouding it in mystery. And believe it or not, that is **WHY** this subject is such a mystery to the world *even today*.

Satan contradicted God, and mankind followed Satan and ate from the wrong tree. They chose *their own knowledge*

See **ROOTS** page 27 >

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

Italy SAW A MAJOR SHIFT TO the right with Silvio Berlusconi becoming prime minister on April 14. The coalition Berlusconi has formed is the most conservative that Italy has seen in years (see story, page 26).

Two weeks later, **Gianni Alemanno became Rome's first right-wing mayor in 15 years.** Alemanno has pledged to take a tough stance against immigration and crime. In the celebrations after the election, Alemanno supporters gave their hero a stiff-armed salute, while shouting "Duce, Duce." Alemanno's politics did at one time have similarities with Mussolini's: He was once the youth leader of the Italian Social Movement, a neofascist group.

These individuals are sure to bring Italy more in line with the Vatican and right-wing national governments in Europe. Watch for the swing right to affect all of Europe.

Relations between Europe and **Russia** continue to make news. Russia was relieved NATO did not put **Georgia** and **Ukraine** on the path toward EU membership at April's NATO summit in Bucharest. However, NATO leaders did agree that the states would one day join the alliance. Russia consequently took steps to keep Georgia out of NATO permanently.

Abkhazia and South Ossetia are breakaway provinces in the former Soviet nation of Georgia battling for independence. Both the European Union and the NATO alliance are opposed to the fragmentation of Georgia, however. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and a NATO spokesman have warned Russia against boosting its troops in



Georgian breakaway regions. Nevertheless, in response to a supposed threat to the Abkhazian people from the Georgian government, on May 1 the Russians added more troops to the approximately 2,000 they already had in Abkhazia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned of possible "retaliatory measures to protect the lives of our citizens" in the event of Georgia's use of force. Russia is clearly still intent on expanding its presence into the Caucasus. By supporting the Abkhazian breakaway movement, Russia seems to be duplicating with Georgia what the EU did with **Serbia** and **Kosovo**. As Russia tries to draw both Abkhazia and South Ossetia back into its political sphere, tensions with the EU are bound to increase.

Another source of contention between Europe and Russia is that Europe has concluded a deal that may finally free it from dependency on Russian gas. **Turkmenistan's** president, Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov, met with the EU commissioner for external relations on April 9 and agreed to have 10 billion cubic meters

of natural gas available for export to Europe by 2009. If gas from Turkmenistan is assured, then investors will be more eager to back pipes traveling from Europe to Turkmenistan, such as the Trans-Caspian pipeline and Nabucco. If Turkmenistan pulls through, this development could be a major step forward for Europe. Russia wants to prevent this from happening. For analysis on how the tussle over energy will play out between the great powers, visit theTrumpet.com to read "The Battleground" from the March 2006 *Trumpet*.

The U.S. is encouraging Europe to strengthen its military. "Building a strong NATO alliance also requires a strong European defense capacity," President George W. Bush said before NATO's recent summit. "So at this summit I will encourage our European partners to increase their defense investments to support both NATO and EU operations." Although American defense planners and officials have traditionally feared a strong, independent EU military, apparently this view is changing substantially; Washington is



seeing an expanded EU military as complementary, rather than threatening, to its own.

Europe is rising as a world power as the United States declines. Watch for an energetic Europe and a resurgent Russia to take on more aggressive roles globally.

MIDEAST

RUMORS OF PEACE DEALS Rare again circulating in the Middle East. Hamas has said it is agreeable to a six-month cease-fire if **Israel** lifts its blockade on the Gaza Strip. However, Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal followed the announcement up by saying that such a cease-fire is "a tactic in conducting the struggle"—in other words, more a part of conspiracy to commit murder at a later date than part of an honest pursuit of peace.

Also, in secret talks between the Israeli government and Palestinian Authority negotiators, Israel offered to surrender the strategic Atarot Airport, in



northern Jerusalem, to Palestinian control. The Palestinian Authority, however, remains a staunch enemy of Israel, despite the pseudo-moderate face it presents to the West. On Lebanese television on April 9, the PA's ambassador to **Lebanon** declared the Palestinians' goal to throw the Jews out of all of Israel and also said, "I salute any [military] operation that makes Israel pay a heavy price." Hardly an organization to be conceding strategic assets to.

It has also emerged that Israel is discussing a peace deal with **Syria**—one that would involve Israel relinquishing the Golan Heights.

In the midst of these talks about peace in the Middle East, there have been rumblings of war. Israel carried out its largest-ever civil defense exercise in early April, and Syria amassed troops on its border with Lebanon, seemingly in preparation for an Israeli clash with Hezbollah. Stratfor reported April 25 that Hezbollah

has reshuffled and streamlined its organization in order to prepare for war with Israel. It also reported that Hezbollah military officials have been meeting regularly with Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officers and readying to launch raids behind Israeli lines if hostilities break out. **Iranian** military experts are in Lebanon's northern Bekaa Valley training Palestinian terrorists and members of Hezbollah foreign operation cells.

Iran commemorated its annual Army Day on April 17 with a military parade outside Tehran. The Islamic Republic's real offensive capability, however, lies in its terrorist proxies. Iran supports both Shiite and Sunni groups throughout the



Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (left) visits Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Middle East in its effort to extend its influence in the region. Iranian proxy Hezbollah has been wooing Sunni religious scholars in Lebanon—paying them to make pro-Hezbollah statements and so on—as part of Tehran's efforts to bridge the divide between Shiites and Sunnis and thus expand its influence. Stratfor sources report that Tehran is now also using the Lebanese Hezbollah to train an **Iraqi** branch of Hezbollah. In congressional hearings in April, U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus outlined Iran's orchestration of the violence in Iraq—which is certainly not a new phenomenon.

Iran is also seeking to increase its regional influence. At the end of April, Iranian President Mahmoud Ah-

madinejad visited **Pakistan, India** and **Sri Lanka**, increasing the Islamic Republic's political, economic and cultural ties with the United States' most important allies in the region. The trip shows just how little influence the U.S. has on its "allies." It certainly cannot count on Pakistan, India or Sri Lanka to help contain Iran.

In other Mideast news, **President Hosni Mubarak's** National Democratic Party won a landslide victory in **Egypt's** April 8 municipal elections, gaining 92 percent of the vote. Voter turnout, however, was a paltry 3 percent. Moreover, because the Egyptian government prevented most potential Muslim Brotherhood candidates from running, the MB boycotted the elections.



The Muslim Brotherhood, a staunch Islamic conservative party, is increasingly popular in Egypt—which is why the ruling regime cracked down on it so hard in the run-up to the elections, arresting hundreds.

ASIA

WHEN Russian President Vladimir Putin passed the presidency on to his successor, Dmitry Medvedev, on May 7, he assumed two vital government posts. Putin announced on April 8 that, in addition to becoming the prime minister of Russia, he would also take on the newly created post of chairman of the United Russia party. By accepting the leadership of United Russia, Putin is accepting leadership over the majority of the Russian legislature and thus giving himself the power to pass legislation, override presidential decisions, legally impeach politicians, and amend the constitution. Such powers are reminiscent of how the general secretary of the Communist Party used to run the Soviet Union. In Soviet times, it did not really matter who was president or prime minister—he who ruled the Communist Party ruled the Soviet Union.

Russian and Japanese officials have never signed an official peace treaty ending World War II because of a territorial dispute over the Kuril Islands on Russia's east coast. After initial successful meetings between the two nations' foreign ministers on the issue, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda met with Putin in Moscow on April 26 to discuss the status of these islands, and they formally agreed to accelerate the

negotiations. The signing of a peace treaty between Japan and Russia would mark the beginning of a new era of Asian cooperation. As Japan starts to look on nations like Russia and China as allies, it will have fewer qualms about breaking its already-strained relationship with the United States.

Food shortages throughout Asia are growing more severe as nations like China and India ban exports of wheat and rice. At the end of April, the Indian government decided to impose a \$200-per-ton export duty on basmati rice, after already having completely banned all exports of non-basmati rice. Considering that India is the world's third-largest rice exporter, these protectionist measures will squeeze rice supplies around the world. Indeed, such bans are already hurting net food importer nations like Japan. As Japan experiences dairy product shortages and skyrocketing wheat and beef prices, the Japanese government has been forced to use ¥55 billion from its emergency reserves to feed its people. The fact that 80 percent of Japanese are frightened about what the future holds for their food supply shows that food shortages are no longer only a Third World phenomenon.

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES to face increasing food costs, with thousands of union workers in Johannesburg protesting against high prices in April, another instance of the global reaction to dwindling supplies of vital food staples.

Kenya finally swore in its new government on April 17, ending months of crisis and af-

fording a return to corruption as usual. As Stratfor put it, "In the long term, the politicians will be too busy focusing on the lucrative aspects of their positions to resolve the tensions and inequalities that led to Kenya's post-election crisis."

The post-election crisis in Zimbabwe continues without meaningful progress, and the opposition appears to be losing its will. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai called for a protest on April 14, but fear of reprisals outweighed the people's desire to oppose President Mugabe. Interestingly, some of the soldiers patrolling the streets, according to Zimbabwejournalists.com, were Chinese. China also caused a media frenzy in April by attempting to send weapons to Zimbabwe. China has a long history of support for President Mugabe and a desire to secure resources in Africa. President Mugabe's opposition is threatening to refuse a runoff election, claiming that Tsvangirai has already won and that any results of a runoff would be fraudulent. This strategy is likely to leave President Robert Mugabe in power ad infinitum. Meanwhile, President Mugabe has reappointed his cabinet.

On April 22, German President Horst Köhler received

main objectives: first, to woo German businesses to invest in Rwanda; second, to discuss establishing military relations. Germany seeks closer ties with Rwanda for strategic purposes and to gain access to resources. It seeks to counter China's inroads into neighboring Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, both enemies of Rwanda. By supporting Rwanda, Berlin is empowering a traditional enemy of a China-aligned nation and is looking to stake its own claim in the region.

Leaders from 14 African countries attended the first African-Indian summit in New Delhi in April. Like Europe and China, India wants to secure additional African resources. India's prime minister promised more than \$500 million in development aid and \$5 billion in credit lines to Africa. Currently, India trades \$30 billion per year with Africa.

LATIN AMERICA

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez announced on April 3 that he would nationalize the cement industry. Then on April 9, he national-



Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Berlin with military honors. Kagame's trip, his fourth official visit to Germany, came only two months after Köhler visited Rwanda. President Kagame had two

ized steel giant Ternium Sidor, a move that will displease Argentina, a majority stakeholder. While the Argentine government has traditionally spoken favorably of Chávez's administration, now it could

be in the same situation as **Mexico** and **France**, both of which have threatened a legal response to Chávez's nationalization of their industries in Venezuela. On April 11, he continued the nationalization process by sending the military to seize 30 sugar farms.

Brazil has discovered its largest oil reserves yet: 33 billion barrels in the offshore Carioca oil block. Exploration of this area has only started, and this is the third major find. This could put Brazil's oil output on par with Saudi Arabia's. As Europe rises as a superpower, Latin America is important as a supplier. This one find, if estimates are correct, holds twice as much oil as all of Europe combined.

In 2009, the lease will expire on the last remaining U.S. military base in South America. **Ecuador** does not intend to renew the lease, and the U.S. has no plans to replace the air base. Instead, drug surveillance flights will run from Key West, Fla., El Salvador and Curaçao. As the U.S. leaves Latin America, watch for Europe to fill the vacuum.

Fernando Lugo, a former **Roman** Catholic priest, won the presidency in **Paraguay** on April 20. Like many recently elected leaders in Latin America, Lugo leans left politically. He is the first leader in 62 years not from the country's ruling party. You can expect the Vatican to use its influence with the former priest; in Latin America, Catholicism often outweighs politics.

ANGLO-AMERICA

IN LATE APRIL, THE BUSH administration briefed Congress members on the details behind Israel's strike on a Syrian facility last September. The closed-door briefings represented the official break



in an unusually tight silence by the White House, Israel and even the Syrians over the affair. The briefings confirmed the initial assumption, that the facility was a nuclear weapons reactor built with the help of North Korea. A month after the Israeli strike, the *Spectator* quoted a "very senior British ministerial source" as saying, "If people had known how close we came to World War III that day there'd have been mass panic."

President Bush also met with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in the Oval Office in April and said a Palestinian state was a "high priority" and that he was "confident we can achieve the definition of a state" by 2009.

Earlier in the month, beltway insiders fawned over the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Washington. Media outlets including the *Washington Times* reported the minutiae of the visit, a curious departure by journalists, who are not typically fans of religion. The reportage on the "Holy Father's" "apostolic voyage" recalled the media frenzy during Pope John Paul II's funeral.

But journalists were not the only ones excited about the visit, which included only **the second-ever visit of a pope to the White House**. President

George W. Bush and his wife met Benedict at Andrews Air Force Base next to "Shepherd One," a courtesy rarely afforded by the president to any dignitary. For his papal mass at Nationals Park with 46,000 people, both houses of Congress shut down. Later he visited New York City and the United Nations. Benedict praised certain elements of American history and life and apologized for the priesthood sex scandal that has rocked American Catholics, but also issued some sharp criticisms, indicating American culture was partly to blame.

Democratic leaders spent early April grilling Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker regarding the state of affairs in Iraq. Petraeus pointed to the troop surge as successful and said Iraqi Security Forces were holding their own against insurgent militias in Basra and stressed the danger of Iran; Democrats continued to make a case for withdrawal despite the top general's warning that such pullout plans would open the door wide for Iran and terrorist groups to grasp control of the country.

Congress is now admitting it "overreached" in its ethanol enthusiasm. The *Washington Times* reported, "Members

of Congress say they overreached by pushing ethanol on consumers and will move to roll back federal supports for it—the latest sure signal that Congress's appetite for corn-based ethanol has collapsed as food and gas prices have shot up" (May 1).

As retail gas prices are pushing toward \$4 a gallon and beyond, consumers are feeling the pinch. Truckers, whose diesel is even more expensive, are seeing their profit margins disappear in some cases. In protest, 250 freight truckers drove at 20 miles per hour on Interstate 75 near Atlanta at the beginning of April. Protests and short-term strikes also hit Port of Tampa and Charleston, West Virginia. At the same time, stores across the nation renowned for amber waves of grain are implementing a measure unprecedented in recent times: food rations (see article, page 9). For over 12 years, the *Trumpet* has predicted that food shortages, which have recently intensified across the globe, will come to America.

In **Britain**, the European Union may not allow the Bank of England to lend money to Britain's banking sector. European regulators could be prepared to block the linchpin of a government plan to bail-out Britain's money markets.



Alien Invasion

With the melting pot cracked, immigrants flooding into America are turning the U.S. into a dangerous mix of divided nationalities. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

IMAGINE A SMALL FAMILY OF FOUR living in a mansion the size of the Pentagon. That was the United States in the early 19th century. Upon buying the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, an already-enormous America doubled its size.

With only 5 million residents, there was enough space in America for every resident to have more than 200 acres. Early America desperately needed immigrants.

And because of cheap land, high wages and low taxes, immigrants came—in droves. Most of America's earliest immigrants migrated from Great Britain and Ireland. After 1820, however, that started to change. From all across Europe, Germans, French, Swedes and Norwegians flooded America's shores. America admitted more than 5 million immigrants between 1820 and 1860—40 percent of them Irish. During that 40-year period, America's 9.6 million residents more than tripled to 31 million.

Not even the Civil War stemmed the tide of immigration. More than 2 million foreigners settled in America between 1860 and 1870. The overall population increased by more than 20 percent (from 31 to 38 million).

After the Civil War, there was a remarkable growth spurt in industry and urbanization. Big business not only needed immigrants, it relied on them. So more came—Germans, English, Irish, Chinese, Russians, Italians, Canadians. By 1880, the population reached the 50 million mark—by 1900, 75 million. Between 1900 and 1930, almost 19 million immigrants settled in America—as many as did *throughout the 1800s*. The U.S. population nearly doubled during that 30-year span—ballooning from 76 to 123 million.

The people of the United States, through natural increase and mass immigration, were multiplying faster than any other nation in history.

Cracks in the Melting Pot

At the dawn of the 20th century, audiences across America applauded Israel Zangwill's 1908 play, *The Melting Pot*. It was the story of a youthful Russian-Jewish composer in New York named David Quixano. His life's ambition was to write a symphony lauding America's multi-ethnic diversity. Calling America the melting pot where everyone

reforms to blend in, Quixano cried, "God is making the American!" Zangwill dedicated the play to President Theodore Roosevelt, who, after viewing it in

Washington, shouted, "That's a great play!"

Roosevelt, like presidents before him, welcomed large-scale immigration into the United States, as long as the newcomers became American. "Either a man is an American and nothing else," he said, "or he is not an American at all." Years earlier, another U.S. president, John Quincy Ad-

VIVA LA ILEGALIDAD

Protesters rally against an immigration bill that would partially staunch the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S.

ams, said that for immigrants to succeed in the land of the free, they must “cast off the European skin, never to resume it.”

For nearly 200 years, that’s what immigrants did.

Two events in the 1920s finally restricted the surging flow of immigrants: the Immigration Act in 1924 and the Great Depression in 1929. As historian Paul Johnson put it, “The era of unrestricted mass immigration was over” (*A History of the American People*). Between 1930 and 1960, only 4 million immigrants made it to the United States—barely one fifth the level for the previous 30 years.

When the choke hold finally loosened during the 1960s, a new phenomenon emerged. Once again, immigrants came in droves—only this time they didn’t come from Europe. Prior to 1970, 80 percent of America’s immigrants were European. Since 1970, 80 percent have come from non-European regions—mostly Asian and Latin American countries. “Unlike the Ellis Island generations,” Patrick Buchanan writes in his new book, *Day of Reckoning*, “all of whom came from Europe, those pouring in today come from countries, continents, and cultures whose peoples have never before been assimilated by a First World nation. And they are coming in far greater numbers than any nation has ever absorbed. History has never seen an invasion like this. For there are more illegal aliens in the United States today than all the Irish, Jews, and English who ever came, and the total number of immigrants here now almost equals the total number who came in the 350 years from the birth of Jamestown to the inauguration of JFK.”

Today’s immigrants not only come from different places than they did several generations ago, they’ve set foot in a different America. During the 1960s, the younger generation turned American culture upside down. High standards in dress and conduct, sexual restraint, strictures on drug use, the Protestant ethic, traditional values and customs, patriotism, individual achievement and obedience to law all came under fire. Students of the 1960s emerged from this immoral revolution as “enlightened” educators bent on destroying America’s melting pot idea. “Popular faith in the melting pot,” Peter Salins wrote in *Assimilation American Style*, “survived both the Great Depression and World War II. But it did not survive the 1960s.”

Post-modern educators have replaced the melting pot metaphor with a multiculturalism doctrine. This ideology, as Don

Feder called it in one of his syndicated columns, teaches that “all cultures are equal except for white-male-dominated Western culture, which is inherently evil.” Evidence of this new curriculum is now abundant, as many conservative critics have pointed out. Books like Arthur Schlesinger’s *The Disuniting of America*, Richard Bernstein’s *Dictatorship of Virtue* and Dinesh D’Souza’s *Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus* have exposed the many follies in multicultural education.

Far from drawing together America’s varied ethnic groups, multiculturalism is driving them apart. And nowhere is that polarity more evident than on campuses across America. D’Souza writes in *Illiberal Education*, “Universities are a microcosm of society. But they are more than a reflection or mirror; they are a leading indicator. In universities, an environment where students live, eat, and study together, racial and cultural differences come together in the closest possible way.” Yet, as

Far from drawing together America’s varied ethnic groups, multiculturalism is driving them apart. And nowhere is that polarity more evident than on campuses across America.

he goes on to prove convincingly, college campuses are more divided than ever.

And so is America.

The Welfare State

In his critique of American society in the mid-19th century, Alexis de Tocqueville considered America’s most dominant national taste a love of comfort. He wasn’t the first outside observer to note America’s penchant for materialism. Not that Americans were lazy. It was our taste for physical pleasure that drove us to work harder, Tocqueville said.

Max Lerner, who wrote *America as a Civilization* in 1957, considered *manpower* America’s richest resource. “Without the immigrants,” he wrote, “America could not have found quickly enough the manpower to build the railroads, mine the coal, man the open-hearth steel furnaces and run the machines.”

Immigrants learned quickly that hard work paid off. By 1869, America had attained the highest per capita income in the world—a milestone of wealth no other nation has yet surpassed. Ever since, Americans have enjoyed living standards unprecedented in mankind’s history. That phenomenal wealth, together with

our burgeoning population, helped create the world’s first consumer society. There were plenty of jobs, workers, money and goods—everything immigrants needed to assimilate into American society.

The Great Depression, however, marked the beginning of the end for this American experiment. Paul Johnson wrote, “Far from trusting to the traditional American ability to fend for oneself, the children of the slump turned trustingly, almost despairingly, to the state, to big government, to save, nourish, and protect them. This was a sea change, and FDR, the embodiment of smiling state geniality, was its beneficiary” (op. cit.).

The New Deal marked the first time in American history when federal money went to individual citizens. The Social Security Act of 1935 made the federal welfare system permanent. By the end of FDR’s second term, the government had developed a food stamp program.

Lyndon Johnson, who became president

in 1963 when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, was one of the New Deal’s most faithful disciples. “During the five-year Johnson administration,” Paul Johnson writes, “federal spending on education, for instance, rose from \$2.3 billion to \$10.8 billion, on health from \$4.1 billion to \$13.9 billion, and on the disadvantaged from \$12.5 billion to \$24.6 billion. In current dollars, the rise of federal spending under Johnson was enormous—to \$183.6 billion by fiscal 1969. Thanks to Johnson and a free-spending Congress, by 1971, for the first time ever, the federal government spent more on welfare than defense. In the 30 years 1949-79, defense costs rose 10 times, from \$11.5 billion to \$114.5 billion, but remained roughly 4 to 5 percent of GNP. Welfare spending, however, *increased 25 times*, from \$10.6 to \$259 billion” (ibid., emphasis mine).

Today’s government-sponsored, trillion-dollar entitlements simultaneously *increase* incentive for more immigrants to come while *reducing* their incentive to work once they get here. It’s a heavy price to pay for American citizens. In early April, Edwin Rubenstein released a 70-page study which found that each immigrant in the U.S. costs American taxpayers \$9,000 per year.

Survival at Stake

In 1915, Theodore Roosevelt warned, “The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities”

That has happened. In fact, God said that it would happen! In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong identified the early American immigrants as being descendants of the biblical tribe of Manasseh. In passing the birthright promises to the two sons of Joseph in Genesis 48, Jacob said Ephraim’s descendants (Britain) would become a company of nations in these latter days and Manasseh would become a single great nation. “Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose *branches run over the wall*” (Genesis 49:22). Joseph’s descendants were to be a *colonizing* people in these latter days, branching out from the British Isles all over the Earth.

“But how can we be Manasseh when a large part of our people have come from many nations besides England?” Mr. Armstrong asked. He answered, “A large part of Manasseh remained with Ephraim until the separation of New England. But our forefathers were to be sifted through many nations, as corn through a sieve, yet not a grain to fall to the earth or be lost (Amos 9:9). Our people did filter through many nations. Ephraim and much of Manasseh finally immigrated to England together, but many others of Manasseh who had filtered into and through other nations did not leave them until they came, as immigrants, to the United States AFTER the New England colony had become the separate nation. This does not mean that *all* foreigners who have immigrated into this country are of the stock of Manasseh, but undoubtedly many are. Israel,

however, always did absorb Gentiles, who became Israelites through living in Israel’s land and intermarrying.

“Thus we have become known as the ‘melting pot’ of the world. Instead of refuting our Manasseh ancestry, this fact actually confirms it. The proof that we are Manasseh is overwhelming.”

The fact that the melting pot has now cracked wide open and we are being overrun by foreigners who are not descendants of Manasseh only adds to the overwhelming proof of our biblical identity! As Mr. Armstrong proved in his book, the very blessings God bestowed on us because of Abraham’s faithful obedience are now being withdrawn because of our sins. One of the curses God promises to send because of our disobedience is found in Deuteronomy 28: “The stranger [or *foreigner*] that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail” (verses 43-44).

God said this would happen! Even well-known commentators who disregard these prophecies or who reject America’s biblical identity can see that we are on a disastrous course. America is splitting apart at the seams. As Buchanan wrote, “[T]he likelihood of her survival as one nation through mid-century is improbable—and impossible if America continues on her current course. For we are on a path to national suicide” (op. cit.).

In fact, the timetable for our demise is much shorter than he realizes. But he’s right about the fatal course we are on.

To understand why we are on that path and how it will ultimately lead to Jesus Christ’s return, study *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. If you would like a *free* copy of the book, send us a request. ■



Islam Pushes, Europe Reacts

The European Union’s tolerance of Islam’s incursion is reaching its limits. BY RON FRASER

EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN TOLERANT of the inroads that Islam has made into their society over a period of decades. But things are changing. That tolerance has produced such strains on the Continent that it is now creating a political backlash.

Perhaps the first public display of European reaction to its creeping Islamization was the publishing by the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* of the Muhammad cartoons on Sept. 30, 2005.

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born Muslim resident in Italy. Allam is a senior editor for the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* in addition to being a high-profile author. His conversion ceremony seemed calculated for maximum exposure: It took place right at St. Peter's Basilica on the eve of Easter Sunday, and was heavily covered by the Vatican and other news outlets.

Just five days later, Dutchman Geert Wilders released his controversial and long-anticipated film *Fitna*. The 15-minute film "consists of some of the most bellicose verses of the Koran, followed by actions in accord with those verses carried out by Islamists in recent years. The obvious implication is that Islamists are simply acting in accord with their scriptures," the *Jerusalem Post* reported (April 3). Fresh Catholic convert Magdi Allam said Wilders' main point was that "the root of evil is inherent" in Islam. That phrase, "the root of evil," is so close to a quote employed by Pope Benedict in his Regensburg speech that the two seem to follow the same script.

None of this is surprising. The tolerance of the creeping Islamization of Europe shown by the socialist, center-left governments fashionable during the latter 1990s and on through the middle of the current decade was bound to place strains on European society to the point of explosion. The explosions occurred in Paris and other French cities in the rioting of Islamist thugs in 2005 and 2007. Some wanted to excuse the outbreaks of violence by blaming the unemployment and social problems rife in many of France's poorer suburban areas. The question is, why have *those* problems arisen? Political scientist Ernst Hillebrand points directly to the soft policies of European governments on immigration. Singling out the left wing of European politics as the culprit, he observed, "Multiculturalism—the left's answer to the significant rise in European immigration in recent decades—has failed. It has led to fragmented societies and ghettos of marginalized minorities in which the mutual frustrations of indigenous populations and immigrants have increased. *This applies above all to immigrants from Islamic countries, among whom the second and third generations often have much more hostile attitudes to Western society than their elders*" (*Prospect*, March 2008; emphasis mine throughout).

Why are unemployment and social problems endemic to France's poorer suburbs? Simply because immigrants of a culture totally incompatible with that of

France have been allowed to enter and settle without acculturating into French society. This has produced a cultural powder keg within not only France, but also many other west European countries.

Who has taken the lead in trying to address this growing problem? None other than the Vatican.

"Revive Your Roots"

For 30 years, Rome has been sounding a clarion call to Europe to return to its cultural and spiritual roots (see article, page 1). It started with Pope John Paul II in 1981, who sought to beat back the onslaught of secularism, liberalism and pan-Islamism with this battle cry: "It can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that it is precisely in Christianity that are found those common roots by which the Continent has seen its civilization mature" The pope then cried out to all Europe, "Find yourself again. Be yourself. Discover your origins, revive your roots. Return to those authentic values which made your history a glorious one and your presence so beneficent in the other continents."

Pope Benedict XVI is repeating that call. In July 2005, he prayed for God "to stop the murderous hand of those who, driven by fanaticism and hatred," commit acts of terrorism. He then returned to the same theme introduced by his predecessor: the need for Europeans to return to their Christian roots. He quoted John Paul II's "revive your roots" speech.

The pope's speech in Regensburg, Germany, came 14 months later. In that speech, the world's attention was caught by a quote Benedict used from a dialogue between Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam: "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.*"

Since then, Pope Benedict has increasingly emphasized the need for adherents to the Church of Rome to undertake a new evangelism for their faith.

It is a message that seems to be steadily bearing fruit. To quote Ernst Hillebrand again, "There are signs that in Western [European] societies, a creeping change of values is taking place In some countries *the zeitgeist appears to have become conservative once again: Opinion polls indicate a slow shift in the direction of traditional values*" (op. cit.).

The values to which Hillebrand refers

Just one year later, Pope Benedict XVI threw down the gauntlet to Islam during a provocative speech at the University of Regensburg.

Since then, Europe has gone on the offensive against the Islamic push from the south. Calls from responsible politicians across the board to stem the flood of immigrants into the Continent are getting louder. The contest between European Christianity and Islam is heating up.

A Religious Powder Keg

Two politically overt actions taken within a week of each other in March illustrate the point.

On March 22, Pope Benedict baptized, confirmed and gave the Eucharist to Magdi Allam, a well-known Egyptian-

The Rise of the Right

AFTER years of left-wing dominance in German politics, the 2005 German federal election brought conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel and a center-right coalition into power. Events have since proven that Germany was only the first domino to fall in what has become a massive surge to the right in European politics.

The majority of European Union member states have been dominated by leftist political parties from the 1980s until recently. Since Merkel's election, however, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Austria and France have all experienced a right-wing swing in their national governments. It should come as no surprise then that Italy rejected Romano Prodi's left-wing administration in favor of Silvio Berlusconi and his right-wing coalition.

Berlusconi was elected prime minister of Italy on April 14 during a snap election called after the collapse of Prodi's left-wing coalition government in January. Prodi's government fell apart when Clemente Mastella, the Catholic leader of Italy's Udeur Christian Democrat Party, withdrew his party from the coalition after conferring with Catholic Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco. Prodi dared to take an opposite stance from the Vatican on the issue of abortion and was ousted in favor of Berlusconi because of it.

The coalition Berlusconi has formed could hardly be more different from Prodi's. It is the most conservative that Italy has seen in years. The Communist and Green parties—which traditionally have had a strong presence in Italy—did not even get a single seat in the parliament. The parties that won out in the recent election were ultra-conservative parties like the post-fascist party Alleanza Nazionale and the anti-immigration party Northern League.

Berlusconi has pledged to support an international moratorium on abortion and to close Italy's borders to illegal immigrants—whom he calls “the army of evil.” These positions are sure to bring Italy more in



RIGHT MAN
Berlusconi heads Italy's most conservative coalition in recent years.

line with the Vatican and the other right-wing governments of Europe.

This shift to right-wing conservatism is acting as a unifying force in the European Union as nations across Europe take a common view on how to solve problems like illegal immigration, economic slowdown and global terrorism. Such a unified approach also presents a perfect scenario for a single European nation to rise up as the leader of the EU. As Stratfor reported, “A right-leaning Europe could be united under one leader, particularly since the states are brought closer together by common problems such as immigration and economic reform. ... For the first time in decades, Germany is a full and powerful member of the European community. More important, for the first time in centuries, there is no established political regime in Europe to counter German ambitions” (June 8, 2007).

Germany was the nation that kicked off this conservative shift in Europe. Germany is the nation that most Europeans look to for leadership. The EU's political landscape is surging right. Expect Germany to take advantage of this situation and to emerge as the full-blown leader of a united Europe.

ANDREW MILLER

are those that lie at Europe's roots. They are the values that, as John Paul II said, made Europeans' history “a glorious one.” The history of Europe is the history of the Holy Roman Empire. It was the spiritual leadership of Rome combined with the military force and might of Germany that gave Europe the history which John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI refer to as “glorious.” It is that very history that is even now reviving within Europe, leading to a gradual return to European conservatism, with the increasing reassertion of the right wing in European politics.

A swing to the right across the European continent will not bode well for Islam.

Building to a Confrontation

There can be no doubt that the success of John Paul II's appeal to Europe to return to its Holy Roman roots galvanized Eastern Europe's rebellion against Soviet communism. John Paul's great success was the merging of the eastern leg of old imperial Europe with its western counterpart.

Benedict's challenge is now to deal with the enemy within, the onslaught of Islam on European society.

What this pope started with that Regensburg speech is building to a confrontation between Rome and pan-Islam that will end in the heat of a whirlwind battle—and one thing's for sure, Rome will not be the loser!

The papal call for Europe to return to its roots is engaging Europe's ethnic citizenry. It is progressively engaging its politicians. With each threat against Europe spouted by an Islamic extremist, the battle heats up. Europe is clearly feeling the push from its south and is now reacting increasingly against it.

As Daniel Pipes observed, “Indeed, [Magdi] Allam and [Geert] Wilders may represent the vanguard of a Christian/liberal reassertion of European values. It is too soon to predict, but these staunch individuals could provide a crucial boost for those intent on maintaining the Continent's historic identity” (*Jerusalem Post*, op. cit.).

That's a statement that would surely warm Pope Benedict's heart!

Continue to watch for a progressive swing to the right within both the electorate and key political parties in Europe. Watch for an increasingly imperialist Eu-

rope to work at fielding a stronger military presence, in particular under NATO's umbrella, within several theaters. Watch for the European Union to more willingly accept America's request to take on a greater share of the burden of security within Eurasia and, in particular, the Middle East.

As you watch, know that there is coming a mighty clash between the German-dominated European Union and the increasingly Iranian-led Islamic powers. The evidence of the impending fulfillment of Daniel 11:40-41—the clash of the “king of the north” and the “king of the south”—is there for all to see. Not only is that explosion, which today's events are preparing the way for, foretold, but so too is its outcome.

Make no mistake, Islam will soon be routed from Europe, *by force!*

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instead of God's—and that choice produced suffering and death, curses that have plagued us ever since (Romans 5:12).

Today, Satan the devil is doing to the world what he did to Adam and Eve. He is seducing us into choosing our own sick human reasoning over God's revealed understanding. Just look around to see the problems that result. You can plainly see what happens when people eat from the wrong tree.

Are you going to follow God, or are you going to follow the devil? That is what the two trees are really about.

The Fruits of Eating of the Wrong Tree

God tested Adam and Eve's character. He made them *choose* which tree to take from. God wants us to build character, and that requires *voluntarily choosing* God's way of living rather than the devil's way.

The troubles we face are a result of *our choices*. God is allowing us to experience the bitter fruits of our wrong choices in hopes that we will recognize our error and then voluntarily seek out the fruit of the tree of life.

The first child born into Adam and Eve's family was Cain. He ended up killing his younger brother, Abel, and lying to God about it (Genesis 4:1-9).

YOU WOULD THINK ADAM AND EVE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT ABEL'S BLOOD WAS SHED BECAUSE OF THEIR DECISION TO EAT FROM THE WRONG TREE! But they didn't. They just kept eating from the tree of death. That example illustrates how hard human nature is.

Look around. Our world is filled with similar evils: broken families, rebellious children. Why? Because people are eating from the wrong tree!

In a world with weapons of mass destruction, we face the grave threat of human extinction. In fact, Jesus Christ prophesied that He would have to cut this era of human rulership on Earth short just to prevent us from annihilating all flesh! (Matthew 24:21-22). Why have human affairs taken such a destructive course? It is all because we are eating from the tree of death.

The Tree of Life

Consider: God had *personally* instructed Adam and Eve, yet they *turned away from Him* and listened to the devil. That shows that there is something wrong with the human mind! We like to congratulate ourselves for our intellectual and creative abilities, but clearly, apart from God, we are incomplete. There is something un-

stable about our reasoning.

That is where it is so critical to understand about the *other tree* God offered Adam and Eve.

The tree of life represented the Holy Spirit of God—the very life-impregnating Spirit of the great Creator. It is the *essence* and *power* of God, which imparts the ability to understand spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 2:7-14).

God wanted mankind to eat from the tree of life so we could experience stability and joy—so our marriages and families could be happy—so we could live at peace with our neighbors and within ourselves. Eating from the tree of life enables us to solve our problems.

Genesis 3:22 records the truth that if Adam had taken of the tree of life, he would have *lived forever!*

Think about that! Many people believe they have an immortal soul inherent within them. That is not true. The truth of the Bible is that the only way you will live forever is if you eat from the right tree.



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the tree of life!**

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“The Mystery of the Two Trees.”**

Do you want to live forever? Do you want eternal peace, happiness, joy and spiritual understanding?

The Character of God

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Had Adam taken of the proffered tree of life the whole course of civilization would have been entirely different. Peace, happiness, joy, health and abundance would have spread over the Earth” (*Mystery of the Ages*).

Once Adam made the choice to rebel against God, however, God had to cut him off from access to the tree of life (Genesis 3:23-24). That tree has remained inaccessible to the vast majority of mankind ever since.

2 Corinthians 4:4 says that “THE GOD OF THIS WORLD hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” That's right—*Satan* is the god of this world today. He has *blinded* this world to the truth of God. He has deceived this world, as he did Eve, into eating from the wrong tree! Yet people don't even realize it. Those two trees are a mystery to them. This crucial understanding about the roots of our present civilization remains a mystery to them.

But it's not a mystery to God. It's not a mystery to God's very elect. And it need not be a mystery to you. It simply requires believing what God has revealed.

Soon the *second* Adam, Jesus Christ, will return. He will kick Satan off the throne of the Earth and establish His Kingdom. At that time, He will open up access to the tree of life to all mankind once again.

Look again at the first chapter of Genesis. In verse 26, God says He made mankind *in His own image and likeness*. The word *likeness* means that we look like God. The word *image* means He intends us to exhibit His very CHARACTER! He wants us to ACT like Him.

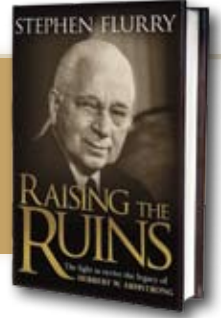
Building that character requires a *voluntary choice* to live God's way. It requires *choosing* to eat of the tree of life and growing in the Spirit of God. It means *preparing* to enter the very Family of God.

What an exalted potential God has given human beings!

What could be more wonderful than becoming a Spirit-born member of the God Family?

God wants to open the tree of life *to you*. He wants you to stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the cause of this world's problems. He is saying, *I want you to eat from the tree of life and live happily—FOREVER!* ■

In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the 18th chapter.



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

Round One: PCG

“While the church is not presently reprinting these books, the board affirmed that the church has a continuing interest in his books and did not, and does not, intend to abandon the copyrights.”

— Worldwide Church of God board minutes *April 2, 1997*

IN OKLAHOMA, WE IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ALERT THE new judge, Vicki Miles-LaGrange, to the WCG’s antics in California—that Judge Letts denied their application for a temporary restraining order and indicated the WCG would lose on the merits. We explained how the WCG lulled us into preparing our defense against the California action, all the while planning to transfer the action to Oklahoma. We asked Judge Miles-LaGrange to immediately transfer the case back to California to “thwart WCG’s blatant attempt at forum shopping.” On March 11, she denied our *ex parte* request, saying she wanted to hear both sides out before making a decision. So we pressed forward, now tackling the case from two angles—the *merits* and the application to transfer the action back to California.

■ THE OTHER ANGLE

While the dispute over the venue raged on, we continued working on the merits of the case—particularly our defense. As stated in our opposition brief, filed on March 24, we believed our action to distribute *Mystery* was protected by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—a law Congress enacted to help prevent other laws from stifling one’s religious freedoms. And should the judge narrow the scope of the ruling to the copyright law alone, even within those bounds, we felt like our reproduction of the book was valid under the copyright’s “fair use” doctrine. We also argued that, by its action, the WCG had abandoned its copyright to *Mystery of the Ages*.

More significant than this, however, is the *offensive* posture we took in our counterclaim. In the “prayer for relief,” we asked the court to not only dismiss the WCG’s claim, but to reward us with the rights to print and distribute 18 *other works* by Mr. Armstrong. As with the advertising campaign, we again wanted to get ourselves on offensive footing. This was central to my father’s strategy throughout the case—if the plaintiff would come on strong, we would meet the aggression

head-on and take it a step further. As small as we were (compared to them) and even though a “defendant,” he wanted us to continually wrap our minds around the fact that *we* were on the attack and that *we* would somehow come out victorious in the end. Thus, seven weeks after first getting our feet wet in this case—in any kind of litigation, for that matter—we unleashed a counterattack. They chose to come after us in an attempt to keep *Mystery* buried. We determined to defend against that action—and to go after more literature at the same time. Here are the works we targeted in our counterclaim:

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course (58 lessons)

The Incredible Human Potential

The United States and Britain in Prophecy

The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like

The Missing Dimension in Sex

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong (volumes 1 and 2)

The Plain Truth About Healing

What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind

Pagan Holidays or God’s Holy Days—Which?

Does God Exist?

Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?

The Seven Laws of Success

Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

Just What Do You Mean ... Born Again?

Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?

The Proof of the Bible

What Is Faith?

We didn’t realize it at the time, but my father’s decision to go after these 18 works affected the lawsuit’s final outcome *more than any other single event*.

■ END OF OKLAHOMA ACTION

During April and May, activity in the lawsuit slowed considerably, in part due to Judge LaGrange’s busy trial schedule. On

April 21, however, the WCG did file a motion asking the court to dismiss our counterclaim. They said there was no “case or controversy” regarding the additional 18 works we were now seeking. Their complaint had to do with *Mystery* only, they contended. And of course, that was true. We just wanted to up the ante.

Six weeks later, incredibly, the WCG withdrew its opposition to our motion to transfer and *actually asked the court to go ahead and return the case to California*. It was another stunning turn of events—and this time not easy to explain.

Two weeks later, having yet to hear from Judge LaGrange regarding the motions to transfer or to dismiss the counterclaim, the WCG filed its reply to our counterclaim. According to the brief, the WCG denied that it “stopped printing” *Mystery*, but rather “chose not to re-publish or continue distributing the *Mystery of the Ages* for the present.” It had only been *temporarily* put aside, they told the court. As proof of their newfound desire to use Mr. Armstrong’s writings, they were able to put forward minutes from a board of directors meeting where the subject was discussed. “[T]he Church continues to work with the text of the books in an ongoing manner for possible future use.”

You can see why the “Christian duty” statement, which landed in bookstores later that summer, was so critical to our case. They NOT ONLY STOPPED PRINTING *Mystery*, they wanted to *stop others* from printing it too—Tkach Jr. said so, *explicitly*, in his own book! But to serve their purposes in court, they made it sound like they had future plans for *Mystery of the Ages*.

On June 30, 1997, Judge LaGrange granted our motion to transfer the action back to California. Thus, we were back where we started.

■ STATUS CONFERENCE WITH JUDGE LETTS

Now that the case was back in California, we quickly filed a motion to make sure it returned into Judge Letts’s courtroom, lest the WCG get away with its judge-shopping shenanigans. On August 18, Judge Letts was indeed appointed to preside over our case. Two weeks later, lawyers for both sides arranged for a conference call with Judge Letts to hammer out some divisive issues. Upset by the legal wrangling, the judge requested for both clients, with their attorneys, to appear in his court chambers for a status conference.

Sept. 25, 1997, was the first of many times we would meet face to face with our opposition. I distinctly remember my initial exchange with Ralph Helge. “I enjoy your articles in the *Trumpet*, Stephen,” he said, after meeting me for the first time. At the time, back in Edmond, we were wrapping up production on our November issue—in which I accused the WCG of deceitfully lying about Mr. Armstrong’s teachings over the years. “Why did the Worldwide Church of God discontinue *Mystery of the Ages*?” I asked in an article titled “Lying Words.” “The answer to that question varies, depending upon who you are, when you ask it, and whom you happen to ask.”

Inside the judge’s chambers, after we complained about the WCG’s removal of Mr. Armstrong’s most important book, Mr. Helge exclaimed, *with a straight face*, “We’ve never had any intention or decision to *not* publish it!” We were flabbergasted, especially since Tkach Jr.’s book with the “Christian duty” statement had just been released.

Helge then let loose another corker, suggesting that we actually *submit an offer* to license the book from the WCG. Here

again, in the light of Tkach Jr.’s “Christian duty” statement, any such offer would have been entirely futile. In fact, a month before Helge’s bizarre suggestion in the judge’s chambers, WCG officer Greg Albrecht sent this message to an individual seeking to reprint some of the church’s articles and booklets: “[W]e cannot grant your request to publish our old articles and booklets. We hold the copyright, and do not allow others to publish our former teachings and doctrines *for a variety of reasons*.”

Later in the lawsuit, in 1999, the WCG even acknowledged in its own court filing that any such offer would have been rejected: “PCG did not request permission; Flurry explained that others had requested such permission but WCG had refused to allow reprinting of the book. *Flurry understood that the WCG refused these requests in order to protect its copyright in Mystery of the Ages*, thereby establishing that PCG knew full well that WCG had no intention of abandoning its copyright.”

Here, the WCG actually pointed to the obvious futility of any such offer as *proof* that it had NOT abandoned its copyright. At the same time, they even tried to turn Tkach’s “Christian duty” statement in their favor, saying it actually established “an intent to *enforce* the copyright.” *Think about that*. That Tkach Jr. said it was the church’s “Christian duty to keep [*Mystery of the Ages*] out of print” only proved, they told the court, that the WCG still owned and, in fact, was using the copyright.

Of course, they were “using” the copyright, but only to prevent Mr. Armstrong’s ideas from circulating.

■ TWO MAIN POINTS

When the WCG filed its original complaint in early 1997, it had to make two essential points, for the most part: 1) that the WCG owned the copyright to *Mystery of the Ages*; and 2) that the PCG had no lawful right to print and distribute the work.

The first point wasn’t as straightforward as one might think. Since the original author of *Mystery of the Ages* was dead, the WCG had to show how copyright ownership had transferred into its possession. Early on, rather than rely on Mr. Armstrong’s last will and testament, they tried to prove ownership by saying that everything Mr. Armstrong, as an “employee” of the church, wrote belonged to the church. They opted for this strategy because it would then make Mr. Armstrong’s final wishes for the book seem inconsequential.

Obviously, Mr. Armstrong would have wanted the copyright to protect and preserve his material—not destroy it. But since he was only one “employee” working at a huge organization, “hired” to produce a book, what he wanted didn’t much matter, as far as “the church” was concerned.

On the second point, the WCG had to prove the copyright law somehow precluded us from distributing *Mystery of the Ages*. That wasn’t as straightforward as they made it out to be either, because we never claimed to be the actual owner of the copyright. And since we were not claiming ownership for ourselves, the WCG had to prove that what we did violated the Copyright Act—in particular, that it was *not* a “fair use” of the work.

■ FAIR USE

Irrespective of who owned the copyright to *Mystery of the Ages*, or whether the WCG abandoned it or not, if the court found our action to be protected by “fair use,” it was a done deal—we could

print the book. So the fair use doctrine was of prime concern for both parties in this first round of litigation.

Section 107 of the Copyright Act says that “the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies . . ., for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, *teaching* (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is *not* an infringement of copyright.” Section 107 then notes four factors for a court to consider in determining whether or not the copied material is protected by fair use: “1) The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;

“2) The nature of the copyrighted work;

“3) The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and

“4) The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.”

We felt like all four of these determinative factors leaned in our favor. On the first point, without question, the PCG had distributed *Mystery* for non-profit religious and educational purposes. We offered the book absolutely free upon request. Regarding the nature of the work, since *Mystery of the Ages* is a factual account of Mr. Armstrong’s teachings, as opposed to a work of fiction, that generally broadens the scope of fair use. The third factor considers whether the amount copied is reasonable in relation to its intended purpose. And since we use the entire text for teaching and educational purposes, we felt it reasonable to copy all of it. Finally, on the effect our printing had on the potential market and value of the book, there was none. The WCG didn’t value it—nor were they looking to market it. Indeed, they wanted to destroy it and keep it out of circulation forever. That was their story, judging by the huge amount of written statements and oral communication that circulated inside and outside the church.

For litigation, however, they invented another story.

■ THE “ANNOTATED” VERSION

Joseph Tkach Jr. wrote *Transformed by Truth* during the first six months of 1997—the same time period litigation got off the ground over Mr. Armstrong’s writings. After completing a final draft for his book, he submitted it to the church’s board and they all gave it a liability reading. According to Tkach, after a few minor changes to the text, the board approved its publication. When asked at his deposition if the board agreed with the text of the book, Tkach said “they all felt it was accurate.”

We then asked him if he felt it was his “Christian duty” to keep *Mystery of the Ages* out of print. To which he responded, “*Not necessarily.*” A ridiculously lengthy exchange then followed as we tried to get Mr. Tkach to admit he meant what he said in his own book! During the exchange, Tkach did say it was important for his church not to distribute “lies.” But he also said the WCG had an obligation to protect the church’s “assets,” including the copyrights in question.

Besides that, he informed us that the WCG *actually had plans* to use *Mystery of the Ages* again! Apparently, there had been many discussions about producing an annotated text that would correct all the “errors” in the original *Mystery of the Ages*. Mr. Tkach could not remember when those discussions began, whether it was before the lawsuit started or after.

Greg Albrecht admitted in his testimony that it was “probably *after.*” Tkach also admitted the annotated version would not be a “high priority” since the church was in the midst of massive cutbacks and downsizing.

■ THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Three months after Tkach and Albrecht enlightened us about the annotation “project,” the WCG formalized the pronouncement in *made-for-litigation* minutes from an Advisory Council of Elders (ACE) meeting. Prior to the lawsuit’s beginning, keep in mind, there was not one shred of evidence indicating any intention of ever using *Mystery of the Ages* again. All the evidence—a mountainous pile of it—pointed to the fact that Mr. Tkach’s “Christian duty” statement accurately reflected the church’s position. So without any pre-1997 evidence to support their “big plans” for the literature argument, they had to make this up as the litigation unfolded.

This is what prompted these hilarious minutes from their Dec. 4, 1998, Advisory Council meeting: “It was and is a common practice for the WCG or the college to retire works from publication, or to rewrite them, either to express the concepts contained therein differently, express facts more accurately, or because of a change in doctrine. WCG and the college would dispose of excess inventory copies of such works, but archive, research and personal copies would be retained. This procedure was in accordance with the long-standing custom, practice and procedure of WCG and the college.”

Notice how they equate the occasional modifications Mr. Armstrong made to the church’s teachings to Tkachism’s wholesale destruction of our entire belief system. It’s like saying a homeowner’s routine maintenance around the house is equivalent to one who later inherits the house, demolishes it, and then obliterates and hauls off the very foundation on which it stood. “We are changing at the very core of our church,” Mr. Tkach said in 1997. So it would not be correct to say, *as it says in those minutes*, that the church merely “*modified* its doctrines” after Mr. Armstrong died. When Joe Tkach Jr. begins his book by saying the WCG has “renounced” Mr. Armstrong’s “unbiblical teachings” and “embraced Christian orthodoxy,” those are not the words of a *modifier*, so to speak. Mr. Tkach said the WCG changes were so “radical” and “unprecedented” that evangelicals at first had a hard time *believing it was even true*. In *Christianity Today*, Ruth Tucker said she was “taken aback” by the WCG’s transformation—a journey that turned a “heretical sect into an evangelical denomination.” According to the Advisory Council minutes, “Mr. Armstrong explained many times how his doctrinal understanding changed in many respects over the years as he came to understand new biblical truths. In fact, he chided other churches over the years for being committed to creeds that prevented them from accepting new truth and changing.”

As if Mr. Armstrong would have fully supported their “modifications.” This is the same despicable reasoning we heard in the late 1980s when the church started dismantling Mr. Armstrong’s teachings. *Why, we’re just doing the same thing Mr. Armstrong would be doing today if he were alive.* Back then it was at least more plausible, albeit deceitful. But to rehash that lame excuse *in 1998* after so much had been written about this unprecedented transformation? In his book, speaking on behalf of the WCG, Tkach said, “Today we reject what is well

known as ‘Armstrongism,’ that is, adherence to the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong in lieu of biblical evidence to the contrary.” That doesn’t exactly leave you with the impression they are just following Mr. Armstrong’s example of modifying a few teachings here and there.

The minutes go on to list a few of the doctrines Mr. Armstrong changed (as if that somehow justified their repudiation of “Armstrongism”). And because he sometimes retired or rewrote church literature to more accurately reflect a new understanding in doctrine, it naturally followed that Tkachism was doing the exact same thing. “In fact, it has been the intent of WCG to consider revising, editing, or republishing MOA, and other works to which it holds copyright, in some annotated or revised form, and to distribute the same either free of charge, or, if selling them, at a reasonable price as an income-producing item.”

Retiring *Mystery of the Ages* was only temporary, you understand, “until appropriate revisions could be effectuated.”

■ JUDGE LETTS’S RULING

The preliminary injunction hearing was set for the afternoon of Feb. 8, 1999. That morning, before we appeared in court, my father told Dennis Leap and me, “Although I don’t know exactly what will happen today, I feel strongly that something positive will result.”

It was my second appearance in court across the aisle from the WCG’s representatives—and it was every bit as memorable as the first encounter. The five of us arrived first—our two attorneys carrying three-ring binders. The rest of us had notepads and pens. Moments later, after we settled in, WCG reps, together with their Hollywood lawyers, came bounding through the doors—wheeling in giant file boxes, carrying huge books and binders. (And funnier than that, they never once touched the boxes of documents during the hearing.) They looked like they were ready for all-out war. But in Judge Letts’s courtroom, they were barely able to fire off one round. Not but five minutes into the hearing, both sides knew where the judge stood.

“First, I don’t think this was work for hire,” the judge said. “I think that it’s rather clear that ... Mr. Armstrong was not an employee and that this was not work for hire.”

He went on to say that he thought the question of who owned the copyright was a “little more complex” than either side had explained in their briefs. He asked that if the copyright transfers to someone, who then repudiates the teachings of the book, would that change the nature of the copyright? Could the successor then actually use the copyright to abolish the book, as opposed to protecting the ideas of the author? In the judge’s view, the answer was no. In such a scenario, the judge wondered if the copyright could even exist anymore! But even if it did, he said the copyright laws would not allow the WCG to suppress a written work.

In his judgment, our use of *Mystery of the Ages* was “fair use” under the Copyright Act simply because the book was not otherwise available. Regarding the “annotated version,” the judge said, “I cannot imagine that if somehow there were a copyright on the Bible itself that somebody could buy that copyright and simply then say, *I’ll only permit my annotated version of that to be in use.*” In fact, as he later brought out,

should they pursue the annotated project further, a case could be made that our distribution of the original work would actually *increase* the market for their annotated version.

As to the prospect of the WCG licensing the works to us, the judge also expressed this view: “If you are in a circumstance where you’re simply saying they can’t be used, I don’t think there’s any question about that.” In other words, it would be futile to seek licensing from caretakers who want to destroy the work. The judge never bought into their litigation-driven plan to “use” the works again.

Thus, true to his prediction at the outset of the case, Judge Letts denied the WCG’s motion for preliminary injunction on Feb. 8, 1999—just two days shy of the two-year anniversary of the lawsuit’s inception. In his written order on April 20, he said Mr. Armstrong had unilateral power within the WCG, that the church did not control Mr. Armstrong’s work, and that Mr. Tkach Sr. disavowed *Mystery of the Ages* as a religious work, destroyed existing copies of the book and refused requests for permission to reprint it. Judge Letts also found that “the WCG has no plans to print or use MOA as originally published” and that “although the WCG has indicated that it might publish an ‘annotated’ MOA in the future, the WCG has not contracted with or otherwise arranged to have anyone write the ‘annotated’ MOA.”

In his legal conclusions, the judge determined that *Mystery of the Ages* was not a “work made for hire” and that the PCG’s distribution of the work was protected under the “fair use” doctrine of the copyright law.

As we listened to everything Judge Letts said in our favor during that February hearing, we were actually anxious for him to conclude so we could rush outside the courtroom and celebrate. Even then, after the proceeding, we managed to subdue our jubilation in the hallway, so as to not offend the WCG representatives. But once those elevator doors shut and we were all alone—“Woooooooooooooooo!!!” As our two attorneys high-fived each other, we couldn’t help feeling like we had witnessed something truly historic for our work.

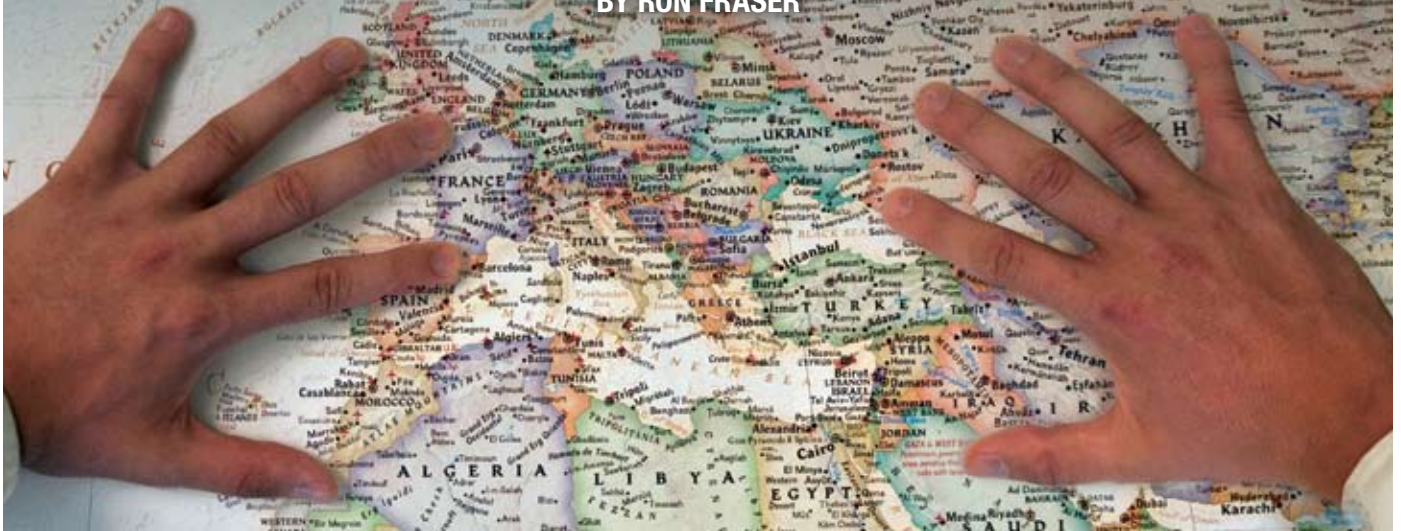
At church services that weekend, on February 13, my father heaped praise on the judge for grasping the spirit and intent of the copyright law. Certainly, Mr. Armstrong NEVER would have dreamed of using that law to prevent *Mystery of the Ages* from being distributed. The copyright law, after all, is supposed to protect an author’s writings, not destroy them. At the end of his sermon, my father said, “So we have to prophesy again and get this most important book that there is in this world, after the Bible, out to the largest audience possible, brethren. That’s what God inspired Mr. Armstrong to write. That’s what He wants us to do and what a glorious calling it is, to be able to do this work, and show the world how to have real peace and joy and happiness.”

The following month, my father told *Trumpet* readers that we had “just won the most important court battle in this modern age.” He wrote, “Mr. Armstrong believed *Mystery of the Ages* was the most important book on this Earth after the Bible. ... Time will prove Mr. Armstrong to be right. ... Soon the whole world will understand how important this great book is. Then the Bible will no longer be a mystery to man.”

It was a momentous time for our church. We weren’t out of the woods yet—the WCG’s lead attorney, Allan Browne, had made it clear during the hearing before Judge Letts that the WCG was anxious to appeal the ruling to the Ninth Circuit as quickly as possible. But still, after a two-year, hard-fought struggle, we did pause long enough to savor our first-round victory. ■

Germany's Grand Strategy

BY RON FRASER



NATIONS HAVE PERSONALITIES. It's a fact clearly documented by history, but which few people talk about. Each nation has its own innate strengths, talents and peculiar abilities—each has its own weaknesses. Given a nation's historic tendency to react in a given way under certain stimuli, one can deduce a definite habit pattern that will be repeated should similar circumstances recur.

A number of those who have been keen observers of the national traits of the German peoples and who deeply understand both the character and the history of the nation are increasingly concerned about Germany's current intentions.

The facts are worth considering. In the 60 years since World War II, Germany has gone from global pariah to being the leading economic, financial, political, judicial, bureaucratic and military power in Europe—the most dominant nation by far within the European Union. The United States, Britain and Russia, in addition to all EU member nations, now do more than just take notice of Germany's diplomatic moves—they even seek out its government's advice.

The fact is, true to their nation's character and history, certain influential German minds are working at a *grand strategy* to consolidate their present dominance in Europe as a platform for global hegemony.

The latest indications of this truth appeared in April, when NATO held what may have been its most important summit since the end of the Cold War. Consider two story lines that emerged.

Two Story Lines

First, France and Britain, aware of Germany's efforts to gain greater control over NATO, are positioning themselves as a buffer against German stridency. Witness British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's call in late March for an *entente formidable* with France, and France's President Nicolas Sarkozy's overt declaration, "I have never reduced France's European policies simply to our relations with the Germans. ... I have never ceased wanting to work in close cooperation with London." It is interesting that this new love affair between France and Britain, both nuclear-armed powers, comes as voices in Germany are seeking a nuclear first-strike capability for NATO.

Also significant is that Russia and the EU—Germany in particular—stepped up pressure on both sides of the Kosovo issue in the run-up to the NATO summit. Germany was adamant about having recognized Kosovo's independence in preparation to drawing it into EU membership; Russia refused to budge on the opposite side of the argument. It now seems a trade-off, if not yet fully implemented, is well advanced: Russia will sacrifice influence in Kosovo and Serbia for the EU (significantly Germany) refusing to support Ukraine's membership in NATO. The *Trumpet* has maintained for some time that the continental border between the eastward-expanding EU and a resurgent Russia would in all likelihood be drawn at Ukraine. The signs are that an agreement on the EU-Russian border has implicitly been reached.

In both of these story lines, Germany is in the box seat.

France's late run for an alliance with Britain to offset German belligerence in EU military affairs is bound to be too little too late. Germany is on a roll; the Franco-British alliance is likely only a slight distraction to the pursuit of Germany's grand imperial strategy for the expansion of EU influence in matters of global security and defense.

The die was cast back in the early 1990s on Germany's role as the dominant player politically and militarily on the European continent. The issue then, as it was in the run-up to the 2008 NATO summit, surrounded a trade-off over the Balkans.

A Profound Warning

Edward Spalton, in a letter to the *Trumpet*, explains this in rather succinct terms: "The remarkable thing was that all the EU countries, having been firmly opposed to recognizing Slovenia and Croatia, suddenly did an 'about face' and all broke their commitments under the Helsinki Accords by doing so. This arose from Britain's entrapment (the French call it *engrenage*) in the mechanism of EU treaties.

"The Maastricht Treaty (which brought the euro currency into being) was being negotiated at the time and Britain was committed 'in principle' to joining it by the fine print of the earlier Single European Act (1986). John Major, the Conservative prime minister, knew he could never sell the euro either to his party or to the country and needed an opt-out. *Diplomatic recognition of the seceding Yugoslav states was Germany's price.* The German foreign minister remarked, 'By this, Germany has regained diplomatically everything lost in Eastern Eu-

rope as the result of two world wars.' I have had the facts of this trade-off confirmed by two senior British parliamentarians (one of former cabinet rank) and by Dr. Miroslav Polreich, who was Czechoslovakian ambassador to the OSCE in Vienna at the time" (emphasis mine throughout). Dr. Polreich also verified this remarkable trade-off in a 1999 interview with our staff.

"With regard to Germany's predominance in Eastern Europe, albeit under an EU cloak," Spalton continued, "one German minister made a thinly veiled threat in 1994 on the anniversary of the Nazi attack on Poland: 'If integration (i.e. EU expansion) in Eastern Europe were not to proceed, a future German government might be called upon or compelled by its own security considerations to solve the problems of the area on its own and in the traditional manner.'"

This concerned Englishman then added a profound warning to the American peoples in respect of the storm brewing over the Atlantic: "America, beware the EU! Britain is trapped in it, as all the main parties agree on our membership in spite of widespread public opposition. Uncle Sam spent a great deal of money through the CIA in support of the European movement to get us in. It did both the U.S. and Britain a bad turn."

Consider these facts in light of what appears to be this latest trade-off between Germany and Russia—yielding up the final bits of the Balkans (Serbia-Montenegro and Kosovo) to EU control in exchange for the drawing of a firm line between the EU's eastward expansion and Russian western influence.

If one stands back to look at the big picture that has emerged since the unification of Germany in 1990, the grand strategy can be observed. It's a strategy that is designed to plant German influence on the entire European continent, clear across Central Asia into Afghanistan and on to Western China so as to stem any prospect of China's penetration into Europe.

This strategy contains within it intentions to extend Germany's southern reach—under what Edward Spalton terms the EU umbrella—across the Mediterranean into deepest Africa and, in particular, then into the Arabian Sea to become protector of the Middle East oil basin, ultimately crowning this whole grand strategy by retaking Jerusalem in the name of Rome! (Daniel 8:9).

Sound fantastic? A more realistic view of Germany's grand strategy could not be imagined, if you truly understand the application of Bible prophecies to the events currently unfolding in this world.

The Strategy Unfolds

In just 18 short years since East and West Germany came together, Germany has skyrocketed from being constrained for the previous 45 years to the defense of its borders within the NATO alliance, to becoming one of the strongest naval powers within the alliance. It has mounted bombing runs against Serbia in the Balkan wars (which it instigated) and has recently deployed a combat force in Afghanistan.

The German navy created history in April by holding the first-ever joint naval exercises between Germany and India. This is Germany's signal to China of its intention to resist any westward incursion by that rapidly rising East Asian nation. Germany is also sharing military technology with India, and with other nations.

These are but the highlights within a range of future initiatives planned by Germany to extend the international reach and prestige of its military power.

Key to Germany's success in achieving the goal of global dominance is careful diplomacy. The EU and NATO have both proven to be ideal institutions under which Germany has been free to pursue its goals without drawing undue attention to the repetition of history that is in play.

Germany has a great bargaining chip up its sleeve for gaining more clout within NATO: Afghanistan. Berlin needs a continuing presence in Afghanistan in order to link via Central Asia to Sinkiang and Tibet, key components within its East Asia strategy. NATO desperately needs more military personnel in order to stem the insurgency in Afghanistan. Germany has indicated its willingness to assist only if given more control over military policy in Afghanistan. Germany's Defense Ministry knows that if it holds out long enough, chances are the U.S. will capitulate and yield up a level of control to Germany, under the NATO umbrella. Then Germany will rise to the occasion with a greater troop commitment. With that assignment will come the enhanced prestige and influence, politically and militarily, Germany will gain from such a move.

2009—A New Strategic Concept?

In 2009, a number of events coalesce in Europe.

The European Constitution (under its veiled titles of EU Reform Treaty, or the Lisbon Treaty) is due to be ratified by all EU member nations by the end of this year so as to come into force in 2009. If the EU can pull this off, it will finally have a single representative president and a single

representative foreign minister.

The November 2008 U.S. presidential election will bring a new administration to the White House. The change in foreign policy could have huge impact on NATO's efforts to find its place in the global defense and security arena from 2009 on.

Germany's federal election is slated for autumn 2009. State elections have shown a definite swing away from support of the Merkel coalition. A change in the chancellorship of Germany could change European politics. Merkel has pursued a policy of friendship with the U.S. and of giving the cold shoulder to Russia, quite the opposite to that of her predecessor, Gerhard Schröder. With the U.S. descending rapidly from superpower status in the eyes of Europeans, with a more aggressive Russia to contend with and Vladimir Putin firmly ensconced at the top in Russia's government, Germany could return to a less friendly relationship with America and a more conciliatory relationship with its eastern neighbor. Powerful German politicians wait in the wings for their moment, not the least of them being Vice Chancellor Frank Walter Steinmeier.

President Nicolas Sarkozy has signaled that France may seek full membership of NATO in 2009. It would certainly do so if it perceived a risk of Germany strengthening its voice within NATO, so as to act as a counterfoil to German military ambitions.

According to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the 2009 NATO summit will herald the consolidation of NATO reform under a new Strategic Concept. Before the 2008 summit he declared, "The burdens on NATO are greater today than ever before, and this makes it ever more urgent that we have a clear strategic vision, clear priorities and above all a clear sense of the resources that we need to be successful. In other words, we need to answer the question: What kind of NATO do we want for the years to come?" That question has been asked of NATO since the end of the Cold War 18 years ago. NATO's 60th anniversary, to be celebrated next year, may well be the occasion for the unveiling of a whole new strategic vision for NATO that will powerfully work to Germany's advantage.

NATO and the EU

It seems certain that NATO will continue to drift away from being influenced by U.S. foreign policy and increasingly become a tool for the consolidation of European power as an offset to a reviving imperialist Russia, and as a counterweight to the expansion of both Islamic influence and the

THE KEY OF DAVID

rise of greater Asia. This is the direction NATO's secretary general seeks to take.

A key component of Scheffer's speech was his declaration that "NATO's mission of consolidating Europe will continue. ... Retaining this vocation to enlarge the European democratic space—and acting upon it—will remain a crucial part of NATO's *raison d'être*."

Scheffer strengthened this vision by underlining his conviction that "taking NATO reform seriously means also to look for more synergies with the European Union. I would like to see much more pooling of our capabilities, especially in areas such as vital enablers, transport and helicopters, or in research and development, or in harmonizing our force structures and training methods. After all we only have one common set of national defense budgets and national military forces. So it is absolutely critical that all of the capabilities that we are able to generate from this pool of forces are equally available to both NATO and the EU."

There's no mention of the U.S. in this grand vision for NATO's future. In fact, Scheffer went so far as to declare his hope that European leaders would "make clear to our publics NATO's tremendous potential to shape the strategic environment in ways that the founders of this alliance never dared to dream of." How true that is! The founders of the NATO alliance had one great goal in mind: to stem the eastward expansion of Soviet communism into Europe. That was the *raison d'être* of NATO as conceived, developed and promulgated by its founders. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, NATO's original reason for being became but part of Cold War history.

What NATO's secretary general envisions is indeed something that NATO's founders "never dared dream of"—that NATO could become a tool to aid the rise, the expansion and the consolidation of the military power of a united Europe—a European superpower—under the leadership of the nation that plunged the European continent into war in 1871, 1914 and 1939.

For a deeper study of the nation of Germany in relation to unfolding Bible prophecy, and for an exposé of the peaceful future that Germany and the whole world will eventually enjoy when all global conflicts cease, request a free copy of our booklets *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany and Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ■

UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am

ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT 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, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, Redding KHSL 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 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLH/WTLF

9:30 am, Sun; WTXL 7:30 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 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 9:30 am, Sun

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

am, Wed

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

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan.

52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Boise KNIN 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI 8:30 am, Sun

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

am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KCWL 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 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 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri;

WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

10:00 am, Sun

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Lansing WLAJ 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Traverse City WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun



North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO 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 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFJ 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFJ 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 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 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 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII/KVIH 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KQWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KTEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWFX 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVV 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVV 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVV 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW/WXOW 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/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWVY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWVY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 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.
Alberta, Calgary CICT 12:30 am, Mon
Alberta, Edmonton CITV 12:30 am, Mon
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg CKND 12:30 am, Mon
Maritimes CIHF 12:30 am, Mon
Ontario CIII 12:30 am, Mon
Quebec, Montreal CKMI 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Regina CFRE 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

LATIN AMERICA

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

CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 6:00 pm, Tue

AUSTRALIA

Southern New South Wales WIN 5:30 am, Sun
New South Wales, Griffith WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Queensland WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Tasmania WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Victoria WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Victoria, Mildura WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Western Australia WIN 5:30 am, Sun

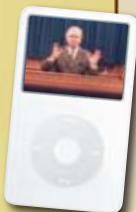
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWEY 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy WGEM 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK/KXLF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KCWL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun

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Global Warming

BRAVO! YOU NAILED IT BY FOCUSING ON the “truth” portion of Gore’s title rather than on “Inconvenient” (“A Really Inconvenient Truth,” May). As Reagan said (loosely) in his famous 1964 speech in support of Barry Goldwater: “The trouble with my liberal friends is not that they are ignorant, but that they know so much that just isn’t true.” Liberals have always “known” things like: If you pay people not to work they will become self-sufficient ... if you spend more money per student the children will become smarter ... if you just don’t offend the Soviet Union, it will be our friend ... if you leave the terrorists alone, they won’t want to kill us ... if government raises taxes it brings in more revenue, rather than the exact opposite. ... They never tire of being wrong. Keep up the great work. *Brian*



in a prison of base hatred aimed at anyone else for their conditions. Please keep up the good work, and don’t let those who revel in such race-baiting methods silence you. *Thomas Huffman*

RACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A difficult topic. ... Thanks for the history lesson mentioning Frederick Douglass and Abe Lincoln. From my experience growing up in NYC and going to college being the only white kid in many classes, I must say this is one of the most mature articles about race I’ve ever read. *Walter Lycholat—NEW YORK*

Obama-Wright Tragedy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ARTICLE (“THE Obama-Wright Tragedy—It’s Much Bigger Than Race,” May). It does put some perspective on what is happening with Obama and his church. Unfortunately, by reading this article, you can only worry that there is much worse to come if this man is not elected. *Suzanne—AUSTRALIA*

THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS MORE THAN JUST talking points, but fundamental truisms that pertain to the peace and happiness of all nations, under God. Meanwhile, the only other nation that has abolished slavery (and well prior to the United States) is its brother, the former British Empire. The BBC explains that in the space of 46 years, between 1787 and 1833, “Britain had not only outlawed the slave trade but also abolished slavery throughout her colonial possessions.” *CANADA*

Inflation in America

I AM NOT AT ALL SURPRISED AT THE FALL in the value of the U.S. dollar over the past several years (“Zimbabwe-Style Inflation in America?,” May). The decades of mounting foreign debt, over-consumption of foreign goods over American-made goods, record levels of both personal and government debt, and the subsequent transfer of American wealth overseas, is finally hitting the value of our dollar and our way of life. Right now we are seeing warning signs of the coming economic storm hitting our shores, but still most people are looking the other way or in denial. Our media is also to blame for focusing on tabloid nonsense rather than doing its job of informing the American people of what is really going on in the world and how these events affect our

lives. I live in what used to be the center of the American auto industry, Michigan, which has lost many jobs and has become a rust belt. Other regions of the U.S. are going to share our fate as more economic activity leaves our shores. Silicon Valley is losing to intense competition from India; Wall Street will soon lose its financial center crown to a city in Europe, most likely Frankfurt, as the euro dominates world finance while the dollar fades into history. ... *Mark Petersen—MICHIGAN*

Governor Spitzer Disease

THANK YOU FOR TELLING THE TRUTH about the evils of pornography and sexual addiction (“The Governor Spitzer Disease,” May). I thank you for not shying away from the other truth that God lives and created relations between man and woman to be used inside a marriage. You are so right on. Please continue to tell it the way it is! *Greg Wolfley—UTAH*

WHILE THE BEST MINDS AND SOCIAL commentators in North America dissect Spitzer’s political corpse, like blind guides most have failed to get at the fundamental cause of his fall: While he could govern a state, Spitzer could not govern his thoughts. *Anonymous*

Israel’s Miracle Victories

YOUR ARTICLE (“ISRAEL: WHEN THE MIRA-cle Victories Ended,” March) is so right on, as you walked us through previous miracles that came through God to His people Israel after they became one nation in 1948. Victories that followed were truly a miracle from God, and most Jews acknowledged that. ... The article reminded me of the many victories King David experienced while depending on God. But the tide turned when, in 2 Samuel 24, King David ordered Joab and the army commanders to find out how many fighting men he had in his army. We read in verse 10 of 2 Samuel 24 that King David was conscience-stricken after doing such a thing as this. As King David realized, Israel must turn back and depend on the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Peace cannot be found in giving land away—especially to a nation that wants to wipe Israel off the map!

Stella Gosselin—WASAGA BEACH, ONT.

The Audacity of Hate

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE RACE MERCHANTS is appalling! (“The Audacity of Hate,” May). It is important to have guiding principles for one’s life. If racism is wrong, then it is wrong, it is wrong, it is wrong! It cannot be wrong when a white is racist against a black person but right when a black is racist towards a white person. ... *Mark McDonald—WASHINGTON*

HOW INCREDIBLY REFRESHING IT IS TO read the truth about Jeremiah Wright and slavery instead of the predictable misinformation and socially engineered demagoguery. I’ll certainly be a more regular reader of the *Trumpet* in the future. *Damian Gonzalez—FLORIDA*

“THE AUDACITY OF HATE” IS A VERY ELO-quent statement of how many people feel. Thank you for bringing to light the race warlords’ tactic to use slavery as a springboard to entice people’s hatred and anger to be aimed at “white people” instead of looking within for self change. It is so immensely frustrating to see blacks wallowing in self-pity and rage over an issue that was resolved almost 150 years ago. No living black American today was a slave who was freed by the war between the States, no slave’s son or daughter is alive today. Yet the embers of resentment and anger are fanned, time and time again, by those that profit from keeping black Americans

Comments?

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The Joy of New Life

Beautiful proof of a Creator **BY RON FRASER**

I'VE JUST WITNESSED THE BIRTH OF MY EIGHTH GRANDCHILD. It was a textbook birth, naturally delivered in the home, with father and three dedicated midwives in attendance. The sheer exhilaration of hearing that little girl's first cries cannot be compared with any other experience. The joy in the eyes of the mother upon receiving that tiny squirming bundle of life into her arms after the dedicated care and nourishment in the womb for nine long months is a wonder to behold.

Having spent most of my life disproving the theory of evolution and collecting the overwhelming evidence of the existence of Almighty God, all of this academic proof seems superfluous after having viewed, yet again, the miracle of human birth.

At a different level, everywhere you look in creation, new life is literally bursting into the open. One step below the human level, animal reproduction is, in itself, a perpetual seasonal reminder of the great Creator who set the cycles in motion that yield fresh new life each year. My most immediate acquaintance with the process of animal reproduction is with horses. Having attended a number of mares in foal and helped raise their progeny from birth to weaning and beyond, I am still in awe of the basic, unerring instincts and the totally reliable cycle of life that produces a fine bred animal ready for training at the hand of man to become his loyal servant.

These animals possess a tremendous capacity to learn behaviors and habits through training. But though they have an excellent brain, they have no mind. Animals cannot conceptualize, they cannot convert symbols into language, they cannot think, dream, envision, create. At the physical level, only the human mind possesses such power.

That is why the birth of a new human being is a wonder far and above that of the animal, possessing a potential so vast, if we were only to comprehend it, that it is capable of achieving anything it can imagine (Genesis 11:6).

The horror of the day is just how cheapened this miracle of human birth has become at the hands of man.

Recently, while watching the news from Europe, a report came through on the sentencing of a woman in Germany who had willingly slaughtered nine of her babies over a 16-year period and buried them in flowerpots on her balcony. That's hard to wrap your mind around. Yet that is but one instance among so many we see in the nightly parade of horrors on television news that illustrates what Robert Burns once referred to as "man's inhumanity to man."

And as we watch, we can become so hardened to it all.

The sheer wickedness and the depravity that spawn the regimes that dot the world for which human life is counted as next to nothing (except the lives of the murderous perpetrators of human slaughter) boggle the minds of the truly civilized. Yet the civilized, caught in the grip of the politically correct appeasing mindset so rampant in Western society today, seem entirely too content in allowing such regimes to flourish and continue to wreak their carnage.

Modern China, Mugabe's Zimbabwe, the butchers of Darfur, the Congo—these are but latter-day types of the old crooked, murderous regimes of Mao and Pol Pot, not to mention their even earlier mentors, Lenin, Stalin and Hitler.

Then there is the bloody history of one of the most murderous of empires, the Holy Roman Empire, with its perpetual resurrections and declines, wading through a sea of blood for over 1,500 years in an effort to convert the world to its universal, imperialist doctrine. Go back in history even further and we see how the sacrifice of new little lives on altars of blood and fire was endemic to so many ancient pagan cultures.

Given all this wretched history, still the civilized world is willing to kowtow to China and, compromising any "humane" convictions, merely slap the nation on the wrist rather than risk insulting it. China's value for propping up the global economy is apparently too great to consider giving it any ringing condemnation or worthy penalty for its grossly overt inhumane acts.

How cheap human life has become on this weary old planet; how useless our great institutions in stemming the tide of human carnage.

That's what's so refreshing about experiencing the birth of just one new human life into a warm, caring and loving family who will cherish it, nourish it—the parents willing to endure the pain for the gain of training up a child in the way that she should go (Proverbs 22:6)—that she become a responsible member of society, reaching for the stars and beyond, reaching out to the fulfillment of her God-ordained destiny, her incredible human potential!

Oh! What a joy is the birth of such a little one, given the revelation as to the very reason for its birth and the incredible human potential that awaits it!

Request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* for a glimpse of the true vision of the God-given destiny of each and every human being who has ever lived ... and died—yet to be born again!





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