

UNPREPARED!

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for nuclear terrorism.

A NEW CHARLEMAGNE

Germany's political crisis must be watched: It is
preparing the scene for a European strongman.

IMMORALITY 101

What are our universities
teaching our youth?

JULY 2005

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The mainstreaming of youth counterculture



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FROM THE EDITOR

Gerald Flurry

IN TROUBLE

In May, a shocking regional election blow prompted Chancellor Schröder (center) to call for a vote of confidence in his government.

MICHAEL KAPPELIER/AP/GETTY IMAGES



German Election Crisis— and a New Charlemagne

THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE REPORTED VERY LITTLE ABOUT the German election crisis. That just illustrates how unaware they are of what is really going on in Germany. This election crisis will lead to events that will shock the inhabitants of this world!

Germany aggressively leads the European Union. This powerful union is becoming a superpower that will alter the fundamental course of this world's history.

Nothing is more important for you to understand at this time. The EU is going to radically change your life.

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany has just suffered a crushing political setback. His Social Democratic Party (SPD) lost an election in the province of North Rhine-Westphalia, which was a party stronghold. The big winner in the May 22 elections was the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

So Chancellor Schröder has called for a national election *this year*, one year ahead of schedule.

In Germany, this is not a routine matter. The German economy is in serious trouble and many people are very agitated and angry. That anger was reflected in their voting. No body of voters acts more decisively in a crisis than the Germans do.

So where is all this leading?

BEFORE THIS CRISIS ENDS, A NEW CHARLEMAGNE WILL GET CONTROL OF THE EU OR GERMANY—OR BOTH. Bible prophecy makes that very clear. We believe this new leader will almost certainly come out of Germany. We also think the most likely candidate will be Edmund Stoiber. Even though Angela Merkel,

leader of the victorious CDU, was chosen to challenge Chancellor Schröder this fall, there is also a lot of manipulating going on behind the scenes to form political coalitions. Stoiber (who belongs to the Christian Socialists, sister party to the CDU) will only grow in power with Merkel's likely election.

Here is why we believe Stoiber could become the new Charlemagne—regardless of the coming election. This leader will violently change Europe and the world, more than any man in the 21st century.

Edmund Stoiber is the political leader of Bavaria, Germany's oldest and largest state. He is head of the *Catholic* Christian Social Union (CSU). And he is a friend of Pope Benedict XVI.

Politically, we think that will help him immensely. He is a strong Catholic, as are most Bavarians. His CSU is Germany's strongest right-wing party. Mr. Stoiber is also a friend of Austria's extreme-right leader, Jörg

Haider. One can tell a lot about a person by the friends he has.

Kate Connolly wrote Jan. 20, 2002, in the *Sunday Observer*: "Apart from being home to more cows, churchgoers and breweries than any other part of Germany, the southern Catholic stronghold boasts the lowest crime rate, the highest incomes and growth rates, the lowest debt and, at 5 percent, an unemployment rate around half the national average. Stoiber is a disciple of Franz Josef Strauss, THE FATHER OF BAVARIA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS, who built close links between industry and education and invested massively in transport and infrastructure" (emphasis mine throughout).

Before this crisis ends, a new Charlemagne will get control of the EU or Germany—or both.

BBC News said Stoiber helped turn Bavaria “from a rural backwater into a high-tech hub” (Jan. 15, 2002).

Stoiber believes in a strong Germany leading Europe.

He also believes in close ties with the Roman Catholic Church. As we have written repeatedly in the *Trumpet*, the combination of Germany and the Vatican will give rise to the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire—as it has done for 1,500 years!

Mr. Stoiber was personally hand-picked by Franz Josef Strauss to continue his work. Strauss was his political father. That helps us to see that Mr. Strauss was not a normal politician. How many politicians choose a loyal supporter to carry on their work after they are dead? So Mr. Stoiber was personally educated to be a brilliant leader with vision.

Strauss was the most competent German politician of his time—“the father of Bavaria’s economic success.” And he just may be the “father” of a united Europe that rules most of the Western world!

The Grand Design

The late Herbert W. Armstrong met with Mr. Strauss in 1970. Here is what Mr. Armstrong’s *Plain Truth* staff wrote, September 1979: “In the *World Tomorrow* television studios on April 2, 1970, Strauss reemphasized a theme that has been constant throughout his career—the urgent need, from his perspective, of a strong united Europe. Asked why he felt a united Europe was essential to the free world, he answered: ‘A united Europe is more essential now for the free world than it would have been anytime before. ... Big powers have been established, the United States of America, Russia, Japan. I think that small and medium-sized European states are no longer able to face what the future demands from all of us. ...

“Therefore my political friends and I have been pleading for years and years now for a united Europe. ... We need a strong Europe, a Europe with an attractiveness, a Europe with a fascinating cultural, economic, financial power, and a Europe which is also ready and prepared and capable of taking a greater share of the burden in Atlantic defense.”

The *Plain Truth* later quoted a *Sunday Telegraph* article about Strauss, which said that as Germany’s chancellor, “he will go for a tougher and more disenchanted view of *détente* [peace through negotiation]; a strengthening of NATO’s defenses and a much stronger European profile within that alliance, INCLUD-

ING A NEW EUROPEAN NUCLEAR PROFILE” (July 9, 1979). (Mr. Stoiber has also been a proponent of German nuclear power.)

“Strauss, who more than any man can lay claim to being the architect of the Bundeswehr [Germany’s army], is certain to voice his opinion on this issue and others loud and clear!” (*Plain Truth*, op. cit.).

GETTY IMAGES



EYE ON THE FUTURE

Edmund Stoiber, Angela Merkel and Jürgen Rüttgers are ready to step in where Schröder has failed and to engineer a stronger, more successful Germany.

So you could say Franz Josef Strauss was also the father of a powerful German army.

Mr. Strauss wrote a book, *The Grand Design*, to expound his vision for Europe. The cover jacket for the book quoted the *Washington Post* as saying, “Time and again, when Strauss rises to speak, his fiercest foes listen most intently, his hecklers give ground. ... He is the most capable of the German politicians. ... THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DOUBT THAT STRAUSS AS CHANCELLOR WOULD GET GERMANY

‘MOVING AGAIN’—THE QUESTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN, ‘MOVING IN WHICH DIRECTION?’”

From a biblical perspective, that question is about a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (for more depth on this subject, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*). Even 25 years ago, many leaders feared a German-led EU. But leaders today seem almost unconcerned about the subject.

In his book, Strauss wrote, “An alliance of the great power of America with the great power of Europe is another matter. Both of them have an unlimited capacity for development in the economic, financial and technical spheres, and their alliance would enable Europe to return to its *true historical function*. Europe could again fulfill *the historical role* which it began to lose at the end of the First World War and which AT THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR APPEARED TO HAVE GONE FOREVER.”

Herbert W. Armstrong, even at that extremely low point in Germany’s history, said that the Germans would rise again with even greater power. Almost all leaders scorned that view then, but nobody scoffs today.

What is Europe’s “true HISTORICAL FUNCTION”? It is primarily the Holy Roman Empire—the bloodiest institution this world has ever created!

“You have not anchored Germany to Europe; you have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you’ll find it will not work.” Margaret Thatcher

Is this where Europe is headed—again?

Stoiber’s Global Vision

Mr. Stoiber, Strauss’s successor, had this to say about Gerhard Schröder: “All he wants is power—SCHRÖDER HAS NO VISION FOR GERMANY” (*Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, Feb. 13, 2002). Mr. Schröder’s vision is much less focused than Stoiber’s.

STOIBER HAS A VISION FOR GERMANY, AND HE PLANS ON TAKING THE EU WITH HIM. But where would this vision take Europe? He wants a strong *federation* within the EU. A powerful political government is one of his great passions.

Webster's Dictionary defines *federalism* as the “establishment of a strong centralized government; to put under the authority of a federal government; specifically designating or of a union of states, groups, etc. in which each member agrees to subordinate its power to that of the central authority in common affairs” (see Revelation 17:12-13). Many authorities know that Germany will dominate the EU, guided by the Roman Catholic Church.

This is a vision that frightened Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Britain. She warned against such an EU in 1995, which was even then dominated and at times dominated by Germany: “YOU HAVE NOT ANCHORED GERMANY TO EUROPE; YOU HAVE ANCHORED EUROPE TO A NEWLY DOMINANT, UNIFIED GERMANY. IN THE END, MY FRIENDS, YOU’LL FIND IT WILL NOT WORK” (*The Downing Street Years*).

Do we remember what happened in Yugoslavia?

Germany and the Vatican recognized the breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia. Virtually the whole world was against them, but Germany and the Vatican prevailed. This led to a civil war and the breakup of Yugoslavia—the pieces of which are now virtually controlled by a German-led EU.

That is only a small beginning of the next resurrection of the so-called Holy Roman Empire!

The *Economist* of April 20, 1996, reported, “At other times Mr. Stoiber shows his training in the Strauss school of populism. He blasts at Germany’s constitutional court for telling his state that it could not oblige schools to hang crucifixes in every classroom (he seems to have found a way round that ruling and the crucifixes are still there).”

Mr. Stoiber has a powerful vision of the EU becoming another Holy Roman Empire. That is his grand design.

The Holy Roman Empire’s goal has always been to rule the world. So STOIBER’S VISION EXTENDS BEYOND EUROPE.

That 1979 *Plain Truth* article contained some more history we must review. It was written shortly after Otto von Habsburg, the eldest son of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor, was elected “as one of West Germany’s 81 representatives to the enlarged and strengthened European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.” It explained some of the positions von Habsburg had taken: “On the United Nations, he has declared that the organization is dominated by ‘anti-European illiterates, despots and cannibals.’ ...

“Possibly von Habsburg’s most controversial suggestion has been his recipe for dealing with national emergencies. In the April 1978 issue of his conservative publication *Zeitbühne*, he suggested that in certain emergency situations (such as nuclear blackmail or other major acts of terrorism) GOVERNMENTS SHOULD LET A STRONGMAN TAKE OVER FOR A PERIOD OF NINE MONTHS, ALLOWING HIM TO SUSPEND LAWS AND ‘TAKE ALL MEASURE NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LIFE OF THE POPULATION.’

“As could be expected, vocal criticism of this one-man-rule scheme was swift in coming. ...

“Interestingly, von Habsburg counts Bavarian leader Franz Josef Strauss among ‘the few full-blooded politicians’ who ‘in the case of serious national crises are able to accept responsibil-

ity because of their clear-sightedness and indomitableness.’ Von Habsburg says he is ‘personally pretty close to his [Strauss’s] ideas in many ways on the European unity subject. [So Strauss was also the *father* of many of Habsburg’s EU ideas.] ...

“The zenith of Habsburg power came in the 16th century under Emperor Charles v. Chosen by electors in 1519 at the age of 20, Charles was crowned Holy Roman emperor by Pope Leo X in October 1520. He ruled until 1556 and is considered to have been the greatest monarch to bear the imperial crown since Charlemagne. He was THE LAST EMPEROR TO VIGOROUSLY ATTEMPT TO REALIZE THE MEDIEVAL IDEA OF A UNIFIED EMPIRE EMBRACING THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN WORLD. [Let the Christian AND secular world beware!]

“The Habsburg dynasty was, according to Bible prophecy, the fourth of the prophesied seven resurrections of the Roman Empire. As longtime readers of this magazine will know, there

remains yet one revival of the Roman Empire to come, which will consist of a union of 10 nations under the overall leadership of a strongman called in prophetic language ‘the beast.’ ...

Just who will that new Charlemagne be? The Bible defines him in shocking detail. Is the world about to be introduced to this man?

“Christopher Hollis, in the foreword to von Habsburg’s book *The Social Order of Tomorrow*, points out that Otto ‘would like to see Europe resume her essential unity, and in the symbolism of that unity HE THINKS THAT THE IMPERIAL CROWN OF CHARLEMAGNE AND OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE MIGHT WELL HAVE ITS PART TO PLAY.’

“Inter-European unity has long been a quest of the Habsburg dynasty. OTTO HIMSELF OFTEN SPEAKS OF THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE OF THE MIDDLE AGES AND HIS VIEW OF A COMING UNITED STATES OF EUROPE. In this regard, Otto has stressed the importance of religion in the formation of a united Europe. He regards Christianity as Europe’s bulwark: ‘THE CROSS DOESN’T NEED EUROPE, BUT EUROPE NEEDS THE CROSS.’ Last April, he was received by Pope John Paul II, and discussed at length the subject of European integration.

“Observers of the efforts toward European unity have often noted that a lacking vital ingredient on the European scene is a charismatic leader and organizing genius—A NEW CHARLEMAGNE ...”

The first Charlemagne waded through a sea of blood to win converts to Catholicism and expand the Holy Roman Empire. But this history is almost never mentioned.

Just who will that new Charlemagne be? The Bible defines him in shocking detail. Is the world about to be introduced to this man?

Watch for the New Charlemagne

Europe’s currency, the euro, has become a powerful global currency. It has even become the official currency of Kosovo and Montenegro, states of former Yugoslavia—which Germany and the Vatican led NATO to virtually destroy.

SOON THE EURO WILL REPLACE THE DOLLAR AS THE WORLD’S NUMBER-ONE CURRENCY! This developing superpower, the EU, is led by Germany—the same country that started World Wars I and II.

Winston Churchill wanted a united states of Europe led by *Britain*. He said, “[I]t should be built by the English; if the Russians built it there would be communism and squalor; if

See CHARLEMAGNE page 7 ▶

Dangerous Liaisons

In April, Russia and Germany took their partnership to a new level. In May, the EU and Russia boosted their cooperation as well. What does this warming relationship mean for the world? **BY RYAN MALONE**

HOW FAR OFF IS THE NEXT world war?

Well, if history is prophecy, as Winston Churchill said, then what is happening between Russia and Germany these days should cause grave concern!

As the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* stated, "In six separate instances within the last 200 years IN WHICH GERMANY HAS TURNED ON THE WEST, she has FIRST made a pact with Russia to make herself safe from the East" (Lesson 3; emphasis mine throughout).

The strategic relationship now building between Germany and Russia should blast warning signals throughout the world. History's track record in this particular cycle of events is unmistakable: Germany and Russia form an alliance that serves both their needs; Germany uses it as leverage against the West; and

eventually the alliance ends with Germany and Russia facing each other in a bloody conflict—witness World War II!

Russia's relationship with Germany and the European Union is a clear signal that similar events are about to occur again. Here is why.

Repetitive Cycle of History

As the May 1962 *Plain Truth* stated, "The concept that Germany must ally with the East against the West goes back as early as Frederick the Great"—about 240 years.

In 1872, just after he united the North German Confederation with the southern German

states into a single German Reich under Prussian leadership, Germany's Otto von Bismarck formed the Three Emperors' League with Russia and Austria. This relieved the Reich's fear that Russia might join with rival France in a war pitting the newly formed German Reich against foes both to the west and east. But because of Russia's and Austria's differing strategies concerning the Balkan Peninsula, the league broke up six years later.

Bismarck resurrected the alliance for a second time in 1881—only for it to break up in 1887 due to continuing rivalries between Russia and Austria. That year, Bismarck rushed another agreement—this time separately with Russia—to prevent France snatching Russia away as an ally. This agreement between Germany and Russia, known as the Reinsurance Treaty, continued until the next kaiser, Wilhelm II, sacked Bismarck and rejected his policy of keeping "the lines

PARTNERS

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder confers with Russian President Vladimir Putin.



open to St. Petersburg” (then capital of the Russian empire). So in 1894, Russia did what Bismarck had always feared: It allied with France. Twenty years later came the two-front war Bismarck had tried to avoid, and Germany entangled itself in a conflict on both its eastern and western flanks. That was World War I.

This is where the modern history of Germany’s and Russia’s relationship begins. In 1922, four years after the Great War ended, Germany and Russia stunned the world with a pact signed in Rapallo, Italy, which opened complete diplomatic relations between them. Europe’s power balance had shifted overnight. Through the pact, the German Army could test weapons in Russia that were forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles.

Even when Hitler became chancellor in 1933 and a wave of anti-Russianism gripped Germany, the Nazis made a move that seemed contrary to their anti-Soviet policy. Hitler’s foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, secretly flew to Moscow in August 1939 to sign a non-aggression pact with Russia’s Stalin. With Russia neutralized, Hitler’s eastern flank was secure. One week later, Hitler invaded Poland, and Russia took the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). Two years later, Germany violated the pact and attacked Russia.

The history is quite clear. Whenever it has wanted to expand its empire,

Germany has always first removed the Russian threat through diplomacy. Whether it was protecting itself from a Franco-Russian alliance in the late 19th century or trying to extend Nazism across Europe without fear of a Russian attack, Germany has learned that “friendship” with Russia is in its best strategic interest.

New Level of Cooperation

At this year’s April 10-11 technology exhibition in Hannover, Germany, Russian President Vladimir Putin met with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in a summit that brought the two countries’ relationship to new heights.

At this summit, the two leaders signed multiple agreements in areas such as energy, transportation, education, research and innovation. Putin and Schröder said they would “establish strategic partnerships in every sphere” (Stratfor, April 11).

The bond between the two countries—the two leaders especially—has grown over the past few years. Now, with what transpired in Hannover, the two countries have upgraded the partnership by increasing “their geopolitical ties and ... shifting from a low-technology economic cooperation to high-technology

cooperation as the base for this strategic partnership” (ibid., April 12).

The difference between low-tech and high-tech cooperation, Stratfor explained, is “the difference between having and not having a truly substantial strategic alliance. Low-tech cooperation simply involves transferring goods from one place to another, while high-tech cooperation involves sharing technology and goods in a way that strengthens both economies.”

How much high-tech cooperation are Germany and Russia enjoying? Last year, Germany invested \$1.7 billion in its big eastern neighbor. At the Hannover exhibition, it signed up for \$6 billion. A huge portion of that figure will fund a project that will pipe natural gas through the Baltic Sea by the end of the decade. This venture will pump resources directly into Western Europe. It also means Russia will be able to bypass a pipeline that goes through Ukraine and Belarus—giving Russia’s state-owned gas company (Gazprom) more bargaining power over the two westward-looking former Soviet nations.

According to Stratfor, this, together with other business agreements, is “evidence of a substantial, real alliance taking shape” (ibid.).

That is, in fact, what Schröder said in a press conference about the summit: “We have now a very deep cooperation. ... It is known that both countries are very close when it comes to energy. But we are developing a strategic partnership ...” (*International Herald Tribune*, April 12).

Countering the U.S.

This strategic partnership between Russia and Germany will further intensify both powers’ global weight. It will help propel Europe to superpower status. Both Putin and Schröder know that their firm alliance helps to counter U.S. dominance in world politics.

Back in May 1962, the *Plain Truth* said, “Once a German-dominated Europe is fully established, Germany will be ready to negotiate and bargain with Russia—and behind the backs of the Western Allies if necessary. ... What is now developing is a neutral European power dominated by Germany and allied with Russia! British and American armies will be forced to leave Germany and Europe.”

This is, indeed, happening. Following on the heels of four previous rounds of U.S. military base closures in Germany, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

Precedents

1922 TREATY OF RAPALLO Germany and Russia stunned the world with a pact signed in Rapallo, Italy, which opened complete diplomatic relations between them and shifted the power balance in Europe overnight. Through the pact, the German Army could test weapons in Russia that were forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles.

1939 MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT Hitler’s foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, secretly flew to Moscow in August to sign a non-aggression pact with Russia, securing Germany’s eastern flank. One week later, Hitler invaded Poland, and Russia took the Baltic states. Two years later, Germany violated the pact and attacked Russia.

1970 MOSCOW TREATY A treaty of non-aggression was signed between the Soviets and West Germans. Like all of its predecessors, the treaty altered the face of Europe. It opened the door for more talks on German unification until, 20 years later, that unity became reality.

VASILY FEDOSENKO/AP/GETTY IMAGES

made an announcement on May 13 recommending the return of a further 70,000 U.S. troops from Germany. According to Defense Department officials, about half of America's military facilities in Europe are to be vacated.

It's only a matter of time before the divide between the United States and Europe develops into a *total* pullout of U.S. forces from the Continent, thus marking a new chapter in Euro-Russian relations.

Economic Benefit

When Germany benefits from its relations with Russia, so will Europe as a whole—and Russia. Both the European and Russian economies are in need of help.

Russian trade with Germany is roughly the same as that with America. Energy-wise, the strong economic relationship between Russia and the EU is quite evident: Russia is the largest single energy partner of the European Union. Germany receives 30 percent of its oil and over 40 percent of its natural gas from Russia. Russia is the EU's largest supplier of uranium.

An EU Commission document published back in 2003 stated, "For the European Union, it is important to maintain and enhance Russia's role as a supplier of gas and oil and to strengthen Russia as a secure and reliable supplier *through technology transfers and investments to upgrade Russia's energy infrastructure*" (communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, May 13, 2003). So, though acting out of self-interest, the EU is sending great benefits Russia's way.

As Moscow-based analyst Peter Lavelle said, "[T]here is no doubt about [Putin's] plans for Russia's economic and trade future. Russia's economic future lies with Europe and China" (*Asia Times*, April 5, 2003).

Germany alone is responsible for more foreign direct investment in Russia than any other country. Combined with the rest of Europe, the facts are clear. "Of the \$19 billion of foreign direct investment in Russia since 1996, American companies have accounted for just \$4 billion, as opposed to the European Union's \$7 billion," Lavelle wrote. "Russia's bread-and-butter politics are solidly focused on economic performance and not foreign-policy concerns. This is Putin's political prime directive." In other words, Russia goes where the money is: Europe.

Might this arrangement have contributed to Moscow's willingness to side

FOREIGN ADDRESS

President Putin speaks before Germany's lower house of parliament in the Reichstag, Berlin.



Germany is responsible for direct investment in Russia than

with Berlin and Paris when the U.S. was preparing for its Iraq campaign? Is it any wonder, as the EU's power increases and the U.S.'s declines, that Moscow would strategically align itself more with Europe?

Foretold

From the time World War II ended, the *Plain Truth*—predecessor to the *Trumpet*, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong—watched the relationship between West Germany (now united Germany and at the head of a united Europe) and the Soviet Union (now Russia).

Throughout its 50-year-plus history, under Mr. Armstrong's leadership, the *Plain Truth* warned its readers of another non-aggression treaty between Russia and Germany that would vividly spell out Germany's and Europe's intention to dominate the rest of the Western world once again.

Take this excerpt from May 1962: "When a Russo-German deal is made, you can be sure that the doom of the United States and Great Britain is on the horizon. A German-Soviet agreement—a *second Rapallo*—would be the greatest disaster which could befall the West."

The same article predicted that a treaty between then-West Germany and Russia would lead to the eventual *reunification of Germany* (as East Germany was then controlled by the Soviets). Notice this statement: "Trade agreements and a non-aggression pact will be signed with Russia. *Germany will again be united* and her 'lost lands' restored. *The result will shock the Western world!*"

Then, in August 1970, the Moscow Treaty—a treaty of non-aggression—was signed between the Soviets and West Germans. The *Plain Truth* heralded this as "the biggest single political event in Europe since the end of World War II" (August-September 1970). Germany was positioning itself to play a more dominant lead on the European stage—to resurrect the Reich that had been humiliatingly defeated in two world wars. Like its predecessors, the treaty altered the face of Europe, opening the door for more talks on German unification until, 20 years later, that unity became reality.

What You Should Watch

Both Russia and Germany will continue to develop the other's geopolitical muscle—until, as history tells us, *both are strong enough to be threatened by the other!*



REUTERS

**more foreign
any other country.**

from Russia. They will make a DEAL with the USSR—a non-aggression pact. Then the Germans, who will dominate, remembering it was U.S. power that twice defeated them in world war, will attack the United States, destroying our cities. SO SAYS PROPHECY!” (Oct. 23, 1961).

Bible prophecy states that the U.S. and Britain will be trampled by Europe. In fact, God singles out Assyria, modern-day Germany, as the key player in carrying out this destruction (Isaiah 10:5).

Only by Germany forming a strategic alliance and signing a non-aggression pact with Russia will a German-led Eurobeast come to power as prophesied. God prophesies that this European bloc will exert unmatched power over the Western world for 2½ years (read our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* for more on this).

A German-Russian alliance, however, is a partnership that history—and PROPHECY—shows us will never last, despite its short-term benefits in strengthening both parties. Just as in World War II, *Russia* will have its part in Germany’s downfall. Bible prophecy shows that Russia will align with Asia to counter the growing dominance of the unchecked European power. This will mark the end of the coming non-aggression treaty.

A Russian-EU alliance or treaty would strengthen Russia to be a contender on the world stage—one that will eventually CHALLENGE Germany and Europe in the greatest military conflagration the world has ever seen. This conflict will accelerate the world’s race toward a nuclear Armageddon—creating such terror that only the return of Jesus Christ could provide rescue.

Remember, the *Plain Truth* in 1962 said another Rapallo pact would signal “the DOOM of the United States and Great Britain” and be “the GREATEST DISASTER which could befall the West.”

We have already seen a non-aggression pact—signed during the Cold War—which sped along the reunification of Germany and hurtled Europe toward greater cohesion—starting a chain of events that will fulfill the *Plain Truth*’s predictions. We can also expect a similar treaty in the imminent future paralleling the Ribbentrop agreement—such as was signed immediately before World War II. These accords will culminate in World War III!

Watch the growing relationship between Russia and Germany. History cries out a strident warning about the results of such dangerous liaisons. ■

the Germans built it there would be tyranny and brute force” (Martin Gilbert, *The Churchill War Papers*, Volume 3).

Whether we like it or not, the EU is being built by Germany. If Churchill was right, we can expect “tyranny and brute force.” Both Churchill and Thatcher were right. Most people don’t see it yet, but they will quite soon.

The Germans yearn for a strong leader, especially in this age of terrorism and many other dangers.

I believe most German leaders think more like Stoiber than Schröder. Even the German people like his policies better!

That could make it easier for Stoiber (or conceivably someone else) to maneuver behind the scenes.

Regardless, some leader is going to HI-JACK the EU! The person who leads Germany will also lead Europe. Germany already domineers Europe to a degree that is shameful, if you consider its past. Remember, it started both world wars—in which 50 to 60 million people were killed. Nobody should forget or ignore that past—including the German people!

If we don’t learn from the past, we’re condemned to repeat it.

Hitler did some behind-the-scenes manipulating to come to power. That method has worked well in German history, and it will work again for the new Charlemagne!

Today we are more intent on watching terrorism coming from nations in the Middle East. But that is not the enemy we need to fear most of all. In many ways, it is only a decoy. There is a much greater enemy that continues to rise in Europe.

Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied of Germany’s rise to frightening power again, even when it was beaten into rubble at the end of World War II. This time it will be far more powerful than it was in the Second World War.

Since Mr. Armstrong’s death, this magazine has continued to prophesy of Germany’s rise to unprecedented power.

But we need to understand *why* Germany and Europe are rising in power. God is going to use them to punish the very sinful nations of America, Britain and Israel—unless we repent of our sins! (Isaiah 10:5-6).

We are facing the most terrifying times ever on Earth. Our number-one question is that of HUMAN SURVIVAL. We must wake up and beseech our loving God for help. There is no other hope.

Germany is the number-one political power we need to watch. ■

We have warned of this for years, as Mr. Armstrong did before us. Now, other leading news analysts are seeing the trends. One Stratfor analysis stated: “For observers of the past, this underlying state of affairs cannot but sound a bit familiar. ... [T]he last time the German economy was in such dire straits, Germany militarized—and signed a treaty with Russia known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop accord. With its eastern flank secured, Germany then was free—for a time—to set about launching World War II” (April 7).

When an overt non-aggression treaty is signed once again between Germany or the EU and Russia in this new phase of global politics, history will be written before our eyes. Not only will it bring both the EU and Russia to powerful new heights as global players, it will mean that Europe has again secured itself against an attack from Russia and will be free to pursue other aggressive objectives.

We can see the groundwork for such a treaty being laid now.

Where Will That Lead?

As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter 44 years ago, “United, these European nations can protect themselves

HOW CAN ANYONE MAKE sense of the muddled Middle East? Terrorist attacks, angry mobs, brutal politics—the whole morass can become a blur. Many simply ignore it.

You shouldn't—and you needn't! There is a *logic* at play in this hotly contested region. When you understand it, this will clear the haze and even *strengthen your faith*.

Almost a decade ago, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote a slim, readable booklet called *The King of the*

A Plum to Be Plucked

In *The King of the South*, Mr. Flurry wrote: “The most powerful Islamic country in the Middle East is *Iran*. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, which was at one time the third-leading exporter of oil in the world? I predicted as far back as 1992 that this could happen.” From the moment Saddam Hussein fell two years ago, the *Trumpet* began spelling out how this development would draw the new Iraq into just such a relationship with its eastern neighbor.

Consider the present facts. With its people given a political voice, Iraq now

been decided, Stratfor reported: “The Shia know they cannot achieve their objective of a Shiite-dominated state without the critical oil portfolio” (April 26).

And sitting in the most important of office of all, that of prime minister, is Ibrahim al-Jafari, who has tight and long-standing connections with Iran. Stratfor stated, “Iran will gain significant pull in Iraq under Jafari’s leadership—even if for less than a year, as this new transitional government is tasked with drafting a constitution and holding the final round of general elections by early 2006. ... Iran will emerge as the biggest beneficiary of

RECONCILIATION in IRAQ

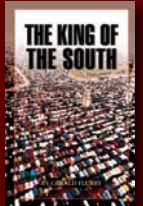


On Sche

Bible prophecy outlines what to watch in the muddled Middle East. Two prophecies in particular appear to be unfolding according to design. BY JOEL HILLIKER

May 17, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi (left) visits Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari in the highest-ranking Iranian visit to Iraq since Saddam Hussein was dethroned.

Both of these prophecies are explained in a special *Trumpet* publication *The King of the South*, which is free upon request.



South. It was essentially a compass, orienting readers to the major trends and events to watch for in the Middle East based on biblical prophecies. This booklet has since undergone two revisions to add information on subsequent events that have reinforced all its major arguments.

Two specific prophecies Mr. Flurry highlighted bear a closer look in light of today’s news.

First, the prophecy of an Iranian takeover of Iraq.

Iraq is a fledgling democracy under attack; its cries for freedom are muffled in the fog of war. But peer through the smoke, and this is what you see: a country steadily transforming from Iran’s fiercest enemy to, potentially, Iran’s closest ally.

has a Shiite prime minister, a Shiite-dominated government and a Shiite-dominated constitution-drafting committee headed by a Shiite. Eighteen of 36 federal cabinet members are Shiite; the Kurds have half that and the Sunnis even less.

To the Shiite-ruled Islamic republic of Iran, this is a delicious shift from the era of Saddam, a Sunni Baathist who led a gory eight-year war against it in the 1980s. The fact that many of the new Iraqi cabinet ministers spent years in exile in Iran only smooths relations between the two countries more.

The son of a leading Shiite cleric took one of the most important posts: head of the oil ministry. Considering the importance of oil to the nation, this appointment in itself gives the Shiites great leverage. Before this appointment had

Jafari’s premiership ...” (February 22). Jafari heads the conservative Islamic Dawa Party, which received backing from Iran during Hussein’s reign. Though he has worked to boost his secularist credentials since Hussein was deposed, Jafari maintains ties with the Iranian government, and his party’s official position is that Iraq should be an Islamic state.

Ahmad Chalabi, one of the three newly appointed deputy prime ministers, also has close ties to Iran.

In addition, on May 24, a Shiite cleric, Hummam Hammoudi, was appointed chairman of the committee that will draft Iraq’s new constitution. Hammoudi, a former exile in Iran with a doctorate in Islamic economics, told reporters just days after his appointment that “the Shiite leaders will press for a clause

declaring *Islam to be the principal source for all legislation*" (*New York Times*, May 26; emphasis mine).

The 55-member constitutional committee elected in early May has a Shiite majority—with 28 Shiite, 15 Kurdish and just 2 Sunni members (smaller parties make up the rest). However, under American pressure to make the constitution-drafting represent all sides, just weeks after this body was formed the Shiites agreed to forming a new constitutional commission with 46 additional seats. Of the new seats, 13 to 15 are to be reserved for Sunnis—which will give the

the constitution Iraq's top Shiite clerics seek—one that enshrines Islam and allows for an Islamic state—have failed.

Already, relations between the Iraqi and Iranian governments are sweeter than they have been in generations. On May 17, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi visited his Iraqi counterpart in the highest-ranking Iranian visit to Iraq since Hussein was dethroned. On this visit, in a demonstration of solidarity the two ministers issued a joint statement placing the blame for the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war on Hussein and his cronies.

Kharrazi said it was in Iran's best inter-

foresee, as the Iraqi government wearies of wrestling this wild boar, a point where Iran would step in—most likely by invitation—to put an end to the problem. Obviously, this favor would come with a price.

However it happens, after Iran becomes the "king of the south," as your Bible calls it, this king isn't going to *support* his neighbor: He will have influence *over* Iraq and probably rule it. Watch for it.

Radical Change in Egypt

The second prophecy in Mr. Flurry's booklet worth revisiting concerns Egypt.

The 24-year autocratic rule of Egypt-

dule

AP/WIDEWORLD



AP/WIDEWORLD

Street protests in Egypt railing against President Hosni Mubarak, such as this one April 27 in Cairo, have become common.

Sunnis, at most, 17 seats out of 101. But, to complicate matters further for the Sunnis, once the commission approves a new constitution, the document will still have to be approved by the 55-member committee (with two Sunnis) and the 275-member National Assembly (also with 17 Sunnis). The move to give the Sunnis a voice on the matter is essentially a farce.

Hammoudi has also said the interim constitution is not to serve as a basis for the new charter because it needs to be "authentically Iraqi." "The decision," concluded the *New York Times*, "appeared to mean that the American effort to balance competing ethnic, religious and regional interests in the constitution would be pushed aside" (*ibid.*). In other words, all efforts thus far to thwart

ests to "support by all possible means the Iraqi government."

This relationship needs to be watched. Iran insists it has no intention of meddling; as Kharrazi said, "Iraqis are in charge of their own affairs Any interference would be an insult to the Iraqi people." But the reality is quite different: There is no chance a nation as aggressive and ambitious as Iran fails to recognize on its western frontier the enormous plum waiting to be plucked.

One possibility to ponder: Iran using Iraq's terrorists as *leverage*. It appears the terrorists in Iraq are there to stay. The U.S., on the other hand, won't bunker there forever; yes, it wants peace and resolution—but the day is coming when it will label Iraq's terrorist insurgency as, ultimately, a problem for Iraqis. One could

tian President Hosni Mubarak becomes more tenuous by the day. In recent months, demonstrations against Mubarak's government have snowballed, culminating in nationwide protests on May 4. At the same time, Islamist strikes designed to weaken the government have also increased. On April 30, two attacks targeting tourists in Cairo were partly thwarted; seven people were injured and the attackers killed. Several weeks earlier, an explosion at a Cairo bazaar killed two and injured over 20.

A primary instigator of recent unrest is the nation's largest Islamic organization, the banned Muslim Brotherhood. What until last December were rare demonstrations of dissatisfaction with the government are now regular episodes, thanks largely to this Islamic group.

What is most telling, however, is that even though the Muslim Brotherhood is outlawed, Cairo is cautious as to how severely it cracks down on these illegal protests for fear of inciting the sympathetic masses!

With the winds of radicalism gusting within the populace, the weather in Egypt is about to change.

The political puzzle is clicking together just as Mr. Flurry wrote in *The King of the South*, under the subhead “Radical Changes in Egypt”: “Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. This prophecy indicates that there would be a far-reaching change in Egyptian politics!”

We certainly cannot rule out a crisis resulting from the rapid departure of Mubarak from the political scene—through either death (he is aged and in poor health), as put forward in our July 2004 *Trumpet*, or assassination, as Mr. Flurry suggests in his booklet: “President Mubarak, a moderate, could be assassinated just as Anwar Sadat was. This could implement another gigantic change in Egyptian politics, similar to what happened in Iran’s 1979 revolution.” If Mubarak were no longer in control, a vacuum and almost certain political instability would result.

On the other hand, if truly democratic elections were held—which the U.S., ironically, encourages—the *Islamists* would have the best chance of controlling Egypt (see our May 2005 cover story).

Watch for an Islamic government to come to power in Egypt—whether through the implementation of some form of democracy or by other less democratic means—and for a subsequent cementing of ties between Cairo and the dominant Islamic power in the region, Iran.

Mr. Flurry has predicted for almost a decade that Egypt will fall under the influence of Islamists. We are about to see it happen.

These facts do not vindicate the predictive insight of Gerald Flurry, but the *biblical prophecies* upon which his statements are based. They are, in truth, a vindication of the great Creator God who issued those prophecies millennia ago and is now guiding events to ensure that they come to pass. Through the Prophet Isaiah (46:9-10), He says, “I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and *from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND.*” ■



TOUGH JOB

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff takes questions during a briefing in April.

Flat-Footed on Nuclear Terrorism

Nuclear and emergency preparedness experts, as well as federal reports, show that America has failed to brace itself adequately for a nuclear attack. This failing reveals something important about our human nature.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HUMAN NATURE TENDS TO FORGET about unpleasant realities. “Men stumble over the truth from time to time,” Winston Churchill said, “but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.”

Nuclear warfare is one of those unpleasant realities. With the dark cloud of Cold War long passed, we want to believe the nuclear threat has evaporated with it. In truth, however, nuclear capability is now more decentralized and diffuse; nuclear material has proliferated; and we live in an age of terrorism. In short, the threat has never been greater.

The Robb-Silberman commission on WMD (www.wmd.gov) said, “[T]he intelligence community knows disturbingly little about the nuclear programs of many of the world’s most dangerous actors [including Iran and North Korea].

In some cases, it knows less now than it did 5 or 10 years ago.”

The 9/11 Commission reported that al Qaeda has been trying to get nuclear weapons for a decade and cited reports that Osama bin Laden wants to pull off a “Hiroshima.” Lee Hamilton, vice chairman of the commission, called nuclear terrorism “*the greatest threat to the national security of the United States*” (*Meet the Press*, NBC, May 29; emphasis mine). Porter Goss, who directs America’s Central Intelligence Agency, has said “it may only be a matter of time before al Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons” (*New York Times*, February 17).

Adm. James Loy, deputy secretary of Homeland Security, said that “several al Qaeda leaders believe operatives can pay their way into the country through Mexico and also believe illegal entry is more

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/EPAGUETTY IMAGES



Such facts make a May 3 piece in the *Washington Post* important to note. “[M]ore than 3½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the U.S. government has failed to adequately prepare first responders and the public for a nuclear strike, according to emergency preparedness and nuclear experts and federal reports,” the article said.

The *Post* spoke of the government failing to exploit the life-saving potential in preparing first responders to evacuate populations that are downwind of a radiation cloud. It cited misleading information regarding nuclear attacks now appearing in Homeland Security preparedness literature. The federal Homeland Security department has trained 22,000 first responders in nuclear response out of 2 million firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel nationwide. Thus, the vast majority of those most needed in such an emergency lack education regarding radiation exposure, how to triage and decontaminate victims, and other crucial procedures. Moreover, the government doesn’t have rules and standards for organizing and assigning jobs to these workers should such a tragedy occur.

The specific gaps in American preparedness are worth addressing—after all, one certainly cannot underestimate the difference between 190,000 people dying from a 10-kiloton bomb and a death toll from the same bomb *tens of thousands of people greater* simply because they were inadequately prepared to react appropriately (these numbers are taken from a July 2004 Homeland Security Council [HSC] document explaining the consequences of such an attack within the nation’s capital). But what makes this report especially noteworthy is how it highlights *a mindset unwilling to grapple with unpleasant realities*.

Can we face the seriousness of the threat before us? A nuclear terrorist attack is not a mere *possibility*: Given the confluence of circumstances we see in the world today pointing toward this eventuality, we must acknowledge that it is bound to become *reality*.

The fact is, Americans are totally unprepared for the devastation and the permanent disruption of our comfortable lives that is about to befall us. The HSC report included the major understatement that a nuclear strike on U.S. soil “would forever change the American psyche, its politics and worldview.” Consider it. The shift that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, when a few thousand pre-

cious lives were lost was but the tiniest taste of what awaits.

The words of the Prophet Jeremiah, directed at the modern descendants of biblical Israel—a group of nations that includes the United States—should leap out for their present significance. He wrote that “cities are burned WITHOUT INHABITANT” (Jeremiah 2:15). Is it *alarmist* to speculate that such a massive loss of life would likely include nuclear terrorism?

Perhaps this seems too unbelievable to be true. How could such a fate befall America? Before September 11, who would have believed that such terrorism could occur on U.S. soil? It was unbelievably shocking—yet it happened. THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE IS IMMINENT. We should watch for it, so this destruction does not catch us off guard (Luke 21:36).

To surrender to the tendency to minimize such dangers, or to fail to face them fully, *guarantees* they will broadside us. Weakness of will and forgetfulness are *nation-destroying flaws*. The Bible shows they are actually *curses* America is suffering because of its lawlessness (Daniel 9:13-14; Leviticus 26:16-19). How many are willing to face *that* unpleasant reality?

The feebleness of U.S. security goes beyond what was revealed in those government reports. After all, beefed-up border patrols and seaports stocked with radiation-detection equipment cannot, ultimately, provide a sure defense. Holes in homeland security are feasible to tighten but impossible to eliminate.

As Gen. Douglas MacArthur said, “It must be *of the spirit* if we are to save the flesh.” While the risk of nuclear terrorism is an unpleasant reality and mustn’t be ignored, the Almighty God says we needn’t *fear* it—that He will protect us from it—*if we prepare ourselves spiritually*. In these perilous times, this is the *only* sure security.

Yet, nationally, God has removed His protection—and, even more, He is *watching* upon the evil and *bringing it upon us!* So says your Bible.

As a citizen, you may feel helpless or complacent, believing it is your government’s job to safeguard you from terrorist threats. But each of us bears personal responsibility. The cold reality you must face is, your most effective deterrent against terrorism starts *with you!*

To learn how to receive God’s protection in the times ahead, visit theTrumpet.com and read, from our June 2004 issue, Herbert W. Armstrong’s article, “There Is a Way of Escape.” ■

advantageous than legal entry for operational security reasons” (ibid.). This isn’t difficult to imagine, considering that an estimated 1 million illegal immigrants breach America’s porous southern border each year. Even terrorists have identified this route as an excellent way to attack the United States.

Shipping is another security hole just waiting to be exploited by a terrorist. The *New York Times* reported that the Department of Homeland Security has reduced inspections of inbound cargo from 36 foreign ports without confirming that security has been tightened (May 25). Only two of the world’s largest ports have completely installed equipment to detect radiation. Put simply, the U.S. often has no idea if the material coming from overseas is safe or not.

Plausibly, a nuclear weapon could already be on American soil in a terrorist’s hands.

This state of affairs is wholly unlike the Cold War, where nuclear war was averted between superpowers because of mutually assured destruction. 9/11 Commission Chairman Thomas Kean said, “These are small bands of people in uncontrolled parts of the world who don’t care about that anymore. They simply want to destroy us. If some of them get destroyed themselves in the process, it doesn’t matter It’s a whole new way of thinking” (*Meet the Press*, op. cit.).

Unpleasant realities, these.

RELIGION

The Vatican's Quandary

ANXIETY AND TREPIDATION have beset many American Catholics (generally the most liberal element of the church) since the ordination of Pope Benedict XVI. The ultraconservative pontiff has already begun asserting his new power over the church in the U.S. To what extreme, then, will the new pontiff go in his efforts to purge the church of liberalism?

Thomas Reese, well-respected editor in chief of the influential Catholic magazine *America* for the past seven years, surprised Catholics across America when he resigned from his tenure just a few weeks after the of Benedict's appointment.

Peter Steinfels, religion columnist for the *New York Times*, said the timing of Reese's resignation and Benedict's election were not a freak coincidence: "There's no question he was forced out" (CBS News, May 9). Jesuit priests in Italy also confirmed that the Vatican, and specifically Cardinal Ratzinger, orchestrated the resignation. *But why?*

"The irritant wasn't Reese's own doctrinal views, but articles he published by scholars who took issue with Catholic officialdom" (Associated Press, May 12). The Vatican essentially fired Reese because he published a number of articles that, rather than falling in line with traditional Catholic teaching, had a more liberal approach to such topics as same-sex marriage and stem-cell research.

Another American Catholic magazine, the *Commonweal*, "editorialized that Reese's removal leaves the impression that the church

is 'a backward-looking, essentially authoritarian, institution run by men who are afraid of open debate and intellectual inquiry'" (ibid.).

Commenting on the extent of Vatican influence in the affairs of its members, AP quoted Richard McBrien, a liberal theologian at the University of Notre Dame, as saying that "the ouster implies that the Vatican and its U.S. allies 'don't think it's possible to discuss both sides.'" The Vatican under this pope is decisively conservative and will

refuse to entertain thoughts and ideas that contradict traditional Catholic doctrine.

The *New York Times'* Steinfels says the question now is "whether the center can hold in American Catholicism ..." (CBS News, op. cit.). American

Rest assured, however, although American liberalism will continue to perturb the pope, it will not dissuade him from uniting the mother church with its Protestant daughters and establishing Vatican guidance over the growing European superpower.



BLACK SHEEP? The Vatican is fighting Catholicism's liberal elements—common in U.S. congregations.

Church Unity Must Be on Vatican's Terms

AFTER ANGLICANS AND CATHOLICS FINALIZED details on a joint document regarding Mary, it was clear that, when it comes to reconciling with other churches, there will be little to no compromise on the Vatican's end.

On May 16, a joint group composed of Catholic and Anglican church members published a document, six years in the making, proposing that Anglicans accept Roman Catholic teachings regarding Mary.

If accepted, the proposals, agreed by theologians and prelates of both churches, would "backtrack on centuries of Anglican dissent over the place of Mary in the Catholic Church by giving credence to dogmas rejected in the Reformation" (*Times Online*, May 17). The document states there is "no continuing theological reason for ecclesial division" over this issue.

A Catholic bishop who served on the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, which published the document, said: "What we have done is put down a paving

stone on the road to Christian unity."

With the election of Pope Benedict XVI, church unity has gone to the top of the Vatican agenda. The second week of May saw the Vatican praising the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury for adopting a stance over sexuality akin to the Vatican's. From May 9 through 16, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity headed a Vatican delegation (the largest ever) taking part in the Conference on World Mission and Evangelization in Greece. Earlier the same month, Pope Benedict XVI sent a message "of consid-

eration" to France's main Protestant church, the first time this has been done.

These moves toward church unity, however, also reveal on what terms that unity will come. As *Times Online* observed, "The Mary document will reinforce fears among evangelicals that the Catholic Church is prepared to consider unity with the Anglicans *strictly on its own terms*" (ibid.; emphasis ours).



BENEDICTION Pope Benedict (R) greets the archbishop of Canterbury (L) in the Vatican.

Putin on the Fritz?

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF Russians are calling for the resignation of President Vladimir Putin. After everything he has done to tighten his control over the nation, for Putin to quit now is unlikely.

Civil unrest currently plagues much of Russia. In May, tens of thousands of irate protestors, with a public audacity rarely seen in Russia, marched Moscow's streets shouting for Putin's immediate resignation. Demonstrators in the eastern port of Vladivostok carried posters saying, "If only comrade Stalin were here now."

It appears similar rallies will continue to erupt across the nation. The anti-Putin movement has burgeoned over the past year as a result of the cagey president's measures to establish stricter control over government and industry—especially his measures to revamp Russia's aging welfare system.

Over his five-year presidency, Putin has been aggressive and highly successful in establishing an iron-like grip over the nation. The former KGB agent has streamlined the government, politically beaten into line his potential competitors among the oligarchs, tightened his leash on the press and established strong Kremlin influence over Russia's greatest asset, oil.

But recent anti-Putin rallies have a number of news sources believing Putin could soon be replaced.

While there is no doubt that Putin's leadership is being tested, let's not be too quick to cast him as a Russian has-been. This cunning leader has options besides resignation, and we can be sure he will explore them all.

The option perhaps most appealing to Putin would be to take stronger measures to reign in dissident citizens. Any move he might take in this direction would not be unprecedented in Russia: After all, many of the country's proudest moments have occurred with an autocrat at the helm.

In one sense, Putin could even glean encouragement from some of the *motivation* behind the current protests in Russia. The fact that many of the protesting Russians are wishing for another *Stalin*, combined with a recent study showing that 42 percent of Russians believe the country needs another politician like Stalin, could indicate that Russians would embrace a *stronger, more autocratic* Putin.

Many a Russian who desires another Stalin actually longs for the welfare state he provided. The fact that millions of Russians want a welfare state, even if it might

mean living under another dictator, shows an astonishing mind-set.

The infamous KGB—Russia's ruthless, murderous secret service arm of the government made famous by Joseph Stalin—trained Putin. Russia's leader may be more like Stalin than many people realize.

Anti-Putin protests are likely to continue; pressure on the president will escalate. It would be a surprise, however,

if Putin capitulated. Watch for him to explore every other option in the coming months. With time, it is likely that Putin will grow more autocratic. Expect drastic changes in Russia in the near future.

If you would like to know where Russia fits into Bible prophecy, and what to expect from the nation in the coming months and years, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



TAKING THE HEAT Protesters burn a portrait of President Vladimir Putin May 1 in Moscow.

BRITAIN

Blair's Power Weakened

THE MAY BRITISH ELECTIONS showed a waning support for Tony Blair's pro-EU government.

Though Mr. Blair is still prime minister of Britain, his Labor Party lost considerable authority in Parliament—making its unprecedented third term likely to be more

of a lame-duck administration. Going from a 161-seat majority to a 67-seat majority within Britain's 645-seat Parliament, Blair's party drew only 36 percent of the vote—the lowest percentage

of the popular vote in the country's election history. Gaining in popularity is the Conservative Party.



BLAIR

Many attribute Blair's loss of ground to his position on the Iraq war. While that may be part of it, we cannot ignore that a growing dissatisfaction exists among Britons with

the European Union. The Conservative Party, which gained 44 more seats this election, rarely used the Iraq issue in its campaigns against Blair—but it is known for its heavily Euroskeptic platform.

British sentiment against the EU is swelling. The fact that Mr. Blair represents the staunchest pro-Europe position is likely to be yet another major strike against him—particularly in light of the proposed EU constitution being decisively rejected by the French and Dutch in recent referenda. With the future of the Union appearing shaky, the Conservative Party may look like sensible refuge for many Britons—distancing the country from the Continent even more.

For more on Britain's part in a united Europe, see our July 2004 article "The Defining Moment Approaches" at www.theTrumpet.com.

EUROPE

EU Building Reputation

WORLD POLITICS CAN BE extremely confusing. Correctly judging the motivation behind a nation's foreign policy is a particularly challenging exercise. So what's behind the European Union's interest in the North Korean nuclear crisis?

In May, the EU announced that it wants to play a role in the disarmament of North Korea, acting specifically as a buffer in negotiations between Pyongyang and the United States.

While this seems like an altruistic gesture by the EU, is it really necessary? Five major nations—including Japan, Russia and China—are already working to stop North Korea from manufacturing nuclear weapons. The EU would simply be another cook in an already busy kitchen.

One constant in geopolitics is this: *Self-interest* is the defining motivation behind the foreign policy of nations. Assess the EU's drive to be involved in the North Korean crisis in light of this constant, and the reason for European involvement becomes clear.

"This [North Korean negotiations] is where the EU can step out on the world stage as an institution. The EU wants to create a reality for itself as an *international actor*" (Stratfor, May 19; emphasis ours). By seeking a role in the North Korean nuclear crisis, one of the largest geopolitical flash points on the global scene, the EU is looking to build its reputation as an influential and global superpower.

Until its own constitutional crisis is solved, it will be difficult for the EU to speak as one voice in its own



PEACE SIGNS? Guido Martini, head of the EU delegation for North Korea, speaks at a press conference in South Korea.

internal affairs. Hence the strategy to overcome this credibility vacuum by increasing its involvement in broader diplomatic theaters.

In North Korea, the EU may speak as a united power since the outcome barely affects internal European politics. These nuclear talks are the perfect avenue by which

the EU can gain global publicity as a benevolent and active participant in world affairs. For the EU, a side benefit is the potential that successful EU involvement in the crisis could diplomatically and politically isolate America.

In light of the current political and economic tension that exists between Russia and America and China and America, it's possible that any measure of success that might come from the EU's involvement in North Korea could go a long way toward these nations looking more

to Europe for direction in future crises.

There is a lot we can't know about this issue. It's possible that there will be no room at the table for the EU in the discussions to disarm North Korea; the EU may even hinder successful negotiations. But there is one absolute we can be sure of: The EU is looking for every opportunity to project itself as a leading global power, and the North Korean nuclear talks are just that.

Watch for the EU to become more involved with international affairs and build its reputation as a global power, as well as marginalize American influence in world affairs.

Europe's New Identity

A NEW CULTURAL PHENOMENON IS emerging in Europe. The Continent's history of division and hostility is growing dim in the memory of its younger generations, and a new European identity is being conceived.

The European Union has expanded rapidly over the past 15 years. An atmosphere of multiculturalism is building throughout the Continent. Due to a combination of political, economic and legal factors, cross-border travel and relocation within Europe are at their highest levels ever.

This pluralistic, open-border environment is contributing to the creation of a new identity for many Europeans—particularly the younger generations. Younger people are beginning to identify themselves more as *Europeans* rather than as citizens of their native countries.

"A growing number of young Europeans ... study, work and date across the Continent. Unlike their parents, who grew up within the confines of nationhood, they are multilingual and multicultural" (*International Herald Tribune*, April 26). In today's Europe, it is not uncommon to hear many within the younger, widely traveled age group say that they are more European than they are German, French or Italian.

Commenting on this phenomenon, political science professor Stefan Wolff stated,



REACH FOR THE STARS Students in Slovenia discuss issues surrounding youth in Europe.

"For the first time in history, we're seeing the seeds of a truly European identity" (ibid.).

In the eyes of EU leaders, this is a positive trend that will only facilitate further European integration. As these young people continue to identify with the idea of a single Europe, their support for a strong and unified European government will intensify. This new group of loyal "Europeans" will seek the stability of one leader, one government, one defense force and one foreign policy. Their allegiance to a unified Europe is certain to drive greater integration within the Continent—especially as they begin to play more of a role in the government of the European Union.

Compare today's Europe to how it was just 15 years ago and it's clear that Europe is making huge strides toward integration. This is one of the most important trends you could watch over the coming months and years.

Hamas Gaining Political Power



REUTERS

SHAKE-UP The Palestinian Legislative Council could be overruled by Hamas within months.

THE PALESTINIAN TERROR group Hamas, linked to Iran, is causing concern in the Middle East—not only for its dramatic and lethal suicide attacks against Israelis but for its *political* actions. And the concern is not just in the Israeli camp—the Palestinian Authority (PA) is also worried.

The concern revolves around the surge in popular support for Hamas, as reflected in its success in the last round of Palestinian local elections. The election results give an indication of political gains—and possible parliamentary control—to come.

In the May 5 elections, Hamas won control of the biggest population centers up for grabs in Gaza and the West Bank. This was the third round of elections in recent months, all of which have seen huge gains for Hamas.

Indications are Hamas will also do well in the next round of local elections scheduled for July or August—around the same time as the even more significant Palestinian parliamentary elections.

If Hamas wins control of parliament, or even a significant number of the seats,

Israel will be faced with the prospect of negotiating with *terrorists* to further the “peace process.” This would also put a mortal enemy of Israel in power right next door.

The threat of Hamas gaining control of the Palestinian Legislative Council has caused alarm—and further division—in the Israeli government, particularly in light of its plan to withdraw troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in August.

Some Israelis say it is wrongheaded to abandon these areas just as Hamas is gaining ground. Israel is in a Catch-22: If it proceeds with the withdrawal, Hamas will see this as a victory. If the withdrawal is delayed, Hamas will use this as an excuse for more attacks. “If they want to go, let them go,” said one top Hamas leader. “If they stay, we will continue our resistance. We respect the truce, but who said that we are throwing away our weapons?” (*International Herald Tribune*, May 7). Hamas wins either way.

The Fatah-dominated PA is also worried at the prospect of losing power to Hamas and is looking to postpone the

July 17 vote until November (Associated Press, May 25).

Once again, however, Hamas holds the better hand. If Palestinian legislative elections are postponed, it has threatened to resume violence against Israel, which would only undermine PA President Mahmoud Abbas’s position. And delayed elections are certainly no guarantee that Hamas’s popularity will wane.

Hamas’s popularity results from a combination of its provision of food, money and community services—funded by its sponsors Hezbollah, Iran and Syria—for the Palestinian people (who were greatly deprived under the inept rule of Yasser Arafat), and its suicide campaign against Israelis over recent years.

This combination of “good deeds” and violence against Israel optimizes Hamas’s popularity—a perfect formula exploited by many a terrorist group: Give the people money, housing and community services, unite them against a common enemy, and they will support you. Witness Hezbollah’s actions in Lebanon, or the IRA’s in Northern Ireland.

It seems, however, that some in the West are fooled by these tactics. In a shocking statement in April, Scott McClellan, spokesman for the U.S. president, referred to members of Hamas who had already gained political positions as “business professionals”—“not terrorists.”

There is no doubt of the weight Hamas already carries in the Palestinian territories. As an example, in May, immediately after ordering security forces to use an “iron fist” in containing Palestinian militants, Abbas turned around and, upon pressure from Hamas, released two Hamas prisoners who had been detained

for being armed with rockets that they had planned to launch against Israeli targets (Stratfor, May 3). If Hamas can change the PA president’s mind just like that even now, what will it be able to do once it has official political status, with a presence in the Palestinian parliament?

Remember, Hamas—which seeks an Islamic state similar to Iran—has as its goal the obliteration of Israel. “Hamas remains committed to Israel’s destruction but has indicated it is willing to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem *as an interim step*” (Associated Press, March 13; emphasis ours). This is the entity gaining popularity and power in the midst of Israel.

Despite its intentions, however, Hamas will not, ultimately, succeed in its objective to destroy the land of the Jews, though it will severely weaken them. Israel’s downfall will come from a different direction. Read our March-April 2004 article “The Enemies of Jerusalem” at www.theTrumpet.com to find out Israel’s greatest danger.

IN BRIEF

Turkey Employs Islamists

Middle East Newslines, April 18

“TURKEY HAS BEEN employing thousands of Islamic fundamentalists in violation of its secular constitution. An opposition parliamentary faction ... said the Islamic fundamentalists have entered all areas of government ‘[T]housands of anti-secularists have been employed by the state in accordance with the government’s wishes,’ Ali Topuz, deputy chief of the opposition Republican People’s Party, said.”

*One, two, three o'clock,
four o'clock rock*

*Five, six, seven o'clock,
eight o'clock rock*

*Nine, ten, eleven o'clock,
twelve o'clock rock*

*We're gonna rock around
the clock tonight ...*

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, IT'S HARD TO read that without setting it to music in your head. It makes you want to tap your toe. I envision two young people on the dance floor jitterbugging the night away.

That's how it impacts *my* mind, anyway.

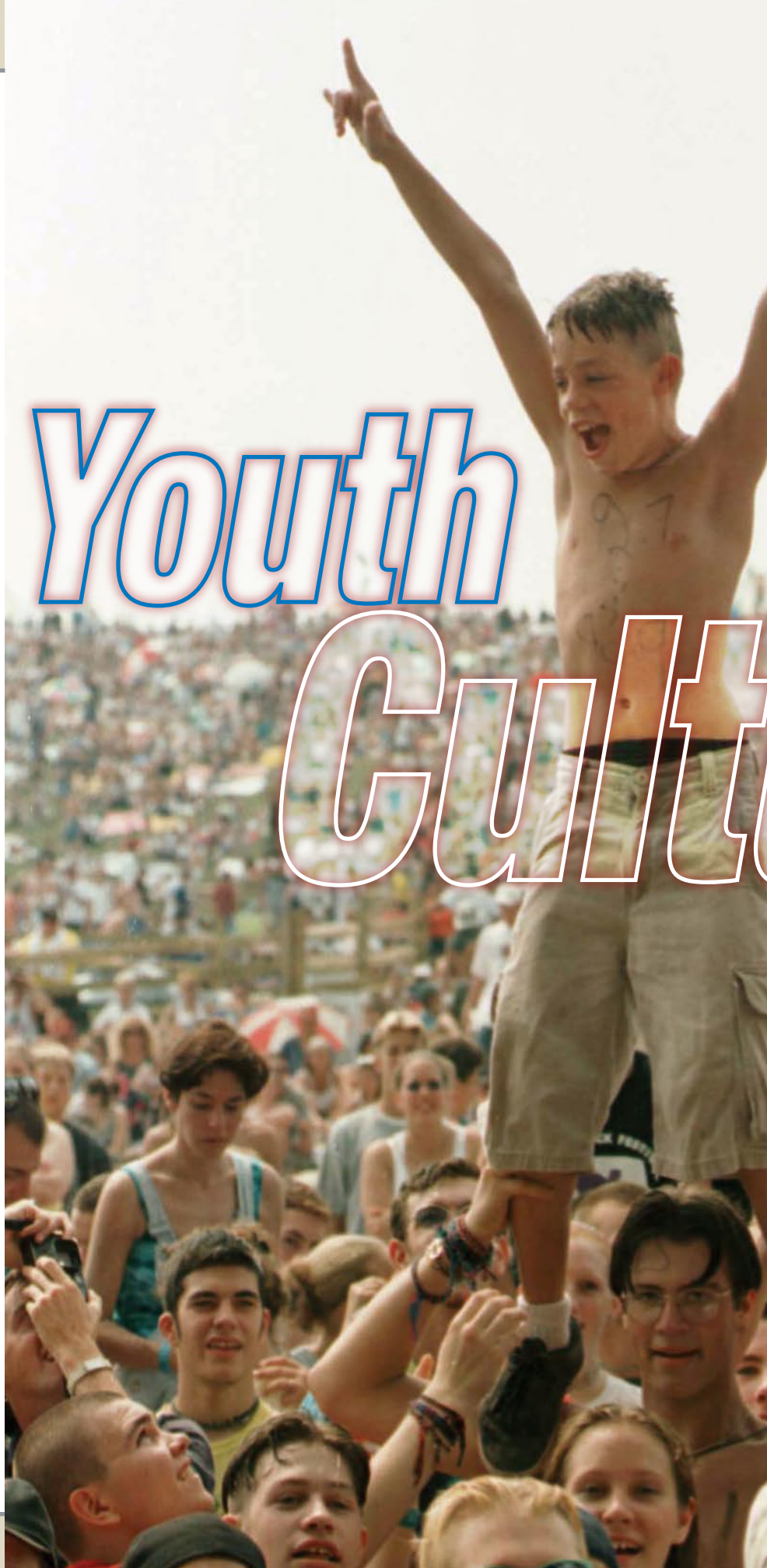
But the impact of that song on *popular culture* is of much greater significance. Before Bill Haley's 1955 classic blared inside theaters from coast to coast over the opening credits of *The Blackboard Jungle*, mainstream culture was utterly unfamiliar with that little thing called "rock 'n' roll." But buoyed by that film's popularity among teens, "Rock Around the Clock" became an instant international sensation.

The movie—some say the first-ever *teen* movie—is about a high school teacher who tries to educate a group of teenage thugs. Its rebellious thematic elements found fertile ground within a developing youth subculture. "*The Blackboard Jungle* and its popularization of rock and roll gave restless teens the means to express themselves in a manner that was not technically delinquent, but satisfyingly discomfiting," wrote Tony Atherton in the *Ottawa Citizen* (March 19).

In certain sectors of American society, both Haley's song and the movie were boycotted—even banned. In Britain, the movie sparked riots inside some theaters. If anything, though, the controversy fueled more widespread interest and popularity. (Until 1997, "Rock Around the Clock" had been the top-selling single of all time—with more than 25 million copies sold.)

In many ways, the youth revolution of the 1960s started in 1955 with that movie. It was the first time a movie ever had a rock and roll soundtrack. It was the first time a rock and roll song ever hit the top of the music charts. And 1955 was the first time youth counterculture set foot in mainstream culture—a place that had

Youth Cult





REUTERS

always been dominated by *adult* interests and tastes.

“Between the release of *The Blackboard Jungle* and the end of the decade,” Atherton wrote, “revenues for the U.S. recording industry almost tripled to \$603 million, and rock and roll, which had barely existed as a genre before 1955, accounted for almost half the total.

“By 1959, teens *controlled* the music industry, had become the key audience for radio and had been targeted as the ideal consumer by the movie industry” (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

The same thing happened in Hollywood. As Thomas Doherty wrote in his 2002 book, *Teenagers and Teenpics*, “Since the 1950s, moviemakers have been forced to narrow their focus and attract the one group with the requisite income, leisure and gregariousness to sustain a theatrical business. The courtship of the teenage audience began in earnest in 1955; by 1960, the romance was in full bloom. That shift in marketing strategy and production initiated a progressive ‘juvenilization’ of film content and the film audience that is today the operative reality of the American motion picture business.”

It all started so seemingly innocently in the mid-1950s—with undisciplined, restless youths, spoiled by prosperity. But it resulted in a disobedient and rebellious youth culture grabbing mainstream culture by the throat.

The Teen Influence

Way ahead of his time, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “Few people stop to realize to what extent the teenagers have taken over today. They pretty well dominate the world picture” (*God Speaks Out on “The New Morality”*). He wrote that in 1964—*more than 40 years ago!*

“Now look at the facts,” Mr. Armstrong continued. “WHY do so many radio stations turn to a ‘rock and roll’ format today? Because the rating agencies will show that they have the highest ‘ratings’—that is, the largest listening audience. But who is listening? Nearly altogether just ‘kids’ in the lower or middle teens. But the rating agencies do not show the time-buyer WHO is listening—only how many! So Big Business, and local ‘little business,’ spend millions of dollars for radio time on the stations with the ‘highest ratings.’

“But then, they say that these youths pretty well dominate the nation’s consumer spending!”

Indeed, in 2003 American teens spent

about \$175 billion—an eye-popping figure that makes marketers and advertisers salivate. According to a September report from the Institute of Medicine, the food and beverage industries *alone* spend between \$10 and \$12 billion per year marketing to youth.

Marketers target young people not only for what they spend directly, but also for what they influence *adults* to spend. It is estimated that American children goad their parents into spending around \$200 billion per year. According to Marcel Danesi in *Forever Young—the Teen-Aging of Modern Culture*, “Virtually the entire media-entertainment industry today depends for its economic survival on capturing the ‘teen dollar.’ For this reason, it caters primarily to the adolescent market. There is a veritable synergy today between that industry and adolescent lifestyles—they influence each other in tandem.”

Mr. Armstrong asked, “WHO determines what is ‘popular music’ today? The ‘teens.’ Even the radio stations who do not go to rock and roll, in the main, play what is called ‘popular’ music. ...

“Adolescents determine dancing trends, motion-picture themes, radio formats, and even advertisements and most fields of entertainment!” (op. cit.).

Yes, indeed. Teenagers pretty much dominate Western culture.

Predominantly Sexual

Mr. Armstrong continued, “What many do not realize is that this teenage influence on the whole society *is predominantly sexual influence*. There is much more intense preoccupation with sex during these years than in later maturity.

“Therefore SEX became the basic formula for motion pictures—along with crime, including murder” (ibid.).

Here again, this was written in 1964! Think about the last time you listened to a popular song from the late 1950s or early ‘60s—or watched a TV program or movie from that era. If you’ve ever done that, *violence* and *sex* are probably NOT the terms you would use to describe such “old fashioned” entertainment. More like *harmless* or *innocent*—maybe even *prudish*. But that’s because you would be judging those “classics” by comparing them to the much more vulgar forms of modern entertainment.

By today’s standards, of course, television, movies and music from the early ‘60s certainly *seem* harmless. But that is exactly the point—LOOK at *today’s* “standards”! Mr. Armstrong, with the benefit

of God's guidance, could see the very beginning stages of a society-wide cultural revolution—SPEARHEADED BY TEENAGERS—and where it was leading.

A good way to track society's changing attitudes toward sexuality is to look at the changing dating habits of teenagers. Here is how the *New York Times* described the custom of dating in the early 1960s: "With marriage occurring at a younger and younger age, teenagers started dating earlier, too. It wasn't uncommon for 13-year-olds to go steady" (May 30, 2004). The *Times* cited one 1961 study where "40 percent of fifth graders were already dating (for many, this meant holding hands and kissing)." Sounds pretty tame—again, when compared to today. But back then, these were MONUMENTAL shifts in teenage morality.

Prior to World War II, a young man's popularity, in large part, was determined by how many *different* girls he dated. And in most cases, dating many different girls did *not* mean having sex with them.

After the war, however, the custom of dating widely began to change, in part because of media hype over the "man shortage" brought on by two world wars. Frightened at the prospect of ending up as old maids, girls were more urgent about finding one man and pairing off with him—even at young ages. By 1960, nearly half of all new brides were *under* 19. And many who weren't married went to college for the sole purpose of finding a man. Of course, this led to a lot of mismatched couples, unhappy marriages, and, eventually, divorce.

Besides all that, pairing off earlier had a devastating effect on youth dating practices, as Mr. Armstrong explained in his book. Once older teens began "going steady," it wasn't long before younger ones started to pair off. Human nature wants to belong, he explained. In the case of dating, young people wanted to go along with what their peers were doing—even if it meant rebelling against adult authority.

A bigger problem with the going-steady custom, Mr. Armstrong wrote, is that it "brings familiarity, and familiarity breeds a certain contempt—in this instance, contempt for chastity, virtue and honor. ... The very familiarity of steady dating makes it easier for the boy to make bolder advances in 'necking,' and then going on further into sexual intercourse. It makes it more difficult for the

girl to say 'no.' It tends to lower bars of resistance, and increases the temptation to carry intimacies to the limit.

"The FRUITS of going steady are definitely *not good!*" (op. cit.).

Yet, as bad as those fruits were during the sexual revolution years of the 1950s and '60s, young people could at least rely on *some* parental guidance when dating. In many cases, the boy had to call the girl's home to set up a date. Maybe he borrowed Dad's car, then drove to the girl's house where he would meet her father. The father, if he had any sense, laid down

Along the way, advancements in technology and affluence contributed to the dissolution of dating customs and trends. If entertainment media were responsible for educating youths in the new *immorality* during the '50s and '60s, the AUTOMOBILE provided the means by which they could go off and practice what had been preached. What began as a *family* luxury quickly turned into a necessity—not for adults only, but also for youth culture. Dating activities centered around the use of a vehicle. Cars provided steady couples with plenty of alone time—away from parents. All too often, it led to sex.

Tuned-In Teens

TV viewing among 8-to-18-year-olds:

Constant TV: 51%
TV during meals: 63%
No TV rules: 53%

"Young people in the U.S. inhabit an environment that is not just media rich—it is media saturated. Most homes contain most media, and the typical home contains multiple instances of most media. A substantial majority of kids have personal media, both in their bedrooms and in highly portable forms that travel with them."

—"Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year Olds," a Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005



the ground rules—she had to be home by a certain time, or else. At the very least, parents had a better idea of who their children associated with and who they were dating—even if the two teens *were* off fornicating in the back seat of a car.

And in cases where fornication led to premarital pregnancy, there was still enough societal pressure on the young man to at least marry the girl and help rear the child.

Not that any of that is acceptable—God's law forbids premarital sex. *But look at how much worse it is today.* The divorce epidemic started splitting apart about half of all new marriages by the early 1980s. This meant that in many cases, Dad was not around to meet the daughter's new boyfriend. The flight of mothers out of the home and into the workforce also widened the gap that separated young people from parental guidance.



By the mid-1980s, many young people no longer needed Dad's keys to go out on dates—they had their own cars. Around that time, another movement was underway that would push youth culture to new lows in sexual behavior: the Information Age.

Before that time, the steady stream of sexually charged cultural content flowed into homes primarily through over-the-air radio and television signals. But with the advent of VCRs, cable television, movie channels and pay-per-view, the same steady stream turned into a raging river during the 1980s. This upsurge in competition within the entertainment industry left television and radio producers scrambling to hold on to their niche audience. They turned to teens with a ven-

geance, Atherton said in his article, with programs like *Beverly Hills 90210*.

"One network, NBC, has been frank and unapologetic about its need to compete with the more explicit world of cable TV," Gloria Goodale wrote in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "It recently decided to be the only big broadcast network to air ads for hard liquor" (Feb. 1, 2002).

By the end of the 1990s, the raging river became a destructive tidal wave, thanks to satellite and digital technology—and especially the Internet. The basic formula remained the same—predominantly sexual. It's just a lot more shocking and explicit.



porn, you had to enter a dingy theater in the seedy part of town or the back room of a video store. The thought of someone seeing you pay for such smut, even if only a cashier at a store, must have discouraged the masses from even thinking about such activities. Added to that, you had to be old enough to get into strip clubs and x-rated theaters.

But now that pornography is ubiquitously available to everyone, the target audience is consuming it in record numbers. Approximately 11 million American children ages 12 to 17 visit porn sites



ABOVE Teens lose control emotionally at a 1964 rock concert.

Porn Culture

Goodale stated in her 2002 article, "Pornographic images, erotic paraphernalia, and raunchy sexual talk are reaching a near-saturation point in the daily lives of Americans, through television, movies, magazines and the Internet, say a growing chorus of expert voices. *And the target market is an increasingly younger audience*" (ibid.). *Surprise! Surprise!* Young people are the primary target!

Goodale points to three factors that have brought pornography into mainstream culture: 1) the absence of prosecutions against obscenity distributors; 2) the expansion of entertainment media into the world of cable, DVDs, etc.; and 3) the rise of the Internet.

It used to be, if you were looking for

every week, making children the LARGEST GROUP OF PORN CONSUMERS ON THE INTERNET. The average age for first-time viewers has now dropped to 8 years old (Fox News, June 30, 2004).

Meanwhile, the message coming from the more "wholesome" forms of entertainment in pop culture is that porn addiction is harmless fun. It's the good guys on television and in the movies who now enjoy porn—not the rapists or pedophiles. And does porn consumption present any problems for wives or girlfriends in the land of make believe? Not at all! It's normal—guys being guys. A 1990s sitcom even had one episode where its entire cast became addicted to porn—guys and girls. In 2002, NBC selected *Playboy* models—*porn stars*, actually—to compete in one of its reality shows. "We're just having fun," said the president of NBC Entertainment, Jeff Zucker.

What would Americans have thought,

even during the tumultuous 1960s era, about a Victoria's Secret fashion show—so explicit, editors had to blur the nudity—playing in *prime time* on one of the big three networks?

Another question: Now that we've reached "near-saturation point" in porn culture, what impact is it having on our young people—on their attitudes and views about dating, love, sex, marriage and family?

Again, look at the change in dating habits. According to one 2001 study, dating has all but disappeared from popular culture. In its place is a "hook up" culture that allows young people to still have sex, but without any relationship strings attached. *Why date many different personality types in preparation for your marriage and family career when you can instead have your pornographic fantasy come true?*

According to the study, 40 percent of college women admitted to hooking up with a young man for casual sex. *Ten percent have done it more than six times.* Some 91 percent said hook-ups occurred "very often" or "fairly often" at their school. As Ben Shapiro wrote in his new book, *Porn Generation*, "With sex readily available at every turn, it's no wonder only 38 percent of college guys are in a serious relationship."

And of course, as Mr. Armstrong told us, if it's a popular custom among 18- and 19-year-olds in college, it doesn't take long for it to filter down to the younger ones. According to the *New York Times*, "Recent studies show that it's not uncommon for high school students to have sex with someone they aren't dating. ... A 2001 survey ... found that of the 55 percent of local 11th graders who engaged in intercourse, 60 percent said they'd had sex with a partner who was no more than a friend. That number would perhaps be higher if the study asked about oral sex. While the teen intercourse rate has declined—from 54 percent in 1991 to 47 percent in 2003—this may be partly because teenagers have simply replaced intercourse with oral sex. To a generation raised on MTV, AIDS, Britney Spears, Internet porn, Monica Lewinsky and *Sex and the City*, oral sex is definitely not sex, and hooking up is definitely not a big deal" (op. cit.).

The article referred to several popular websites among teens where you can submit a photograph of yourself, have it

rated, and then possibly hook up with another youngster in your area. No-strings-attached sex with a complete stranger. *Only in a porn culture.*

In December 2002, researchers for *Pediatrics* magazine published their findings of a survey among teens that asked this simple question: Where are kids having sex? Out of over a thousand boys surveyed from six different public schools, 91 percent of those who had had intercourse said the most recent time was in a home setting—either their own home, their partner's home or a friend's home—and usually after school.

Divorce, working moms, modern technology, “adult” entertainment—what

illegitimate. That is not encouraging.

Contraceptives have also done nothing to stop the out-of-control spread of sexually transmitted diseases—*especially* among teenagers. In fact, the widespread availability of birth control has only made matters worse, as Mary Eberstadt proves in her book *Home-Along America*: “The very contraceptives that have made the teenage birth rate go down have also made casual sex easier than ever, thus making the STD rate simultaneously rocket up.” She points out that of the top 10 reported diseases in the United States, five of them are STDs. And of the 18 million or so new cases of STD infection reported each year, HALF

This prophecy in Isaiah 3 is being fulfilled in two ways, primarily. One is in the more literal sense of youth oppressing society by their rebellious disregard for adult authority. Look at verse 5: “... the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.” The pervasive attitude young people have toward their elders in Western society is one of rebellious disrespect. In the most extreme cases, it can become violent. Teens commit three times as many crimes as adults. Our prisons are filled with *young people*. This is NOT encouraging.

The other fulfillment of this prophecy is even deadlier than the most violent youth killer. It's described in verse 4: “And I will give children to be their princes, and *babes shall rule over them.*” God isn't talking about children with respect to age necessarily, but rather the way *adults* are ruling: LIKE CHILDREN! Read the first three verses of Isaiah 3 and you will see all the qualities of leadership that have vanished from our society: vision, prudence, judgment, wisdom, honor and eloquence. God said these kinds of qualities would be practically extinct today. And it's because, in far too many cases, our leaders—whether in the home, within education, or business, or in government—have degenerated to a child's level of understanding. Instead of preparing our children for the responsibilities of adulthood, we, as adults, are acting like children.

Time magazine recently reported on a new phenomenon among youths—about how long it is taking them to transition into adulthood (January 24). “They're not kids anymore,” the subtitle to the article says, “but they're not adults either.” So what are they? According to *Time*, they're *twixters*—men and women (or boys and girls?) between the age of 18 and 25 who don't want adult responsibility. Social scientists have noticed an increase in the number of young “adults” who still live with their parents and who have no clear goal or ambition in life. The number of 26-year-olds who live with their parents has nearly doubled since 1970 from 11 percent to 20.

A couple years ago, the American Psychiatric Association even went so far as to define the stage of adolescence as a period that extends from puberty to age 34—the time they believe most youths enter the independent stage of adulthood. What that means, as Tony Atherton brought out in his article, is

Adolescence for today's youth lasts about three times longer than it did in previous generations.

dramatic changes these trends have had on teen culture. Who needs a steady girlfriend, or even an automobile for that matter, when you can arrange for sex with a stranger over the Internet and have it in the comfort of your parents' own home?

We've come a long way since “Rock Around the Clock.”

Blind Leadership

Perhaps more shocking than our free fall into the depths of sexual depravity is that many of our most influential leaders either seem unconcerned about the direction we are headed or, even worse, find reasons to be *encouraged* by it. One former U.S. president, commenting on the 1990s decline in teen pregnancies, said in 2000, “Teens in every state, across ethnic and racial groups, are making more responsible life decisions. As a nation, we can be proud of these encouraging trends.”

But God is assuredly NOT encouraged by these trends. Yes, the teen birth rate has gone down, but not because teens are abstaining from sex. At least two thirds of high school seniors have experimented with some form of sexual activity, according to a 2002 Planned Parenthood study. The teen birth rate is down because *young people are wiser in the ways of using contraceptives and in performing sex acts where pregnancy is less likely.* And even if the worldly “wisdom” of using “protection” has reduced the teen birth rate, it has not slowed the rate of out-of-wedlock births. *One out of every three children born in the United States is*

come from young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

The media blackout on the subject of STDs—particularly their rampant spread among teens—is inexcusable. Many teens have been led to believe that STDs are just sores that can be treated with a cream. In fact, STDs kill people by the thousands every year. And even if not deadly, others can cause life-long complications like infertility, difficulties with childbirth and birth defects.

That leading voices in society are not sounding the alarm about such deadly dangers is disgraceful. That others, while looking through rose-colored glasses, are “encouraged” by the direction youth culture is headed is the worst kind of ignorance. It also highlights the devastating effect a teenage-dominant culture has had on adulthood.

Cultural Disease

With about 35 million in America already, teenagers make up our fastest-growing demographic. In a godly society, we would be applauding and *encouraged* by that statistic. God has always intended for children to be a blessing to their parents—like “olive plants” around the table (Psalms 128:3)—and to society (Proverbs 20:29; 1 Timothy 4:12).

In these latter days, however, prophecy points to our youth as being a BURDEN on society. Instead of helping to build it up, *our own offspring* are tearing it down. Isaiah 3:12 describes our children as being “oppressors”—a word that means to *tax, harass* and *tyrannize*.

that adolescence for today's youth lasts about three times longer than it did in previous generations.

Granted, marrying at 18 is too young. But a 34-year-old ADOLESCENT? Jesus Christ—the greatest teacher who ever lived—sacrificed His life for the world at age 33. What would *He* have thought about our immature, teen-dominated, sexually perverse, gross-out culture?

Even religion, the last place you would expect teens to dominate, is dumbing its message down to attract younger crowds. Here in Edmond, Okla. (where the *Trumpet* is headquartered), one evangelical minister surveyed the area and found potential church-goers fed up with how boring religious services had become. "So he designed Life Church to counter those preconceptions, with lively, multimedia-filled services in a setting that's something between a rock concert and a coffee shop" (*Business Week*, May 23). According to the article, even as Protestant and Catholic denominations are seeing their congregants leave—especially young ones—evangelical megachurches are booming because they are adapting to "contemporary culture." "Kids are often a prime target audience for megachurches. The main campus of [Craig] Groeschel's Life Church in Edmond, Okla., includes a 'Toon Town' of 3D buildings, a 16-foot-high slide, and an animatronic police chief who recites rules. All the razzmatazz has helped Life Church quadruple its Sunday school attendance to more than 2,500 a week. 'The kids are bringing their parents to church,' says children's pastor Scott Werner."

Jesus Christ is not encouraged by this trend. Neither is He encouraged by the same trend extant in education, business and government.

In 1 Corinthians 13:11, the Apostle Paul wrote, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." Today, instead of putting away childish things and preparing our own children for adulthood, we are letting youth culture educate us.

"It's the commercial media entertainment economy at work," wrote Danesi in *Forever Young*. "Age is now considered a disease. Youth sells. There's a big emphasis on having it all: good living, keeping your youth, having as much fun as you can. It's empty because there is no wisdom behind it." Worse still, he goes on to explain, "It's a cultural disease. And now we're into the final silly stages."

A Different World

There are those who brush aside our cultural slide into gross immorality as being no different than previous generations. And in one sense, that's true. Human nature, as revealed in the Bible, has always been hostile to God's law. But as Mr. Armstrong brought out in his book, we live in a different world today. "Human nature, adapting to changing times, expresses itself very differently today," he wrote (op. cit.). Writing in 1964, Mr. Armstrong was referring to society a generation before the Information Age—before the Internet—before porn went mainstream. What a different world this is today *even compared to 1964*.

"Age is now considered a disease. Youth sells. . . .

It's empty because there is no wisdom behind it."

The Apostle Paul described the days in which we live in 2 Timothy 3. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (verse 1). These are dangerous times! But how can we be certain this passage is referring to our day—to our culture?

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (verses 2-4). Paul is describing human nature in all of its ugly colors! In these latter days, we are beginning to see just how rotten human nature is. In one sense, human nature has always been the same—but it gets worse if the environment around it degenerates.

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13). People deceive themselves by thinking there is no special danger right now—that the world has always been like this. It *has* always been bad—but it's getting so much worse. And today, unlike eras of old, modern advances have made the possibility of human annihilation a stark reality. That, of itself, ought to WAKE US UP!

Of greater concern is our upside-down society—our rapidly deteriorating marriage and family structure. "Few, indeed, realize the shocking *facts* of this accelerating downward plunge," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "It is rapidly becom-

ing a GREATER THREAT to humanity *than the hydrogen bomb!*" (ibid.). Like every other statement we have used from Mr. Armstrong's 1964 book, this one will be proven true as well.

Jesus assured us of that in Luke 17:26: "And as it was in the days of [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Christ said these latter days would be comparable to the days before the Flood. Genesis 6:5 describes the pre-Flood society: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was *only evil continually*."

God is not "encouraged" by our sexually-charged, teen-dominated culture.

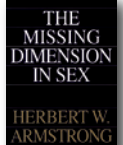
He's disgusted with it like He was with the pre-Flood society—the way He was with Sodom and Gomorrah. Read 2 Peter 2:4-6 and see what pervasive sin ultimately led to in the case of those two societies.

It will happen again. God assures us of that in Bible prophecy. Mr. Armstrong wrote about it in his 1981 book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*: "Since it is a basic truism that a solid family structure is the foundational bulwark of any stable and permanent society, this fact means only one thing—CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT IS ON THE WAY DOWN—AND OUT—unless that great 'Unseen Strong Hand from Someplace' soon intervenes and saves today's sick society."

In fact, God WILL intervene to save humanity, but not until we teeter on the brink of TOTAL disaster.

If you are interested in the book we have quoted from throughout this article, *God Speaks Out on "The New Morality,"* we have good news. Seven years after Mr. Armstrong first published it in 1964, he felt the need to update and revise the text. When he did that in 1971, he also revised the book's title, changing it to *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. Five years before Mr. Armstrong died, he updated the book one final time—in 1981—and that's the same version we have been distributing for the past seven years.

If you don't have a copy, please request one. It was inspired by that "Unseen Strong Hand"—it reveals the only safe passage out of our sin-sick youth culture. ■



BY PHILIP NICE

REALITY TV USED TO BE the cheesy, greasy-haired flake of the Hollywood greenroom. It was the seedy huckster nobody talked to, leaning against the corner pay phone holding a cheap mixed drink and pretending to mingle with the high-caliber news program, drama and comedy genres.

No longer. That small-time flake with bad taste is now an industry powerhouse. It's pulling more viewers than any other genre and turning hit series into washed-up has-beens.

But although its status in Hollywood has shot up to the king of prime-time programming, reality television's content has taken a proportional dive in the opposite direction. In the savage contest for ratings, American reality TV has plumbed new depths in cheap titillation, turning viewers into voyeurs in the process.

Real Explosion

Reality shows burst out of the television backwater in the summer of 2000 with the surprise sensation of *Survivor: Pulau Tiga*, which featured 16 average Americans competing against each other in an attempt to lie, muscle and betray their way to the million-dollar prize. The show's finale drew 51 million viewers, ranking as the most-watched summer-time program on record. It was the second-most-watched show of the year next to the Super Bowl.

Almost immediately, dozens of new reality shows popped up on every television network schedule, from *American Idol* to *Temptation Island* to *Trading Spouses*. Since that original *Survivor* series, over 200 reality shows have flooded network and cable television.

In addition to pervading prime-time programming for the past five years, reality shows are causing executives not only to stack their scheduling decks with a bevy of absurd challenges and "real life" soap operas, but also to consider restructuring the entire economic model on which network television is based. Because reality

shows forgo the weighty salaries of actors (which sometimes soar as high as \$1 million per episode) and writers, producing a series involves less risk, and the overall cost is only a fraction of a scripted season of *C.S.I.* or *Everybody Loves Raymond*. After adding product placement and corporately sponsored prizes to regular commercial revenues, some shows cost virtually nothing to produce.



In addition, reality series last only a few weeks, so networks can stagger new shows throughout the year rather than run repeats during summer months, grabbing a huge market share back from cable and satellite programming. As Fox Entertainment President Gail Berman told one reporter, "The 50-year-old economic model of this business is kind of history now" (*New York Times*, Jan. 25, 2003).

But a tiny price tag and a full-year schedule are not the only face cards in the reality-show hand. Executive mouths are watering most over reality TV's immense popularity with the marketing trump card: the youth demographic.

Young Americans—the biggest spending demographic in the market—can't get enough of their favorite reality shows, and big business knows it. Forbes.com reported that a 30-second spot on FOX's top money-maker *American Idol* in its January-May 2004 installment cost \$414,700, earning a season total of \$260.7 million for the network (Sept. 7, 2004).

High on Ratings, Not on Content

Whether or not the low-brow kingpin of the prime time is a short-lived craze

or the new industry standard, "reality" is big, and millions of Americans are watching, listening and learning—particularly those under 30. It stands to reason, then, that *someone* should ask—and answer—the question, *What is this doing to our minds?*

Besides suffering from unbelievably banal premises that hearken to carnival freak shows and your junk mail folder—besides being framed by overly dramatic phrases like, "never before seen," "watch as ...," "jam-packed," and "... until now"—reality shows are taking us from impassive viewership to a seedy, slipshod world of voyeurism.

More than just snorting at the spot for *Are You Hot?* that comes on as we ironically settle into our easy chairs for the finale of *Fear Factor*, we need to take a close look at reality programming—a close look that might well be our last.

The acid test for reality show programming: *content*. What is it actually *broadcasting* into the American psyche?

Here's the rundown.

"As Seen on TV"

In June 2004, the Parents Television Council released a study on reality broadcasts based on 114½ hours of reality television over a 15-month period. The study, titled "Reality TV: Race to the Bottom," reviewed the first four episodes of 29 ABC, CBS, NBC, PAX, FOX, UPN and WB series, and covered shows that featured individuals or teams competing for a prize or seeking romance, and day-in-the-life scenarios. The study found:

- 1,135 instances of foul language, about 10 per hour.

- 492 instances of sexual content.

- 30 instances of violence.

This comes to a total of 1,657 instances of offensive content—14.5 per hour. Factoring in commercials, that's one instance of offensive content every three minutes. More specifically, this offensive content included:

- 16 instances of sexual activity.

- Two references to masturbation; 18 references to kinky sexual practices.

- Two implied instances where the participants engaged in oral sex.

In addition:

■ On WB's *Surreal Life*, one contestant's uncontrollable profanity resulted in him using one of the most offensive expletives 20 times in approximately nine sentences. Producers censored the word, but ensured it was still clearly discernible.

■ *America's Next Top Model* viewers saw one participant verbally abuse a religious opponent using 11 words covering half the list of official obscenities, all in one violent tirade.

■ CBS's *Survivor: Amazon* viewers saw multiple instances of pixelated frontal nudity as female contestants sunbathed and attempted to distract the game's male players.

Reality shows on WB and UPN had the worst levels of offensive content; both networks specifically target the youth demographic with their programming.

Although a handful of legitimate and harmless reality shows might exist, the reality boom has spawned a majority of absurd and vapid titles: *Anything for Love*, *Boy Meets Boy*, *But the Sex Is So Good*, *The Littlest Groom*, *Race to the Altar*, *Sex in the Itty Bitty City*, *The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show*, *Wife Swap*.

Cold Turkey follows the drama of 10 chain-smokers who give up cigarettes, while *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* features fashion-in-ept heterosexual men "rescued" from their slobbery by a quintet of homosexuals. The plot line for *Temptation Island* separates an unmarried couple, putting each through a series of sexual temptations in an effort to determine the fidelity of each.

Paving the way for further gender-bending is *He's a Lady*, a series where 11 macho males are told they're competing in a show called *All American Man* and must hurdle a variety of challenges in high-heels and dresses, learning how to behave like a woman and taking part in typically all-female activities. The show culminates with the "heartwarming" climax where the \$250,000 question is asked: "What, as a lady, have you learned about being a man?"



CBS/GETTY IMAGES

We've come a long way from the lies, conniving and betrayal of that original *Survivor*. Now, traits that used to be sole property of the high school jerk have become strategies and strengths of a winner, a *survivor*. Now, what even the most inventive locker-room gutter-mouth has never dreamed of is on at 8/7 central in all its spouse-swapping, backstabbing, gender-crossing, sex-sloshing, mind-numbing glory.

It sounds disgusting and embarrassingly repulsive when presented in a legitimate, thoughtful forum, but for some reason Americans just shake their heads and keep on watching these vile events dance across their television screens.

Nothing Better Than the Real Thing

ARE REALITY SHOWS

simply a candid reflection of the way things actually are? Multiple networks have been directly implicated, accused and even summonsed for skewing certain scenes to create a contrived, out-of-context, more interesting scene in which the characters appear to be racier, more foul-mouthed, more villainous and even sexually active.

- In an interview with cable channel Bravo, *Blind Date* executive producer Jay Renfroe admitted, "We have to assist reality. Reality's boring."
- *Survivor* producer Mark Burnett used body doubles for what he called "beauty shots."
- Pop star Jessica Simpson, upon seeing the final version of her MTV series said that it had gone from something she would have felt comfortable showing her children to PG-13 material.
- Producers commonly show footage out of sequence and with music designed to slant the tone anywhere from tense to romantic.
- Other shows have actually scripted and re-shot certain sequences months later.

Source: *Weekend Magazine*

More Than Just Brain Drain

Reality TV feeds us the things we used to regard with shame, the things our character has always drawn the line at: laughing at others' suffering, peeping in on their intimate thoughts, watching them squirm—and it beams them into our minds and our children's minds in a desperate—and embarrassing—grab for ratings.

This "rubbernecking" syndrome causes a vicious cycle. As each new and extreme concept becomes last week's finale, producers drive themselves to find what will make the newly desensitized public tune in next time. Thus, grosser stunts, racier footage and more blatant innuendos are the order of the day.

What messages are we receiving when we watch this unclean wash of programming? When we see a boyfriend/girlfriend team race against a boyfriend/boyfriend team, we may not suddenly embrace homosexuality, but we are, to some degree, getting acclimated to it. And could it be helping to clear the way for *something else*?

The "issues" used to consist of heated debate over fornication and promiscuity. Then, as society got used to and subsequently accepted young people sleeping around, the "issues" descended to outright adultery and heterosexual perversions. As *those* sins gained exposure, then tolerance, then acceptance, then adoption, the debate began to rage over homosexuality. Then transsexual-ity. Now homosexual marriage.

Mankind's history has been one long cycle of desensitization to new and different perversions—a cycle that began when man chose to rely on his own law rather than God's.

What next?

Will moral spokesmen and "conservatives" soon move on from homosexuality and the other "issues" of today to speak out against the final perverted frontier of bestiality, necrophilia, pedophilia and the few other sins society still considers unacceptable?

Sound alarmist? So did those who claimed that the glamorized sexual promiscuity of the 1970s and even before would lead to the homosexuality, perversions and voyeurism available on your television today.

Instead of laughing at the more obviously deplorable shows until the shock wears off and finding ourselves absent-mindedly watching average people eat spiders and frolic naked on the beach, it's time to take firmer action. It's time to flip the switch and send that sleazy genre with the bad taste back to the backwater. ■

Protect Your Child's Mind

Society's exodus toward immorality will take you and your family with it unless you take strong steps to stop it. **BY FRED DATTOLO**

IT IS SAID THAT THERE ARE three kinds of people in the world—those who *make* things happen, those who *watch* things happen and those who wonder *what happened*.

To survive the onslaught of immorality in mainstream culture, you're going to have to *make* things happen by taking control of your life and those you are responsible for. If you don't, you will be a casualty, and so will your family—to whatever degree you allow the antagonists to infiltrate your domain. It's just that serious, as we shall see.

We need to realize that we are up against more than just a collection of media mavens with subpar moral views. We face an unseen enemy whose ultimate goal is to completely DESTROY God's *family* way of life!

To survive the assault, you must first know what you are fighting. You need to understand who is attacking you and how.

Know the Enemy

The Bible reveals our real enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 warns: "Be sober, be vigilant; because *your adversary the devil*, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." In other words, Satan is a *man-eating* lion, and he preys on the unsuspecting.

One of his favorite strategies is to convince people he doesn't even exist. For example, while close to 90 percent of Americans express belief in God or a higher power, only about 65 percent believe that the *devil* is real. Of those who do believe in a real devil, many are per-

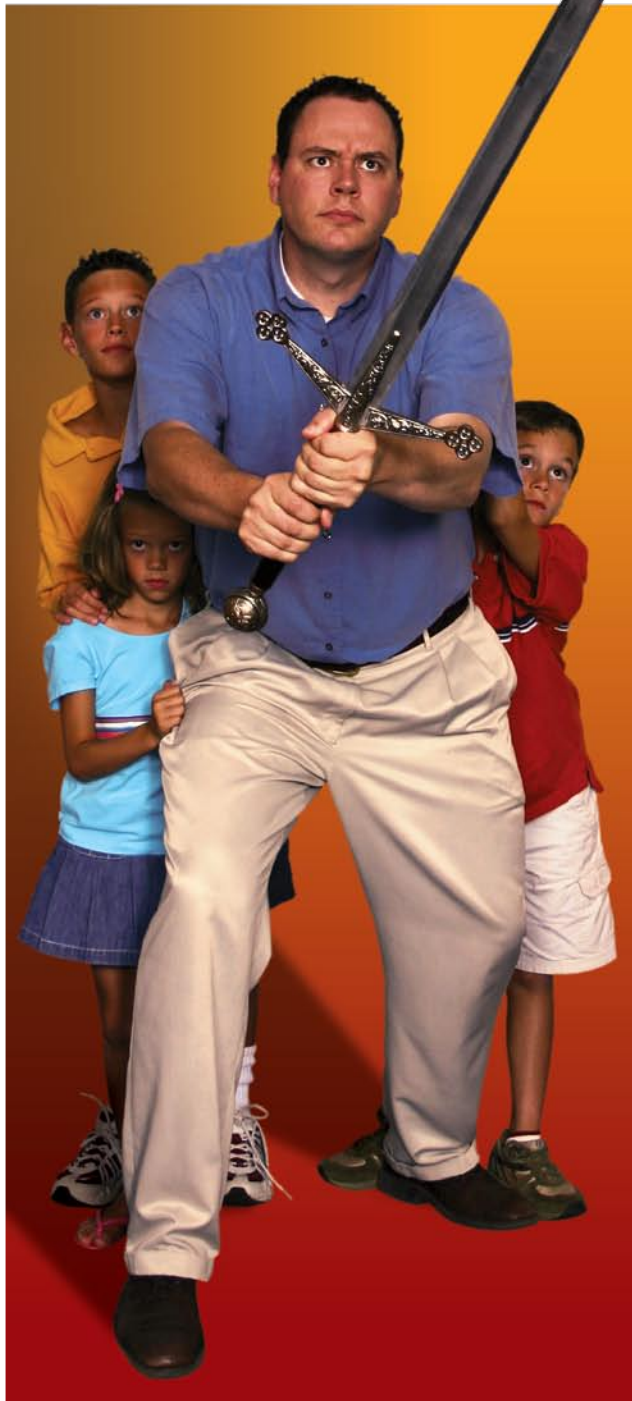
sueded that he has little or no sway over their lives. And that's exactly what he wants *you* to believe: that at most, he's a relatively harmless, cartoon-like annoyance. Most people are oblivious to the vast *power* he wields.

The truth is, God does NOT rule this world; the devil does (John 14:30, New King James Version). In His plan, God has allowed Satan to be the present *god* of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and most people unknowingly worship him! He is the "prince of the *power* of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), and he *broadcasts*.

In all probability, you are right now in a room that is filled with voices and music. A television or radio tuned to the right wavelength would make them audible to you. In similar fashion, Satan broadcasts to the spirit in every human being, which is *automatically* tuned to Satan's wavelength. He stirs the spirits of humans and injects into them such attitudes, moods and impulses as selfishness, vanity, lust, violence, envy, bitterness, and resentment against authority. Since he broadcasts in *attitudes*, you don't hear anything.

People don't recognize where these attitudes, feelings and motives come from because they can't see the invisible devil. Yet they *feel* these impulses and desires. That's how Satan deceives the *whole world* (Revelation 12:9). In essence, the selfish, hostile, deceitful, wicked, rebellious attitude we call human nature is Satan's nature that he broadcasts into unsuspecting minds beginning in early infancy.

Now here is a crucial point! To the extent that those broadcasts are not countered or allowed to penetrate unchecked is the degree that each individual will become more or less evil. This is *vital* knowledge that you need to ponder in order to survive the culture war.



TRUMPET PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Don't Be Duped

In any war, including our personal war against immoral influences, you can know the enemy and how he operates but still be fooled by propaganda. Our enemy the devil is the most *cunning* being that has ever existed (Genesis 3:1, Moffatt). He disguises his ulterior motives very subtly, in ways that sometimes appear or sound righteous! He is a master of *deception*. And those who are deceived DON'T KNOW that they are deceived.

To illustrate, some believe that the culture war is a myth—that it is propagated by extreme viewpoints on both sides that don't reflect the majority's *centrist* positions. We're led to believe there is a "middle way" for those who champion enlightenment and reason but simultaneously acknowledge religious belief and experience. *Let's be more inclusive, tolerate different ideas and expand the "common ground,"* the thinking goes. It sounds noble. But do you know what immediately follows that kind of thinking? Compromise does.

Compromise is classic devil logic.

For example, most Americans believe that homosexuals should be granted civil rights while marriage should remain the union of a man and a woman. Therefore, we legitimize homosexual behavior and still protect the sanctity of marriage. Now there's common ground. But God doesn't walk there! He says homosexuality is an *abomination* that needs to be repented of! (Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:27).

A majority of Americans believe that abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy is not murder but they strongly oppose partial-birth abortion. Again, some solid middle ground to stand on—if you care to walk with the devil. God reveals that abortion is *always* murder (see February *Trumpet* article "Is Abortion Really Murder?").

These examples expose just one classic technique that Satan uses to undermine God's authority. Compromise bolstered by "enlightened" reasoning is a slippery slope that eventually leads to oblivion! It's like the proverbial frog in the kettle. If you throw a frog into a kettle of boiling water, it will immediately jump out. The saying goes, however, that if you put it in the kettle and *gradually* turn the heat up over a period of time until the water boils, it will stay in there until it dies! Western culture is the frog, and we're stewing in Satan's kettle. The water is already boiling!

You and your family, however, can survive the onslaught. Remember: Don't

underestimate how powerful the real enemy is, and don't be duped by his deception and propaganda.

Now you're ready to battle.

Fight to Win

The culture war does not threaten your possessions, but it will rob you of happiness, peace and satisfaction *if* you let it. That's the price you'll pay if you don't fight this war with the purpose of winning it. That means you need to implement effective *strategies*. To do that, you must first know where the main battlefield is.

Don't underestimate how powerful the real enemy is, and don't be duped by his deception and propaganda.

The Apostle James wrote that "every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15). In other words, we must stop wrong thoughts from taking root before they drive us to wrong action—because we *are* what we THINK! (Proverbs 23:7).

The main battlefield is in your mind! Satan knows that very well. That's why he broadcasts to the human spirit—relentlessly. He never rests. Abusive media content is one of his main tools. He uses it to fertilize the mind so that you will more readily accept his evil moods and impulses and allow them to grow until they mature into wrong and destructive actions.

A *vital* important strategy for surviving this war, then, is to GUARD YOUR MIND. The more you allow Satan to engage you on that battlefield, the weaker you will become—the more susceptible to his wiles. He will fool you into thinking that you're strong enough to handle a little bit of wrong thinking—but you cannot entertain evil thoughts in moderation. The key is to *immediately* reject *all* wrong thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5). The more you challenge his advances, the stronger you will become and the less effect he will have on you. "... RESIST the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). THIS IS THE KEY TO SURVIVING THE WAR AGAINST IMMORALITY.

Instead of plopping yourself down in front of the boob tube, for example, use your leisure time to *build your mind*—filling it with good things that will provide *ammunition* in this war (Philippians 4:8). Read a good book, exercise

to stay fit, or take a class to learn about something. (Incidentally, the *Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course* is an excellent way to learn about your Bible! It's a three-year course that we offer absolutely free.) Update your knowledge and skills to be a more valuable employee. Fix things around the house, do some gardening or landscaping and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. Develop a hobby or two, visit the sick, write letters or cheer someone up with a phone call. Volunteer at the local library, zoo or charity. Play games with your children.

Spend time with *them!* There are many better things to do than watch an inordinate amount of TV. You will be *happier* because of it, and so will your children.

The adverse impact on so many children is the greatest tragedy of the culture war. As a parent, you have a responsibility before God to control and monitor your *children's* media exposure too, *especially* when they are very young. The Carnegie Corporation (www.carnegie.org) reports that brain development during the prenatal period and in the first year of life is very rapid and extensive and *much more vulnerable to environmental influences* than previously thought. Those very early experiences have a *long-lasting* impact on a child's brain. If we use television and other media as a babysitter, that content is what will shape their minds! Furthermore, it deprives our children of the love, attention, teaching and discipline they need in order to develop into well-rounded, balanced individuals.

Satan is also aware that young minds are *impressionable*. He strives to mold them in *his* image, which is reflected in much of the teen subculture today! And no wonder. A shocking report disclosed by the Kaiser Family Foundation on March 9 revealed that, on average, children between 8 and 18 years old are absorbing more than eight hours of media exposure *every day* from TV, DVDs, videos, music, computer video games, the Internet and other media sources! ("Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18-year-olds").

As parents, we should be asking ourselves some hard questions. Are we neglecting our responsibilities to our children? Does that cause them to turn

to the media for satisfaction? If so, how vulnerable are they to becoming warped and twisted? Will *they* be victims of the culture war?

You can do a great deal to prevent that from happening. Dad and Mom should be the strongest positive influence in a child's life—not peers, not teachers or coaches, and certainly NOT the media.

Control Media Exposure

Coarse and vulgar media is the devil's number-one method to condition the minds of children to be more susceptible to his broadcasts. Therefore, to be successful in the struggle against immorality, you **MUST** control the media your children are exposed to.

Watching too much TV, for example, stifles brain development. Television has now been linked to attention deficit disorder (ADD). "We can say with confidence that excessive television view-

ing causes neurological damage," said Gloria DeGaetano, CEO of the Parent Coaching Institute. "TV watching causes the brain to slow down, producing a constant pattern of low-frequency brain waves consistent with ADD behavior," she said. "Television viewing may be the number-one culprit of the cause of ADD" (*Washington Times*, Aug. 27, 2003).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under the age of 2 not even be allowed to *watch* television—none AT ALL!

Whenever you do let your young children watch TV, you should watch it *with* them, whenever possible. Even in sanitized shows, you need to be on the lookout for rebellion, disrespect for authority, immorality or indecency, cruelty, intolerance, lying, cheating, rudeness, displays of vanity and so forth. By being closely aware of what your children are viewing, you can offset any bad effects

by teaching them what is not acceptable behavior. If you find that you have to speak so much that you can't enjoy the program, then you shouldn't be exposing your children to it!

For older children, be extremely *selective* in choosing what you allow them to watch or listen to. Avoid programming or music that glamorizes crime, violence, cruelty, illicit sex and vulgar language. Set a good example yourself of what you allow into *your* mind, because actions *do* speak louder than words, and children can detect hypocrisy in a heartbeat! Most importantly, become God-centered in your entertainment choices. Always ask yourself if you would watch or listen to a program if Jesus Christ were sitting right in the room with you.

When it comes to the Internet, be aware of the websites or chat rooms your child is visiting. Ask the child, but also learn how to check the Internet history files on your computer. As the parent, you have the *responsibility* and the **RIGHT** to know what your child is doing on the Internet.

Set up your Internet computer in a public area of the house, like the living room, where its use is a family affair. This way you can monitor what's going on. *Don't* allow your child to be on the Internet in another room behind closed doors. Proverbs 29:15 warns that "a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." The "latchkey" and otherwise unsupervised children of today are easy targets for Satan. The natural curiosity of children can lead them into wrong areas very quickly, and we must protect our children's minds.

Take advantage of password controls when the computer is used. Set the password that allows your computer to boot up. Also, consider purchasing some password-protected Internet security software, or parental-control software, so that offensive material cannot be viewed.

Above all, don't allow TV, the Internet or other media to become a babysitter. Set a *time limit* on how much media exposure you allow. Because we love our children, we must **ESTABLISH RULES** to *protect them* from satanic influences that they don't fully understand. If you don't, it could undermine *everything else* you should be teaching and doing, including the *positive* strategies that follow.

Here is more practical advice to help you insulate your children from pervasive immorality so that they will develop into happy, well-balanced individuals.

Children = Targets

THE FOOD and beverage industries alone spend between \$10 and \$12 billion per year marketing to youth, according to a report from the Institute of Medicine released last September.

The same report revealed that the average child views more than 40,000 TV commercials per year! Young children are obviously not developed enough physically, mentally or emotionally to properly discern commercials that prey on their propensity toward vanity, selfishness, lust or greed. The American Psychological Association recommends that advertising directed to children under 8 years old be restricted. Yet companies, often assisted by developmental psychologists, will exploit children's vulnerabilities and their sensual sensitivities.

The marketing industry has a term it uses called the "nag factor," otherwise known as "pester power." Ads targeted to children that have a high nag factor are more likely to provoke them into nagging or pestering their parent(s) until the parent relents. It is estimated that around \$200 *billion* per year is spent by parents goaded by nagging children. Moreover, a poll conducted in 1999 by the Center for a New American Dream found that over half the parents admitted to buying things for their children that they disapproved of! (While this illustrates the power of children's advertising, it does not excuse the lack of control exhibited by the parents.)

Even schools are affected. About 12,000 schools have marketing deals with Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and other companies through the Channel One Network. The companies give the schools money, supplies and 10 minutes of daily news programming in exchange for the right to advertise their products on the classroom TVs.

Parents need to be aware of the pervasive and powerful influence of advertising targeted to children and work to counter its negative effects through heightened awareness, limited exposure and vigilant teaching.



ISTOCKPHOTO

■ First, remember that Satan is the god of this world and is working to *destroy* the family because he knows that strong traditional families hinder his purpose—to destroy mankind. The culture war is intended to hasten our demise! To protect your children, you must *counter his influence*.

■ Provide good music often for your children and read to them *daily* with animation and voice inflection (studies indicate this even has a beneficial effect while they are still *in the womb*). This will begin to instill a love of reading and music appreciation into their precious minds. It stokes their curiosity and imagination, and enhances bonding between parent and child. It is also a fantastic memory-training technique. As children begin to talk, they will be able to “read” books from memory! Continue reading to them aloud as they grow older.



EVERETT

■ Teach your toddlers to respect *authority*, especially yours. Discipline them *appropriately* for their age—for rebellion and infractions of rules that you have taught them. And always do this calmly, with explanation and love, *never* in an outburst of rage.

■ Spend a lot of time *playing* with your toddler. Provide toys that stimulate creativity and develop motor skills. Discovery Toys, for example, is one company that produces quality toys that focus on learning.

■ Have *fun* with your young children. Take them to the library, the park, the zoo. Make them *laugh* a lot. Above all, leave no doubt in their mind that you *love* them and that you are willing to *sacrifice* your time for *them*.

■ Teach young children to be *responsible*. Build a good work ethic in them. As soon as they are physically able, require them to help you with household duties and chores. For example, make them responsible for keeping their rooms organized and tidy. If you have pets, give your child the responsibility to feed and care for them. Whenever possible, home improvement, gardening, landscaping and other household projects should be *family* affairs.



ISTOCKPHOTO

■ Be *honest* with them. They must learn to *trust* you. If you want them to be honest and open with you, especially as they grow older, you have a better chance of securing their trust if they know you are *always* candid with them.

■ Teach your children about *sex*. You need to start teaching them as soon as little minds *begin* to become curious about little bodies. Most importantly, make sure you stay ahead of the gutter-talk they will be exposed to from their peers. Our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex* can help you do this. It is available upon request.

■ Apply these principles *before* your children go to school so you build a strong foundation of parental *respect*. By the time they go to school, your children should be convinced that you are

A Warning



TRUMPET

VIOLENT VIDEO games may be even more destructive to a child’s mind than television.

Instead of simply *receiving* images of death and suffering in a passive way, game users actually *push the button* that inflicts death and suffering.

If that sounds far-fetched to you, think again. The U.S. Army has long sought ways to train reluctant soldiers to kill. After trying various methods, it found that one of the *most effective* tools in training a soldier to kill is to put him in front of a large TV screen with a hand-held plastic assault rifle and put a game up on the screen. That’s right. The U.S. Army uses computer games to train its soldiers to kill, and Nintendo is one of the companies that supplies it with the technology to do so!

Furthermore, studies published in the *Journal of Adolescence* in 2004 on the effects of violent video games on children show that teenagers who play the more-violent video games are more likely to be involved in fights, argue with teachers, get poor grades, have stronger pro-violent attitudes and exhibit lower levels of empathy.

their rock-solid provider, confidant, nurturer and protector. They should know that they are fully *loved* and fully *secure* under your care.

■ When your children *do* go to school, don’t relinquish your position as the most important influence in their life. Continue to be heavily *involved* with your children. Become familiar with their teachers and friends. Participate as much as possible in school activities. Every day, rehearse and review with them what they were taught. If necessary, be prepared to *counter* any wrong teaching.

■ As they start into their teen years, make sure they stay very busy. Encourage them to excel in school and to participate in sports; music programs such as band or choir; and computer, language or chess clubs. In addition, cultivate their *interests*. Help them to develop hobbies such as photography, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, gardening, woodworking, building model cars, planes or trains. If time and grades allow, a part-time job would help them learn to handle responsibilities in the world of work and prepare them for the “real” world. Overall, keep them *busy* with fun and wholesome activities!



ART TODAY

■ Stay involved with your children as much as possible and keep the lines of *communication* open with your teens. This is of paramount importance. You need to know what they are thinking about. And they need to know that they can confide in you about anything. Provide opportunities to simply talk about whatever is on their minds—*daily* family meal time and a weekly family fun night are ideal. Ensure that you carve out that time for them!

■ Above all else, teach your children from infancy the correct truth about God, His law, way of life and moral authority. Teach them to pray daily as soon as they can speak.

God reveals that “My people are **DESTROYED** for *lack of [spiritual] knowledge*: because thou hast *rejected* knowledge, I will also reject thee ... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, **I WILL ALSO FORGET THY CHILDREN**” (Hosea 4:6). Sobering, *prophetic* words, those are. If you allow it, the spoils of the culture war will be your children. On the other hand, if you do these things, you will survive the onslaught of immorality, and so will your children. ■

MODERN EDUCATION IS the *core reason* behind the troubles and chaos that inflict mankind.

Our lives depend on the *leadership* of other men and women. The quality of a person's leadership is largely determined by the quality of his or her education. Weak leadership, the result of poor education, has brought mankind to the brink of destruction.

Modern education is the root cause of the wars, violence, family division, sexual perversion, juvenile delinquency, crime, psychological illness and racial strife that plague our nations.

Man has more knowledge than ever, but also more troubles and problems!

From the beginning of mankind, the educational systems of this world have disseminated and perpetuated false values and ideologies, distorted histories, perverted psychology, arts and humanities, and nation-destroying political lies and propaganda. The application of this wrong knowledge is behind all the troubles that inflict mankind.

Universities in particular have become successful in misleading and distorting the minds of students—the future leaders of societies and nations.

Today's colleges are failing in two primary ways: 1) what they are teaching and 2) how they are teaching it. Not only are college students feeding on a dangerous mixture of truth and error, they are being instructed in entirely the wrong way.

College campuses have become the virulent breeding ground for destructive thought. The corridors of today's universities are thick with an atmosphere of immorality, moral ambiguity and rabid secularism. Unless radical changes occur soon, this facet of modern education will thrust greater troubles upon mankind, specifically the Western world.

Cesspools of Liberalism

Ben Shapiro, a recent graduate from the University of California, authored a book highlighting the extent to which America's universities indoctrinate students in the tenets of liberalism. The content of the book is not only shocking, it's powerfully condemning!

"For years, the university system has brainwashed its students to believe fervently in the tenets of liberalism. The universities accept into their waiting clutches young, open-minded students ready to learn," Shapiro wrote. "From race to the environment, from religion

Today's universities educate tomorrow's leaders. By looking at the present state of America's higher education, we can glimpse the nation's future.

By at least one measure, it doesn't look bright.

The Ailing State of American Universities

BY BRAD MACDONALD

to sex, from the war on terror to the Arab-Israeli conflict, universities push a never-ending line of liberal claptrap. *The higher education system indoctrinates America's youth* (Brainwashed, 2004; emphasis mine throughout).

Regarding the barrage of left-leaning (not to mention immoral and ideologically unsound) classes that have crept

into college curricula, Roger Kimball said, "With a few notable exceptions, our *most prestigious* liberal arts colleges and universities have installed the entire radical menu at the center of their humanities curriculum Every special interest—women's studies, black studies, gay studies and the like—and every modish interpretative gambit—deconstruction,



PHOTO: JISIC

post-structuralism, new historicism ... has found a welcome roost in the academy, while the traditional curriculum and modes of intellectual inquiry are excoriated as sexist, racist or just plain reactionary” (*Tenured Radicals*, 1998).

Descriptions of some of the courses offered at colleges across America cement Kimball’s point.

The Washington-based Young America’s Foundation regularly publishes “Comedy and Tragedy,” a report listing hundreds of immoral, secularist and politically corrupt courses offered by colleges around the nation.

In the introduction to its 2003-2004 report, the authors noted the following: “The ninth year of this study finds that

academic standards continue to deteriorate. Students are offered more and more bizarre and biased courses that reflect the narrow ideology of liberal professors. Courses in which the faculty imposes its views on race, sex, economics, history and politics are *not only proliferating, but are increasingly becoming requirement to receive degrees.*” Hold on to your seats as we review a few of the courses offered.

Yale University offers Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies: “A study of works that have as their theme gay and lesbian experience and identity in the 20th-century United States.”

The University of Michigan offers How to be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation: “Just because you happen to be a gay man doesn’t mean that you don’t have to learn how to become one.” As if the pervading pro-homosexual atmosphere on college campuses isn’t enough of an “education.”

Bucknell University offers Witchcraft and Politics: “Explores witchcraft, spirit possession, and cults of the dead [as] idioms of power and as vehicles for protest, resistance, and violent social change.”

For sci-fi buffs, Georgetown University offers Philosophy and *Star Trek*. “*Star Trek* is very philosophical. What better way, then, to learn philosophy, than to watch *Star Trek*, read philosophy, and hash it all out in class?” Is this not ludicrous? Not only is studying *Star Trek* a clear dumbing down of academic standards; the fact that students will “hash it all out in class” indicates an atmosphere of intellectual and philosophical ambiguity.

While instruction about the failed history of Marxism and its negative effects on nations is worthwhile instruction in a college history class, the *promotion* of this disastrous political ideology should never occur. Not so, according to many prominent colleges around the nation. Courses with a distinctly pro-Marxist agenda are currently offered at universities such as Brown, Cornell, Princeton, Duke and on and on the list goes. Amherst College even offers Taking Marx Seriously, while the University of California at Santa Barbara offers Black Marxism.

Titles of a few other classes include: Interpreting the Queer Past (UC-Berkeley), The Media and Aggression Against Women (UCLA), Practicing Feminism: A Study of Political Activism (Williams College), Feminist Biblical Interpretation (Harvard) and Backgrounds of Homoerotic Literature (Rutgers).

Meanwhile, as America's colleges and universities teem with unsound and perverted courses, the more worthwhile and factually and historically relevant courses are becoming more sparse.

"The increased number of such courses and the decline of traditional studies rob students of a quality education, *even at so-called elite schools*" (ibid.). The report went on to list the following facts:

- Of the seniors at the top 55 colleges and universities in the United States, only 23 percent could identify James Madison as the father of the Constitution.
- Forty percent of the students could not identify the correct 50-year time period in which the Civil War was fought.

Renowned historian David McCullough stated before a panel of U.S. senators in April 2003, "When you have students at our Ivy League colleges saying they thought Germany and Japan were our allies in World War II, you know we've got a very serious problem."

The fact is, today's college students choose from a smorgasbord of ethically vague, morally corrupt, secularist

enced by the faculty under whom they study. Tomorrow's world is being shaped, to a very large extent, by today's teachers.

Facts exposing the sharp shift to the left that has occurred among faculty at American colleges were highlighted in a striking article titled "Politics and Professional Advancement Among College Faculty" earlier this year. "It appears that, over the course of 15 years, self-described liberals grew from a slight plurality to a 5 to 1 majority on college faculties," the article said (Berkeley Electronic Press, *The Forum*, Volume 3, Issue 1).

In a 1984 Carnegie study, 39 percent of professors identified themselves as liberals. In a 1999 North American Academic Study Survey, this number was 72 percent; only 15 percent of the faculty members classified themselves as conservatives, down from 34 percent in 1984.

Liberal instructors dominate the faculties of American universities; college faculties are *four times* more liberal than the general public. Notice some of their embarrassing antics.

Ward Churchill is a popular tenured professor at the University of Colorado. He earns thousands of dollars to speak

were not dissimilar to the kind of propaganda produced by militant Islamists.

Prof. Richard Sklar of the University of California–Los Angeles, speaking to his political science class, "described socialism as a 'great idea' and Communist dictator Mao Tse-Tung as a 'great leader'" (Shapiro, op. cit.). Mao was one of the greatest murderers in history; he killed more than 40 million people.

Discussing pedophilia, Prof. Harris Mirkin of the University of Missouri is on record as stating, "Though Americans consider intergenerational sex to be evil, it has been permissible or obligatory in many cultures and periods of history" (*New York Times*, April 30, 2002). Notice the use of the term "intergenerational sex" to soften his proposition that pedophilia has been around for a long time and is not as evil as most Americans deem it to be.

Bruce Rind, assistant professor of psychology at Temple University, concurs with Mirkin, writing, in conjunction with several co-authors, in a 1998 study that "negative effects on children who had sex with adults or were coerced into sexual activity with someone their own age *'were neither pervasive nor typically intense*, and that men reacted much less negatively than women'" (*Kansas City Star*, April 1, 2002). An unmistakable movement to legitimize pedophilia pervades many American universities.

Sexual promiscuity is promoted by faculty at most universities. Deemed to be part of the university experience, any kind of sex with any number of partners is encouraged by many college instructors.

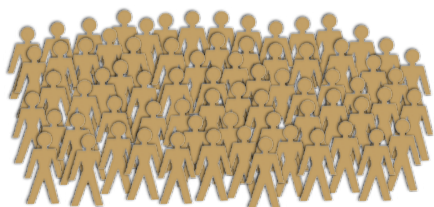
"At UC–Berkeley, they have all sorts of naughty fun in class. One course ... concerning male sexuality made national headlines. All the students in the co-ed class publicly discussed their sexual fantasies. Porn stars guest lectured. ... During another class assignment, students went to a gay strip club ..."

(Shapiro, op. cit.). At Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, Prof. Susan Scotto teaches students how to strip in her stripping course. The mother of two strips at local bars in her spare time.

For the final assignment of Prof. Hope Weissman's 1999-2000 pornography and politics course at Wesleyan University, students were told to "create your own work of pornography." Students presented their assignments to the

Who Is Left?

Across America, liberal professors outnumber conservatives five to one. Just 20 years ago, their numbers were almost equal.



Liberal Professors **72%**



Conservative Professors **15%**

I'll Take That

A collection of some of the strange classes you can take at America's most prestigious colleges and universities.

Philosophy and Star Trek Georgetown University

How to be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation University of Michigan

Witchcraft and Politics Bucknell University

Taking Marx Seriously Amherst College

Black Marxism UC-Santa Barbara

Interpreting the Queer Past UC-Berkeley

The Media and Aggression Against Women UCLA

Practicing Feminism: A Study of Political Activism Williams College

Feminist Biblical Interpretation Harvard

Backgrounds of Homoerotic Literature Rutgers

and politically warped courses but are starved of a large selection of historically accurate, factually correct, ethical and morally sound classes. Dangerous liberal thought is running rampant and unchecked throughout America's system of higher education.

Liberal Faculty

Throughout their college careers, students' minds are predominantly influ-

enced by the faculty under whom they study. Tomorrow's world is being shaped, to a very large extent, by today's teachers. Facts exposing the sharp shift to the left that has occurred among faculty at American colleges were highlighted in a striking article titled "Politics and Professional Advancement Among College Faculty" earlier this year. "It appears that, over the course of 15 years, self-described liberals grew from a slight plurality to a 5 to 1 majority on college faculties," the article said (Berkeley Electronic Press, *The Forum*, Volume 3, Issue 1). In a 1984 Carnegie study, 39 percent of professors identified themselves as liberals. In a 1999 North American Academic Study Survey, this number was 72 percent; only 15 percent of the faculty members classified themselves as conservatives, down from 34 percent in 1984. Liberal instructors dominate the faculties of American universities; college faculties are *four times* more liberal than the general public. Notice some of their embarrassing antics. Ward Churchill is a popular tenured professor at the University of Colorado. He earns thousands of dollars to speak

class via self-made video or, if they so wished, live in front of the class!

Sexual perversion of every form saturates America's colleges and universities. The sex lives of thousands of America's college students are made available to the world through thousands of pornographic websites. People from around the globe are logging on to watch the sex antics occurring within America's colleges!

The faculty members of America's universities become responsible for the education of our young people after parents pack them off to college. Instead of equipping their young, malleable minds with the tools and an education that will assist them in building a stronger nation and a better world, our college faculties are **HANDICAPPING** today's students—the leaders of tomorrow's world.

To make matters worse, the structure and operation of college administrations facilitates the indoctrination of youth. Take the academic tenure system, for example. University professors are offered tenure upon fulfilling certain criteria, granting them the right not to be fired without justifiable cause. Originally designed to protect the academic freedom of professors, the tenure system has been corrupted to the point where universities are now filled with hard-core liberal professors with the "academic freedom" to design and teach distorted, morally corrupt and politically warped ideology.

Not 200 years ago, Ward Churchill would have been arrested as a traitor for speaking against his nation as he does; today he is embraced by students and faculty and paid thousands of dollars to speak his divisive and nation-destroying words.

Under the stewardship of college faculty, a diet of anti-American, morally bankrupt and sexually perverted intellectualism is being funneled into the naive and vulnerable minds of today's college students.

The World's Greatest Need

The educational institutions, especially the colleges and universities, have never before been in such dire states.

"In many ways, things have never been worse. All those radical trends that got going [in universities and colleges] in the 1960s and gained steam in the 1970s and 1980s are now so thoroughly entrenched that they are simply taken for granted" (*Wall Street Journal*, May 11). Modern education is in critical condition!

TRUE EDUCATION IS THIS WORLD'S GREATEST NEED!

This whole world needs to come to realize that the **RIGHT** kind of **EDUCATION** is essential to achieving **TRUE SUCCESS** and happiness in life. You need to understand that **TRUE EDUCATION** will not only bring material, physical success, but that it will foster lasting emotional and spiritual success in your life.

The foundational elements of true education are **REVEALED SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE** and development of **RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER**.

Read Proverbs 9:10 in your Bible to see that true education requires not only acknowledgement of God, but acceptance of His revealed knowledge as the foundation of all knowledge: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding" (New King James Version). True understanding and education begins with revealed knowledge from God—the "Holy one."

Right education is grounded in God's law and revealed spiritual knowledge.

God identifies the fundamental cause of the failure of mankind's educational institutions in Hosea 4:6: "My people are

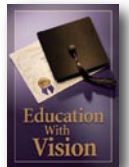
destroyed for lack of knowledge: *because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*"

Knowledge about God and His laws cannot be found in today's universities and colleges. His very existence has been invalidated by the theory of evolution.

This is the reason behind the failure of modern education, and the subsequent failure of mankind.

Only upon learning and embracing the **REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD** can mankind ever remove the troubles and problems that plague this world and experience the eternal fruits of **TRUE EDUCATION**.

To learn more about what it means to be truly educated, request your free copy of ***Education With Vision***.



Moral Relativism

Moral relativism is the belief that defining right and wrong is an individual and personal choice. Denying the presence of absolute law, this ideology teaches that every decision is a matter of personal feeling.

Moral relativism means that adultery, for example, is not objectively wrong. While I may believe that adultery is wrong and that it destroys marriages, you are entitled to believe it is right and strengthens a marriage. The same reasoning applies for murder, stealing, pedophilia and every other facet of human life. With this ideology, there is no absolute definition of right and wrong—only what you *perceive* to be right and wrong.

This distorted principle has made great inroads into our universities. Created by secularists, moral relativism is a by-product of the evolutionist theory, which itself permeates university culture, especially the sciences. By denying the existence of God, the theory of evolution sowed the seeds of moral relativism. If there is no God, secularists reason, then there is no absolute law.

Using moral relativism as their weapon, liberal secularists can destroy any absolute law they desire. Even the laws that govern society can be destroyed. Most people recognize that American law, ideology and morals are essentially governed by Judeo-Christian belief in the Ten Commandments. Since there is no God, according to secularists, then all we have are Ten Suggestions; there is no law. With no absolute laws, defining right and wrong is a strictly personal matter.

This is why Ward Churchill, Harris Mirkin and other secularist faculty members can espouse such ideologies as anti-Americanism and pedophilia. If a person doesn't believe in absolute law, then he or she is not required to believe that pedophilia is wrong. Moral relativism destroys the law that defines right and wrong, moral and immoral.

These are a few examples of the immorality and moral relativism that pervade our universities. The idea that it is the individual's responsibility to decide right and wrong is firmly entrenched in the minds of today's university students.



The Critics Vs. Moses

Critics claim that Moses's books are clever forgeries.
Here is our answer to the critics. BY DENNIS LEAP

MOSSES WAS AHEAD OF HIS time. So far advanced, in fact, that Bible critics suppose and teach that he did not write the first five books of the Bible.

Liberal Christians and theologians believe that *many* authors wrote the first five books of the Bible—and centuries apart from each other. Critics believe that *supposed* later writers simply assigned Moses's name to the books bearing his name. Their conclusion: Moses's writings are a manufactured forgery.

We heartily disagree with the critics. Who is right: us or the critics?

All men and women must face the truth about Moses and the books he wrote down for us. Why? The truth, when fully known, shows Moses was actually ahead of *our* times.

Why make such a big deal about Mosaic authorship? Isn't paying attention to the *content* of the books more important? The fact is, Moses's authorship matters. The Bible claims to be a book of truth. In Psalms it is written: "Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psalms 119:160). We must hold this kind of faith about the Bible. All of it is true—even its most ancient parts. Any question about Moses's authorship shatters the credibility of

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. If the one man—Moses—did not record this very foundation of the Bible, the entire Bible is subject to question. Why? Both Old and New Testament writers affirm that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. If he did not, the Bible is not true.

Where would such a scenario leave us? There could be no spiritual *absolute* to guide the human experience. Men would be at liberty to decide on their own what is spiritual—what is right and wrong. Satan knows this. The critics know it. So must we.

Moses Under Attack

It was the Jewish philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) who introduced the idea that Ezra wrote the Pentateuch in the fourth century B.C., approximately 1,000 years after

Moses's death. Spinoza thought it was a *possibility* that Moses drafted some parts of the Pentateuch.

Yet, he reasoned the books we see today *must* be attributed to Ezra, along with the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings.

Why? Spinoza was also one of the first men to claim that the Bible was merely the product of human spiritual development—starting from very primitive beginnings. He believed that there was no divine involvement with it. According to Spinoza, Moses and others would not have

had the spiritual maturity necessary to author the books we have today.

Spinoza's thinking drew a violent reaction. He was excommunicated from Judaism and was forced to leave Amsterdam.

Although Spinoza never systematized or clarified his conclusions, French physician Jean Astruc (1684-1766) did. Astruc believed that Moses used two parallel sources and 10 other fragments—written prior to his time—to draft Genesis and the first two chapters of Exodus. Following Astruc's logic, since the writers of these sources and fragments are unknown, Moses was a plagiarist. It was Astruc who first floated the theory that the two primary sources used by Moses refer to God differently. According to Astruc, one source uses the Hebrew word *Elohim*, and the other, *YHWH*.

Astruc published his theories anonymously in 1753. His publication drew intense opposition. Yet a few scholars attached high value to his conclusions.

Documentary Hypothesis

Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918), a German Semitic scholar and professor of theology, gave full momentum to Astruc's speculations. Wellhausen's name is associated with the Graf-Wellhausen theory, or the "documentary hypothesis." He wanted to prove that the Pentateuch and the book of Joshua were added to significantly by priestly canonizers under Ezra at the time of the second temple. Wellhausen believed that their purpose was to perpetuate a lie that Moses authored the first five books of the Bible and that there was a place of central worship in Israel—first with the tabernacle (tent) and later Solomon's temple. According to Wellhausen, there never was a tabernacle. No divine revelation took place at Sinai. Moses, if he existed, considered God to be a local thunder or mountain god.

Wellhausen published his theory in 1875. His unusual work was well received and soon considered *gospel* by



Michelangelo's
Moses

scholars! Using almost 5,000 textual references covering the entire Old Testament, Wellhausen alleged that four major documents could be identified in the Pentateuch. Each had a unique character. According to Wellhausen, even though these sources were expertly woven together, they could be traced throughout the books. He relied heavily on his forerunners' ideas. The earliest document was named *J*, taken from the first letter of $\Upsilon\text{H}\text{V}\text{H}$ (*J* corresponds with *Y* in the German). The next supposed source was named *E*, taken from the name *Elohim*. The third document was named *D*, referring to Deuteronomy; Wellhausen believed that King Josiah (seventh century B.C.) was the first to circulate this account of the final days of Moses. The last source was named *P*, for priestly code, which is chiefly concerned with descriptions of rituals and ceremonies. This code supposedly was developed by Ezra and the priests under him. Documentary theorists who came after Wellhausen added another source—*R* for Redactor, meaning *drafter*.

Essentially, Wellhausen conducted a highly prejudiced stylistic analysis of the Old Testament. It defies sane logic.

Here's how one *supportive* essay described the theory: "It is not a simple matter of one book being written by *J*, another by *E* and a third by *P*. The three accounts are so interleaved that any one book may have several sources. For example, in the story of the deluge, Genesis 7:1-5 and 7 are *J*, 8-9 are *P*, 10 is *J*, 13-16a are *P*, 16b-20 are *J*. To complicate matters more, the 'Redactor,' *R*, who carried out this remarkable scissors-and-paste work, puts in a line of his own at intervals! *E* appears for the first time in Genesis 20:1-18, the story of Abimelech. Of course, the entire book of Deuteronomy is *D* (but with possible editing by *P*!)" (Walter Murfin and David Beck, "The Bible: A True and Accurate Account of Creation?" 1998).

Let's be honest: Isn't it more *reasonable* to believe that Moses authored the books?

Influenced by Evolution

Wellhausen was a man greatly influenced by the times in which he lived. Darwin's theory of evolution had been quickly assimilated into most fields of study. Study of the Bible did not escape.

The philosopher Georg Hegel (1770-1831) had had a major impact on German

and European culture. Hegel believed that all history reflects the development from lower to progressively higher stages. German rationalists had declared there could be no such thing as divine revelation—that all knowledge comes through human reason. It is clear that Darwin, Hegel and German rationalism dominate Wellhausen's work. Looking at Bible history, Wellhausen attempted to prove that Israel's religion followed an evolutionary process from paganism to monotheism. For Wellhausen, it was the *monotheists* of Ezra's time that pulled off the forgery in the Pentateuch—a cleansing of history, so to speak. He believed his distorted view was the true history of Israel. Unfortunately, Wellhausen's hypothesis dominated Old Testament studies for an entire generation in Germany, England and America. Many young people investigating the Old Tes-



When a source book is used in the Bible, we are told the source. Nothing is hidden.

tament fell under his influence.

Conservative scholars and archaeologists such as William F. Albright have credibly attacked Wellhausen's theories. (We'll show how archaeology proves the Bible true in a future article.) Yet many scholars taken in by the theory have ignored proven facts in disagreement with their pet ideas. Shockingly, in some circles, the Wellhausen tradition remains very much alive. Gleason L. Archer, a professor of Old Testament studies, wrote: "In England and the United States ... the rule of Wellhausen continues more or less supreme in most nonconservative schools and makes its influence felt in many of the more or less conservative schools of the old-line denominations. Therefore we must treat the documentary theory as still a live issue today even though liberal scholarship on the European continent has administered well-nigh fatal blows to nearly all its foundations" (*A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*).

Archer's comment gives us a real study in human nature. The Wellhausen theory is false, just as evolution is false, yet people still cling to it. What is it about mankind that causes us to hold on to cherished beliefs even when proven false? Jesus Christ gives us the answer: "[M]en loved darkness rather

than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Defending Moses

Let's make several points clear. First, there is no question that scribal additions were made to the Pentateuch. However, we need to emphasize that the scribal additions were made to *clarify* certain points of geography, culture or history—not to palm off an incredible forgery. Here is one example: Chapter 34 of Deuteronomy was obviously added to the end of the book. Why? Moses could not have recorded the *historic* events of his own burial and the mourning of the children of Israel. Jewish traditions tell us that Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezra more than likely added certain details to the Pentateuch and the other older books to help us understand the Bible more clearly.

It is also true that source documents were consulted by Bible writers. Genesis 5 was clearly taken from genealogical records kept from the time of Adam (Genesis 5:1). In 2 Samuel 1:18, Saul's son Jonathan's skill with a bow was taken from the book of Jasher. The events of David's life recorded in Chronicles were taken from source books written by Samuel, Nathan and Gad—all prophets (1 Chronicles 29:29). When a source book is used in the Bible, we are told the source. Nothing is hidden. In fact, there are at least 16 references to source books in the Bible (see sidebar, page 34).

However, to stretch these facts into a fantastical theory of intentional forgery is preposterous!

History shows that Moses was one of the most educated men of his day. Luke, recording Stephen's defense before the Jewish council of elders, wrote, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds" (Acts 7:22). God had worked out events so that Moses escaped slaughter as a baby. He then worked it out so he was given the best education necessary for his important role—the welder of Israel into a nation. Living among Egyptian royalty, Moses certainly was taught math and science, along with the creative arts and culture of Egypt. Josephus shows us that Moses was a skilled military general. He was definitely not a caveman scratching out some narrow existence.

Mighty in Words

Stephen specifically mentioned that Moses was *mighty in words*. This means Moses had the talent to write powerfully. Some silly scholars have advanced the idea that writing was not known to the *ancient* Hebrews. Yet 20th-century archaeological discoveries show that the Hebraic peoples knew about writing well in advance of Moses.

The truth is, Moses’s writing forever changed the face of the world’s view of religion. Moses did not absorb the idea of monotheism from the ancient religious cultures around him. Under the direct inspiration of God, Moses made a clean break from paganism.

In Genesis 10 and 11, Moses shows how the world had been corrupted by paganism. In these two chapters, he recounts the history of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel. Decades after the Flood of Noah’s time, it was Nimrod who taught men to turn from God and worship the creation rather than the Creator. Moses shows how, beginning with Abraham, the progenitor of Israel, the worship of the one true God was renewed and kept alive (Genesis 12-50). The book of Genesis is the only source book left us of this important history of the patriarchs. Exodus shows how God used Moses to bring His people out of slavery and paganism. Leviticus represents the establishment of true worship of the true God. Numbers is a journal of the Israelites’ promised potential and the reasons they failed to attain it. Deuteronomy is a record of Israel’s final training to become the single greatest nation on Earth. This book contains a history lesson of the Israelites’ failure and prophecy of their future success. In the very near future, the physical descendants of ancient Israel will fulfill the purpose God intended for them. All the nations of this Earth will be taught to look to their example by the *returned* Jesus Christ.

Moses’s writings have been the model for nation-building from their very beginning. Who can seriously doubt the powerful influence of Moses’s works? In the Pentateuch, Moses provides groundbreaking information on a full range of subjects necessary for national well-being. He addresses diet and other health

matters such as sanitation and quarantine. He describes in detail how to preserve marriage and families—the backbone of nations. He established a legal system that protected individuals’ rights. It was the first of its kind! Our modern legal system of judges comes from Moses. Moses’s writings directly influenced the Magna Carta and the U.S. Constitution. It is from Moses that we derive our concept of the *rule of law*.

Here is the point: Moses’s writings have cast a huge shadow into our time.

Josiah’s Lesson

Wellhausen believed King Josiah authored the book of Deuteronomy. This is clearly false. There is a vital lesson we must learn from the life of Josiah. As king, he could never have introduced a *new* book of the law at that time. Why?

Study the history in 2 Kings 21-24 and 2 Chronicles 33-35. Josiah’s grandfather was the evil King Manasseh. This king re-introduced paganism into Judah to a degree far worse than any of his ancestors. 2 Kings records: “For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared

up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger. ... Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel” (2 Kings 21:3-6, 9). Manasseh allowed much evil in Judah; he was the cause of the eventual destruction of Jerusalem, and of Judah’s captivity to Babylon decades later (verses 11-12; 2 Kings 23:26-27). As a punishment for his heinous crimes, God allowed Manasseh to be taken captive to Babylon by Asserhaddon (2 Chronicles 33:11).

Of course, the nation of Judah was subject to Assyrian oppression at the same time. Even though Manasseh repented of his idolatrous lifestyle in old age, most of Judah *embraced* paganism (verses 12-13).

Josiah’s father, Amon, continued in Manasseh’s evil lifestyle. After he reigned just two years, his own servants assassinated him (verses 21-24). Judah’s leaders then put Josiah on the throne. He was only 8 when he ascended the throne. He received a nation in shambles. His grandfather had outlawed the national worship taught in Leviticus. Manasseh had even martyred those who had opposed him (2 Kings 21:16).

Considering the lawless state of the nation, it would have been unimaginable for such a young king to implement some *unknown* law. Yet Josiah set in motion a program of massive reforms in Judah. Under his reign, Judah blazed in one final burst of glory. How did he do this? He implemented an already *existing* book of the law—the Pentateuch.

Book of the Covenant

Under Manasseh and Amon, Solomon’s temple had fallen

Lost Books

Bible authors referred to source material when they wrote their manuscripts. Below are books referenced in the Old Testament that have since been lost.

The Book of the Wars of the Lord	Numbers 21:14
The Book of Yashar the Upright	Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18
The Records of the Chronicles of King David	1 Chronicles 27:24
The Words of Nathan the Prophet	1 Chronicles 29:29
The Words of Gad the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
The Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite	2 Chronicles 9:29
The Visions of Iddo the Seer	2 Chronicles 9:29; 12:15
The Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah	1 Chronicles 9:1; 2 Chronicles 27:7; 35:27; 36:8
The Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel	2 Chronicles 16:11; 25:26; 28:26; 32:32
The Book of the Kings of Israel	2 Chronicles 20:34; 33:18
The Decree of David, King of Israel, and the Decree of Solomon His Son	2 Chronicles 35:4
The Words of Samuel the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
The Words of Shemaiah the Prophet	2 Chronicles 12:15
The Words of Jehu the son of Hanani	2 Chronicles 20:34
The Deeds of Uzziah by Isaiah the Prophet	2 Chronicles 26:22; 32:32
The Chronicles of Hozai (Seers)	2 Chronicles 33:19

into disrepair. In the 18th year of his reign, Josiah set about to repair the temple. During the renovation, Hilkiah, the high priest at the time, found “the book of the law in the house of the Lord” (2 Kings 22:8). This is an important fact. It is not by coincidence that Hilkiah found the book in the temple. In fact, he most likely found it in the holy of holies. Why? Moses had directed the Levites to keep the five books he authored with the ark of the covenant. Study Deuteronomy 31:24-26. Hilkiah found a copy of Moses’s books that had been originally given to the Levites. Hilkiah’s “book of the law” was not some new book drafted by Josiah.

Hilkiah made sure the law was given to Josiah. “And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest . . . Go ye, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us” (2 Kings 22:11-13). Josiah took immediate action after hearing Moses’s words.

One of Josiah’s first acts was to renew the covenant established at Sinai. He gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to the temple. He had *all the words of the book of the covenant* read to the people present (2 Chronicles 34:30). He then required the people to agree to obey God according to the law (verse 32). Josiah re-instituted the sacrificial system and, beginning with the Passover, re-established the keeping of the levitical holy days (Leviticus 23). He turned the whole nation back to God. “Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord. And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him” (2 Kings 23:24-25).

Josiah used a well-established code of law and system of worship to revive

Judah. Josiah did not originate the law; he merely implemented it. His accomplishments are truly inspiring. They show what can be achieved when men believe the revelation God has given and apply it.

Wellhausen attempted to prove that Israel never had a central system of worship until the time of Josiah. How absurd! Moses recorded God’s requirements for a place of central worship in Israel in Deuteronomy 12. Joshua built such a place at Mount Ebal, just north of Shechem (Joshua 8:30). This great man



Moses established a legal system that protected individuals’ rights. It was the first of its kind!

of God did exactly as Moses instructed (Deuteronomy 27:1-8). Study these verses carefully. Joshua’s altar was no insignificant, tiny place. The altar itself was massive—written on it were all the words of the first five books of the Bible. All nations could read what God had revealed!

Let’s not forget that at the time of Eli and Samuel, Shiloh was a new center of worship for the nation. Samuel’s family went to Shiloh to worship (1 Samuel 1:3).

This is no dull, boring study. It is thrilling history *and* prophecy. The modern-day descendants of ancient Israel are soon to experience a Josiah-like reform. How will it be accomplished? The modern nations of Israel will be given a right understanding of the books of Moses.

Daniel Affirms Moses

Does the Pentateuch apply to us today? Does it really factor into our future? A right understanding of Daniel leads us to an emphatic *yes* to both questions. Yet Daniel is the second-most scrutinized section of the Bible after the Pentateuch. Why? The detailed and accurate prophecies contained in the book have caused both believer and skeptic alike to adhere to the theory the book is from a time later than the sixth century B.C. Many believe that Daniel was most likely written at the time of the Maccabees—168 to 165 B.C. The most vicious critics consider Daniel a forgery. Radical critics believe that six authors put Daniel together. The more pious critics believe that Daniel wrote some of the book—but its final form came in the

second century B.C. Sound familiar?

We do not subscribe to any late-date hypothesis for the book of Daniel. In fact, the evidence shows that the book is from Daniel’s lifetime.

Daniel is one of the most important books of the Old Testament. We must believe what Daniel has recorded without doubt. It is full of history and prophecy. It contains the vital keys to understanding Christ’s true gospel message and for mapping out the time sequence for all end-time prophecies. Even more, Daniel shows us that the prophecies in Moses’s books are being fulfilled right now.

Notice first that Daniel affirms Moses’s authorship. During a period of intense fasting, Daniel prayed, “To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in *the law of Moses the servant of God*, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. *As it is written in the law of Moses*, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth” (Daniel 9:9-13).

Recognize the significance here. Daniel indicated that he was very aware of the writings of Moses. But, according to the scholars, the five books of Moses were not completed until the time of Ezra. Yet Ezra did not begin his important work until after the Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity. The details of Daniel’s prayer prove that he had access to the books and studied them carefully—while the Jews were in captivity. Because of Moses, he fully understood why Judah suffered severely by the hand of God. Notice in verse 11 that Daniel specifically mentions *the curse is poured upon us*. What does he mean here?

We’ll answer this, and several questions the critics raise against Daniel, next time. ■

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I CONGRATULATE YOU ALL ON THE NEW weekly format [of theTrumpet.com]. It is informative and eye-opening; all credit where credit is due to the team involved. We certainly live in interesting times. ... Thank you again for all your efforts; and keep us inspired and informed.

V. Bennett

A brief announcement to users of **theTrumpet.com**: In addition to a slate of fresh articles each Monday morning, we now regularly post a new feature each Thursday morning as well. We hope you enjoy the up-to-date content.

Democracy Paradox

YOUR MAY ARTICLE "THE DEMOCRACY Paradox" left me cold. You boasted your criticisms of democratic governments and their fight against tyranny but offered no solution of your own. You implied that the U.S. should not even try to pursue democratic freedoms around the world and that we should just wait and do nothing until the Lord returns. ... If you are going to criticize U.S. foreign policy, then offer a better one. No one expects the U.S. to end tyranny in the world. But we do expect our government to protect us from people who want to hurt us. And all Bible-believing Christians already know that the world's imperfect human governments will end and be replaced by the perfect rule of Jesus Christ when He comes. But this does not mean that our Western democracy is of the devil and out to deceive the whole world, as you say, just because it pursues freedom. ...

Charles Woelfel—CEBU, PHILIPPINES
In "The Democracy Paradox," we did not say that the U.S. is "out to deceive the whole world," as you say, but rather that Satan the devil deceives the whole world. That is why any form of human government is doomed to fail, and why the *Trumpet* does not propose solutions via foreign policy. This magazine's purpose is simply to warn of the biblically prophesied consequences of ignoring God. Despite America's perhaps best intentions, its efforts to spread democracy will backfire; the most popular political forces in many Middle Eastern countries—those with the potential to gain most in any moves toward democracy—are those that are the most anti-U.S. The point made in that *Trumpet* article is that God alone can—and will—bring true freedom.

I READ YOUR MAGAZINE THE *TRUMPET*, which I received from a friend, and I

was captivated by it and read the whole magazine of "Revolution" (May 2005). I am requesting a subscription if it is possible. ... Your magazine discussed a lot of important issues that no one wants to talk about. I admire the courage and guts the *Trumpet* has for speaking on these issues that I have read about. ... I am a true believer of Jesus Christ, God and Christianity, and I take religion very seriously, and I think your magazine will further my view on religion and add a great deal more knowledge to what I already have.

Carlis Scott—LICKING, MO.

Corporate Corruption

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU HOW IMMENSELY I enjoyed reading Fred Dattolo's inspiring article "What's Behind Corporate Corruption?" (May 2005). It was so clearly, interestingly and beautifully written that any human being can easily understand the extremely complicated phenomenon of corporate corruption. ...

Mike M. Djuricich—SYRACUSE, IND.

Understanding Why

I'M GETTING THE TRUE PICTURE OF world events in the context of Bible prophecy. I'm a member of the Worldwide Church of God attending services here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa. I never understood exactly what is happening to our church regarding the introduced changes until I laid my hand on the *Trumpet* and other literature supplied by the Philadelphia Church of God. I can now see exactly where those changes were leading us. Now the *Trumpet* is my regular magazine, complementing the Bible.

Mntambo Mburi—TANZANIA

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE *TRUMPET*. The media and most churches do not mention much or anything on the coming of the end time and how things are shaping up in the world as it is told in the Bible. Your magazine articles bring so much out in the open and that helps us to understand why the things in the world are happening the way they are.

Louis Dent Jr.—WYOMING, MINN.

I AM PRESENTLY INCARCERATED ... and will be here for quite a while. My

next-door neighbor sent me a copy of the *Trumpet*, and I couldn't put it down. I find it very interesting, such as I find prophecy and world events on the same level. I was an avid reader and subscriber of the *Plain Truth*, but I went astray and didn't know it was no longer in circulation; still I find both magazines very much alike. ...

Jose Mata—SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

I AM A CITIZEN OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA residing in the capital city of Port Moresby, and I have been a subscriber to your magazine for about two years. I have also requested and received interesting literature from your Australian office. I must say that for the last two years your works have kept me thinking about my spiritual life and my family's spiritual welfare. Could you please inform me if there is a Philadelphia Church of God congregation in my city and/or country and how I can get in contact with them? ...

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Yes—the Philadelphia Church of God, which publishes the *Trumpet*, does have congregations worldwide. We are happy to put those who request it in touch with an ordained minister.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, AND I ALWAYS HAVE. Right now I am trying to come to an understanding as to what He wants me to do, but here is my problem. I am reading *Mystery of the Ages* and am ... believing in God due to what I have been taught. I am learning more but am still confused about other religions. What do Buddhists or the Hindus believe? What about the Muslims? Do they worship the same God of Abraham? What about the Torah? Why do the Jews consider Jesus Christ to be just another prophet? I want to understand and to learn these things but do not know how to begin. I go to church on Sunday but some of the things that the pastor says just don't seem right. I can't explain why, but something seems wrong. What should I do, and how do I find these things out?

E-mail response

Comments?

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The Voice Inside You

What is truth? BY MARK JENKINS

SHEL SILVERSTEIN WROTE A POEM THAT SEEMS TO SUM up in a poignant and succinct way how most people live their lives and make their decisions:

There is a voice inside of you that whispers all day long, / I feel that this is right for me, I know that this is wrong. / No teacher, preacher, parent, friend or wise man can decide / What's right for you—Just listen to the voice that speaks inside.

Some might feel this speaks to an inner truth, a lesson that, if heeded, would spread peace and tranquility all over the Earth. Here's a conundrum for you though: Both the people that you agree with and those that you don't agree with are following that same ideology—doing what they believe is right.

People on both sides of every major issue—the death penalty, homosexual marriage, abortion, etc.—present all sorts of arguments supporting their conclusions, but at the end of the day, they believe when they *listen to the voice inside them* that they are right.

That voice—what we really feel when we look into our hearts—is the deciding factor that says what people believe and do.

Would you believe that this philosophy destroys nations? That this sentiment is at the core of *every* wrong decision?

In Judges 17:6, we read, “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Commentaries refer to this period of Israel's history as the “dark ages.” When the people had great “freedom,” they behaved with no sense of right and wrong other than doing what they *thought* was right. Chaos ensued.

Today, we live in a time when “freedom” is valued above morality; like ancient Israel, we haven't the haziest notion how to exercise those liberties in a godly way. Listening to the voice in our hearts hasn't stopped Western civilization from developing a moral stench that offends countries the world over.

Have you ever asked yourself what God thinks about the voice that speaks inside you?

The clarity of the Bible on this issue is unmatched: “O Lord, I know that the way of man is NOT IN HIMSELF: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). God looks at our hearts too, and we know what He sees there: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

If you want to be led down a wrong path by something desperately wicked, then just listen to the voice inside you.

Jesus Christ talked about listening to a voice—but not our own: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Rather than advise us to listen to ourselves, He said to keep the Commandments (Matthew 19:17). In fact, 1 John 5:3 tells us that following the instructions God gives us is the very expression of His love.

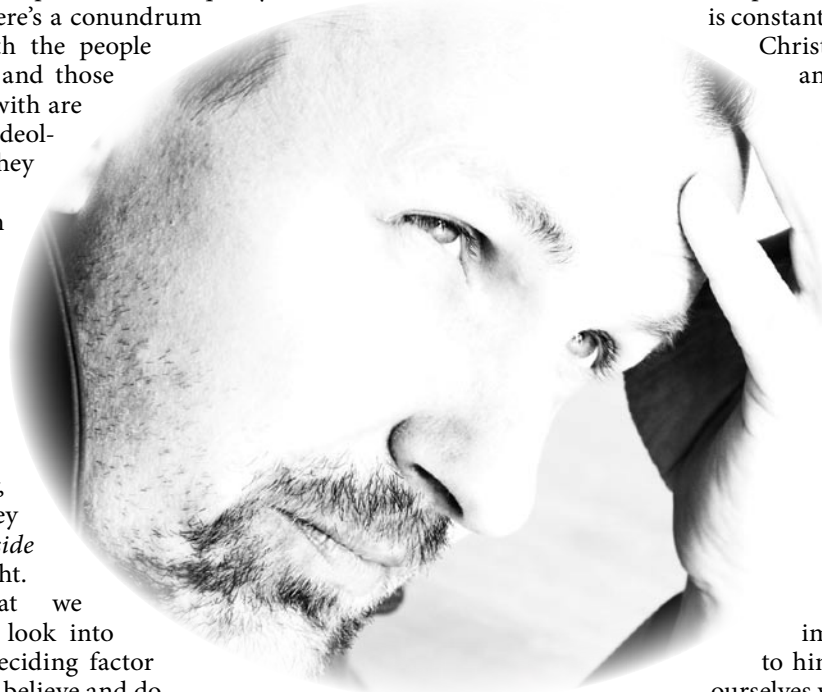
The desperately wicked tone of our own voice is constantly shouting to drown out Jesus Christ. And beyond that, we have another noise to contend with:

Satan the devil. He tries constantly to deceive us just as he did Eve in the Garden of Eden, who surely believed she was making her *own* choice even as she was listening to Satan's voice. He succeeded that day, and Revelation 12:9 tells us just how successful he has been since: He deceives the whole world. Called the “prince of the power of the air” in Ephesians 2:2, he is always broadcasting his thoughts, attitudes and impulses. All too often, we listen to him instead of God, judging for ourselves which of the two is right.

Mankind always believes he knows better than God. This idea that we inherently know what is right and wrong has been passed down from parent to child ever since Adam and Eve rejected God's revelation, taking the prerogative of deciding right from wrong for themselves. Every war, every disease, every evil thing that has happened in the last 6,000 years has been a result of that decision, a result of the decision that not only could “no teacher, preacher, parent, friend or wise man” decide, but not even God Himself could tell a man the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

What kinds of decisions have you made listening to the voice inside you? Are you—like those in ancient Israel—doing what's right in your own eyes?

Basing decisions on this way of thinking will not bring TRUE happiness, joy or peace into your life. If you truly examine your life, do you find real happiness? Real abundance? Real success? Listening to God's voice—the instructions found in His Word—brings all of those things and guaranteed blessings from our Father: “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people ...” (Exodus 19:5). Our reliance must not be on the voice of men, but on the Word of God. ■



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