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THE PHILADELPHIA
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Germany Is Betraying Britain—Again



British Prime Minister
David Cameron



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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

Germany Is Betraying Britain—Again

The British are being kicked out of the EU!

ON DEC. 9, 2011, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DAVID CAMERON shocked the world when he vetoed a Franco-German plan to fix Europe's debt crisis.

Standing before a room full of European leaders determined to amend EU treaties to cede more power to the EU, Mr. Cameron defended British interests. "What is on offer is not in Britain's interest, so I didn't agree to it," he stated flatly. "We will not be presenting this new treaty, when it's agreed, to our parliament. It will not involve Britain."

It is hard to overstate the significance of this event.

Many say that Dec. 9, 2011, will go down as the day Britain LEFT the European Union!

There's something misleading about that statement. Most of the media will tell you that Britain abandoned the EU. In fact, JUST THE OPPOSITE HAPPENED. For years, the EU, under German leadership, has been taking power away from its member states, including Britain. If Britain agreed to the plan outlined on December 9, it basically would have had to hand control of its finances over to European leaders. By refusing the plan, Britain was simply protecting its fiscal sovereignty.

In other words, *Europe created this conflict!*

Why would it do that? BECAUSE IT WANTS TO PUSH BRITAIN OUT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION!

What does this mean to you? This event is going to plague Britain for years to come—as well as America! Yes, it will hurt the United States far more than you can imagine. America's financial troubles are about to get far worse.

We have reached a tipping point that will begin to move events in Europe faster than ever. Getting Britain out of the way is like moving a boulder off the highway: Now Germany can move at lightning speed!

A Tipping Point

The *Guardian's* European editor, Ian Traynor, wrote this: "When the dust settles, Friday December 9 *may be seen as a watershed, the beginning of the end for Britain in Europe.* But more than that—the emergence for the first time of a cold new Europe in which GERMANY IS THE UNDISPUTED, PREEMINENT POWER imposing a decade of austerity on the eurozone as the price for its propping up the currency" (emphasis added throughout).

I will say that date ABSOLUTELY WILL BE seen as a watershed!

"For the first time in the history of the EU, THE GERMANS ARE NOW IN CHARGE," said Charles Grant, who directs a think tank called the Center for European Reform.

Germany is in charge, and everyone can see that now. This is the most authoritative step Germany has ever taken.

Did you know that we have been prophesying this very event for some 70 years? It is, in fact, PROPHESED IN YOUR BIBLE! And believe it or not, it is going to lead directly into the worst trouble this Earth has ever experienced!

The Bible prophesies that "ten kings" are going to unite themselves in Europe as the Holy Roman Empire (Revelation 17:12-13). Events today are moving quickly to fulfill that pivotal prophecy!

The EU is not a democratic union. Germany has gained so much strength today that it won't have to worry about *persuading* people to join that 10-nation configuration: It can DEMAND that they do! It is gaining that much financial and economic power—and also rapidly growing in military power. Germany has established real AUTHORITY.

WE HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT THAT WILL BEGIN TO MOVE EVENTS IN EUROPE FASTER THAN EVER. Britain was the real instrument in stopping Hitler in World War II, at least in the beginning. It has been the biggest obstacle slowing Europe from moving forward with its plans. Getting Britain out of the way is like moving a boulder off the highway: Now Germany can move at lightning speed!

The idea that Britain decided to *pull out* of the EU is a big deceit. It was pushed into a situation where it was FORCED OUT. This has been plotted and planned for years.

What Herbert Armstrong Said

The prophecies in the Bible are sure. It was because of those prophecies that Herbert W. Armstrong foretold—DECADES IN ADVANCE—*exactly* what we are seeing today!

Here is what he wrote in 1956—55 years ago. This is phenomenal! Speaking about the uniting of European nations, he wrote, "We Americans, with the British, gave them the idea. We've tried to organize the European nations together against Russia. THEY ARE GOING TO UNITE AGAINST US! ... The Germans are coming back from the destruction of World War II in breathtaking manner. Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. Probably Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe.

"But Britain will be no part of it!"

How did he know that? How do you explain that? Fifty-five years ago, he said not only that this European Union would come together and that Germany would dominate, but also that Britain would be ousted! Today it is being splashed across the headlines of news media around the world.

That ought to capture our attention. How could Mr. Armstrong possibly know? BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD BIBLE PROPHECY. This is what Scripture said would happen. It isn't something you have to guess about: You can absolutely know.

The Bible is a coded book, and the only way we can decode it is to get help from God. One third of the Bible is prophecy, and 90 percent of it is *for this end time*. That prophecy is being fulfilled faster now than ever before!

In recent times, America and Britain have been friends to the Germans. But Mr. Armstrong said those European nations, led by Germany, would *unite against our nations*. That is about to happen!

The United States allied with Britain to provide the real power to conquer the Germans in World Wars I and II. Today, both America and Britain are **DROWNING IN DEBT**. America has the most debt of any nation in history, and it seems people have no clue how deadly dangerous that is. Meanwhile, Germany has never been stronger financially and economically! Its power is destined to grow, and that will seriously impair America and Britain.

Understand: I am not putting the Germans down. The German people are a great people, and Bible prophecies explain that they will achieve marvelous things in the World Tomorrow, when Jesus Christ rules as King of kings.

However, if you look at the Germans' past, the reality is that they have been the deadliest warring people in history! Even in recent times, they started both world wars. And prophecy says the worst is yet to come.

Double Cross

After defeating Germany in World War II, America and Britain helped to build it back into a power. They helped it to reach where it is today.

This makes what Germany just did to Britain all the more heinous. Pushing the British out of the EU was a blatant **DOUBLE CROSS**. Germany has a *history* of double-crossing people. As Winston Churchill said, the Germans were very prone to betray their supposed friends and surprise and shock them by some sudden act. Prophecy reveals that they are going to double-cross America as well.

The Prophet Ezekiel foretold these events—and the good news he reveals is that *all the suffering* that is about to come from this, in the end, is going to help **THE WHOLE WORLD** come to know God!

As I prove in my booklet *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* (request a free copy), Ezekiel's prophecy is only for this end time. Ezekiel wrote it when he was a prisoner; he couldn't deliver the message. We must deliver it today, or he lived his life in vain.

Ezekiel 23 contains a prophecy about two women who committed immoral acts. Verse 4 reveals that these women, *Aholah* and *Aholibah*, represent Samaria and Jerusalem. This is an end-time prophecy, so who are Samaria (which represented the 10 tribes of Israel, anciently) and Jerusalem (which represented the ancient nation of Judah) today?

Prophetically, Aholah refers to the modern nations descended from Israel—primarily America and Britain—and Aholibah refers to the descendants of Judah, which today is the Jewish nation in the Middle East.

Verse 5 reads, "And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on *the Assyrians* her neighbours."

Who are the Assyrians in end-time prophecy?



"I can't tell you now which nations. But in all probability Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland will not join this federation. Definitely Britain will not be in it."

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

GOOD NEWS, MAY 1953

The Assyrians

Consider this: Virtually every historian draws attention to the war-like nature of the Assyrian people. James McCabe, author of *History of the World*, says the Assyrians were a "fierce, treacherous race, delighting in the dangers of the chase and in war. The Assyrian troops were notably among the most formidable of ancient warriors They never kept faith when it was to their interest to break treaties, and were regarded with suspicion by their neighbors in consequence of this characteristic In organization and equipment of their troops, and in their system of attack and defense and their method of reducing fortified places, the Assyrians manifested a superiority to the nations by which they were surrounded."

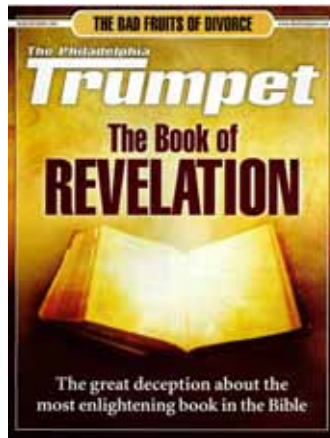
Dr. Herman Hoeh, historian and author of *Compendium of World History*, wrote, "Ancient Assyria was the greatest war-making power in all history" (*Plain Truth*, January 1963).

James Hastings wrote, "The Assyrians of historic times were more robust, warlike, 'fierce,' than the mild industrial



“Relations between Britain and Europe will continue to deteriorate until ‘The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far ... which shall not leave thee corn, wine or oil ... he shall besiege thee in all thy gates ...’ (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).”

PLAIN TRUTH
DECEMBER 1964



“Watch events within Britain as it grapples with the reality of a failing love affair with German-led Europe. Watch for the very real and coming prospect of Britain being asked to leave the European Union.”

TRUMPET
MARCH/APRIL 2001

Babylonians. ... The whole organization of the state was essentially military” (“Assyria and Babylonia,” *Dictionary of the Bible*).

Leonard Cottrell, in *The Anvil of Civilization*, made this amazing statement: “In all the annals of human conquest, it is difficult to find any people more dedicated to bloodshed and slaughter than the Assyrians. Their ferocity and cruelty have few parallels *save in modern times*.” It’s interesting that Cottrell can only compare their ferocity with those “in modern times.”

Only one nation has stood out that way in modern times, and that is Germany. That is obviously what he is referring to here.

The *Assyrians* in prophecy are the modern-day Germans. As Herbert Armstrong wrote, “Today the descendants of those Assyrians are known to us as the German people” (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). You can see more proof of this truth in our October/November 2010 edition. It is extremely important for you to prove to yourself if you are to truly understand what is happening in Europe!

The warlike nature of the ancient Assyrians is clearly visible in that of the German people in modern times.

“Not a single neighbor of the Germans,” wrote Emil Ludwig in 1941, “could ever trust the Germans to remain peaceable. No matter how happy their condition, their restless passion would urge them on to ever more extreme demands” (*The Germans: Double History of a Nation*). You could certainly see that trait on display before World War II, when nations made several concessions to the Germans to try to appease them, yet Hitler always wanted more.

After World War II, many voices warned about the dangers in rebuilding war-ravaged Germany. The April 1952 edition of the *Plain Truth* contained this headline: “Does America Dare Arm Germany?” The article said, “Our leading generals in Europe have *adamantly* warned that GERMANY IS A CALCULATED RISK.” Still, our nations went ahead and built it back up. Through the Marshall Plan, we poured millions and millions of dollars into Germany.

There were even voices of warning once a unified Europe began to build.

Notice this remarkable statement from Herbert W. Armstrong in March 1973, writing about when Britain joined the European Community: “Britain is going to look back on Monday, Jan. 1, 1973, in all probability, as a MOST TRAGICALLY HISTORIC DATE—a date fraught with ominous potentialities! For that date marked the United Kingdom’s entry into the European Community.”

In 1995, as the European project was gaining steam, Margaret Thatcher said this: “You have not anchored Germany to Europe,” which was the plan behind European unification. “You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the

end, my friends, you’ll find it will not work.” Mrs. Thatcher was absolutely correct!

Remember

Return now to Ezekiel’s prophecy. Verses 6-8 of chapter 23 go into greater detail about what is happening today: an illicit LOVE AFFAIR between America, Britain and Germany!

America and Britain have convinced themselves that they have a wonderful friendship with the Germans. But is it true? If you see what just happened to Britain, YOU KNOW IT IS NOT TRUE!

Verse 9 reveals the TERRIFYING OUTCOME of this immoral relationship: “Wherefore I HAVE DELIVERED HER [Aholah, representing America and Britain] INTO THE HAND OF HER LOVERS, into the hand of the Assyrians [Germany], upon whom she doted.”

In a small way, this has already happened to Britain. But you watch as this prophecy is fulfilled completely: It is about to get *far, far worse*.

In 1953, Mr. Armstrong wrote about the unifying of this European power, and concluded with the statement, “Definitely Britain will not be in it.” THE REASON HE KNEW THAT IS BECAUSE BRITAIN IS GOING TO BE A VICTIM OF IT!

In his 1978 book *The Incredible Human Potential*, Mr. Armstrong said again, “Britain will not be in that empire soon to come.” When he wrote *Mystery of the Ages* in 1985, he repeated that statement.

In a co-worker letter dated June 10, 1980—nine years before the Berlin Wall fell—here is what he wrote, “It now looks entirely feasible that Yugoslavia may be included in this revived Roman empire. Also the pope’s native Poland and Romania, and possibly Hungary. Add Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and France. There will be a union of TEN nations in the general area of the medieval Roman Empire in the new united Europe. Probably Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden will not be included. But Ireland may. BRITAIN WILL NOT!”

An astounding statement! Mr. Armstrong could never have made such statements if he didn’t understand biblical prophecy.

The Bible is God’s Word. The living God prophesied all that, and He is bringing it to pass just like He said He would, in intricate detail! This is a warning from God to all of us—primarily America and Britain.

Verse 17 talks about the Babylonians. That is speaking of a MODERN-DAY Babylon, which is actually a resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire!

Watch the news out of Europe. Notice that the European

Britain, Beware! Europe Is Gunning for You

Seventy-one years after the Battle of Britain, the Isles once again stand alone against a German-dominated Europe. **BY BRAD MACDONALD AND ROBERT MORLEY**

IT IS LIKE 1940 ALL OVER AGAIN. SEVENTY-one years after the Battle of Britain, the British once again stand alone against a German-dominated Europe. But this time, it isn't Panzer tank barrels and V-2 rockets being aimed across the Channel: It is the accusing fingers of Europe's most powerful leaders.

Prime Minister David Cameron was ambushed Dec. 9, 2011. European elites knew Britain would never willingly cede custodianship of its financial system to Europe, yet they pushed for it anyway. When it was Mr. Cameron's turn to speak, he was left with no choice but to reject EU domination. The Europeans were infuriated. Moments later, French President Nicolas Sarkozy used that to justify an intergovernmental treaty that left Britain out. European Union President Herman Van Rompuy then proposed moving forward with an intergovernmental agreement of the 17 eurozone nations. France seconded the motion, immediately followed by Germany. It was as if Britain wasn't even a member of the European Union.

Minutes later, *every other European Union member had fallen in line*—EXCEPT BRITAIN!

Britain on the Menu

Conservative MEP Daniel Hannan was in the European Parliament a few days after Mr. Cameron rejected the EU's plan to solve its debt crisis. "I wish I could adequately convey the INTENSITY OF THE ANTI-BRITISH FEELING IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT," he wrote. "In today's debate on last week's Brussels summit, speaker after speaker rose to denounce our entire nation as selfish, narrow-minded and arrogant. ... You needed to be present, to hear the yowling and shrieking and desk-banging that accompanied every Anglophobic utterance" (emphasis added throughout).

These weren't minor or fringe EU officials. They were the voices of the European Union's largest political parties!

British MEP Nigel Farage was also in the European Parliament following the EU summit, and reported via Twitter, "There's a REAL HATRED of the UK in the EP chamber today."

One of the most arresting diatribes came from MEP Guy Verhofstadt, Belgium's former prime minister. "When you are invited to a table," he told Britain, "it is either as a guest or YOU ARE PART OF THE MENU."

European officials have decided how to make Britain pay for its actions. Rebecca Harms, leader of the European Greens, warned that Britain's "selfish strategy" for protecting London as a financial hub "cannot [be] tolerate[d] any longer." European Economics Commissioner Olli Rehn agreed. If Mr. Cameron's decision to veto the plan was "intended to prevent bankers and financial corporations of the City from being regulated, that's not going to happen," he warned. Europe, it seems, is about to step up its assault on Britain's financial sector regardless!

That's unwelcome news for Britain's economy. In the 2009/10 tax year, the British government collected £53.4 billion in taxes from its financial services sector. That's more than 10 percent of its taxes for the year. Britain's financial services economy had a £35.2 billion trade surplus last year, the only industry that generated a substantial surplus. According to Hannan, the finance industry "is as important to [Britain] as heavy industry is to Germany or agriculture to France."

Yet Britain's financial sector is not the only asset Brussels is targeting. European officials are openly talking about

Central Bank is now being run by a Jesuit-trained Roman Catholic, Mario Draghi. He is authoritatively implementing very strict fiscal policies among eurozone states. Notice that at the very summit in Brussels at which Britain was muscled out of Europe, leaders received news that Pope Benedict XVI was "praying to the Virgin Mary for the sake of Italy and Europe" (*Economist*, Dec. 9, 2011). Keep an eye on the headlines, and you will see more and more evidence of the Vatican and Germany working together. The Bible foretold it, and we have been warning about it for years: the emergence yet again of that church-state combine called the Holy Roman Empire.

Read Deuteronomy 28:49-52, which warns of God bringing a destructive nation against modern Israel. It says of this power, "he shall BESIEGE THEE IN ALL THY



"Whether Britain is forced out or whether it voluntarily leaves the EU, one thing is certain: 'Britain will not be in that empire' now building in Europe. And when those headlines splash across the pages of newspapers worldwide, proclaiming Britain's exit from an otherwise united Europe, remember that one man and where you read it first!"

TRUMPET
JULY 2004

we wrote in the July 2004 *Trumpet*. "And when those headlines flash across the pages of newspapers worldwide proclaiming Britain's exit from an otherwise united Europe, remember that one man and where you read it first."

Remember what Herbert W. Armstrong said 50, 60, even 70 years ago! When you see those headlines—and they are right there to see—remember who told you that! He THUNDERED that

GATES." That is talking about a trading blockade. It's about finances and the economy. Somebody is going to damage America and Britain financially! Britain would absolutely starve to death shortly if it didn't get its exports out and its imports in. The U.S. is going to suffer deeply as well.

"BRITAIN WILL NOT BE IN THAT EMPIRE NOW BUILDING IN EUROPE,"



NEW FINANCIAL WORLD ORDER

A statue outside the European Parliament building heralds the future of European economics.

cancelling Britain's annual rebate check (£2.7 billion in 2010). "The British check ... is now up for question," European People's Party leader Joseph Daul said on December 13. "Tax monies should be spent on someone else rather than compensating selfish nationalism."

Asked if he was declaring financial war, Daul haughtily responded, "There will be no tanks, no Kalashnikovs before Christmas."

Liberated Europe

The EU has decisive political power over Britain too. Using carefully crafted legislation over many years, Brussels has been expanding its reach into virtually every crack and cranny of British society. In an effort to appear democratic and avoid a public brouhaha with Britain, the EU's legislative assault has been slow and deft. That will now change.

After Britain's public revolt in

December, Brussels no longer has to tread carefully. Using qualified majority voting, European officials can continue to create and impose all sorts of painful new legislation. In fact, now that Britain is considered the enemy, expect Europe's legislative and political assault on Britain to intensify!

Right now, Britons are enjoying a sense of liberation from standing up to Germany and Brussels. But in the coming weeks and months, new feelings will set in: fear, then dread, and eventually horror. You see, without Britain around to slow things down, Europe's transformation into a German-led United States of Europe will speed up!

European elites are working to destroy national sovereignty. A new political and economic superpower is rising in Europe, and the knives are coming out against anyone who stands in the way. Some nations know it and are getting in line. Other nations, like Britain, are about to find out the hard way.

When that European superstate emerges, the only thing standing between it and Britain will be a tiny strip of water!

Britain needs to stop celebrating, start praying and realize: It is no longer dining with Germany and its allies at Europe's table. It is on the menu, waiting to be devoured. ■

message for all those years, telling us everything that was coming. And we have continued to proclaim the same message.

Will *you* heed these warnings?

Good News in the End

In Ezekiel 23:36, God says He wants His loyal, faithful people to go to the modern nations of Israel and DECLARE THEIR ABOMINATIONS! God is deeply upset and disgusted with the sins and immorality saturating America and Britain today!

Terrible suffering is coming. The prophecies are sure—we are watching them unfold!

And what makes that so WONDERFUL is that, if you follow those prophecies out, they DIRECTLY LEAD to the SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST!

Look how the good news, the positive outcome, begins to be revealed in verses 48-49: "Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness. And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: AND YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD GOD." After all the punishment God is going to put them through, they will get to KNOW GOD. In the end, all that suffering is going to bring people to get to know God! Nothing could be more important than that. It is a very difficult

way to learn this lesson, but what wonderful news!

Still, how terrible that they won't listen to God's Word now, and turn from their sin. They have to suffer unimaginably before they will turn to God and get to know Him.

Why won't we listen now to God's Word, heed what He says, and let Him protect us from all of this? God will do so. He has promised it in the Bible, and He cannot lie! But we must do our part as well: We have to respond to God, and obey Him and live as He commands.

Take a good look at Europe, especially at Germany, in light of God's prophecies. God put those warnings in Scripture for a reason: because He wants to save us from that suffering!

Go back into recent history. Realize how MANY MILLIONS of people in World Wars I and II fought and bled and DIED in order to prevent Germany from ruling over them! Yet now, GERMAN RULES EUROPE ONCE AGAIN! What does that portend for this world? Both history and prophecy loudly cry out the answer! There is no excuse for us not knowing that!

But here is the good news. It is all a sign leading directly into the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Messiah is about to return to rule this world, and bring it true prosperity and peace and joy! ■

Will Your Children Be Better Off Than You?

The 'American Dream' is taking a beating. Most people think today's youth will have it worse off than we did. But they are wrong—and here is why! **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

IT'S A LONG-CHERISHED AMERICAN dream: seeing our children enjoy a better life than we had. And from the nation's beginning, when the founders declared the "self-evident" truth that all people have the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," the United States' remarkably steady growth in prosperity has made that dream come true for untold multitudes.

In today's dismal economic climate, though, most Americans think the run is over—that we are the generation to witness the withering of that perennial promise. Not even one in five Americans believes today's children will be better off than their parents. Two in three say the kids will have it worse.

It looks like—as President Obama said back in January 2009, after news of especially nasty economic contraction—we are starting to experience "the American Dream in reverse."

Such pessimism is not without justification. The nation's economic woes are hitting young men harder than just about anyone; more and more are moving back in with Dad and Mom. Gloomy near-term factors like job losses are coupled with longer-range realities like the growing ranks of retirees and the unsustainability of Social Security. The dream of homeownership—of building equity over the lifetime of a 30-year mortgage—has become

a castle in the air: Home equity has collapsed from \$13 trillion at the height of the housing boom to \$6.5 trillion. The wealth gap between the old and young has grown eye-poppingly wide. And evidence abounds that the nation's economic decline is irreversible.

But hold on a moment. Before anybody leaps off a bridge, let's step back from the brink and assess the big picture.

Two important truths will give us some much-needed perspective on the threat to the American Dream.

Just What Is the American Dream?

First, we need to challenge our assumptions about the need for endlessly rising prosperity of the sort we enjoy today.

At one time, the focus of what is more or less an "official national dream" was different. It wasn't about any particular possessions or income level, but about opportunity being available to anyone who went after it. Even the scrappy immigrant of low station, if he worked hard, had a better chance of giving his children a leg up in America than anywhere else in the world.

But that focus began to shift in the 1930s with the shared-sacrifice principle introduced by FDR's New Deal. If all workers pitched in, the government could establish Social Security to ensure that retirees could enjoy their sunset years free of want. It was perhaps the first time that the model American lifestyle was attached to

a particular material promise.

This trend quickly took aggressive hold in people's minds. At the end of World War II, the G.I. Bill offered returning veterans low-interest home loans, and enterprising developers began using mass production to erect inexpensive houses for the everyman. After decades of around 45 percent of American families living in homes they personally owned, that number ballooned to 55 percent by 1950, and 62 percent by 1960. Just like that, homeownership became a new facet of the American Dream. Riding a wave of postwar prosperity, Americans also began to enjoy higher levels of car and television ownership. The aim of sending the kids to college became mainstream.

In the middle of this unprecedented upsurge in standards of living—and helping to fuel it—was a mushrooming of consumer credit. At a comparatively small \$2.6 billion in 1945, the nation's personal-debt monster grew to \$45 billion by 1960—and \$105 billion just a decade after that. Meanwhile, Americans' expectations of what life should offer floated up into the troposphere: a bigger house, a second car, a fancy annual vacation. The free spending transformed what was once the world's biggest creditor nation into, in 1986, its biggest debtor nation.

There is something magnanimous about parents wanting something better for the next generation. "A good man

leaveth an inheritance to his children's children," the proverb says. But clearly, during these pie-in-the-sky years, the American Dream got unhinged from the virtues of hard work, responsibility and self-control. And the inherent falseness in expecting a never-ending ascent in material abundance was exposed. As Gregg Easterbrook wrote in his 2003 book *The Progress Paradox*, "For at least a century, Western life has been dominated by a revolution of rising expectations: Each generation expected more than its antecedent. Now most Americans and Europeans already have what they need, in addition to considerable piles of stuff they don't need."

Today, even as Americans consume more and enjoy more luxuries and a higher standard of living than ever, a majority of them say they consider the American Dream *unachievable*. Nothing is ever enough. Whatever they have, they feel entitled to so much more. Satisfaction and contentment are ever just over the horizon.

Don't buy into this poisonous, delusional thinking. Square your values with reality. And make sure you're passing on to your children a wealth of what *really matters* in life. (Our reprint article "How to Be Rich" might help. Request a free copy.)

Just What Is America's Future?

The second truth we need to understand in order to gain perspective on the state of the American Dream involves the broader view of the nation's economic future. Much evidence points to decline for the foreseeable future. But other *even more sure* proof shows that the long-term outlook is much, much dreamier.

Consider this seriously. A recent Gallup poll found 65 percent of Americans believe the Bible "answers all or most of the basic questions of life." The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that 78 percent of Americans—nearly 8 in 10—say the Bible is the "Word of God"; and of those, *almost half* believe "it is to be taken literally, word for word."

That means *nearly 40 percent of Americans* consider the Bible literally God's Word, and *every word* of it true.

Are you one of them? If so, consider this. A *full third* of the Bible is prophecy.

And very prominent within that prophecy are rich, vivid descriptions of a future world very different from our own. It

is a world of universal prosperity. Not one in which a single nation provides opportunities to succeed for a span of a handful of generations—but in which *all peoples* and *all nations* enjoy such benefits for centuries. That is what God wants! Think of the American Dream—and multiply it by billions!

In front of the United Nations building in New York City stands a statue of a man beating his sword into a plowshare. This inspiring image comes from a passage in Isaiah. The book of Micah quotes the same passage: "nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Here, though, the prophecy continues: "But they shall sit *every man* under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spo-

Today, even as Americans consume more and enjoy more luxuries and a higher standard of living than ever, a majority of them say they consider the American Dream unachievable. Nothing is ever enough.

ken it" (Micah 4:3-4).

This is a prophecy of God installing an economic system worldwide that revolves around universal *land ownership*, just as it did in ancient Israel (1 Kings 4:25). In God's society, every family will own property, the very basis of producing abundance and wealth.

"... I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be *showers of blessing*. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord ..." (Ezekiel 34:26-27). "Showers of blessing"—what a wonderful expression. Rain is a blessing only God can give, and He blesses the obedient abundantly. Their fields, crops, orchards and vines will be so productive, and yields so great, that they cannot keep up! They will still be harvesting when it comes time to sow the fields with new crops (Amos 9:13).

God says He will bless us in the city, bless us in the field, bless our health and our children, our livestock and crops, our savings, our security and all the work of our hands. These are all promises He gave to ancient Israel (Deuteronomy 28). Those

people disobeyed Him and were cursed, but all of mankind will soon *obey* God and receive all of these incredible blessings—especially a repentant modern Israel!

Imagine quality city life being affordable. Imagine a city providing enough stable, decent jobs that unemployment is next to nil, and *everyone* enjoys affluence. Imagine a city devoid of run-down, impoverished slums and ghettos. "... Thus says the Lord of hosts: *My cities shall again overflow with prosperity ...*" (Zechariah 1:17; Revised Standard Version).

Sound too good to be true? God challenges you to believe it! "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10).

Believe it or not, *America* is specifically described within those prophecies as rejoicing in those blessings!

The British nations and the United States—the modern-day descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh—became the wealthiest and most powerful nations on Earth in this end time (because of Abraham's obedience to God). This status and power has faded from Britain, and is now fading from the United States. But their recent status among nations is only a foretaste of even *greater* wealth and power to come—in God's service—once all of Israel is living in obedience to the government of God.

"Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:12, 14).

An understanding of biblical prophecy reveals that, yes, we are in for some extremely difficult times in the short term. But these troubles are in fact *signs* that we are on the threshold of that far better world! They are signs that Jesus Christ is *just about* to return!

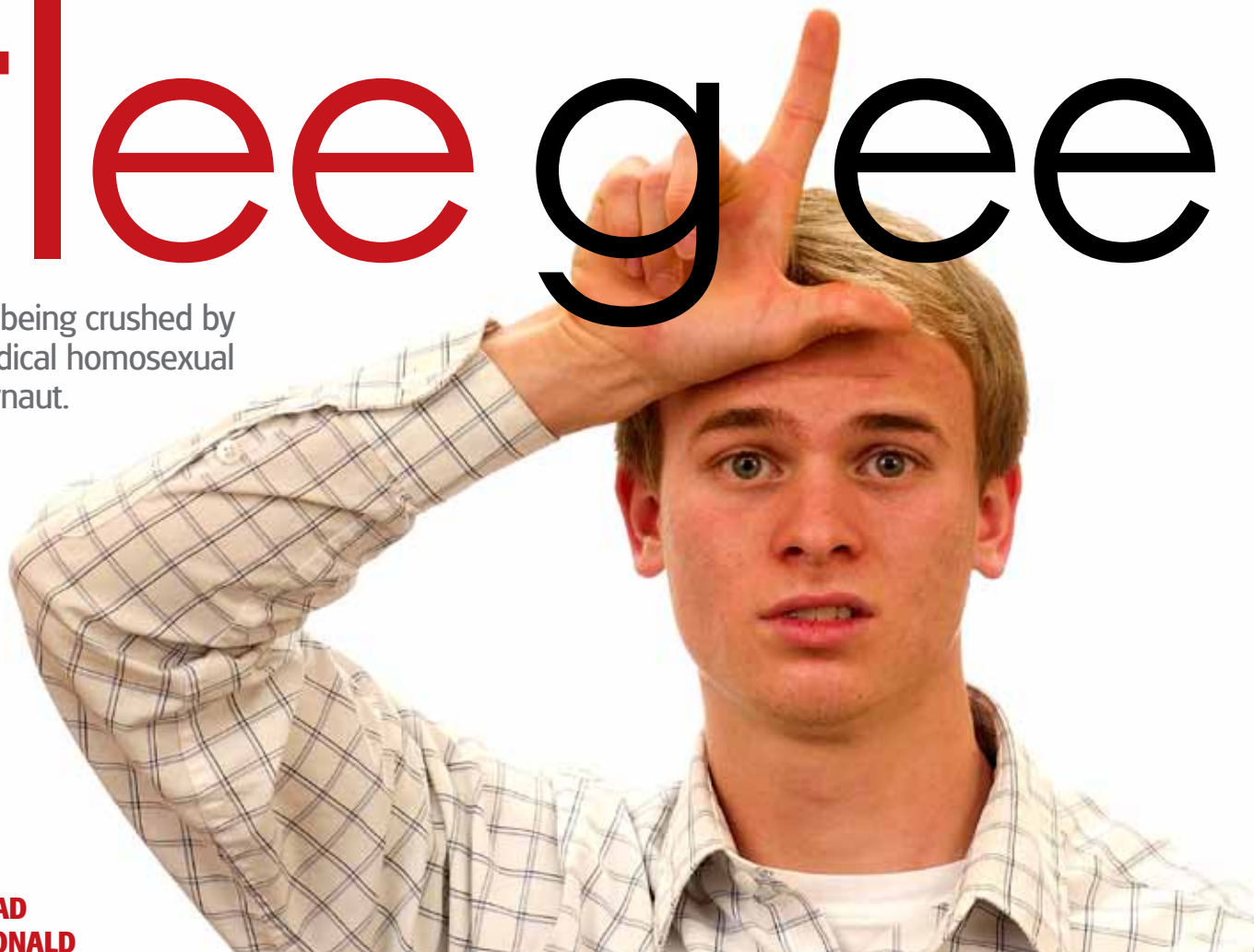
We are, in truth, the generation to witness the blossoming of that perennial promise! And that long-cherished dream of seeing our children enjoy a better life than we had will become a reality far more awesome than we ever imagined. ■



Please take the time to read about that future world in Herbert W. Armstrong's inspiring booklet ***The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like***. Request your free copy today.

flee glee

Avoid being crushed by the radical homosexual juggernaut.



BY BRAD
MACDONALD

IT IS A POP-CULTURE PHENOMENON. It's one of the most popular shows on television, and the top entertainment series among teens. It's a spellbinding musical comedy, set on a bright, beautiful campus, that follows the day-to-day antics of a high school glee club. Sounds sweet and innocent, right?

Well, last November, an episode of *Glee*—which airs in prime time and is adored by millions of children and teens—depicted two male homosexual teenagers losing their virginity.

Unpleasant as this subject is, it is important to discuss. For sure, it would be easier to remain silent, to ignore this sordid show, to join the majority in being “open minded” and “tolerant,” or in the very least, quiet. But that is exactly why this toxic show is so popular.

More significantly, that's how the creators of *Glee*—activists of the radical homosexual juggernaut conquering America—want you and me to react.

Tragically, that's how most people are reacting.

Whimpers and Gripes

Take the Parents Television Council, the leading television watchdog in the United States. The PTC slammed the Nov. 8, 2011, *Glee* episode as “reprehensible.” Not because of the flagrant teenage homosexuality—it said “the gender of the high school characters involved is irrelevant”—but because it celebrated “children having sex.”

The PTC is right, of course. Celebrating teens engaging in sexual activity on tv only promotes it in real life. But where was the similarly stinging rebuke of teenage homosexuality, a theme that pervades *Glee*, and especially that episode?

Liz Perle, the editor in chief of Common Sense Media, was even more blasé. “Homosexuality is a part of life in our kids' world—no matter what your family's beliefs are,” she stated. Instead of criticizing *Glee*, Perle encouraged parents to watch the episode with their children and educate them on homosexuality. How's that for advice from the head honcho of “Common Sense Media”?

Although a handful of mostly Christian

organizations and bloggers had stronger criticisms, the reaction of “conservatives” to the episode was feeble. Meanwhile, the liberal activists responded with effusive praise for Fox. “The actual sex aspect of the story lines [was] treated quite delicately,” wrote Kevin Fallon at the *Atlantic*. *Entertainment Weekly* described the episode as “incredibly moving.” The prevailing opinion was that Fox nailed it, that this milestone in television history was handled beautifully, with dignity and sophistication.

To be sure, the “conservative” reaction was pathetic. What was more astonishing (and telling), however, was that most “conservatives” didn't even recognize their defeat! Homosexual activists, on the other hand, loudly celebrated what they knew was a milestone victory for homosexuality on network television. “The remarkable, if not revolutionary other element here,” wrote Fallon, “is that the decision by gay teen characters to lose their virginities is given equal weight to that of a straight couple. ... From the nerves to the passion to the actual footage of the act,

Once most people accept homosexuality on the screen, they will accept it in other parts of their lives, in their textbooks and courthouses, and in their tax codes and cafes.

Blaine and Kurt's first time was given the same consideration, weight and respect as their straight counterparts—a milestone for network TV" (emphasis added).

The success of that *Glee* episode, and the feeble reaction it elicited from "conservatives," was certainly a measure of how widely accepted homosexuality has become. Be assured too, the activists in Hollywood noted the silence of the "conservatives" and are already planning their next "milestone." Right now they're thinking to themselves, *If we can get away with showing teenagers engaging in homosexual sex on prime-time television, what can't we do?*

A Whole New Meaning to the Term

This was a victory for the radical homosexual juggernaut too—one more step in a comprehensive strategy for making perversion mainstream.

Much like the forefathers of the movement did with the word *gay*, the activist creators of *Glee* chose a title that invokes joy and conjures a mesmerizing world of teenage fun. From there, the show's creators associated homosexuality with glee. Each episode overflows with well-dressed, perfectly complexioned, vibrant teens—mostly waif-like, hairless, pink-shirt, tight-jean-wearing metrosexuals—living a carefree life. Each episode is peppered with catchy, delightfully sung show tunes, smartly choreographed (albeit effeminate) dancing and, of course, plenty of teenage sex. *Glee* is a teenager's paradise, a world without shadows or blemishes, without law and authority, without financial or moral constraints—and without consequences.

There's no recognition of the fact that homosexual relations are far more dangerous to physical health than heterosexual relations. There is nothing said about how homosexual teens are more than twice as likely to experience depression. There's no mention that *between 30 and 40 percent of homosexual teens have attempted suicide*, that **THE SUICIDE RATE AMONG HOMOSEXUAL TEENS IS THREE TO FOUR TIMES HIGHER THAN AMONG THEIR HETEROSEXUAL PEERS**. Are we not concerned about such effects? Do we really want our teens involved in such self-destructive behavior?

In fact, *Glee* puts homosexuality on a pedestal. Like so many of the homosexuals on TV, *Glee's* homosexual characters are usually the happiest, the trendiest, the most popular, the best dressed, and the

most sophisticated and cultured.

THE MESSAGE IS SUBTLE BUT STRONG: THE HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE IS SOMETHING TO ASPIRE TO!

In many ways, *Glee* is the perfect example of how the broader homosexual movement operates. The goal of this movement is to remove the historic stigma attached to homosexuality, to change the core values about marriage and family, to cultivate the cultural acceptance of homosexuality. To make homosexuality as natural and normal as eating, or driving, or heterosexuality (sidebar, page 11).

There is a **DIRECT CONNECTION** between entertainment like *Glee* and the homosexual movement's ruthless and mostly unimpeded invasion of Western society and culture, of our politics and legal system, and of our educational system. The homosexual juggernaut has followed a simple but effective formula. First, get people to accept homosexuality on the screen. Once that happens, most people will accept it in other parts of their lives, in their textbooks and courthouses, and in their tax codes and cafes.

Consider homosexuality's advance in Western society. Since Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex "marriage" in 2004, six states have jumped on the bandwagon. Last July, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill requiring public schools to teach students about the contributions of "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender [LGBT] Americans" to U.S. history. In New York, a curriculum is being developed that will educate middle and high schoolers in homosexual practices and other unmentionable fetishes. Meanwhile, across America, legal and other actions are being carried out against ministers, students, parents and virtually anyone who opposes homosexuality.

Britain is under assault too. In Liverpool, homosexual hangouts are now identified by rainbow emblems on public signs. The British government is throwing the book at hotel owners who refuse homosexual couples, registrars who refuse to marry homosexuals, foster parents who oppose homosexuality, and adoption agencies that won't assign children to homosexual couples. The government is also rewriting school curricula to condone and promote the LGBT lifestyle.

In Australia, the state of Queensland last November voted to legalize same-sex

civil unions. Five of the nation's eight states and territories now recognize homosexual unions. It is now just a matter of time before same-sex "marriage" legislation, which would require a change to the Marriage Act on the federal level, is introduced.

Meanwhile in all these nations, the large majority of the populace—having *already* been brainwashed by the media into accepting homosexuality—does **NOTHING!**

Why Is *Glee* Victorious?

One of the main reasons for the homosexual movement's success is the weakness, manifested in silence and inactivity, of its victims. Despite the way it appears on television, most people today are not homosexual. And although the number of people supporting homosexuality is rising, a large number still oppose it. Why then, are the vast majority of people, even "conservatives" and supposed Christians, silent? Why do so many oppose homosexuality inwardly, but *very, very few* have the moral fortitude and willpower to stand up to it?

Author and columnist David Kupelian addressed these questions in the November 2010 issue of *Whistleblower*. "Very simply," he wrote, "most people in today's America, including conservatives, are *afraid* of 'the gay issue.' Although most know deep down there's something wrong with homosexuality, they don't want to be called 'intolerant,' 'bigoted,' 'hateful,' or 'homophobic.'"

There's no doubt that fear is part of it. But fear doesn't always mean capitulation. Fear can be conquered. The soldier on the battlefield has plenty to fear, but his devotion to the cause enables him to overcome his fear. "There is no fear in love," wrote the Apostle John, "**BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR**" (1 John 4:18).

If you look back over the past few decades, you'll notice that the emergence of homosexuality into the mainstream has occurred simultaneously with a cultural *devaluing* of traditional marriage and family. This is *not* a coincidence.

Both the birth of the homosexual movement and the current cultural disregard of traditional marriage and family can be traced back to the 1960s. This was an era marked by the pursuit of freedom from sexual repression, gender inequality

The first and most important step you can take to avoid being crushed by the homosexual juggernaut is to learn to understand and value marriage the way God does.

and traditional roles. For many, this meant attacking the institution considered most responsible for infringing on sexual freedom and women's rights: traditional marriage and family.

So, beginning in the '60s, traditional marriage fell under near-constant attack from feminists and intellectuals, from politicians and the media, and eventually, even religious leaders. The assault on marriage has been wildly successful. While the number of people marrying remained high, the *role* of marriage in society and the *value* people placed on it waned. Soon, the results of the war on marriage were evident: skyrocketing rates of divorce, single motherhood, abortions and promiscuous sex.

But there was another effect: The homosexual movement blossomed.

The movement gained traction in the wake of the June 11, 1969, "Stonewall riot," when a group of homosexuals patronizing the Stonewall Inn in New York revolted against a police demand to disperse. Then it made great strides during the 1970s and reached new heights when it bullied the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 into removing homosexuality from its list of official mental disorders. Although it suffered some setbacks during the '80s, largely because of AIDS, it was gaining ground again by the early '90s, thanks to the calculated efforts of homosexual activists.

Twenty years later, we're at the point where homosexual teenagers lose their virginity to each other in prime time and no one bats an eye!

Without traditional marriage as *the* DEFINING INFLUENCE governing human relations, new ideas—and age-old perversions—crept into the mainstream. As the value society placed on heterosexual marriage and traditional family diminished, the more prone people became to condoning alternative relationships—most notably homosexuality.

The cultural embrace of homosexuality is a *direct result* of our rejection of TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE!

Like the soldier on the battlefield, if Americans understood the importance of marriage, if they valued it as the institution critical to national success, they would be motivated to fight for it. Sure, they might fear the repercussions of taking on the homosexual juggernaut—but their LOVE of traditional marriage would



OVERPOWER THAT FEAR!

In 2 Peter 2, the Apostle Peter warned that in the time immediately prior to Christ's return, all sorts of horrible sins, particularly homosexuality, would be prevalent. In verse 6, God even compares today's world to ancient Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities overloaded with sexual perversions. In verse 7, Peter recalls that God "delivered just Lot, [who was] vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked."

Notice the word *vexed*. It means *exhausted with*, or *afflicted by*, or *grievously pained*. Lot, as editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in his booklet *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope*, was tormented "by the appalling homosexuality that saturated his surroundings." Even when radical homosexuals threatened to beat down his door and kill him, he *boldly refused their demands*. Verse 8 explains why Lot was repulsed by the rampant homosexuality: "For that RIGHTEOUS man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, VEXED HIS RIGHTEOUS SOUL from day to day with their unlawful deeds."

Lot's abhorrence of sexual perversion was a measure of his righteousness.

What a powerful condemnation of our society today. Our cultural embrace of sexual immorality is a measure of our wickedness.

What Is the Solution?

When you understand the reason for the homosexual movement's unimpeded advance into Western culture, the strategy for confronting it is obvious. It's not a solution most people will willingly embrace.

But you can, and should!

THE SOLUTION IS COMING TO DEEPLY VALUE AND UNDERSTAND THE GOD-ORDAINED INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY!

This doesn't mean simply getting back to marriage the way it was in the 1930s or the 1800s. Though marriages for the most part were healthier and more productive in the "olden days," they were far from perfect.

The first and most important step you can take to avoid being crushed by the homosexual juggernaut is to learn to understand and value marriage the way God does.

The Bible clearly reveals that God created marriage, that He created specific roles for the man and woman, and that He created family. In Genesis 1:26 we learn that man was created in the image and likeness of God Himself. We are not part of the animal kingdom, and God did not create us to behave like animals. In Genesis 2, we learn the reason God created females. Verse 18 recalls that God looked at Adam, the first man, and said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

In verse 22 it is recorded that God "made a woman [not another man], and brought her unto the man."

Finally in verses 24-25 we see the first marriage, officiated by God in the Garden of Eden: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his WIFE: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." How clear: GOD CREATED MARRIAGE!

Why did God want men and women to marry? Perhaps the best explanation is found in Ephesians 5. Verses 20 through 31 of this chapter discuss the marriage relationship, specifically the roles of husband and wife. Notice how the Apostle Paul concludes this passage in verse 31: "This is a great mystery: BUT I SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

That is an incredible statement—but there it is, canonized in the Word of God: Physical marriage is a TYPE of a higher, spiritual marriage, the now-imminent marriage between Jesus Christ and His spiritual bride. This doctrine is the nucleus of Herbert W. Armstrong's groundbreaking book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

"God blessed mankind with the holy GOD-PLANE institution of marriage—the

All According to Plan

THE forefathers of the modern homosexuality movement have worked relentlessly to promote their lifestyle. In books and magazines, in art, music and fashion, on television, they have portrayed a lifestyle that is bright, happy and creative, with homosexuals living a life of margaritas and mardi gras, glossy magazines and flashy clothes. Like *Glee*, the juggernaut for decades now has sold the homosexual lifestyle as one without shadows or blemishes, without law and authority, without financial or moral constraints—and without consequences.

Think about it. When have you seen a documentary on mainstream television, or a prominent politician before Congress, openly discuss the darker side of homosexuality—the diseases, the guilty consciences, the family breakdown?

But did you know the movement operates this way by design? That it has a specific, calculated strategy?

This strategy can be traced back to February 1988, when activists from 175 organizations gathered to discuss the issue. Shortly after that conference, activists Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen published the strategy for selling homosexuality to America. Published in May 1989, *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the '90s* lays out, with candor and in explicit detail, the homosexual strategy for winning over America.

Kirk and Madsen weren't secretive about their agenda. "The campaign we outline in this book, though complex, depends centrally upon a program of *unabashed propaganda*, firmly grounded in long-established principles of psychology and advertising," they wrote. The purpose of their plan, explained marketing expert Paul Rondeau of Regent University, was to "force acceptance of homosexual culture into the mainstream, to silence opposition, and ultimately to convert American society."

Twenty-two years on, there's no refuting that their plan has worked—at every stage—spectacularly!

Shows like *Glee* follow it to the letter.

Consider a few highlights from *After the Ball*. "When you're very different, and people hate you for it," explained Kirk and Madsen, "this is what you do: first, you get your foot in the door, by being as *similar* as possible; then, and only then—when your one little difference is finally accepted—can you start dragging in your other peculiarities, one by one. *You hammer in the wedge narrow end first*." *Glee* followed that instruction perfectly!

Another goal of the homosexual movement is what Kirk and Madsen label "conversion"—that is, "conversion of the average American's emotions, mind and will through a PLANNED PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTACK, in the form of propaganda fed to the nation via the media." They couldn't

have been more explicit!

Notice, too: These guys speak in terms of war!

They even gave tactics for bringing about "conversion." In conversion, they wrote, "the target [the average American] is shown his crowd actually associating with gays in good fellowship." Kirk and Madsen then explained that if the antagonist is consistently deluged with carefully constructed scenes of people just like him enjoying positive relations with homosexuals, his hostility toward homosexuality will eventually subside. Do it long enough, and he'll eventually endorse and even gravitate toward the homosexual lifestyle!

Here's another tactic, employed perfectly by *Glee* (among other shows). "The main thing is to talk about gayness until the issue becomes THOROUGHLY TIRESOME," wrote Kirk and Madsen. "[S]eek sensitization and nothing more If you can get [heterosexuals] to think [homosexuality] is just another thing—meriting it no more than a shrug of the shoulders—THEN YOUR BATTLE FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IS VIRTUALLY WON."

The last part of that statement is telling: Win the culture war, and you win the legal war!

Put another way, those who accept homosexual teenagers losing their virginity on television are much more likely to accept pro-homosexual curricula in schools, pro-homosexual agendas in the workplace, and even same-sex "marriage."

easy to get caught up in the emotion, in the visual, sensual appeal—and to forget that brightness is *not* evidence of purity; that smiles are *not* always signs of happiness; and that the perfect harmonies and slick dancing are *not* the result of a healthy, stable lifestyle. In 2 Corinthians 11, the Apostle Paul writes, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

The devil is appealing; he can sing like Pavarotti and dance like Astaire—but he's mean and miserable; he is the ultimate mastermind behind the radical homosexual movement!

Another tip: Make sure God, not the media or the fashion industry, is shaping your definition of what it means to be a man or woman. It's no coincidence that *Glee*, and pretty much every other television show these days, is missing the barrel-chested outdoorsman, a man with hair on his chest, a deep voice, strong gestures, a love of sports, art and fine music, a likeable personality and quick intellect, and a respect for and willingness to serve women. In other words, anything resembling the traditional, masculine man!

If you really want to know what it means to be a man, study the lives of David, and Daniel, and Jesus Christ. If you want an idea of what it means to be a godly woman, study the biblical example of Hannah, and Ruth, and Proverbs 31.

Another way to stand fast and avoid being crushed by the homosexual juggernaut is to be like Lot. Strive to live righteously, to study and obey God's laws, to pray daily, and to repent of sin. The more we *think* like God, the more repulsed by homosexuality we will be, and the more motivated we will be to keep it out of our lives!

Finally, here is something you can do right away. Request and then study deeply Mr. Armstrong's free books *The Missing Dimension in Sex* and *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* These books connect the many passages elucidating God's laws about marriage and family. Once you've read these books, and come to understand God's mind-stretching purpose for marriage, you'll find yourself equipped, energized and motivated to defend yourself against the homosexual juggernaut.

In the meantime, start with something simple: Flee *Glee*!

very picture of the Christ-Church relationship," Mr. Armstrong wrote in that book. "God endowed mankind with the God-plane institution of the FAMILY and the HOME—the very type of the KINGDOM OF GOD into which we may be born. Thus God ordained that even in this mortal life we may experience the blessing of FAMILY life, to prepare us for life in the Kingdom of God!"

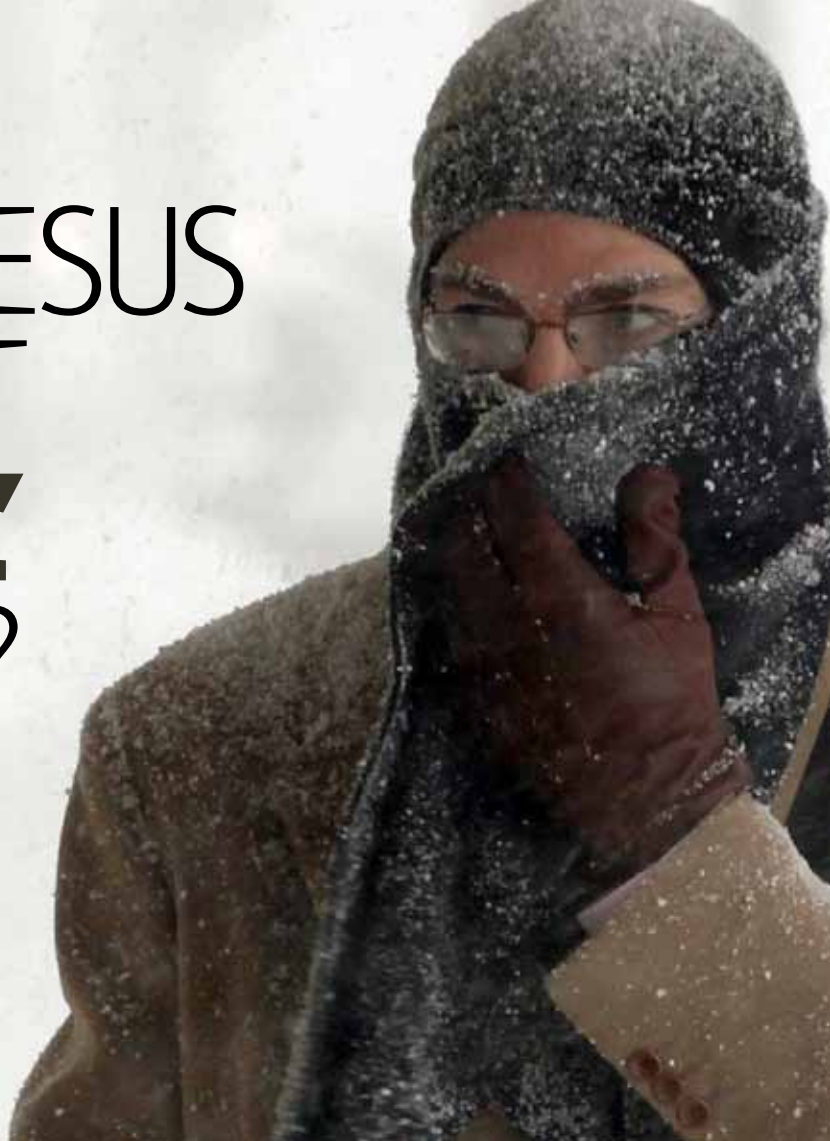
That statement, rooted in Scripture, explains the VITAL IMPORTANCE of traditional marriage and family!

As you come to understand God's view of marriage and family, it's important that you start purging from your life and mind anything that undermines this perspective.

Why not start with your TV diet? Remember, shows like *Glee* are deadly. It's so

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT 'NATURAL' DISASTERS?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



MARK 2011 DOWN AS YET ANOTHER record-breaking year for “natural” disasters. Over those 12 months, the United States was smashed by the deadliest tornado season in decades, an unprecedented wave of triple-digit heat, devastating droughts and billion-dollar blizzards, hurricanes and floods.

All totaled, 12 billion-dollar disasters pounded the United States in 2011—*three more than the previous record* set in 2008. These catastrophic events were responsible for killing 1,000 Americans and causing \$52 billion in damages.

As the Associated Press reported on December 7, “With an almost *biblical* onslaught of twisters, floods, snow, drought, heat and wildfire, the U.S. in 2011 has seen more weather catastrophes that caused at least \$1 billion in damage than it did in *all of the 1980s*, even after the dollar figures from back then are adjusted for inflation.”

Breaking it down further, AP revealed this alarming trend: During the 1980s, the United States averaged just *one billion-dollar disaster*

per year. In the 1990s, it jumped to 3.8 per year—then 4.6 during the first decade of the new millennium.

So far in this decade, *we have averaged SEVEN billion-dollar disasters per year.*

Something is frighteningly wrong with the weather.

What Is the Cause?

Some experts say we’ve just had a run of bad luck—that it’s purely a matter of happenstance. Others attribute the cause to “global warming.”

God, however, says it is a sign that we are living in the very last days. Weather disasters, as they increase in frequency and intensity, are actually fulfilling Bible prophecy. They are among the signs that Christ gave pointing to the end of this present evil age.

In His Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24, Jesus Christ gave His disciples a chronological overview of events to occur in the lead-up to His return. In verses 21-22, Christ said there is a time coming when *no flesh would be saved alive* if He didn’t

return and prevent it. This is speaking of World War III—a 3½-year bloodbath that will culminate in the “battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

But before the battle of mankind against Christ—before the European beast power and the Asiatic kings of the east square off—before Europe lashes out at the modern-day descendants of Israel—before it surrounds Jerusalem with armies—before the European king of the north comes against the Islamic king of the south like a whirlwind—before radical Islam captures East Jerusalem—*just before all of this happens*, Jesus said weather patterns and other natural phenomena would take a violent turn for the worse!

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: *and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in [different] places*” (verse 7). The return of Jesus Christ, in other words, will be preceded by a sharp upsurge in “natural” disasters.

Jesus also said that famine—a shortage of food and water—and then pestilences

BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS IN 2011

A BLIZZARD

1 | Jan. 29 – Feb. 3 Blizzard conditions in eastern, northeastern and central states **\$1.8 billion**

C TORNADO OUTBREAKS

- 2 | April 4-5 **\$2.8 billion**
- 3 | April 8-11 **\$2.2 billion**
- 4 | April 14-16 **\$2.1 billion**
- 5 | April 25-30 **\$10.2 billion**
- 6 | May 22-27 **\$9.1 billion**
- 7 | June 18-22 With hail damage **\$1.3 billion**

B DROUGHT AND HEAT WAVE

8 | Spring-Fall During cropping season **\$10 billion**

D FLOODS

- 9 | Spring-Summer Historic flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries **\$3 billion**
- 10 | Summer Record high water levels in Missouri and Souris rivers destroy homes, force evacuations and submerge miles of crops. **\$2 billion**

C,D HURRICANE IRENE

11 | August 20-29 Torrential downpours, flooding, wind damage, massive power loss to homes and businesses **\$7.3 billion**

B WILDFIRES

12 | Spring-Fall After drought and scorching heat wave, fires destroy homes and thousands of acres of arable land. **\$1 billion**



B



C



D



A

(or disease epidemics) would accompany these weather-related disasters.

In May of last year, in a television program, the *Trumpet's* editor in chief told *Key of David* viewers that the word *famines* needs to be seen not only in the context of *war*—which certainly causes famine—but also in the context of *extreme weather*. These epic disasters, in other words, are prophesied to have a profoundly negative impact on food production—a reality that is now making headlines nearly every day.

In like manner, Christ's reference to *pestilences* can also refer to the diseases that often follow in the wake of such disasters. And if you examine how the Greek word is used in Acts 24:5, another dimension is added to Christ's prophecy—the social breakdown that comes *as a result* of famine and pestilence.

The Beginning of Sorrows

These are the days we are living in right now! Weather disasters, as they increase in frequency and intensity, are actually fulfilling Bible prophecy. We are *experiencing* the outer edge of a storm that is about to inflict the worst suffering mankind has ever known.

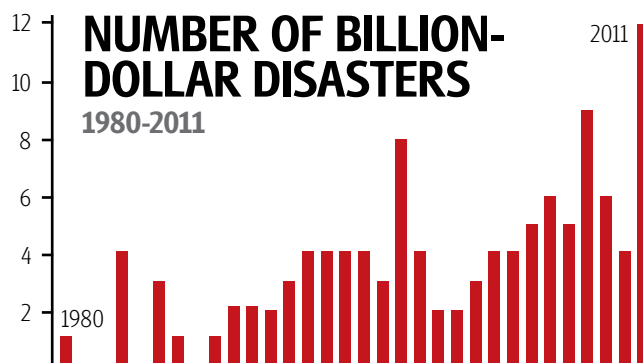
Jesus Himself said it: "All these are the

beginning of sorrows" (verse 8). This is where we are right now in Bible prophecy! Sad to say, the ever intensifying disasters we are seeing right now are only the *beginning*. It is prophesied to get much worse.

But Jesus did not leave us without hope! The *Anchor Bible* compares the "beginning of sorrows" to the beginning of birth pangs: "It's almost a technical term for the

sufferings which would immediately precede *a new age*, the age of the Messiah's reign."

What a beautiful picture! Right now, this world is being violently shaken by a rapid succession of agonizing birth pangs. But Jesus tells us that these catastrophic events will soon "give birth" to a new age of world peace and prosperity—a utopian paradise that will be totally free of weather extremities and other *unnatural* phenomena!



To learn more about the many physical signs Jesus gave about the end of the world as we now know it—and the beginning of a wonderful new age to be set up by Jesus Christ, request our free booklet *Why 'Natural' Disasters?*



Does Your Résumé Demand Attention?

Three keys for advertising
yourself in a way that
will get your foot in the
door **BY JESSE FREDERICK**

THERE'S NO HIDING FROM IT: THE job market is pretty ugly. The sluggish economy is forcing companies nationwide, even worldwide, to lay off staff members spanning a wide range of technical and professional backgrounds. It's a hirer's market, and job seekers are finding it hard to nab a specific job position even when it aligns with their experience and skills.

Nonetheless, there are a few essential steps you can take to get ahead in your job search—and get to the table for that job interview.

First, what is the purpose of a résumé? Here's a hint: Its purpose is *not* to get you a job. Nor is it to catalog your career history, job duties and education—or to document your skills, qualifications and proficiencies.

Its real goal is to *get your foot in the door*. Your résumé is an introductory sales letter that shows the hirer that you warrant a person-to-person discussion about this job position.

1. Target Your Position

Many seeking a job in today's economy are bordering on desperation. When they sit down to write a résumé too many think, *I just want a job—any job—so I'll make the résumé general enough to cover a wide range of positions in my field*. Some get frantic and ditch even limiting their résumé to a specific industry—randomly aiming their résumé like a sawed-off shotgun toward a vague, wide range of fields.

This is not the tactic to take when you write your résumé—no matter how desperate your job search may be. In fact, the more desperate you actually are, the better off you will be if you apply this key.

It is a challenge to get a job interview

in today's glum job market. However, if you take a *rifle approach* (instead of that sawed-off shotgun approach)—your hunt will be much more effective—guaranteed.

Pick your goal first. Do some detailed, involved, diligent research. Choose your industry, then *narrow it down even more* and select *your position* within that industry. Then, narrow it down to even the specific company (or companies) you want to work for the most that has openings for the job you have selected.

Never forget, you are in charge of your job search. Take charge and be proactive. Once you've pinpointed the industry, position and companies you would most enjoy (and be skilled and beneficial) working within, target your résumé specifically toward that position. Make the language and verbiage of the résumé identify and relate well with the language that company uses on its website or in its literature. Include industry- and position-related

What is the purpose of a résumé? Here's a hint: Its purpose is not to get you a job. Nor is it to catalog your career history, job duties and education—or to document your skills, qualifications and proficiencies.

keywords throughout. Also, submit a cover letter with the résumé that addresses the company and hiring decision-maker even more directly.

Scour job advertisements on the Internet, in newspapers or on job boards—and tailor your résumé toward any specific position that interests you directly. With each different position, company and/or advertisement, tweak your résumé and cover letter accordingly.

Remember, the general rule when effectively applying this point of picking your position is *get as specific and detailed as possible in your résumé*.

2. Focus on Achievements

The ammo for your résumé is your achievements: your accomplishments and highlights on the job. Achievements are actions you took or results you created which were positive for your company. These career successes you and/or your employer(s) are confident and proud of can include:

- Customer satisfaction scores
- Company awards and recognitions
- Sales revenue growth
- Process efficiency improvements
- Company savings plans and implementations
- Business expansion strategies
- Vendor/client negotiations
- Client testimonials

Did you save your company thousands of dollars by finding a new supplier? Did you work five years without a work-related accident? Did you exceed your sales targets five quarters in a row? These are facts that will help you sell your skills to the hiring decision-maker.

As you highlight these achievements on your résumé, include metrics if at all possible: exact dollar figures, quantities, percentages, etc. Eyes are often drawn to numbers, dollar signs and percentages. They add details, proof and “beef” to your highlights, making them more objective and less subjective. Here are some examples of highlights that may be included on various résumés, with metrics included:

- Improved production efficiencies by 25% within a high-pressure factory environment.
- Negotiated a lucrative business deal between company and client worth \$1.5 million.
- Increased sales within department by 110%.
- Cut labor costs by \$25,000.
- Lowered production costs by \$200,000.
- Reduced product turnover by 15,000 units per month.
- Recipient of Salesman of the Quarter company award for closing the most sales accounts in the first quarter of 2010.

The most common rebuttal I hear about including job achievements on a résumé is, *I don't have any*. But in almost all cases, that simply is not true. Having written and edited thousands of résumés covering a wide range of industries, backgrounds, skills and experience, I can say that the vast majority of people who have applied themselves diligently have had a number of accomplishments and career highlights. From recent high school graduates to elementary school teachers, lawyers to medical doctors, office managers to administrative assistants, engineers to construction workers—it *isn't* a matter of not having achievements, it's a matter of recognizing them.

For example, a recent high school graduate may have been involved in a school fundraiser for a few years. If he or she is applying for anything related to sales, customer service or marketing, there should be at least a couple achievements to draw from (example: “Expanded fundraising sales by 22% between 2009 and 2010”).

A medical doctor who has written medical journal publications, an administrative assistant who could have completed 100 percent of his or her office projects within both quality and deadline parameters, a construction worker who has met his

deadlines—all of these workers have had numerous achievements. Feel free to think outside the box when determining and including achievements within your résumé.

Also, be sure to set your achievements apart from the rest of the text in your résumé (with spacing, bullet points, or other formatting). Although the metrics will stand out, you want to draw attention to these achievements even more. Secondly, only include your top career highlights (a maximum of two to three per job position, as a rule). They are *highlights* after all.

3. Two Sets of Eyes Are Better Than One

The final key to résumé success cannot be overemphasized. As often as I hear job seekers explain that they have read over their résumés before distributing them, I hear just as many hirers and employers complain about constantly finding résumés that have multiple grammatical, spelling or various other language usage errors. In fact, in a survey I took a few years ago, scores of hirers, HR managers, employers and recruiters unanimously proclaimed that—even with automatic spell-check embedded in our word processors—this was still the most common problem they had with résumés! And every one of them dismally said they *never* have hired anyone with such a résumé.

So do yourself a favor before sending out your résumé to your potential employer: *Review it*. And then ask someone who knows the English language and writing rules even better than you do to review it as well. This point alone—if applied—will in most cases bring an interview or two!

The next time you find your job-search door seemingly slammed and locked shut—and when your résumé just doesn't seem to be doing its job of getting you phone calls or e-mails from employers—apply these keys, and watch the door swing open with interview opportunities galore waiting on the other side. ■



More in this series is available on our website.
Read “Nail That Job Interview!” at trmpt.co/int



Nazi troops storm into Poland in September 1939. At right, Pope Paul VI, who received a letter from a crony of Adolf Hitler in 1952 praising him for supporting Nazis after the war.



1 | VATICAN Secret Nazi-Vatican post-WWII army plot exposed

THE VATICAN, EX-NAZIS AND SPANISH leaders secretly plotted in the 1950s to build an army to counter Russia's feared encroachment into West Germany, according to recently disclosed documents that went up for auction in December.

The explosive documents are the first ever to emerge detailing postwar plans by the Catholic Church, ex-Nazis and members of Franco's Spain to form a secret army of ex-Nazis and Spanish soldiers that would be stationed in Spain and North Africa. The documents, uncovered by Alexander Historical Auctions, reveal that fears of Russian expansion into West Germany and all of Europe were so intense after the war that the plans to form the rogue army were very nearly brought to life.

The biggest bombshell is a 1952 letter to the Vatican official who would later become Pope Paul VI written by a priest and co-conspirator of former Nazi Lt. Col. Otto Skorzeny, a crony of Adolf Hitler. The letter, stamped with a church seal, teems with praise for its recipient (who was deputy of foreign affairs for the Vatican at the time) for the financial support he channeled to Nazi refugees living in Spain.

The seeds of the plot were first sown in September 1950 after Skorzeny fled a German prison and entered Spain, where he became an architect of a top-secret group designed to provide safe havens around the globe for leading Nazis on the lam. The Alexander Historical Auctions catalog offers this enticing synopsis of the collection: "Skorzeny entered Spain under an alias to begin a collaboration with Spain's top military leaders, ex-SS generals and

officers, and even the highest levels of the Vatican to plan the formation of a secret army of ex-Nazis and Spanish military in Spain or North Africa, prepared at any time to counter a Russian attack from East Germany. This grouping of documents, directly from Skorzeny's estate, documents his efforts to form such an 'army in exile,' perhaps with even more sinister intent. Its contents have remained hidden for over 60 years, totally unknown to journalists and historians alike."

Bill Panagopoulos, president of the auction house, says Skorzeny's desire to free political prisoners "strongly suggests" his motive to provide protection to many of Hitler's most ruthless military leaders. Spain was a "well-known 'resting place' for ex-Nazis on the run while en route to South America and the Middle East," he said. "[I]t is believed that a wide swath of coastline owned by Skorzeny near Majorca was used to smuggle his comrades in and out of Spain."

It is well documented that the Vatican helped Nazi leaders escape justice via the postwar ratlines. These documents are further concrete proof that the Vatican—despite much public denial—did indeed closely collaborate with the Nazi regime during and after World War II.

In May/June 2010, editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned, "The world has seen six heads of [the Holy Roman Empire], comprised mostly of Germany and the Vatican. Now the seventh and last head is on the scene. The Vatican-Nazi history is a horrendous prophetic insight into what is about to happen again! And very soon!"

2 | BELGIUM A queer twist left

After a year and a half of wavering, where it effectively had no permanent leader in power, Belgium finally got a prime minister. December 6, Elio di Rupo took office. Of Italian parentage, the 60-year-old Socialist has a reputation as a flamboyant leftist. He is Europe's first openly declared homosexual leader of an EU government. Di Rupo's government will face an almost overwhelming task in seeking appropriate remedies to its current debt crisis. As the rest of Europe swings to the political right, this is a queer twist against the trend.

This, after all, is the nation that has headquartered the European unification process from its inception, based on a strong right-wing Catholic foundation. Di Rupo



DI RUPO

may soon feel the heat from the predominant rightist Catholic elites and become yet another fall guy for an appointee more acceptable to Rome and Berlin's Holy Roman agenda. If the Belgian economy collapses, watch for Berlin to apply another "Greek solution" in order to take control of yet another eurozone nation.



A German Leopard 2-A6 heavy tank

3 | GERMANY Arms for sale

Germany's revenue from exporting weapons and defense products jumped sharply in 2010 to its highest level ever, according to the government's annual Defense and Exports Report. Arms exports generated €2 billion (US\$2.66 billion), up from €1.34 billion in 2009 and €0.3 billion in 2002. Though two thirds of the weapons exports are to EU or NATO members, United Press International reported that the Germans "are battling hard for military contracts in the Middle East" (Nov. 29, 2011). Last year, Germany agreed to sell 200 Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia. This rise in arms exports reflects the new Germany, a nation unashamed of its history. The exports to the Middle East also points to a new alliance—one the *Trumpet* has forecast for years—between Germany and the enemies of Iran.



4 | CHINA
Hu has the fastest super-computer?

China now runs neck and neck with the U.S. in supercomputer technology. For decades, America's supercomputers soared above any competition, but China is changing that. In November, Beijing unveiled the world's most powerful super-computer. Some analysts called it a "Sputnik moment," as China trounced the U.S. in one of the most crucial sectors of national security. "[I]f the U.S. falls behind in supercomputing it could quickly lose its edge in all areas of science, in industries like oil and gas exploration and pharmaceutical research, and in security and military fields," *Newsweek* wrote on Nov. 27, 2011.

"We're scared. This technology is fundamental for our national security, and for our economic competitiveness. Are we really going to let this slip away?"

DONA CRAWFORD
HEAD OF COMPUTING AT
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE
NATIONAL LABORATORY

4 | CHINA Ramping up rhetoric

Chinese President Hu Jintao urged the Chinese Navy on Dec. 5, 2011, to "accelerate its transformation and modernization in a sturdy way, and make extended preparations for military combat." His statement came just two days after China's influential Rear Adm.

Zhang Zhaozhong threatened to start World War III in order to protect Iran from Western powers. This threat came two weeks after Beijing accused President



HU

Obama of escalating military friction in Asia by announcing plans to deploy 2,500 marines to Australia. China's state-run *Global Times* said Australia should not let the U.S. use its bases to "harm China" and said Australia risked getting "caught in the crossfire." As Beijing's power intensifies, it will become increasingly belligerent toward Western powers.

5 | INDIA More muscle in the East

India's military buildup topped *Foreign Policy* magazine's list of the 10 most overlooked trends that will shape geopolitics in the future, published in its December issue. Quoting think tanks and weapons watchdogs, the article highlighted India's massive defense budgets and increasing naval might, which is designed to dominate the Indian Ocean and extend India's power into the South China Sea. FP says these changes reveal India's shift to an offensive posture toward China. Much of the burgeoning military spending



Sea Harriers flown by the Indian Navy

throughout Asia is the result of disputes among Asian states, but all that power will soon be pooled and channeled against a colossal European enemy.



Riot police carry away an activist at Triumphalnaya Square in Moscow.

6 | RUSSIA Protests don't worry Putin

RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER VLADIMIR PUTIN SPOKE OUT ON Dec. 14, 2011, about public demonstrations against him. Putin said his plans to return to the presidency in March are unchanged and accused organizers of the protests of striving to weaken Russia with help from Western powers. He said billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov, who plans to run against him for the presidential seat, would be a "worthy, strong competitor." But Prokhorov's presidential bid is only a design by the Kremlin to give Russia's elections a veneer of legitimacy without actually threatening Putin's victory. Despite the uprisings, and despite the Western media's desire to portray Putin as a weakening figure, the prime minister remains Russia's most popular politician and is on track to comfortably win the upcoming presidential election.

4 | CHINA Next man on the moon

Since its genesis in 1992, China's manned space program has grown with breathtaking speed. On Nov. 22, 2011, analyst Kate Lanau said, "If all goes according to plan, the next astronaut on the moon will be Chinese." In 2003, China launched its first astronaut into space, becoming one of only three nations capable of human space flight capabilities. 2007 saw China shoot down one of its satellites in a demonstration of its powerful anti-satellite technology. In 2010, Beijing launched more satellites than the U.S. for the first time. Then, in September 2011, China crossed another milestone by launching the Tiangong-1, or "Heavenly Palace," space module into the night sky. Beijing says its space program is peaceful, but because it is operated by the Chinese military, many analysts are skeptical. China's space program is rapidly rising as NASA trudges through a period of inactivity and transition. The contrast will hasten the decision of smaller Asian nations to abandon the sinking U.S. ship and begin looking to Beijing.



An unmanned Chinese rocket

GETTY IMAGES (2), YOSHIKAZU TSUNO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



U.S. troops board a transport outbound from Iraq.

1 | IRAQ

So long, farewell, fiimaan illaah

THE LAST CONVOY OF U.S. TROOPS LEFT IRAQ ON DEC. 18, 2011, concluding nearly nine years of war. In a revealing testimony of the condition America left the country in, U.S. forces paid tribal sheikhs \$100,000 a month to secure stretches of highway leading south into Kuwait in order to reduce the threat of roadside bombings and attacks on convoys as they departed. America leaves the fledgling democracy with an unstable government under the heavy influence of neighboring Iran, as insurgency attacks continue.

NATO also ended its mission in Iraq in December. For seven years, by Iraq's own invitation, NATO supported Iraq's efforts to train cohesive military and police forces. But despite NATO's willingness to continue the mission, the Iraqi government unceremoniously denied NATO that opportunity. As the NATO press release stated, "Agreement on the extension of this successful program did not prove possible despite robust negotiations conducted over several weeks" (Dec. 12, 2011). This NATO withdrawal is but one more step toward emboldening the increasingly aggressive push from the biblical king of the south, Iran, against the rising king of the north in Europe.

2 | EGYPT The big winners

Egypt's two largest Islamist parties won big in recent elections. In the country's first two rounds of multi-stage legislative elections, the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party won with 37 percent of the vote in the first round, and 36 percent in the second. The ultraconservative Salafis came second, with 24 percent and 28 percent in each round, respectively. The results indicate that about two thirds of Egyptians want Islam to play a greater role in the nation's government. The strong showing by the hard-line Islamist Salafis took many by surprise. Their success will only strengthen the Muslim Brotherhood, which will appear to be the "moderate" alternative. However, though the two parties disagree on tactics, they differ little in foreign policy, hostility to the West, and strategic objectives for Egypt. Though the military will officially remain in charge until presidential elections are held, it will find it difficult to resist the popular mandate that the new Islamist parliament will have.



Egyptians protest their military government.

"I want to say: citizenship restricted by Islamic sharia, freedom restricted by Islamic sharia, equality restricted by Islamic sharia. Sharia is obligatory, not just the principles—freedom and justice and all that."

SHEIK ABDEL MONEIM EL-SHAHAT
LEADER OF THE SALAFIS

2 | EGYPT

A rocket-build-ing safe haven

The terrorist group Hamas has built rocket production facilities in the Sinai Peninsula because it believes Israel will not attack it in Egypt, Israel's *Jerusalem Post* reported Dec. 11, 2011. Israel thwarted an attack by Hamas from the Sinai on December 8 by bombing several senior terrorists in Gaza. At the same time, Hamas is cementing its connections with its parent terrorist organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, in Egypt. A senior Hamas source said the group has added "a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood-Palestine" to its official name, according to the London-based *al-Hayat* newspaper.



3 | PAKISTAN

Push coming to shove

A NATO air strike on Nov. 26, 2011, that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers has further damaged the already shaky U.S.-Pakistan relationship. A top Pakistani army general called the strike "a deliberate act of aggression." Pakistan's Defense Committee of the Cabinet gave the U.S. two weeks to vacate Shamsi airbase, jeopardizing American drone operations. It also immediately closed the two crossings on Pakistan's western border to trucks carrying fuel, food and vehicles to NATO troops. Pakistan is now within a hair's breadth of ending its cooperation with the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. This provides strategic openings for both Russia and China.

4 | IRAN **Déjà vu: embassy attack**

Britain closed its embassy in Tehran and expelled all Iranian diplomats from London after the British Embassy and residential compound in Iran was stormed and ransacked on Nov. 29, 2011. The attackers included members of the paramilitary Basij militia and carried banners naming the commander of the Quds Force, which runs the overseas operations of the Revolutionary Guard. This operation, wrote the *Guardian*, "was an official one, with three conservative institutions, the parliament, the judiciary and the supreme leader, behind it" (Nov. 29, 2011). Two days earlier, Iran's parliament had approved a bill to reduce diplomatic and economic ties with Britain, including forcing out the British ambassador within two weeks, in retaliation to new sanctions imposed by London. This strongly suggests the ensuing attack had official complicity.



The demonstration that led to the attack

4 Missiles equipped on dangerously under-defended British patrol frigate

24 Pakistani soldiers killed by a NATO air strike

100 Thousands of dollars paid monthly to Iraqi tribal sheikhs to secure safe exit for U.S. forces

5 | SYRIA A new Sunni bloc?

As violence escalates in Syria, the Arab League has turned against the ruling Assad regime, suspending Syria's membership and adopting sanctions. Saudi Arabia and Qatar—which fear Iran's growing power in the region and its alliance with Syria—are leading the Arab League efforts against Syria. "Saudi's problem is Iran. Going after Syria today ensures you remove Iran from the picture. There is an attempt to create a new Sunni bloc in the region," said analyst Safwat Zayaat (msnbc.com, Nov. 23, 2011). We can expect Saudi Arabia's efforts to split Syria's alliance with Iran to be successful in the end, as Bible prophecy indicates that Syria is destined to join an Arab coalition.

4 | IRAN The ayatollah's push

Iran has ratcheted up its defiance toward the West as it cements its role as head of the increasingly Islamist Middle East.



Iranian troops look at a captured RQ-170 drone.

On Dec. 5, 2011, Iran announced it had shot down an unpiloted U.S. spy drone that was in Iran's airspace.

American officials say the craft crashed on its own due to a malfunction, but no one disputes the fact that the U.S.'s sophisticated surveillance technology is in Iran's possession. Iran said it would not return the drone to the U.S. and called America's drone mission an "act of war."

On December 12, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee said Iran's military will practice shutting down the strategic waterway that transports one third of the world's seaborne oil shipments. "Soon we will hold a military maneuver on how to close the Strait of Hormuz," said Parviz Sarvari. "If the world wants to make the region insecure, we will make the world insecure."

In a December 11 statement channeling Iran's defiance toward Europe, an Iranian official said the EU "definitely" would not impose sanctions on Iran's oil exports because such a move would harm the global crude market. But Iran underestimates Europe. Soon, Bible prophecy foretells, Europe will violently stop Iran's defiance.



Hamad's Mashaal (left) meets with Fatah's Abbas.

6 | ISRAEL Not good news for Jews

HAMAS AND FATAH HAILED A NEW ERA OF COOPERATION as their leaders met in Cairo on Nov. 24, 2011. "We want to assure our people and the Arab and Islamic world that we have turned a major new and real page in partnership on everything to do with the Palestinian nation," said Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas agreed, saying: "There are no more differences between us now. We have agreed to work as partners with joint responsibility." Their meeting was their first since the two leaders signed an accord on reconciliation in May.

Watch for this new cooperation to work in Hamas's favor. As *Courcy's Intelligence Brief* pointed out, with the Muslim Brotherhood on the rise—MB-affiliated parties winning elections in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt—MB-linked Hamas is primed to gain strength in the Palestinian territories, "increasing its influence in the West Bank to go with its dominance of the Gaza Strip" (Nov. 30, 2011). This is something the *Trumpet* has been expecting to develop for some time.

7 | KUWAIT 'Deteriorating conditions'

Tensions have escalated in Kuwait. Allegations of corruption and greater calls for reform have gripped the oil-rich Gulf state in the wake of the uprisings throughout the region. In November, protesters stormed the parliament building, infuriated by allegations of financial corruption by the government. In early December, Kuwait's ruling emir dissolved parliament, citing "deteriorating conditions," and giving two months for new elections to be held. This came shortly after he named a new prime minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah, who formed a new cabinet. As a result of the ongoing political turmoil, it is the eighth cabinet since February 2006. The U.S. will be watching the political instability in Kuwait closely. Kuwait is a stationing area for U.S. troops that have withdrawn from Iraq. Pressured by the prospect of Iran filling the vacuum in neighboring Iraq, watch for Kuwait to become increasingly dependent on Saudi Arabia, a key nation of the biblically prophesied Psalm 83 alliance, for its security.



A Kuwaiti MP speaks after storming the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

8 | MOROCCO Islamists win yet again

An Islamist party won the most seats in Morocco's parliamentary election on Nov. 25, 2011. The election was Morocco's first since a new constitution came into effect in July transferring some of King Mohammed VI's near-absolute power to parliament and to the prime minister. The king made these changes in response to pro-democracy protests in Morocco. The winning party, the Islamist Justice and Development Party, is the political wing of Morocco's Uniqueness and Reform movement, which represents the Muslim Brotherhood.

9 | LIBYA Welcome to the 'hood

After being outlawed in Libya for decades, the Muslim Brotherhood conducted its first public meeting there on Nov. 17, 2011, and called for sweeping national reconstruction. As in other countries in the region, elections in Libya are bound to give the better-organized Islamists an advantage over other political groups.



Argentine President Cristina Kirchner is growing more outspoken against the British.



2 | SUDAN 3 | SOUTH SUDAN
Oil rights and fights

China sent a special envoy to Juba on Dec. 7, 2011, to try to break a deadlock between Sudan and its former territory South Sudan, which appear to be on the brink of a renewed conflict over oil rights. The economies of the two Sudans remain intertwined due to the fact that South Sudan has the majority of the region's oil fields and Sudan has the majority of the region's pipeline infrastructure. As a major buyer of Sudanese oil, China has a vested interest in ensuring that oil from the south keeps flowing northward to ports on the Red Sea. French oil company Total is also trying to get at South Sudan's oil by proposing a new pipeline to run through Uganda to the Kenyan coast. Expect competition between Europe and China over Africa's natural resources to increase in the near future.

1 | ARGENTINA **Falklands battle brewing**

FRICTION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA is increasing. Argentine patrol ships boarded 12 Spanish fishing boats during late November and early December, saying their fishing licenses were not valid. They said the boats were operating "illegally" in disputed waters.

Argentina's National Congress is considering a proposal that would make the country's Olympic logo the image of the Falkland Islands with the words "The Falklands are Argentine." Britain's plans to create a 1 million-square-kilometer protective zone around South Georgia—an island in the region of the Falklands also claimed by Argentina—are not likely to make the waters any calmer.

Britain's *Telegraph* newspaper wrote that Britain would not be capable of

saving the Falkland Islands if Argentina took them over, as it did in 1982. "[I]t is highly unlikely that Britain could repeat the mission," it wrote, "particularly since we no longer have an aircraft carrier available. Nor, given France's ambivalence over the issue, would there be any realistic prospect of borrowing a French carrier, as stipulated under the recent Anglo-French defense pact" (Dec. 6, 2011).

Rockhopper Oil is drilling in the seabed around the islands to determine if there are commercially viable fields of oil or gas. This could give the islands more than a geographical significance, which would heat up competition for the islands even more. This is a competition that Britain has neither the capability nor the will to win.

Shrinking the Atlantic

European and Latin American leaders met in Brussels in November and agreed that the two continents should continue to strengthen links in spite of on-going financial trouble. "We must work jointly for economic growth in both continents," said Antonio Tajani, vice president of the European Commission. Tajani reminded Latin American officials of just how important EU investments are to their countries and then dogmatically stated that Europe would emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. "Currently in the midst of the crisis some countries look upon us with certain arrogance, thinking the European Union is over. I disagree profoundly. Europe will emerge differently but stronger, with greater cohesion, and even more competitive," he said. Tajani is right in this regard. Europe will emerge stronger from this crisis, and Latin America will stand at its side in the new world order. Herbert Armstrong long prophesied that the alliance between Europe and South America would grow strong.



"I think that this moment is crucial for Europe and Latin America and more cooperation is needed."

ANTONIO TAJANI
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
VICE PRESIDENT

4 | CONGO **Not the 'capital of the world' you want to be**

Millions cast their votes for president and parliament on Nov. 28, 2011, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's second-ever federal election. Sporadic violence resulted in the deaths of at least five people at two polling locations as political tensions ran high. Ethnic prejudices and widespread government corruption have made the Democratic Republic of the Congo one of the most violent nations on Earth. The eastern part of the country has been called the "rape capital of the world" by UN Special Representative Margot Wallstrom; reports indicate that 48 women are raped every hour. This is one nation that desperately needs the return of Jesus Christ to restore peace and happiness.



Demonstrators protest electoral fraud.

Nothing to look forward to but looting some shops

A lack of hopes and dreams in English youth contributed to the riots last summer, the independent inquiry set up by the government said in its interim report published Nov. 28, 2011. “We were shocked by the number of young people we spoke to who had no hopes or dreams for their future,” wrote the chairman of the Riots Communities and Victims Panel, Darra Singh, in the report’s foreword. There is a “collective pessimism about the future,” he wrote. “The absence of hopes and dreams amongst many we spoke to is a danger for society,” the report says. The book of Proverbs concurs, saying, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”



Adolescents throw rocks at police in London in August.



Trim the budget? Not this year

Officials from the congressional super committee charged with finding ways to reduce the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the next decade announced on Nov. 21, 2011, that they would not be able to make any proposals before their Thanksgiving deadline. Democratic officials were unwilling to cut entitlements in the run-up to 2012 federal elections and Republican officials were unwilling to raise taxes. As a result, the Dow Jones industrial average lost almost 250 points as investors worried about debt problems both at home and abroad. This failure may expose the U.S. sovereign rating to more downgrades. “It is just a matter of time before the government’s rating is cut,” Steve Ricchiuto, Mizuho Securities’ chief economist, said in a report. America lacks the political will to make the budget cuts necessary. Expect the United States to soon enter a time of unprecedented economic turmoil.

I’d kill for that \$2 waffle maker

Black Friday sales across the United States were marred by violence as crazed shoppers literally fought over the best deals. Several incidents occurred at Wal-Mart stores as millions of Americans loaded up on holiday purchases. One female shopper at a Los Angeles, California, Wal-Mart—desperate to get her hands on some discounted electronics—actually pepper-sprayed a crowd of people in an attempt to keep them away from the merchandise she wanted. Chaos erupted at a Wal-Mart in Rome, New York, when several fights broke out in the electronics department. Two shoppers ended up in hospital for minor injuries. A discount-seeking shopper in San Leandro, California, was shot and critically wounded during a robbery outside a Wal-Mart. Similar shootings occurred in Fayetteville, North Carolina; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and Des Moines, Iowa. It is astonishing how violent and self-centered human beings can be when a materialistic craze comes over them. If people will explode like this over discounted plasma TVs, imagine what will happen when America starts to experience food shortages.



U.S. doesn’t want our oil? We’ll sell it to Asia

Since the Obama administration postponed making a decision on Canada’s Keystone oil pipeline to Texas, Canadian politicians and energy executives are ratcheting up support for several big infrastructure projects aimed at redirecting the country’s growing oil output to thirsty Asian markets. “We favor the construction of infrastructure that will move resources to markets that want them,” in particular China and Asia, Canadian Energy Minister Joe Oliver said in an interview in November. Two proposed projects envision pumping crude from landlocked Alberta to the Pacific Ocean, where the oil could be shipped to Asia by sea. Canada is currently America’s largest oil provider. The fact that it is now seeking alternative energy markets does not bode well for America, especially since oil is already near \$100 per barrel.



We demand crippling debt!

One and a half million public sector workers went on strike Nov. 30, 2011, closing six out of every ten schools in England and disrupting services at hospitals, courts and various government agencies. The strikes were called in response to the government’s attempt to deal with its out-of-control finances by reforming public sector pensions—trying to bring public workers’ extremely generous pension provisions closer to what could be expected in the private sector. Such disruptions will only get worse as nations struggle to deal with their deficits.



Britain’s last four bullets

The British Frigate HMS Westminister had only four missiles when it was sent to patrol the area close to Benghazi last March, according to Royal Navy officers. The ship, they say, was “dangerously under-defended.” It had just two rounds of Seawolf missiles—missile interceptors that are fired in sets of two. Britain’s budget cuts continue to leave the nation at risk.



The End of the Free World

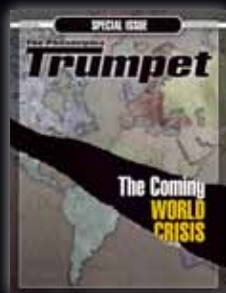
READ THIS FIRST **A NOTE FROM THE TRUMPET STAFF**

Ten years ago, in our January 2002 edition, the *Trumpet* presented an overview of biblical prophecy. Called “The Coming World Crisis,” this special issue featured articles on each of the major global powers foretold in Scripture to play a significant role in end-time events. We are now in the process of converting it into a booklet to offer to *Trumpet* subscribers.

The following article, about Anglo-America, is reprinted in full and unaltered from that issue. It is our hope that you will benefit from reading its astounding preview of world events—now in many instances a post-view. We believe it powerfully demonstrates the inerrancy of the Bible. Its timeless nature is made all the more exciting as you consider the astounding events that have taken place just over this past year.

As you read, remember the shocking economic collapse experienced by the U.S. and Britain in 2008. Remember the hundreds of financial institutions—including giants Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—that either failed, or were bailed out or nationalized. Consider the 9 million jobs that have been lost, the millions of homes that are being foreclosed upon, the record high food stamp usage, and the growing divide between rich and poor. And remember that another, greater crash is guaranteed to hit soon.

As you read, don't forget the heightened social unrest spilling onto the streets in America and Britain. For five days in August, animal-like mobs of rioters in London burned businesses and homes, hospitalized police officers, looted shops, assaulted citizens, and even killed people. That same month, in America there were the race riots in Milwaukee that more



closely resembled something out of tribal Afghanistan. More recently, the Occupy Wall Street movement has made dramatic headlines. Every day it seems that people are getting angrier—and looking for someone to blame. Authorities reported record gun sales in November, up 35 percent over the previous year. Violence is taking over the streets in many of our cities, and people are getting desperate for protection.

As you read, consider that America's military—the institution that perhaps the most Americans take pride in—is reaching a critical breakpoint. After more than a decade of war, troops and equipment are stretched like never before. The average age of fighter aircraft is 24 years and rising. For naval vessels it is even higher. Hundreds of aircraft and vessels are operating far past their expected operational lifetimes. With the broken economy, massive military spending cuts are guaranteed. America's military is set to shrink rapidly. In Britain, a country once renowned for its navy, its armed forces are so shrunken that it no longer has even a single aircraft carrier.

And as you think about the prophecy in this article, know that America and Britain are now less able than at any time in their history to cope with these problems. Think of the moral decline that has taken place over the past decade, and what that has done to our leadership. Think of the in-your-face homosexual agenda being forced on the nation. Think of the breakdown in traditional families. The consequences are becoming more apparent each year. America's jails are full. Depression and health issues plague society. One in four women take at least one drug for a mental health issue. These problems are beyond *our* ability to fix.

But there is a solution to our problems. God promises to protect and prosper those who commit to obey Him and keep His laws. He promises to give answers to even our biggest problems. We hope the following article will help you see the urgency in God's work today and that it will motivate you to action. This world needs solutions—God's solutions—more than ever. And we hope you will continue to be a part of that.



UNCIVILIZED

A rioter walks past a car engulfed in flames in London.



UNHAPPY

Occupy Oakland protesters march against the Port of Oakland.



UNFINISHED

Some of the last American troops leave Iraq.

The peoples that have defined the world for two centuries face an uncertain future. What's ahead for the U.S. and Britain? **BY RYAN MALONE**

ONE OF THE MOST ASTOUNDING SECRETS of the Bible—that the United States and Britain are two of the most prominent nations mentioned in prophecy—may initially appear startling, or even preposterous, to some of our readers.

Yet, while never mentioned by their modern-day names, the prophecies about these nations that have come to pass are so numerous, they provide one of the most convincing proofs of the validity of God's written Word! A startling statement, but provable beyond the shadow of a doubt.

These nations are dramatic, living examples of prophecy being fulfilled.

Tragically, these nations have a history of being quick to forget. Even knowledge revealing their identity and their role in history might have been lost forever in the corridors of time, had God not restored this truth to His Church through the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

But still more important for your sake than the prophecies already fulfilled are the prophecies *yet to be fulfilled*. The FUTURE of these nations, as portrayed by God's prophets, is a terrifying one. Yet scriptures like Isaiah 55:11 remind us that God's prophecies are sure.

We now can see the seeds of these vital prophecies being fulfilled, in world events, and exposed on the pages of this magazine!

Now, more than ever, before it is too late, you must have a clear-eyed view of what to expect in the years ahead—to get a grasp of what God forecasts for the American and British peoples.

To say that the effect these prophecies will have on your life will be dramatic would be a grave understatement!

Here is why.

Identity of U.S. and Britain

First, before we can understand the prophecies pertaining to the United States and Britain, an understanding of the identity of these countries in the Bible is essential.

The abundant material blessings eventually bestowed on the U.S. and the British Commonwealth of nations were initially conveyed to the biblical patriarch Abraham because of his obedience (Genesis 22:16-18). He then passed them on to his son Isaac, who later did the same with his son Jacob. In due time, Jacob conferred this birthright promise to his son Joseph's sons—Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh was to become one great nation, and his younger brother a company of nations.

One day, materially, these nations would become stupendously rich and powerful, above any other nations.

For proof of why Britain (together with some of the British Commonwealth nations) and the United States of America can be identified in the Bible as Ephraim and Manasseh—part of the lost 10 tribes of Israel—request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, written by Herbert Armstrong.

The Bible is a book essentially about *Israel*—its history and its future. Given that the modern descendants of the Israelites are known, the KEY to understanding biblical prophecy suddenly jumps into view.

That includes an understanding of those future events which are certain to soon hit this world!

Prophecies Already Fulfilled

One of the most amazing stories of history, that of the unparalleled growth and prosperity of the United States and Britain, and the unprecedented, startling speed of their appearance on the world scene, takes us straight back to those promises made

to Ephraim and Manasseh. Following the unwinding of these prophecies from their earliest phases makes a fascinating study.

Think of it! At the height of their power, these two countries possessed nearly three quarters of all the world's cultivated wealth and resources. For Britain, the sun never set on its empire. In fact, it became the greatest territorial expanse in history, and the United States the greatest single nation.

Just as your Bible prophesied would be the case, no people have enjoyed greater blessings of prosperity and freedom than the modern nations of Israel.

However, the conditions on which these Anglo-American promises were made—the active part of the equation—depended on OBEDIENCE to God, the awarder of such spectacular and abundant blessings. God kept His part of the bargain. Israel did not. God's agreement with ancient Israel specified that, in such a case, curses for disobedience would follow on the heels of the blessings.

What the world has witnessed in these nations, especially over the last few decades, is an unequalled moral decline—and consequently, the gradual removal of God's blessings. How clearly reality in both the U.S. and Britain reflects this truth!

Isaiah prophesied of the decline of strong leadership—nationally and within families (Isaiah 1:4-6; 3:1-12). Family strife, abusive parents, delinquent children, adultery and divorce are commonplace in the Western world. God also prophesied that sexual perversions would abound—comparing American and British society to ancient Sodom (Isaiah 3:9).

God prophesied of a decline in military strength and will (Leviticus 26:17-20). The facts speak for themselves. Both Britain and the United States are currently withdrawing from their role as the world's peace brokers and turning the job over to a willing German-led European Union, which has begun to take on U.S.-led peace challenges in the Middle East, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Right now, despite the far superior size and capacity of its military, the casualty-shy U.S. feels particularly wary about acting forcefully enough to win a decisive battle.

Also prophesied for America and Britain was the gain of strategic sea gates (Genesis 22:17) only to be lost as these nations reaped curses for disobedience. This too has already largely occurred. The 20th century saw Britain's and America's loss of sea gates such as the Suez Canal, Malta, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Cape of Good Hope and the Panama Canal. Gibraltar will undoubtedly be added to the list soon, as Britain

is being bullied by the European Union to relinquish control of this strategic territory, under threat of horrendous fines.

To anyone with a truly open mind, who knows the identity of Israel in prophecy, the fact that God is allowing Britain and America to reap the corrective consequences of their actions should be increasingly obvious.

Given that people are largely ignoring the correction meted out thus far, what can we expect to occur in the future?

Prophecies to Be Fulfilled

Old Testament prophets like Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Hosea provided specific detail about what is to happen to the United States and Britain. Their prophecies were sometimes dual, with a lesser fulfillment to happen in their day. But they were mostly written for the end time, just prior to Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Ezekiel, for instance, wrote about Israel's future destruction and captivity WELL AFTER ancient Israel had already gone into captivity. Other prophecies could *not* have been fulfilled during the lives of the prophets. God even explicitly told certain prophets that their words are for the end time (see Jeremiah 30:2, 24; Isaiah 30:8; "the time to come" reads "the latter day" in the Hebrew).

In these prophecies, God refers to the end-time nations of Israel as the "house of Israel," "Jacob" or "my people." Some prophecies refer specifically to the house of Judah—the modern nation of Israel in the Middle East today—but often, the general prophecies can be applied to Israel and Judah, since Judah is a tribe of Israel.

Armed with this knowledge, we can get a clear picture of the future of America and Britain from Old Testament prophecy. Tragically, the story told there is very bleak.

In addition to prophesying the decline of the greatest superpowers ever to exist, the fruits of which are being seen now, the Bible says the decline will culminate in the tragic *devastation* of these two countries. The U.S., Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and others will see utter defeat in a coming world war—what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22).

In comparing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to modern-day Israel, Isaiah foretold that Israel would suffer the SAME FATE as those two evil cities—with only a few righteous to be saved (Isaiah 1:7, 9).

Here is how these events will play out, as the Bible foretells, just before and throughout this future tribulation. The outline can be found in Ezekiel 5. Through Ezekiel—whose prophecy was for the "house of Israel" (Ezekiel 3:5)—God says that a third part of America and the British nations will die by *pestilence and famine*, a third by *nuclear attack* on the land, and the final third *taken into captivity*.

These are prophecies to sit up and take note of! This is the plain Word of God, printed in *your* Bible! Surely, it should merit your attention!

Pestilence and Famine

Ezekiel 5:12 states, "A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee . . ."

Earlier in chapter 5, Ezekiel was told to go through a physical ritual that pictured this event: "And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled . . ." (verses 1-2).

In his new booklet, *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*, our editor in chief wrote, "The word *pestilence* just means destruction or death (see the *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*). One definition of the root word is 'to lay snares, to plot against, to destroy.' So this pestilence could be a plague of violence or burning—not necessarily a physical disease at all! It can be defined as a plague of violence and rioting—such as the Los Angeles riots in 1992 or as the violence of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks! Why would the first third be burned with fire (verse 2), if it refers to a disease epidemic?

"The pestilence, or plague of violence, will cause many health problems that lead to famine. Sewage disposal will be disrupted. Gas lines will be broken. Jobs will be lost. Society will unravel and the collective panic will bring a stock market disaster! It will get so bad that violence and famine will take millions of lives!" It will take a full THIRD of lives, in fact! This is death on the scale of tens of millions of people! Write for a free copy of this booklet for more information.

The siege spoken of in Ezekiel portends an economic disaster, for God speaks

of removing Israel's financial blessings (Hosea 2:8-9). The Bible shows that this famine will get so bad, people will turn to what seems unthinkable in our current prosperity: cannibalism (Ezekiel 5:10).

Watch the American and British economies carefully. The U.S. economy, in particular, is an ever expanding bubble—ready to burst anytime. It has been kept afloat by superficial means, particularly heavy consumer spending. When the terrorist attacks struck on September 11, the fragile economy was revealed for what it was as consumer spending took a huge blow. Yet, it all began to pick up as the U.S. entered a retaliatory mode and the holiday shopping season struck.

America will not be so resilient when it suffers this kind of pestilence prophesied in Ezekiel 5. With one third of the population falling as casualties of domestic violence, the world's largest economy will barely be a shell of what it used to be.

Of course, all this seems too unbelievable to be true! How could such a fate befall America? Well, before September 11, who would have believed that such terrorism could occur on U.S. soil? It was so unbelievably shocking. Yet, it happened. The terrorist attacks, the rioting and racial tensions already experienced in both Britain and the U.S. are signs that THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE IS IMMINENT. We should watch these things, so this destruction does not catch us off guard (Luke 21:36).

As Mr. Flurry's *Ezekiel* booklet points out, we should watch for increased racial tension in the nations of Israel. Increasingly over the last ten years, British and American newspapers have been spattered with stories about bloodshed over conflicts between racial groups.

The race riots in Cincinnati, Ohio, last April and Britain's Bradford riots of six months ago were only a precursor of how major Western cities could fall to such violence in the near future—violence so great as to cause the death of ONE THIRD of these countries' citizens.

'The Sword'

After the pestilence and famine, Ezekiel 5:12 says, "A THIRD PART SHALL FALL BY THE SWORD ROUND ABOUT THEE . . ." The next event will be a military attack against the end-time nations of Israel. Hosea 5:5 says that Britain, America and Israel will all fall together.

Yet, how could this prophecy come to pass, particularly against America, which is still by far the most militarily superior nation in the world?

We can expect to see something undercut the U.S. military might—perhaps

more terrorist attacks or even cyberwarfare and cyberterrorism.

The U.S. has downsized its defense program to the point where *it can no longer fight a war on two fronts*. The current campaign in Afghanistan may look impressive, but prophecy indicates that what is left of America's strength will be "spent in vain" (Leviticus 26:20). Perhaps this war on terrorism will have exhausted American forces by the time the real enemy attacks.

Britain is suffering from a similar military contraction. The *Daily Telegraph* reported on June 11, 2001, "The Royal Navy can barely meet its NATO obligations, let alone think of mounting any campaign in Britain's interests far away . . ." As God prophesied in Isaiah 3, the "mighty man" and the "man of war" will continue to fade into non-existence.

The economic wounds previously discussed will most likely contribute to the lack of military strength and response at this point in time. Consider the implications of another of Ezekiel's prophecies: "They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; BUT NONE GOETH TO THE BATTLE: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (Ezekiel 7:14). It appears certain that, at some future point, Israel's military will be so crippled that an armed takeover by another country will occur.

But WHO will attack the United States and the British nations? When you understand Bible prophecy, you realize that these countries' foreign policies have been off the mark when predicting which countries pose the real threat. It will not be the Russians. It will not be Iraq. It will not be North Korea.

The Bible actually shows it is those with whom Israel has formed a close alliance—its "lovers" (Lamentations 1:1-2; Hosea 2:13).

Ezekiel 23 reveals these "lovers" to be the *Assyrians* (verses 5, 7, 9, 12)—end-time GERMANY. Germany, by this time, will be leading a united Europe, a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire—the prophetic beast power of Revelation 13 and 17.

God will use the German-led European Union to punish the U.S. and Britain: "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets" (Isaiah 10:5-6).

At this point, we can pause and make

another point about what to watch in the times ahead: These verses provide prophetic proof that Britain will *not* remain in the European Union! Britain's sense of national identity is in tatters. It is increasingly dependent on Europe

for its financial well-being, and yet it is doing the balancing act of maintaining its sterling markets in the face of a Europe that officially adopted the euro as its means of exchange this month. Still, Britain has failed to find a comfortable role for itself in Europe.

Britain WILL BE LEFT OUT. Europe is prophesied to CONQUER Britain. In Isaiah 28:3, God refers specifically to Britain (Ephraim) being trodden underfoot.

God says this military attack on Britain and the U.S.

will not only destroy another ONE THIRD of their inhabitants, but it will utterly level the cities not already destroyed by the "pestilence." Ezekiel 6:6 mentions the cities being "laid waste" and "desolate" (see also Hosea 5:9). Even more graphic, the Bible shows that these cities will be left *without one inhabitant!* (Isaiah 6:11; Jeremiah 2:15; 33:10). The cities of ancient Israel were not destroyed in this manner. In fact, these prophecies could not have come to pass until the advent of nuclear technology.

How utterly astounding to imagine cities like New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, London and Sydney being leveled and left empty by nuclear destruction! But it is coming!

Captivity

The third and final phase of God's punishment toward Israel will then be carried out: "... AND I WILL SCATTER A THIRD PART INTO ALL THE WINDS, AND I WILL DRAW OUT A SWORD AFTER THEM" (Ezekiel 5:12). The survivors of the pestilence, famine and nuclear attacks will be taken captive by the German-dominated Europe.

God says He will cast Britain out of His sight (Jeremiah 7:15). Hosea 9:3-6 show that they will be taken as captives into Assyria and Egypt—where the beast power will also dominate during this nuclear world war (Daniel 11:42).

The suffering of this bondage will far outweigh that of any previous time (Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:21). The ghoulish

See **FREE WORLD** page 36 ▶

Watch the American and British economies carefully. The U.S. economy, in particular, is an ever expanding bubble—ready to burst anytime. It has been kept afloat by superficial means, particularly heavy consumer spending.

Written January 2002

The Mystery of Human Creativity Explained

Invention and imagination are awesome, and uniquely human, abilities. Where did they come from? Why do we create? **BY DENNIS LEAP**



HUMAN CREATIVE GENIUS HAS LEFT its mark on our world. It has advanced civilization by improving human living conditions. Think about the creative inventions that have drastically altered and improved our lives: airplanes, cars, light bulbs, telephones and television, just to name a very few. Man is virtually defined by creativity—in manufacturing, art, literature, music, humor, and virtually every other field of activity.

Every human is a creator. The photographer John Loori wrote: “Creativity is our birthright. It is an integral part of being human, as

basic as walking, talking and thinking.” The playwright Julia Cameron writes: “Creativity is the natural order of life.” The historian Paul Johnson writes: “Creativity, I believe, is inherent in all of us.” Creativity expert Michael Michalko writes: “We were all born as spontaneous, creative thinkers.” Tom Wujec, creative director of Digital Media Services at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, writes: “We experience creativity every time a fresh idea pops into our minds. And we can summon creativity when we need it.”

In November 2011, *Time* published a special edition titled “The Invention Issue.”

This issue featured 50 of the latest ideas being developed into new products. Here are some examples: a 3-D transistor that will use half the power and be about 37 percent more effective; an artificial leaf that will convert the sun’s rays into storable chemical energy; a tiny rectangular camera that captures an entire light field, allowing the photographer to refocus a picture after it is taken; an LED light bulb to replace the incandescent and fluorescent; and a surveillance device that looks like and flies like a hummingbird. Truly amazing.

These creations are a reflection of the human imagination at work. Man has an

almost limitless imagination. Humans use creativity so frequently, we miss what a miracle it is to be creative. Creativity didn't begin in our technological age. Human creativity helped *bring about* the technological age.

Only man has the ability to create pictures in the mind and then manipulate materials from the earth to bring into reality what was imagined. Imagination ignites creativity and gives the human mind its uniqueness.

It is imagination that opens the door for us to meditate on our origins and our destiny.

Where Does Creativity Come From?

One theory of human origins postulates that millions of years ago, life began on Earth from a mathematically impossible chemical reaction—maybe caused by a lightning strike to a slimy pond of chemicals—that over eons of time, through incredible non-intelligent processes, first formed into a microscopic acid, then to an amoeba, then to a slug, eventually to an ape, and finally to a man who can sit down, be still and think back historically, asking himself: *How did I come to be here?*

Yet chemical soup can never ponder how it got to be chemical soup. Though man is made from the elements, he is far more than a bowl full of chemicals. So at what point did chemicals and lightning and the passage of time supposedly create the inimitable human mind?

Intelligent, sincere scientists have devoted lifetimes full of imagination and creative thinking to discovering man's origins. Yet they are fighting a losing battle. No matter how much men dissect, investigate and postulate, the knowledge of origins has to be revealed by an Originator. The real truth of origins and why man is on Earth is known, is extremely well documented, and is so much more inspiring, rational and satisfying than the wild imaginations of evolutionary theory.

Education, religion and science could get a lot further down the path to understanding human origins and purpose if the people studying origins simply took a fresh look at the abilities of their own minds.

Man a Creator

We tend to overlook the fact that men, women and children are highly *creative* creatures. In fact, humans are the only creatures on Earth that are truly creative. Don't be fooled by discussions of spiders' webs or song thrush nests. Man is the only being that can imagine and then bring into existence what he imagines, whether architecture, art, literature, mechanical

inventions, music or sculpture.

Creativity is a highly advanced mental process that involves dreaming or imagination, development and innovation. Let's be honest: No other creature—ape, chimp, bird, dog or dolphin—can create.

So, shouldn't this tell us something? Where did we get such power?

Experts studying creativity have uncovered that creative talents and traits are passed on from previous generations. Most great artists, musicians or writers were children or grandchildren of artists, musicians and writers. It is so simple. If we use our imagination and go back a multitude of generations and ask where humans got their ability to be creative, it is not so difficult to understand the answer to that question.

Only man has the ability to create pictures in the mind and then manipulate materials from the earth to bring into reality what was imagined. Imagination ignites creativity and gives the human mind its uniqueness.

The gifted historian Paul Johnson gives us his insight on this question. In his book *Creators*, he writes: "We are the progeny of Almighty God. God is defined in many ways: all-powerful, all-wise, and all-seeing; everlasting; the lawgiver; the ultimate source of love, beauty, justice and happiness. Most of all, He is the creator." Read that quote again. It is from a historian. Could humans be creative because we obtained our proclivity for creativity from our most distant ancestor—God?

To fully understand our origins, the fact that we do create should point us in the direction of God—not an ape. Human imagination and creativity is a key that unlocks the mystery of our true origins and our future.

Let Us Make

If you think about it, even the scientists hypothesizing about man's origins use imagination and creative thinking. They just use it in a wrong way. Human imagination has to be governed by revealed truth and law, or it becomes fiction—either fruitless or extremely dangerous.

God, who is the Creator of all, is also *the* Educator. He has made it plain that man is not an animal—did not come from

animals—and has a future far greater than animals *and* angels.

Our *all-wise* God tells us how we came to be: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

Here is fantastic truth that should fire our imaginations. Here is the sought-after truth of origins so simple to grasp. Man is not made after the ameba, ape, cat, chimp, dog, horse or zebra kind. Man is made after the *God* kind! In Luke 3, the genealogy of Jesus Christ states specifically that Adam was the *son of God*. Literally, God is the Father of the human race.

In this age (now coming to a close) we are created physical sons. However, in the soon-coming World Tomorrow man will be given the opportunity to become Spirit-born sons.

In his book *The Incredible Human Potential*, Herbert Armstrong explained, "Man, to be born ultimately into the very God Family, was designed to have GODLY-type mind—ability to think, to reason, to make choices and decisions, capable of forming ethical, moral and spiritual attitudes." Feel free to request a free copy of this amazing book.

Man was created with a mind like God's, only much inferior. In a *limited* way, man has the ability to create things from material substances using his mind and hands, just like God. This is the only viable explanation as to why man is so highly creative.

God intended man to use his creativity to subdue and rule over the Earth and its creatures (Genesis 1:28). God put Adam's creative mind to work immediately by having him give names to the animals (Genesis 2:19). Coming up with a proper name to describe unique traits in each individual animal required a finely tuned process of creative thinking. Eve was also created with incredible creative ability.

Cause of Trouble

Our first parents rejected God and His revealed knowledge and the code of law that would produce all happiness. As a result, Adam and Eve's creative ability became a source of tragic trouble for them and the family that came from them. Genesis 3 shows that Adam and Eve fell under the

control of Satan the devil. Jealous of such a marvelous human mind and its potential, this once-righteous being began to influence men to use their minds for evil purposes. Moses tells us: “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. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart” (Genesis 6:5-6). As mankind turned further and further away from God, men, women and children used their imaginations to create evil. Verse 11 in this same chapter says the Earth was full of violence.

God did not create man to make a violent world. Yet, things got so bad on the Earth that God grieved over the creation of mankind. Man had become so evil in his imagination and actions that God decided to teach man a painful lesson about the destructiveness of sin. He brought about a worldwide flood, destroying all breathing life, including man. However, God spared Noah, his family and enough animals to start over. Did man learn the lesson?

Unfortunately, it was not long until man again degenerated in his thinking. Moses explains, “And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city” (Genesis 11:6-8). Prior to this scene at the tower of Babel, mankind had only one language. Communication flowed easily, and men used their imaginations collectively to rebel against God. Essentially, they decided to build a tower tall enough so God could not drown them again for their disobedience. They put their imaginations to work. They developed engineering skill. They brought their mental pictures into reality. They fashioned building materials from the earth. They built.

God recorded for our education, *now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do*. This is an astounding verse. It reveals that man, given enough time and the right resources, can create what he imagines—both good and evil. At the tower of Babel, God saw clearly that man, under the influence of Satan, would develop the technology to destroy himself and the entire Earth. So God put a time *delay* on what man could

accomplish by introducing a multitude of human languages. The confusion created short-circuited man’s creative advance to self-destruction.

Created to Create

When we take an honest look at our world today, we can see that God’s time delay on man’s creative accomplishment has been lifted (Revelation 10:6). Our world is full of marvelous inventions that have made human life so much easier. Yet, on the dark side, man’s creative genius has developed horrific inventions, including weapons of mass destruction that can wipe all life off this planet.

Man, given enough time and the right resources, can create what he imagines—both good and evil.

Jesus Christ prophesied that just prior to His Second Coming, our world would be just like Noah’s world (Matthew 24:37-39). Men’s imaginations would be set on doing evil *continually* (Genesis 6:5). There is no better way to describe the shape our world is in. Men, women and children imagine evil, and then do what they imagine. Thus, we have a world ready to choke on its own filth and blood. Who is to blame? Certainly not God. We have done this to ourselves—with Satan’s help, of course.

Current news and Bible prophecy show us that our world today *is* just like Noah’s time. We can expect to see unparalleled world upheaval and violence. For a short time, our generation will suffer as no other (Matthew 24:21-22). Much of this suffering will come as the result of the wrong use of our imaginations.

Yet there is great hope: God is not going to let us destroy ourselves. He does plan to step in when we are at the brink of total destruction; when we are ready to fully learn the lesson that rebellion against God can never bring about goodness and happiness.

There is an incredible future just ahead for all mankind. What does that future hold? Men will finally be properly educated about God and His purpose for creating man. Brought to his knees, man will finally be willing to learn and admit that God is not only *the* Creator but also the great Lawgiver. To learn about God and His purpose for man, human beings will study creation, including the universe.

Discussing God with the Romans, Paul

said, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20; English Standard Version). Much of what man wants to know about God and himself has been right before our eyes all along. Instead of looking down and digging in the earth for his origins, man should have been looking around him and up into the heavens for answers. This incredible Earth and the universe could never have come into existence as a result of chance or happenstance.

By studying the Earth and the universe without prejudice, we can gain awesome knowledge. Request our booklet *Our Awesome Universe Potential*. This free, full-color publication will give you breathtaking details on what we have learned about the Earth and universe from one of man’s most incredible inventions—the Hubble telescope. Combining this knowledge with what is revealed in the Bible, this booklet will show you how the Earth and the universe reveal that a Being of incredible power, intelligence and creativity, with skilled talent for design and engineering, brought into existence a wonderful planet, nestled in just the right place of a vast, expanding universe, made perfect to support microscopic, plant, animal and human life.

Is there a connection between man and the universe? The Bible reveals that there is a surprisingly stupendous tie between man and the countless numbers of stars and galaxies stretched across the vastness of space. Paul revealed, “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:19-21; ESV). There is a stunning history behind these verses. Even more, there is extraordinary promise and a future as vast and limitless as the universe.

Our Awesome Universe Potential fully explains the history and the promise. This booklet will prove to you that man is destined to take responsibility for finishing the creation of the universe now suffering from decay. It is our awesome destiny to be born into the God Family and bring life to myriads of lifeless planets scattered into the deep blackness of space. What a truth! Man was created to create! And as God’s own sons, we will use that creativity forever.





You Can Conquer Spiritual Lethargy!

What to do when you've been letting down



THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH HADN'T SEEN THIS KIND OF COURAGEOUS leadership since the days of King David. Asa was only a teenager when he became king, but he wouldn't let youthful inexperience stop him from taking bold steps to purge Judah of its widespread idolatry and lawlessness.

Asa put God first, above his own personal wants and desires—even ahead of *his own parents*. He abolished all the idols “his fathers had made,” and he kicked his evil mother off her throne. The Bible describes the early days of Asa's reign as 10 years of *quiet* (2 Chronicles 14:1). What peace God provides when we diligently work to remove idolatry and sexual perversion from our environment!

King Asa wisely used these peaceful, prosperous years to plan for the future. He worked doubly hard fortifying Judah's cities (verses 6-7) and was careful not to forget God.

Then, when trouble finally did come—an incomprehensibly large, *million*-man army—Asa trusted in God, crying out for deliverance. “Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power,” he prayed. “Help us, O Lord our God; *for we rest on thee*, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee” (verse 11). If we do our part to build spiritual strength during times of peace and quiet, we can still experience rest *in the Lord* during periods of trial and test.

God smote the Ethiopian army before all of Judah. He then sent the Prophet Azariah to deliver a message of hope—and warning. The prophet declared, “The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and *if ye seek him*, he will be found of you; but *if ye forsake him*, he will forsake you” (2 Chronicles 15:2).

Asa heeded God's loving instruction, and just as God had promised, blessings poured into the land. These blessings were so visibly obvious that many Israelites to the north started to move to Judah. They wanted to experience what it was like to be ruled by a righteous king! King Baasha of Israel was so alarmed by the exodus of his own people that he fortified Israel's southern border, turning the city of Ramah, just six miles from Jerusalem, into a military stronghold.

Asa was distressed by this provocative act. Israel's army was right at Judah's doorstep. In his mind, this was an act of war. How would this righteous king respond?

Incredibly, after a long history of walking by faith and trusting God, King Asa gathered a large store of treasure from God's house in order to finance a shady military alliance *with Syria*. Instead of looking to God, he paid a Gentile king to get rid of the problem!

At first, this unholy alliance *seemed* to work out: Syria invaded Israel, overthrew numerous cities, and forced Israel to evacuate its military stronghold. Ramah fell back into Judah's hands. But these seemingly fortuitous events actually marked the beginning of a tragic end for a king who had devoted *most* of his life to faithfully serving God.

God immediately sent the Prophet Hanani to correct His wayward king: “Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth *thou shalt have wars*,” he said (2 Chronicles 16:9). Sadly, this loving correction from God only *infuriated* the aging king. He locked God's prophet in prison and then unleashed a violent persecution against *his own people* (verse 10).

Soon after, Asa was stricken with a deadly disease. He refused to seek God's miraculous intervention, turning instead to the feeble assistance provided by men. Within two years, he died, bringing an ignominious end to the short *second* act of a kingly reign that had been noted for legendary works.

“And, behold, the acts of Asa, *first* and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel” (verse 11). Yes, both acts are recorded—the first and the last.

In the first act, Asa was on fire for God. He brought Judah out of religious confusion and purged its cities of lawlessness. He cleaned house in Judah—and it prospered and grew. When the Ethiopians came to conquer, Asa cried out to God, who delivered Judah.

But toward the end of his life, in the second act, Asa had drifted far from God. This didn't happen overnight. Over the course of many months, perhaps years, Asa *steadily lost contact* with God. His faith weakened. And when pressures intensified, when personal trials increased, he turned to men for help rather than God.

King Asa is no different than many of God's own people in these latter days—brethren of God who are characterized as being spiritually lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-17). They no longer have the burning zeal and unshakable faith they had at the start of their conversion. They don't pour out their hearts to God in effectual fervent prayer like they used to. Their *deep* and enduring love for digging into the fascinating truth that is buried in God's Word has waxed icy cold. Fasting, fellowship, meditation—these all have fallen by the wayside.

Has any of this happened to you? Have you neglected God and allowed the disease of spiritual laxness to spread into your life? Have you, perhaps after getting off to a strong start, slowed way down—or maybe come to a complete stop?

If so, then take heed and *learn* from the unhappy lesson of a Jewish king whose first works were much greater than the last. For Asa, it didn't have to end that way—and neither does it for you. Like Asa—who could have repented, but didn't—you *can* turn back to God, even at the very end of your life, and finish the race the way you started.

You can go *back* and “do the *first* works” while there is still time (Revelation 2:5). But you had better hurry. Jesus Christ is coming quickly. ■



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

Seven Keys to Answered Prayer

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

GOD HAS LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF *PROMISES* written down for you in His Word saying that under certain terms and conditions, He will cause things to happen for you if you will *ask* Him. He promises *supernatural intervention*. He promises to deliver you from trouble, to supply your every necessity, to fight your personal battles for you, to *heal* you when you are sick and even to prosper you financially!

Why then, do the prayers of most people go unanswered? The vast majority simply do not know *how* to pray. The Bible reveals *seven basic conditions* you should fulfill to be certain your prayers will be answered. Let's learn what they are.

1. Know God's Will

1. To get answers to our prayers, what example did Jesus set that we should follow? John 5:30, last part. Are we also to *understand* God's will? Ephesians 5:17. How can we get to *know* His will? 2 Timothy 2:15.

Comment: By *studying* God's will, which is revealed in the Bible, you will begin to think more as God thinks. You will come to know that God is love and that His will is for *our good*.

2. If we pray according to God's will, can we know that God will answer our prayers? 1 John 5:14-15.

3. After God led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, they rebelled to the extent that His wrath was stirred! Consequently, what did God tell Moses He would do? Exodus 32:9-10. Did Moses immediately intercede on behalf of Israel and ask God to spare the nation? Verses 11-13. Did God listen to Moses? Verse 14.

Comment: Notice how Moses pleaded with God. He recalled the *promises* God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Israel, which revealed *God's will* to multiply and bless their descendants. It was Moses's faith in those *promises*—and his assurance that God would abide by them—that gave him such boldness in talking to his Creator!

4. Are we to approach God's glorious throne with *boldness*? Hebrews 4:16.

Comment: When Moses prayed for Israel, he was able to pray boldly and courageously because he knew God's will. To pray with real faith and confidence, you too must first know God's will. You must come to know how God thinks and acts. You must understand the purpose He is working out on Earth and the *promises* He has made in His Word.

2. Believe God

1. According to Jesus Christ, is it essential to *believe* God

before we can receive what we ask of Him? Mark 11:24.

Comment: Most people do not realize that a *disbelief* that God will keep His promises or back up His Word is simply a lack of *faith*.

2. Does the Apostle James, the brother of Jesus, confirm that faith is an absolute prerequisite to receiving answers to our prayers? James 1:5-7.

Comment: The person who "wavers," or *doubts* God, will not receive an answer to his prayers. If you lack the faith to trust God, ask God to give it to you. After all, faith is one of the "fruits" of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), which is a gift from God.

3. A stunning example of answered prayer is recorded in 1 Kings 18:20-39, where you read about the Prophet Elijah confronting the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Was there *any* doubt in Elijah's mind that God would perform a miraculous feat? 1 Kings 18:36-37. Did Elijah get the results he prayed for? Verses 38-39.

Comment: Notice that Elijah, like Moses, *knew* God's will and gave it as a reason for God to intervene (verse 36)—*never doubting* that He would!

3. Obey God

To get results from your prayers, you must not only know God's will and believe Him, you must also be willing to *act on* His Word.

1. What does God label the person who says he "knows God," and yet does not *keep* His commandments? 1 John 2:4.

Comment: If you haven't yet learned to accept God's Word as the authority in your life, then you can't really get to know God through prayer.

2. Can those who persistently refuse to keep God's commandments really expect Him to answer their prayers? 1 Peter 3:12. What is "doing evil"—what is sin? 1 John 3:4. Does sin *cut you off* from God? Isaiah 59:1-2.

Comment: Here is one of the major reasons why so many prayers are not answered. God will not listen to a person who rebels and persistently disobeys His Word.

However, in certain instances, God does sometimes hear and answer the prayers of those who, in ignorance of the full intent of His law, are not conscious of their sins, but obey Him as far as they know. The lepers and cripples who came to Jesus to be healed didn't know all of God's truth, but they did realize that Jesus was sent from God and could heal; and *they acted on what they knew*.

So it is a matter of your *heart* or *attitude*. If you come to God in a humble, repentant spirit and are determined to obey Him to the best of your knowledge

and ability, He will hear your prayers. But for anyone who *knows* the truth, there is no excuse to disobey God.

3. Can true Christians have a special confidence that God *will answer* their prayers if they are *obedient*? 1 John 3:22.

4. Fear and Humility

Too many have a self-sufficient attitude and think they can get along fine without God. They neither fear God, nor respect His Word as the authority in their lives. If people with that mindset pray, does God respond? Let's understand.

1. What is the *first* prerequisite to be able to understand God and His ways? Psalms 111:10; 112:1.

Comment: To "fear" God means to revere Him—to stand in awe of Him, His law, His government and His will for us. It means we are apprehensive to disobey Him. The fear of God is not dread or terror. Rather, it springs from love. When we approach our Creator in *that* attitude—deeply respecting His power and authority over our lives—He will hear our prayers.

2. What kind of person does God relate to? Isaiah 66:2.

Comment: The word *poor* refers to humility, not poverty. God regards those who are truly humble—void of pride, arrogance and self-righteousness. He esteems those who *tremble at*, or very carefully observe, His words; and those who are of a *contrite* spirit—deeply affected by and repentant of disobeying His instructions and commandments.

On the other hand, God resists the proud (James 4:6).

The attitude of godly fear and humility is vital in prayer and at all other times.

5. Be Fervent

1. How is fervent prayer described in the Bible? 2 Chronicles 32:20; Psalm 62:8.

Comment: Notice the words "prayed and cried" (figuratively *crying out*, and at times literally crying) and "pour out your heart."

It is common today among many to recite brief, memorized prayers, word for word. God is not moved by prayers of rote because they are not *from the heart*.

2. How fervent was Jesus in His prayers? Hebrews 5:7.

Comment: When Jesus prayed to the Father, He *meant* it. His prayers had deep *meaning*. He *felt* them. He was deeply moved on many occasions when He communed with God.

3. What can you expect if you pray fervently? James 5:16.

Comment: This kind of prayer "avails much"—it achieves great results! Energetic, *heartfelt* prayers are well-pleasing to God. When you *wholeheartedly* call upon God, you can expect real answers to your prayers.

6. Be Persistent

Some people, if God doesn't answer right away, begin to lose faith and *give up* praying. They forget that although God promises to answer when we ask according to His will, He *nowhere* promises to answer *right away*. God does not tell us exactly *how* or precisely *when* the answer will come.

1. Is this why Jesus gave the parable of the

persistent widow? Luke 18:1-8.

Comment: The New International Version correctly renders the words "not to faint" as "*not give up*"! Jesus gave this parable to show that even an unrighteous judge would finally hear the pleas of a widow who kept coming to him. So we should *keep praying* to God, even though He sometimes doesn't answer right away.

2. Is God building *patient faith* into our character if we have to wait on Him to answer a prayer? James 1:3-4.

Comment: We must be persistent in prayer *until* God answers. If He doesn't answer your prayers immediately, exercise patience and *keep praying* until He does answer.

However, don't *nag* at God! He has supreme wisdom to know *when* and *how* to best answer your prayers. Occasionally remind God about your problems or afflictions; *don't cease* praying about them.

God *always* keeps His promises—He cannot lie (Titus 1:2)—so He is *bound* to perform His part in His own time.

7. Use Christ's Name

The seventh condition of answered prayer is the correct use of Christ's *name*. This is a greatly misunderstood subject, and Christ's name is often abused.

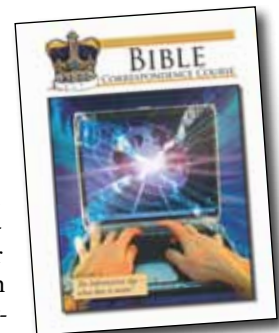
1. Is it possible to have access to the Father *apart from* Jesus Christ? Ephesians 2:13, 18.

2. After Jesus had been with His disciples for over three years and had taught them God's will and how to obey it, how did He say they could petition the Father *directly*, for His help? John 14:13-14; 16:23-24.

Comment: These verses give us the privilege of employing Christ's name—asking by His *authority*—when we pray to God the Father.

Most people misunderstand *how* we can ask "in Jesus's name." When a government sends an ambassador—its chosen representative—to another country, he is given *authority* to carry out certain business *in the name of*, or on behalf of, that government. His authority is limited to do only what the government has specifically authorized him to do. Likewise, God's children can rightfully ask the Father for things "in Jesus's name" when they know it is His will—that *His authority stands behind it*. Just rattling off the words "in Jesus's name" to a prayer that is contrary to His will is of *no avail*! You need to study the Bible to know more about the principles of Christ's will, in order that you may ask *by His authority*.

God wants to hear from you, but He will not force you to do anything. You must *choose* to rely on Him—to humble yourself, recognize your weaknesses, and depend on Him. When you do, your prayers will accomplish a *miraculous change* in your life. So pray to God every day—continually, regularly, fervently—and expect God to answer!



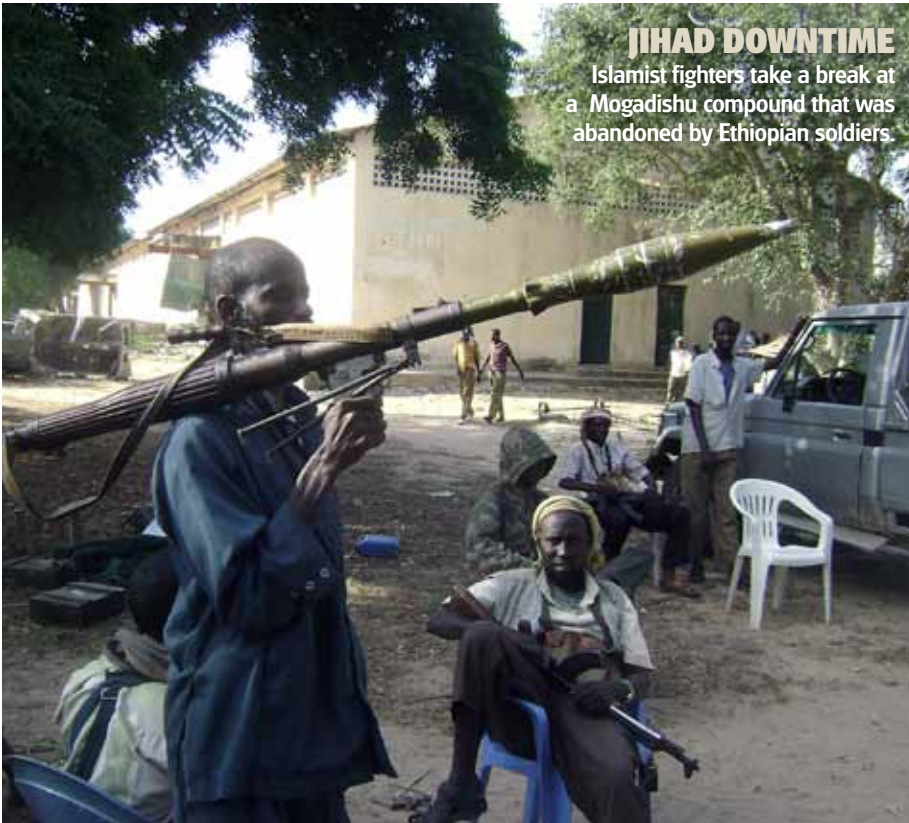
This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.



You can read previous articles in this series online at trmpt.co/BibleIQ.

JIHAD DOWNTIME

Islamist fighters take a break at a Mogadishu compound that was abandoned by Ethiopian soldiers.



Ethiopia in the Crosshairs

The armies of radical Islam are circling Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

THE TRUMPET DOES MORE THAN simply analyze blockbuster headlines. We also write them—often months, years, decades even, in advance.

Here is a blockbuster headline soon to come out of Ethiopia: *Islamists gain control of Ethiopia, Eritrea.*

It's easy to glance at Ethiopia, a pro-Western, comparatively stable, predominantly Christian country that rarely makes prime-time news, and think that's absurd. But if you look closely, and consider the broader perspective, Ethiopia's future is grim, very grim. In fact, Ethiopia is in jeopardy **RIGHT NOW**.

Surrounded by Islam

First, consider Islam's control over the region. Start in Morocco, the western gateway into the Mediterranean, where in November the Islamist Justice and Development Party, which represents the Muslim Brotherhood, came out on top in parliamentary elections and now leads the nation's coalition government. Islam's victory in Morocco occurred less than a month after

the Ennahda Party, another outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood, dominated national elections down the road in Tunisia. Next door in Libya, where Col. Muammar Qadhafi was recently ousted and killed, Islamist parties, some of which are associated with radical terrorists, are gaining the upper hand.

Head a little farther east and we come to Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood and hardline Islamist political parties trounced their competitors in parliamentary elections last November and December. In the first two rounds of voting, Egypt's Islamist parties garnered nearly 70 percent of the vote! It's now abundantly clear, lamented Caroline Glick last December, that "Egypt is on the fast track to becoming a **TOTALITARIAN ISLAMIC STATE**" (emphasis added throughout).

Travel north from Cairo and we hit Gaza, the stronghold of Iranian proxy Hamas. Farther north still are Lebanon and Syria, where there are an assortment of Islamic terrorist organizations, one of which recently lobbed two missiles into Israel. Syria is led (still) by Bashar Assad, a stalwart ally of Iran, and is a key staging

ground for radical Islam's war on Israel. North of Syria is Turkey, a nation that has in recent years slid toward the radical Islamist camp.

Skip east of Turkey and you find Pakistan and Afghanistan, two bastions of radical Islamic terrorism. Retrace your steps west and there's Iran: the command center of global Islamic terrorism, a nation on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons, led by mullahs determined to create a nuclear apocalypse. Across the border in Iraq, Iranian proxies are right now filling the power vacuum created by the departure of U.S. forces.

Farther south, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are all alarmed by the rise of Iran-sponsored Islamic terrorism. Head south from Riyadh and we come to Yemen: a chaotic, headless state where Islah, the Islamist political party created by the Muslim Brotherhood, will likely get the victory when Yemenis finally get around to voting. From Yemen we hop the Gulf of Aden to get to Somalia, where Islamist pirates routinely hijack vessels in the Indian Ocean and the fragile Transitional Federal Government (TFG) routinely wards off attacks by al-Shabaab and its terrorist partners.

Finally, we come to Ethiopia, a nation standing in the path of this barreling, Iran-steered, radical Islamist freight train! Is it any surprise that the Ethiopian government recently discovered a plot by Wahhabi Muslims to turn the country into an Islamic country governed by sharia law?

And Next Door, in Eritrea

Meanwhile, radical Islamist forces have gotten a foothold in Eritrea, Ethiopia's regional adversary and a nation strategically situated at the gateway of the Red Sea.

In 2006, the United Nations accused Iran, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Hezbollah of providing arms, training and financing to Islamic militants in Somalia via Eritrea. In December 2008, reports emerged that Iranian naval vessels had visited the Eritrean port of Assab and deposited an undisclosed number of Iranian troops and weapons there, including long-range and ballistic missiles. A few months later, an official in Somalia's TFG government accused Iran of arming al-Shabaab via Eritrean middlemen.

Most recently, Kenyan media reported in November that a shipment of arms, *the third of its kind*, had been delivered via Eritrea to al-Shabaab in Somalia. Eritrea's support of al-Shabaab, and of Islamic

terrorism in general, is so serious that the UN Security Council last November imposed sanctions on the country. The sanc-

tioned. It's possible, explained Stratfor, that the meeting between the Iranian foreign minister and the president of Soma-

through North Africa and the Middle East, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that something more sinister was afoot in the Arab Spring. In the end, he warned, Iran and radical Islam will emerge the victors.

In the April 2011 issue of the *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry prophesied specifically that Libya and Ethiopia would be the victims of radical Islam. "Why would Iran be so interested in getting some measure of control over Libya and Ethiopia? To me, the answer is intriguing. All you need to do is get a good map of the Middle East, with the emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Then you can see why the king of the south, or radical Islam, is so interested in an alliance with or control over these two countries (as well as Egypt and Tunisia). They are on the two seas that comprise the most important trade route in the world!"

When Mr. Flurry delivered that forecast, there was very little physical evidence to suggest Ethiopia could ever be threatened by Islam. What did he base his analysis on? In his April 2011 article, Mr. Flurry explained the prophecy in Daniel 11:40-43, which foretells an end-time clash between a German-led Holy Roman Empire and an Iranian-led Islamic coalition called the *king of the south*.

In verse 43, Daniel lists the "Libyans and the Ethiopians" as part of the *king of the south* alliance. "THIS VERSE STATES THAT LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA ARE ALSO GOING TO BE CLOSELY ALLIED WITH IRAN!" stated Mr. Flurry. Then, with confidence invoked by the "more sure word of prophecy," Mr. Flurry stated even more emphatically: "WATCH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA. THEY ARE ABOUT TO FALL UNDER THE HEAVY INFLUENCE OR CONTROL OF IRAN, THE KING OF THE SOUTH."

It's amazing, though not surprising, that since Mr. Flurry penned that article, radical Islam's grip on North Africa and the Middle East has tightened immensely. From Morocco to Yemen, Istanbul to Cairo, Iran and radical Islam have grown, albeit to varying degrees, in power and influence.

Believe the facts, and believe biblical prophecy. It won't be long now till you read this headline: *Islamists gain control of Ethiopia, Eritrea*. Not on the front page of the *Trumpet*, but on the front page of the *New York Times*.

And when you do, remember where you saw it first!

ETHIOPIA THE ENCROACHMENT OF IRAN AND ISLAMIC PRESSURES



tions, stated U.S. ambassador to the UN Susan Rice, will send the message to Eritrea "that it will pay an ever higher price" for its support of Iran and radical Islamist groups.

In fact, sanctions are more likely to drive Eritrea more firmly into the Iranian camp.

Still More Pressures

In addition to the radical Islamist problem festering inside its borders and the growing threat from Eritrea, Ethiopia is under increasing threat from the radical Islamist presence in Somalia. Mogadishu's Transitional Federal Government is frail and politically immature, two issues made worse by the fact that it is under near-constant attack from al-Shabaab and its regional supporters, including Iran. Ethiopia's border with Somalia is nearly 1,000 miles long, and the risk of the Islamist war spilling over into Ethiopia is real, which is why Ethiopia supports the TFG. By doing so, however, Ethiopia risks becoming a target of al-Shabaab and its radical Islamist partners.

That's not all Ethiopia has to worry about. Last August, Iran's foreign minister visited Somalia and met with President Sharif Ahmed and other leaders in the TFG. The official purpose of the visit was to discuss Iran providing humanitarian aid. According to Stratfor, relations between Ethiopia's leaders and Ahmed are

strained. It's possible, explained Stratfor, that the meeting between the Iranian foreign minister and the president of Soma-

lia "could have been used to explore other sources of political backing" (Aug. 26, 2011). No doubt, the visit to Somalia by the foreign minister of the number one state sponsor of Islamic terrorism gave more than a few Ethiopian officials nightmares!

No matter what angle you view it from, the picture is the same: Ethiopia is under extreme pressure to come under the influence of radical Islam!

When you look at a map, it is not difficult to see why Iran wants to ramp up its presence in this region. It wants control of the southern entrance to the Red Sea! To get this, the regime in Tehran needs sympathetic Islamic governments in Eritrea, Djibouti and Ethiopia. This is what makes the Islamist encroachment on Ethiopia so significant!

Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, and via its Islamic allies in Egypt is fast gaining decisive influence over the Suez Canal. When it eventually gains influence over Ethiopia and Eritrea, Iran will control the Red Sea.

When that happens, Iran will have the power to LOCK DOWN virtually the entire Middle East!

Ethiopia in Prophecy

Last year, as the West was merrily endorsing the "democratic" revolutions sweeping

Simply perfection

Wow! (“Steve Jobs and His Burning Passion to Be Perfect,” January). You really paid Mr. Jobs a great compliment, and deservedly so because he really changed the (computer) world. As a former IT trainer from the ’90s, I thought I knew how he did it. Now, I can see the simplicity of Mr. Jobs’ herculean effort in getting the job done. He was a perfectionist from the inside out. He believed in this approach. He acted on it. It is an example to me, more so than before, that even with such a severe handicap (and Mr. Jobs had more than his fair share), I can change. ... AUSTRALIA

How captivating, how inspiring: I was dazzled, moved and securely glued to every word I had the privilege to read in this mind-altering article. I am in the technology industry myself; reading your article brought a certain sense of urgency and responsibility on the importance of pursuing excellence and perfection in my work. I will read and reread this article as within it lies the keys and laws of success for the work’s sake. May you and the committed, loyal team continue to work with that pursued, focused, innovative excellence and perfection. SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Jobs had very little to do with Christianity in his lifetime, and is, as such, a poor choice for the cover of the *Trumpet*. Mr. Jobs lived and died a victim of the idolatrous perversion of pagans, a Buddhist, after addling his brain with LSD and other drugs. Simply having made money is no excuse for featuring a man in this way. I am very disappointed in you. Edward Whalley—CONNECTICUT

Thank you for providing this insight into the qualities that enabled Steve Jobs to do great things in the business realm and explaining how we can apply those qualities to our spiritual growth. It is impressive that you have been able to look beyond the fact that he wasn’t a Christian and not let that blind you to seeing these valuable lessons. Melonie—GEORGIA

What secular media don’t know

Lo and behold the Greeks have announced a temporary coalition government to be led by Lucas Papademos



(“Look! Germany Is Conquering Europe!” January). Also a BBC News correspondent/propagandist was glowingly talking about how Germany, and poodle France, are telling Greece and Italy who should be their premiers! But still the secular media does not know what will happen next. Thankfully I and others have the *Trumpet* as our news outlet. What is coming will be awe-inspiring to watch.

Bill Moylan—UNITED KINGDOM

Another amazing thing about all of the developments and fulfillment of Bible prophecy is the SPEED in which it is all falling into place! It seems like new developments are happening as fast as a minute can pass! Prayerfully, I hope these events unfolding will jog memories into remembering where it was heard first! TEXAS

Proof of the Bible and Jeremiah

When I began to read this article and continued to read, it sent chills down my spine (“You Are Cordially Invited,” January). It’s just another physical proof that God exists. Most people today look at the Bible as “fairy tales.” This article and these recent findings boldly prove those people wrong. Another thing that is very interesting is how Benjamin Mazar and Herbert Armstrong formed an extraordinary friendship that is continued today by Gerald Flurry and Eilat Mazar. It just proves, in my eyes, who God’s true servants really are. It also is very exciting to know that the artifacts will be displayed in Armstrong Auditorium! CANADA

With no intention of taking away the good work of Dr. Mazar, I would like to point out that these two bullae need one additional artifact that currently lies within the cold granite stone confines of Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, and that is Jacob’s pillar stone that ties and proves the very throne of David’s 2,600-year continuation from the destruction of Jerusalem and the transplanting of the throne to Ireland, then to Scotland and then to the present sitting Queen of England. This whole story is told in the book of Jeremiah. The bullae are undisputable proof of the book of Jeremiah which so many “experts” try to relegate to legend and myth. The connection between these

two bullae and the stone speak of a story the world needs to hear and see and read, because this story is one of a hope so pure and a reality so great that we should be standing in awe.

David Nunn—UNITED STATES

The truth hurts

This article cuts deep, but it’s just the plain truth (“A Humble Request,” January). Unfortunately, I was this person for the last five years, and all I can say is I’m thankful for God to allow time for me and many others to heed this warning. His patience and mercy never fails. Articles like this help me examine myself to allow God to humble me. After all God does not need my worship, but I need Him.

Kyle S.—CANADA

Nice article; but please remember that though events appear to be heading toward a fulfillment you all envision they might not turn out precisely as you believe they will. You too may be surprised at what transpires, if your details become a general framework. They might surprise you; me too. But at least you all care—most people don’t.

G. De Feo—NEW YORK

Thanks. This article of yours really opens my eyes into reality. I knew what was happening but I would always keep procrastinating, saying, “I will change and do it this day, or this time, or this week.” I believe that it was God’s will that I come to read this article, and God through you showed me how dangerous my thinking is, and how I should “do it!” Thanks so much again.

Kervin Jacquet—NEW YORK

Easy to understand

Thank you for that explanation of true conversion (“Beware False Conversion,” January). It was so well put and easy to understand. I would like all Christians to know this and put it into practice before Christ’s return. Continue your good work. Audrey Clarke—TRINIDAD

The honest truth

I understand very well that you, Mr. Gerald Flurry, as well as the personnel around you are the most honest people and that you always say the truth. For almost 10 years, I have read and followed your comments and the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine. And not even once have I found something that I could have doubt about. I am very thankful to you. God bless you to continue the same way, as up to now. Nicolas Lazaris—CANADA

The Mourning After

Why is North Koreans' grief over the death of Kim Jong Il so bizarrely intense? Consider the profound lesson in it.

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR 24 MILLION OF OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, made in God's image, living in North Korea, mourning the death of their Dear Leader. Their suffering has a lot to teach us.

For over six decades, the rule of Kim Jong Il and his father, Kim Il Sung, is all these people have known. Before that was decades of harsh, exploitative rule by the imperialist Japanese.

Kim Il Sung institutionalized a grotesque combination of oppression and cult of personality. He enacted Communist policies that isolated his country and impoverished his people. He outlawed dissent. He condemned his enemies and political opponents and their families to prison camps, without trial, for life. Meanwhile, he erected monuments to himself by the tens of thousands and enshrined himself in the constitution as the nation's "Eternal President." He suppressed all religion outside the worship of himself.

The unsettling result of this propagandism was on display when Kim Il Sung died in 1994 at age 82. His son declared a 10-day grieving period, and hundreds of thousands attended his funeral, outdoing one another with their weeping and gnashing of teeth. The crowds were so intense that some mourners actually died in the crush.

What can explain it? How can a people so tyrannized grieve so much at the loss of the tyrant?

Kim's body was preserved and embalmed in a glass coffin for viewing—where it bizarrely remains. To this day, this corpse is legally the president of North Korea.

Kim Jong Il ruthlessly perpetuated his father's failed totalitarian policies. He funneled much of the poor country's money into building a massive army and weapons of mass destruction. His government's economic mismanagement has made life miserable for millions. His people suffer from chronic malnutrition; hunger and famine are rife.

Such failure is carefully preserved through crushing authoritarianism. The government controls information, stamps out freedom of speech and the right to privacy, censors all radio, TV and news organizations, blocks outside media, and strictly monitors its citizens' correspondence. North Koreans have no right to privacy, and no freedom of assembly or religion except to worship the Dear Leader or his father, the Great Leader.

Those who break the rules pay terrifying penalties. Korea's gulags are chambers of horrors: arbitrary imprisonment in terrible conditions, hard labor, torture, forced abortions, infanticide, deliberate starvation, public executions by hanging or firing squad, cannibalism. The percentage of his people who have starved or wasted away in his concentration camps puts Kim Jong Il among the bloodiest dictators of the 20th century.

Yet when he died in December, we became witness to the same



TRAGIC
North Koreans grieve for a tyrant in Pyongyang.

unearthly story: uncontrollable crying and anguish on display by a nation of mourners. "Father!" they cried—speaking not of God, but of Kim—beating their chests, convulsing, losing their balance between sobs.

It is sincere sorrow; genuine agony felt by people programmed every day of their lives to worship this man. Even as he trampled and ruined them.

This is a disturbing example of *how vulnerable human minds are to deception*. An intelligent adult can become *conditioned* to accept the perverse as normal—especially when he has no accurate gauge of measurement and propaganda colors his thinking. He can actually *embrace* circumstances that are beneath the God-given dignity of human beings.

The noble, long-suffering North Koreans are an extreme example. But such deception is not nearly as isolated as you might think.

The Bible reveals that *all nations* are under a deadly deception foisted on them by a tyrant worse than Kim Jong Il (Revelation 12:9). *Satan is the deceiver of this whole world*.

Herbert W. Armstrong explained this remarkable truth in *A World Held Captive*. He wrote of Patty Hearst, who was kidnapped and brainwashed into preferring the criminal life of her captors. "But most astonishing," he wrote, "is the actual fact of the colossal kidnapping of all time—in which the captive for 6,000 years has willed to pursue the life and evil philosophy of the archkidnapper—Satan the devil. The willing victim in this case is the world that inhabits this planet Earth! Yet this world has been so completely deceived that it cannot realize what actually has happened to it."

The devil's way of life causes nothing but misery. Yet from our earliest days in life, Satan bombards us with propaganda to the contrary. He is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience," encouraging people to satisfy their lusts (Ephesians 2:2-3). Sin is *bondage*. When we fall into its snare, we become *captive slaves* (2 Peter 2:19; 2 Timothy 2:26). Yet the vast majority are duped, blinded to their plight. In their deception they are convinced of the inherent rightness and goodness of the very things that are destroying them.

People are so deceived, in fact, that when God brings this beastly, oppressive dictator to justice, Scripture prophesies a scene uncannily similar to what happened in North Korea. As much suffering as Satan's beast power has caused, when it falls, people will "bemoan her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning" (see Revelation 18:9-11).

The story in North Korea is one of a queer and tragic type of unrequited love: people deceived into loving the cruel dictator who did not love them back. It typifies a greater tragedy enveloping our whole world. But soon—very soon—God will permanently dethrone "the god of this world" and free North Koreans and all other peoples from their captivity. He will establish a new world, a world free of deception. Jesus Christ will rule as King of kings, and as He promised, "[Y]e shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

concentration camps of Nazi Germany in World War II were merely a small taste of what this captivity will be like. And it will affect one third of Anglo-America—millions of people forced to suffer under the iron fist of a revived German regime!

Jeremiah 30:3 states, “For, lo, the *days come*, saith the Lord, that I will bring AGAIN the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord” This clearly is referring to an *end-time* captivity.

But, thankfully, as the last half of Jeremiah 30:3 indicates, Israel *will* repent as a result of these heavy trials, and God will respond with mercy. Those Israelites who do not die in the Tribulation will turn to God in heartfelt, genuine repentance (Ezekiel 6:7-9). As World War III comes to a close, as the beast power is totally defeated, God will bring His people out of captivity from the “north country” and Egypt and other parts of the Earth (Isaiah 11:11).

The Good News

This time of unparalleled suffering *WILL* bring Israel back to God. And that is the exact reason God allows something so utterly dreadful. Of course, if Israel were to repent and turn to God now, He promises that they could completely avoid such agonizing punishment.

Ezekiel 33:11 states, “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: *turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*”

God does not want the nations of Israel to die. He wants them to REPENT and to BE SPARED from the greatest time of suffering. If that does not occur, the prophecies will be played out in full (Ezekiel 3:7).

There is nothing to suggest that America, Britain and the other nations of Israel will turn to God in repentance. Even after a tragedy like the one suffered on September 11 of last year, there was more talk of PRIDE in the “American spirit” than there was self-evaluation, humility and repentance. But YOU, on the other hand, *can* change the destiny of your life. You do not have to suffer the unparalleled misery of the Great Tribulation.

God promises protection to those who repent and surrender to Him (Psalm 91:5-7). If you will commit yourself to obey His laws, He will count you worthy to escape all these frightful things (Luke 21:35-36). The decision is YOURS. ■

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THE KEY OF DAVID

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 ET, Sun

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Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXX 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun

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

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

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Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

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Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMVD-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBNN 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun

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

Kauai Ho'ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPFI/KBEQ 10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPFI 10:30, Sun

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

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2 9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFXX 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirkville KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun

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Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30, Sun

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Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

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Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun

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Mississippi, Biloxi WBPB 8:30, Sun

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Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun

Gulfport WBPB 8:30, Sun

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Tupelo WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun

Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Hannibal WGEN-DT 8:30, Sun

Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSNF 8:30, Sun

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Quincy-Keokuk WGEN-DT 8:30, Sun

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Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun

Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

Helena KMFT-DT 10:30, Sun

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North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGFX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
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North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
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Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
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Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
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Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT

9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
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Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
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Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
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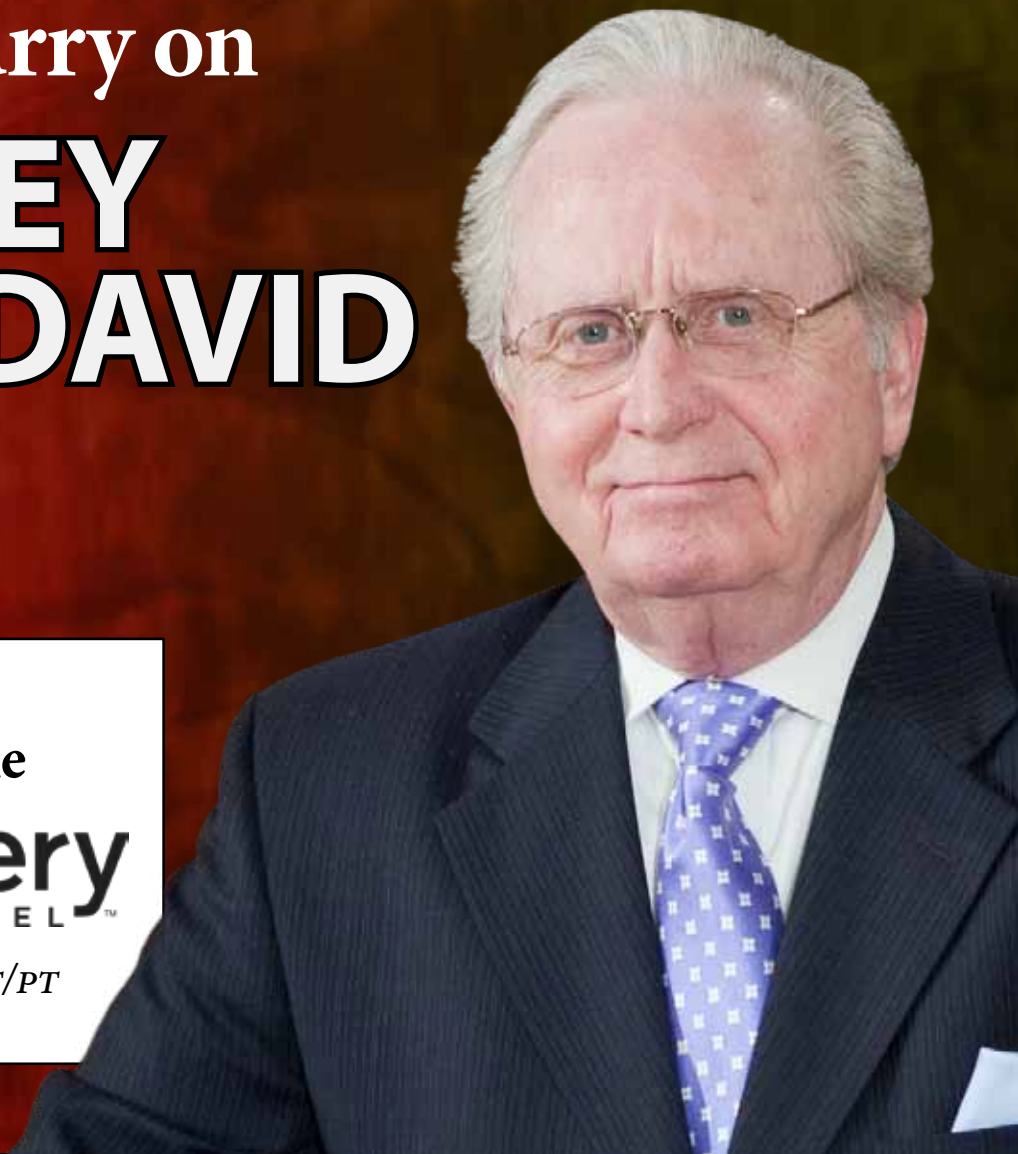
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