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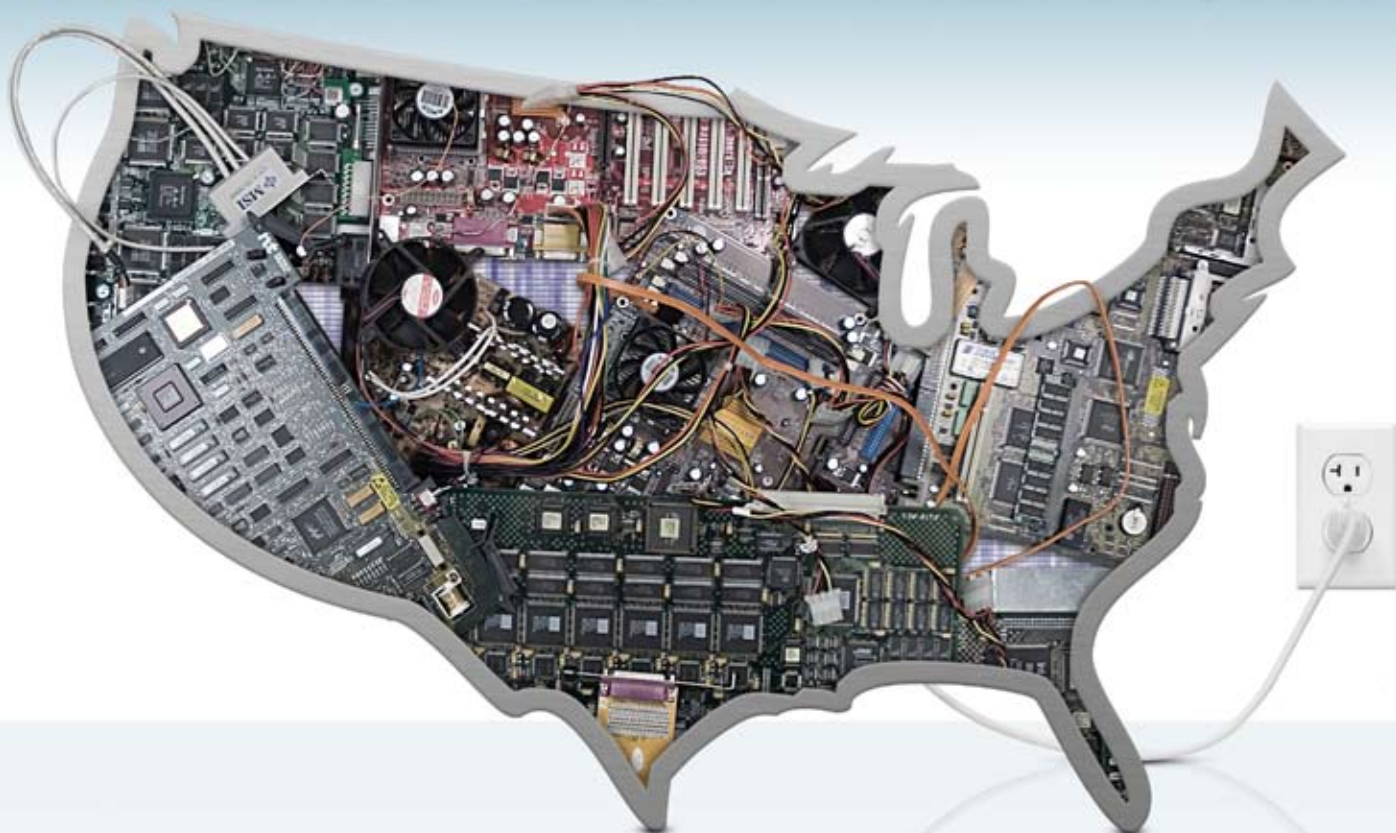
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AUGUST 2008

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET



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# Harvard University's Hidden Authority

There is a destructive force behind the ultra-liberal faculty controlling education in America. Civilization is at stake!

**H**ERBERT W. ARMSTRONG RAISED UP THREE LIBERAL arts colleges. He said, "The future welfare and even THE EXISTENCE OF CIVILIZATION is dependent on the educational system" (*Plain Truth*, December 1965; emphasis mine throughout). If the EXISTENCE OF CIVILIZATION is at stake, we all need to be deeply concerned about our educational system.

Harvard University began as a ministers' college. Yet today, Harvard would not be recognized by its own founders! An *Esquire* magazine article from September 1981 by Timothy Foote titled "The Trouble With Harvard" had this to say of Harvard students during the 1980s: "Many students drift through Harvard with a nagging sense of failure and anxiety. 'There is so much freedom here,' says Kiyu Morimoto, 'that studies become extracurricular. And you can't get through if your studies are extracurricular.' ... [A] former Radcliffe student ... [said] 'You didn't have to go to class because nobody took attendance. And you could get unlimited extensions on papers during the term.'"

The article stated, "Morimoto is worried about Harvard's *objections* to using authority all up and down the line: It's *not* insist-

**Harvard University has the largest endowment of any university in the country at \$34.9 billion. That's almost as much as Bill Gates's charitable foundation has. How much does that money and power influence the nation?**

ing that students get papers in on time, *not* insisting on formal meetings between students and advisers, students and tutors, even between students and faculty. '*Harvard is deeply ambiguous about authority*,' he says, 'about being firm and clear and unambiguous. Today all authority is seen as negative.'"

But there is some *hidden* authority at Harvard that needs to be examined.

President Larry Summers was forced from his job at Harvard about two years ago because he made a politically incorrect statement (though many people agreed with it). He offended an ultra-liberal group of faculty members, and they pushed him out.

*Newsweek* magazine wrote an article March 6, 2006, saying it was concerned about the direction Harvard and all colleges and universities were going. But the issue was quickly forgotten and nothing was done—as usual.

So the faculty—at least a *segment* of it—won't give Harvard's president the authority to rule the university. It's all about who is in charge. Harvard University has the largest endowment of

any university in the country at \$34.9 billion. That's almost as much as Bill Gates's charitable foundation has. How much does that money and power influence the nation?

In a 2005 study, 72 percent of college professors admitted to being liberal. Glenn Beck recently stated, "Most of our colleges and universities are only working to spread the radical political views of *some* of their professors" (CNN, May 14). That's a very condemning statement, yet it rings true in light of the Larry Summers resignation. *He was forced from his job when even most of the students didn't want to see him go! That is authority.* You wouldn't call that a democracy, would you? You could call it tyranny by a small group of the faculty. And where is it leading us in our education today? That \$34.9 billion endowment gives Harvard a hefty influence on the national psyche. That makes this issue *extremely* important.

Nicholas Lemann wrote this in *Time* magazine when Summers was about to leave: "One of Summers' star faculty hires, psychologist Steven Pinker, told the *Harvard Crimson* just before the resignation announcement that he feared Summers was going to become 'like every other college president—just a caretaker, a fundraiser, and a mouther of platitudes'" (Feb. 26, 2006).

This is one of the top educators today making this condemning statement about education and the government *in* education. That, to me, is frightening. Are presidents just *caretakers, fundraisers, and mouthers of platitudes*? Do they just say what they're told to say? They are certainly not allowed to lead.

If the president had real authority, the public and our national government could hold him accountable. But who can control a shadowy, tyrannical segment of the faculty? It seems nobody has the power to stop this shamefully destructive force in education!

Let's not forget that *the existence of civilization* is at stake.

What is the problem with all these changes in education? For 6,000 years, man has virtually destroyed every part of this creation he was intended to beautify and maintain. Throughout that time, man has experimented with what is right and wrong, and educated *himself* in this knowledge. The result? "[H]umanity has produced ... a vast mountain of EVILS," Mr. Armstrong wrote in the August-September 1970 issue of the *Plain Truth*. "His fund of KNOWLEDGE is a mixture of good and evil—true and false—he



**GERALD FLURRY**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

See **HARVARD** page 25 ►

# Iran Conquer

**The world is pretending that Lebanon is on path to stability. The reality is that Iran is now in control. Will its next conquest be the West Bank?** BY GERALD FLURRY AND JOEL HILLIKER



## IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Hezbollah used guns, roadblocks and arson to “stabilize” Beirut.

**D**O YOU UNDERSTAND JUST *HOW DANGEROUS* what happened in Lebanon in May truly was? May 9, Iran put a choke hold on Lebanon in order to preserve its position on Israel’s northern frontier. This act of war sounded a death knell for Lebanese democracy, strengthened Iran’s grip on the Middle East, and dramatically increased the threat to Israel and beyond.

Amazingly, the United States and the international community did nothing.

In fact, they did *worse* than nothing. If you read the general news media at the time, you might have thought that the deal that emerged from this terrorist violence left Lebanon better off than it had been before! Civil war was averted, commentators said. A political face-off ended in reconciliation. After 19 failed attempts since last November, the country installed a new president. As one hopeful writer put it, the settlement reached in Doha, Qatar, on May 21 “puts an end to an 18-month national crisis and raises hopes for a stable future for that beleaguered country” (*Middle East Times*, May 29).

That is gross ignorance! What occurred in Lebanon was nothing less than a bleak surrender by Lebanon’s Western-backed governing coalition—and a major victory for the Hezbollah terrorist group and its primary sponsor, Iran.

That the United States, the United Nations and others pretended it was anything else is a measure of their own capitulation to Iran.

## Hezbollah’s Show of Strength

The Lebanese government had just taken steps to restrict communication and travel between Lebanon-based Hezbollah and Iran—dismissing the security chief at a major airport facilitating Iranian arms shipments to Hezbollah, and launching an investigation into an Iran-built telecommunications network maintained by Hezbollah. Iran treated these moves as a declaration of war.

Within hours, Iranian Guardsmen joined Hezbollah gunmen in a massive show of strength, rapidly overwhelming the streets of West Beirut. They blockaded the airport, shut down pro-government news outlets, and besieged the headquarters of Lebanese leaders Fouad Siniora and Saad Hariri—all *within one day*.

Everyone knows Hezbollah operates as a proxy of Iran. A similar scenario occurred in the summer of 2007, when the mullahs in Tehran engineered the violent overthrow of the Gaza Strip through their proxy Hamas. The world was silent then too!

After its display of force in Beirut, Hezbollah did something extraordinary: It turned its new gains *back over to the Lebanese Army*. The message: Iran will not tolerate attacks on Hezbollah’s power and military infrastructure in Lebanon—yet it is not interested in taking over formal governance of the nation. All it needs is a weapon to unleash against Israel at some point yet future. Hezbollah already proved its value to that end in the war against Israel during the summer of 2006.

Iran is the number-one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the Middle East, and it has been since the 1970s. After it gained control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 through Hamas, Tehran began to focus more diligently on cementing control of Lebanon. It accomplished that goal in May. Iran now controls both Gaza and Lebanon!

“Hezbollah’s victory in taking over western and central Beirut ... has had the effect of adding another link to the pro-Iranian chain encircling Israel,” reported *ДЕВКАfile*. “In many ways it is a more damaging setback for Israel’s national security than the Palestinian Hamas’s sei-

# red Lebanon

## ... Now What?

zure of the Gaza Strip” (May 15). In fact, one Hamas activist told the *Washington Times* that it was the second stage of a plan to tighten the noose around Israel—a plan that started with the Gaza coup and will spread to Jordan and Egypt.

THE BEIRUT PUTSCH WAS A MONSTROUS ACT OF WAR BY IRAN! IF IT WERE AMERICA OR ISRAEL TAKING OVER IN GAZA OR LEBANON, YOU CAN BE SURE THERE WOULD BE A MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY!

But it wasn't America or Israel. It was *Iran*. And the international community essentially stood back and let it happen.

### Washington's Non-Response

Washington's response to the crisis was anemic. Its first move was to try to drum up international support for the Lebanese government. Condoleezza Rice busied herself with visits to the United Nations secretary general and the foreign ministers of France and Saudi Arabia. Washington called on the Arab League to “show its displeasure with Hezbollah and its sponsors,” the *Washington Post* reported (May 10).

The phone calls and meetings changed precisely nothing, of course. For 19 months, the United Nations has stationed 15,000 troops in Lebanon, supposedly to contain Hezbollah, and *that* changed nothing. What possible good could expressions of “displeasure” do?

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack called on “those who have influence over Syria and Iran to encourage those countries to use their influence with Hezbollah.” It is hard to imagine a more ignorant statement. Syria and Iran were *already* using their influence with Hezbollah—to control Lebanon.

As Barry Rubin wrote, “IRAN AND SYRIA BACK THEIR FRIENDS WITH WEAPONS AND HELP; THE WEST RESPONDS WITH WORDS BACKED BY NOTHING. Who can blame Hezbollah and Damascus and Tehran for laughing in contempt?” (*Jerusalem Post*, May 11; emphasis ours).

What then made this shameful situation *far worse* was the political agreement that consolidated and legitimized Hezbollah's victory.

### A Disgraceful Agreement

Back in late 2006, the Hezbollah-led opposition resigned from the national unity coalition cabinet, demanding more power and a veto in all government decisions. Since then, amid numerous assassinations of prominent Lebanese figures, the Lebanese government had been deadlocked. When the president's term ran out last November, no new president could be elected without Hezbollah's cooperation, even after 19 grounded attempts.

Now this deadlock is resolved. After five days of negotiations in Doha, the Lebanese government submitted and gave Hezbollah what it had been holding out for 18 months for: veto power in a new government.

Why the change? Because of Hezbollah's brutal display of military might.

Yes, once again in the Middle East, violence paved the way for more political power for terrorists.

What Hezbollah's veto power in a new national unity government means is clear. It means the Lebanese government can pass no legislation calling for the terrorist group's disarmament. It means the government can't direct the army to take action against Hezbollah or stop a Hezbollah attack on Israel. In truth, it means the government can't make *any* decisions that might favor Israel or the West. All key decisions and appointments in the new government will have to be approved by Hezbollah. The Doha agreement didn't even mention UN Security Council resolutions 1559 and 1701, which call for Hezbollah's disarmament.

As Reza Hossein Borr wrote for *Global Politician*, “The fact of the matter is the opponents of Hezbollah were very happy that it did not capture and execute them during the short civil war. They were humbled sufficiently to accept what they couldn't accept for nearly two years. They were happy that they were alive and they were happy

that Hezbollah was happy to withdraw its troops from their territories” (June 2).

It was a clever plan by Hezbollah. Flex its tremendous power—enough to let the Lebanese see it, enough to wring from them the political concessions it sought—and then retreat to the shadows and play the whole incident down. Nothing to see here, folks.

The Doha deal also enabled the election of Syrian-backed Gen. Michel Suleiman as president on May 25. This was widely seen as perhaps the most positive outcome of the agreement. In reality, Suleiman is a sympathizer of Hezbollah and an enemy of Israel. He was handpicked by former Syrian President Hafez Assad as Lebanon's Army



SULEIMAN

commander. During his nine years in that role, *he never confronted Hezbollah*—not even during the Second Lebanon War. In May, rather than directing the army to repel Hezbollah's attack, he presided over a largely pro-Hezbollah force that stood by while the terrorists seized ground.

Any notion that Suleiman might take stronger action against Hezbollah as president is ridiculous.

### The Failure of Negotiation

After World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt thought he could negotiate a peaceful handling of Eastern Europe with Russia's Joseph Stalin. Yet Stalin, one of the worst dictators ever, ended up *enslaving* all of Eastern Europe. That's what happens when you sit down and try to negotiate with these very ambitious and vile dictators. Sadly, too few people are paying attention to this alarming history today.

On May 15, the American president spoke at the Knesset to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Israel. “Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have

been wrong all along,” he said. “We have heard this foolish delusion before. . . . We have an obligation to call this what it is—the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history.”

President Bush was exactly right! It is not a time to negotiate. It is a time to STOP TERRORIST ACTS. Hezbollah will *never* be talked out of abandoning its cult of death. Efforts to pacify these terrorists by giving them political power are doomed to spectacular failure!

Both U.S. Democratic presidential nominees at the time strongly disagreed with the president’s remarks. Barack Obama said that America needs to “use all elements of American power—including tough, principled and direct diplomacy—to pressure countries like Iran and Syria.” Hillary Clinton called Bush’s comments “offensive and outrageous.” Of course, Winston Churchill was also vilified for warning against Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany before World War II. But we fail to learn from our own history.

What happened in Lebanon was clearly a setback for Washington and its allies that seek to disarm Hezbollah. Amazingly, however—just days after his Knesset speech—President Bush said, “I am hopeful that the Doha agreement . . . will usher in an era of political reconciliation to the benefit of all Lebanese.” He congratulated Suleiman on his election, and a U.S. congressional delegation attended the parliamentary vote that officially made Suleiman president—right along with the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria.

It was bad enough that the U.S.—not to mention the United Nations—did nothing while Hezbollah strong-armed the Lebanese government into submission. But to then pretend that the resulting Hezbollah-dominated political landscape would be more peaceful and stable was an even more shameful betrayal!

Reza Hossein Borr believes that this acceptance by the Western world was *the greatest concession Hezbollah received*. “The international recognition of Hezbollah as a political force will encourage this organization to increase its military power even further to secure even more recognition,” he wrote (op. cit.).

By smiling upon the Doha agreement, the Western world put its stamp of legitimacy on the new state of Hezbollah that now occupies the former nation of Lebanon!

Clearly, Hezbollah, our mortal enemy, must be *destroyed*. But we—Israel and the

United States, even Europe at this time—simply do not have the *will* to do it.

And *will* is one thing Hezbollah and its backers in Iran and Syria *don’t* lack: They’ll kill anyone and destroy anything to win.

**Victory for Iran**

Make no mistake: A victory for Hezbollah is a victory for Iran. Syria—as much as it has influenced Lebanese politics in the past—is a far less consequential figure in the Middle

***As Iran keeps marching forward and winning systematic terrorist acts of war, we see a clear failure of will on the part of America and the Western world.***

East than Iran is. *Iran*, not Syria, is Hezbollah’s chief patron. Iran gives Hezbollah at least \$100 million in aid annually—some sources say more than \$3 billion; it provides Hezbollah extensive training and masses of weapons, ranging from machine guns to anti-ship cruise missiles; it gives Hezbollah its directions, its ideology.

And now, via Hezbollah, Iran has tightened its choke hold on Lebanon. Through Hezbollah’s military putsch and cleverly planned retreat—followed by an agreement hailed by the Arab world and passively approved by the West—it not only consolidated its political position in the country, but also eliminated any possible threat of its forced disarmament. And it got its choice of president to boot.

What does this development mean for America? It means the U.S. is *losing* its war against terrorism! It is a calamity of the highest order! Most of the media and most of our politicians don’t view these events this way, but EVERY TERRORIST VICTORY IS A DANGEROUS WARNING SIGN TO AMERICA, BRITAIN AND THE JEWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

As Iran keeps marching forward and winning systematic *terrorist acts of war*, we see a clear failure of *will* on the part of America and the Western world.

The reason America’s efforts in Lebanon have failed could not be more clear. It is because Iran, via Hezbollah, has the Lebanese government under siege. Yet still, the U.S. simply *will not* go after Iran.

Do you know why? Did you know that God *prophesied* this would happen? If you have been reading the *Trumpet* for any length of time, you know that biblical prophecy foretold this disaster—and reveals precisely *WHY* it is happening: *because God has broken America’s will*.

**Broken Will**

Read the prophecy in Leviticus 26. God says that if we do not obey His laws, He will curse us. One of the curses God warns us about is this: “I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER . . . AND YOUR STRENGTH SHALL BE SPENT IN VAIN” (verses 19-20). Yes, America has power—yes, it has strength. But the pride in that power is *broken*, and the strength is being spent *in vain*.

The fact that the U.S. is abandoning Lebanon to Iran is a truly remarkable sign of just how powerless it has become.

Lebanon is clearly a project the U.S. is heavily invested in. Washington trumpeted the Cedar Revolution of 2005 as being a symbol of the Middle

East’s future, of freedom and democracy sweeping the region toward peace and security. It has funneled \$1.3 billion into the Siniora government over the past two years.

Those big ideas have been trampled. \$400 million of that money went toward strengthening the Lebanese Army, and now Hezbollah has co-opted that force. “The Lebanese Army is by now more an operational arm of Hezbollah than an armed force that serves the government,” DEBKAFile reported (May 16).

President Bush has pursued three priorities in the Middle East: Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and Lebanon. Despite massive expenditures, he finds himself unable to lock down *even one* of these situations.

Here is the plain truth: *Iran is the problem behind all three*.

THE U.S. WILL NEVER RESOLVE IRAQ WITHOUT CONFRONTING IRAN. THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WILL NEVER PUT DOWN THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS WITHOUT CONFRONTING IRAN. LEBANON WILL NEVER BE SECURED UNLESS IRAN IS PUT DOWN. ALL EFFORTS TO PUT THESE ISSUES TO REST—WHILE IGNORING THE IRAN CONNECTION—are *exercises in futility*.

*The fact that the U.S. simply WILL NOT confront Iran is the single greatest proof today that God has broken the pride of our power*.

The U.S. is truly spending its strength in vain in Lebanon, in Israel and in Iraq. The single greatest reason is Iran. The Islamic Republic is bloodying America in all three theaters. And still, Washington acts as though France or the Arab League can solve the problem.

The Iraq War alone is costing the United States \$341 million per day. It has killed

See **LEBANON** page 24 ➤

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**F**AR TOO OFTEN, CHILDREN ARE left to themselves.

Take one example. Grand Theft Auto IV is the fastest-selling video game in history, generating \$310 million in its first 24 hours of sales. This crime-life simulator, with its continual violence, virtual sexual encounters and crime-oriented missions, isn't supposed to be sold to children under age 17. But a survey last year by the National Institute on Media and the Family found that half the time, teens under age 17 had no trouble purchasing Grand Theft Auto. Other surveys reveal the series to be the most popular game played among boys ages 12 to 14!

How do all those 12-, 13- and 14-year-old boys get a chance to play that game? No doubt some parents approve and willingly buy the game for their child. But many others have no idea their children are playing such shocking, graphic games—or, if they know, haven't actually looked at the content being absorbed by their child's mind.

More than 3,000 years ago, a wise man wrote: "... a child left to himself brings his mother to shame." *Lange's Commentary* says "left to himself" literally means, "he who is exempted from discipline, who is left to his own will" (emphasis mine throughout).

Now look at the beginning of the proverb: "The rod and reproof give wisdom ...." *Wisdom* means to become a skillful learner.

In other words, a neglected child brings shame on the family because that neglect hurts his ability to learn, to grow in wisdom and understanding.

In that one proverb, Solomon actually described two opposite approaches to education. One is a disciplined, structured environment where children are corrected and punished in love. In the other, children are more or less left to themselves to decide right from wrong in an environment void of structure and discipline.

We see the results of a learning environment devoid of structure and discipline all around us. A few years ago, Leonard Irvine wrote for the *Salisbury Review* about rising crime rates. He aimed to address the cause of the

## How to Give Your Child Wisdom

problem: "Although fighting crime 'at the sharp end' must continue, this society is producing more criminally inclined boys and youths than its law enforcement structure can possibly deal with." Then he made this observation: "The paradox is that in the time up to the 1950s, discipline at home and at school was harsh. Then there was little crime. Today, with the 'child centered' style of education and the abolition of any form

of smacking in school, children are more violent than they ever were" (Summer 2003).

Behavior problems caused by poor attention spans are rapidly increasing among our children, yet the tendency is to label the behavior a "disorder"

and prescribe mind-altering drugs like Ritalin. This helps regulate a child's disruptive behavior at home and at school. But, of course, the drug has many documented side effects: lethargy, depression, poor appetite, insomnia—not to mention long-term effects. Moreover, it does not bring about permanent change. A change in behavior is noticeable only while the student is medicated.

But there is another, *much less popular* alternative to improving attention spans: a return to a more disciplined form of teaching and educating children! There is no substitute for properly training and teaching children—from infancy on up—to concentrate, pay attention and follow instructions. This, as Irvine explained in his article, increases the child's storehouse of knowledge because as his attention span improves year by year, he learns along the way—adding to previously acquired knowledge.

The early years in a child's development—from infancy to about age 6—are his most formative. This is when the child's personality, character and intelligence are, in many ways, set for life. Child development experts say about half an individual's intelligence—his ability to learn and grasp new concepts—develops in his first three or four years! About 80 percent of that ability is developed by age 8.

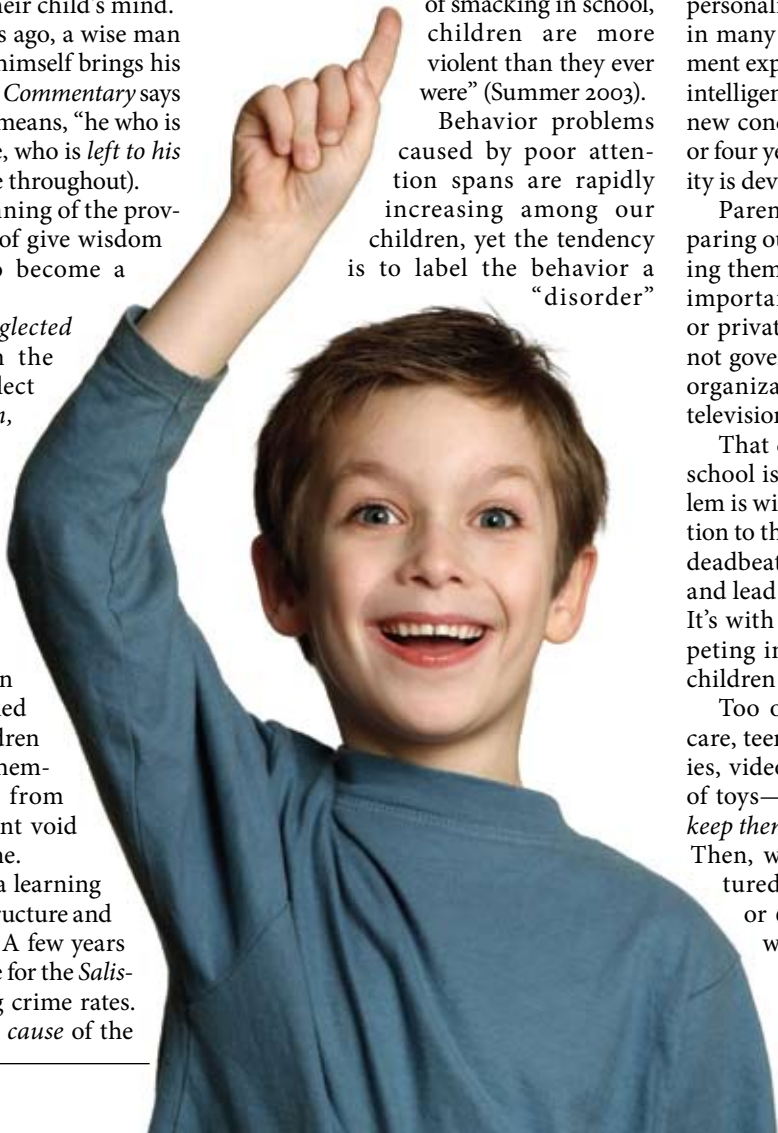
Parents are responsible most for preparing our children for education—teaching them how to learn. We are their most important educators in life. Not public or private schools, not higher education, not government programs or community organizations—and certainly not music, television programs or video games.

That children cannot pay attention in school is not the real problem. The problem is with *parents* who will not pay attention to the needs of their children. It's with deadbeat dads who will not step forward and lead the family with loving authority. It's with mothers who are too busy competing in the workplace to care for their children at home.

Too often, children are left with day care, teen babysitters, television and movies, video games, sugary snacks, and lots of toys—*anything parents can think of to keep them occupied or to prevent tantrums*. Then, when they enter the more structured environment of school at age 5 or 6, we can't understand why they won't pay attention.

"Always give your children an abundance of love," Herbert W.

See **CHILD** page 34 ►



# A Majestic Tour of the



**HOME** The Milky  
Way galaxy, aglow  
with cosmic dust



# Universe

**Peering through the new WorldWide Telescope provides an unparalleled view of our cosmos. BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**I** TOOK A TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE THE OTHER DAY. IT is breathtaking times jaw-dropping times awesome. My love of the stars has been requited incrementally over the years. Where I grew up in Washington State, the night sky was largely obscured by towering pines—though my scrambles up onto the roof of our house opened up the view somewhat. I remember trips to the coast, where the canopy of stars stretches clear down to the flat, inky horizon. On a visit to the Wisconsin farmlands as a teenager, lying on my back in a field on a crystal-clear night, for the first time, I saw—no, *felt*—the entire dome of the heavens all at once. It was three-dimensional—an incomprehensibly enormous fishbowl of shimmering limitlessness.

As I drank in that view, I was probably seeing fewer than 5,000 stars.

I remember when I first saw Hubble Deep Field. That is the image scientists produced in 1995 when they aimed the Hubble Space Telescope at a nearly empty speck of sky, the size of a dime from 75 feet away—and took 342 long exposures over 10 days. By concentrating so intensively on such a small area, that telescope captured light emissions nearly 4 billion times fainter than your eye can see. Within that pinprick of space, astronomers found nearly 2,500 galaxies. They estimated that the light that Hubble picked up from the most distant of these galaxies left its source *over 10 billion years ago*. At this revelation, they

adjusted their previous estimates as to the number of galaxies in the universe upward significantly: somewhere north of 100 billion—even up to a few trillion. Keep in mind: A galaxy has a lot of stars; ours has at least 200 billion. I stared at Deep Field for long stretches, trying to wrap my mind around what it revealed of our universe.

I had an even greater revelatory experience when I downloaded Microsoft's WorldWide Telescope onto my laptop. This thing is unbelievable.

THE GENIUSES AT MICROSOFT RESEARCH have seamlessly stitched virtually every eye-popping image of space ever produced into a single multi-dimensional map and created an elegant interface whereby you can explore it all easily. You can set your vantage point to your own backyard and see what the night sky would look like all around you at this exact second if it were pitch dark and there were no obstructions—and then zip out and around at will, chasing anything that interests you, moving at millions of times the speed of light.

If NASA installed the Hubble telescope at your house, you couldn't see even a fraction as much so quickly—and it wouldn't come with a zoom lens, either. At your computer, you can plunge toward a tiny speck—or even what looks like utter blackness—and rush up to meet a bright blue planet, then zoom on into the deep, passing crystalline stars, cratered moons, and technicolor molecular and radiation clouds as you wheel and bank through the wonderful, deep vastness. It's not only awesome, it's real: The location of every star, galaxy, planet and object is as accurate as if you were looking through a real telescope. Crunching hundreds of trillions

of bytes of information from the best observatories all over the world, this application provides a unified perspective of the relationships between all we know of the objects in the night sky: what is near or far, large or small, spectacular or utterly breathtaking, how they're all related—and how infinitesimally tiny we are.

Now, I was excited by Google Earth, which enables you to fly around our gem of a planet, swooping in and out like some kind of supersonic hummingbird, drinking in all the sights. But the WorldWide Telescope is Google Earth *times infinity*.

A LOT OF PEOPLE SHARE my fascination with the cosmos. It almost seems hardwired into us to look up—and start asking questions. What is all this about? How did we get here? Where do we, specks on a pea floating in an ocean, fit in the grand scheme? Are we alone?

Many scientists believe they have some answers. They theorize that the entire material universe—from its minutest intricacies to its most jaw-dropping immensity—all started from nothing and evolved to its present state by chance. In this view there is no purpose, no reason, no meaning, no hope. They can tell you quite a lot about the material aspects of what they see—they will even go to enormous lengths to lay all the information out for you to explore from your laptop. But when it comes to the big questions, their answer is that there is no answer.

Those who believe in God, on the other hand, acknowledge design and art in all that astral beauty. “The heavens declare

the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork,” wrote David the psalmist. Oh, if only he could have seen the WorldWide Telescope. The deeper we travel into those heavens and the more of His handiwork we see, the more spectacular that glory reveals itself to be.

But the question remains: WHY? What was God's intent for creating such an unfathomably vast universe? Is it all for show? Or does He actually plan to use it? Few people—even the very religious—could give you much of an answer to that very legitimate question.

But an answer exists—and it is plainly revealed in the Bible!

GOD'S WORD SHOWS THAT NOT ONLY DID God create the universe, He has mastery over it (read, for example, Job 38:31-33). He not only made all the stars, He has a name for every one of them (Psalm 147:4; read also Isaiah 40:26). Yes, God is deeply excited about the universe, and is intent on putting it to use.

What use? Here is the answer: “For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, *he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited*: I am the Lord; and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:18). God formed the universe to be *inhabited*! He doesn't intend for it to remain mere pictures for us to gawk at, sitting empty forever. He wants to populate it with *life*.

How? With whom? These are valid, important questions—and they have solid answers. Those answers are not myth or religious speculation. In fact, they are directly related to the gospel message brought to this Earth by Jesus Christ two millennia ago.

If you want to see those answers plainly revealed within the pages of your own Bible—if you want to know the true *purpose* for and *meaning* of the impressive, infinite universe we inhabit—if you want to be deeply inspired by the future that awaits those trillions of galaxies, and to understand how *human beings* play a most critical role in that future—then order a copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential*. We would be happy to send you a free copy to hold, to study, to mark up.

I thank the scientists at Microsoft Research for providing this thrill ride for the imagination. Coupled with the revelation of what God intends to do with it all in the future, this star lover is looking forward to many hours of awed happiness—exploring infinity, contemplating eternity. ■



### CRAB NEBULA

A blizzard of high-energy particles caused by a superdense neutron star

POWER'S OUT. You flick the switch repetitively, still nothing. Your little clock radio is blank; you glance at your cell phone to check the time as you go to the closet. Hopefully you won't be late for work ... "No Signal." You grab your robe and head down the hall, walking a little quicker now. Daylight is breaking, but the house is dark, the appliances dead.

# /target:america/

BY PHILIP NICE

The muffled sound of your neighbor's backup generator makes its way into the foyer, so you walk over to see what the news is. Eight network channels, all static—except for two that appear to be airing reruns. Your neighbor looks worried.

You remember your car's on empty. Whatever is going on, it couldn't hurt to fill up your tank before people panic and start rushing the gas station. You walk back across the dewy yard, lift the garage door and drive to town, still in your pajamas and robe, wet grass clippings clinging to your feet.

Ten minutes later, you're in a gridlock parking lot in the middle of the street—still a block and a half from the pumps. It turns out you aren't the only one who's worried about gasoline. You flick on the radio, now anxious to know what's going on. More static. Finally: "Parts of the Eastern Interconnection power grid are failing this morning .... Servers for several news organizations appear to have been abruptly knocked off-line .... Rail, port and air traffic control network computer systems are experiencing glitches .... Numerous banks have temporarily suspended their electronic operations .... Reports are coming in that the Pentagon may have suffered a large cyberattack; some systems have been compromised, others are shut down to contain security breaches ...."

How the rest of this day ends is up to your imagination.

{ /HiddenDanger/equals: }  
DigitalUnderground/ }

The birthplace of the Internet, the United States, is one of the world's most well-connected nations. Millions of Americans and other Westerners in households, businesses and government agencies use the Web to communicate, do business, transact, administer day-to-day operations, control infrastructure, monitor world news, research, learn, navigate, shop and socialize. Even infrastructure and government functions, including the United States military, rely on the network. Time- and money-saving network solutions define your world. That's the good news. And the bad news.

Beneath the everyday hum of businessmen, students, bankers, typists, graphic designers, web programmers, network administrators and other Internet dependents that you can see lies a digital underground that you can't. In the same way the real world has an illicit and unseen criminal underground, human nature plays out the same way online. Below the global online community's slick and shiny interface is a world of code—the gears inside the clock. To you, it would look like gibberish, but programmers can read and write it. So can hackers.

Although some use their expertise for benign or even constructive purposes, generally speaking hackers are programmers who use their knowledge of coding and programming to engage in illicit activities ranging from simply viewing sensitive material and playing practical jokes to blackmail, theft and sabotage. In some cases, hackers have brought down business websites, and security programmers have been helpless to restore service. The sites only went back online when the businesses paid their attackers to stop.

Software makers and online security companies are constantly reacting to these threats with "patches" that cover up one vulnerability while hackers move on to find others.

Right now, hackers around the world are writing programs that are searching for unprotected areas of code, finding them and silently slipping past security. Then, they use their imaginations: recording the keystrokes of unsuspecting users, crashing programs, overloading websites, ripping off passwords, stealing account numbers—constantly, silently, anonymously. And their reach increases every time a new computer plugs in.

If you buy a computer this evening, bring it home and plug a network cable into it, chances are it will be compromised within five minutes. You won't know it, but automated hacker programs will al-

# Perhaps the most worrying trend is that numerous that are enemies of the United States: particularly

ready have found your computer and begun diverting some of your processing power and using your computer's identity to mask their own activities, which include sending unwanted e-mail advertisements, overloading targeted servers and taking over yet more computers. Constantly updating your antivirus software will help keep incursions to a minimum, but there are no guarantees. In fact, some initial network security downloads take longer to install than it takes for a hacker's program to penetrate your system.

Generally, hackers aren't necessarily able to read your e-mail or steal your files. That typically occurs only if someone targets you directly. But when that happens, usually to a larger organization, hackers can be in and out with the information they want and without leaving a trace in under 20 minutes. Or they can disrupt, falsify or outright destroy it.

{ /TheNewBattlefield/  
equals: Cyberwar/ }

That's cybercrime, instigated by a largely unorganized group of hackers with varying skills and motivations. But what about all-out *cyberwarfare*? The potential effects are much more catastrophic. This Internet underworld is the 21st century's newest battleground.

China, Russia, even Islamist terrorists are beginning to wage a new kind of war here, in an environment where a desktop computer can put your agenda on a level playing field with the world's only superpower. It's a cheap, powerful equalizer. And when it comes to the havoc a cyberassault could bring, especially when coupled with a real-world attack, there's nothing virtual about it.

Case study: What happens when you combine a well-connected, Internet-dependent nation, a hostile enemy, hacker mercenaries and an unpopular political decision? You get Estonia. Surprisingly well-connected, Estonians use the Web heavily in everyday life: for their banking transactions (almost all of them), communications, news, shopping, reservations, theater tickets and more. There, Internet access is legally considered a human right; even parliamentary votes are conducted online.

In April 2007, the government relocat-

ed a Soviet-era statue, infuriating ethnic Russians inside and outside of Estonia, as well as the Kremlin.

Within 24 hours, hackers began probing Estonia's online defenses to test their limits. Then, they blasted key computer targets with information overloads. Parliament's e-mail crashed, websites for major political parties were hijacked, and a counterfeit letter appeared from the prime minister apologizing for removing the statue. Then, hackers began overloading routers and switches across the country. Two major banks had to shut down operations, losing millions, and half of the nation's news outlets were knocked out. Most servers had to be disconnected, and the rest were so busy trying to protect themselves that Estonia's Internet in essence stopped functioning.

After more than a week of crippling cyberattacks, the assault subsided and Estonian online security officials along with foreign experts were able to restore service. They also traced some of the machines used in the attack back to Russian government offices. Moscow denied involvement, and the government machines themselves could have been compromised and controlled by hackers elsewhere, but the lesson remains: Do not underestimate the real-world power of hackers in large numbers.

{ /Target/equals:  
America's Achilles Heel/ }

The Pentagon doesn't. Every day, its electronic defenses take hits from hundreds of cyberattacks, some of which have been successful. Since 2006, the virulence and volume of attacks have surged dramatically. Electronic attacks on the Department of Homeland Security have tripled over the last two years, and those on military networks have increased 55 percent. One former high-ranking national security official called it "espionage on a massive scale." In June 2007, an assault forced the Department of Defense to take as many as 1,500 computers offline, downing the Pentagon's unclassified e-mail system. In other cases, top-flight military units have been hacked, and the Pentagon's network vulnerabilities, detailed maps of Department of Defense facilities, and U.S. military war plans have been posted on the Web for the world to see.

In 2007, a breach at the State Department put CIA agents around the world at risk.

Perhaps the most worrying trend is that numerous attacks appear to be coming from foreign nations that are enemies of the United States, particularly China and Russia, as well as locations in Europe. In early June, congressmen reported that hackers in China have cracked multiple computers and accessed sensitive information inside the offices of American lawmakers, right on Capitol Hill. This has been going on since 2006. *BusinessWeek* reported that from 1998 to 1999, hackers stole large amounts of unclassified information from the Defense Department, NASA, the Energy Department and numerous weapons labs (April 10). The destination for some of the data was inside Russia. In 2004, hackers thought to be in China stole classified data from defense contractor Lockheed Martin, Sandia National Labs and NASA. Last year, China struck again, as reported by *BusinessWeek*: "2007. A new form of attack, using sophisticated technology, deluges outfits from the State Dept. to Boeing. Military cyber security specialists find the 'resources of a nation-state behind it' and call the type of attack an 'advanced persistent threat.' The breaches are detailed in a classified document known as an Intelligence Community Assessment. The source of many of the attacks, allege U.S. officials, is China. China denies the charge" (ibid.).

The U.S. administration recognizes the gravity of the cyberthreat and is spending tens of billions of dollars to defend against it. But those who are trying to protect the nation's security online face a mountainous task. There are a multitude of government and military agencies trying to fight cyberwarfare that must coordinate with each other as well as with the private sector, all the while tiptoeing through a maze of legal and bureaucratic red tape that restricts military and cyber security enforcement, but which hackers don't think twice about. In comprehensive cyberattack simulations such as Cyber Storm I and II—in which the private sector disclosed attacks quickly and yielded to a higher authority, unlikely advantages in a real-world situation—the results are typically failures.

Then there's the sheer volume of information the U.S. has to protect. The Penta-

# attacks appear to be coming from foreign nations China and Russia, as well as locations in Europe.

gon alone uses millions of computers on tens of thousands of networks at hundreds of sites in dozens of countries. In addition to this, U.S. defenses are tied to hundreds of private sector defense contractors. Beyond the defense establishment, hackers can and have also targeted other essential national infrastructure: electrical grids, banks, transportation systems, news networks, government agencies and important businesses.

These contractors have weapons systems and other critical secret data stored on their networks that must also be secured. Inevitably, some systems are older and more vulnerable to sophisticated new viruses, while others are improperly administered. Even up-to-date systems totally miss cleverly disguised viruses, allowing attackers to track keystrokes, take screen shots and suck out loads of information. Hackers say there's always at least one machine unprotected. And it only takes one.

Add all this to the fact that cyberwarfare favors the attacker. The defender must always react to the assailant, who chooses the time, place and method of the attack, which is always cloaked with anonymity, could inflict virtually unlimited damage, and can be waged by as few as one person located anywhere in the world at any time. All for less than the price of one M-16.

For the sprawling, mighty United States and its military, it is a starkly naked Achilles heel. This is the one thing that could easily and rapidly bring the nation to a standstill.

The more well-connected and techno-

logically capable we get, the more vulnerable we are.

And the West is constantly getting better-connected.

In doing so, the military necessarily must tie its systems to civilian systems, where infections are even easier to start and spread. Budget-minded planners have also opted for off-the-shelf network security products and even security software developed in foreign nations. The U.S. Army's advanced Future Combat Systems project makes soldiers even more dependent on the network.

**{ /Answer/equals:USBIP/ }**

If independent, oftentimes teenage attackers motivated by ideologies as simple as voyeurism and resentment for authority have caused and can cause so much trouble, what happens when unified, ideologically motivated terrorists and enemies with the resources of a nation-state really begin pouring it on? Estonia would be merely a trial run.

A targeted and sustained assault on just a few of the nation's key infrastructures—some of our already-faltering financial institutions, for example—could disrupt our economy, explode investor confidence and kill the dollar. Cyberassaults on oil and energy information systems could spike fuel prices. Attacks on transportation infrastructure could delay, diffuse and disrupt the nation's economic bloodstream. Resultant fuel, food and energy shortages could spark widespread crises and even riots that would cost billions of dollars and

possibly hundreds or thousands of lives.

But outright attacks on our military's networks, especially coupled with infrastructure damage and resulting civil upheaval, could be nationally deadly. The most advanced military in the world relies on the most complex information systems to sustain an unprecedented and ultra-complex organization of logistics. Should those systems malfunction before or during a time of national crisis, ammunition could arrive late, units could be assigned incorrectly, helicopters might never deploy—and, worst-case scenario, some of our own weapons could conceivably be retargeted.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has monitored this vulnerability since January 1995: "America is the greatest superpower this world has ever known. But we have a very vulnerable point in our military—our own Achilles heel. ... Exploiting this vulnerable point may trigger the greatest shock in the history of warfare! ... Computer dependence is the Western world's **ACHILLES HEEL**, and **WITHIN A FEW YEARS THIS WEAKNESS COULD BE TESTED TO THE FULL.**"

As the basis of his analysis, Mr. Flurry pointed to a key Bible prophecy that might be fulfilled in part by cyberwarfare: "Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. ... 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 7:1-2, 14).

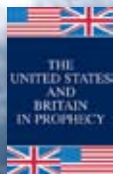
Even though the modern nations of Israel, including the U.S., Britain and the Jewish nation, sound an alarm of impending attack and expect their mighty armed forces to respond, "none goes to battle." There are a variety of ways the immediate future could play out, but one thing is certain to happen: Ezekiel 7.

God has revealed these future events—as well as ultimately *good* news for our nations. To learn more about America's vulnerabilities and its immediate future, request, download or read online at theTrumpet.com Herbert W. Armstrong's book that contains the answers to these problems as well as the awe-inspiring hope for our future: *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ■

## American military might ...

### Ignored by the prophets?

Was the greatest military power in history completely overlooked in Bible prophecy? The answer is no. America's rise to superpower status was foretold millennia ago—as was its subsequent fall! To learn more, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.





# NEW



# WORLD



# ORDER

## America's single superpower status is fading into history. Which of the emerging powers will fill the gap? **BY RON FRASER**

**T**HE UNITED STATES IS PRESENTLY saturated with presidential election propaganda. As a result, the mass media devote little or no time to the story of the year: that in 2008 America entered observable, measurable decline.

“The Post-American World” blared the cover of the May 12 edition of *Newsweek*. In the cover story, Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*, observed, “[F]or the first time in living memory the United States does not seem to be leading the charge. Americans see that a new world is coming into being, but fear it is one being shaped in distant lands and by foreign people” (emphasis mine throughout).

The May/June edition of *Foreign Affairs*, the periodic journal of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), asked, “Is America in Decline?” Inside, CFR President Richard Haass stated, “The reality of American strength should not mask the relative decline of the United States’s position in the world—and with this relative decline in power an absolute decline in influence and independence.” Haass noted that many Asian economies are growing two to three times faster than that of the United States.

Kishore Mahbubani, dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, also wrote in the same *Foreign Affairs* edition on the broader subject of the decline of

the major influence of Western civilization—primarily the Anglo-Saxon peoples. His context was the rise of the Asian powers. Mahbubani observed, “The West is understandably reluctant to accept that the era of its domination is ending and that the Asian century has come. ... [T]he West’s resistance to giving up control of key global institutions and processes is natural. ... [T]he West has also become increasingly incompetent in its handling of key global problems.”

The message is clear. Though the visions of these commentators vary on their projections of just what will comprise the eventual global order, they all agree on one point: The world has entered the post-superpower-America era. The U.S. is being challenged and overtaken by what Zakaria terms “the rise of the rest.”

## Declaring the Unthinkable

The rapid decline of the U.S. from superpower status would have seemed unthinkable to many less than 20 years ago. In 1990, the Soviet Union catastrophically imploded, leaving America at the top of the global pile. Shortly thereafter came the Gulf War of January 1991 and the defeat of Saddam Hussein's Iraqi military forces, the fourth-largest army in the world at that time.

President George Bush Sr. was euphoric at Saddam's defeat. The words in his victory speech expressed not only his mood, but also that of many Americans. On the night of March 6, 1991, the president declared, "Until now, the world we've known has been a world divided—a world of barbed wire and concrete block, conflict and cold war. *Now we can see a new world coming into view. A world in which there is the very real prospect of a new world order. ... A world in which freedom and respect for human rights find a home among all nations.*"

Suddenly, one superpower strode the world like a colossal policeman. Surely now, given the perceived success of the famous American dream and the triumph of Western democracy over Soviet and Islamist tyranny, the U.S. would become the guarantor of a prevailing world peace!

It didn't quite turn out that way. "Despite the proclamations of a 'new world order,' the hallmark of the early 1990s was not harmony, but burgeoning disorder. For every problem solved, a new and equally pressing crisis unfolded. After two years of tumultuous change, the world was trapped in a troubled transition that was proving bloodier, costlier and more confusing than anyone had anticipated" (Robin Wright and Doyle McManus, *Flashpoints*).

Less than two decades later, the accelerating pace of the decline of the U.S. from its brief moment in history as a lone superpower is becoming more measurable.

That this situation had become entirely predictable within a decade of America gaining sole superpower status was missed by the overwhelming majority of mass media pundits. But it certainly was not missed by the *Trumpet's* own editor in chief. Just 10 years following the banishment from superpower status of the Soviet empire and America's takeover of the chief global political seat on the planet, Gerald Flurry wrote the following scathing assessment of the way that the U.S. had handled its unprecedented access to global power: "America refuses to see that we have become a spineless spectacle before the world. That is the way the world sees

us" ("The Rise and Fall of a Superpower," *Philadelphia Trumpet*, January 2000).

Barely a year and a half later, that perception of spinelessness helped trigger the massive 9/11 Islamist terrorist attack on New York and Washington, D.C. Now it is stimulating tectonic changes in the geopolitical structure of this globe.

Few American commentators had the courage, or indeed the foresight, to headline the signs of the descent of America from superpower status when those signs were already observable eight years ago. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, many are jumping on the bandwagon.

A sampling of excerpts from recent articles published in some of the better-quality periodicals reveals the following. "The Second World is reshaping the world .... What can be felt just as powerfully is the relative decline of the U.S. and the increasing assertiveness of both the EU and China" in the new geopolitical marketplace (*Prospect*, May 2008). "[T]he Indian Ocean is emerging as a new locus of power that increasingly unites China, India, the Middle East and Africa" (*Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2008). Recent editions of the *Economist* point to the rise of the Gulf States that are "awash with capital" as the U.S. economy is on the slide; Vietnam developing at "stunning speed"; relations between China and Japan "blossoming," with them signing a "blueprint for ... both military and cultural exchanges." The May 19 *National Review*, in a piece featuring Philip Babbitt's book *Terror and Consent*, briefly looks outside the America-centric haze that engulfs the U.S. and catches a glimpse of "the rapidly changing conditions abroad that favor our enemies."

That the brief age of American dominance as the world's sole superpower has ended is no longer debatable.

So what is likely to be the fallout from America's decline from superpower status? It is shaping up to be a global order far from that envisioned by President Bush on that spring night of 1991.

## Expect the Unexpected

There is no shortage of views on the effects of the waning of American power.

Quite a number of commentators, such as Richard Haass, believe we will see an "age of nonpolarity." They believe the principal constraint that will prevent any rivalry between any nations or power blocs that emerge to fill the vacuum created by the decline of U.S. power will be their dependence on *the international system*

for their economic welfare and political stability. Haass maintains, "They do not, accordingly, want to disrupt an order that serves their national interests" (op. cit.).

But there is a hole in that argument.

What if a major disruption to that system—a catastrophe outside the direct control and influence of the rising powers, such as was barely avoided in the wake of the East Asian economic meltdown of the 1990s or the more recent U.S. subprime mortgage meltdown, or even a succession of major "natural" catastrophes—leads to the system's collapse?

In such a situation, human nature dictates that self-interest dominates—regardless of the consequences!

Indeed, it is *the unexpected catastrophe*, happening at *the least-imagined moment*, that can, and does, wreak the most havoc on society! "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then *sudden destruction* cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

What about those phenomena that market analyst Dan Denning describes as "Things we haven't thought about because they are so unlikely that you can't create a probability for them"? (*Daily Reckoning*, May 19). Of course, the improbable sometimes becomes reality. It's under such global crises that great-power rivalry can be triggered and demagogues arise.

As economist Peter Jay has stated, "[T]here is a *possibility of a breakdown in existing economic systems in the West*, leading maybe to anarchy, maybe to governments ruling more by strongman tactics. What would our daily life be like if that forecast were fulfilled?" (*The Crisis of Western Political Economy*).

The world has had a foretaste of that in the wake of the process of decolonization. The systems that brought civilization to whole continents, in particular under British rule, soon collapsed under the dictatorial rule of many a tyrant when the British withdrew.

The British Empire is long gone, its former glory now embedded in history. Now America too has had its glory days and is rapidly fading as a global superpower. Though still kicking and struggling against the tide of what Fareed Zakaria terms the "rise of the rest," the U.S. is already losing the status and prestige—and well down the road to losing the power—that it once wielded as global policeman.

Other contending policemen are rapidly emerging. Let's examine them one at a time.



## PREPARING

Europe's militaries are quickly becoming an armed force worthy of the developing European empire.

**S**IX years ago, British philosopher and cultural critic Roger Scruton authored a book titled *The West and the Rest*. In that incisive treatise, Scruton compares the history and contributions to global society of, most especially, the Anglo-Saxons with those of the rest of the world. He also tracks

the rise of an Islamic culture antipathetic to the West. His main thesis is about “the *vision* of society and political order that lies at the heart of ‘Western civilization’” and how the “apparent conflict with Islam is fed by *the decay of that vision*, and the loss of the political loyalty on which it depends.”

Many factors (of which this magazine writes often) have contributed to *the decay of that vision* once held by the American and British peoples. There is a law of human relations that dictates, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Scruton notes that no institution has contributed *externally* to “the decay of that vision” more than the rise of the antidemocratic *European Union*. He points out that the

EU has engaged a process “that will effectively extinguish the national democracies of Europe and erect in their place a European superstate.” Scruton further observes that the EU has contrived to destroy Britain as a United Kingdom, pointing out that by virtue of its membership in the EU, “the nation-state that did most to create the modern world—namely England—has already been replaced by ‘regions’ that have no historical meaning and defy all the local loyalties to which English patriotism responds” (ibid.).

Such a situation then leads to opportunity for contenders for world power—even for *superpower* status—to raise their heads.

Peter Struck, Germany’s former defense minister and leader of a group at the forefront of touting for a pan-European army, declared, “[S]ingle states are no longer able to handle the threats of today” (EU Observer, May 8).



**A**N unbridgeable gulf separates Islam from the West, in particular from the Roman traditions of Europe.

Perhaps the most original, in-depth analysis of this question is that of Roger Scruton. In *The West and the Rest*, Scruton shows the extent to which the religious and philosophical roots of Western nations are entirely absent in Islamic societies. This automatically places the two systems at extreme odds.

“Mohammed’s project [was] a remarkable one: to replace the tribal society and its pagan gods with a new, universal order—the Islamic *umma*—founded on belief in the one true God and on the acceptance of his commands,” Scruton writes. “To achieve this result Mohammed had to persuade people that he was God’s messenger; he had also to give *proof of God’s favor by success in war*.” Historically, the result has been conflict between Western civilization and Islam, the most outstanding example being the Crusades.

Nothing has fundamentally changed in this equation, except the means of achieving intended ends. Whereas Islam militarily invaded Europe in the past, today’s invasion is one of immigrants fleeing the oppressive societies of Islam to settle in Europe. There they form their Islamic enclaves. They build their mosques. They employ their

teachers, their imams. Too often those imams then teach them the same messages of hatred of the West that emanate from the restrictive systems from which they fled. The result is minds being conditioned to express a desire for the annihilation of the very people responsible for granting them their newfound freedoms!

What’s more, as Scruton observes, “[T]hose Muslims who settle down, integrate, and acquire some kind of loyalty to Western institutions and customs [even some becoming members of the British Parliament] often produce children who, despite being brought up in the West, identify themselves in opposition to it—an opposition so fierce as again to verge on the desire for annihilation.” This phenomenon creates a breeding ground for Islamist extremism that has become deeply embedded within Europe. We should not forget that the terrorists who were responsible for 9/11 came from a terrorist cell cultivated within Hamburg, Germany.

The realization of this homegrown problem is driving European parliamentarians and EU right-wing lobbyists to seek curbs on immigration. The EU feels provoked from within as well as from without by the impact of Islam on European society.

Meanwhile, many Islamic powers are awash with capital as a



**A**SIA—incorporating China, India, the Southeast Asian economies and a progressively eastward-looking, anti-West Russia—is increasingly linking in trade.

The three rising power blocs—the EU, the Islamic nations and Asia—are forging linkages and alliances destined to leave the U.S. out in the cold.

Meanwhile, Africa and Latin America remain up for grabs, with competition mounting intensively from the EU and East Asia for those continents’ raw materials.

Parag Khanna, author of *The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New*

*Global Order*, observed: “From Asia to Eastern Europe to Latin America, middle-income countries are growing increasingly assertive. These ‘Second World’ states are forging links among themselves and are adept at playing off First World powers against each other” (*Prospect*, May 2008).

These alliances are flourishing outside the Anglo-American sphere, quite independent of Washington’s influence. They threaten the system overseen by British and American peoples since the 18th century that strives to keep tyranny at bay.

*Prospect* magazine summarized some of these startling developments. “Russia has



## RISING

China and Russia are ascending to power, individually and jointly.



See the strategy at work here.

The Balkan Peninsula is a case in point. Germany, in concert with the Vatican, contrived to break up greater Yugoslavia into its constituent states, none of which is able to “handle the threats of today” by itself—so Germany, under the cloak of the EU, steps up to the plate to “handle the threats.”

On the other hand, the strategy of regionalization is a type of psychological warfare designed to break national spirit. Regionalize a former United Kingdom and you fragment local loyalties to the point where there is no national cohesion. National patriotism, which rallied the British in two great world wars, becomes defunct, as does any sense of national spirit. That sets up the takeover of a nation by a superior power which will then “handle the threats of the day,” posing solutions in its own interests rather than those of the states it is ostensibly protecting.

It is becoming daily more apparent that the European Union, with Germany at the forefront, is emerging as the power with the greatest potential to fill the vacuum being created by America’s decline. German leaders see the dwindling potency of an American military power that has no political will to assert its huge superiority in hardware over its enemies. They realize they can no longer depend on the U.S. as a guarantor of European security. Such a situation motivates leaders such as Germany’s vice chancellor and foreign minister to want a European army established.

A key element within the EU constitution/reform treaty is a little-publicized clause that allows a mere handful of nations to propose and ram through the initiative to build a European military force. Germany’s vice chancellor recently went vocal on the need to take advantage of this clause. “Frank-Walter Steinmeier has indicated he would like to see

a European army established . . . and that he would like to see moves in this direction speeded up,” EU Observer reported on May 8. “German daily *Tagespiegel* reported Mr. Steinmeier as referring to the fact that the EU’s new treaty, currently undergoing ratification across the European Union, allows for the possibility of a group of member states to ‘move ahead’ in defense policy. . . . The end result of a consolidation of military capacities must be a European army, said Mr. Steinmeier . . .” (ibid.). France has already signaled that during its presidency of the EU over the second half of this year it intends to push for the development of an EU military force.

This is a direct challenge to NATO and especially to Washington. Indications are that the Franco/German-led EU military agenda will dominate relations across the Atlantic over the next two years as America’s will to employ its own military power continues to wane.

result of the massive price hike in oil. European leaders are well aware that a good portion of this money is being channeled to build up the Islamic terrorist army. With Islamic Pakistan already nuclear empowered and Iran well on the way, forces in Europe are starting to react.

The increasing impotence of American foreign policy and the Islamic threat from the south are combining to motivate the rise in militarism within some circles in the EU. Iran is a crucial part of this equation. *No nation will succeed in closing down Iran’s nuclear program until the spread of pan-Islam and the prospect of a nuclear-powered Islamic crescent motivates the European bloc to wipe it out.* The self-imposed feebleness of the U.S. in dealing with Iran and its cohorts of terror will be the EU’s opportunity, and it will not pass that opportunity up.

For the time being, the EU is holding back, refraining from ag-

### PUSHING

What the rising Islamic power bloc lacks in weapons and wealth it more than makes up for in will.



gressive military solutions to today’s global challenges, which in effect has contributed to the U.S. and Britain exhausting themselves militarily. But in the process, the EU has quietly pursued its own military and political goals. The Balkan wars, the subsequent and growing deployment of German military forces in theaters outside of Europe, plus Germany’s contending for greater control in the Afghanistan war, are cases in point.

Radical Islam, under perpetual stimulation from Iran’s contributions to the coffers of the terrorists, will

continue to develop as a threat to world peace until its push against Europe becomes intolerable to the rising great northern power. Then, as Bible prophecy declares, blitzkrieg is sure to follow (Daniel 11:40).

But in the meantime, it’s a case of deals and counter-deals between future enemies, all geared to the detriment of the Anglo-Americans.

offered to build nuclear reactors for Iran and Libya, Kazakhstan and Malaysia are holding trade conferences to link their regions, and an oil production alliance is sprouting between Iran, Indonesia and Venezuela. Chinese fly directly to Brazil, while Brazilians fly directly to Africa, Indians are investing from Syria to Vietnam and the Abu Dhabi investment authority spreads its wealth from Wall Street to Nanjing Road” (ibid.).

Greater Asia’s growing ability to develop economically, politically and militarily as a counter to Western dominance is no longer in question.

In the meantime—in a powerful demon-

stration of the prophesied loss of the world’s major sea gates, which were once all possessed by the Anglo-Saxon nations—China gears up to dominate the high seas by controlling the globe’s major seaways through a combination of port ownership and a nuclear-armed blue-water navy. India, another Asian nuclear-armed power, is rapidly building its own blue-water navy.

Japan, possessing the second-largest navy in the world, is said to have the technical ability to produce nuclear armaments within weeks of any decision to proceed on such a course. Russia works to revive and add new technology to its aged but exten-

sive nuclear-armed fleet. At the same time, nuclear-armed Pakistan remains unstable and is a known haven for Islamic militants. North Korea remains a rogue state, intent on pursuing its own nuclear agenda.

The combined nuclear armaments of Russia, China, India, Pakistan and North Korea would present a formidable power to defenses should these nations ever form a pan-Asian military alliance. That such a bloc will arise to challenge the great northern power of Europe is deeply embedded in Bible prophecies for the times immediately ahead (e.g. Daniel 11:44; Ezekiel 38:1-6; Revelation 9:16).

**Prophesied Tri-Polar World**

As the U.S. descent from superpower status accelerates, this world may, for a brief moment, become “non polar” as Richard Haass suggests. Yet such a state would only exist until some event removes the U.S. as a key player in the global economy.

For many years, Herbert Armstrong pointed to the prospect of the failure of the global economic and financial system as possibly catalyzing the downfall of the U.S. and the rise of other powers contending for global hegemony. He declared that such an event would shake the nations into the configuration that is prophesied to herald the imminence of the end of man’s age of misrule of this planet: the “king of the north” (Daniel 11:13), the “king of the south” (Daniel 11:40), and the “kings of the east” (Revelation 16:12).

Many today predict that the day will come when Asia, especially China, will be the dominant economic and political world power. Indeed, a great Asian power grab is slated to occur per these end-of-an-age prophecies, but not before the great northern power, centered in Europe, dominates the globe for a brief moment after its blitzkrieg against the Islamic nations (Daniel 11:40).

Mr. Armstrong explained the global catastrophe that will follow the decline of the British and American peoples thus: “This world is giving assent to, and con-

ferring civilization’s acceptance on, THE WAYS that are the CAUSES of all the world’s ills. ... Forces are at work today on plans, programs, conspiracies, movements that soon will erupt into a world explosion of violence and chaos such as never happened before, and never will again” (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

Pointing to the prophesied decline of the Anglo-Saxons from the pinnacle of world power, Mr. Armstrong declared, “He [God] put our nations in the position of possessing the greatest national power any nation or empire ever possessed. We had great *pride* in that national power—in our national prestige. ... Today even little nations dare to insult, trample on, or burn the United States flag—and the United States, still having power, does no more than issue a weak protest! What’s *happened* to the PRIDE of our power?” (ibid.).

Herbert Armstrong continually pointed out that, because of their innate tendency to reject the God who gave them such stupendous, unmatched blessings, the Anglo-Saxon nations should expect the day to come when “The stranger [or foreigner] that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low” (Deuteronomy 28:43).

Our regular readers would be aware that the biblical prophecies reveal a final global composite consisting of three great powers—a great northern power, a southern

power and an eastern power—on the rise at a time of the descent of the Anglo-Saxon and Judaic nations. A closer study of these prophesied power blocs requires knowledge of the connection between the ancient biblical names of the nations that they comprise and their modern counterparts. Mr. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* makes this provable connection. Study that book in association with our booklets *The King of the South*, *Russia and China in Prophecy* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, and you will make the connections between the modern and ancient biblical names for the key nations dominating the world scene today.

**See and Understand!**

Clearly, the current rise of three major power blocs now parallels the descent of the leading Anglo-Saxon nation, the United States of America. The fact that this emerging global order parallels exactly those prophecies for these times that have been embedded in your Bible for thousands of years awaiting their revealing at this time ought to make you think.

For most of the 20th century, Mr. Armstrong prophesied the very order of nations that today is emerging on the world scene. Request a free copy of our special *Trumpet* edition titled “He Was Right!” It will really enlighten you on just how much Mr. Armstrong knew, far in advance of its happening, about the events that would take place in the world today and in the few years ahead.


Herbert Armstrong died over 20 years ago. Who listened to him? Perhaps you were one who heard, and now remembers, and can now see clearly that you, right now, are living through what he prophesied, for decades, so long ago. If you are, it’s time you did something about it!

Understanding just where today’s world events are leading and the great hope they promise for the future can produce a transcendental peace of mind, a state of peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Nothing gives one confidence in the future as much as knowing, beyond all doubt, just where today’s events are leading! Life takes on a whole new meaning when one possesses a clear vision of the future. That vision can be yours to grasp, to give your life new meaning, new purpose and a strong sense of personal security! It includes an understanding of the great future for mankind that lies ahead of the exciting, prophesied world events that even now are unfolding before your very eyes!

**FREE BOOKLETS FOR FURTHER STUDY**



Did you know that the reports you hear on daily news networks, commentaries and blogs match up with advance news forecasting *in your Bible*? World geopolitics, including Germany’s rise, are found explained in Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 2:40-43; 7:7-8; and Revelation 13 and 17. To find out more, request ***Germany and the Holy Roman Empire***.



Iran’s precipitous rise from rogue fringe movement to the power broker of the Middle East has surprised almost everyone. But Tehran and radical Islam’s shocking power was predicted well in advance as “the king of the south” in Daniel 11:40. To discover more details about this power bloc, request ***The King of the South***.



A few years ago, Russia was in shambles. China was Second or Third World. Some analysts today predict they will be the world’s new economic, political and military powerhouses. The Bible called it well ahead of the most astute observers, in Daniel 11:40-44. These nations continue to make headlines; request ***Russia and China in Prophecy*** today!

# Al Qaeda's New Home

## A terrorist command center within striking distance of Europe

BY ANDREW MILLER

**A**FGHANISTAN MAY NOT BE THE safe haven for Islamist terrorists it once was. Yes, it's still a haven for terrorists—it's just no longer as safe for them, thanks to forces from America, Britain, Canada, France, Germany and several other nations keeping al Qaeda on the run. Considering the difficulty al Qaeda is now having in keeping its operations consolidated in the face of this military threat, it is only natural it would consider moving its center of operations.

American, French, Italian, Algerian and Tunisian counterterrorism officials fear that the vast, barely governed stretches of North Africa may become a new al Qaeda center of operations.

North African terrorists were instrumental in both the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the 2004 Madrid bombings. In August 2006, al Qaeda's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced a new alliance with the Algeria-based Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). GSPC embraced the alliance wholeheartedly and within a few months changed its name to al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb. It vowed to organize extremist groups across North Africa and join the remnants of al Qaeda into a new international jihadist force. Already it is deploying North African terrorist recruits into Iraq to fight American troops and into Europe to carry out missions of terror. Thus, what started as a movement to overthrow the Algerian secular government and set up an Islamic theocracy is strengthening the movement for global jihad.

### The Threat to Europe

If Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia were to become the new epicenter of the al Qaeda terrorist network, Europe would be seriously threatened. North Africa is a major source of both legal and illegal immigrants into Europe, and many ethnically North African communities already exist inside European nations. Al Qaeda bases in North Africa pose almost the same threat to Europe as al Qaeda bases in Mexico



**THREAT** Counterterrorism officials fear that North Africa may become the new center of operations for al Qaeda. If it does, Europe would be seriously threatened.

would pose to the United States. It is only 8 miles across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco to Spain, and not much further than that from Tunisia to Italy.

“We know from cases that we’re working on that the GSPC’s mission is now to recruit people in Morocco and Tunisia, train them and send them back to their countries of origin or Europe to mount attacks,” said French counterterrorism magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguière last year. Bruguière called the Algerian group the biggest terrorist threat facing France today.

In 2003, Germany paid €5 million to secure the release of some of the 32 European tourists who were kidnapped in southern Algeria by a GSPC leader. In June this year, the Austrian foreign minister visited Algeria and Mali trying to secure the release of two missing Austrians al Qaeda is believed to be holding hostage in the Sahara. The al Qaeda group is demanding the release of 10 Islamic militants in return for the two hostages.

High unemployment rates and dissatisfaction with current governments are luring more and more North Africans to political Islam for solutions. The GSPC was founded in 1992 in an attempt to aid the Islamist side of an Algerian civil war. The terrorist cause definitely has its share of supporters in the region. In such an environment, terrorists can swim like fish throughout the sea of the population. Despite opposition from the local governments, these terrorist cells are too embedded to be eradicated by North African officials alone. A string of bombings in Algeria, most likely carried out by al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb, in early June—including a double bombing that killed 13—indicates Islamist terrorist activity in that country is rising.

The mountains and deserts of North Africa are set to become a stronghold for

radical Islam, a base of operations for al Qaeda, and a major threat to Europe.

### An Ancient Prophecy

Anciently, this vast region spanning from Morocco to the western border of Egypt was known as Libya. This region is mentioned in the biblical book of Daniel, chapter 11, verses 40-43. This passage is about an end-time clash between a German-led Holy Roman Empire (the “king of the north”) and an Iranian-led Islamic caliphate (the “king of the south”). It predicts that the nations (or regions) of Libya and Ethiopia will be allied with Iran when it is overrun by the European empire.

Indeed, the modern nation of Libya and the Italian government have already clashed. Back in 2006, during Islamist riots following the Danish cartoon crisis, Italian cabinet minister Roberto Calderoli called on Pope Benedict XVI to launch a new crusade against Islam. Seif al-Islam al-Gadhafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, responded to this remark by demanding the dismissal of the cabinet minister and an apology to Islam. Otherwise, al-Gadhafi threatened, “Libya, the Arabic world and Islam would be forced to react” (Spiegel Online, Feb. 14, 2006). The minister was dismissed in this case, but as terrorist activities increase in Europe, patience is bound to run thin.

Southern European interior ministers held a conference with their North African counterparts on May 21 and 22 agreeing to step up the fight against the terrorist threat in the region. As al Qaeda terrorist networks expand, and as local populations become more sympathetic to the Islamist cause, the time will come when Europe will react with more than just conferences. According to the Prophet Daniel, this reaction will be blitzkrieg warfare. ■

# WORLDWATCH

## EUROPE

SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL POLITICIANS are calling for the European Union to have more power. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said that increasing Europe's global influence would be **France's** top priority when it takes over the rotating presidency of the EU on July 1. Kouchner also stated that he wants the EU to have a more effective foreign policy and better defense cooperation.

At the same time, European leaders want more EU involvement in world financial markets. According to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Anglo-Saxon model of regulation has failed, and a European model should take its place. This is a critical trend to watch: The Bible prophesies that Europe will indeed become the financial capital of the world.

Also, in May, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said the EU needs an army. He advocated the EU accelerating efforts to integrate its armed forces, with a European army as the final goal. Peter Struck, former defense minister and now head of the German Social Democratic Party, agreed. "There will still be opposition to the idea ..." he said. "But single states are no longer able to handle the threats of today." Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, made a similar appeal in June. Watch for these statements to become reality.

Meanwhile, Europe is becoming less open and democratic, according to its own transparency watchdog. New proposals on document access are a "step backwards," European ombudsman Nikiforos Diamandouros said at a hear-



ing in the European Parliament on June 2. In truth, the EU's secretive and corrupt nature goes back for decades.

One way Europe is attempting to quash democracy is through a proposed amendment, soon to be presented before Parliament, that would eliminate several small political groupings, including Europe's main Euroskeptical group, Independence and Democracy, which has only 23 members, would lose its speaking rights, committee positions and significant funding—privileges afforded official political grouping only. Time after time it becomes apparent that democracy and debate get in the way of the European Union. In order to function more efficiently, Europe must become less democratic. Watch for this trend to be reflected in future headlines.

As Europe prepares to increase its power, it is also turning east. French President Nicolas Sarkozy believes **Ukraine** belongs to Europe. "When we are in Kiev, we are in a European city," he said May 28. He plans to use France's presidency of the EU

to pursue closer ties with Kiev.

**May also featured high-profile meetings between Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the new Russian President Dmitri Medvedev.** In December, Steinmeier was the first foreign minister to meet with Medvedev after the latter's nomination for president. On a May 14 visit to the Kremlin, he became the first foreign official to meet with President Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin since they officially took their new offices. Steinmeier met Medvedev again on June 5 when Medvedev visited Berlin on his first Western trip since becoming president. Steinmeier is one of the Russian leaders' best friends in Europe.

Europe has finally agreed on a common position over a potential EU-**Russia** trade and partnership agreement. After 18 months of deadlock, EU nations agreed on May 21 to begin wide-ranging negotiations with Russia. An agreement between these two would allow them to temporarily lay aside their differences in order to more vigorously pursue other national interests. At least six times in

the last 240 years, **Germany** has first made a pact with Russia to secure its eastern border before embarking on aggressive foreign policy elsewhere. These negotiations may well result in such a pact.

## MIDEAST

**A** U.S. AIRSTRIKE ON June 10 in **Pakistan's** northwestern tribal area killed 11 Pakistani troops, further straining already deteriorating relations between Washington and Islamabad. Pakistan's military strongly condemned the operation. When the new Pakistani coalition government took office in late March, the *Trumpet* wrote that the U.S.-Pakistan alliance was in serious jeopardy. Due to Pakistan's lack of cooperation in denying the Taliban sanctuary inside its borders, the U.S. is now starting to take things into its own hands—and Pakistan isn't happy. U.S. military action in





Pakistan is highly unpopular among Pakistanis and could lead to social unrest. Such sentiment could also cause problems within the Pakistani military, which has already been weakened by recent political changes in the country.

Additionally, Pakistan's infamous A.Q. Khan has come out saying that his admission of supplying **Iran, North Korea** and **Libya** with nuclear technology was made under duress, implicating Pakistan's military (and rightfully so) in nuclear proliferation. This puts additional pressure on the army—the only real force ensuring Pakistan's unity and continuance as a nation state—and could lead to a challenge of its power.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's government is losing control over the country's border regions as it continues to cut deals with terrorists. The government has pulled troops from the tribal areas, conducted prisoner exchanges with the Taliban, and is allowing sharia law in one district. This appeasement-oriented approach is emboldening the Islamist terrorists, who are now carrying out attacks

with little fear of reprisal. On June 2, a suicide attack on the Danish Embassy in Islamabad killed six people and caused widespread destruction. "What is crucial," wrote Stratfor, "is whether the military will reassert control over the state, or whether the old system will be replaced with a new one (or with anarchy)" (June 3). *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry pointed to the dangers of Islamists gaining influence in a nuclear-armed Pakistan in his January article "Pakistan and the Shah of Iran."

On June 8, **Iraq's** prime minister sought to ease Iranian fears over a proposed security deal with the U.S. by promising that Iraq would not become a launching pad for an attack on its neighbor. Iraq will not sign up to any deal with the U.S. without Washington first coming to an



**Pakistanis protest a U.S. airstrike on June 10.**

understanding with Iran. Iran has already stirred up much resistance in Iraq to the proposed security pact, which is to replace the current mandate that expires in December. Moreover, a Stratfor source revealed that Iran has established a new militant unit in Iraq, al Tariqa al Safraa, to carry out clandestine operations such as kidnappings, assassinations and spying. Tehran could use this group to provoke an uprising should it seek to increase pressure on Washington. Iran is determined to get its way in Iraq through the many means at its disposal.

**Israel** is reaching out to its enemies on all sides—without success. **Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert** confirmed in May that Israel has been conduct-

ing secret talks with **Syria**, via **Turkey**, for over a year. Even as this news broke, however, the Syrian defense minister visited Tehran to consolidate defense ties between Syria and Israel's greatest enemy, Iran. On June 10, Olmert called for peace talks with **Lebanon**. His request was rejected the next day. On June 18, Israel agreed to an **Egyptian**-mediated truce with Hamas—a cease-fire we don't expect to last for long.

Meanwhile, Olmert's days as prime minister appear to be numbered, with him being investigated on charges involving bribery and business scandals. Watch for a possible resurgence of the conservative Likud party as Olmert's party is further weakened.

Thirteen people were killed in **Algeria** on June 8 when two bombs exploded at a train station in a town about 50 miles



from the capital, Algiers. This was one in a string of terrorist attacks in Algeria, including a roadside bombing that killed six Algerian soldiers on June 6. The growing Islamist threat in North Africa is destined to become a serious threat for Europe (see article, page 17).

## ASIA

ASIA WAS HIT BY TWO devastating natural disasters in May: A cyclone with 130-mile-an-hour winds



hit **Myanmar** on May 2, and a **7.9-magnitude earthquake** hit the **Sichuan province of China** on May 12. The death toll from Cyclone Nargis could be as high as 130,000, while the Chinese government estimates that over 69,000 died in the quake. As millions mourned, the governments of both nations strengthened their ties with their Asian neighbors by cooperating with them in relief and aid efforts.

Almost two weeks after the cyclone hit, **Singapore's** foreign minister told the world that Myanmar's isolated ruling junta was averse to non-Asian governments sending relief personnel into their country but might accept personnel from other Southeast Asian nations. Although

Myanmar officials eventually let non-Asian foreign aid workers in, their reluctance revealed their distrust of non-Asian nations is greater than their concern for the people.

China accepted massive foreign aid packages from **Japan**, **Russia** and the **Philippines** and even allowed Japanese medical workers and rescue teams onto Chinese soil in an attempt to save lives and repair the devastation. After centuries of rivalry, Japan and China are now looking to each other as friends. Natural disasters like

the Sichuan quake have served to tighten this relationship. While it is definitely admirable when human beings band together to save lives, it is also worrying to see this move in light of what an alliance with China portends for Japan's future relations with the U.S.

Another Asian nation drawing closer to Communist China is **Taiwan**. On June 12, Taiwanese representatives met with Chinese officials in Beijing to hold the highest-level talks between the two nations since 1999. The two sides agreed to re-launch regular direct weekend passenger flights starting on July 4 and to allow mainland tourists into Taiwan two weeks later. Taiwan is trying to draw closer to its mainland rival in an attempt

to avoid a Chinese invasion. This fear illuminates America's deteriorating relationship with Taiwan in favor of China. The American government even refused to allow newly elected Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou to visit the U.S. before his inauguration on May 21. Without America to protect it, Taiwan is trying to patch things up with its mainland neighbor.

While China was talking peace with Taiwan during the June 12 meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang was urging the United States to *permanently* end arms sales to Taiwan. China may be more than willing to accept Taiwan's voluntary steps closer to the mainland, but at the end of the day its intentions are anything but peaceful. The Taiwanese are going to be forced back into the mainland mold.

**Yasuo Fukuda** faced a major humiliation on June 11 when he became the first Japanese prime minister under Japan's post-World War II constitution to have a censure passed against

him. This is a symbolic representation of the parliamentary majority's dissatisfaction with the Fukuda administration. Though Fukuda says he has no plans to step down, the censure nevertheless could portend a less-U.S.-friendly leader succeeding Fukuda, such as opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa.



Should Ozawa or some other nationalistic leader like him ascend to the Japanese premiership, Japan would likely ditch its relationship with America and focus more exclusively on Asian integration.

## LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

**HUGO CHÁVEZ**, PRESIDENT of **Venezuela**, is expected to visit Russia soon to finalize plans to purchase \$2 billion worth of military contracts. Caracas also negotiated a contract to provide 10,000 barrels per day of oil to **Portugal**—one more alternative to the U.S. in President Chávez's growing customer list.

On June 3, **Brazil** announced that it seeks sanctions against the U.S. for violations concerning cotton subsidies to U.S. farmers. If the U.S. does stop subsidies to farmers, the global price of cotton would rise significantly—and the U.S. would see another of its production sectors disappear.

In May, **Zimbabwe's** economy topped 1 million percent inflation. Associated Press observed that "a small pack of locally produced coffee beans cost just short of 1 billion Zimbabwe dollars. A decade ago, that sum would have bought 60 new cars." Harare also set a record with its latest economic solution: the half-billion-dollar bill, issued just 10 days after its record-setting quarter-billion-dollar bill. Its value at time of release? Two U.S. dollars.

Meanwhile, the military is running President Robert Mugabe's reelection campaign. It is using every nefarious trick in the book—from suspending foreign food aid to harassing opposition supporters—in order to swing the vote in Mugabe's favor. Mugabe's opponent, opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai, was arrested three times in just the first two weeks of June alone. On June 6, seven men in white pickup trucks grabbed the wife of Patson Chipiro, the head of the opposition party in Mhondoro, then "chopped off one of her hands and both her feet.

Then they threw her into her hut, locked the door and threw a petrol bomb through the window” (*Times*, June 12). Indeed, Mugabe has called his conflict with the Movement for Democratic Change “an all-out war.”

Xenophobic black-on-black attacks in South Africa killed 62 people in May. About 40 percent of the population is unemployed; more than 4 million earn less than a dollar a day. South Africans blame foreigners—many of whom are refugees from Zimbabwe—for stealing their jobs and increasing the crime rates. Some Zimbabweans are now fleeing back across the border.

After clashes in the oil-producing Abyei region of **Sudan** in May that displaced tens of thousands, the Sudanese peace deal established in January 2005 appears to be collapsing. David Mozersky, formerly senior Sudan analyst at the International Crisis Group, warned “If that deal falls apart, Sudan likely falls apart.” More than 2 million people died in the two decades of civil war in Sudan.

Meanwhile, the global race for African resources continues. A French company, Areva, will probably win the contract to build a nuclear energy facility in Algeria. France may also win a contract to explore Algerian uranium mines, giving the EU another inroad to Africa. Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda has promised to increase trade with Africa, doubled developmental assistance to Africa to \$1.8 billion per year, and offered \$4 billion in loans to Africa at concessionary terms. On June 3, China National Petroleum Company announced it would invest \$5 billion to develop oil fields in **Niger**—an expensive project only made worthwhile by skyrocketing oil prices.



## ANGLO-AMERICA

**EX-INMATES OF THE U.S.** Prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, **Cuba**, are turning up as suicide bombers and attackers in Iraq. American commanders and in some cases the attackers’ families have confirmed that dozens of former detainees are returning to strike at U.S. forces. Over half of the 770 enemy combatants detained at the camp have been freed or remanded to other countries.

Farmers across the American Midwest have been staring out their windows at heavy rains drowning U.S. crops. **Farms in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri received as much as a foot of rain in the first 11 days of June, more than four times the average.** The resulting floods and crop damage have slashed estimates for this year’s crops.

Global food shortages are already widespread, and prices for food and energy commodities are surging. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that these surges are not a bubble, but the result of fundamental market conditions, including demand from China and India and constricted supply.

In addition to the price

of gas, prices for oil-based goods—an estimated 57 major types of goods including asphalt, detergents, cleaners, paint, pharmaceuticals and plastics—are surging. Almost half of consumer products are directly affected by the rising cost of petroleum.

A New York City Health Department study found that over one in four NYC adults have the genital herpes virus, a lifelong sexually transmitted infection. The New York lifestyle also has an above-average number of New Yorkers carrying gonorrhea, chlamydia and infectious syphilis.

A May government study found that over 2 million American teens suffered at least one serious episode of depression in the past year, defined as a bout lasting two weeks or more involving a depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, and at least four other serious symptoms. On average, 12 youth suicides occur every day, the third-leading cause of death for young Americans ages 15 to 24.

After two years of below-average rainfall and wildfires last October, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought in June, saying this spring was the driest in recorded history for the state’s northern watershed.

British sentiment is at a

poisonous peak against the nation it helped found: Israel. Israel’s ambassador to Britain, Ron Prosor, said the nation has become a hotbed of radical anti-Israeli sentiment. A trade union of teachers and professors has called for a boycott of Israeli academia. Much of the British media airs anti-Israeli programming and reporting against the nation’s historic ally and national brother. May 15, George Galloway delivered a public address in **Jordan**, aired on Al-Jazeera TV, in which he said Tony Blair was “dripping with the blood” of Palestinians and encouraged Palestinian terrorism against Israelis. Galloway is not a London-based cleric. He is a minister of the British Parliament.

In **Australia**, the marriage rate is its lowest since 400,000 young men left the country to fight World War I. Fifty-one percent of women are single or cohabiting. In England and Wales, the marriage rate is its lowest since 1895. Among marrieds, 59 percent of women admit they’d leave their husbands if they could afford it. Half of husbands defined their marriages as “loveless.” The UK as a whole has the highest divorce rates since records began. If current trends continue, one in ten marriages will fail before it is five years old; nearly half will end in divorce.

**W**HEN THE CYCLONE in Myanmar began, 260 villagers in Hluasa sought refuge in the sturdiest building they could find: the local school. Soon, however, 120-mile-per-hour winds and 12 feet of water tore through the building, ripping the roof off, collapsing the walls, drowning everyone who sought shelter, and leaving only a pile of bricks in its wake. All told, half of the village's 1,900 residents died.

And that is only a sliver of the destruction nature spewed out in May. The final death toll resulting from Cyclone Nargis's landfall on May 2 could approach 130,000. In China, after a magnitude 7.9 earthquake a mere 10 days later, nearly 70,000 died. The suffering, however, is beyond calculation.

The images coming from those events are nauseating: "A half-clothed baby's body entangled in brush. Rows of lifeless children lying on the muddy ground, the face of one of them blue. Survivors crouching close together in mud under tarps" (ABC News, May 14).

Where was God?

Whenever a catastrophic natural disaster strikes, among our tumult of emotions and thoughts, we tend to put God on trial. The idea, clung to by so many, of an all-loving, all-merciful Deity who smiles down on humanity seems shattered by the violence of the calamity. And as the world looks on, helpless before images of children dying in misery, many turn to their religious leaders for answers.

All too often, they receive only shocked silence. In 2006, during a visit to Auschwitz where roughly 2 million Jews were killed by Nazi atrocities, Pope Benedict XVI epitomized that condition, saying: "In a place like this, words fail. In the end, there can only be a dread silence, a silence which is a heartfelt cry to God: Why, Lord, did you remain silent? How could you tolerate all this? ... Where was God in those days? Why was He silent? How could He permit this endless slaughter, this triumph of evil?"

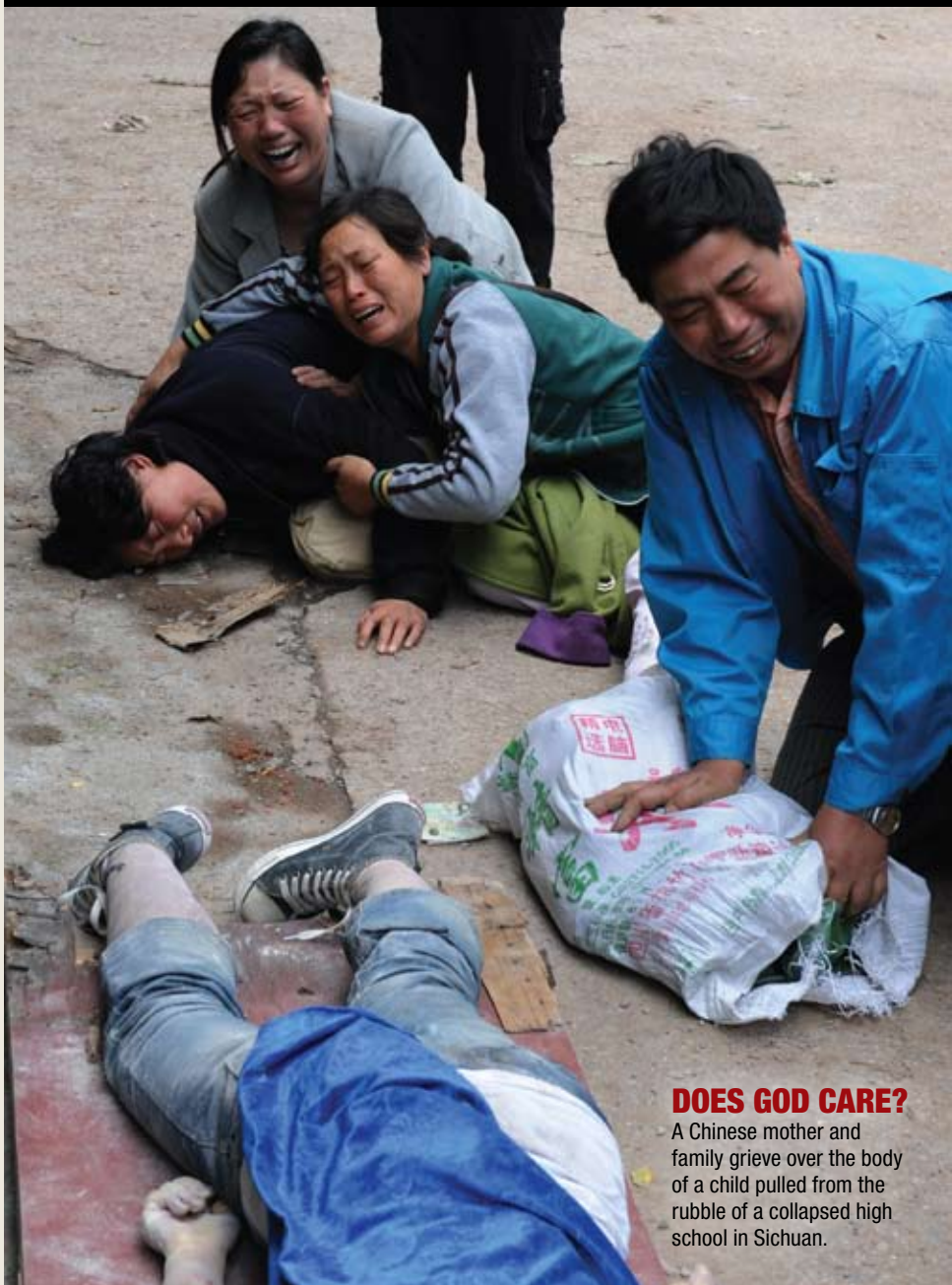
The pope offered no answers; rather, he said that humans could not "peer into God's mysterious plan." He issued a cry for the Almighty to rouse Himself, asking, "Do not forget mankind, your creature!"

That sort of response denies hope to those who need it most.

After the December 2004 Asian tsunami, the archbishop of Canterbury wrote, "Every single random, accidental death is something that should upset a faith bound up with comfort and ready answers. ... The

# WHY

## Did God Let It Happen?



### DOES GOD CARE?

A Chinese mother and family grieve over the body of a child pulled from the rubble of a collapsed high school in Sichuan.

Nightmarish disasters in Myanmar and China killed 200,000 people. Why does God allow such incomprehensible suffering? **BY MARK JENKINS**



question: ‘How can you believe in a God who permits suffering on this scale?’ is therefore very much around at the moment, and it would be surprising if it weren’t—in-  
deed, it would be wrong if it weren’t” (*Sunday Telegraph*, Jan. 2, 2005). The religious elite of the world offer no real explanation—and no hope—to those who suffer.

*But there is no excuse for that.*

Though most are not yet willing to accept it, the Bible certainly offers God’s perspective on why we suffer.

Even more, it reveals what we can do to help eliminate suffering forever!

### Whose World Is This?

Contrast the reality of disasters and personal suffering you see all around the globe with this prophecy coinciding with the return of Jesus Christ: “And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Also consider this scripture depicting the world when God the Father comes down to new Jerusalem: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

If that is our loving Father’s perspective on suffering—that when He comes to Earth, He will forever banish those things that make us unhappy—then we should realize that God’s world isn’t here yet. Jesus Christ has not returned, causing sorrow and sighing to flee away.

So whose world is it now?

*Satan* is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). We need to understand how the devil gained control of mankind—and why God allows it to this day. *It has everything to do with God’s purpose for you—your incredible human potential.*

Ezekiel 28 describes a magnificent archangel, “full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” (verse 12). Isaiah 14:13 tells us this being called Lucifer tried to exalt his own throne—a position of authority over the Earth—above God’s throne. God cast Lucifer, now called Satan (meaning “adversary”), back down to Earth.

Most read the story of Adam and Eve’s encounter with the adversary as though it were an interesting fiction, never realizing how it has shaped every aspect of man’s civilization.

Consider the opportunity Adam and Eve had. Adam could have followed God’s

instructions, choosing the tree of life, representing God’s way of life. He would have lived his life led by God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). Our first parents would have forged a relationship with God, learning to think like God, learning to live the way of give. God would have removed Satan from his position of power on the Earth and given that authority to Adam. *God wanted to fulfill His purpose in them.*

But Adam and Eve were not prepared to embrace God’s way of life. Instead, they chose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—Satan’s way of life. *That rebellion is the origin of all human suffering.*

### A World Cut Off

In order to carry out His purpose for mankind, God had to seal off the tree of life. This was not a quick-tempered outburst; it was thoughtful, reflective, and the only way God could preserve our incredible human potential.

In his final book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained what God, in essence, told Adam when he made this decision: “Go, therefore, Adam, and all your progeny that shall form the world, produce your own fund of knowledge. Decide for yourself what is good and what is evil. Produce your own educational systems and means of disseminating knowledge, as your god Satan shall mislead you. Form your own concepts of what is god, your own religions, your own governments, your own lifestyles and forms of society and civilization. In all this Satan will deceive your world with his attitude of SELF-centeredness—with vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife and violence and wars, rebellion against me and my law of LOVE.

“After the world of your descendants has written the lesson in 6,000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death—after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen—I will supernaturally intervene” (emphasis mine).

Every aspect of our society has been affected by Adam and Eve choosing the wrong tree! Now, all of mankind is under the influence of the father of lies and murder (John 8:44), Satan the devil. In 1982, Mr. Armstrong gave a sermon titled “Aversion Therapy,” referring to this time—where God has, for the most part, kept His hands off the affairs of this world. He said, “I am getting so sick of sin that I want to be at the place where I can’t sin anymore. I hope you do too.” This is the state God wants the entire world to reach—a state

where we are ready to live *His* way of life!

Instead, all of mankind remains at present under the malicious influence of the devil (Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4). Mankind continues to choose the wrong tree and reap the same results with every new generation. Swayed by Satan, without God in our life, each of us is hostile toward God (Romans 8:7-8). We are carnal. We naturally hate God’s law.

In order to restore to us the exalted human potential that our first parents turned their backs on, God seeks to convert the heart of every carnal person in the world—to help us recognize the error in going the wrong way, and to instill in us a deep love for God’s way of life. “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). That is a tremendous ambition, given the mountainous obstacle that each heart presents. God is not doing this on a mass scale today, but His overarching plan, once fulfilled, does include everyone willing to come to repentance.

Because of the fatally wrong choice at the beginning of human history, mankind is writing a 6,000-year lesson in human suffering right now. That is why God allows mankind to experience so many evils under Satan’s rule: so we will come to see the fruits of living contrary to God’s law.

Even today, human suffering must be viewed from God’s perspective—remembering that God Himself is LOVE (1 John 4:8, 16). Human death means nothing to God except a temporary sleep (1 Corinthians 15:51-55) because He is able to resurrect humans from the grave!

### Repentance Toward God

Jesus Christ Himself was asked why 18 people were killed, seemingly at random, when a tower fell in Siloam. *Were they evil? Was God exacting vengeance on them?* Christ answered, “[T]hink ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:4-5).

Jesus Christ knew that these men weren’t killed for their unrighteousness. Ecclesiastes 9:11 tells us that time and chance happen to all in this world.

But still: Could those 18 have been protected from the tower in Siloam?

Jesus’s answer was *yes*. And He said the key for such protection is *repentance!*

No one can impute wickedness on the people who die in an accident or natural disaster. Their deaths offer no proof of their being any more sinful than those who survived—or anyone else in the

world. Romans 3:23 explains that “ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” But those disasters should serve as a *warning* to us that we risk the same fate—unless we repent of our sins. God protects those who repent and turn to Him in obedience.

And—though many would reject this truth—the Bible reveals that God also does allow suffering to turn us to Him.

Whenever God begins working with someone, He begins by humbling that individual. As it says in Proverbs 15:33, “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.” God wants to give each of us phenomenal

seen the futility of partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Mankind will be completely fed up with this sick world! People will never want to turn to it again. More than simply being sick of doing the wrong, most will be ready to do what’s right, to live the way of peace, joy and happiness that God offered Adam and Eve 6,000 years ago. Satan the devil will be removed, and Jesus Christ—who *did* qualify to replace Satan as ruler of all the Earth—will rule over the greatest period of prosperity that has ever been.

When the time does come for all mankind to have the Holy Spirit poured upon them, God wants the conditions to be perfect so they will have the best chance of success possible in fulfilling their incredible human potential—far greater than they would have today! Then, with Satan banished, everyone will realize how much they

need God. After a lifetime in societies run by evil men, most will be ready to turn to God. Mankind as a whole will be ready to learn about not just a religion, but a way of life. Those today who overcome Satan, society and themselves, and who follow Christ, will be ready to help Him teach it at that time.

#### **God’s Purpose—Fulfilled!**

This plan offers tremendous hope to everyone! After all, who hasn’t wondered about the ultimate fate of a loved one who has died? These people, resurrected to physical life, will have a choice to make: to follow God’s way of life or to continue to live a lifestyle that everyone on Earth has seen fail abysmally—a style of life that caused the suffering for which so many blame God. People of every religion, every type of sinner, every type of person who has ever lived will be given the chance to learn God’s way of life; they will gain the knowledge of their own potential—including friends and relatives of yours who died not yet having received a chance at the abundant life only God can offer.

*God the Father wants to fulfill His purpose* IN US. And when He finally does come down to Earth—when the *incredible potential* that every human has is fulfilled—everyone will understand why the Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). ■

well over 3,000 American soldiers and cost half a trillion dollars. And the truly remarkable thing about it is where it is all leading: *In the end, the U.S. is going to pull out, and Iran is going to take over.*

The U.S. went into Iraq not only to put down Saddam Hussein, but also to use that area as a staging ground for dealing with the second member of the “axis of evil”—Iran. But in the end, all the strength we’re spending there is achieving exactly the opposite of what we wanted. We are preparing to hand control of Iraq—and subsequently the Middle East—to Iran.

Many people are criticizing the Bush administration harshly for its decisions. They fail to see the bigger picture. This problem is not merely the result of bad decisions by one administration: It is the result of **CURSES FROM GOD** that have descended on the United States for our disobedience to His laws.

It wasn’t our president who broke the pride of our power—it was God. He is trying to teach our nation the problems that result from forgetting Him.

#### **Iran’s Next Move**

The *Trumpet* has been warning for 15 years that Iran would take over Iraq en route to its becoming the “king of the south.” Its role in biblical prophecy is clear, and today we see events leading to its fulfillment in a truly remarkable way.

Now we must ask the question: *What piece of territory will Iran conquer next?* It will undoubtedly go after the West Bank.

The Arabs of the Fatah party currently control the West Bank. However, Hamas terrorists (and weapons) are present throughout the West Bank and there is little doubt that they are working toward getting control of this strategic region of Israel. Iran’s ultimate goal is to overrun Jerusalem. *The West Bank adjoins the city.* The Iranians believe that if they can conquer Jerusalem, they can unite the Arab world under their control.

Despite Tehran’s diabolical strategy to slaughter Jews and overrun Jerusalem, many in the U.S. still want to negotiate with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, even as he continues to commit terrorist acts of war! We want to negotiate just as Neville Chamberlain of Britain wanted to negotiate with Hitler leading up to World War II. Hitler took over a big portion of Europe and almost won World War II before the Allied powers finally woke up and realized there was no other recourse but to **FIGHT!**

## **No one can impute wickedness on the people who die in an accident or natural disaster. Their deaths offer no proof of their being any more sinful than those who survived.**

honor—but the humility, rooted in a deep respect for the Creator, must come first.

“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?” (Ezekiel 33:11). God wants us to repent so we can *live!*

Not only does God allow these disasters, we should expect them to increase as we approach the time of Christ’s return. In Matthew 24:7, Jesus Christ told us the end time would bring an increase in wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. Even more ominous, in verse 8, He calls this “the **BEGINNING** of sorrows.” The real destruction lies yet ahead: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (verse 21)—a stark contrast to the time *free of suffering* that God promises to bring.

Today, however, instead of seeing the amazing blessings God will offer to all of mankind, people see only the mess that *Satan* has orchestrated—and blame God for it.

Yet as we see disasters like those in Myanmar and China increase—indeed, see human suffering increase—we can be filled with a tremendous hope. How? By realizing that these are signs of the imminence of Jesus Christ’s return!

When that day finally comes, this 6,000-year-long aversion therapy will be over, and everyone on Earth will have

We face the same situation in the Middle East today. Iran has taken over Gaza and Lebanon, and soon it will get control of the West Bank. Then it will turn its attention toward its ultimate prize—the capture of Jerusalem!

Bible prophecy says Iran will then *push* at a European power (Daniel 11:40). That push will undoubtedly revolve around Jerusalem, which remains a focal point of Catholicism, and is rapidly being besieged by radical Islamic forces led by Iran. Conquering Jerusalem has been Iran's openly stated goal for some time. But can you imagine what will happen to the Arab world when it takes control of East Jerusalem—including its third-holiest site? (You can learn more about this event by reading our March 2006 cover story, "Jerusalem Is About to Be Cut in Half.")

That event will likely transform many moderate Arabs into dangerous Arab radicals. Despite that victory, however, Iran is *not* going to get control of all of Jerusalem because when it pushes at Europe, Europe will react by descending upon it as a "whirlwind." This is the clash between the king of the south and the king of the north prophesied in Daniel 11:40.

*Strong's Bible Concordance* states that this European whirlwind will leave people *terror-stricken!* It will probably be a *nuclear* whirlwind that will do a lot of damage very quickly. Remember, Iran started this state-sponsored terrorism and has been the predominant power behind it. Gaining control of Jerusalem is its number-one ambition. America and other Western nations can negotiate with it, and turn a blind eye when it overthrows governments, *but nobody's going to talk it out of that goal.* It has claimed that as its avowed aim for years, just as Hitler did before he started World War II. As Churchill said, *we just never seem to learn from history!*

God wants us to know that just before Christ's return will be a time when prophecy will be very specific and detailed. He said we would even be counting the days. What could be more inspiring, stirring and uplifting than that? And when we see Iran's continual pushing, though it is bad news, it will lead to this *greatest event ever to occur in the universe: the return of Jesus Christ!*

This will happen, and you can prove it from your Bible. You don't want to take our word or *any* man's word for it—but you can take *God's word for it!* When He says it, it will *surely* come to pass! These are the most exciting times in human history! The Messiah is about to come! ■

has produced a civilization full of empty lives, discontent, unhappiness, pain and suffering, crime, immorality, broken homes and family life, corruption, injustice, unfairness, violence, pollution, war and DEATH. Yet man *refuses* to believe the results of his own experiment."

The fruits of our educational experiment are out there for everybody to see, and the experiment has failed! Why? Because there is a missing dimension in that experiment.

Today, colleges are attended by more students than ever before. Yet all these educated people cannot solve the problems between nations; they are not preventing economic troubles, family breakdown and other miserable modern-day conditions. This is a paradox!

"For decades now, many of the most educated scientists have insisted that the solution to all of the problems of society could be found if *only* we were given sufficient knowledge," we wrote in our booklet *Education With Vision* (free upon request). "It seems the great educators and politicians of the day still cling to such faulty logic. It is time for the great minds of this day to FACE FACTS. World evils are increasing AS FAST AS KNOWLEDGE. Why the paradox? Can the increase in knowledge and the skyrocketing evils possibly be connected?"

The knowledge we have today is not *curing* our evils or preventing new ones. That should tell you that something is wrong with our knowledge and education! Do you know what it is? This world's educators have simply closed their eyes to the great Creator God who gave us a Book telling us how to live—the *foundation* of all knowledge.

Education today doesn't teach us how to solve our problems, and the Bible is not permitted in the classroom. We've allowed that to happen, and now we're paying the price. Now, when we're more educated than ever before, we face the most *dangerous* times ever! The day of reckoning is here: Our number-one problem is human survival!

Harvard began with the heaviest emphasis on God and the Bible. Today, that institution scorns and totally rejects the Bible as God's inspired Word. There is an awesome and revealing lesson in this history. Are these educators *humble* enough to learn from their own history?

The founders of Harvard also taught that there is an evil spirit being who fights to get control of what we teach our

people. That too is biblical (2 Corinthians 4:4). If these founders were resurrected today, they would recognize a *deadly hidden authority* behind even the small group of faculty directors.

The original Harvard faculty would have seen all the "freedom" today as the most horrifying kind of bondage. They would have seen precise *design* behind this "higher education."

Where is education taking us today? Request our free booklet *Education With Vision* for the answer.

Surveys have shown that 95 percent of our students believe in God when they enter college as freshmen. When they

## Education today doesn't teach us how to solve our problems, and the Bible is not permitted in the classroom. We've allowed that to happen, and now we're paying the price.

graduate four years later, 95 percent of them are agnostics or atheists. That is the power of education—right or wrong.

Those are alarming statistics! How could that happen? The New Testament states, "their eyes they have closed" (Matthew 13:15). Colleges and universities will allow many wild theories to be taught, but they reject Bible instruction—even though many of them began as religious institutions. They have closed their eyes and minds.

Is that "higher education," or is it the worst kind of ignorance? How can closing your eyes be called education? Isn't education supposed to open your eyes? (Request our booklet *The Proof of the Bible*. All of our literature is free.)

As Harvard goes, so goes American education—and the nation itself. ■

### What's wrong with education today?

Something is missing from our institutions of higher learning. Do you know what it is? Are you and your family without the vital *missing dimension* in your education? To learn more, request our free booklet *Education With Vision*.



# Where Have All the F

**W**HEN EXPLORER JOHN CABOT discovered mainland North America in 1497—touching down in what is probably Newfoundland or Labrador today—he found the most fantastic fishing grounds the world has ever seen. The waters teemed with ocean life.

When Cabot returned with stories of the Grand Banks, where cod appeared so thick that a person “could walk across their backs” and they could be caught by just scooping them out of the water with wicker baskets, the news sparked a mania. The Northwest Atlantic fishery was born, an industry that would help feed the world for centuries to come. Besides the fact that whole provinces of the New World were settled just to harvest this seemingly limitless bounty, this food source eventually fostered in the tiny island nation of England the wealth, skills and shipbuilding capacity that would help transform it into a global empire and change the world forever.

Today, the Grand Banks are fished out. The cod are gone, and so are the commercial stocks of flounder, Greenland halibut, and redfish.

The story of the Grand Banks is not as isolated as one might hope. Industrialized fishing and poor environmental stewardship are destroying the planet’s biggest resource—its oceans. Ocean fisheries could be facing collapse. Ninety years of methodical, mechanized overfishing have left many of the world’s most productive fishing zones dead, dying or on the edge of ecological disintegration.

## “We Are at the Tipping Point”

On May 1, U.S. federal authorities declared the West Coast ocean salmon fishery a failure. The declaration opened the way for Congress to provide economic aid for California, Oregon and Washington.

The declaration stemmed from the sudden collapse of the Chinook salmon in California’s Sacramento River. According to the *National Post*, the closure of both the commercial and recreational Chinook salmon fishery was the *first such ban in 160 years* (May 3).



Unfortunately, the Sacramento River system is not alone. Fisheries up and down the U.S. West Coast are experiencing similar conditions, as few fish seem to be returning to the rivers to spawn. No more than 60,000 salmon are expected to return to the Sacramento River this year—barely half the minimum that fishery managers say are required to ensure the next generation (Newsday.com, May 21). At one time, more than 750,000 fish were returning annually.

“It breaks my heart to report this,” said author and fisheries sustainability expert Alex Rose. “I believe we are at the tipping point. The Pacific salmon fishery may very well go the way of the Grand Banks cod” (PRWeb, May 20).

Further north, in the Strait of Georgia, sports fishermen used to hook an astounding 1 million coho salmon per year. But by 2000, anglers were only pulling in a paltry 10,000. Rose said that he is no “doom and gloom person,” but for the first time he can envision a day when the wild salmon in the Strait go extinct. “[T]here are so many eerie and ominous parallels” with the Grand Banks, he said. “[I]n a generation we’ve gone from unbe-

lievable abundance to a crisis” (ibid.).

Salmon numbers have dropped so precipitously that Washington and Oregon started a sea lion extermination program designed to reduce predation pressure on remaining salmon stocks. Environmental activists, however, raised so much stink that the culling program was quickly terminated, even though the number of sea lions has mushroomed into the hundreds of thousands and adult sea lions eat up to seven fish per day. The hypocrisy of some environmental groups as they favor cute and cuddly, but non-threatened sea lions over endangered fish populations is amazing.

But America is not alone in its fishing problems. Collapsing fisheries are also common in other parts of the world.

## The \$150,000 Fish

Last November, in a report published for Australia’s Lowy Institute, Meryl Williams, chair of the Commission of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research, said the livelihoods of 100 million people were at risk in Southeast Asia due to the overfishing of local waters. Gulf of Thailand fish density had reportedly declined by 86 percent from



# ish Gone?

The collapse of America's West Coast salmon fishery has an eerily familiar ring to it. Are the oceans dying? **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

1961 to 1991; between 1966 and 1994 the catch per hour dropped the same amount. In the Gulf of Tonkin, the sea body shared by Vietnam and China, the catch per hour in 1997 was only one quarter of the catch in 1985. In Vietnamese waters, the total fishing haul between 1981 and 1999 doubled, but to accomplish that, it took a tripling of the existing fishing fleet—a sure sign those fisheries are nearing maximum capacity, according to Williams. Waters off the coast of the Philippines by the 1980s were only producing 10 percent of former levels.

And when one area gets fished out, the thousands of deep-sea fishing vessels just move to the next.

“From giant blue marlin to mighty bluefin tuna, and from tropical groupers to Antarctic cod, industrial fishing has scoured the global ocean. There is no blue frontier left,” wrote Ransom Myers, a world-leading fisheries biologist based at Dalhousie University in Canada. “Since 1950, with the onset of industrialized fisheries, we have rapidly reduced the resource base to less than 10 percent—not just for some stocks, but for entire communities of these large fish species from the tropics to the poles” (*Nature*, May 15, 2003). Bluefin tuna, once plentiful, are now so rare that earlier this year a Hong Kong-based trader bought one fish for about the same price as a top-of-the-line Mercedes. On the Tokyo market, a single fish can sell for \$150,000. That is a good indication of a rarity bordering on extinction. But still many proceed with business as usual. Just a few years ago, scientists warned that large predatory fish species had been depleted by as much as 99 percent over the past century.

## One Too Many Species Lost

Dr. Daniel Pauly, director of the Fisheries Center at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, also sees a looming problem. He says the world has reached what is referred to as “peak fish”—the peak in total weight of fish caught from the world's oceans. The world passed peak fish in the late 1980s, Dr. Pauly says. Since then, despite more advanced fishing methods, the global fish haul has been flat or sinking.

“There's no doubt about this,” said Pauly. “We're in a phase where increasing fishing effort produces less catch” (National Science Engineering Research Council of Canada, Feb. 16, 2006).

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization report titled “The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2006” confirms Meryl Williams's findings. This report said that a quarter of the world's fish are either overexploited or depleted, and that over half are fully exploited (meaning that if the amount of the fish caught grew, that fish would decline in numbers). The report also said that only 3 percent of fish stocks are underexploited and might yield significantly more fish in the future.

Ecological communities are a balancing act of symbiotic organisms that rely upon each other. Remove one species from the food web and the community may be able to adjust—other organisms may be able to take up the slack and fill the missing niche. But when you start removing multiple fish species, there are bound to be consequences. The destruction of one too many species could bring the whole ecosystem tumbling down.

Just look at the Grand Banks. For 500 years, the Atlantic cod was one of the great natural wonders of the world. Then, during the 1990s, the stocks catastrophically collapsed—and today there remains little to no evidence of any return of the fish. Once species dip below a certain critical level, scientists believe that stocks may never recover because the entire ecosystem is altered.

## Solutions That Create Problems

Unfortunately, the reality is that mankind seems to mismanage just about everything it puts its hands to. Yes, increasing knowledge and advancing technology have led to increased fish captures, food consumption and living standards for many of the world's people. Advanced sonar, GPS-driven, computerized oceangoing behemoths have learned to efficiently comb the seas and maximize fish capture—but at what cost? Have we sacrificed our future food supply for short-term abundance?

What a paradox. Increasing knowledge and scientific advancement not only aren't keeping current problems in check, they are helping create new ones. We build bigger, more efficient ships to capture more fish to feed the world, and we end up destroying our fisheries.

Herbert W. Armstrong, in an August-September 1970 *Plain Truth* article, referred to this paradox: “Knowledge production is supposed to be the way to cure all our evils. Given sufficient knowledge, the great minds have assured us, we shall have the solution to all humanity's problems, ills and evils.”

But more knowledge is not solving the world's problems because modern scientific understanding has rejected God's revealed knowledge.

## A Prophecy Fulfilled!

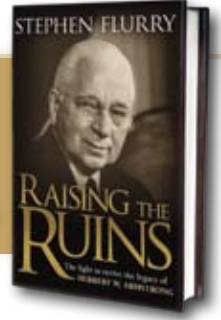
In the book of Hosea, God says His people are destroyed because of a lack of the right kind of knowledge—God's knowledge (Hosea 4:6). As a consequence, God is cursing the Earth: “Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, *the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away*” (verse 3).

The fish are being taken away before our very eyes—and sadly, we are creating the problem ourselves!

Unfortunately, man always has to learn things the hard way. Overexploitation of resources and the destruction of the environment is the story of mankind—it is the story of our cod, our forests and soils, our fresh water. If things don't change, it will be the story of the oceans.

The world's fisheries are a sad example: Greater technology and greater knowledge are actually helping humankind damage the environment faster than ever.

But it doesn't have to be this way! The Earth is being cursed for a reason: to wake us up! God wants all mankind to turn to Him. Then we can personally and nationally come under the blessings that are a result of obedience to His laws. The oceans can teem with life again. ■



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the first half of the 19th chapter.

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

# Round Two: WCG

## PART ONE

**“Suppose the book contained the recipe for building a nuclear weapon, and it’s out in publication—the author says, ‘... I don’t want this floating around the world. I’m going to call back all the copies and destroy them.’”**

— Judge Schwarzer *Ninth Circuit oral arguments, Dec. 6, 1999*

“**C**AN ALL OF YOU KEEP A SECRET?” MY FATHER asked while cracking a smile. “I’ve decided to print *The Incredible Human Potential* and *The Missing Dimension in Sex*,” he announced to 150 teenagers at a youth camp in 1999.

It was yet another bold step forward. The counterclaim had not yet been settled in court. Added to that, the *Mystery* ruling was under appeal. Yet my father took the district court’s judgment as yet another signal that God was behind us. Furthermore, it removed all doubt, at least in our minds, about the legality of our actions within the scope of copyright law. So we printed two more books in the fall of 1999. In 2000, we printed four additional works: *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, *Pagan Holidays or God’s Holy Days—Which?*, and *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

Our decision to print more of Mr. Armstrong’s writings could not have come at a worse time for the WCG. Here they were preparing to appeal *Mystery*, and now they had to confront another monster.

### ■ WCG APPEAL

The WCG’s opening brief for appeal relied on many of the same arguments they used at the district level. If anything, they put a stronger emphasis on what Judge Letts had exposed as duplicitous. For instance, Ralph Helge had testified that the WCG board had a “certain degree of control” over Mr. Armstrong, a notion Judge Letts never bought into. Yet the language in their appeal brief took it a step further: “WCG had the right to control Mr. Armstrong’s work.” They did admit that Mr. Armstrong exercised considerable direction over the church, but they likened this to the authority of CEOs “who manage their corporations with a very free hand, as long as they enjoy the confidence of the board of directors.” Here again, the impression they left on

the court was that the board could have fired Mr. Armstrong at a moment’s notice, which contradicted their own bylaws.

By this point in the litigation, the annotation sham was also presented more convincingly. “Those who respond to the PCG’s ads for MOA very likely are the same people who would be interested in WCG’s *planned* annotated version or in any future *republishing of the original version*,” they told the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Never mind the “Christian duty” to keep it out of print—now they indicated they might even republish the original version!

Their appeal also accused us of printing the book so we could rev up income. *The PCG might offer it free up front, they told the court, but the book only serves as an advertisement to “sell” our real product—getting tithe-paying members.* They said we deliberately misled the public by our alteration of the copyright notice in *Mystery*. This, they said, would give the impression Mr. Armstrong was affiliated with the PCG (as if they would want him to be affiliated with the WCG).

We filed our answer to their brief on September 1. On the point about Mr. Armstrong’s authority in the church, we said, “His control over the WCG’s earthly organizations was absolute.” We even quoted from the WCG’s own bylaws, which showed that Mr. Armstrong was in charge of the “ecclesiastical and temporal affairs of the church.” He was the only one *required* to be a member of the church’s board. He never had an employment contract with the church. We explained that he “simply did not want” one.

On the annotation idea, of course we noted that this was invented for litigation. “The first time the WCG ever considered or discussed the idea of an annotated MOA was after the PCG raised a fair use defense, which suggests strongly that the idea was minted for the purpose of overcoming a fair use defense.” We pointed out how Tkach Jr. said the project would not get started “any time soon.” And we also picked apart Greg Albrecht’s testimony, since he was the one given charge of the “project”: “Albrecht’s efforts to ‘contact potential au-

thors,' trumpeted by the WCG, actually consisted of little more than making a few calls (none of which were returned) to a writer for a journal that is critical of Armstrong's teachings and chatting about an annotation with someone else during a coffee break." Not exactly *concrete* plans.

As for all the money we were supposedly pulling in from *Mystery*, we told the court the WCG's argument was based on "anecdote and speculation"—certainly not hard evidence. They ignored the fact that we had spent over \$200,000 printing and distributing the book to that point—that we sent it free of charge and did not solicit donations from recipients. We also pointed out that one of the initial reasons the WCG gave for discontinuing the work was that it was *too expensive*.

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## ■ ORAL ARGUMENTS

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The Ninth Circuit called for both sides to appear in court for oral arguments on Monday, Dec. 6, 1999. The purpose of oral arguments is not necessarily to cover the material contained in the briefs, but rather to give the panel of judges (in this case, three) one last chance to ask questions of both sides before making their judgment. The judges' concerns about the case are what dictate the flow of the debate. Both the plaintiff and defendant are given 20 minutes each to answer questions. So attorneys have to go in prepared to answer *anything*—and to do it in the clearest, most concise way.

My father, Dennis Leap and I arrived at Burbank Airport Sunday night, December 5. We stayed at the Pasadena Holiday Inn. As it happens, it was the same hotel my dad and John Amos had stayed in 10 years earlier, the night they were fired. (We checked out of the hotel on December 7, the same day they had checked in a decade earlier.)

The next morning, after a 7 a.m. breakfast meeting, we left for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. It was within walking distance from Ambassador College—just two blocks from the WCG's headquarters. We were definitely on their home turf, so to speak. In fact, the Ambassador Foundation even participated in the official opening of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals back in February of 1986, just three weeks after Mr. Armstrong died.

But we couldn't help feeling like *we* were the ones with home field advantage. How ironic it was that Mr. Armstrong's successors left their executive suites that morning to walk across the street to the Ninth Circuit to fight in court for the right to keep Mr. Armstrong's works out of print! And what a privilege it was—an absolute honor—for us to be fighting against them; and on the same side *Mr. Armstrong would have been on*.

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## ■ "A VIEW TOWARD REWRITING IT"

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The judges started the proceedings promptly at 9 a.m. Judge Wallace Tashima headed the panel of three. He was accompanied by Judge Melvin Brunetti, to his right, and Judge William Schwarzer on his left. There were four cases on the docket that particular day. Ours was last, so we had to sit through three other boring arguments. After the first three cases, Judge Tashima called for a 10-minute recess at 10:40. We re-entered the courtroom shortly before 11:00.

Our time had come. Allan Browne started the proceedings for the Worldwide. Judge Schwarzer wanted him to address

the subject of "fair use." He wanted Allan to explain why he thought PCG's use of the book violated the fair use law. Allan said that because we did not seek permission to print the book, we did not act fairly and in good faith.

*But they say you've abandoned the book and rejected its doctrines*, Schwarzer interjected. Allan said that wasn't quite accurate, which is when Judge Brunetti spoke up for the first time: "I thought [the WCG] rejected the doctrine of the book, and then ridded their inventory of the book except for archival purposes."

"They do not reject the entirety of the book," Allan responded.

"I thought that they disposed of their inventory," Brunetti shot back.

"That's true," Browne responded. "But this was done with a view toward rewriting it and annotating this book and putting it back out on the market."

We couldn't believe it. Here was a book Joe Jr. said was "riddled with error" exactly 10 years earlier. "Mr. Tkach has decided *not* to reprint the book," Bernie Schnippert told WCG employees in December of 1988. "It is critically important that God's Church never be in a position of *continuing to put out what may be misleading or inaccurate material*," Tkach Sr. told the brethren in February 1989. The church destroyed remaining copies in order to "prevent a transgression of conscience by proclaiming what the church considered to be ecclesiastical error," wrote the Advisory Council of Elders. And "no one else has a right to publish it," Tkach Jr. said in 1997.

But on a December morning in 1999, inside a comfortable courtroom with barely a couple dozen people present, we listened to Allan Browne tell the court that *Mystery of the Ages* was discontinued and destroyed with a "view" toward rewriting it and annotating it so that it could go back out on the market.

As we sat there, an infuriating fact of litigation began to sink in: Liars can pretty much say *whatever they want* before judges. It certainly doesn't have to be true. It just has to be supported by "evidence" *on record*. In this case, Browne's evidence was testimony from Greg Albrecht that they had contacted a few people, *after the litigation started*, about the possibility of producing an annotation. *That's it*. That's all they needed in order to introduce evidence that this oral argument—and indeed, *this whole appeal*—would hinge upon.

God's system of judgment, of course, is based on fruits. And more than 10 years of fruits (or lack thereof) revealed the annotated project to be a blatant lie. But in man's system, ironically, judgment can be easily skewed by "evidence." When judged before men, you can get by with bad fruits and still convince human beings to accept a lie.

Judge Tashima asked Allan how they were coming along on the annotated project. "The record reflects that the church had contacted several potential authors; they had talked about the possibility of doing that; they actually went to the point of getting a cost estimate," he answered. It was all so patently ridiculous that we might have laughed out loud were it not so terribly upsetting.

The other key argument Allan Browne made that morning had to do with the tremendous monetary benefit we obtained from distributing *Mystery of the Ages*. And here again, a cursory review of the facts in this case shows that one of the initial reasons the WCG gave for discarding the book was the exorbitant cost involved in printing and mailing it. For the PCG, however, the whole project was a cash cow, Allan said.

He based his assertion on the fact that we had received letters from people who were so overjoyed we were printing the book that they actually included a donation. Imagine that—churchgoers giving money to their church!

Judge Brunetti questioned Allan about the connection between sending out the book and someone donating, saying it shouldn't be considered a direct exchange since the book was offered freely. But Allan said we sent a card along with the book saying, "If you want to make a donation you can"—which wasn't true.

Allan ended a couple minutes early in order to save some time for a rebuttal at the end.

### ■ "GETTYSBURG ADDRESS"

When Mark Helm rose to speak, my heart pounded in my chest. *This was it*, I thought. Everything was riding on his presentation.

He began by addressing the fourth factor of the fair use law: The effect of our use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work. Judge Schwarzer peppered him with a string of arguments at the outset. After Mark mentioned the WCG's decision to remove the book from print, the judge asked, "But don't they have an interest in keeping it from being published?" He said, "There are things in that book that reflect adversely on the Worldwide Church. That seems to be clearly established."

Mark responded this way: "[T]here is no secret of the fact that they used to hold these views. In fact, they take great pride in the extent to which they've deviated from them. So I don't think that you can say... *Oh this is some embarrassing thing that nobody knows about.*"

Later, Schwarzer pointed to a previous case where the court had ruled that using a copyright to hoard one's work was acceptable within the law.

But that, Mark explained, was ruled "on the assumption that people would make those decisions to try to maximize the value of the work." In our case, of course, the WCG had been working for more than a decade to try to diminish the value of *Mystery of the Ages* and, in fact, deprive *everyone* from ever gaining access to the book.

Schwarzer then raised the question about church members and how the WCG and the PCG were competing for members in the "same market."

"The members who are interested in the Philadelphia Church are completely separate from the members in the Worldwide," Mark responded.

"They are using the same principles—they're using *Mystery of the Ages*," Schwarzer said.

"The point is, your honor, Worldwide Church is *not* using *Mystery of the Ages*," said Mark.

Schwarzer fired back, "Not now—but they did to get a lot of members in the past."

Mark responded, "That's right, and they've lost more than half of their members after they did the about-face in doctrine, which the record shows is unprecedented in the history of religion. We're not talking here about, they tinkered with this doctrine or they tinkered with that doctrine. No religious historian has been able to point to any church in the history of religion that has had a turn-about of this nature. Everything that made that church distinctive and fundamental has now been

renounced. And it went from something way out of the mainstream of Christianity, now into just a regular old, mainstream Christian church. That's never happened before, your honor. And so, therefore, the members are not the same."

As my father would later remark, "It was like listening to Lincoln's Gettysburg address. I wanted to take notes, but couldn't, for fear of missing one word."

Judge Brunetti interjected to point out that this would be a much different case if the WCG still used *Mystery of the Ages*. But since they weren't, the question Brunetti asked is, can the copyright holder keep the work out of publication and stop the fair use of it?

### ■ RECIPE FOR TERRORISM

Mark explained that the copyright laws are in place so that authors can "retain the economic benefits from the fruits of their labors." He said, "This is not a case where they are trying to get a return for their labors—it's a case where they're trying, based on their religious duty, to stop somebody else from using a work that is important to them."

Schwarzer then jumped back into the fray, sounding more and more like an accomplice of Joe Jr.'s: "Suppose the book contained the recipe for building a nuclear weapon, and it's out in publication—the author says, *My G--, I don't want this floating around the world. I'm going to call back all the copies and destroy them.* ... Now, does he have a right to prevent the fair use of that book because he thinks it's his Christian duty to keep it out of publication?"

This analogy angered my father. For Schwarzer to compare *Mystery of the Ages* to a plan for a nuclear weapon was a revealing swipe at Mr. Armstrong's teachings. And yet this is the same man who, moments earlier, said the WCG and the PCG were competing for members in the *same market*.

We were fighting for a religious text—written by an ambassador for world peace who traveled the world to meet with dozens of presidents, prime ministers and members of royal families—that was repudiated by Tkachism. It's a text that, notwithstanding the unprecedented transformation the WCG underwent, remains central to our religious practice. To compare that with a manual about how terrorists can produce nuclear weapons was terribly insulting.

### ■ DIVINE INSPIRATION

Judge Brunetti seemed satisfied with Mark's explanation about the WCG's renunciation of Mr. Armstrong's teachings and that it tended to support our argument. He then asked for Mark to express his view on the economic benefit we were supposedly deriving from the distribution. That's when Mark actually read what is printed on the slip mailed out with all copies of *Mystery of the Ages*—the one Allan said asked for donations in return. It says, "All of our materials are sent free of charge as a public service and it is our firm policy to never request donations or offerings at any time." Mark added, "Now, how you can construe that as a solicitation of funds I don't know."

Schwarzer then spoke up to say that he accepted the fact that our primary reason for sending out *Mystery* was to spread our religious message. But he added that we *did* derive some economic benefit from the work—simply because we did not



have the time and resources to write our own. That's when Mark brought up the subject of divine inspiration. The PCG, he said, "believes that Mr. Armstrong was inspired by God when he wrote the book. There is no rewriting of the book that can happen. They believe that this is God's word as was handed to Mr. Armstrong. So it's not a question of, Oh, we're going to now make up some views that we think are like it. Those are the views. And you can describe it either accurately or inaccurately, but those are the beliefs that they have and they can't be rewritten."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

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### ■ BROWNE'S REBUTTAL

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In Allan's rebuttal, he chose to answer the question about the effect the book had on their potential market. The markets for both churches are the same, Allan said: "They have many of our former members preaching there. We do believe that with our annotated version of the book, we will hopefully be able to get some of these members back. We also believe that they have used this book... to develop relationships with these other people—relationships that may transcend our ability to get these members back. That's what it's all about: Develop the relationship, and then once you develop the relationship, you start getting a stream of income, because they become a member."

*If we can just get the annotated version into the hands of those who've left the WCG—then they'll come back.*

Please.

Judge Brunetti saw right through it: "You seem to be arguing that the doctrine is very flexible and fungible, that all you have to do is mutate it a little bit and you get them back—is that right?"

Of course he didn't mean *that*. "But we have evidence," Allan said, "hard evidence, that says this is a market, these are people that we hope to get back into the fold."

With that, Judge Tashima asked perhaps his best question of the day: So what if you do get them back? What would you do then? "Would you sell them a copy of the book?" Ah yes! The million-dollar question. Let's assume you get them back. What then? Notice Allan Browne's "hard evidence" response: "We would hope to have them become members again—and in the past, we did sell this book. When it first came out, we sold it in book stores. Mr. Armstrong did, for \$14.95 a copy. *So that certainly is a possibility.*"

A possibility? He concluded oral arguments by suggesting that the WCG *wanted their former members back*, and that if they returned, they could *possibly purchase the original version of Mystery of the Ages*. As if this unprecedented doctrinal transformation had all been a simple misunderstanding.

At 11:45 that morning, the court stood in recess. Although we would not find out about their ruling for several more months, the three of them most likely voted on the case that afternoon, before turning it over to clerks to write up the opinions. It all seemed to happen so fast—as if they were hastily casting their votes on a case that meant everything to us.

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### ■ TELEVISION TAPING

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Our television producer, Andrew Locher, was on hand dur-

ing the trip so that we could double-up on productivity. We decided to tape a *Key of David* program across the freeway from Ambassador Auditorium that afternoon. My father spoke about Paul's letter to the Colossian brethren. Chapter 1 of that book even speaks about a mystery that has been "hid from ages." Tying this in with *Mystery of the Ages*, my father thought it would be effective to deliver a message with Ambassador Auditorium in the background, since he intended to discuss a few details about the court case.

We set up our gear on the embankment beside the road, between the freeway entrance and a city street. According to Mr. Leap (the rest of us had our backs to the street), while we were taping Greg Albrecht pulled up in his car, stopped and rolled down his window. He sat there awhile to watch and then shook his head and drove off. We chuckled over that while packing up the gear after taping. Then, as we loaded it into our van, a Pasadena policeman pulled up and asked, "Is that camera gear in the bags?" I said, "Yes, we just finished taping a program across the street on that freeway embankment." He told us to hang on while he parked; that he needed to ask us a few questions.

When he got out of his car, he said someone at the WCG had phoned in a complaint saying we had "climbed their fences and were taping on their property." We explained that there wasn't even a fence by where we were and showed him the location we taped from. We *filmed* their property, but we certainly weren't *on* it. After hearing our side, the officer remarked, "Well, sometimes people twist stories when they make a complaint so that the police will respond faster."

And sometimes they'll even twist stories to get a favorable ruling in court.

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### ■ A CHANCE TO EAVESDROP

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My father wanted to stay in the hotel room to rest that night, so Andrew, Dennis and I went out for dinner at a restaurant on Colorado Boulevard in downtown Pasadena. We left the restaurant at about 7:00 and were walking a few blocks to our van, which we parked on the street. Halfway there, while waiting for a green light at a crosswalk, we suddenly realized we were standing right next to Judge Schwarzer! There he was—the man behind the robe. He looked a lot smaller and skinnier, dressed in his casual attire. To think, when we saw him, he may have already cast his vote! We wouldn't hear about the outcome of our case for another 10 months. But on that night, at that street corner, we were standing next to someone *who knew*.

We walked behind him for about a block, before he veered off into a restaurant with his party. We entertained the thought of getting a table close to his in order to eavesdrop. Perhaps we would hear how he came down on the case. In the end, however, clearer heads prevailed. We moved on.

In court, before distinguished-looking judges in long, black robes, one sometimes loses sight of the fact that these are mere mortals. They might be well-educated in the universities of this world. But they don't know more than God. In the courtroom that day, it was hard for me not to worry—with Schwarzer talking about nuclear weapons and Tashima seemingly skeptical toward our position. But seeing Judge Schwarzer on the street that night comforted me. It reminded me that our fate would not be determined by distinguished looking men in black robes. It rested in the hands of the *living* God. We had relied on Him ALONE to this point—and we would continue to do so. ■

# Can Israel Trust Germany?

This scenario exhibits all the signs of a spectacular double cross. BY BRAD MACDONALD

**W**HEN ANGELA MERKEL VISITED Israel in March, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert personally greeted the German chancellor at the airport. From the moment she arrived, Merkel enjoyed full red carpet treatment from her Jewish hosts.

During the trip, Merkel heartily reaffirmed Germany's "special" relationship with Israel. In a groundbreaking speech delivered before the Knesset, she expressed repentance of German atrocities committed during World War II and pledged that Germany would "never abandon Israel, but instead will remain a loyal partner and friend."

The consensus among Israel's leaders and media pundits after the visit was, *Germany is now Israel's second-best friend.*

Indeed, judging by the flirtatious political dialogue, it appears the Israeli-German relationship is in radiant health. In tow with Merkel was half the German cabinet, who conducted an inaugural joint-cabinet meeting with Israeli counterparts in the Knesset. Both governments agreed to hold joint sessions once a year, with Germany hosting in 2009.

Germany is Israel's second-largest trade partner behind America, and is apparently proving a solid ally to the Jews within European politics. "Within the European Union," noted the center-left *Economist*, "Germany lobbies against one-sided criticism of Israeli behavior towards the Palestinians. It championed the 2000 association agreement, which lib-

eralized trade between the EU and Israel. When the EU debates the Middle East, Germany is said by some to keep Israel quietly in the loop. Israel's *trust in Germany* has even lessened its longstanding aversion to giving the EU a formal role in the Middle East peace process" (May 19, emphasis mine throughout).

Note that last sentence: Israel's acceptance of the EU as a key player in the peace process is largely a result of its *trust in Germany*. That signifies a momentous change in Israel's foreign policy.

The nation's *trust in Germany* is deepening to the point where historic concerns about European meddling in Israel's affairs are becoming re-

dundant. "Israel-European relations are at their highest point in a very long time," wrote Barry Rubin in the *Jerusalem Post*. "Relations are now probably better than at any time since the early 1980s. ... Today, the governments of the four main European countries—France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom—are all quite friendly toward Israel, with the first three being especially so" (May 5).

Rubin and the others who see German-Israeli relations at a historic high point are partially right. Today there are a handful of European leaders—and Angela Merkel sits atop the list—who genuinely support Israel and the Jewish cause. But they miss another reality: Pro-Israel leaders are a *minority* in Germany and Europe.

## The Anti-Israel Mainstream

For Israel's leaders to interpret the warmth of a few as the will of the majority is naive and foolhardy. Behind the courageous pro-Israel viewpoint of Angela Merkel, a highly dangerous anti-Israelism and anti-



## "SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY"

Germany's Angela Merkel is building the trust of Ehud Olmert's Israel—a marked departure from a bitter past between the two peoples.

Semitism pervades the German mainstream.

Merkel simply does not have the support of her people to *act* in any *meaningful* way on her bold rhetoric. In fact, her pro-Israel attitude could easily lead to her political demise. It is foolish for the Israelis to invest their hope in the Merkel administration!

In April, a BBC-sponsored survey showed that Germans were among Europeans with the least favorable views of Israel. A Bertelsmann Foundation poll in 2007 showed that *3 in 10 Germans have no qualms comparing Israel today to fascist Germany*. That's a telling figure. Thirty percent of Germans aren't merely indifferent toward Israel, they actually believe the Jewish state to be akin to Hitler's Germany!

For as much as the Merkel administration declares its love of Israel, Germany today remains one of the largest trading partners of Iran, Israel's sworn enemy and the single-greatest threat to Jewish statehood. Moreover, criticizing and condemning Israel's efforts to defend itself against attacks from Hamas remains a mainstream pastime among German intellectuals, media and political elite.

In May, another poll, conducted for Germany's ZDF television, further exposed the painful reality of Germans' true feelings for Israel. Fifty-three percent of Germans said they have no "special responsibility" toward Israel because of their nation's history. As positive as Merkel's promise that Germany has a "special responsibility" toward Israel was, the fact that more *than half of Germans disagree with her* reduces it to little more than a personal pledge, rather than a national priority and commitment.

Moreover, these figures will only worsen as older Germans die and new generations of Germans less inhibited by the actions of their Nazi forefathers come on the scene. The report found that among 30-to-39-year-olds, only *29 percent* believe their nation bears any "special responsibility" toward the Jewish state.

The poll also exposed the fickleness of German support for Israel: While 58 percent of Germans would want their nation to support Israel politically (that is, with *words*) if it were attacked, *57 percent said Germany should not support Israel with money, and a mere 13 percent believe Ger-*

*many should send troops to help*. Eighty-one percent of Germans believe their government should *not* send troops to Israel's defense if it were attacked.

The day after Merkel's Knesset speech, the *Jerusalem Post's* Manfred Gerstenfeld wrote a column noting the dichotomy between the German chancellor and her people: "Few in Israel realize that a *majority of Germans probably disagree* with several key statements she made here about her country's past—including the mention of shame and guilt—in the Knesset.

"In contemporary Germany there are significant expressions of anti-Semitism and racism. This includes attacks on Jews, their cemeteries and Holocaust monuments, together with ongoing anti-Semitic

## For as much as the Merkel administration declares its love of Israel, Germany today remains one of the largest trading partners of Iran, Israel's sworn enemy and the single-greatest threat to Jewish statehood.

prejudice toward Jews among significant parts of the population. In eastern Germany particularly, there are no-go areas for non-white people in several cities, major racist incidents and sometimes even murders.

"At the same time, there are efforts in Germany to rewrite the past. Books by historian Jörg Friedrich, who compares the Allied actions to his nation's atrocities during the war, are bestsellers. They promote 'Holocaust equivalence' by using Nazi semantics to describe the Allied bombings of Germany during World War II. Another aspect of the same attitude is expressed by the many Germans who think that Israel is showing Nazi-like behavior toward the Palestinians. What they mean to say is, 'If everybody is guilty, then nobody is'" (March 19).

As inspiring as Merkel's speech might have been to

Israel's leaders, the reality is that the German chancellor is a lone voice crying in the wilderness!

### A Spectacular Double Cross

Israel's leaders and media pundits ought to be considering this evidence and asking themselves one simple question: Can Israel trust Germany? Even a child would answer with a resounding *no!* Yet Israel's leaders

are still showing increasing trust despite the deadly anti-Semitic, anti-Israel sentiment saturating the collective German mindset.

*This scenario exhibits all the signs of a spectacular double cross in the making.*

And that's exactly what is going to occur. How do we know? Because this event was prophesied in the Old Testament. The Jews cherish the Old Testament and their rich history with the ancient prophets. Yet they ignore the *message* from God that these great men preached. More than 2,500 years ago, the Prophet Hosea wrote about Germany's impending double cross of Israel: "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure

you of your wound" (Hosea 5:13).

The context of this passage shows that this is a prophecy for the end time. Avid *Trumpet* readers will have proved that Ephraim, Judah and Assyria are the biblical names for the nations of Britain, Israel and Germany, respectively. If you haven't done this yet, you can do so by requesting your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. This scripture is talking *specifically* about the current German-Israeli relationship and the impending German double cross.

Anti-Israel, anti-Semitic sentiment will continue to intensify in Germany. In spite of this deadly trend, we should expect Israel's leaders to increasingly rely on Germany as a friend and ally. They will do this for two primary reasons. First, America's ability and willingness to support Israel are both diminishing, forcing Jewish leaders to seek other alliances. Second, in the short term, the German government is foisting itself off as an ardent supporter of the Jewish state. As long as these trends exist, conditions will ripen for this vicious German double cross.

Instead of investing their trust and hope in God, who has repeatedly and powerfully revealed Himself as a great protector throughout Jewish history when they did so, Israel's leaders today are prepared to invest their trust and hope in a nation that 60 years ago destroyed the lives of 6 million Jews. They refuse to turn to God—the *only* source of help, not just for the Jews, but for all of mankind! ■

**30%**

of Germans believe the Jewish state to be akin to Hitler's Germany.

**53%**

of Germans say they have "no special responsibility" toward Israel because of their nation's history.

Armstrong once wrote. “*Show your affection. Then, from tiniest infancy, by loving but unquestionable insistence, bring your child to absolute recognition of your authority—and before he reaches the end of his first year! If spanking is necessary, use it—always being careful not to injure the child, yet making it smart enough to get results*” (*The Missing Dimension in Sex*).

A superabundance of love—and insisting on obedience. It’s not that complicated. But it is difficult to put into practice because it takes so much time and unselfish sacrifice. It takes parents who pay attention to their children—educating, teaching and training.

Society’s way is to let children do as they please. If they don’t want to listen, it’s just a passing phase—if they throw a tantrum, just let it run its course. Then, *hopefully* (with fingers crossed), they will turn out to be smart, well-disciplined, law-abiding citizens who raise happy families. That might be the way it works in movies. But not in real life.

It is the rod and reproof, as mentioned earlier, that give wisdom and understanding.

How is this even possible? How can administering discipline make a child more educated? *Because in order to receive knowledge, a child must first learn how to listen and pay attention.* And nothing establishes this as habit in a little one quite like discipline and correction.

If a child has never been taught to *listen* to those in authority, why should we expect him to receive knowledge from an authority figure?

Teach a child to honor and obey his parents first (Ephesians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:20). Then he can understand and learn.

Few commentators are willing to go this deep in proposing their “solutions” because it involves much more than changing a curriculum and the disciplinary measures at the local elementary school. In fact, it transfers most of the burden of responsibility to teach, train and discipline youths from the educational system to where it belongs—the parents!

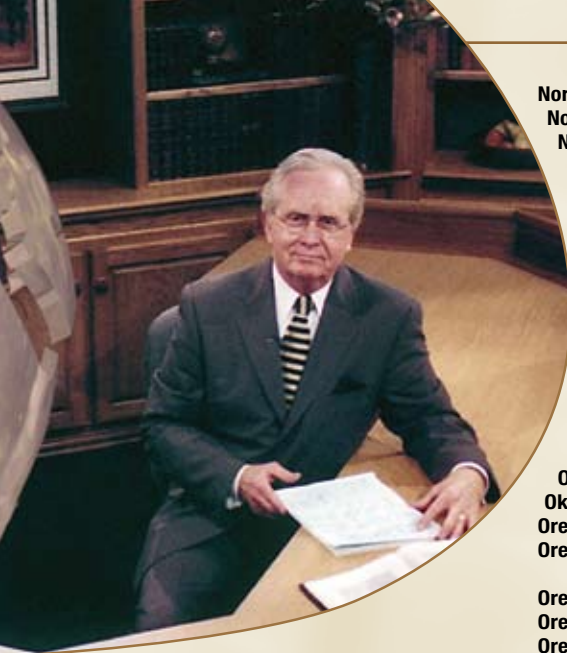
This solution—*God’s solution*—means fathers must regain control of their families with loving leadership—as provider, protector and educator. It means mothers should assume their primary role as helpmeet to the husband, keeper of the home and the daytime caregiver to the children. And it means children must learn the lesson of obedience first, while growing up in a loving family environment at home. ■



**UNITED STATES**

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**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00 am, Fri  
**Alabama, Dothan** WTVY 8:30, Sun  
**Alabama, Montgomery** WBMM 8:30, Sun  
**Alaska, Anchorage** KIMO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Alaska, Fairbanks** KATN 8:30 am, Sun  
**Alaska, Juneau** KJUD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Arizona, Phoenix** KPXX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Arizona, Yuma-El Centro** KSWT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Arkansas, Fayetteville** KWFT 8:30, Sun  
**Arkansas, Fort Smith** KCWA 8:30, Sun  
**Arkansas, Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Arkansas, Rogers** KWFT 8:30, Sun  
**Arkansas, Springdale** KWFT 8:30 am, Sun  
**California, Bakersfield** KGET 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Chico** KHSL 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, El Centro** KWUB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Eureka** KUVU 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, Monterey** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Palm Springs** KESQ/KCWQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Redding** KHSL 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Sacramento** KSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, Salinas** KION 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, San Francisco** KKPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, Santa Barbara** KSBY 9:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00 am, Fri  
**Colorado, Grand Junction** KKCO 10:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Montrose** KKCO 10:30 am, Sun  
**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Gainesville** WCJB 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Jacksonville** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Miami** WPXM 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Orlando** WOPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Panama City** WBPC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville** WTLH/WTLF 9:30 am, Sun; WTXL 7:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Tampa** WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00 am, Fri  
**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Augusta** WAGT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Brunswick** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Georgia, Columbus** WLGA 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Macon** WBMN 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Savannah** WGSA/WGCW 9:30 am, Sun  
**Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed  
**Hawaii, Kaula Ho’Ike** Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue  
**Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku** Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon  
**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KPIF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Pocatello** KPIF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Twin Falls** KMVT/KTWT 10:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Bloomington** WHOI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Chicago** WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Illinois, Peoria** WHOI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Rockford** WREX 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Indiana, Lafayette** WBFY 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Terre Haute** WBI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Des Moines** KPXX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Keokuk** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Kirksville** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Mason City** KTTC 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Rochester** KTTC 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Sioux City** KTIV 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg** K SXF 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Lincoln** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Topeka** KSNT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Lexington** WUPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe** KNOE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, Lafayette** KLWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, New Orleans** WPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Maine, Bangor** WABI 9:30 am, Sun  
**Maine, Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Maryland, Salisbury** WBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Boston** WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Springfield** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Detroit** WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00 am, Fri



**North Carolina, Washington** WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Wilmington** WBW 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Dickinson** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun

**North Dakota, Fargo** WDAY 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Minot** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Valley City** WDAY 8:30 am, Sun

**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Ohio, Cincinnati**WSTR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Lima** WLIO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Steubenville** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Zanesville** WBZV 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Lawton** KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oklahoma, Tulsa** KTPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Eugene** KMTR 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

**Oregon, Klamath Falls** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Medford** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Portland** KPXG 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WBEP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh** WPCW 9:00 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Florence** WWMB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Myrtle Beach** WWMB 9:30 am, Sun

**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBH 10:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Sioux Falls** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Knoxville** WPXK 6:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Memphis** WPXX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Nashville** WNPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Amarillo** KVII/KVIH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Beaumont** KFDM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Brownsville** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Corpus Christi** KRIS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Harlingen** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Houston** KPXB 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Laredo** KTXW 8:30 am, Sun

**Texas, Longview** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Lubbock** KLCW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Midland** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Angelo** KWSA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Antonio** KPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Sherman** KTEN 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Sweetwater** KTWS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Victoria** KWVB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Weslaco** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Wichita Falls** KWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00 am, Fri

**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Harrisonburg** WVIR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Norfolk** WPXV 6:00 am, Fri  
**Virginia, Roanoke** WPRX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

**Washington, Kennewick** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Pasco** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Richland** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle** KWFX 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30am, Sun

**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Yakima** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Bluefield** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun

**West Virginia, Charleston** WLPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**West Virginia, Clarksburg** WVFX 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Oak Hill** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Weston** WVFX 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Wheeling** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun

**Wisconsin, La Crosse** WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Wisconsin, Rhinelander** WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun

**Wisconsin, Wausau** WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KWWY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Riverton** KWWY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

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**Alberta, Calgary** CICT 12:30 am, Mon  
**Alberta, Edmonton** CITV 12:30 am, Mon  
**British Columbia, Vancouver** KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**British Columbia, Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CKND 12:30 am, Mon  
**Maritimes** CIHF 12:30 am, Mon  
**Ontario** CIII 12:30 am, Mon  
**Ontario, Toronto** CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** CKMI 12:30 am, Mon  
**Saskatchewan, Regina** CFRE 12:30 am, Mon  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

## LATIN AMERICA

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**Colombia** WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias TV 47 11:00 am, Fri  
**El Salvador** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Guatemala** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Honduras** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Mexico** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00 am, Sun

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**Aruba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Bahamas** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Barbados** CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun  
**Belize** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Cuba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Jamaica** WGN 9:00 am, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
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**Minnesota, Mankato** KWYE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00 am, Fri  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Mississippi, Greenwood** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Gulfport** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Hattiesburg** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Laurel** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Meridian** WTOK 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Tupelo** WCBI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, West Point** WCBI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Hannibal** WGEM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Jefferson City** KOMU 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Kansas City** KPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Missouri, Quincy** WGEM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KTVQ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KBZK/KXLF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWZB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KRTV 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KMTF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KPAX 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Kearney** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, North Platte** KWPL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KREN 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Binghamton** WBXI 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Elmira** WBE 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, New York City** WPNX 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun  
**New York, Syracuse** WSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Utica** WBU 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Watertown** WWTI 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Charlotte** WLMY 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greensboro** WGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greenville** WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, New Bern** WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Raleigh** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

## The Two Trees

WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT AND GIVE you some praise for this beautiful, truth-filled article (“What You Don’t Know About the Roots of Civilization,” June-July). I found your magazine through an article knocking it and thought I’d read it and decide for myself—glad I did! Mainstream Christianity has lost the whole point—but there is a small remnant of people who, thanks to Adonai, have seen through the lies that flood our whole world. Keep up the good work!

Erin—OREGON



## Oil Shortages

THE ARTICLE “OIL SHORTAGES: HERE They Come” (June-July) provides an excellent introduction to America’s looming oil crisis and its engendered economic crisis. Part of our American oil crisis appears to have been created by overzealous environmentalists in our Congress. Unfortunately, this oil and energy crisis we Americans are now facing is not even being made a referendum issue in this presidential election year. ... Sen. Charles Schumer ... said Saudi Arabia “holds the key to reducing gasoline prices here at home in the short term. ... [I]ncreas[ing] [their] oil production by 1 million barrels per day [would cause the price of gasoline to fall] 50 cents a gallon almost immediately.” ... [He] identified the short-term oil crisis solution: increased production. Mr. Morley makes reference to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which “holds 5.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil.” ... If we use Senator Schumer’s numbers, ANWR producing oil at 2 million barrels/day, reducing American gasoline prices \$1/gallon at the pump, will last approximately eight years. Now in eight years we can do a lot of energy exploration and technology development. And ANWR is only one of many domestic oil/natural gas/coal sources known today. I appreciated the article. *Heinz H. Schreiber*

I AM AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME YEARS now a believer and follower of the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong. I used to receive the *Plain Truth* but since Gerald Flurry and John Amos started the Philadelphia Church of God I now receive the *Trumpet* magazine .... I have been following for years now your reporting of the trouble that the world economy is heading

to. I fully believe your warnings; in New Zealand petrol is over NZ\$2 a liter—that is about NZ\$9 a gallon, about US\$7—it’s crippling. I have been telling all my extended family and friends for a few years now where the world economy is heading; initially they scoffed at what I was saying—only two years ago petrol was 70c per liter. Now they are starting to sit up and are asking me where is all of this going to take us. Of course, I do tell them what is very soon going to happen to us here in little

old New Zealand, because we are a part of the tribe of Ephraim, however I think a lot more has to happen yet before I can start convincing them. I cannot wait for the *Trumpet* magazine each month; I read your articles online. ...

*David Hawea*—GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND

## Food Riots

THIS IS A VERY SOBERING ARTICLE (“ARE You Watching the Food Riots?” June-July). It is difficult in these times of relative plenty to really wrap our minds around such scenarios. Knowing that prophecy foretells these things, I pray always seeking the protection that you mentioned.

*Derrick Williams*—NORTH CAROLINA

## Islam Pushes

I HAVE NO RELIGION. I EVEN THINK LIFE based on religion is life based on lies. But I am raised in a Christian society—I’m used to it and feel comfortable (“Islam Pushes, Europe Reacts,” June-July). Muslims are not better or worse than we are, but they have a culture I am not used to and would hate to live with. They don’t belong here in the Netherlands geographically. They don’t fit in our style of living and we don’t fit in theirs. It’s simply nature, not discrimination. But now we feel they want to change our lifestyle to theirs; they are trying to do something impossible.

*Bob Chiekentantz*—NETHERLANDS

## Audacity of Hate

I ENJOYED READING THIS ARTICLE (“THE Audacity of Hate,” May)—it made numerous good points. BUT, as a 34-year-old white female who has grown up in Alabama, slavery is NOT the major catalyst for the anger and “chip on the shoulder” that many African-Americans feel today. It is the racism and hatred that continued after the abolition of slavery. The end of slavery

was only the beginning of another challenging period for black persons, and unfortunately it still continues today. We all need to truly take to heart Matthew 19:19, “love your neighbor as yourself,” regardless of gender or race. *Karen*—ALABAMA

THANKFULNESS IS A FRUIT OF HUMILITY is it not? To be thankful is to admit some-one or something or an institution like America, despite its warts and failings, has done something for us. ... Each and every citizen owes America, its founders and its now fragile institutions a debt of gratitude; a debt of gratitude for the lives we all live on the produce of the land; a debt of gratitude for temperate climate; a debt of gratitude for immense wealth which finances our freedoms (licentious though they have become); a debt of gratitude for the freedom won and held at the tip of the sword and a debt of gratitude for the grace God was once showering on all the peoples within the United States of America. UNITED STATES

## Germany on the March

I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO applaud Mr. Fraser for his in-depth assessment of the deliberate and calculated resurrection of the German empire (“On the March,” April). I am a student of history and am currently studying comparative religion as well. Thus, the unmistakable parallels between current world events and end-time biblical prophecy are of considerable interest to me. How thinking adults—with even a tenuous hold on reality and/or rudimentary grasp of world history—can fail to recognize the unquestionable relevance of that which was laid bare in “On the March” is beyond my ability to understand. Today, practically no other means than this will educate a people in this spirit of boldness—it has to be a war waged under daring leadership. Nothing else will counteract the softness and the desire for ease, which debase the people in times of growing prosperity and increasing trade. So spoke the Germany of old, so thinks the German leadership of today. ... The April issue was my very first *Philadelphia Trumpet*, and I look forward to next month’s issue.

*Kenneth McCauley*—MOUNT OLIVE, W. VA.

## Comments?

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# A Terrible Thing to Waste

The latest weapon of mind destruction is gadgetry. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**D**RIVING THROUGH MCDONALD'S RECENTLY, MY SENSE of guilt was replaced by another feeling: *frustration*. Not at my greasy cheeseburger, but at the teenage girl taking my money. I could live with her not looking me in the eye, or even saying hello—it's sad, but civility isn't necessarily common these days. I was upset for another reason.

She was *texting*. Feverishly. Who? No idea. This girl was paid to talk to me and to handle my money, yet she was engrossed in her little plastic phone—her thumb moving at impressive speed—totally disengaged from her surroundings.

Maddening.

We live in a gadget-dominated society, and young people are the vanguard of it. In fact, young people spend more time using media than at any other single activity besides sleeping. The average American 8-to-18-year-old spends more than six hours a day using media; take into account media multitasking (using a television, the computer and texting concurrently, for example), which is at an all-time high for teens, and that figure grows to 8½ hours! ("Children and Electronic Media," Princeton-Brookings study, Spring 2008).

They wake up to iPods blaring John Mayer and Miley Cyrus. Earphones dangle from their heads as they walk or bus to school. Before, during and after class, they instant message on laptops and chat or text with cell phones. The frenzy intensifies when school finishes: After-school activities, be they sports, exercise, work, homework or socializing, are grafted with sustained rounds of text messaging, instant messaging, MySpace and Facebook updating and browsing, cell phone chatting, e-mail checking, virtual gaming, YouTube surfing, TV watching and Top 40 listening.

Too many teenage minds today have been kidnapped by flashy gadgets. This misguided, undisciplined and constant use of technology is robbing them of intellectual curiosity and mental maturity. Young people surrender the ability and time to *think, reason and judge*—their minds hijacked by a new form of Stockholm Syndrome! Mental maturation is impeded because the young person lives life in the shallows, distracted from exploring the mysteries and majesties of deep thought.

This unprecedented infatuation with technology has become an epidemic. It's a new addiction, a cultural vice akin to alcoholism, drug abuse and smoking. Consider: Our young people's overuse of technology ravages the mind in the same manner alcoholism ravages the liver and smoking degenerates the lungs. Like alcoholism and drug abuse, this addiction drives a wedge between the user and those around him. It diverts young minds from the present, from parents, from teachers, from books, from homework. Parents and siblings become annoyances, distractions from the screen. Work is a stumbling block to texting. Teachers are white noise behind in-class IM; homework is a fourth-tier priority squeezed

in between MySpace posts. Everything substantive, meaningful and purposeful is marginalized, while unimportant, unnecessary, even harmful activities are given bountiful attention.

Activities once used as opportunities for contemplation and self-analysis—walking alone to school, riding the school bus, taking a minute to lie quietly on the bed, driving, reading, working alone—are merely different environs in which to chat on the phone or text message (often with a friend the person has been with all day at school), or listen to monotonous, mind-numbing pop music.

This is our world. Physical and mental downtime is despised. Solitude is feared. Independent thinking is abhorred. Critical thinking is a lost art.

Not that there's anything inherently wrong with talking on a cell phone, texting or listening to music. But when these activities consume the mind and crowd out other substantive activities,

they become weapons of mental destruction. Yes, they demand mental concentration and activity—but so much of it is *reactionary* and *emotion-based*. They require rapid user response, but generally little contemplation. Critical thinking and creative thought are crushed in the hands of immediacy. The mind is active—but it is action void of substance and leading nowhere. It's the kind of mental activity that actually destroys quality thinking.

The end result: **YOUNG GENERATIONS PLAGUED BY A LACK OF SUBSTANCE AND DEPTH, PURPOSE AND DRIVE!**

Strong minds and substantive, meaningful, purpose-driven lives, on the other hand, are built around certain constants that are based on deeper thought—

strong human relationships, law, contemplation, self-analysis, reading, study, prayer, meditation. All of these require **TIME** and uninterrupted, original, imaginative **THOUGHT!**

The human mind is a spectacular instrument. This generational addiction to gadgetry is destroying one of the greatest gifts ever bestowed upon mankind, *the human mind!*

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