

**IS THE DOLLAR
TOO WEAK?**
How it affects the world

IRAQ'S WMD FOUND?
The shocking story of a foiled chemical attack in Jordan—
and where the terrorists got their arsenal.

HOW TO THINK
Strategies for increasing
your brain power

JUNE 2004

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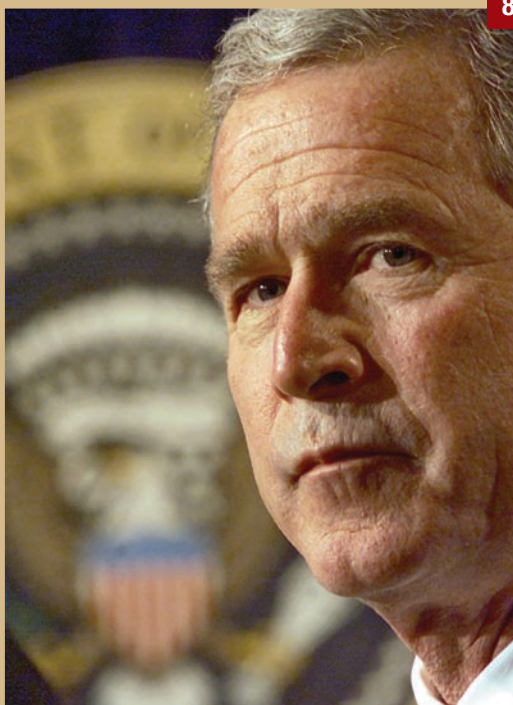


TO:

IRAQ
The Middle East

EXPORTING DEMOCRACY

CAN IT WORK?



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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 1076348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March-April and September-October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2004 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

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Gerald Flurry

The Shocking Story About WMD in Jordan

HAVE SOME OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S WEAPONS OF MASS destruction (WMD) been found in Jordan?

Around the first of April this year, the Jordanian authorities captured an al-Qaeda terrorist cell that worked out of Jordan. THE TERRORISTS HAD ABOUT 20 TONS OF CHEMICALS, INCLUDING POISON GAS! That's right, 20 tons of chemicals—or weapons of mass destruction.

The al-Qaeda leader in Jordan has confessed that they planned to kill 80,000 Jordanians with those chemicals.

King Abdullah II of Jordan told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that "It was a major, major operation. ... It would have decapitated the government" (April 17). Yes indeed—"A MAJOR, MAJOR OPERATION." This is chemical warfare of the worst kind! But it is getting hardly any attention from the media and politicians.

Do many of these institutions truly understand what the war against terrorism is and what the United States must do to win?

Where did these terrorists get the poison gas? The Jordanians know it came from Syria—which in itself is a dangerous act of war by that terrorist-sponsoring nation. But do America and Britain have the will to stop Syria's terrorist activity?

Terrorism expert John Loftus was interviewed by Larry Elder of Creators Syndicate concerning the lack of media interest in the origin of the chemicals found in Jordan. Loftus, a respected author, lawyer and lecturer, is a former Army officer and Justice Department prosecutor who once held some of the highest security clearances in the world. Here is a part of that interview:

"John Loftus: There's a lot of reason to think [the source of the chemicals] might be Iraq. We captured Iraqi members of al-Qaeda, who've been trained in Iraq ... and now they're in Jordan with nerve gas. ... You have to have obtained it from someplace.

"Larry Elder: They couldn't have obtained it from Syria?"

"Loftus: Syria does have the ability to produce certain kinds of nerve gasses, but in small quantities. The large stockpiles were known to be in Iraq. The best U.S. and allied intelligence say that in the 10 weeks before the Iraq war, Saddam's Russian adviser told him to get rid of all the nerve gas. ... So they shipped it across the border to Syria and Lebanon and buried it. ... [T]here's no doubt these guys confessed on Jordanian television that they received the training for this mission in Iraq. ... And from the description it appears this is the form of nerve gas known as vx. It's very rare, and very tough to manufacture ... one of the most destructive chemical mass production weapons

that you can use. ... THEY WANTED TO BUILD THREE CLOUDS, A MILE ACROSS, OF TOXIC GAS. A WHOLE WITCH'S BREW OF NASTY CHEMICALS THAT WERE GOING TO GO INTO THIS POISON CLOUD, AND THIS WOULD HAVE GONE OVER SHOPPING MALLS, HOSPITALS ..." (May 6; emphasis mine throughout).



REUTERS

Jordan's King Abdullah was the target of a foiled al-Qaeda chemical warfare attack.

There may be more information revealed later about these chemicals, and this information could be slightly altered. Regardless, THIS IS AN EARTH-SHAKING EVENT THAT DESERVES HEADLINES IN OUR MEDIA! Unfortunately, little is being reported—even though the terrorists have made shocking confessions.

Here is more from that interview:

"Elder: You said that the Russians told Saddam, 'There is going to be an invasion. Get rid of your chemical and biological weapons.'

"Loftus: Sure. It would only bring the United Nations down on their heads if they were shown to really have weapons of mass destruction. It's not generally known, but THE CIA HAS FOUND 41 DIFFERENT MATERIAL BREACHES WHERE SADDAM DID HAVE A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM OF VARIOUS TYPES. It was completely illegal. But no one could find the stockpiles. And the

liberal press seems to be focusing on that.

"Elder: *It seems to me that this is a huge, huge story.*

"Loftus: It's embarrassing to the [press]. They've staked their reputations that this stuff wasn't there. And now all of a sudden we have al-Qaeda agents from Iraq showing up with weapons of mass destruction."

Unparalleled Shame of the Media Is this "a huge, huge story"? You could double or triple the word *huge*, and still not emphasize this too much! King Abdullah also was repeating a word when he said this was "a major, major operation." At least a few people are trying to show us the horrendous danger of this terrorist attempt.

And where is most of the media focusing? It would seem that they are focusing on finding stockpiles of WMD *only* in Iraq. But this is *not* "a huge, huge story" if you are focused only on finding WMD in Iraq! That is a dangerously shallow view. And surely many in the media know this.

Are some in the media withholding this Jordanian story so that their political candidate can win the U.S. election? Are they sacrificing the country's welfare on the altar of politics? Perhaps they are over-indulging in self-flagellation over the abhorrent military

scandal regarding Iraqi prisoners. That scandal is abominable, but it is now being used to hide this shocking al-Qaeda capture in Jordan—which is 10,000 times more important!

After all, Saddam Hussein inflicted such abuse on his people, and much worse, as a matter of routine.

WHAT IF THE TERRORISTS HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN NEW YORK CITY OR WASHINGTON OR LOS ANGELES WITH 20 TONS OF



FOUND Jordanian television aired this picture of the chemicals al-Qaeda was planning to use in explosives against the Jordanian capital of Amman. Did they come from Iraq?

CHEMICALS? Those 20 tons of chemicals could go a long way toward wrecking the economies of America, Britain or Israel if they were used against our nations. This is a story that goes far beyond politics or even one or two nations. It's a WORLD CRISIS of the greatest magnitude!

The media has been screaming about no WMD ever since Saddam Hussein was toppled. Now we find 20 tons and they go *shamefully, shamefully* quiet! How can we even describe such a disgusting failure to seek the truth (which is supposedly why they exist). Has most of the media totally lost sight of the bigger issues—the life-and-death issues of nations?

Here is more from the Loftus interview:

“Elder: David Kay [the man put in charge of searching for WMD in Iraq] said, in an interim report, that there was a possibility that WMD components were shipped to Syria.

“Loftus: A possibility? We had a Syrian journalist who defected to Paris in January. The guy is dying of cancer, and he said, ‘Look, my friends in Syrian intelligence told me exactly where the stuff is buried.’ He named three sites in Syria, and the Israelis have confirmed the three sites. They know where the stuff is, but the problem is that the United States can’t just go around invading Arab countries. ... We know from Israeli and defectors’ intelligence that the son of the Syrian defense minister was paid 50 million bucks to bring the stuff across the border and bury it.”

Did Saddam Hussein have WMD? The world knew he had

them. Saddam used these weapons against Iran and his own people. Can anyone really imagine this terrorist-sponsoring dictator ever destroying those weapons? There is not one scintilla of evidence that this was ever done.

Ignoring an Ally The people of Jordan—friends of America, Britain and Israel—are a very special people in the Arab world.

The BBC on April 30 wrote, “Her Majesty Queen Raniya on Thursday (April 29) participated with thousands of Jordanians in a national public rally pledging allegiance to the country, denouncing all forms of terror and calling for security and stability in the region.

“*The silent majority decided to speak out against terrorism in a first-of-its-kind demonstration in the Arab and Muslim world on this scale,*” Queen Raniya told the Jordan news agency, Petra.

“Walking hand-in-hand with 9th-grade students from public schools, Queen Raniya joined around 250,000 Jordanians from all walks of life who converged on Amman from all over the kingdom to condemn all forms of violence and terrorism.”

How rare this is in the Arab world. CAN WE AFFORD TO VIRTUALLY IGNORE SUCH A NOBLE EFFORT IN THE RADICAL MUSLIM WORLD?

Jordan doesn’t have the power to defend itself from the terrorists, sponsored by Syria. Only America can do that. Our media should be supporting the U.S. government in stopping Syria by doing whatever is required. But that is not the case. Most of the media simply do not understand what the U.S. must do to win the war against terrorism.

Too many in the media and politics refuse to see the big picture. We aid the terrorists by practically ignoring friendly nations like Jordan, Afghanistan and, to a lesser degree, Pakistan and Libya. We went to war in Iraq with hopes of pressuring terrorist nations to become our friends and oppose terrorism. But at the same time, so many of our leaders in politics and the media do too little to support friendly nations in the Middle East!

King Abdullah also had this to say about the latest plot that was stopped: that his country had “lived through an extremely delicate situation in recent days, but divine protection has thwarted the plans of these criminals and saved the lives of thousands of civilians in what WOULD HAVE BEEN A CRIME NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN THE KINGDOM” (*New York Times*, April 14).

Jordan has been the target of several terrorist attacks. The really serious attacks have been foiled. (And that is the most fascinating and hopeful story of all. You can learn all about this subject in our Daniel booklet. Just ask for it—all of our literature is free.)

But still, “Given the best intelligence in the world, if you stop the terrorists time and time again and foil their plots, but never go out and *eliminate them at the source*, all you are doing is training them to do better next time” (*Capitalism Magazine*, Oct. 11, 2001).

Syria is one of those sources. And until the United States has the will to deal with such sources as Syria and Iran, it can never win the war against terrorism. ■

In Iraq, blood continues to be spilled in the name of democracy. Is this a worthy cause? Is it worth the lives lost? Can democracy succeed in the Middle East? Is there a better system? BY RYAN MALONE

Democracy

ON TRIAL



Iraqis cast their votes in a 2002 referendum on the Iraqi presidency. Saddam Hussein's likeness graces the ballot box; he ran unopposed.

TOPPLING A DICTATORSHIP IS ONE THING. Filling the leadership void with a functioning government is an entirely different matter. By the end of this month, though, the United States plans to hand over “sovereignty” to the Iraqi people. To what extent this will actually happen remains to be seen, but the current U.S. administration is committed to replacing the former autocratic regime with—drum roll, please—democracy.

The establishment of democracy, according to George W. Bush in a May 1 radio address, is a matter of life and death. “The failure of Iraqi democracy would embolden terrorists around the globe, increase dangers to the American people, and extinguish the hopes of millions in the Middle East.”

The American president predicted that, as the June 30 deadline approaches, “[W]e are likely to see more violence from groups opposed to freedom,” but “we will finish our work in Iraq because the stakes for our country and the world are high.”

President Bush, in his self-proclaimed effort to “change the world,” is using Iraq as merely the starting point in what his administration has termed the Greater Middle East Initiative—a pledge to bring the hope of democracy to nations all over the Middle East. This initiative has

been called the “most ambitious U.S. democracy effort since the end of the Cold War” (*Washington Post*, February 28). Including an array of diplomatic, cultural and economic measures, the campaign stands for free elections, independent media, equality for women and literacy, and would provide financial booster shots to the nations concerned.

This initiative to bring democracy to Iraq and the greater Middle East is one of the core goals of the Bush administration. The reasoning is that the world will be a better place if this greatest-of-all-governments is established in nations that presently threaten the stability of the world.

This ambition is not original with Mr. Bush. Since Woodrow Wilson’s post-World War I efforts “to make the world safe for democracy” the U.S. has been on a quasi-crusade for what it considers

the best form of government. America has long believed that its “enlightened” moral system of rule is the panacea needed to bring peace, prosperity and freedom worldwide.

Is it not fitting then at this point in Middle East history to take a candid look at democracy? Is it not fitting—as this November President Bush himself will come under the eye of the very system for which he crusades today—to ask how valuable this political ideology is to the stability of the world? Can democracy work in the Middle East? Does it truly work in the U.S.? Can it really work anywhere? Is there a better way to govern the affairs of humanity?

Democracy’s Non-Western Face Whether democracy is an enlightened form of rule or an abysmal failure, it should first be established in this context that democracy cannot retain its “Westernism” when applied to a non-Western nation. This is something American policy-makers tend to minimize. And it casts an ominous cloud over the current U.S. administration’s goal to bring democracy to Arab states.

For instance, democracy is often equated with freedom and equality. But try telling that to the lowest members of India’s caste system—within a country that has both democracy and a social structure that says if you’re born a “pol-

luted laborer,” your highest achievement in society will be that of a “polluted laborer.” Or consider, in the Republic of South Africa and its neighboring “democracies,” the millions of orphans who have no opportunity for education or even a healthy environment in which to grow. Or in Zimbabwe, where “free” elections are accompanied by intimidation and killing of political opponents. Is this freedom? Are all men treated as equals?

Another Western assumption about democracy is that it is best when underpinned by *pluralism*—the idea that many differing views co-existing in a government will help create a consensus that is best for the entire country. This is the principle the U.S. is proposing to implement in Iraq: Put the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds together in a three-member presidency (one president, two deputies) so any agreements will benefit citizens of all three. But this idealistic approach is not sitting well with anyone, especially the Shiites’ Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who labeled it a recipe for “partition and division” (*Asia Times*, March 25).

The greatest fallacy in Western minds, perhaps, is that democracy in non-Western countries will spawn pro-Western administrations. This rarely happens, as Samuel P. Huntington wrote

If the moral fabric of the population begins to unravel, as it has today, such decline is only perpetuated through a democratic system.

in *The Clash of Civilizations*. He called this the “democracy paradox,” saying that “adoption by non-Western societies of Western democratic institutions encourages and gives access to power to nativist and ANTI-WESTERN political movements” (emphasis mine throughout). Elections in Islamic countries like Algeria and Turkey have placed Islamist, anti-U.S. politicians at the helm.

Muslims tend to see Western democracy as the antithesis of Islam. As one Sunni sheik in Iraq put it, “[E]verything that is happening in our country is because we strayed from our religion. We strayed from Islam and took the democracy of the infidels and the freedom of the infidels. There is no solution except Islam, and stability will never come back without it. So insist on Islam” (*Asia Times*, March 23). The U.S. is facing those in the Middle East who believe Islam cannot remain pure if mixed with

America’s version of democracy.

As we wrote in our November 2002 issue, “The problem is that this effort to spread the gospel of democracy is predicated on one erroneous assumption—that all peoples think and act like Americans. *They don’t!*”

The Strength of Democracy Though America’s historic efforts to spread democracy worldwide may seem like a lost cause, many will still argue that democracy is the best form of government that humanity has devised. Winston Churchill called it “the worst form of government, except for all those others that have been tried.”

Certainly, democracy has both good and bad points. Let’s briefly examine those. For the sake of definition, and since democracy takes different forms in different nations, we will view this from the perspective of the longest-running representative democracy in the world: the United States of America.

Some good exists in democracy; three broad principles sum it up.

FIRST: Democracy considers and protects the interests of those governed. Abraham Lincoln defined it as government “of the people, by the people, *for the people*.” Because of this, a democracy like

the U.S. is largely concerned with human rights—fair treatment and equality of all men and women in the country. Laws are enacted to protect the rights of ALL its citizens, minorities included.

Contrast this with communist socialism, which in theory puts every citizen on equal footing economically but in practice feeds the gluttony of the ruling elite. Take the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea for example (don’t let the name fool you), where over 13 million North Koreans are malnourished while President Kim Jong-Il has never lacked for a meal. Is it any wonder that citizens of Communist states like Cuba will pile onto tiny rafts and face sharks, hypothermia and drowning to sail to America’s shores—or die trying?

SECOND: Democracy uses a system of checks and balances—limited terms in office and separate governmental branches—as a safety valve against corruption.

When America’s forefathers framed the Constitution, they had a realistic appraisal of human nature, knowing that men were flawed and capable of enormous evil. They realized that those in power need to be checked by others, to prevent one man or group of elites from wielding absolute control over the country. Thomas Jefferson, in his Notes on the State of Virginia, warned that members of a legislative body should never be deluded by their own integrity and assume their power would never be abused. “Human nature is the same on every side of the Atlantic, and will be alike influenced by the same causes.”

Through frequent elections, the system implanted by America’s founders safeguards against a maniacal dictator rising to the top.

Through the separation of powers, officials are held accountable for their actions. Congress can rein in the president if he oversteps his bounds, and both the president and Congress must agree on who presides in the federal judicial branch.

Within this system of government are also varying viewpoints on how to carry out the functions of government—broadly defined in two major political parties, Democratic and Republican. In a democracy, opposing viewpoints are allowed to exist in order to help the lawmakers and governing executives arrive at the best solution for their constituents. Contrast this with Iraq just two years ago, when if someone opposed the autocrat’s political ideals he or she was tortured or silenced by a brutal death.

All this is intended to guard against any of the country’s governmental branches gaining too much power.

THIRD: Democracy allows a great deal of freedom among its citizenry—in contrast to, say, what an autocratic regime might allow. Art is allowed to flourish in a society that allows freedoms of speech and expression. Freedom of the press means that the government does not have direct control of the media, as it does in countries like China and Zimbabwe. This Western ideal is another tactic that prevents those in power from gaining too much control and also allows the free flow of varying viewpoints on varying subjects. These freedoms engender ingenuity, ideas, invention and industry.

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 To learn about
**“The Demise of
 Democracy,”**
 see our
**November 2002
 issue, under
 Issue Archives.**

They encourage creativity, opportunity and, by extension, wealth and prosperity.

Democracy's Weaknesses These points present a remarkable case for democracy. But sadly, we can take the same three points and examine how democracy fails as a system of government—how it fulfills Churchill's description as "the worst form."

FIRST: A nation governed "for the people" and run "by the people" sits in a precarious position. If the citizens want a leader who focuses more on domestic turmoil than outside threats, the country will elect such a leader—despite what the greater danger actually is. Likewise, if a leader makes a decision based on what is best for the country yet contrary to the general consensus, the public may opt to yank him from office, regardless of the harm this may cause.

If the national will or morale is in tatters, administrations will be set up to reflect this spirit. If the moral fabric of the population begins to unravel, such decline will only be *exacerbated* by a democratic system. A society glutted on harmful entertainment will not elect leaders who will legislate against the same. A people no longer concerned with the sanctity of marriage will elect leaders with sympathetic agendas. Citizens more concerned about their own financial troubles than terrorism will elect politicians who promise to cater to these concerns. "The people" often can be narrow-minded and selfish.

SECOND: The very safety valves in place to guard against human corruption actually build several inherent weaknesses into the system.

Democracy limits the effectiveness of a national leader in dealing with other nations. A limited length of term and number of terms can often transform a nation's foreign policy—weakening its credibility and leverage in the global arena. The Islamic radicals who attacked Spain on March 11—just 74 hours before citizens went to the polls—knew this well.

Built into this system of terms and checks and balances—and a government "by the people"—is *free elections*. But this activity also gives democracy an unavoidable weakness: Those put in the positions of responsibility—as fallible, selfish human beings—will often seek election, re-election or higher office for *themselves* more than they will speak the truth, legislate or execute in a manner that is truly **BEST** for the people.



CASTING A VOTE?

An Iraqi youth protests against coalition soldiers—exercising "freedom of expression" not tolerated under Saddam Hussein. Democracy does not guarantee pro-Western ideals.

When the revolutionary European politician Franz Josef Strauss visited the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College in January 1969, just days after Richard Nixon took office, he met with Chancellor Herbert Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong recalled a question a guest asked of Mr. Strauss: "What do you think was going on in Mr. Nixon's mind as he was taking the oath of office?" Strauss, without hesitation, responded: "How to be reelected four years from now, of course."

Today, leading politicians wage expensive and bitter battles leading up to the November elections. Both sides labor to show the other side's ineptitude at guiding the country; both sides are highlighting their own qualities and strengths; the presiding administration, this close to November, will avoid subjects it considers too sensitive for an election year. And why? All to **GET** the office!

THIRD: A weakness in democracy, borne out of this blessing of freedom, is that our many freedoms can be taken to immoral extremes and decadence. In Anglo-American democracy, the pluralist, tolerant approach is applied to the point where "freedom of speech" protects obscenity, pornography, vulgar music and violent entertainment, and where "freedom of religion" warrants the complete removal of **ALL** religion from public society.

This makes democracy potentially the most fragile of governmental systems. Since national power resides in the people, the nation as a whole is only as strong as the individual character of its citizens. Even America's founders knew that in order for this system to work, those being

governed (i.e. those in ultimate control) had to be God-fearing, upright citizens, or the system would eventually self-destruct. In an address to the military, John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other" (Oct. 11, 1798). George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible" (Sept. 17, 1796).

Critical to grasping this point is the understanding that there is a devil who deceives the whole world and is the prince of the power of the air (Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 2:2). The Bible, God's Word, shows us that Satan is constantly broadcasting corrupt thoughts, impulses and moods to mankind (see article, p. 10). All people are subject to the invisible sway of Satan the devil—and in a government "of the people, by the people," the system becomes endangered when these freedoms go unrestrained.

We must ask, if President Bush wants to "change the world," *what is he going to change it to?* Would the world be such a better place if it were cast in the image of the United States of America? Exporting our freedom means exporting our violent entertainment, our pornography, our vulgar music, and by extension our family breakdown!

Democracy, despite its strengths, is ill-equipped to bring the world the peace it so desperately needs. And America, the paragon of this ideology and governmental structure, is setting an appalling example for a nation that has it all—democracy, freedom, riches and the power to spread it around the world.

Is this what the Iraqis need? They obviously suffered under Saddam Hussein's autocratic regime. But is *democracy* really the answer? Will that solve the problems of the Middle East? Do these nations need the chaos installed by what equates to *mass rule*? Do they need the "freedoms" that will bring them mind-destroying entertainment and decadence?

Is that what our world needs?

The Future of Government Is it really fair to be so hard on democracy when it is, after all, far better—in the West's opinion—than absolute monarchy, dictatorship or communist socialism?

It is *more* than fair! Why? Because we can state, with assured confidence, that democracy will ultimately be replaced by a FAR BETTER GOVERNMENT!

Before that government is set up, as some frightening Bible prophecies show us, democracy will come to a tragic end.

Those who speak of the weaknesses of democracy often note its historically short-lived nature. Even America's forefathers were aware of this.

The Bible prophesies of the eventual downfall of the Anglo-American nations of our modern world (request your

planet for good! And though it means a temporarily dark time for world history just before Christ returns, it signals the greatest news we could ever hear! This is the "good news" that is the *gospel*—the message Jesus Christ preached concerning the literal "kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14) to be set up ON EARTH!

There is a better form of government! And it will rule ALL NATIONS!

God's Governmental System We must then briefly look at God's system of government and WHY it is the best system for the management of human civilization. We will examine it using the same three points we discussed for the good and bad of democracy. We shall see how it boasts the strengths of democracy without succumbing to its weaknesses.

FIRST: God's system considers the BEST INTERESTS OF THOSE GOVERNED. His government respects the "inalienable rights" of every man, woman and child of every race. These rights were, in fact, endowed by Him as Creator of mankind. His law and government consider the best interests of those being ruled. Imagine a world where *every* citizen of *every* nation has opportunity and equality!

Exporting our freedom means exporting our violent entertainment, our pornography, our vulgar music, and by extension our family breakdown!

free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for more). This will spell the end of democracy in these nations!

As for democracy in Europe, the Bible prophesies the rise of a European superpower, called the "beast," ruled by ONE dictatorial political leader and one religious leader (Herbert Armstrong's free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* explains this). European countries will soon shed their democracies to be steered by these charismatic autocrats.

Paradoxically, all this will be a sign that GOOD NEWS is just around the corner—that a government far better than democracy or autocracy will take the reins of GLOBAL RULE!

The Bible prophesies the return of Jesus Christ to smash the power of this beast. Daniel 2:44 shows that GOD's government—His KINGDOM—will "break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Democracy is enjoying only a few more years of glory before it is erased from the

But note this KEY DIFFERENCE! The government will be "for the people," but NOT "of the people, by the people." It will be BY the King of kings, Jesus Christ. He will be in ultimate control. But unlike any selfish, power-hungry man, Christ will rule in a way that TRULY BENEFITS those being ruled. Unlike today's human leaders, Christ CANNOT SIN (1 John 3:9).

SECOND: God's government will have safety valves in place against human corruption—but not the way democracy has today. Those guards against human corruption will be that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 15:50). Daniel 2:44 states that "the kingdom shall not be left to other people." Those governing in God's Kingdom will include Jesus Christ at the head, assisted by those saints who qualify in this life to rule with Him. They will have proven their loyalty to God's government NOW—so they can be trusted when changed to spirit members of the God Family.

Imagine a world ruled by holy, righ-

teous spirit beings with Jesus Christ at the helm! Human corruption will be eliminated—as will government gridlock and political competition. No more elections—no more *need* for elections! Imagine political harmony and productivity, not only nationwide but worldwide!

Christ will not serve four years or a limit of two terms (Isaiah 9:6-7), nor will His saints under Him be subject to these restrictions; God's Kingdom will rule forever. Christ and the saints will not covet higher positions or rule with self-interest—but with outflowing LOVE for the good, happiness, welfare and eternal salvation of those governed.

God's way of governing is loving and unselfish. Man will be able to experience that way undiluted in what Mr. Armstrong always called the "World Tomorrow."

THIRD: The noble but inadequate freedom that democracy offers will exist in pure, godly form in the World Tomorrow. Yes, it will be a freedom that engenders ingenuity, invention, industry, opportunity, creativity, prosperity and wealth. But it will be a different "freedom" from the one of today that removes the loving restraints of God's law—His Ten Commandments.

The Bible refers to this law as the "perfect law of LIBERTY" (James 1:25). This is the only way we can have true freedom. Imagine a world where everyone worshiped the one true God. Imagine a world where no one lied, stole, killed or committed adultery. Imagine a world without cheating, theft, murder, rape or divorce. Imagine being able to walk the streets in any neighborhood without fear of mugging or assault! Imagine homes and vehicles without locks or security systems. THAT is true freedom! And that is what God wants for humanity.

President Bush was right about this one thing in his April 13 press conference: "[F]reedom is the Almighty's gift to every man and woman in this world." What he and his administration have yet to understand is that this gift will not come about through democracy—but through the establishment of God's perfect, benevolent government ruling this Earth! ■

For more on the specifics of God's governmental administration, please request your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



Do We Agree With President Bush?

THE *TRUMPET* IS A MAGAZINE THAT DISCUSSES at length the political decisions of leaders and nations. It talks about what actions are being taken, why they are significant and what they may or will lead to. You will find a lot about politics in our magazine.

But does that make the *Trumpet* a political magazine? Just what *is* our stance on politics? Do we have a political bias? Is the *Trumpet* a Bush supporter?

Bible View The *Trumpet's* purpose is to illustrate how world events are specifically fulfilling Bible prophecy—to prove that God's Word *is true*, that what the Bible predicts *is happening*—and to declare the *ultimate outcome*. In so doing, we give biblical reasoning as to *why* God is allowing and, indeed, *directing* world events to play out as they are. God *warns* of the outcome so mankind *can change* that outcome if they so wish!

In the sequence of end-time events, one event that will increasingly affect each one of us involves the death of a superpower: the United States. The final death blow will be conquest by a foreign power; but before that time, a weakening of the U.S. from within and without is prophesied.

The *Trumpet* aims to illustrate *how* that weakening is taking place; *in what ways* the U.S. is losing pride in its power (Leviticus 26:19)—and, in doing so, to show the onward march of prophecy that will culminate with Jesus Christ's return to rule Earth.

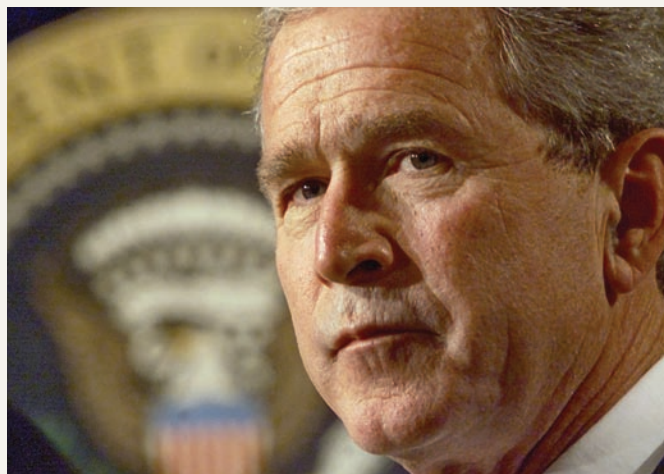
The *Trumpet* has regularly pointed out policy decisions of the U.S. and other nations that have resulted in negative consequences, hastening the fulfillment of this prophecy. In doing this, we do not seek to approve or disapprove of the political actions of any leader, but rather, to tell of their outcome. It is all about cause and effect. Fulfilled prophecy is the effect. The actions of our leaders and peoples are the cause. It is our job to link the two together.

In this broad scheme of things, however, the *Trumpet* does intend to give credit where credit is due. In doing so, we may appear in some people's eyes to have a political *bias*.

The Bush Administration Let's take a brief look at how the *Trumpet* views the current administration in the U.S. and its efforts on the world scene.

First, President Bush deserves credit for his attempts to recognize the authority of God. He openly and publicly acknowledges God and recognizes the need for His divine guidance. However, no amount of using God's name and having faith in a God whom people refuse to obey (Mark 7:6-7) will provide a solution to America's woes.

Second, President Bush is aware of and acknowledges that his nation is in peril. As stated, the purpose of this magazine largely is to warn of danger coming upon America and the other modern nations of biblical Israel. (For more information, request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). We also warn about the danger coming upon the whole world. We agree with Mr. Bush insofar as we also acknowledge that the U.S. faces danger and must do something about it. Where we differ concerns the *extent* of the danger and what America should *do* about it.



The current leadership of the U.S. recognizes the seriousness of the threat of Islamic terror. President Bush deserves commendation for facing up to and attempting to lead his nation to *take action*. This the *Trumpet* has acknowledged. However, as we explained in our article "What President Bush Doesn't Know!" in the November 2002 *Trumpet*, the administration is blind to the *true* danger and the *solution*.

Those who have been reading the *Trumpet* for any length of time would know that we have consistently delivered the message that the *only* sure way out of the present and coming dangers is for the people of America, as a whole, to turn to God in repentance—with their leaders showing the way. If we look back at the example of Abraham Lincoln, we can see how a leader can rally his nation in a time of crisis by calling on the nation to turn to God in prayer and fasting. We have seen no such action today.

While we have given credit to America's toppling of an evil and cruel regime in Iraq, we don't stop there. The *Trumpet* has many times pointed to the fact that the Bush administration has refused to deal decisively with the terrorist problem at its head: Iran. In recent issues, the *Trumpet* has exposed the actions of the current administration in actually *furthering* the cause of this most dangerous country in the Middle East through a policy of appeasement. In articles such as "Is America Empowering Iran?" (November 2003) and "Conquest Through Sabotage" (last month), we have exposed the underhandedness and hypocrisy of the current administration in its dealings with this "axis of evil" nation. In last month's issue, our editor in chief stated, "President George W. Bush was asked by a reporter about how America was going to deal with Iran. There was no clear answer. ... The Iraqi war will never be won, unless America confronts and conquers its dangerous lack of will to use its military might."

The *Trumpet* clearly does not blindly support the present administration's policies. Instead, we have aimed to show how America's actions are hastening the fulfillment of Bible prophecy—e.g. in aiding the rise of the king of the south, a regional power in the Middle East (Daniel 11:40). We have also pointed out for many years that because of its lack of national *will*, the U.S. has *won its last war*—no matter what policy decisions the Bush administration implements!

This is the message the *Trumpet* brings. Despite any temporary successes of the current administration—which we may applaud—unless both the leadership and the people of the nation seek God, in true worship and obedience, the nation will increasingly find itself besieged on every side.

In accordance with the spirit of Romans 13:7—“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour”—we give credit to a president who will point out to his nation a danger facing it and attempt to thwart the intents of the enemy. But that is as far as we can go in support of a human leader who does not know *how* to solve his nation’s deeper problems or even *what the full extent* of the dangers facing his nation is!

The most important questions are not being asked: *Why* is God allowing curses upon America and what should we do about it? In a June 2003 article titled “The Iraq Campaign and American Hypocrisy,” we pointed out that “Our leaders refuse to face even the simplest and most basic truths that God has revealed to man.” As long as that continues, we warn of continued and increasing curses upon America. Whatever the current administration does, without God on its side, the ultimate end will be failure.

Conservative Vs. Liberal Let us briefly address another reason why the *Trumpet* may at times appear, to some, to be taking sides politically.

The *Trumpet*’s teaching is predicated on Bible-based principles. In Western politics, there are two major parties: one supposedly “conservative,” the other “liberal.” In reality, the policies and practices of each do not always divide along these lines. However, to the degree that a party endorses values that are in line with the Bible (which commonly are associated with “conservative” thinking), the *Trumpet* view may coincide with a particular party view.

These, of course, are not hard and fast rules—rather the general trends: Liberals tend to reject Bible-based morals, favoring moral relativity. Though they promote acceptance and tolerance, it is usually of things that are contrary to God’s Word: homosexuality, abortion, drug use. Conservatives, on the other hand, generally believe in the traditional values of family, are anti-abortion, are tougher on crime, and often tend to be more religious.

It is not our purpose here to examine Bush’s specific policies or personal convictions—or any other politician’s. But, in mentioning these general principles, readers may

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better understand why the *Trumpet*’s stance is often more in line with a Republican leader than a Democratic, or liberal, leader. It is NOT a matter of politics—it is a matter of morality and biblical principles.

Conversely, there are traits in liberal thinking that we may applaud, and conservative traits we may not condone. For instance, liberals pride themselves on detecting hypocrisy, while conservatives—commonly touting family values and high moral standards—often don’t practice what they preach.

We understand that the whole world is deceived (Revelation 12:9) and that “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23). That is why we base our position on God’s infallible Word.

To the degree a leader conforms to conservative, Bible-originated principles, the *Trumpet* can evidence support of those beliefs—but only to that degree! The *Trumpet* does NOT endorse *any* leader who is ruling in this world under Satan’s government (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Another point to note is that liberals tend to be more *idealistic* and conservatives more *realistic* in their view of the world. The idealistic school of thought assumes that human nature is *essentially good* and that the world’s problems are mainly due to a lack of knowledge or understanding. The realist on the other hand *attributes* the world’s imperfections to human nature, believing it is capable of enormous evil.

God is the ultimate *realist*. The *Trumpet*, when writing about world events, most often differs from the liberal, idealistic approach of most of the media and more often coincides with the more realistic approach of conservative publications and leaders.

Bible prophecy provides a *realistic* window through which to view each event occurring around the globe. From time to time, the views of a conservative national leader may be realistic—they may agree with what we know to be true. However, without knowledge of biblical prophecy and, more importantly, without knowledge of God’s *law*, no human being can truly have *God’s perspective*: the perspective the *Trumpet* endeavors to provide its readership.

The Powers That Be The *Trumpet* aims to put the world’s political events in their true perspective—*God’s* perspective. The Bible is our guide—for both our moral standing and our political analysis. If you will, the Bible provides our “political bias.” None of our staff has any party affiliation. We are, however, intensely interested in the future of our countries and how present events will affect that future.

We agree with President Bush that terrorism is a danger that needs dealing with. We agree with him that we should acknowledge God; that we should have strong families and promote conservative, Bible-based beliefs. Various of his policies have resulted in a positive outcome for his country.

But that’s about where it stops. Neither President Bush *nor any other human leader* can solve the deep-rooted *spiritual* problems of the United States! Human government is innately limited in its capacity to do good because of its susceptibility to greed, selfishness and vanity. As Herbert W. Armstrong stated, God’s Spirit of *love* is not “in evidence in ANY of this world’s leaders” (*Plain Truth*, October/November 1980). No particular party or politician will or can provide solutions to the problems America is facing.

That being said, however, human government does have its purpose at this time, as Christ made clear when He was on Earth (Matthew 22:21). In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul says “the powers that be” are to “execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” (verses 1, 4). The *Trumpet* does attempt to uphold the authority God has given our human rulers in their pursuit of *curbing evil*—until the time comes of which the Prophet Daniel spoke, when “the God of heaven [shall] set up a kingdom [or government], which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44). ■

Overcoming



GETTY IMAGES

Abu Ghraib scandal



REUTERS

Nick Berg beheading

EVIL

Why man's many "solutions" haven't worked. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

TWO DAYS AFTER THE FALL of Baghdad last year, the *New York Times* printed a short editorial written by CNN's chief news executive, Eason Jordan. Mr. Jordan had visited Baghdad 13 times during the reign of Saddam to lobby the dictatorship to keep CNN's Baghdad bureau open. Each trip troubled the news executive because of what he witnessed—"awful things that could not be reported because doing so would have jeopardized the lives of Iraqis, particularly those on our Baghdad staff" (April 11, 2003).

He then recounted a number of stories that CNN buried while Saddam was in charge. One cameraman had been abducted and tortured by Saddam's henchmen in the mid-1990s because of the ridiculous assumption that Mr. Jordan was a CIA operative. In 1995, Uday Hussein told CNN he intended to assassinate two of his brothers-in-law who had defected to neighboring Jordan. CNN put a lid on the threat for fear of what Uday might do to the translator who was present during the interview. (Uday later coaxed the brothers back to Iraq and then killed them.) One Iraqi, after his brother had been killed by the Baathist regime, was forced to congratulate Saddam by letter. One aide to Uday had his front teeth

yanked out by pliers and was forbidden to wear dentures afterward because Uday wanted him to be continually reminded of how he upset his boss.

"I felt awful having these stories bottled up inside me," Mr. Jordan wrote in his article. "Now that Saddam Hussein's regime is gone, I suspect we will hear many, many more gut-wrenching tales from Iraqis about the decades of torment. At last, these stories can be told freely."

While that might be true, the media certainly has not amplified them like it has other gut-wrenching atrocities, like the now infamous prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asked Dan Rather to delay running the story until hostilities in Iraq had simmered down. But Rather pressed forward with the story after he learned that the *New Yorker* magazine was about to uncover the scandal.

Lost in the midst of the prisoner abuse story is how it exposed media hypocrisy. In the world of media elites, it's perfectly fine to overlook the atrocities of a madman in a far-away country, so long as it keeps your Baghdad bureau open. But to bury photos that would give America's enemies a powerful weapon and expose U.S. citizens to greater danger would be morally irresponsible, in their minds.

Two weeks after Rather's story, in

response to the Abu Ghraib scandal, a group of masked terrorists filmed the horrific execution of American Nick Berg. The video shows one of the hooded terrorists, possibly al-Qaeda associate Abu Mousab al-Zarqawi, grabbing hold of the screaming American's hair, before he began sawing off his head with a long knife. While the video circulated widely over the Internet, American news networks refrained from showing footage of the actual execution.

None of the above-mentioned events are defensible, no matter the way they were covered (or not covered) by the media. But *the way* the media approaches such subjects is a story in itself. More than just revealing media bias, it gives insight into the way the human mind will justify certain dubious actions while condemning others.

Gain is Godliness In 1 Timothy 6:3-5, the Apostle Paul wrote that the mind of man supposes that GAIN is godliness. That's why news organizations can justify burying stories about the vile acts of Saddam Hussein. It's a tough call, a news executive might reason, but if it keeps our bureau open, maybe it's the right thing to do. On the other hand, running a story that might endanger American lives is a tough call, but if the story conforms to the newscaster's political agenda and if it's a ratings boon, maybe it's the right thing to do.

Look at the way Arab media outlets covered the Abu Ghraib scandal. There was virtually no mention of the fact that these American offenders were being prosecuted and punished for their crimes. Nothing was said about Abu Ghraib's infamous history before American occupation—where Saddam's men forcibly raped and tortured thousands. Indeed, if anything *was* said about that gruesome history, it was only in making the absurd claim that American occupation was just as bad as Saddam's rule.

A few weeks before the Abu Ghraib story emerged, Arab networks were the first to break the story about four American contractors whose charred bodies were mutilated before throngs of cheering Iraqis in Fallujah. When they aired that story, there was no accompanying outrage in the Arab world—at least not like there was with the reporting on Abu Ghraib. The same can be said for the Arab reaction to al-Zarqawi chopping that young man's head off on television.

Why would Arab reporting and reaction in those instances be so different

from their reporting of the Abu Ghraib scandal? Isn't it because, in their minds, the evil wrought upon those four American workers and Nick Berg was *more justifiable* than the treatment of those Iraqi prisoners? Wouldn't the average Islamic mind view the prison abuse as *more evil* than murdering Americans? And wouldn't the average American mind view decapitating a defenseless American as *far more evil* than abusing a prisoner of war? Why is that?

What were those American soldiers thinking in Abu Ghraib? What went through *their* minds at the time they committed their abusive acts? *These prisoners are the enemy*, they might have reasoned—*possibly linked to a worldwide terrorist network. A lot of our fellow-soldiers have gotten killed this week. We're under a lot of pressure to "soften up" these prisoners for interrogators.* With that line of reasoning, would it be possible for the human mind to conclude that if abuse and humiliation gets information out of them, *maybe it's the right thing to do*? On the other hand, maybe they were just sexual perverts on a sadistic power trip.

Whatever the motivation, historians have said that their behavior is not exactly uncommon. Writing for the *Guardian* in London, Joanna Bourke noted that "torture and sexual violence are endemic in wartime. In the past, as now, military personnel tend to simply accept that atrocities, including sexual ones, will take place" (May 7). She then quoted one British colonel who admitted during World War I, "I've seen my own men commit atrocities, and should expect to see it again. You can't stimulate and let loose the animal in man and then expect to be able to cage it up again at a moment's notice." She also quoted General Patton, who said during World War II, that despite his most diligent efforts to prevent it, "There would unquestionably be some raping."

What the *Guardian* conveniently left out of its anti-American pages is that it was a thousand times worse under Hitler. How did the Nazi regime treat its captives? How did they interrogate their prisoners? After the Abu Ghraib scandal, German military lawyers advised their soldiers in Afghanistan *not* to take prisoners of war so they wouldn't have to turn them over to American authorities, according to *Der Spiegel* magazine. Think about that for a moment. Think of the moral dilemma German commanders would face should they happen to bump into Osama bin Laden. *He is an*

evil terrorist, but American soldiers are brute beasts. What should we do?

History dating back to ancient times is replete with episodes of brutality and torture during wartime—oftentimes on a *massive* scale. Over the past century, we've witnessed humanity at its worst.

Cultural Depravity Watching the congressional hearings on the prison abuse scandal, I was struck by how American politicians *looked* and *sounded* so righteous. All of them, in some form or another, expressed shock and outrage at the sexually abusive acts depicted in those photos from Abu Ghraib. And yet, every week,

The Bush administration called the images from Abu Ghraib "un-American." In truth, they are shamefully American: Porn is bigger business than pro football, basketball and baseball combined.

thousands upon thousands of images just like those from Iraq—*only far worse*—come streaming out of Hollywood.

The Bush administration called the obscene images from Abu Ghraib "un-American." In truth, *they are shamefully, quintessentially American.* The pornography business in America is bigger than professional football, basketball and baseball *combined!* Should we then be shocked to discover that one military unit in Iraq had a pornographic ring in its midst—complete with videotaped sex between U.S. soldiers and simulated sex involving Iraqi detainees? *American soldiers have been raised in a sex-crazed culture where pornography has gone mainstream.* Where do you suppose the soldiers at Abu Ghraib got the idea to film sadomasochistic acts?

Why no congressional hearings on America's pornography problem? What about the pornography problem within U.S. military circles *all over the world?*

Listening to our politicians, it's as if Abu Ghraib happened by accident.

Muslim clerics have a different view. They see events at Abu Ghraib as yet another reflection of America's depraved culture. They've been sickened and repulsed by the photos of their fellow Arabs being paraded about naked—humiliated by a woman, of all people. One detainee who had also been tortured at Abu Ghraib by Saddam's cronies insisted that the American abuse was worse. Torture, even death, was better than being stripped naked and having your manhood shattered, he said, as if to imply that Saddam's people never used sex to humiliate prisoners.

Shortly after the war on terror began, the *Weekly Standard's* Matt Labash flew

to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to report firsthand on the treatment of prisoners at Gitmo. According to soldiers he interviewed, Arab males would strip *themselves* naked and perform sex acts in front of female soldiers just to embarrass them. Soldiers said detainees also baited them into aggressive behavior so it would appear prisoners were being brutalized in the presence of international witnesses.

None of this is meant to justify the voyeuristic behavior of soldiers at Abu Ghraib, but rather to dispel the notion that Islamic males are somehow immune to sexually deviant behavior. Pornography is now widespread in Iraq—and not just

because of Iraq's newfound "freedoms" under U.S. occupation. High-ranking officials in the Baathist regime were renown for their addiction to pornography and their acts of sexual assault and degradation toward women. Islamic terrorists willing to kill and mutilate in the name of God are also found lacking in sexual morality. Ramzi Yusuf, who orchestrated the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, traversed the world, partying and womanizing at each stop. Many of the 9/11 terrorists frequented strip clubs in Florida and partied on the Las Vegas Strip in the weeks before they attacked America.

They behave like the "infidels" they detest, and then murder Westerners in the name of God. After sawing off Nick Berg's head, those five terrorists shouted, "God is great!" In their minds, what they did was right and good—or, at the very least, justified.

In President Bush's mind, terrorism can be defeated if America meets it head-on. Furthermore, he believes U.S.-Arab relations will vastly improve once America firmly establishes a thriving democracy in the Middle East. He has strong views about what evil is in this world. He believes that Americans are a good people who must spread the good.

Liberal minds in America don't see it that way at all. They believe Mr. Bush's ideas are dangerous. America has gotten bogged down in Iraq and distracted away from the real war on terrorism. The president has alienated the United States from the rest of the world. In their minds, we need someone like John Kerry to repair the damage that the Bush administration has done.

In Europe and the Middle East, while the general populace might not condone terrorism, they view America as being arrogant and hypocritical.

And on and on it could go. Nations, governments, religions, political parties—even family members and co-workers—disagree on everything, it seems! And it's all because this world is CUT OFF FROM GOD.

Infectious Disease When God placed the first man in the Garden of Eden, He offered Adam the opportunity to eat freely from the tree of life, which represented God's Holy Spirit (Romans 8:10). But

Viewing the world in its proper context, no wonder God's final assessment is that ALL have gone aside—all of us, together, have become filthy—there are none who do good, not even one.

Adam, following after his wife, instead ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which represented human nature without God, as influenced by Satan.

Satan convinced Adam and Eve to leave God out of the picture and decide for *themselves* right from wrong, good versus evil. When they made that disastrous choice, God “drove out the man” from the garden and barred re-entrance (Genesis 3:22-24). God cut man off from the tree of life and left him to his own devices, subject to the powerful influence and sway of Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2).

This is why the works of this world have brought forth such evil and despicable fruits. It's why HALF the people on Earth today are illiterate and uneducated. How much do they care about photographs depicting sexual abuse? Many of them are more concerned about gaining access to fresh water—something 1.2 billion people DO NOT HAVE.

Forty percent of Earth's inhabitants still use substances like wood and charcoal as their primary source of energy. How worried are they about the rising cost of oil or natural gas?

In 1960, the richest 20 percent of the world's population was worth 30 times that of the poorest 20 percent. Today, the rich are worth 80 times more. Never in human history has the gap between the rich and poor been so wide—and it *keeps getting wider*. One in five people on Earth live on less than one dollar per day.

At present, one third of the world's population is at war. What will it take to solve *that* problem? Finding Osama bin Laden? Bringing down the “great Satan”?

At least 150 national governments in

this world tolerate and use torture as a means of punishment. Will seven Abu Ghraib convictions help eliminate the practice of genital mutilation—something forced upon 2 million girls and women each year?

Viewing the world in its proper context, no wonder God's final assessment is that ALL have gone aside—ALL of us, *together*, have become filthy—there are NONE who do good, NOT EVEN ONE! (Psalm 14:3). In 1 Kings 8:38, God calls the human heart, or mind, a PLAGUE! God says the human mind, whether conservative or liberal, whether Arab or American, whether Western or Third World—is a sick, dis-

ease-ridden plague that spreads just as fast as the human population grows. And world population is ballooning by 75 million people every year.

And every new inhabitant on Earth, thanks to Satan's powerful influence and the fact that God cut mankind off from the tree of life, comes equipped with the same plague-stricken mind!

Nothing man does or proposes will cure this infectious disease from spreading! That's not to say there won't be a lot of ideas thrown into the hat. Liberals have their answer to the problems of this world. So do conservatives. So do Christians, Muslims, atheists, socialists, communists, blacks, whites, browns—all have their “solutions,” but NOTHING works. Problems persist—world conditions worsen.

Human Good Not the Answer But does the fact that man has been cut off from God mean there is nothing good in this world? Well, yes and no. Only God is good, Jesus said (Matthew 19:17). This world is evil, Paul wrote in Galatians 1:4. There is nothing worth salvaging, which is why God will allow the Great Tribulation to come upon the WHOLE Earth (Luke 21:35). God will essentially start over and build a new society ruled by Jesus Christ.

But there is some good in the tree of the knowledge of *good* and evil. Not *all* Arabs, after all, are Islamic terrorists. Not *every* American is addicted to pornography. Not *every* American soldier abuses prisoners.

But even that “good” must be seen in context. Herbert Armstrong described man's capacity for good in his book *Mys-*

tery of the Ages. He said, “[I]t can have a sense of morality, ethics, art, culture not possessed by the dumb animals. But in the realm of good and evil it can know and perform what is good *only on the human level*, made possible by the human spirit within man. But this sense and performance of good is *limited* to the human level of the human spirit that is innately SELFISH” (emphasis added).

This is why Americans and Arabs can view the same evil act and have two completely different reactions. It's why the media can spin a story one direction under Saddam—and the opposite way under American occupation. It's why terrorists think the answer is eliminating the “great Satan.” And it's why America thinks the answer lies in eliminating terrorism.

Innate selfishness. That's the problem. Left to ourselves, cut off from God, we have assumed that selfish gain is godliness. If it is good for *me*—for *my* family—for *my* country—for *my* race—for *my* religion—then it must be right.

For 6,000 years now, because we have been left to ourselves to decide what is right and wrong, man has been limited in his power and ability to do good. He cannot rise above the human level, which, as we have seen, is innately selfish.

God's love—His goodness—TRANSCENDS ALL OF THAT! Godly love puts God first above all else—it loves neighbor, meaning ALL of mankind, *as self*. This goodness—this godly love—leads to repentance from sin—a complete change in direction (Romans 2:4). It means turning from the way of selfishness to that of selflessness and sacrifice.

This miraculous change is brought about by God's Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5)—the spiritual dimension God denied to Adam after he set out to decide for himself what was right and wrong.

But God has made that most valuable resource available to a tiny few for the purpose of preparing them now to rule with Christ when He returns—to teach this world God's way of life—to help usher in a new age, a new civilization—a wonderful, happy, peaceful age lovingly ruled by the Family of God.

That's when God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28). That process is beginning now in the smallest of ways. But it will spread and eventually overpower the ubiquitous evil, suffering and misery on Earth. *That* is how GOD conquers evil—by overcoming it with good (Romans 12:21).

There is no other way. ■

The “secret” is out. Nuclear proliferation treaties are a sham. Nuclear hardware is just another traded commodity on the international black market. Where is this leading?



PHOTOGRAPH

The Brink of the Unthinkable

BY RON FRASER



“JUST WHY IS THE WORLD IN SUCH turmoil? WHY are we nearing the very END of this world? The world does not understand.

The world’s leaders do not understand. They are bewildered. They know well the world stands poised for the nuclear war that could annihilate all human

life from the Earth. And they don’t know how to stop the nuclear buildup or prevent such an UNTHINKABLE end to all human life.”

That dramatic statement was made fully 20 years ago by Herbert W. Armstrong, founding editor of the widely read *Plain Truth* magazine, in a letter to those who supported his worldwide work (June 15, 1984). It reflects the essence of the message that he preached and published over a rich and fulfilling lifetime of service to the global community from that magazine’s inception in 1934 to his death on January 16, 1986. Mr. Armstrong was mentor to those who now produce this magazine, the *Philadelphia Trumpet*.

Earlier this year, the reality of those ringing words of Mr. Armstrong came back to haunt us as the lid was lifted on the worldwide network of massive graft and corruption, surrounding under-the-counter trade in nuclear technology.

In February, a Pakistani nuclear weapons scientist, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, revealed his involvement in wholesaling nuclear weapons materials and technology to other nations, including at least two of those identified post-9/11 by President George W. Bush as comprising part of a

terrorist-sponsoring “axis of evil.” What was once “secret” is now public knowledge. Yet what is now public has long been known to successive U.S. administrations. Why have they failed to bring it to light—and why did Pakistan finally go public on the issue? Amazingly, these are questions that have received scant coverage in the world press and media. Yet they are questions that will not go away, it seems, till we are shaken out of our collective, ostrich-like tendency to bury our heads in the sand of self-delusion. Indications are that most will continue their denial of reality until the horrific results of nuclear proliferation literally blow up in our faces!

Lifting the Lid How did the story of the global black market in nuclear technology come to light? The history is an interesting one (see p. 14). It is one that ought to prove, once and for all, something the U.S. had long suspected: Khan’s was but a leading role in a worldwide network of nuclear weapons smuggling.

What the world feared has now proven to be a reality. The nuclear cat is well and truly out of the bag, and a very nasty animal it is indeed. It has clawed its way deep into the flesh of rogue nations, the unpredictable actions of which more responsible world powers have every reason to fear. Indications are that global terrorism is an integral part of the proliferation equation. Non-proliferation has proven to be a sham.

The great shame is that leading Western democracies, including Britain and America, have been complicit in all this (see story, p. 17).

Pakistan is a key link in the whole underground system that has spread nuclear technology around the globe. It has been revealed that Pakistan evolved over time to become not only a possessor of nuclear weapons, but a net distributor of that technology to some of the most extreme anti-Western regimes. This is a classic tale of international intrigue and subterfuge.

In early 1998, some publicity was given to the possibility that China was supplying Pakistan with the know-how for constructing a short-range M-11 missile. At that time, the name given as the supervisor of this project was Abdul Qadeer Khan. In October 1999, Pakistan’s chief of the army staff and chairman of the joint-chiefs-of-staff committee, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, led a successful coup against then-Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A little over a year later,

Timeline of Nuclear Deception

- June 1953** U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower invites Pakistan under then-Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Bogra to join the Atoms for Peace program.
- 1955** U.S. provides \$350,000 grant to Pakistan to subsidize its first nuclear reactor.
- 1962** U.S. supplies Pakistan with a 5-megawatt light-water research reactor.
- 1971** Canadian General Electric Co. completes construction of 137-megawatt power reactor for the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant.
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. completes plans for Pakistan plutonium separation process.
French/Belgium consortium designs pilot reprocessing plant for Pakistan.
- Jan. 1972** Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto declares Pakistan's intention to develop a nuclear bomb to senior military officials in a secret meeting.
- Jan. 1975** U.S. State Department produces paper on Pakistan's nuclear proliferation.
- 1976** Netherlands sells centrifuge components to Pakistan. Swiss and German firms join the line of supply to Pakistan of various components and sub-systems for its nuclear program.
- 1977** Emerson Electric of Britain sells centrifuge components to Pakistan.
- June 1983** State Department briefs U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Pakistani nuclear weapons progress.
- 1980-89** Former West Germany becomes a major supplier of nuclear components to Pakistan via a web of front companies.
- 1990** U.S. intelligence agencies produce evidence of the U.S. government permitting U.S. companies to supply Pakistan with nuclear-related components.
- 1994** Pakistan involved in exchange of nuclear technology with North Korea.
- 1999** Pakistani General Pervez Musharraf seizes power in a military coup.
- 2000** Pakistan's National Command Authority consolidates its nuclear weapons management under the control of General Musharraf.
- April 2003** U.S. imposes commercial restraints on Kahn Research Laboratories (KRL) in Pakistan, declaring that KRL arranged the transfer of nuclear-capable missiles from North Korea to Pakistan.
- Aug. 2003** L.A. Times claims that Abdul Qadeer Khan, head of KRL, directly aided Iran in its nuclear program. Pakistan's foreign ministry issues powerful denial.
- Oct. 2003** U.S. secret agents seize a shipment of nuclear weapons from Pakistan in transit to Libya.
- Nov. 2003** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) commences investigations into connections between Iran and Pakistan.
- Dec. 2003** U.S. administration begins exerting pressure on Middle Eastern countries involved in nuclear proliferation. Libya capitulates. Iran covertly cooperates.
- Jan. 2004** U.S. pressure mounts on Musharraf. Using knowledge of Abdul Khan's nuclear trading as leverage, the U.S. seeks cooperation in the hunt for al-Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden, suspected to be holed up in Pakistani border country.
Musharraf fires Abdul Khan, who thus becomes the fall guy for Pakistan's nuclear proliferation and goes public to confess his nuclear sins. He names Iran, Libya and North Korea as recipients of his nuclear largesse.
- Feb. 2004** February 5, Musharraf officially pardons Khan—the same day IAEA chief Mohammad el-Baradei declares that Khan is but the tip of the iceberg in a spreading nuclear proliferation scandal. Malaysia and China are cited as being of particular concern, and also the Russian black market.

in November 2000, Pakistan's National Command Authority decided to consolidate management of its entire nuclear weapons program under General Musharraf's personal command.

In April 2003, acting on well-established proof of Pakistan's involvement in nuclear exchanges with North Korea, the U.S. started to confront Musharraf on the issue. By February this year, the Bush administration exerted sufficient pressure on Musharraf's regime to squeeze a public confession out of Pakistan's nuclear technology hero, Dr. Khan, to his part in the nuclear technology black market. Then the whole sorry tale emerged.

Yet no sooner had Khan confessed his sins publicly than Musharraf let him completely off the hook by granting him a pardon within days! And Khan's legacy? A yet-to-be-determined spread of nuclear know-how involving links in a chain that join Pakistan with China, Russia, North Korea, Malaysia, Libya and Iran, to name just a few of the known black-market traders that historically show anything but affection for the English-speaking peoples of the world.

"The extent of the ring remains unknown Inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and intelligence and law enforcement authorities on three continents are trying to reconstruct what they consider the worst nuclear proliferation network in history, and to dismantle it" (*Miami Herald*, March 7). CIA Director George Tenet said this "was shaving years" off the time some countries needed to develop nuclear weapons (United Press International, March 3).

Despite U.S. sanctions, Pakistan managed to not only develop its own nuclear capability, but wholesale its expertise around the world. Douglas Frantz and Josh Meyer, reporting from Vienna, exposed how the nuclear smuggling operation was so brazen that the government weapons laboratory Khan directed produced its own glossy sales brochure with a complete list of nuclear production equipment for sale—along with Khan's "consultancy and advisory services" (*Miami Herald*, op. cit.).

One New Delhi newspaper declared that, far from a glib pardon from an obviously complicit Pakistani president, Khan should face the most extreme punishment, "if there is punishment for a crime that qualifies to be categorized as a crime against humanity" (*Pioneer*, India, February 4).

Sources: Stratfor; Suddeutsche Zeitung; South China Morning Post; News (Pakistan); Pioneer (New Delhi); New Yorker

But is it really Khan who should be canned for this atrocious crime? Or is it rather the *government* of that country, Pakistan, which “over a period of years, sold nuclear secrets to other countries as a matter of state policy”? (Stratfor, February 6).

Getting Perspective The sheer lack of balanced perspective in international relations may be viewed by comparing the imbroglio over one U.S. military unit’s involvement in alleged crimes against Iraqi prisoners with the massive potential threat to humanity unleashed by Pakistan’s policy of proliferation.

But the real concern here is not just that rogue nations possess nuclear technology. It is the collective fear around the world that, via the Pakistan connection or other links in the underground chain, *terrorist organizations* already may have received the necessary hardware to manufacture portable nuclear weapons.

In an exposé of Pakistan’s culpability within this nuclear proliferation network, investigative reporter Seymour M. Hersh quotes Robert Gallucci, former United Nations weapons inspector and now dean of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, regarding this concern. “Bad as it is with Iran, North Korea and Libya having nuclear weapons material, the worst part is that they could transfer it to a non-state group” (*New Yorker*, March 8).

This is no blind fear. This is real. *Very real!*

Mohammad El-Baradei, the director-general of the IAEA, talked about the nightmare of this nuclear proliferation enabling the operation of an enrichment facility in a place like northern Afghanistan. “Who knows?” he said. “It’s not hard for a non-state to hide, especially if there is a state in collusion with it” (*ibid.*).

As Pakistani journalist Imtiaz Alam stated, “A nuclear program designed for self-defense and limited deterrence partially fell into the hands of most unscrupulous wheeler-dealers who ... became instrumental in the thriving underworld of nuclear proliferation” (*News*, February 9).

Yet since this story broke earlier this year, the world press have largely continued to ignore its hugely negative potential. The left-wing, utopian media-mongers are more intent on destroying a U.S. administration that is working to contain the prospect of nuclear terrorism than on hounding, revealing and



ALL BARK...

In September 2003, Mohammad El-Baradei calls on Iran to be more open with the IAEA.

chasing to ground those who, to this day, continue to profit from this evil trade.

Toothless Tiger And what of the institution set up to achieve this end, the IAEA?

Hans J. Morgenthau wrote, “The neglect with which the public treats international functional agencies is but the exaggerated reflection of the minor role these agencies play for the solution of important international issues” (*Politics Among Nations*).

How utterly ineffectual are the various institutions that this world has created to maintain peace and an orderly system of international relations.

Such an organization is the IAEA, whose stated purpose is to monitor nuclear proliferation. In effect, it is a moribund, toothless tiger. Witness its inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities and the outcome.

The U.S. State Department had long harbored suspicions about Iran’s nuclear program. In fact, since the 1980s intelligence experts had been aware that Iran, in the face of lying denials by its religious leaders, was involved in developing nuclear facilities with an offensive capability.

Almost two years ago, a former Iranian opposition group went public, an-

nouncing in Washington that Iran was in fact involved in the secret construction of nuclear weapons facilities in desert locales south of Tehran. Dragging its feet, the IAEA mounted inspections *seven months after* this announcement. It maintained that it found nothing of consequence. Yet in follow-up inspections, IAEA representatives “discovered” mitigating evidence of Iran’s offensive nuclear weapons development involving collusion between Iran and Pakistan. The lying mullahs fessed up. Iran admitted that its involvement in the nuclear program dated back to 1980.

How utterly ineffectual are the various institutions that this world has created to maintain peace and an orderly system of international relations. As respected British historian and journalist Paul Johnson observes, “The world order is in ruins and needs renewal. The UN is effectively dead because most people have lost faith in it. Its record in running places is an appalling tale of muddle, incompetence and corruption” (*Spectator*, April 19, 2003).

Yes the international institutions have failed. Who else is there to police the world against threats such as the one Pakistan has created? How about China? Japan? Islamic Indonesia? India? What about Russia? Then what of that entity that the pope declares to be the very nurturing-ground of Western civilization, the newly resurrected combine of united Europe in the form of the European Union?

Paul Johnson’s unique historical perspective, albeit delightfully politically incorrect, says it all: “The French and their two gaunt and grim co-conspirators, Germany and Russia, hope to use the UN as a cover behind which they can pursue national interests at the expense of the battered, bewildered Iraqi people. They are the vultures, the jackals and looters who move in after the soldiers have done their job” (*ibid.*). Germany has clearly stated its intentions to lead the European Union in wresting control of British nuclear power from sovereign British control and handing it over to the EU lackey, Brussels, headquarters of that 25-nation combine. Given Germany’s history, this will lead to an unmitigated disaster!

So where does that leave us? Johnson concludes, quoting Abraham Lincoln, “America is, in a real sense, the ‘last, best hope’ for mankind” (*ibid.*).

Last, Best Hope? The United States, presently using its preeminence and power to wage a global war on terrorism, truly

is the closest thing to a policeman the world presently has. Yet, as we have seen, even it has compromised its position in dealing with a threat such as Pakistan.

Moreover, this “last, best hope for mankind” is in trouble. When it finally gets a leader who will endeavor to finish the job that the Russians started in Afghanistan, who will attempt to finish the job that previous U.S. presidencies left uncompleted in Iraq, who works to expose the covert nuclear black market tolerated by previous U.S. administra-

Civil War in America, responded, “... I know the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord’s side.”

The U.S. currently has a president who is not afraid to tell the world that he prays to God for guidance, and the world lampoons him as a bumbling cowboy out of touch with reality! That’s how the world treats its “last, best hope”!

Given current trends—the gathering storm of hatred for President Bush, for

world experts also reaching that conclusion, Mr. Armstrong said in a sermon, “A former Harvard professor who gave this report [on nuclear destruction] to the *Plain Truth* is now president of the Physicians for Social Responsibility. And this is the quote: ‘SURVIVAL IS THE ONLY ISSUE THAT MATTERS NOW. The other issues pale into total insignificance if we don’t do anything about it’—that is, the nuclear war threat—‘within 10 to 20 years we’ll all be killed anyhow’” (“The Unthinkable Will Happen!”). Those 20 years have elapsed! During that time, as the account of Pakistan’s involvement in proliferating this potential of nuclear terror indicates, far from the situation improving, it has become much worse!

In the same sermon, given in 1982, Mr. Armstrong continued, “I guess it’s still the same old thing—there is both good news and bad news. And there’s some wonderfully good news clear beyond human comprehension ... coming, but there’s some bad news still completely beyond comprehension that is coming first. And God has told us to prepare for it. And has shown us how He is going to protect us. But the UNTHINKABLE IS COMING!”

Just what is that UNTHINKABLE? Herbert Armstrong made it very plain: “I want to show you what’s prophesied, and it’s not going to be one city only, but many cities. And supposing that bombs like I just read, the description like I just read, would hit New York, also hit Boston, and hit Washington in the East, and hit Chicago, and hit Houston, Texas, and Kansas City, and Denver, and Los Angeles, and San Francisco. And possibly in the Pacific Northwest, we’ll just say Portland because that would reach Seattle too. What would be left of the United States of America? ... The nation would be GONE!”

But this aged sage, this loyal man of God, also saw hope, REAL HOPE, beyond the unthinkable. He pointed to the very real and future manifestation of that only hope left to mankind to solve its now uncontrollable problems—the *intervention of a metaphysical source*: the very real, soon-coming return of the Savior of this world, the living Jesus Christ, to squelch all rebellion, to silence every dissenter, and establish world peace, under divine authority, forever! Request now, without delay, your free copy of the book Mr. Armstrong authored on this subject, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, and begin now to focus on, reach for and take hold of that one great hope for mankind! ■

If 6,000 years of documented history is any measure of man’s attempts to bring peace to Earth, ending as it is with the very question of human survival on this planet hanging over our heads, then surely we are forced to conclude, in Paul Johnson’s words, that mankind “needs help from a metaphysical source.”

tions, half the nation, egged on by a surly, self-hating liberal element that has the media by the throat, cries foul! What’s more, many, whose national existence is owed to America’s determination in two world wars to vanquish tyranny, withdraw active support in the front line of the most recent war against a terrorizing tyrant in Iraq.

Can you see any real *hope* in this lack of collective international support of the U.S. in its unpopular rule as peacekeeper? Can you see any hope of a lasting, positive, peaceful outcome?

Paul Johnson throws the banal, foolish ignorance of the anti-American liberal-socialist politico-media clique right back in their face by his declaration that “People should not curse or envy; they should pray for America. For the foreseeable future, the lot of the civilized world, the world we wish to preserve for law and decency, for sensible progress and fairness, is irrevocably cast with America. There is no one else to lead” (ibid.).

Yes—on the *human level*, there *is* no one else to lead!

“A sole superpower which is also a working democracy—indeed a passionate democracy—is a much safer and more responsible step toward world order than a corrupt pandemonium like the UN or a rapacious and blind bureaucracy like the EU” (ibid.).

Well said! But as the Messiah once stated, a house divided against itself will fall. And America is a *divided* nation.

Abraham Lincoln, when asked whose side God was supporting during the

the institution of the presidency within the U.S. itself, and for the Anglo-American peoples themselves—a realist would have to conclude that the failure of the nations to accept leadership of the only global power prepared to show any semblance of leadership leaves the world with absolutely no hope of survival!

Johnson hits the nail on the head. There is but ONE SINGULAR HOPE for this world. But it is not America!

“We all want a better world. Yet man is a radically flawed creature and history shows that he cannot create it alone. *He needs help from a metaphysical source.* The ... story of God sending His only Son to redeem humanity is especially relevant today” (ibid.; emphasis added).

Which brings us back to Herbert Armstrong’s very real, very timely warning.

Human Survival The world press concentrates on Iraq and on demonizing the leader of the only nation to show any leadership in that sad situation while it turns its back on the biggest story of all—the *question of human survival!*

If 6,000 years of documented history is any measure of man’s attempts to bring peace to Earth, ending as it is with the very question of human survival on this planet hanging over our heads, then surely we are forced to conclude, in Johnson’s words, that mankind “needs help from a metaphysical source.”

Mr. Armstrong constantly warned that humanity would reach this same conclusion only under the most dire of threats to its own survival. Referring to

Looking the Other Way

Pakistan supplied nuclear know-how to the world's most dangerous states and the U.S. does nothing. Why?

BY DONNA GRIEVES

“THE GREATEST THREAT before humanity today is the possibility of secret and sudden attack with chemical or biological or radiological or nuclear weapons. ... We're determined to confront those threats at the source. We will stop these weapons from being acquired or built. We'll block them from being transferred. We'll prevent them from ever being used.” Strong statements. Those were the words of the United States president in an address at the National Defense University in Washington on February 11 this year.

But even as these intentions are declared, do the actions—or rather, the *inaction*—of the U.S. tell a different story?

It was in February that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the “father” of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, made public his involvement in selling nuclear weapons hardware and technology to—in addition to other countries—at least two of the nations President Bush labeled part of an “axis of evil.” The response of the Pakistani leadership to this declaration may have been predictable. But what was revealing was the U.S. response.

For some time, among certain circles, there has been dismay at America's seeming nonchalance toward Iran's nuclear weapons program, especially when compared to the vigor with which weapons of mass destruction have been pursued by the U.S. in Iraq. It now appears that America's attitude toward Pakistan—exposed as a supplier of nuclear hardware and technology to rogue and terrorist-sponsoring nations—is strikingly similar to that shown toward Iran: an attitude of looking the other way.

The Nuclear Web Revealed Late last year, evidence came to light that Pakistan had supplied both Iran and Libya with nuclear weapons hardware and technology. The resulting pressure put on Pakistan led to Khan's “confession.” On February 4, Dr. Khan appeared on a state-run television network to claim sole responsibility for operating an international black market in nuclear material. He claimed he acted by himself, with no authorization from Pakistan's Gen. Pervez Musharraf or military involvement.

There is little dispute among nuclear experts and intelligence sources that Khan could not have conducted his trade in this nuclear technology without government and military involvement. Husain Haqqani, a special assistant to three prime ministers before Musharraf came to power, told the *New Yorker*, “This is not a few scientists pocketing money and getting rich. It's a state policy” (March 8).



COMPLICIT

Musharraf (left) swiftly pardoned Khan after the nuclear scientist's sham public confession.

General Musharraf, obviously complicit, not only accepted the confession but pardoned Khan, who is a national hero for developing the nation's nuclear program. In doing so, a trial was averted—a trial that could have led to “embarrassing revelations about top government and military officials” (Associated Press, February 4).

Seymour M. Hersh, an influential political commentator and investigative

reporter, asserted that this was a “make-believe performance.” He claimed that in interviews in Islamabad, “politicians, diplomats and nuclear experts dismissed the Khan confession and the Musharraf pardon with expressions of scorn and disbelief” (*New Yorker*, op. cit.). “It is state propaganda,” said Samina Ahmed, the director of the Islamabad office of the International Crisis Group, a non-governmental organization that studies conflict resolution. “The deal is that Khan doesn't tell what he knows” (ibid.).

The U.S. government, however, at least in public, not only accepted Musharraf's pardon no questions asked, but actually praised him for it. “We value the commitments Mr. Musharraf has made to prevent the expertise in Pakistan from reaching other places,” said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher the following day (*Washington Post*, February 6). Further, the U.S. made no protest when Musharraf followed up



with a refusal to let foreign inspectors access Pakistan's nuclear sites, a refusal to release any relevant documentation and a refusal to let foreign intelligence services question Dr. Khan. Musharraf gave assurances that the matter would be investigated internally.

And the Pakistani government has nothing to hide?

Why did the U.S. turn a blind eye, See **PAKISTAN** page 25 ▶



NADAV NEUHAUS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

POROUS BORDER An Israeli soldier sees a large smuggling tunnel in a demolished Palestinian home in Gaza; underground it runs 300 meters toward the Egyptian border. More than 90 such tunnels have been destroyed since the intifada began September 2000.

ISRAEL Unsettling Gaza

GAZA. The southwest corner of Israel—despite its bright golden beaches, its warm climate and its green orchards, parks and gardens—is one of the most tense places on Earth.

For a strip of land only 7 miles wide and 25 miles long, it has given Israel no end of trouble. For over a decade, weapons have been smuggled to Palestinians across the Egyptian border through a complex network of tunnels. The Gaza Strip is a base of operations for some of the worst Arab-Israeli savagery.

The most recent violence stems from the nerve struck by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan—involving a complete evacuation of Israelis from Gaza by 2005. Proposed in February, the plan would evacuate 7,500 Israelis in 21 Gaza settlements and four more settlements in the West Bank.

Sharon pushed the disengagement plan as a step toward peace for Israel, saying that, with the completion of the security

fence, it would give Israel defensible borders and reduce friction with the Palestinians.

Though Sharon's own party voted against any withdrawal in a referendum on May 2, over 60 percent of Israelis support the disengagement. Sharon is likely to come up with an alternative plan before long.

Sharon's plan called for a unilateral move that ignored negotiations and a recently proposed "road map" for peace—however stalled. Palestinians were furious, feeling they would end up

with less in the long run if Israel, backed by the U.S., drew the borders by itself rather than negotiating over the fate of



REUTERS

SHARON

the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and other issues.

Thus, rather than drawing out jubilant Gazan crowds, the withdrawal plan caused an outbreak of despicably inhuman violence. On the day of the referendum, two Palestinian terrorists forced a car containing a pregnant Israeli woman and her four daughters off the road, then shot them at close range.

A few days later, two more Palestinian gunmen fired on the memorial service of the murdered family. Hours after that, terrorists detonated a bomb beneath an armored personnel carrier, destroying the entire vehicle and strewing the body parts of six Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers all over the site. The carnage continued the next day, with five more Israeli soldiers killed in an attack on another IDF convoy.

Sharon and his political allies have called the pullout the only way to prevent further deaths in Gaza. But consider what happened when Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in 2000 without a peace plan: The Palestinians began the intifada that continues to this day.

Israel's giving up land has never appeased its enemies, because they are not interested in minor concessions: They want the nation of Israel *as a whole* destroyed—pushed off that bright golden sand right into the sea.

The real solution to the Gazan quagmire lies in knowing the CAUSE of these ills. The Jewish nation was born and sustained by godly miracles. But today, Israel refuses to trust God.

As a result, God is breaking its national will (Leviticus 26:19). Israel is being ground down by terrorism. Despite all evidence to the contrary, Israel still clings to the idea that giving up land is key to having peace. This is utterly *false*.

Only when Israel turns to God in repentance will it find lasting solutions to these relentless problems. For more, request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



TRUMPET MAP

U.S. Military Stretched Too Thin?

THE LENGTHY Iraq campaign, along with the dwindling support of international forces, is leading the U.S. to make some major military shifts.

First, on the home front, America is calling for more reservists to serve in Iraq. Lacking a military draft, America has had to rely heavily on its Army Reserves and National Guard. The Pentagon plans to expand the U.S. force in Iraq to 138,000 troops through 2005. "Already, 51 percent of the 350,000-strong Army National Guard has been activated since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



GETTY IMAGES

MOVE Two of the 119,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe stand guard.

The Pentagon projects that over the next three to five years, it will require between 100,000 and 150,000 Guard and Reserve forces to support ongoing military operations" (*Christian Science Monitor*, May 13).

This rise in the call for reservists has influenced a lowering of some of the troops'

Battle Groups Ready by 2007

GERMANY, FRANCE AND Britain recently received a nod of approval from European Union defense ministers for their most recent military proposal—a plan that calls for individual battle groups comprised of 1,500 soldiers, deployable to any location within 15 days, to be fully functional by 2007.

These small military reaction groups are the forerunner to the proposed 60,000 rapid reaction troops deployable in 60 days—a grand idea not yet feasible due to the current political and economic state of the Union.

Soldiers in these groups will be trained for combat in all types of terrain—desert, mountains, jungle, urban, etc.—and will be sent into the “world’s most dangerous and inhospitable places” (EUobserver, April 5). As of now, the battle groups will mainly be sent to Africa to support the United Nations. Berlin, Paris and London

anticipate that these groups will be able to deploy quickly when necessary and be sustainable for 30 days, or 120 days with rotation.

Final plans for the battle groups will be set by the end of June.

This push for military organization is evidence that EU leaders are thinking of the Union as more than a trade or political federation: It is a global power with the military muscle to back up its interests.

For more on Europe’s increasing military strength, please request a free copy of our booklet *The Rising Beast*.



LEADERS France, Germany and Britain (L-R) have pushed for more active EU defense.

morale. People usually join the military reserves for reasons other than any desire to serve in combat. Therefore, the number of those joining the reserves will likely diminish.

Second, while the reserves pour into Iraq, troops stationed in other parts of the world are being reshuffled.

In May, Washington indicated it would move 3,600 soldiers stationed near the North Korean border to the operation in Iraq. South Korea has hosted 37,000 troops since the end of the Korean War 51 years ago.

The U.S. is preparing to cut the number of troops stationed in Europe by up to a third. With 119,000 American troops there, that means about 40,000 troops will

be transferred. Many will probably move to trouble spots in the Middle East.

The reshuffling of troops and the extensive use of reservists is evidence that America’s military is being stretched thin. For decades, the late Herbert Armstrong prophesied of the U.S. military’s decline. More specifically, he noted that a major U.S. pullout of Europe would accelerate the rise of a united Europe that would eventually turn on the U.S., as Bible prophecy indicates.

For more on the prophetic implications of America’s troop realignment, please see our July 2003 article “Shuffling the Deck” under “Issue Archives” at www.theTrumpet.com.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Graffiti mars a Jewish cemetery in France.

EU Soft on Muslim Anti-Semites

LAST YEAR, EU OFFICIALS attempted to conceal a report produced by German academics that indicated Arab gangs were largely responsible for the increase in anti-Jewish violence in Europe. In March this year, another report on anti-Semitism, from the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia, was modified to avoid placing any specific blame on Muslims.

The report summary says the majority of perpetrators were white, young, neo-Nazi Europeans—a flagrant contradiction to the evidence in the report itself: “In France, for example, the study acknowledges that the majority of 193 anti-Semitic attacks in 2002 were ascribed by local authorities to youth from neighborhoods sensitive to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, principally adolescents of North African descent. In only 9 percent of the attacks were neo-Nazi extremists identified as being responsible” (*Insight on the News*, May 10).

Such blatant censorship is just the sort of eerily anti-democratic behavior that makes Euroskeptics cringe. But the question remains of why such action has repeatedly been taken to distort the truth and appease the Muslim population. Investigators who worked on the report said they were under “tremendous pressure” to soften the wording in the summary. “... German academic Vic-

tor Weitzel, who worked on the center’s study, says the EU seems incapable of facing up to the truth on this. He added, “Everything is being tilted to ensure nice soft conclusions” (ibid.).

It has long been suspected that Europe harbors a quiet fear of the Muslims in its midst—witness the revival of the anti-immigration issue at election time in numerous EU countries. Suppressing such information is also intended to calm the Islamic population not only within Europe itself, but also within the countries now brought closer to the EU via its newly expanded borders.

But perhaps there is a deeper reason for this determined cover-up, beyond fear of inciting Muslim anger. The EU is well-known to be sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, regularly at Israel’s expense. World media has also documented the steady rise of neo-Nazism in Europe over recent years, although precisely to what extent the neo-Nazi spirit permeates the conglomerate is unknown. Could it be that the EU lacks a *belief* in equality and democratic ideals *strong enough* to confront anti-Semitism head on?

Though this timidity may pacify relations with Arab neighbors for a while, eventually the lid will be blown off this fragile relationship. Request our free booklet *The King of the South* for more on this pressing issue.



GREG BAKER/AP/GETTY IMAGES

GROWING Premier Wen (right) greets EU's Prodi in Beijing.

EU / CHINA

Silk Ties

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S relationship with China is complex. In spite of an EU arms embargo on China (created after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre) and China's widely known human rights abuses, the Sino-EU relationship is blooming.

Evidence of the improving relations was abundant earlier this year when government officials from the EU and China met on two separate occasions. Bilateral trade between the two surpassed US\$100 billion in 2003, making China the EU's second-largest trading partner after the United States.

Where is this alliance leading?

Speaking during a visit of China's Premier Wen Jiabao to Brussels in May, EU Commission President Romano Prodi said that he "would bet that the EU-China trade relationship will be the single biggest in the world." Reporting on Prodi's statements, EUobserver.com wrote, "Mr. Prodi's comments could signal a shift in *geopolitical focus*—a move to diversify away from the *transatlantic partnership* that has traditionally been seen as Europe's most important trade relationship" (May 6;

emphasis ours throughout).

The EU's move to increase trade with China is more than simply a trade or economics issue. It points to a shift in Europe's "*geopolitical focus*." The European combine is starting to look less westward and more toward the Far East.

Currently, negotiations are underway to free China from the arms embargo the EU placed on it in 1989. Analysts believe that if China agrees to implement the United Nation's Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Europe will happily release China from the embargo. If this occurs, the European and Chinese militaries will be free to swap military technology and hardware.

On top of improving military, trade and economic ties, Beijing has also made it clear that it wants to be involved with the EU's space program. "China's keen interest in the EU's Galileo radio satellite project is MAINLY driven by the prospect of acquiring an *alternative* to the American-operated Global Positioning System" (*Asia Times*, May 1).

The *Asia Times* article went on to say, "[T]he EU and U.S. could become RIVALRY over the Chinese arms market." There is no mistaking Europe's and China's motives here: They are attempting to curb American global influence.

Although it will take time for this to happen completely (e.g., the EU would need to double its trade with China to match its trade with America), the current marginalization of the U.S. by the EU and China is the beginning of a dangerous trend for America. For more on this, see our February 2004 article "Superpower Under Siege" under "Issue Archives" at www.theTrumpet.com.

No Longer Seoul Enemy

FOR TWO COUNTRIES that are still technically enemies, North and South Korea are looking more and more friendly.

In the past, official Seoul Defense Ministry documents described North Korea as South Korea's "main enemy." But not anymore. Now, phrases such as that have been replaced with words like "partner." Schools used to portray Kim Jong-Il, North Korea's dictator, as a horned devil, but now he is depicted as a respected leader. The South Korean government is working hard to prove to its people that Pyongyang is not the threat it once was. In contrast, Washington still considers North Korea part of an "axis of evil."

At inter-Korean talks in May, parties agreed to an unprecedented summit. A meeting, slated for August, will occur with generals from both countries in the demilitarized zone that separates the two Koreas. It will be "the most senior uniformed encounter across the demilitarized zone ... since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce" (Reuters, May 7).

North Korea also accepted \$25 million in aid from the South. (In the past, Pyongyang has refused such aid.) Seoul sees this as an indication of a friendlier north.

Meanwhile, South Korea continues to distance itself from the U.S. as it pursues trade agreements with Vietnam, Japan and China. Kim Hang-gyeong, a former South Korean vice foreign minister, said that based on polls among lawmakers, "in the future, China will receive more importance than the United States," in diplomatic and trade issues (*english.chosun.com*, April 30).

Bible prophecy foretells that Asian nations will unite in a massive military effort in the end time (request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*). Asian countries will continue drawing closer as that time approaches.

Watch for South Korea to maintain its path toward further cooperation with the North at the expense of its alliance with Washington. And watch for the U.S. to welcome this move as its interests get further tangled in the Middle East.

More Nukes?

NORTH KOREA'S nuclear capability may be greater than previously believed. Some U.S. officials believe Pyongyang has produced as many as eight nuclear weapons. They also fear "that a covert highly enriched uranium program could be operational by 2007, and capable of producing another half a dozen bombs" (www.theage.com.au, April 30). Previous estimates were that North Korea possessed only one or two nuclear devices. Officials are most concerned that North Korea might sell nuclear devices to other states if its nuclear arsenal were expanded.



GETTY IMAGES

IN USE Steam rises from a nuke reactor in North Korea.



REUTERS

ALL GREEK Cyprus will remain divided, thanks to 76 percent of Greek Cypriots who voted in the April 24 referendum.

CYPRUS

Turkey's EU Dreams Hindered

A UN PLAN TO REUNIFY Cyprus failed on April 24 when Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly rejected the proposal in a referendum. Despite U.S. and EU support for the plan, almost 76 percent of Greek Cypriots voted no. As a result, Cyprus did not join the EU as a united state on May 1, meaning EU laws and benefits will only apply to the Greek Cypriot-controlled southern side of the island.

This is yet another obstacle to Turkey's dreams for membership in the European Union.

Ankara has been doing everything in its power to strengthen its bid for EU membership. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he hoped Turkey's enthusiastic support for the reunification plan would aid his country's efforts in joining the EU.

Turkey, which does not recognize the Greek Cypriot government, is asking to join the EU when it does not even officially recognize all of its members. Turkey can also expect Cyprus to do everything in its power to block Turkey's membership.

Turkey's bid for the EU is more complicated than just the Cyprus settlement. The EU is built upon the traditions of mainly Catholic Christianity. If Turkey joined, it would be second only to Germany in size and would make almost 20 percent of the EU's population Muslim. This is an obvious concern for the EU.

"Turkey's entry into the Union is certainly not desirable in the short term," French President Jacques Chirac said. "My conviction is that it is in the long term. We're talking about a perspective of 10 to 15 years" (*International Herald Tribune*, April 30).



GETTY IMAGES

ERDOGAN

The EU is expected to decide on whether Turkey can begin official membership negotiations in December. The outcome will not likely surprise anyone. For more on Turkey's significance in coming world events, refer to "Turkey: An Act of Revenge!" under "Editor's Choice" at www.theTrumpet.com.

IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

U.S.'s Chalabi Spying for Iran?

CBSNews.com, May 20
 "IN THE LATEST SETBACK for a man once seen as the possible leader of a free and democratic Iraq, Iraqi police backed by U.S. troops raided the Baghdad home and offices of Iraqi politician Ahmad Chalabi. ... Senior U.S. officials told *60 Minutes* Correspondent Lesley Stahl that they have evidence Chalabi has been passing highly classified U.S. intelligence to Iran. The evidence shows that Chalabi personally gave Iranian intelligence officers information so sensitive that if revealed it could ... 'get Americans killed.' The evidence is said to be 'rock solid.' ... [S]ources told Stahl that one of Chalabi's closest confidantes ... is believed to have been recruited by Iran's intelligence agency ... and is on their payroll."

WMD Found in Iraq?

Middle East Newline, May 19
 "U.S. OFFICIALS SAID a roadside bomb that contained the nerve agent sarin exploded near a U.S. military convoy traveling outside Baghdad on Monday. ... The attack could mark the first nonconventional weapons strike against the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. The Saddam Hussein regime ... had claimed that all weapons of mass destruction were destroyed in the early 1990s."

Death Commission

Middle East Newline, May 18
 "HIZBULLAH HAS instituted a payment system that rewards Palestinian insurgents for each Israeli casualty. ... The result has been Hizbullah payments that have ranged from \$25,000 and \$40,000 per

suicide bombing, [Israeli] officials said. ... They said the insurgents were paid a salary as well as bonuses for each Israeli casualty, regardless of the circumstances."

EUROPE

Militants Call for Jihad

New York Times, April 26
 "THE CALL TO JIHAD IS rising in the streets of Europe ... [I]ntelligence chiefs across Europe say they are struggling to contain the openly seditious speech of Islamic extremists, some of whom, they say, have been inciting young men to suicidal violence since the 1990s."

VATICAN

Europe Needs "Revival"

LifeSite Daily News, May 14
 "IN A POWERFUL SPEECH delivered to a conference on European identity [on May 13], Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger spoke of a severe 'decline' in European culture. The German cardinal also lamented that the European 'charter of fundamental rights' defines marriage in vague terms, and predicted that the recognition of same-sex unions would lead to 'a dissolution of the image of man, with extremely grave consequences.' ... Delivering a grim assessment of Europe's spiritual condition ... Ratzinger said that faithful Christians should 'recognize themselves as a creative minority' in today's Europe. The task before such Christians, he said, is to work for a revival of Europe's true Christian culture, 'so that Europe regains the best of her identity, and puts herself in the service of all mankind.'"

For more on Europe's Catholic revival, see "The Unifying Power" under "Editor's Choice" at www.theTrumpet.com.

ECONOMISTS READILY AGREE THAT on the domestic front, low inflation, low unemployment and high growth are always good for the economy. When it comes to international goals however, whether a country should have a stronger currency or a weaker currency is often open to debate. This is reflected in the changing position of the United States.

The U.S. has long had a “strong dollar” policy, but in recent months it seems to have pursued a policy of *weakening* the dollar. The main topic of discussion in February among the financial representatives of seven major national economies (the group of seven, or G-7) was the declining dollar. Comments made by U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow were perceived to mean that the administration *welcomed* the decline, especially against the euro.

Then in April, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney was in China (not a G-7 member) pressuring the Chinese leadership to float its currency, the yuan, which would increase its value against the dollar (most economists agree that the yuan is *undervalued* relative to the dollar).

So why is the U.S. government trying to weaken the dollar? And is that a short-sighted policy?

“[T]he Bush administration has made a calculated economic and political choice. By condoning and even encouraging a cheap dollar, the administration is providing a big push to American exporters by making their products less expensive in foreign markets. That should encourage more hiring and lower unemployment leading up to the election” (*New York Times*, February 9).

Advantages and Disadvantages

The main advantage of a weaker dollar is that it makes foreign currencies more expensive, thereby making imports into the U.S. more expensive and exports from the U.S. cheaper. By encouraging exports and discouraging imports, the administration not only hopes to stimulate manufacturing jobs but also to shrink the trade deficit.

But there is a price to pay for a weaker dollar.

Higher import prices mean that American consumers will pay more for

Is the Dollar TOO WEAK?

A cheap dollar can bring short-term advantages. But the greater implications should alarm us all.

BY FRED DATTOLO



a lot of their electronics, much of their clothing, many of their cars and much of their oil. As import prices rise, domestic producers will likely increase their prices as well, leading to *inflation*.

Furthermore, America depends significantly on foreign investment to finance its budget deficits, and an unstable dollar becomes a riskier investment. Higher interest rates may be required to attract that needed capital. If that happens, the interest payments will add billions of dollars to the budget deficit. When higher interest rates are paid on investments, it can push other interest rates up too.

Consequently, not only do consumers face the prospect of higher prices (on imports, at a minimum), but those who hold variable-rate debt could be burdened with higher interest payments as well.

The U.S. government is willing to take all these risks by promoting a weaker dollar in order to lower the trade deficit and reduce unemployment. Why? To discern properly, we first need to understand what *causes* the value of the dollar to fluctuate.

Exchange Rate People exchange currencies to buy goods, services or assets in other countries. The exchange rate is the rate at which one country's currency can be traded for another country's currency.

It tells you what the price of a foreign currency is. Exchange rates are determined by *supply and demand*.

Say, for example, a European wants to buy an IBM computer made in the U.S. He has euros, but IBM wants dollars. In order to buy the computer, he must exchange euros for dollars. In this case, the demand for dollars comes from a European who is willing to give up euros in order to buy an American product.

To facilitate these kinds of transactions, the buying and selling of currencies takes place in the forex (foreign exchange) market.

Commercial banks and other financial institutions, corporations or even individuals may buy and sell money—using one currency to purchase another. In essence, the forex market is governed by the law of supply and demand. *The price set for each country's currency is determined by the desire*

of those trading to acquire more of it or to hold less of it.

As we saw with the example of the European wanting to buy an American computer, this supply-and-demand framework for currency ties in *directly* to the supply and demand of a country's goods, services and assets. It boils down to this: Barring government intervention, if country A *sells* more to country B than it purchases from country B, country A's currency is in demand *more* than country B's (relative to each other). This will tend to push *up* the value of country A's currency relative to country B.

If country A *purchases* more from country B than it sells to country B, country A's currency is in demand *less* than country B's. This will tend to push *down* the value of country A's currency relative to country B.

When a country allows market forces to determine the value of its currency, it is said to "float" the currency.

Governments, however, sometimes intervene in the forex market in order to maintain a *desired* exchange rate. For example, for about a decade now China has *fixed* its exchange rate by "pegging" its yuan to the U.S. dollar. As the value of the dollar fluctuates, so does the yuan. How is this done and why?

China had a trade surplus with the U.S. of \$124 billion last year. The exchange rate is about 8 yuan to the dollar. Barring asset sales, China's trade surplus of goods and services shows that the yuan is more in demand than the dollar—more Americans are buying Chinese goods and services than Chinese are buying American goods and services. In essence, at the price of 8 yuan to the dollar, more people want to buy than sell yuan. This pushes the price of the yuan up, because there is a greater demand for yuan than people are willing to supply (or sell).

In order to compensate for this upward pressure on the yuan and to *prevent* it from rising in value against the dollar—to *keep it* at 8 yuan to the dollar—the Chinese central bank simply sells yuan in the forex market. It sells enough to satisfy the excess demand to the extent needed to bring the price back down to 8 yuan to the dollar.

The main reason China pegs its currency to the dollar is to keep the price of its exports relatively stable and cheap for the American consumer. The Chinese economy relies heavily on its exports.

As we examine more closely the question of whether the dollar is too weak,

keep in mind that supply and demand *causes* the exchange rate to fluctuate.

The Impact of the Trade Deficit While there are several factors that have caused the dollar to fall, "The biggest single factor ... has been the soaring deficit in U.S. trade. The United States imports [demands] far more than it exports [supplies] in goods and services. U.S. consumers have a strong appetite for Japanese automobiles, Chinese clothing, German machinery and Finnish mobile phones. Oil imports, by far the largest item, grow steadily. U.S. companies are not able to export products and services of the same value" (Global Policy Forum, August 2003).

Between 1990 and 2000, U.S. exports doubled, but they've been relatively flat since then. America exported a little less last year than in 2000. Meanwhile, imports continue to climb to the extent that America's trade deficit (the difference between imports and exports) was a whopping \$489 billion in 2003—an all-time record.

Basically, the trade deficit means that as a country, the U.S. consumes (or demands) more than it produces (or supplies). This "excess consumption" has to be financed! The trade deficit is paid for by selling U.S. assets—physical assets such as factories, land and buildings, or financial assets such as U.S. dollars, stocks and bonds. In other words, for every \$1 of *deficit* goods and services consumed, the U.S. must sell \$1 of its assets.

"Foreign central banks, led by China's and Japan's, now hold close to \$1 trillion of Treasury bonds and bills, almost a quarter of publicly held U.S. debt" (*Wall Street Journal*, April 26). And many of Ameri-

owned. According to one estimate, German companies alone now account for more than half the industry. American publishers that are now German-owned include Random House; St. Martin's Press; Doubleday; Crown; and Farrar, Straus & Giroux" (*American Prospect*, March 2004).

"In effect, the United States is selling the family silver. Within the space of a single generation, it is disposing of much of its industrial and commercial base—a base that was built by many earlier generations of Americans" (*ibid.*). In 2002 *alone*, foreign-owned assets in the U.S. increased by \$707 billion while U.S.-owned assets abroad increased by only \$179 billion. This is a negative investment-asset difference of \$528 billion! (Figures for 2003 are not available as of this writing.)

It should be obvious that sooner or later America needs to start producing *more* than it consumes—not only to preserve ownership of remaining assets, but also to stem the flow of dividends and interest payments that the U.S. must remit to foreign owners of U.S. assets.

The trade deficit is a very serious problem, and though it doesn't get as much "press" as the budget deficit, we can begin to see why Washington is concerned and why it is promoting a weaker dollar to try to encourage more exports. But is that a *good* solution?

Barriers to More Exports In theory, a weaker dollar should stimulate exports, reduce the trade deficit and increase jobs. But this assumes that there's enough unused manufacturing capacity to turn things around. "After 30 years of rising merchandise trade deficits, much of

In theory, a weaker dollar should stimulate exports, reduce the trade deficit and increase jobs.

ca's *largest* corporations, such as Amoco, Chrysler and portions of Lucent and IBM, have been gobbled up by foreigners.

Furthermore, "Large parts of Wall Street have also come under foreign control. Names like Scudder Investments, Bankers Trust, First Boston, Alliance Capital, Republic Bank, Kemper Corporation ... may still sound American, but these former pillars of the U.S. financial establishment are now controlled from places like Zurich, Frankfurt, Paris and London. Even the American book-publishing industry is now largely foreign-

America's once formidable manufacturing capacity has been wiped out" (*ibid.*).

Also, many U.S. manufacturing companies have relocated some or all of their operations abroad. They produce around the world and sell to foreign markets as well as to the U.S. from locations *outside* America. "The best estimates are that around 45 percent of *all U.S. imports* are intra-trade within U.S. companies that produce outside the U.S. and sell inside the U.S." (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, October 2003; emphasis mine throughout). That is not likely to change.

Furthermore, countries like Japan and Germany “now increasingly specialize in producing goods that Americans can no longer make (or in some cases never have made), including advanced materials (such as super-strong composites used in planes), key components (such as the more advanced components in cell phones) and sophisticated capital goods (everything from the semiconductor industry’s ‘steppers’ to television broadcasting equipment)” (*American Prospect*, op. cit.).

And some of what the U.S. exports is imported content that is then re-exported as part of something else. “Virtually every American-manufactured product these days is heavily dependent on imported content. Indeed, America’s most advanced manufacturers have led the trend to outsource the most-difficult to make components and materials from former rivals in Japan and Germany. A classic in this regard is Boeing, which is relying on Japanese partners for much of the serious manufacturing in its forthcoming 7E7 jet” (ibid.).

This also occurs when, for example, goods that Asian manufacturers air freight to Los Angeles are then trucked to Mexico. At the border they are recorded as U.S. exports to Mexico.

Finally, while a falling dollar may indeed have *some* impact in lowering export prices, it does not make exports cheaper to countries like China that peg their currency to the dollar; and the effect is mitigated in countries that have unfair trade practices or that might impose trade barriers.

In spite of these impediments, we can still expect the weaker dollar to add impetus to exports overall, but most likely not to the degree needed to overcome the trade deficit. It should be obvious that more far-reaching solutions are needed to fix the *structural* problems that underlie the *cause* of the trade deficit—not only in physical capital shortages but also in human and social capital deficiencies.

Even with the benefits that accrue from cheaper exports in the short run, a weakened U.S. dollar is a dangerous policy to embrace.

The Implications of a Weakened Dollar Remember that two likely side effects of the sliding dollar for the U.S. are higher interest rates and climbing prices, especially on imports—not the least of which is oil. The Middle East oil-producing countries sell oil in dollars, but they import

much of their goods and services from the European Union and must pay for them in euros. As the dollar loses ground against the euro, their purchasing power deteriorates. They can either raise prices (as Americans have already experienced at the gas pumps) or start pricing oil contracts in euros as Iraq did in 1999.

Russia also sells oil in dollars but imports many of its goods from the EU. So



The unstable dollar is putting pressure on central banks from around the world to move away from dollar reserves.

it is losing purchasing power too. According to www.gateway2russia.com, the deputy chairman of the Russian Central Bank has recently suggested abandoning the policy of pegging the Russian ruble to the dollar only, replacing it with both the dollar *and* the euro (March 1).

The unstable dollar is putting pressure on central banks around the world to move away from dollar reserves. In fact, several have *already* reduced their dollar reserves to stop further losses. “A new analysis by Lehman Brothers estimates that in the last half of last year as much as \$133 billion of foreign exchange reserves in non-Japan Asia left the dollar for stronger, higher-yielding currencies such as the euro” (*Observer*, February 22).

What this indicates is that the U.S. dollar—as a result of its weakening—is losing some of its status as a reserve currency. This has *far-reaching* implications. In order to be able to transact business on a global scale in a smooth manner that promotes growth, the world relies on a universally accepted currency—the reserve currency. In the 19th century, the British pound sterling served the purpose. After World War II, the U.S. dollar gradually replaced it.

“A national currency becomes an international reserve currency for other countries when it is established as the currency

of choice in global finance and trade, owing to its overwhelming relative economic and financial power. Countries are eager to hold that currency as a reserve. It is a cherished asset that can be deployed anywhere, in any nation with which it has international economic relations, because it knows that every other country also wants this currency as a reserve for the same reasons it desires the currency” (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, op. cit.).

The U.S. has a big advantage for this reason. It is the only nation that can simply print dollars and easily exchange them for other currencies to buy products without increasing the domestic money supply and risking inflation. It’s like getting an interest-free loan, and it is one reason the U.S. economy has been able to run trade deficits.

The real danger of a weakening dollar is that it cools the demand for dollars as a reserve currency! If the dollar continues to fall over time (which some analysts say it must), and if demand wanes and the supply of foreign capital starts to dry up, we face the prospect of strategic power shifts in global markets that would weaken the power of the U.S.—the same thing that happened to Britain not so long ago.

The Euro Challenge In 2002, 12 nations of the EU adopted the euro as their common currency. It was not just for domestic economic reasons. “[P]lanners hoped that the importance of the euro would lead individuals throughout the world to hold their assets in euros rather than in dollars” (David C. Colander, *Economics*). Recent U.S. aggressiveness, as Europe sees it, and the meteoric rise of the euro against the dollar have rekindled that aspiration. There is renewed speculation about whether the euro can become an alternative reserve currency to the dollar.

Admittedly, there are structural problems that hinder such a development. For example, the practices of the European banking system are cumbersome in handling transactions between countries compared to U.S. banking practices. And there are policy roadblocks such as the stability and growth pact that the European Central Bank interprets very narrowly and that unduly constrains national fiscal policy, especially in the economies of Germany and France.

While there are reasons to doubt the emergence of the euro as a reserve currency, remember that the U.S. dollar also has three enormous vulnerabilities: persistent trade deficits now running at

about a half trillion dollars a year, budget deficits that are perceived to be out of control, and a lack of confidence in Washington's foreign policy decisions (whether justified or not).

Meanwhile, the weaker dollar is indeed hurting European exports to the U.S. and undercutting the growth of the EU economy. This is placing "unexpected and growing pressures on the euro zone governments to advance structural reforms to make their economies more competitive" (Stratfor Global Market Brief, February 16). If the EU advances these reforms faster than the U.S. can put its financial house in order, watch for the euro to increasingly edge out the dollar as a preferred reserve currency. This would especially occur if more terrorist attacks on U.S. soil further undermined confidence in the U.S. dollar as a safe haven.

"Britain's 200 years of global supremacy were based on a *strong currency*, a large trade surplus and growing foreign investments. Trade decline in the late 19th and early 20th century gave a clear sign that Britain's empire was on the wane. Today's trade and payments deficits, and *the falling dollar*, may point in the very same direction for the global order based on U.S. dominance" (Global Policy Forum, op. cit.).

Bible prophecy shows this is a correct analysis. Speaking through Moses to the ancestors of modern Britain and America, God promised, "He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail. All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the Lord your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you" (Deuteronomy 28:44-45; New International Version).

Because the people of America are increasingly profaning God's commandments, God will follow through on His promise. Just as Great Britain and its pound sterling were toppled from economic supremacy, so will the United States and its dollar be toppled. Look for the dollar to decline in value further over the long haul, and keep your eye on the European currency as it rises to prominence along with a united Europe. ■

accepting the pretense that blame for the whole smuggling network rested on the shoulders of one man? Why allow—without protest—the very government and military that watched over the whole operation to investigate it?

A Deal? As both symbolic and real evidence of progress in the war on terror, the U.S. has been involved for some months in efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda operatives hiding in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. In this effort, the U.S. has heavily relied upon Pakistan's cooperation. Though considered an important "ally" by the Bush administration, Musharraf has dragged his feet in fear of the Islamic element within his own country. The U.S. has wanted Musharraf to be a little more helpful.

Just how much does America need Pakistan's cooperation? What will it overlook to maintain that cooperation?

According to U.S. administration sources, "Washington and Islamabad have cut a deal under which the United States will be permitted to send thousands of troops into Pakistan and will be provided with Pakistani intelligence assistance as to the location of bin Laden. In exchange, the United States will not make an issue of the pardon given Pakistan's chief nuclear scientist ..." (Stratfor, March 1).

Though the planned U.S. "spring offensive" did not proceed (no doubt due to the increase in difficulties in Iraq over the past couple months), Stratfor reports that the U.S. intends to pursue this campaign further next year. In the meantime, the U.S. needs to keep Pakistan on side.

Whatever the exact nature of the deal (which is denied by Pakistan), the fact remains that the U.S. *needs* Pakistan's—Musharraf's—cooperation. This explains the U.S. silence on the pardon of Khan—why the U.S. is taking Musharraf's statements at face value.

The U.S. is not insisting on independent investigation of Pakistan's nuclear weapons activities. The U.S. knows that any investigation will reveal the true extent of the Musharraf government's involvement in the clandestine nuclear dealings. Does the U.S. fear that it will

lose an ally in Musharraf if the truth comes to light? After all, how could America be an ally of the nuclear supplier to the "axis of evil"?

But the U.S. did not simply refrain from taking action against Pakistan.

Rather than *imposing* sanctions or some other penalty on a nation for its flagrant disregard of nuclear proliferation within its borders, the U.S. in fact *removed* the current sanctions! Sanctions in place since Musharraf seized power in 1999 were waived by the U.S. in March, leaving the way open for "millions of dollars of indirect U.S. economic aid" (ibid., March 25). In fact, the *Washington Post* reports that President Bush has requested Congress grant Pakistan a five-year, \$3 billion assistance package (May 5).

Not only that, in the days that followed the Khan "confession," the Bush administration made the highly symbolic gesture of rewarding Pakistan with Major Non-NATO Ally status—shared by only 12 other nations—which will open the way for increased Pakistani military acquisitions from the U.S.

Is that really a reward for assistance Pakistan has already given in the war on terrorism, or an incentive to coax Pakistan to more fully cooperate?

Just how much does America need Pakistan's cooperation? To what extent is the U.S. prepared to go—what will it overlook—to maintain that cooperation?

Compromised The facts are out: Pakistan has not only sold nuclear resources to rogue and terrorist-sponsoring nations, but has developed an underground network that is yet to be fully discovered. But the nation that promises to confront and stop nuclear proliferation appears to be *rewarding* Pakistan rather than taking punitive action.

Just as the U.S. has softened its stance on Iran (see "Conquest Through Sabotage" in last month's issue), so it has compromised in its response to Pakistan's role in nuclear proliferation to aid in its hunt for bin Laden.

The fact that Washington must take the "friends" and "allies" it can—even if they contravene the very principles the U.S. is fighting for—demonstrates the compromised nature of America's power on the world scene.

We can see that, despite perhaps the best of intentions, once again America is putting at risk its long-term security for the sake of temporary alliances. ■



To learn more about the geopolitical aspects of this coming economic turnaround, request our free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*

Do you know God—what He is like? God is known by His name. Do you use God's name properly? This article explains how to fully obey the Third Commandment. BY DENNIS LEAP

Use God's Name Truthfully

“**Y**E NEITHER KNOW ME, NOR my Father ...” (John 8:19). Jesus Christ's words cut deep. There was simply no way to sugarcoat the *truth*. The religious elites of His day—the scribes and Pharisees—held a high opinion of their own spirituality. They not only believed they were close to God, they *trusted* that they knew God and *acted* for God. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Their dealings with Christ proved they did not know God, love God or agree with His way of doing things.

Jesus Christ said He came specifically to “reveal” the Father (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22). Until the time of Christ, the Father was unknown to the world. Jesus Christ's teachings were not His own. He brought *the Father's* message to this world. On the temple grounds He stated forcefully, “I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him” (John 8:26). God and Christ yearned to bring the nation of Judah back into a close relationship with them.

Unfortunately, the religious leaders at that time did not like Christ's revelation. They succeeded in turning the people against Him. Very few accepted His teaching or followed His example. As His ministry grew, there was constant tension and open, often heated arguments with Him. Jesus Christ knew where events were leading: “[N]ow ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God ...” (verse 40). The crowds following Christ came to hate Him, His message and the God He stood for. The religious leaders *conspired* to murder Jesus Christ. They attempted to kill Him time and again—and finally succeeded in executing him by Roman crucifixion.

Are we any different than the people of the first century? Do we want to know God? Do we sincerely love God? Do we fully support God's way of doing things?

Polls taken last October show that 92

percent of Americans believe in God. Yet only 37 percent say they attend a place of worship each week. The figures for Britain are far less. A February BBC poll revealed that only 67 percent of Britons believe in God. The BBC also reported, “More than a quarter of Britons thought the world would be more peaceful with nobody believing in God ...” (February 26).

God the Father and Jesus Christ greatly desire to bring all people on this planet very close to them. Yet the truth is, many today don't *want* to know God. When God reveals Himself to them, He seems strange—undesirable! Few follow God's way. Yet, the majority speak often about God—how they love God. Many believe they act as God acts, yet God would never consider doing what people do!

Vital Third Commandment In the last two articles of this series, we showed that the First Commandment forbids making a *god* out of *anything*—putting it in place of the true God. The Second Commandment governs how to worship the true God. God is the great Educator—He demands that we worship Him *in the manner* He chooses. God lovingly shows us what dangers to avoid in worship. Men must never make a *graven image*—any aid, picture or physical object—to worship God. God wants to be worshiped directly “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). A truly converted person does not need a *physical aid* to worship God.

The Third Commandment shows us how to properly use God's great name.

Let's continue our review of the history in Exodus 20. God personally spoke to His people a third time from Mount Sinai. He said, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

Listing the proper use of His name as one of the Ten Commandments shows that God places great weight on this is-

sue. To disrespect God's name carries the penalty of eternal death (Romans 6:23). Why is that? What's in a name?

In the Bible, personal names carry *significant* meaning. Names often indicate the character and nature, or the attributes, of an individual. The Bible states that Adam named his wife *Eve* because she was the “mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20). The Hebrew word for *Eve* is *Chavvah*, meaning *life-giver*. At times, God renamed individuals in the Bible indicating the identification of an office, position of authority or change in character. God changed Abram's name to *Abraham*, which means “a father of many nations,” because that was his God-ordained destiny (Genesis 17:5). When the patriarch Jacob wrestled with God (the Being who became Jesus Christ) all night, God changed his name to *Israel* (Genesis 32:28). The name *Jacob* in the Hebrew means *heel-catcher* or *supplanter*. It carries a negative overtone—implies a devious nature. Jacob did scheme with his mother against his aged, blind father to steal his brother's birthright. He *supplanted*, or *unseated*, Esau from receiving Isaac's blessing. His new name, *Israel*, in the Hebrew means *to rule or prevail as God*. The name change implies that by tests and trials God transformed Jacob's character to that of *godly righteousness*.

Describing the Hebrew tradition of name-giving, *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* states under the word for *name* (*onoma*), “[T]he name is used for everything which the name covers ... [:] one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, commands, excellences, deeds, etc.”

This Hebrew tradition certainly applies to God's name. Why? God is the originator of the tradition! God's name reveals His high rank, authority, interests, deeds and—most important of all—His righteous character. In fact, the Bible shows that God has many names. Why?

God's name reveals His high rank, authority, interests, deeds and—most important of all—His righteous character.

No one name can adequately express God's fullness. Each name carries important meaning. We must hold great honor and respect for all of God's names.

Use of God's Name It will take some deep study and meditation to understand the Third Commandment fully. To help you do this, let's look briefly at the Hebrew meaning behind three words from the commandment: *take*, *vain* and *guiltless*.

The Hebrew word for *take* is *nasa*. *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* shows that the biblical writers use the word in a variety of ways. It means "to take up, to lift up" anything. The root word of *nasa* expresses the idea of raising up or bearing. In reference to Exodus 20:7, *Gesenius* specifically states the word means "to lift up or take up anything with the voice."

The Third Commandment primarily requires that we properly use God's name in our *speaking*, which includes everyday conversation as well as our speaking in public or private worship. But the *spirit* of the commandment requires that God's people—those who *bear* His name—honor His name through right *actions*.

In the matter of Uriah and Bathsheba, David's sin brought great shame to God's name. God corrected him for this. He told David through Nathan the prophet, "Howbeit, because by this deed *thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme*, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die" (2 Samuel 12:14). David was king of the nation that belonged directly to God. Asking, he was required to act in a manner that would bring honor to God. Today, if we claim to be one of God's own, we must act in ways that bring honor to His name.

The Hebrew word for *vain* is *shav*. *Gesenius' Lexicon* gives the meaning, "... evil ... which is committed, wickedness, iniquity ... falsehood [or] a lie ... emptiness, vanity [and] nothingness ..."

God prohibits the use of His name in connection with evil or wickedness. God is righteous character. God is not capa-

ble of doing evil. He demands that His name not be associated with any kind of evil act of human beings. For example, throughout human history, men have waged war in the name of God. Yet God never sponsored such wars.

God requires men always to use His name truthfully. This commandment places great responsibility on all those who teach and preach for God. God prohibits attaching His name to false doctrine or heresy. God corrected ancient Israel and Judah for this exact problem. Through Isaiah, God thundered, "Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called

shows that God considers a person who abuses His name as spiritually unclean. How we use God's name privately and publicly reveals the quality of our spiritual life. An acid test of our spiritual cleanliness is our attitude toward God's name.

God's Names Reveal God God wants all people to know Him. Do you know what God is really like? Do you know what His personal interests are? Do you actually know what God's offices are? God tells us through the pages of the Bible. Open up your Bible and search this matter out.

Moses's first personal contact with

God came after age 40. At that time, he certainly knew of God but didn't have a close relationship with Him. God took the first step and brought Moses into His presence through the miracle of the burning bush. He introduced Himself, "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). Moses actually never saw God here—just the flames. At this supernatural meeting, God commissioned Moses to return to Egypt and bring His people out of slavery. Moses was reluctant to accept God's commission. He looked for ways to get out of the job. Before the conversation ended, Moses wanted to know God's name. He said, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your

fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?" (verse 13). God then identified Himself as "I AM THAT I AM" (verse 14).

Although this verse has stirred up much controversy among scholars, essentially God was explaining the *meaning* of His name. God was giving the definition for the name LORD found in the King James Version. Other Bible versions translate LORD as *Jehovah* or YHVH. The name comes from the Hebrew word *hayah*, which corresponds with the English verb *to be*. God told Moses that He is the *Eternal, Ever Living* or *Self-Existent One*. This is God's name *forever* (verse



Moses witnessed a tiny portion of God's overwhelming greatness and power in the burning bush on Mount Horeb.

by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness" (Isaiah 48:1). To associate God's name with a lie or falsehood is outstandingly bad. Realize that Isaiah's prophecies are dual. They apply to our time as well (Isaiah 30:8). These verses show that God believes that we are equally as guilty as our ancestors.

Of course, this commandment also prohibits using God's name casually or for a *useless* purpose.

Finally, the Hebrew word for *guiltless* is *naqah*. *Gesenius' Lexicon* gives the meaning, "to be (or make) clean." This word

God requires men always to use His name truthfully. This commandment places great responsibility on all those who teach and preach for God.

15). Only the great Creator of the angels, universe and man can claim such a name. It reveals His very person, His character, His power, His authority, His reputation. This name deserves our utmost awe and respect. Essentially, God was saying that “I Am” would be actively involved in what He was requiring Moses to do in Egypt. There was no need for worry or concern on Moses’s part. The name implies that *I Am* is a covenant-making God. This God was establishing a relationship with Moses. There was to be a team effort, and *I Am* was to play the major part.

All mankind must come to the full understanding that God has always existed and will forever exist to carry out His purposes and plans. He has the power to keep His covenant and promises to His people. He will always exist to bless them. What an incredible name!

It is interesting to note that the Jews of Christ’s day knew that this name should only be associated with God. Jesus Christ applied this same name to Himself, and the people attempted to stone Him for doing so (John 8:58-59).

When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt, God revealed another name to Moses to encourage him. God told Moses, “I am the Lord: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of *God Almighty*, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them” (Exodus 6:2-3). The name *God Almighty* comes from the Hebrew words *El Shaddai*, meaning *strength, mighty and power*. What a fantastic confidence-booster for Moses at that most difficult time when he must have felt totally *powerless!* God showed Moses that he could rely on His *almighty* power—for God is the source of all power in heaven and in the universe.

The other names of God listed in the Bible are Most High God (*El Elyown*), Lord (without all-capital letters in the King James Version is the word *Adonai*), Everlasting God (*El Owlam*), Lord of Hosts (*Jehovah Sabaoth*), God our Healer (*YHVH-Rapha*), and the most important of all, God (*Elohim*). Any good Bible lexicon will give the meanings of these names. Throughout the Bible, God’s name is connected with His actions, His mercy, His faithfulness, His wisdom and His love. In the first several verses of Psalm 91, four of God’s names are used: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the *most High* shall abide under the shadow of the *Almighty*. I will say of

the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my *God*; in him will I trust” (verses 1-2). This was probably authored by King David, who knew God well. God calls him “a man after mine own heart” (Acts 13:22). David put his whole heart into getting to know God. He learned about God by studying, relying on and honoring the meaning behind God’s

The name *Elohim* reveals God’s most intense desire—to have a family of persons with His very name, nature and righteous character.

various names. We must imitate David’s sterling example.

God Is a Family “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). In this first verse of the Bible, God reveals something utterly fantastic about His true nature. The Hebrew word for God here is *Elohim*. This is the very first name for God used in the Bible. The English word *God* in no way communicates the significant meaning of this name. Herbert Armstrong explained, “Now once again to Genesis 1:1 This originally was written by Moses as God inspired him. Moses wrote in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated ‘God’ is *Elohim*—a noun or name, plural in form, but normally singular in grammatical usage. It is the same sort of word as *family, church, group*—one family consisting of two or more members—one church composed of many members—one group of several persons.

“It is referring to precisely the same Persons, making up or composing the one God, as we found in John 1:1—the Word and God—and each of those two Persons is GOD.

“IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS NOW A FAMILY of Persons, composed so far of only the two—God the Father and Christ the Son. But IF the Holy Spirit of God dwells in someone, and he is being led by God’s Spirit, then (Romans 8:14) he is a begotten son of God. But, at the time of Christ’s return to Earth in supreme power and glory to set up the

KINGDOM OF GOD, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD abolished by Lucifer, then all being filled and led by God’s Spirit shall become BORN sons of God. The GOD FAMILY will then RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD RESTORED!” (*Mystery of the Ages*). This is incredible knowledge that few know today. Some who do know it, reject it. But it is the very truth of God. You may request a free copy of the incredible book *Mystery of the Ages*—it will unlock the mysteries of God for you that men have desired to know for centuries.

The name *Elohim* reveals God’s most intense desire—to have a Family of persons with His very name, nature and righteous character (2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:9). Mankind’s incredible human potential is to be born into the very Family of God. This knowledge alone should drive us to know God better.

Abusing God’s Name People may not realize it, but the abuse of God’s name is commonplace in our modern world. Look at our entertainment industry. Each night on television and in movies, God’s name is used in a flippant manner continuously. It seems as if the writers of such entertainment look for every possible way to make the use of God’s name into a punchline. Decades ago, this current custom was known for exactly what it is—*profanity!* Use of profanity on television and in movies was not permitted. Look at how far we’ve degenerated in our language and conversation. Even little children are accustomed to using God’s name as an expletive.

This is considered a very serious sin to God. God warned Israel, “I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to *profane my holy name*” (Leviticus 20:3). This verse speaks of the first three commandments directly. God will not stand for our frivolous use of His name much longer. In fact, as stated in Leviticus, God is going to deal personally with our disobedience of the Third Commandment. Here is real proof that the peoples of America and Britain will experience the brunt of the Great Tribulation for our violation of this and other commandments.

It is also a common custom to use God’s name in connection with *damning* someone. This is not using God’s name truthfully. Why? It is not God’s intention to *damn* any human being. To

believe that it is in God's nature or character to damn men is heresy and a lie! God desires to save all men. Jesus Christ told His disciples, "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them" (Luke 9:56). To call on God to damn someone is to ask God to do something He never desires to do. It is true that some men will eventually suffer the punishment of the lake of fire. However, the fault will be with the lack of repentance in the human beings caught in that fate—not with God's intention.

It is a violation of the Third Commandment to make light of the name of God in jokes or stories. This robs God of the deep veneration and respect that His high office as Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of the universe deserves.

Some try to avoid the misuse of God's name by substituting another seemingly more acceptable word, called a *euphemism*, in place of God's name. Using such words is still a violation of the Third Commandment. We must rid such expressions from our conversations. Never forget Jesus Christ's instruction in the model prayer: We are to always *hallow*—or venerate—God's name (Matthew 6:9).

Taking Oaths Should we *swear an oath* by using God's name? This is a common practice in many legal ceremonies in some countries.

Jesus Christ said, "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matthew 5:34-37). Jesus Christ taught that God's name is so *sacred* and *holy* that we are commanded not to use it to back up our words or our oaths. Isn't it common knowledge that many people connect God's name with their words and oaths, yet know in their hearts that they intend to lie? What a travesty! God is not capable of lying (Titus 1:2).

Fortunately, the American justice system was established by men that read the Bible. They made great allowance for men and women to live by the Bible. No one in this country is forced to raise a hand in court and swear on the Bible. A provision has been made so that anyone who so chooses may simply use the word *affirm* instead of swearing. This practice is

used in other countries as well. The honest word of human beings with character is to be trusted far more than a dishonest person swearing in the name of God.

Profane Religious Titles Jesus Christ commanded that certain religious titles should be avoided. He said, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one

**Our only spiritual
Father is God!**
Connecting such a title
with a man in a religious
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is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9). Several large religious organizations on this Earth flagrantly ignore this clear statement. Our only spiritual Father is God! Connecting such a title with a man in a religious office violates the Third Commandment. This tradition is a false assumption of a divine title.

In a similar fashion, for a man to accept the title *Reverend* is also a violation of the Third Commandment. The term *reverend* means *someone to be revered* or *worthy of worship*. No human being is worthy of such a title because no human being is worthy of worship. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Of course, this verse applies to ministers along with *all* human beings. The Apostle Paul acknowledged that ministers are "compassed with infirmity" (Hebrews 5:2). The point is, God has reserved the title *Reverend* for Himself alone: "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name" (Psalms 111:9). Any human being desirous of a title reserved solely for God will have to repent or suffer the consequences.

Naturally, we are able to call our own human parent *father*. Even God does so in the Fifth Commandment. And of course, we should do this with the utmost honor and respect. Also, certain spiritual leaders whom God has used to bring many to the truth—like the Apostle Paul—have been described as fathers

in this sense (1 Corinthians 4:14-16). But this should not be confused with assigning the *title* "father" to any man.

To the Religious The spiritually minded must carefully consider the use of God's name. It has become common practice to say Jesus Christ's name repeatedly in a prayer-like fashion in private and public worship. Christ said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matthew 6:7). Remember, Jesus Christ is God (Hebrews 1:8). God the Father has given Him a name "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:21). To say Jesus Christ's name repeatedly is a *vain*, or useless, *repetition*. To begin or end every sentence with His name is *vain repetition*. Notice that Christ recognizes that people who truly know God would not do such things. Vainly repeating God's name is a *heathen practice!* We must reverence God's name even in our praying.

But there is more. Jesus Christ said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Prayer without *obedience* is the most subtle form of blasphemy. Religious people who talk about God all the time but do not obey God's Word and His commandments are guilty of a far greater sin than the ones who admittedly live a sinful life but do not pretend to be religious. Religious hypocrisy is a violation of the Third Commandment.

Jesus Christ vehemently went after the rampant hypocrisy in the spiritual leaders of the first century. We must cut such spiritual cancer out of our lives if we truly desire to enter into God's Kingdom. Christ also said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Holding reverence for God with our speaking is clearly not enough. We must strive to obey God's Word and commandments. We must desire to do God's will.

It is time that all men, women and children deeply reverence God's great name. His name represents His high office as Creator, His character and His dignity. God desires to be worshiped in "spirit and in truth." He also commands us to use His name truthfully. Let's be sure that we learn how to—then do so. ■

How to Think

THIS WORLD IS HOSTILE TO serious thought. Our lives are cluttered with barriers that sear our minds with the habit of lazy, shallow thinking. Consider the insipid television and movies that pass for entertainment, transparently hostile toward anything approximating deep thought. Consider the overstimulated, technology-driven, information-saturated nature of modern life. It is too noisy for us to hear ourselves think, yet so omnipresent and addictive that silence disquiets us.

Even within respected circles of society, intellectuals are plagued by fundamental flaws in their thinking. Consider the education and scientific communities, which staunchly stand by the unprovable theory of evolution. Formal education can actually be a hindrance to quality thought—emphasizing the wrong subjects, approaching certain subjects improperly, bullying students into specific political and/or intellectual mind-sets, fostering a destructive social atmosphere. Little wonder that many of the great men and women of history were self-educated.

How we think is critical. Our thoughts govern our moods, our attitudes, our words, our actions. Thinking is the core of our being. Superficial, unfocused thinking produces a superficial, unfocused life. We are what we think.

Trouble is, generally *we are not taught how to think*. It is a skill we are expected to know, without specific instruction.

What is the quality of *your* thinking? Are you skilled at analyzing problems? Are you able to concentrate on the things you want to concentrate on, or are you easily distracted? How *deep* a thinker are you?

In With the New Vigorous thinking is fundamentally a matter of replacing inferior thoughts with quality thoughts.

You cannot think shallow thoughts and deep thoughts at the same time—it's one or the other. So first you must push out, put off and purge the one in order to clear space for the other. To think deeply, first you must expunge the shallow thought that so easily fills your mind, and then fill that mental vacuum with quality thought.

We will save for the end of this article a brief discussion on just what "quality thought" is. But first, let's look at some *barriers* to quality thought that we must eliminate and some *blessings* to quality thought we must cultivate in order to develop better mental habits.

Eliminate Distractions

The most common barrier to deep thought is *distractions*.

Life today is chock-a-block with them! HDTVs, DVDs, CDs, PDAs, XM radio, wi-fi, broadband, laptops, mobile phones, satellite, cable, movies, video games—there is always something to keep us stimulated. Television, our third-most time-consuming activity after work and sleep, gives us a hyper world of fast cuts, zooms and pans, noise and suddenness. The nightly news promises the world in 22 minutes. If you can't wait for that, cable provides "headline news," with multiple bits of information flashing and scrolling simultaneously. There is so much going on in the world, we want only the essential, only the cream, only the surface.

What price are we paying for such compulsive hyperness? The price we pay is DEPTH.

That's right. You can't cover a lot of ground quickly and also go deep; you are either plowing or you are digging.

Realize: *Information* is not the same thing as *understanding*. Of course the stupid entertainment that dulls the mind is a distraction. (Proverbs 12:11 in the Revised Standard Version is wonderfully pithy and tactless on this subject: "[H]e who follows worthless pursuits has no sense.") But *anything* can be a distraction. Mere information—even good information—becomes another distraction if you're not *thinking* about it, evaluating it, analyzing it—if it's not stimulating your mind in original directions.

Distractions simply crowd our minds with inferior thoughts. So turn off that tacky television, skip that silly movie, mute the mindless music, put down the trashy novel—create some quiet and clear space for something of substance.



TRUMPET/TAT TODAY

DEEPLY

BY JOEL HILLIKER

Cultivate Concentration

Just what is thinking? It is merely a collection of images flickering through your mind, a sequence of associations.

Thinking *deeply* then is a matter of restricting those associations so as to repeatedly and purposefully mull a particular thing. It requires eliminating irrelevant thoughts: those weed-like musings that crowd your mind and pull you off the subject you want to be pondering.

The Apostle Paul was an advocate of such mental discipline. He spoke of “bringing into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). This requires a moment-by-moment awareness of and restraint over the images, impressions and ideas that float through the mind and then an expunging of anything unwelcome. That, in essence, is exactly what concentration is.

Good idea, but how do you apply it? Perhaps we all would love to possess greater powers of concentration.

You may not like to hear it, but concentration is a skill acquired with *practice* (just as poor, petty thinking is a habit strengthened by years of practice). If you aren’t used to focusing your attention, you can’t suddenly summon the knack. It requires habitual concerted deliberation.

But there is a trick to learning it. Recognize this simple truth about how your mind works: We naturally concentrate on what we enjoy.

In a wonderful little book written in 1928 called *The Art of Thinking*, Ernest Dimnet wrote, “[R]eal interest is essential for concentration and creates it in an instant. The same boy who goes a-wool-gathering when he has to write a literary essay can concentrate for half a day on mathematics or on a new radio implement” (emphasis mine throughout). Thus, concentrate only on those things you enjoy—or learn to enjoy those things you must concentrate on. At least, you can consciously practice concentrating on the more satisfying things and progressively work toward applying the skill elsewhere.

Paul also understood this principle. To the one who seeks to attain God’s Kingdom, he advises to “set your affection” on it (Colossians 3:1-2).

Ruminate Good Mental Food

So—you have evicted some trivialities from your mental living quarters; the space may now be leased out to more refined tenants.

Dimnet advocated populating your mind with greatness.

“It is impossible to spend an hour in a room with a man approaching greatness without feeling the contagiousness of distinguished thinking,” he wrote. “Such men cannot always be found, or our chances for meeting them may be limited. But anybody with an average knowledge of the history of nations, literature, philanthropy or art, not to speak of the history of great religionists or saints, can people his imagination with groups of superior men in every realm. ... [O]ur serious hours cannot be devoted to a more useful occupation than studying the lives or ideas of great men” (ibid.).

Dimnet threw out this challenge: “If, at any moment, you are unable to name a great man who is, or has recently been, having an influence on your conduct, you will be passing the verdict: ORDINARY on the quality of your own thought and existence.”

Who do you spend your time with? Their influence on you looms larger than you would like to believe. Scripture is filled with admonitions such as this: “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20). Find those wise men and women, and then really converse—meet minds—think deeply together.

When you read, what do you read? What is the quality of the food you feed your mind?

And—just as important—when you read, how much do you *think*? Studying something to the point where it has “an influence on your conduct” means letting it soak into and saturate the folds of your gray matter. Be honest: How much of your reading is forgotten the moment you close the book?

Yes, read more. But as you read—read less, *think more*.

Beware Conformity

How is it that fatal flaws in thinking can pervade whole communities of intelligent people? How, for example, could the untruths that riddled national socialism have pervaded Europe so thoroughly as to have produced the Holocaust? How could higher education be almost unannouncedly condescending toward the revealed truths of God’s Word?

A dangerous barrier to deep thought is our natural “joiner” mentality—wanting to be part of the group. This tendency is generally helpful in smoothing the progress of interpersonal relationships, but too much concern about what others think renders your mind inhospitable to original thought and can result in your holding on to dangerous misconceptions.

A true thinker must have a certain independence of thought. He or she must not be afraid to stand out from the crowd. Exodus 23:2 contains the sage and generally ignored command, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.”

On the flip side, however, when you have found a solid truth, then by all means conform your thinking to it—it is a foundation on which to build. “Prove all things,” wrote Paul, “hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). All great thinking is founded upon the thoughts of great thinkers—chief of whom is God.

Once your views are based on great thinking, contribute something of yourself to the process.

Yes, there is an element of *originality* in deep thinking. When you think deeply, you travel intellectual territory that no one else will travel in quite that way—and you acquire unique intellectual property to offer those around you. You are a distinctive individual. God loves diversity, and there is a reason why each of us is so exceptional—not even in a brood of sextuplets is there a single carbon copy. To the person who understands the incredible human potential, this is an inspiring fact to contemplate.

Deep thinking is that which nurtures something uniquely you, and the unique personality, talents and character that God is developing in you.

Cultivate Solitude

This leads us to another essential commodity for the thinker: *solitude*.

“Solitude produces an exhilaration of consciousness, the consciousness of our innermost, whatever that may be. It never fails of this result,” Dimnet wrote. “Take strong coffee one morning, to keep yourself awake, lie not in bed but on a couch for two or three hours, and try to simplify and again simplify your problems”

How much time do you dedicate to private, quiet contemplation each day? Most people would laugh at the question. But if we are eliminating distractions, we will be redeeming some time (Ephesians 5:16), which can then be devoted to secluded thinking. “How can we secure solitude when our path is beset with a variety of undesirables?” asked Dimnet. “There is no answer to this question if we do not really crave solitude” (ibid.).

Yes, we must *crave solitude*.

King David did (Psalms 63:1; 119:148). Jesus Christ did (Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23).

A life of worship of the true God should involve daily personal prayer—time spent in isolation communing with God, which requires a certain degree of introspection. Daily prayer is a huge benefit to deeper thinking—not only because of the invaluable contact with the Creator that it brings, but also because it instills the habit of focused, effortful thinking to a purpose, done in seclusion.

Educator and theologian Herbert W. Armstrong recommended about an hour of prayer a day. Secular sources say that even 20 minutes a day of quiet reflection goes a long way toward improving a person’s mental health.

The Bible is filled with directives to *think about what you’re doing, to regularly evaluate yourself*. For example, Haggai 1:5 says, “Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; *Consider your ways*.” Analyze your life. Think about what is working and what isn’t. Involve God in this process and you can save yourself a lot of problems—and deepen your thinking in the process.

“But as it is written,
Eye hath not seen, nor ear
heard, neither have entered
into the heart of man, the
things which God hath
prepared for them that love
him. But God hath revealed
them unto us by his Spirit: for
the Spirit searcheth all things,
yea, the deep things of God.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10

God’s Thoughts God is the epitome of quality thought, of depth, of substance, of quiet meditation, of everything opposite our shallowness. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

But the wonderful truth is, that great gulf need not remain. Yes, God’s thoughts are much higher than ours—but we can strive to rise to His level. And with the help of God’s Holy Spirit we can succeed—in no small measure.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, *the deep things of God*” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

This is what we’re striving for: God’s thoughts. When we talk about becoming deep thinkers, we’re talking about our thoughts co-mingling with and coming to approximate God’s thoughts. There is no thinking deeper than that.

Consider: God can impact your mind to the extent that you have the capacity for deep thought. If you are a shallow thinker, you’ll only ever be able to have a shallow understanding of the deep things of God.

The deeper thinker you are, the more rigorous your thinking is, and the more you exercise and challenge your mind, the deeper your understanding can be. ■

For more on the art of thinking, request our free booklet **Education With Vision**.



News of the Philadelphia Church of God—the organization behind the Trumpet

■ Mail Processing Center Activated

PCG MAIL OPERATIONS ARE NOW OFFICIALLY being directed from the new Mail Processing Center, located on the northeast corner of the Imperial College campus. The opening of the mail center has made obsolete the PCG’s nearly 20 storage sheds scattered around Edmond, saving thousands annually. For the first time, the entire stock of PCG literature is stored under one roof. The 17,400-square-foot warehouse contains all literature inventory along with offices for the Mail, Correspondence and Television staff.

This move has also freed up much-needed office space in the PCG’s office suite in downtown Edmond for the Editorial staff, the *Trumpet* News Bureau and the business department. These operations will continue at this location until an administration



TRUMPET CO.

■ **New Set Gives New Look to TV**

ON THE MEZZANINE LEVEL OF THE MAIL Processing Center sits one of the more beautiful aspects of the PCG's building program—the new *Key of David* television studio.

The spacious studio houses the set handcrafted by Delton Burch, a PCG member. Incorporating over 600 square feet of red oak, the set gleams with a glossy finish. The studio desk, 12 feet long and 5 feet deep, is more than twice the size of Presenter Gerald Flurry's previous desk.

The 900-square-foot studio is 2½ times larger than the old studio. The size of the room allows for more camera angles, and a higher ceiling provides better lighting for the program. Dennis Whitney, a PCG member from California who works as a head electrician for CBS, installed the studio lights. About 70 strategically placed gray acoustical panels cover the walls of the studio, providing for better sound.

On May 4, only three weeks after the television department moved from the headquarters building in Edmond to its new home on the Imperial campus, Mr. Flurry broke in the new studio with a program titled "Noah's Flood—Myth?" which offered, for the first time, Herbert Armstrong's *The Proof of the Bible*. Despite being aired at the beginning of the "summer slump" of viewership, it gained the sixth-highest response this season.

Mr. Flurry plans to continue a regular filming schedule throughout the summer, setting a program record of over 40 original episodes this year.

building is constructed on the Imperial campus, scheduled to begin in the fall.

Stationed on the first floor, along with the warehouse, is the call center—with 23 work stations set up to handle response from the *Key of David's* toll-free number. The call center is making improvements to handle the increasing number of requests—one of those being more staff to handle the calls, including operators participating in the Church's in-home WATS (wide-area telephone service) program. The response team is taking 85 percent of the calls on viewers' first attempts—a significant improvement over past seasons.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION Top: Gerald Flurry sits at the desk of the new *Key of David* studio; bottom (L-R): outside the Mail Processing Center; the warehouse being stocked with pallets of literature.



MORTGAGES

Your Best Investment

AMERICANS TAKING OUT mortgage loans are increasingly choosing a riskier route as interest rates are climbing in conjunction with increasing house prices. Well over one third of new mortgage applicants ask for adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM). At present, fixed-rate mortgage interest rates have risen over 1 percent in the past year, while ARM interest rates have remained fairly constant—perhaps one reason home buyers opt for the latter. But as interest rates rise, which is widely anticipated by the financial markets, the risk grows for borrowers holding ARMs.

The main reason most consumers select ARMs is because they offer the lowest monthly payment *right now*. But borrowers should consider the long-term cost of the loan. While ARMs may appear to be a bargain today, if the short-term interest rate rises, they could cost more over the life of the loan than a fixed-rate loan. Of particular risk are those who bought a house they couldn't afford

without the low monthly payments afforded by ARMs today. As short-term interest rates increase, so will the cost of their mortgages.

The *Wall Street Journal* offers good advice to anyone considering an adjustable-rate mortgage: “[P]ay keen attention to the details. These include what index the loan is tied to, how much



PHOTOSPIN

rates can go up in a single year and over the life of the loan, and how quickly the mortgage payments can increase” (May 20). With a fixed rate, on the other hand, the interest rate remains the same throughout the life of the loan, making it easier to determine if the home fits

into your budget.

If you can afford to buy a home, don't risk losing it later because you failed to “count the cost” (Luke 14:28). Stay within budget and avoid risky financial arrangements, and your home could turn out to be your best investment.

EDUCATION

Tuition Woes

IF YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT about buying a second home, just send your teen to college. That's what it's like, costwise, according to the *Weekly Standard* (May 12). “Getting a college degree used to be like buying an expensive car. Now it's like buying a house”—and with an “adjustable-rate mortgage” that keeps going up, we might add. “If the past is any guide, those costs will rise next year and the next and the next,” says the *Standard*.

At present, here's how the cost breaks down: \$50,000 for a four-year degree at a public school and \$120,000 if you attend a private school. According to the *Standard*, “The College Board admonishes sticker-shocked parents (and students) to ‘consider college an investment’ and informs that the gap in earning potential between a high



TRUMPET

WORK IT OFF Helping the mail department is one way Imperial students pay their tuition.

school diploma and a bachelor of arts degree is more than \$1 million. Fair enough. Yet that doesn't answer the question of why it is that college must cost so much.”

At Imperial College, the educational institution sponsored by the same Church that produces this magazine, we do things differently. After a \$4,000 entrance fee, our students pay for all room, board, supplies and tuition through a student work program—and they graduate debt free!

Family 101

ACOLLEGE EDUCATION might indeed bring back higher returns *financially*, but it increasingly offers little else, which highlights one of education's greatest flaws—teaching young people *how to earn a living*, but failing to teach them *how to live*. And the demands of the Information Age are only making matters worse. Employers today need more experts trained in highly specialized fields—

Liberal Arts

ACCORDING TO A STUDY reported in the May 14 *Wall Street Journal*, “America's leading colleges and universities have largely abandoned the idea that there exists some common body of knowledge and skills that all graduates ought to master.” Most of the 50 universities studied by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni “continue to pay lip service to the idea of a liberal education. But in practice a liberal education has come to be defined by a ‘smorgasbord approach’ that undercuts that mission.”

Cornell University in New York boasts, “there is no course that students must take, and there are nearly 2,000 from which they may choose.” In these types of universities, a student “can satisfy her literature requirement equally with a course in Shakespeare or ‘Writing Tibet’”

Who will provide young people the direction they need when some of the world's greatest educational institutions refuse to do so?

narrowing the focus of education further.

True education is much broader than most people realize. It's more than vocational training, or even developing the intellect. True education has to do with developing the **WHOLE** man, including spiritual, mental, physical and personality development. Above all, it should teach students the divine purpose for human life. Beyond that, using the Bible as its foundation, it should familiarize students with the spiritual laws God ordained to govern our lives—and then thrust them into situations where they can learn to apply that knowledge now.

True education is like an

intensive family course—first teaching individuals how to live, but also preparing them for the marriage and family *careers* they will enter into after college.

If your only goal in college is to increase your earning potential later, then you will not be satisfied with your initial investment. Supposing you do increase your earnings by \$1 million over the course of your lifetime—what good is that if you can't have a happy marriage?



DYNAMIC GRAPHICS

CHILDREN

Behavioral Medicine Tops List

IN THE JANUARY *TRUMPET*, WE CITED A STUDY THAT indicated one in 20 American children had been diagnosed with some kind of attention deficit disorder.

By 2007, that figure is projected to reach one in seven. And according to the May 25 *Wall Street Journal*, about 10 million children and teens suffer from some form of "psychiatric illness."

Over the last 3 years, there has been a 23 percent increase in drug usage treating

attention deficit disorders. (For those *under* the age of 5, the increase has been a whopping 49 percent.) With these recent increases, spending on behavioral medicines, including stimulants and anti-depressants, has now surpassed the figure Americans spend on antibiotics.

The figures break down this way: 17 percent of total spending on drugs for children goes toward behavioral medicines; 16 percent for antibiotics and asthma drugs; 11 percent for skin conditions.

The top moneymaker is now medicine used to treat *mental* "sickness." Obviously, there are legitimate cases of mental sickness among youths. But they are rare. As we pointed out in January, far too many parents rely on behavioral drugs to regulate a child's behavior because they have failed to do so *themselves* as parents.



ART TODAY

HEALTH

Rediscovering God's Truth

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR company money, stay home when you are sick. A recent study found that employees who show up sick for work actually *cost* their company \$225 a year. "That's because, says the report in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, they have trouble concentrating, operate more sluggishly, and often have to repeat tasks, reducing overall productivity. What's more, *they can make their coworkers sick*" (*U.S. News & World Report*, May 3, emphasis ours).

This is the latest example of a scientific study that verifies the immutable teachings of God. While doctors might not consider the Bible a health textbook, it does, nevertheless, contain the foundation of all knowledge. As such, it revealed millennia ago many essential health laws—some of which man has only recently "rediscovered."

God instituted laws of sanitation and quarantine thousands of years ago in ancient Israel. If everyone followed these strict rules today, contagious diseases would simply not spread as they do in our society. Additionally, it would most likely hasten your own recovery process when sick—and save the boss money!

SOCIETYWATCH is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the Trumpet's editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mail societywatch@theTrumpet.com. If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.

IN BRIEF

FAMILY

Save the Marriages

Wall Street Journal, May 21

"A COALITION BACKING something called Community Marriage Policies has claimed that, in more than 100 counties across the U.S., its program has cut the divorce rate by an average of 17.5 percent over seven years, nearly double the decline in comparable counties in each state whose divorce rates fell by an average of only 9.4 percent in the same period. ... 'Marriages fail for all kinds of reasons, but they can be summarized as selfishness of one kind or another,' says Michael McManus ... president of the advocacy group Marriage Savers ... 'We try to move people from selfishness to selflessness.'"

CHILDREN

A Spanking Debate

Christian Science Monitor, April 19

"AS A NEW CHILDREN'S bill makes its way through [British] Parliament, ministers and officials are debating whether all forms of corporal punishment—even by parents—should be banned. The government has taken state interference in personal behavior to a new level; it now seems to distrust parents so much that it thinks they can't distinguish between disciplining their kids and assaulting them. ... There is an assumption that child abuse by parents is widespread, that it is happening everywhere behind closed doors, that parents who spank are murderers in the making. Such a climate of mistrust and suspicion is surely far worse for children than the occasional spanking."

A Treasure

I JUST READ YOUR MARCH/APRIL ISSUE and I'm impressed by the scope of knowledge and fair reporting of facts. In addition, several new approaches to hidden dangers have been revealed, and the strong reference to Bible passages leads me to believe that we've stumbled onto a treasure.

Ronald Liska—NEWLAND, N.C.

I THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND WISH TO express my utmost pleasure in reading an article by Carl Hilliker and Mark Jenkins titled "What's So Sacred About Easter" (March/April). Their honesty and research is correct and astounding in these days of cover-ups, lies and deceiving, dishonest publishers, editors and writers.

Frank Durham—DRAPER, UTAH

Fixing the Earth Now

YOUR EDITORIAL ABOUT THE PLANET Mars and the prospects of what man, through the power of God, can achieve by probing the heavens is both intriguing as well as confusing to a layman like me ("Mars Reveals Your Universe Potential!", February 2004). The American landing on the Red Planet is a marvelous achievement, but would it not have been best to put our house here on Earth in order first, before the attempts to transform the planet Mars into a habitable place for human beings? Transforming the deserts of our mother Earth to arable green fields is the first thing science ought to try. Then we could apply the methods to similar conditions on the outer planets.

Godfrey Otiri—AARHUS CITY, DENMARK

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR MARS ARTICLE, I would like to comment: You place so much emphasis on the events of the future. Well, that is good, but can't we start living the future right from this very moment? Do we have to wait till Christ's Second Coming before we fulfill our true potential? Can't we begin to lay God's groundwork, master plan and foundation before Christ comes to establish His government in this world? Apart from merely announcing the future coming of His Kingdom like the Jehovah's Witnesses, can't we start to rebuild the Earth in terms of subduing wicked governments, humanistic phi-

losophies and Earth's catastrophes and maximize the use of human resources, natural resources and political offices for the good of our respective societies, mankind and the whole Earth?

I believe strongly that we can fulfill (part) of that universe potential now, before Christ comes to rapture the church and later set up His Kingdom on Earth; then we may be talking of going to Mars and the entire universe at large.

Dotun Ojo—IBADAN, NIGERIA

The previous two letters ask why we focus on the positive aspect of the future rather than trying to rebuild the Earth now. We could just as easily ask why Jesus Christ did not rejuvenate the Earth and establish His Kingdom the first time He came. The answer is that Christ laid the groundwork for that future Kingdom when He founded His Church. When Jesus Christ came, He established His Church and said He would go and prepare a place before returning (John 14:2). Also, when He returns, His bride—the Church—will have been made ready (Revelation 19:7). When He returns, the future we often write about will be established. To read about this in greater detail, request our free reprint article "7,000 Years of Preparation." That said, it is also true that we should "live the future right now" in the sense of abiding by the laws of God's Kingdom and, as much as possible, living peaceably with all people (Romans 12:18).

Muslim Unrest

WHENEVER I GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK to people of the Muslim faith, I always ask why it is against their laws (often punishable by death) for Christians to open churches in their lands. The reply one often gets is that Christians in their midst would seed such discontent as to breed civil war and unrest.

This is why France, with a growing Muslim population, is constantly "on the edge." From the viewpoint of too many Muslim fanatics, the only good Christian is a dead one! A gnawing question is, are we obligated to accommodate members of such groups into our harmonious, yet diverse, wealthy societies? Except for the shining example of Turkey, all Muslim lands languish in a state of permanent poverty and dictatorships. Would it be prejudicial to ask if we really want to share some of that?

It seems like every time you turn on the tv, there is news about ongoing civil wars between Muslims and most other religions all over the world.

Not long ago, all visitors to the United States had to affirm in writing that they were not prostitutes, communists or members of any group advocating the violent overthrow of our society. Today we are letting in all of the above and the cauldron of hate may start boiling here, as in Europe. Would it be too much to ask that Muslims learn to live in harmony with others in Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia before testing our patience here?

Earl Hemming—BRISBANE, CALIF.

The Ten Commandments

I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT YOUR SERIES on the Ten Commandments. The Commandments are a part of my daily meditation, and I have much to understand about these royal and foundational laws. I do know that by observing the Commandments, as well as all of God's laws and statutes, my life has become enriched, and I have found a freedom and happiness as well as peace of mind that I have never had before. Thank you for your continued administration of God's government and truth as taught by Herbert Armstrong.

E-mail response

BEFORE I STUMBLED UPON YOUR MAGAZINE, I had been groping in the dark seeking an answer to a question bothering me. It was "Who and what is man?" I had become a Muslim, Bahaist, a Buddhist and even joined a traditional sect seeking this answer, but all to no avail. Then came your magazine "Why Marriage" (September/October 2003). Then came Mr. Armstrong's books, and the whole puzzle was solved. I thank God for sending His revelation through Mr. Armstrong. I thank you in God's name for opening my eyes to something preachers do not know. Please, can you extend your program to Africa?

Samuel Adams—GHANA

Our television program is not currently airing in Africa, although we are certainly interested in pursuing broadcast coverage there. However, our program is available anywhere with an Internet connection via our website at www.keyofdavid.com. We hope you are able to use this service.

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

There Is a Way of Escape

How YOU can be protected from the impending nuclear nightmare BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE GETTING USED TO VIOLENCE and war and threats of war. The world is too busy pursuing material goods to be much concerned about the oncoming NUCLEAR World War III that *WILL*, unless prevented by Almighty God, simply erase human life from this planet!

Soft words and pretty speeches do not arouse people out of this pleasant dream. It takes a *jolt!* When we attempted to warn our readers with words strong enough to arouse, I received letters saying: "Cancel my subscription! That article frightened me." Yes, IF YOU ARE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE, you *need* to be frightened—enough to take the *action* that will *SAVE YOUR LIFE!*

But, you say, what can I do? Well, there is something you *must* do IF you are to escape the agonies of and probable terrifying death in, the coming prophesied Great Tribulation!

YES, YOU CAN ESCAPE ALL THIS!

That is what we are trying to make our readers understand!

God Almighty *will* intervene. He *will* prevent entire cosmocide! But He *will not* intervene to stop the carnage *until* man has come to the very end of his rope! So long as man thinks he can save himself, without God, the Eternal will let him go on trying. God will not intervene until man's last hope is gone. God will never allow man to accuse Him, saying: "Your intervention was unnecessary and tyrannical! We could have saved ourselves if you had not used your arbitrary God-power to intervene."

God's final last-minute intervention will FOLLOW—not *prevent*—this Great Tribulation that will be World War III.

But, I repeat, YOU CAN *escape* ALL THIS!

It is only those who *will not* heed who must go through its agony. And remember—God is not going to CAUSE it. MAN HIMSELF will bring it on. But God will protect His own from it!

Jesus's young students—His disciples—came to Him privately and asked *when* the end of the world would come, and what would be the sign of His return IN POWER to rule all the Earth, in peace.

These things, Jesus replied, must come first: a false "Christian" religion, whose ministers would falsely claim to be Christ's ministers, coming in His name, deceiving the MANY. Then wars, climaxing finally into world wars; then famines and disease epidemics and increasing earthquakes. *Just before* the end, He said, His true gospel of God's Kingdom would be preached in all the world—not to convert the world, but "for a witness"—AND THEN, He said, shall the END of this world come!

All these things already have occurred—except that we are now in a recess during the world wars—between World Wars II and III; and that we have so far had only the first forerunners of the famine and disease epidemics and earthquakes. These shall increase greatly.

Then what? "Then," continues Jesus, "shall be GREAT TRIBULATION," a time of violence, destruction and death greater than

anything that ever was, or ever shall be! Jeremiah foretold it (Jeremiah 30). He identified the nations primarily affected. It will be those whom God caused to be named after Jacob—or Israel—the nations descended from the two sons of Joseph. And those are the United States and British peoples of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Ezekiel foretells it (Ezekiel 5:12; 6:6). Moses describes it (Deuteronomy 28—especially verses 20-24, 32-34 and 49-50; also Leviticus 26, especially verses 16-20). Already these prophecies are *beginning* to be carried out. Already the "pride of our power" (Leviticus 26:19) has been broken. Britain, the former world's number-one power, has been reduced to a second-rate power. And the "PRIDE" of America's power was certainly broken in Vietnam.

The Great Tribulation is to be primarily on the United States and the British peoples! Events leading to it are smoldering under cover now, gradually gaining momentum. And then, suddenly, the WORLD WILL EXPLODE into *nuclear* World War III.

But let me tell you, I do not expect to be here in its path when it strikes! And you need not be one of its multiple-millions of victims!

Jesus Christ gave the warning (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). And when He said, in Luke's version of His warning: "WATCH YE therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (at His coming—Luke 21:36), He was giving you and me a PROMISE of divine protection from these very things He had been describing—*IF* we *do* watch world events AS PROPHESED, and remain obedient and continually in contact with God through prayer.

There is another promise of miraculous protection from this Great Tribulation. It is in the third chapter of Revelation. Beginning verse 7 is a description of how the living Christ would OPEN A DOOR by which His gospel may go out to all the world as a witness and a warning. That is the very work being carried on today by the organization that prints this magazine.

In verse 10 is Christ's PROMISE that *because* we have been faithful WITH HIS WORD, He will also keep us from "the hour of temptation." But the marginal reading—the correct translation from the original Greek—is "trial" or "Great Tribulation."

These events are REAL!

This world is hurling itself rapidly to the grand-smash CLIMAX of world trouble. Crime, violence, lawlessness, disrespect for authority, are increasing at a RAPID RATE!

God help us not to treat this warning lightly.

Take heed and read in Psalm 91 the further promise of PROTECTION not only through the Great Tribulation, but also the PLAGUES of the Day of the Lord to follow. ■

Excerpted from the Plain Truth, March 1984



THE KEY OF DAVID

Television Listing



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

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

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

Dish Network DBS WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun

California, Los Angeles KCAL 7:00 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WFLD 8:30 am, Sun

New York, New York City WWOR 9:30 am, Sun

Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCE 9:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun

Washington, Seattle KTWB 9:30 am, Sun

Washington D.C. WDCA 8:00 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable Vision TV 8:30 am ET, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur

Argentina WWOR 10:30 am Sun

Brazil WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

Chile WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun

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; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun

Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun

Venezuela WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur

Regional satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun

Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun

Grenada Meaningful TV 7:00 am, Sun

Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun

Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 5:00 pm, Sat; 11:00 pm, Wed; 11:25 pm, Fri

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Adelaide, Southern Australia Channel 31 11:30 am, Sun

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun

Tasmania Southern Cross TV 5:00 am, Sun

New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri

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