

MAKING SENSE OF JONESBORO

The Philadelphia

Trumpet

May 1998



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has rocked
our world



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Gerald Flury



The Catholic Holocaust Document

The Vatican recently issued a document saying Christians did not do enough to stop the extermination of six million Jews in World War II. But it defended Pope Pius XII against charges that he did not speak out against the Nazis during the Holocaust. Jewish organizations were angered, saying the Vatican's 14-page document, *We Remember, a Reflection on the Shoah*, did not go far enough to condemn Pius' silence.

On March 22, 1998, the Philadelphia Inquirer carried an article summarizing Pius' 1942 Christmas message in which he lamented the cruelties of war, but failed to even mention the Nazis. Wladyslaw Raczkiwicz, president of the Polish government-in-exile at that time, wrote to Pius: "My people... implore that a voice be raised to show clearly and plainly where the evil lies. Today... the Apostolic See must break silence." As was written in the Inquirer, "Pius did not."

But while Jews, Christians and political analysts bicker over what Pius said, or did not say, and whether or not Pope John Paul II should apologize, the overwhelming majority CANNOT SEE THE BIG OVERVIEW. Is it because they are not willing to face the truth?

After the Vatican released its document, Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, lamented the Vatican's reluctance to "impose moral culpability on some leading church authorities... who were either indifferent or in some cases ACTUALLY COMPLICIT in the persecution of Jews."

Mr. Baum believes some Catholic authorities may have been "actually complicit" in the Jewish persecution and slaughter. In other words, the church was somewhat allied with Hitler and the Nazis.

The Pope and other Catholics were more than just being silent during the war. All we have to do is look at what the Catholic Church was doing at the end of World War II. Let's view the whole picture.

I would like to give you some quotes from the most frightfully shocking book I have read in years. It

involves Germany, Croatia and the Vatican. The book, *Unholy Trinity*, was written by Mark Aarons and John Loftus in 1991. Aarons and Loftus were interviewed by Larry King on CNN after the book's release. Notice what they wrote (emphasis mine): "It is absurd to believe that 30,000 fugitive Nazis escaped to South America on the few U-Boats remaining at the end of the war, or that they all made their own travel arrangements. Modern popular culture has presented the escape of the Nazis in an adventurous, almost romantic light. The most popular Nazi smugglers are ODESSA and Die Spinne, although other mysterious groups are also mentioned from time to time. But in the main these stories owe more to the fertile imagination of script writers and novelists than to historical research and accuracy.

"The truth is much more ordinary, almost mundane. It is all the more shocking as a result. For whatever successes ODESSA achieved, THEY WERE MERE AMATEURS AT NAZI-SMUGGLING WHEN COMPARED WITH THE VATICAN. Draganovic's Ratline [name given to the Vatican's smuggling operation] was truly professional, ensuring that many guilty war criminals reached safe havens. Often they did not end up in the remote jungles of South America, but settled instead in Britain, Canada, Australia and the United States" (p. 88).

This is the big overview that most in the press refuse to see. And so, people will go on and on arguing over what one pope didn't say, and what another should have said. But almost no one wants to look at the facts!

The Croatian Connection

In July of 1997, a United States Treasury document was published accusing the Vatican of hoarding Holocaust gold for the Croatian Nazi puppet regime during and after World War II. The Vatican dismissed the accusation as ridiculous. But then, when pressured by Jewish organizations to open their archives (which have been closed for 100 years) to dispel rumors of Nazi



Pleasing his Boss: Ante Pavelic (left) speaks with German Minister Von Ribbentrop, in 1941; right: Pope Pius.



sympathies, the Vatican refused. Why? Could it be that they have something to hide? In *Unholy Trinity*, Aarons and Loftus say they do have something to hide! Consider this lengthy excerpt from their book, and then ask yourself, are people really getting the big overview today?

“Many [Serbs] had been dispatched using extremely medieval methods; eyes had been gouged out, limbs severed, intestines and other internal organs ripped from the bodies of the living. Some were slaughtered like beasts, their throats cut from ear to ear with special knives. Others died from blows to their heads with sledgehammers. Many more were simply burned alive.... [Croatian leader Ante] Pavelic also knew that the Holy See looked on Croatia as ‘the frontier of Christianity’; a special relationship between Croatia and the Pope extended back to 700 A.D.

“Apart from this strong historical connection, Pavelic was also aware that Pius XII and his senior advisers held extremely charitable opinions of his militant Catholicism. During the war Pavelic had forcibly converted tens of thousands of Serbian Orthodox under penalty of death. In fact, the atrocities were already underway at the very moment Pius XII received the Poglavnik [Pavelic’s title] in private audience in late April 1941.

“The Pope’s own attitude towards the murderous Ustashi leader was more than benign neglect. When Pavelic asked for another audience with the Holy Father in May 1943, he was assured by Secretary of State Magilone that ‘there were no difficulties attached to the Poglavnik’s visit to the Holy Father except that he could not be received as a sovereign.’ PIUS HIMSELF PROMISED TO GIVE PAVELIC HIS PERSONAL BLESSING AGAIN. By this time, the Holy See possessed abundant evidence of the atrocities committed by his regime....

“Pavelic’s record was well known. On one occasion a visiting Italian Fascist journalist had been granted an interview with the Poglavnik [his office]. Noticing what appeared to be a large bowl of oysters, he had asked Pavelic whether they were from the Dalmatian coast. He was shocked when the dictator replied that they were forty pounds of Serbian eyes sent to him by his loyal Ustashi....

“U.S. intelligence received even more sensational information from their confidential source, who claimed

that ‘Pavelic holds frequent secret meetings with Monsignor Montini [later became Pope Paul VI], the Under Secretary of State of the Holy See....’

“‘Disposal,’ of course, meant escape, and the Holy See was the perfect ‘fall guy’ to shoulder the blame for smuggling Pavelic. The Vatican had the most to lose if he was handed over to the Communists. Soon after he helped Vajta [a Nazi] to leave Rome, [U.S. special agent William] Gowen wrote a final report: Pavelic’s contacts are so high and his present position is so compromising to the Vatican, that ANY EXTRA-DITION OF [PAVELIC] WOULD DEAL A STAGGERING BLOW TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH....

“By mid-1947, William Gowen had already recommended that America should ignore the Vatican’s protection of an even more notorious Nazi mass murderer. As will be seen in the next chapter, he justified this because of the Holy See’s contribution to the anti-Communist cause. After the publicity surrounding Hudal it may have been expected that the Vatican would become more circumspect. But Vajta was not the last of the Vatican’s Nazi scandals. The worst was yet to come. FOR FUGITIVE NAZIS, ALL ROADS LED TO ROME....

“Ante Pavelic was once again allowed to disappear into thin air. The names of his high level contacts inside the Holy See’s bureaucracy are still highly classified. As seen earlier, at least one U.S. intelligence source believed that it was Monsignor Giovanni Montini, the Pope’s Under Secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs, and later Pope Paul VI.

“Cecelja was well informed about those he sent down the Ratline to Rome and on to their new homes. ‘Some of them were high ranking ministers and civil servants,’ he admitted. Further, he was certain that Draganovic had the approval of the Vatican for his work, claiming that the Holy See had asked him to take care of a broad based emigration of Central European ‘refugees.’ Draganovic ‘was fully empowered by the Holy See and was in charge not only for Croats, but for everybody,’ he emphatically declared in his taped interview” (pp. 69, 71, 73-74, 78, 85, 95).

Aarons and Loftus understand the important history between Croatia and the papacy, dating back to A.D. 700. The Catholic Church has been involved in mass murder since A.D. 514, when the first Holy Roman Empire began. Fifty million people were killed during the Inquisition alone. THIS CHURCH HAS MORE TO HIDE—OR REPENT OF—THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!

A church either represents the true God or it is a false church. And because a church supposedly represents God, it must be held very accountable. It certainly is by God, if not by man. Read Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 34 to see how severely God judges rebellious pastors.

The most terrifying history by far is coming in the very near future. It is time we understand the truth. Write for our free reprint *The Holy Roman Empire*—if you have the courage to face the truth—to get the big overview. The worst mistake you can make is to refuse to understand.

OUR CHILDREN

The Jonesboro tragedy focused our attention on a national problem years in the making. Our children are robbing us, assaulting us, raping us and even murdering us. Do we know how to stop youth crime?

BY DENNIS LEAP

Today we live in a society oppressed and often terrorized by our own children. Criminal acts, once viewed as shocking for adults to commit, are now commonplace among teens and adolescents. Our children are robbing us, assaulting us, raping us and even murdering us. American and British youth crimes have shifted to a new level of violence. Lawmakers, police, and other civil authorities are gravely concerned and are quickly losing hope that the new wave of violent youth crime can be stopped.



Mourners at graveside services for slain student Paige Ann Herring, March 27, 1998, in Jonesboro, Ark.

At War With Youth

Since this decade began, news readers have been shocked at the disquieting headlines involving youth and crime. In early 1995, *The Evening Standard*, a London newspaper reported that more than half of the car thefts and robberies in London were carried out by 14 to 20-year-olds. It also stated that one third of all the arrests reported in the previous year were for crimes committed by youths. Police surveys showed that nine out of ten Londoners feared young criminals. The title of the *Evening Standard* article was in itself revealing: "Yard goes to war as muggings and car thefts by young thugs soar." British Police are at war with youths.

Other British newspapers have reported similar disturbing stories. One news article told about a gang of 10-year-old boys carrying out organized muggings of elderly ladies. Another told of a group of youths terrorizing adults on trains demanding their money and jewelry. The oldest youth leading the modern train robbers was only 12. An especially terrifying story was reported about four teenage girls who held a London actress at knife point demanding she give them her money.

Americans have been equally shocked. In May 1997, the country was stunned by a story reported in *Newsweek* about two New Jersey teenagers who ordered two cheese pizzas, had them delivered to a desolate address and then killed the delivery men. When police arrested Tommy Koskovich, 18, and Jay Vreeland, 17, the gruesome details of the double homicide were unbelievable. The two teens called five

OUR OPPRESSORS

pizzerias to see if they could draw a delivery to an abandoned house in rural Sussex county. The first four pizzerias turned them down. But Georgio Gallara, 24, owner of a new pizzeria, needed the business. He took an employee, Jeremy Giordano, 22, along for the two-mile delivery run. When the two men drove up to the address and opened their car window to deliver the food, the two teens shot the men eight times in the face and neck. They then dragged them out of their car and dumped them on the ground. Investigators found that neither the pizza nor money was stolen. What was the teens' motive for the killings? It appears they killed just for the thrill. One investigator said, "There is no rational answer for this irrational act." We must take warning—adults are prime targets of young criminals.

Predator Youth

But our youths are also committing vicious crimes against other youths. Some are behaving like skilled predators. This is probably the most unpleasant aspect of the new wave of violent youth crime. In the U.S., many have been left devastated and numb by the in-school mass murders taking place. In Pearl, Mississippi, on October 1, 1997, Luke Woodham, 16, entered his school cafeteria and opened fire on his classmates. He killed two and wounded seven. In Paducah, Kentucky, on December 1, 1997, 14-year-old Michael Carneal walked in on a prayer meeting at his school and shot eight students, killing three. These are chilling events.

But the most horrifying school violence of all recently took place in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Two boys, Andrew Golden, age 11, and Mitchell Johnson, age 13, dressed in camouflage clothing, opened fire on their middle school classmates during a false fire alarm on March 25, 1998. Here are some of the gruesome details of the military-type strike. One of the boys pulled the fire alarm. When students began filing out of the school, the two boys opened fire on the students with semi-automatic rifles and hand guns. Investigators estimated that nearly 27 shots were fired. Four girls and one English teacher were killed in the ambush. Nine other students and one teacher were wounded.

One particularly disturbing aspect of the attack shows that it was pre-



What was the teens' motive for the killings? It appears they killed just for the thrill.

TOMMY KOSKOVICH Age 18
JAY VREELAND Age 17

planned. At the middle school, the doors are set to lock as students leave the building during a fire alarm. When the shooting started the middle school children were trapped. No one could return to the building because of the locked doors. This means the two boys coldly intended to kill their fellow classmates. The two boys were caught escaping into the woods. Officials found a getaway van filled with food, survival gear and other weapons. The boys, with the help of an older boy, had planned to live on the run. This criminal-type thinking and planning hardly seems possible for an 11- and a 13-year-old. Yet it happened.

There is a cause for events like these. Do you know the cause?

End-Time Warning

The entire town of Jonesboro is questioning why the boys committed such an act. An early investigation revealed that the 13-year-old, Mitchell Johnson, was upset because a girl broke up with him. He planned to kill this girl. As it turns out, this girl was only wounded. But what would cause a 13-year-old to murder just because he was jilted by another 13-year-old? This

world has no answer. The tragedies of Pearl, Paducah and Jonesboro will long live in the memories of the residents of those towns. Many will look for an answer to the question—WHY? Why this epidemic of violent youth crime? There is an answer. There is a solution!

The book of Isaiah is an end-time book. It was written down for our people of this time now (Isa. 30:8). Isaiah predicts many positive things for our world after Jesus Christ's second coming. But just before that, this same book records many dire prophecies. Isaiah shows that our time is to be a violent time. Unfortunately, Isaiah shows specifically that our children would cause a portion of the violence affecting our nations.

Isaiah writes, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isa. 3:12). Notice Isaiah says that children would be our oppressors. The Hebrew word translated "oppressors" means to drive (like an animal), to be a task master, harass, or tyrannize.

This verse is a great summation of today's news headlines concerning young people. The majority of children do not respect their parents or those in authority. They drive us like beasts of burden, always wanting more. They harass us. And now some have become tyrannical monsters who murder us. Britain and the United States have enjoyed unparalleled wealth, education and technological advancement. Isn't it almost inconceivable that this kind of problem should be plaguing us? What have all of these blessings brought our children? A self-destructive sickness that is destroying us. Who is to blame?

No Moral Teaching

In this article I want to discuss a few of the causes for our violent youth. The primary cause for our youth on the rampage is our modern deficit in moral teaching. It is virtually nonexistent. As a society we no longer believe that there exists absolute right and wrong. Why? Politicians and educators have misapplied Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity and created their own kind of moral relativism.

Paul Johnson discusses this misapplication on page 4 of his book, *Modern Times: The World from the Twenties to the Nineties*. Writing about the world's



“I killed because people like me are mistreated every day... Murder is not weak and slow-witted; murder is gutsy and daring.”

LUKE WOODHAM Age 16

perception of Einstein’s theory, Johnson states, “But for most people, to whom Newtonian physics, with their straight lines and right angles, were perfectly comprehensible, relativity never became more than a vague source of unease. It was grasped that absolute time and absolute length had been dethroned; that motion was curvilinear. All at once, nothing seemed certain in the movements of the spheres. ‘The world is out of joint,’ as Hamlet sadly observed. It was as though the spinning globe had been taken off its axis and cast adrift in a universe which no longer conformed to accustomed standards of measurement. At the beginning of the 1920s the belief began to circulate, for the first time at a popular level, that there were no longer any absolutes: of time and space, of good and evil, of knowledge, above all value. Mistakenly but perhaps inevitably, relativity became confused with relativism.” Simply put, relativism is the belief that there are no absolutes in law, government, justice, morality or values.

No one was more distressed than Einstein in the misapplication of his scientific search. He was a man who

believed in absolutes. He believed that there was a God who created absolute law and order. As Johnson states, this misapplication of Einstein’s theory was inevitable. It was as though our modern world was looking for an excuse to throw out the values of the Victorian past. The new relativism permeated all facets of society, including religious institutions, but especially our educational institutions. University, college, secondary and primary school students have been taught for years to throw out all absolutes. Publicly educated students have been encouraged for decades to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. And what is the result? Our juvenile courts are overloaded with cases. Our juvenile detention centers are swelled beyond capacity. And now we have a new generation of adolescent killers.

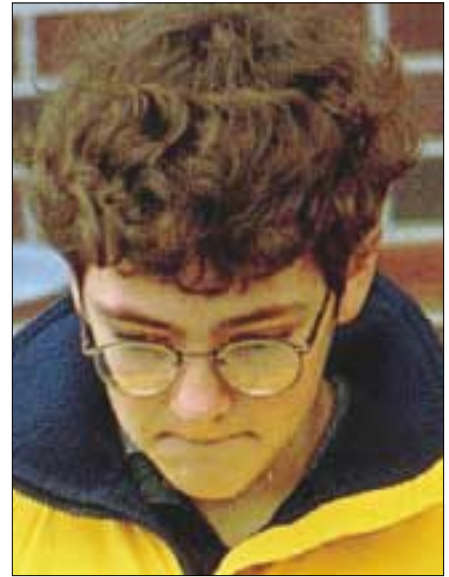
Ten Absolutes

As a people, we have forgotten that education is more than reading, writing, math and science. Education must also focus on morals, virtues and values. In other words, education must show young people how to live. The rise in youth crime shows we have failed to teach our young people right from wrong. How has this happened? The cold hard reality is we are not teaching our children right from wrong because we no longer know what is right and wrong!

Why? When all absolutes were thrown out of society, so were the Holy Bible and the Ten Commandments. The Bible is God’s revealed instruction to man. God’s Ten Commandments show us right from wrong. The Bible and especially the Ten Commandments give us the moral compass to guide our paths.

There is only one authority over moral education. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, “This brings us again to that striking truth, that THE WORD OF GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL KNOWLEDGE! GOD is the Supreme EDUCATOR! The Bible is far, far from the sum total of knowledge. It is the BASIS—the FOUNDATION—the starting point, and the foundational approach to the acquisition of discoverable knowledge.

“God, through the Maker’s Instruction Book, reveals what man cannot otherwise learn! Full TRUTH comes from the biblical revelation, PLUS



“Kill me, please. I can’t believe I did that.”

MICHAEL CARNEAL Age 14

acquired and discoverable knowledge approached through the concept revealed in the Bible” (pp. 59-60). As a society we have rejected the Bible. What’s more, we have rejected God and His revelation. We have rejected God’s revealed principle that a safe, peaceful and abundant society can only come about through lawkeeping. The solution to our youth crime is to teach right from wrong God’s way! We must get back to the Ten Commandments. They reflect ten absolute laws that produce great happiness.

Britain’s and America’s struggle with youth crime is a struggle with the Ten Commandments. Our moral fabric is deteriorating quickly. In America, the crisis in the White House is really a crisis in the moral character of the entire nation. Ira Hadnot, writer for the *Dallas Morning News*, sums up our moral dilemma. On February 22, 1998, Hadnot quoted pollster George Gallup Jr. as saying, “The shift away from moral absolutes is the great untold story of our day. We have been a people debating the relevance of the Ten Commandments. Is One applicable, Two, Three or Four? Should we ignore the one on adultery? Is bearing false witness lying?”

Hadnot then quotes Victor Worsfold, who teaches a course on thought,

values, and society at the University of Texas at Dallas: “America has become fragmented with no consensus on absolute moral values. We may have once believed in them, but somewhere after World War II, we gave up trying to inculcate these absolute moral values. There aren’t many people who believe we have absolute values—except for the very small group of people who take the literal view of the Ten Commandments and live by them” (Dallas Morning News, p. 10). Only very few in this country embrace the Ten Commandments. Is there any wonder why we are reading the headlines we do?

Train up a Child

When obeyed, the Ten Commandments produce peace, happiness and success. When disobeyed, there is violence, crime and extreme sorrow. We have rejected God’s law. And we are paying a painful price.

Moses taught the people, “Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son, ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.... And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deut. 6:1-3, 7).

Moses understood that God intended all adults to fully embrace His Ten Commandments and then diligently teach them to their young children. Notice this teaching was to be done while the children were young and was to be reinforced constantly. Doing this would bring great abundance, peace and happiness. If ancient Israel had done this, as Moses stated, it would have been well with them. Ancient Israel failed to do what God commanded. As a nation, they suffered captivity and slavery. America and



“I close my eyes, and that’s all I see is the people that have lost their daughters and their mother that they’ll never be able to hold again.... It’s beyond me. I don’t have any answers.”

Gretchen Woodard

Mitchell Johnson’s mother

Britain are now doomed to suffer the same fate as our forefathers. Mr. Armstrong taught for over 50 years that America and Britain are the modern descendants of the ancient Israelites. Write for your free copy of The United States and Britain in Prophecy to learn more about this vital subject.

We must recognize that effective moral teaching and discipline begins at home. Too many parents today either lack the will or understanding to train and discipline their own children. Those parents who do know how to train and discipline are in danger of being legally prosecuted for doing so. Recent television news magazines have run stories about teenagers taking their parents to court for disciplining them. What is even more mind-staggering, some lawmakers and court officials are fully supporting the teens! As Isaiah states, our society is turned upside down (Isa. 29:16). Our leaders think they know better than God! Corporal punishment has been outlawed in the

schools. Spanking is quickly becoming outlawed in the home.

No one advocates child abuse. But we must love and discipline our children. If we don’t discipline, then we are making criminals of our children. King Solomon, one of the wisest men to ever live, understood proper child training. He wrote, “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him” (Prov. 13:24, RSV). If adults refuse to love, train and discipline their children, the Bible says they actually hate their children. It takes great love and a lot of sacrifice to properly raise a child. Many today are not willing to put in the time necessary to raise a law-abiding citizen.

Solomon also wrote, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). Moral teaching mixed with love first and then loving discipline has long-lasting effects. Moral training when done properly will last a lifetime. Teaching and enforcing absolutes is foundational in order to solve our rising youth crime.

Broken Families—Criminal Children

Another contributing factor to our rise in youth crime is our broken families. Statistics prove that the majority of teens and youths involved in criminal activities are from single-parent, divorced families. The divorce rate in western countries is staggering. This means we have millions of children growing up in single-parent families. No wonder morals, values and absolutes are not being taught.

The National Fatherhood Institute reports that 18 million children live in single-parent families. For most children this means that they are growing up with working mothers—which means they are virtually growing up alone. Because most single mothers must work to support their family, kids of single mothers spend most of their waking hours either with peers or at home alone.

Let’s look at a few statistics gathered by the National Fatherhood Institute. Eighty-five percent of all children who exhibit behavioral disorders come from a fatherless home. Ninety percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. Seventy-one percent of all high school dropouts are from fatherless homes. Seventy-five percent of all adolescent

patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes. Sixty-three percent of all youth suicides are from fatherless homes. Eighty percent of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes. Seventy percent of juveniles locked in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes. Eighty-five percent of all youths in prison are from fatherless homes. It is not hard to draw the simple conclusion that broken homes often produce criminal children.

Now what do all these statistics mean? The same institute reports that children from single-parent families are 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders, 32 times more likely to run away, 9 times more likely to drop out of high school, 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances, 5 times more likely to commit suicide, 14 times more likely to commit rape, 9 times more likely to be detained in a juvenile facility, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. These statistics also show that children living with both natural parents are less likely to fall prey to criminal acts.

From all of this it is very safe to conclude that to solve our youth crime, we must solve our marriage and family problems. A stable society can only be built with stable families. Three of God's Ten Commandments protect the marriage bond and family relationship. The fifth commandment, Honor your father and mother, ensures respect for parents (Exod. 20:12). This command also establishes authority in the home. Children must obey their parents.

The tenth commandment, Thou shall not covet, preserved a neighbor's possessions (Exod. 20:17). The phrase thou shall not covet your neighbor's wife was designed to prevent remarriage while a spouse was still living. Statistics show that those who divorce and remarry are more likely to divorce and remarry again. Today it is normal for many divorced people to be remarried several times. This is not only emotionally wrenching, it becomes total confusion when children are born into the separate marriages. Many children grow up with multiple step-parents and step-siblings. All of this shows the vital importance God places on the family and marriage. If we truly desire to fix our marriage and family problems, we need to get back to and obey these commandments. Fixing our failing marriages is a vital step in solving our youth crime.

Violent Entertainment

Before closing this article, we must consider one final factor contributing to the rise in youth violence—our entertainment industry. Our 90s television shows, movies, computer and video games rely on violence to create excitement and action. If we stand back and look objectively at our television, movie and computer screens, it is not hard to see that our children are being fed a steady diet of fighting, blood and gore. This steady savage diet is conditioning our young people to accept violent acts as a normal way of life.

The trend in our 90s movies is toward more and more violence. Movie

fight scenes furniture is smashed and windows are broken. Often fantastic displays of explosives are used to wreck cars, buildings, and even people. Violent sex crimes are often graphically displayed in today's movies. Television producers are working hard to imitate their big brothers from the movies. And we wonder why our children are more violent?

Computer and video games are probably the most guilty of promoting youth and teen violence. Recently these games have achieved a new level of clarity and reality. They allow the user to feel and sense that they are actually in the game. Many of the most popular games involve dark themes of overcoming demonic beings with superhuman powers. It is not unusual to play a video game where the object is to cut off human body parts. A graphic and bloody scene is the result. It is not unusual to find strong language and strong sexual content in the games.

Not all movies, television shows, video or computer games are bad, of course. Participating in some forms of modern entertainment is not evil. It's the wrong use of the entertainment industry that is evil. Parents should monitor closely what movies, television shows and video games their children watch or play.

Solve the Problems

Youth crime, violent youth crime, is careening out of control. It can be stopped though. How? Our society as a whole, individual parents, and even our youth must do some serious self-exam-

Ninety percent of all homeless and runaway children...

Seventy-one percent of all high school dropouts...

Sixty-three percent of all youth suicides...

Eighty-five percent of all youths in prison...

come from a home with no dad.

The seventh commandment, You shall not commit adultery, preserves the marriage bond (Exod. 20:14). This commandment was designed to prevent sexual infidelity. It was also designed to prevent premarital sex and sex perversion. Few married or unmarried follow this commandment today.

makers are competing with each other to produce the most shocking, action-packed scene. Wide-eyed onlookers see and hear vivid fight scenes often employing every major martial art known to man. Necks are snapped and bones are broken as lifeless bodies are hurled across rooms. In these highly visual

ination. Our rising youth crime is a result of our own adult failings. Let's get back to absolutes. Let's teach right from wrong according to the Ten Commandments, and let's take back the responsibility for our own children. When we do these things we will solve our youth crime problems. ♦

El Niño: Science vs. Nature

Scientific predictions offer little protection from a storm bent on breaking everything. Before El Niño's tantrums ceased, its havoc reached all corners of the earth.

BY ANDREW LOCHER

The striking impact of this year's El Niño is the worst in recorded history. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of teams of scientists, the bottom line on this costly winter has been lessened. But still, the human and environmental toll has never been surpassed. As we witness a worsening of these global weather events, shouldn't we be focused on the cause of the disasters? Is there a more reliable source of prediction than the climatologists' warnings based on their vast array of technology? The answer is yes, but the experts will probably use this source as their last option!

What is El Niño?

Weather patterns equalize the energy on earth. Without circulation and distribution of heat energy caused by terrestrial and solar radiation, the global environment would not support the diversity of life that it does. The distribution of energy around the globe is the engine behind weather patterns.

Ocean currents alter the weather more than any other physical force, except changing seasons. The oceans distribute heat at a slower pace compared to the atmosphere, but the two work in tandem to distribute energy.

El Niño is a major disruption of this energy balance. During an El Niño event, trade winds diminish, so the warmer waters which are typically blown west now stagnate in the eastern Pacific off the Americas. As the warm pool broadens, trade winds head east and build towering thunderstorms in the eastern Pacific instead of the western Pacific. These storms add more moisture and energy to the upper atmosphere, which is then expelled through more violent continental storm systems. The altered balance also drives the jet stream from its usual pattern, bringing moisture-laden, energy-rich storm systems to the southern United States.

The earth's dynamic energy balance generally brings El Niño (or its sister, La Niña—see page 11) around

Temper tantrum: Mangled RVs and cars lie side-by-side in Florida after a major tornado in February. Forty-two people were killed in the storm.



every two to seven years. A typical El Niño raises sea surface temperatures of the equatorial Pacific about two degrees Fahrenheit. The 1997-98 event has recorded increases over nine degrees! By October 1997, the warm pool encompassed a greater area than the continental United States, stretching over 25 percent of the circumference of the earth.

To measure the strength of this year's El Niño, climatologists compare it to the 1982-83 system—up to now the worst on record. During the winter of 1982 through the spring of 1983, El Niño was responsible for over 2,000 deaths and a staggering \$13 billion worth of damage worldwide.

According to experts we can expect the final tally on the 1997-98 El Niño to shatter previous records. "The numbers are essentially off the charts, compared to all of the historical records that are available," said James Kinter, executive director of the Maryland-based Institute of Global Environment. "If it persists, as it is likely to do into the winter, then it is the biggest climate event of the century" (Daily News Sept. 7, 1997). Dr. Kinter's comments have proven to be correct.

By late February 1998, the U.S. government was prepared to declare this year's El Niño the worst ever recorded. "On a 1-to-5 scale, 'this El Niño is at least a 5, if not completely off the scale,' said Joe Friday, director of research for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 'By the time we finish, this will indeed be the most significant El Niño event of the century,' as measured by the number and intensity of storms and damage inflicted" (USA Today, Feb. 26, 1998).

Impact of El Niño

Have we become calloused to "natural" disasters? It seems the media is reporting almost daily on a new disaster. Let's consider some of the disasters where El Niño has been a contributing factor.

"El Niño means more than strange weather: It can put rare species at peril, unleash epidemics, and alter ecosystems. These biological effects—and their repercussions for society—are even harder to predict but can account for a huge share of the economic costs that El Niño imposes" (U.S. News and World Report, Oct. 6, 1997).

El Niño devastates fisheries on the

west coast because the typically nutrient-rich waters have moved east. Marine life either dies or migrates with the waters. Damage to coral reefs may take up to a century to rebuild, as was estimated after the 1982-83 event in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. "Floods, droughts, out-of-control fires. The devastating effects of the El Niño weather pattern on both sides of the Pacific Ocean are troubling enough. But when scientist Richard Fairbanks reached the Pacific atoll of Christmas Island, he found something more quietly chilling: stretches of dead coral, no

ashore. The fingers of rain from this storm reached all the way into Arizona where 1000 people were forced to evacuate their homes. The brunt of the storm centered over southern California, leaving three dead. For the first time in 219 days, rain poured from the skies over Los Angeles, breaking a prolonged drought.

During that same fateful month, the tourist city of Acapulco, Mexico, suffered a crippling blow when Hurricane Pauline roared ashore. Torrents of rain and flooding washed mud, cars and even people into the stormy Pacific



sign of fish in the water and few birds in the sky.... 'It's an example of a complete ecosystem collapse that's directly linked to El Niño'.... Forty percent of the island's coral was dead, the warmer water had killed or driven away fish and the atoll's plentiful bird population was almost completely gone" (Herald Statesman, Dec. 8, 1997).

Not only does El Niño destroy diverse biological reserves, but it magnifies the vengeful power of nature! A normal year rarely brings a hurricane to the California coast; water temperature is not temperate enough. Yet in October 1997, Hurricane Nora blew

ocean. Before the storm finally dissipated, over 200 people had been killed by this weather anomaly.

Hundreds died and thousands were left homeless through Central and South America from flooding and mud-slides. It is difficult to comprehend the economic dimension in this beleaguered region of the world. Crops

Gruesome Cleanup: Workers dig out the bodies of two California Highway Patrol officers found inside their vehicle buried in mud in the Cuyama River.

The road collapsed into the river swollen by a February El Niño storm.

and livestock have washed away, leaving the people in great despair as they look to the spring and summer months.

One of the most devastating blows of El Niño is the havoc it wreaks on the agricultural industry. More than just tampering with business, the after-effects leave thousands to starve and fight off pestilence. Long after El Niño dissipates, farmers must face flooded fields and vineyards that may take months or years to recuperate.

Diversity of Disaster

Many associate hurricanes, rain and flooding with El Niño, but drought and fire are also a scorching threat of this natural oscillation. Tropical regions such as northern Brazil and much of southeast Asia are dried out during an El Niño event. These once lush, humid gardens, the oxygen factories of the earth, are prime sources of fuel for the formidable infernos.

“Raging fires fanned by dry winds have burned an area the size of Lebanon in the northern state of Roraima [northern Brazil] over the past two months, and officials said they were virtually powerless to stop it” (Washington Post, March 18, 1998). In some instances, fire fighters battling the mul-

tiples blazes in the Amazon resorted to using sticks and blankets to combat the flames for lack of equipment. These fires raged out of control for over two months before a long overdue shower squelched them in early April.

Fires in Indonesia and Malaysia are deliberately ignited annually to clear rain forest land for farming. But with El Niño’s drying affect, the seasonal monsoon rainstorms never came. As a result, nothing prevented the expansion of the tinder-box conditions which allowed fires to rage out of control, eventually charring more than one million acres.

Transportation inspectors blamed poor visibility (caused by smoke) for the crash of an Indonesian airliner in Sumatra in September 1997.

Last year, forest fires created a dense blanket of smog, which extended throughout Southeast Asia, causing widespread health problems. The haze of forest fires and drought fueled by El Niño has had a far-reaching impact on the people of Indonesia. Once the rice stores are diminished, the effects of El Niño will be felt by all the people. Considering the crumbling economies throughout southeast Asia, the El Niño spawned, 50-year drought could not

have come at a worse time!

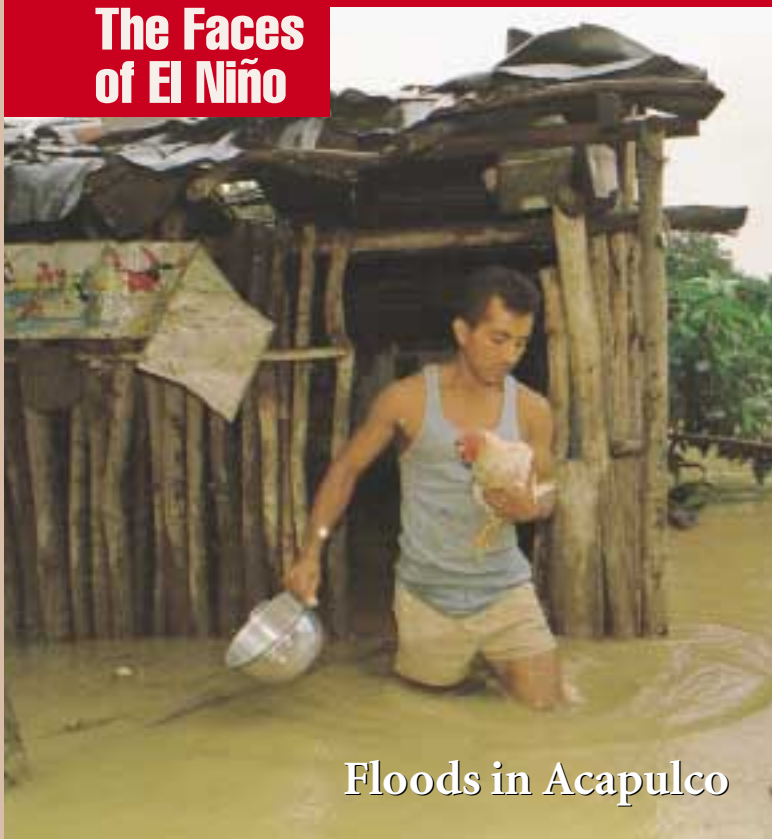
In sharp contrast, a deep freeze engulfed the northeastern United States and Canada. Over three and a half inches of rain and freezing rain coated the landscape, isolating over a half million residents in their homes. Close to four million people lost power during the January ice storm in Canada—one of the worst on record.

But the disasters capturing the widest publicity hit Florida and California. For years, California struggled through a record-breaking drought. Then the rains began to fall. No one anticipated the magnitude of the torrential downpours which flooded the state during January and early February. The wettest February on record came to a close in northern California amidst forecasts for additional rain. Since July 1997, Los Angeles has received nearly twice its normal amount of rainfall.

California has racked up over \$1 billion of damage from earth-slides—none of which is covered by insurance. Even with promises of disaster relief on local, state and federal levels, many will not be able to recoup losses caused by this year’s El Niño.

Moving east, storm damage and

The Faces of El Niño



Floods in Acapulco



Drought in Malaysia

unusual weather made their way to the southeastern seaboard of the U.S. The Carolinas and Georgia endured flooding in early 1998, but it was the intense tornadic activity which captivated our attention. Tornadoes ripped through Florida, killing 42 people and injuring hundreds more. Skipping through several counties in three hours, 260 mph swirling vortices brought horror to the central regions of Florida. Over 900 homes and businesses were left uninhabitable!

Perhaps one of the most unusual winter weather disasters happened in northern Georgia on March 20. Even with the watchful eye of National Weather Service's satellites and meteorologists on duty, this killer tornado did not even register on their warning systems! With winds over 200 mph, the twister killed 12 people and injured over 100 others.

Impact of Predictions

As we consider El Niño's devastation around the world, reflecting on the long-term consequences of these disasters, it is hard to be comforted when told it all could have been worse had we not received warnings last summer. Lives have been lost, property has been

decimated; thousands of people have had their futures turned upside-down.

The early detection of rising temperatures in the Pacific led to many preventative measures. "Because the public has spent so much time preparing for these storms, we feel the resulting damage overall has been slight so far," says Steve Valenzuela of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "By being armed with sandbags, plastic, and plywood to help divert water, many communities have largely escaped devastating consequences" (Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 20, 1998). Hardly reassuring words for the thousands who have suffered from El Niño.

After 1982-83, many international climate research teams began to study El Niño more in depth. If scientists could accurately predict the emergence and movement of an El Niño, they reasoned, billions of dollars could be saved, not to mention the lives of thousands of people.

The Tropical Oceans and Global Atmosphere program deployed an armada of 70 buoys throughout the equatorial Pacific to measure oceanographic and surface meteorological (continued on page 18)

El Niño's Big Sister

What could be worse than a strong El Niño? "For all the public attention to this year's El Niño," says climatologist James O'Brien of Florida State University, "La Niña years are actually much nastier to North America, bringing tornadoes to the Midwest, hurricanes to the Atlantic, and drought and forest fires to the Southeast" (U.S. News and World Report, Oct. 6, 1997). What are the chances of La Niña following this dramatic winter? According to Ants Leetmaa, director of the Climate Prediction Center, scientists can't tell us with certainty whether or not we will experience a strong La Niña after El Niño disappears. But if it does, watch out! "La Niña can bring its own set of weather headaches: a drier, hotter southern tier and a wetter, colder north. 'Like a pendulum that goes back and forth, El Niño is one side of the extreme and La Niña is the other,' says Scripps' Lisa Goddard. Although the magnitude of an El Niño doesn't necessarily determine the size of the subsequent La Niña, some climatologists are already saying that if you think this El Niño was bad, wait until you see his sister" (Time, Feb. 16, 1998).



Wildfires in Brazil



Deep freeze in Canada

IT SEEMED THE ALLIES HAD LOST THE WAR EVEN BEFORE IT STARTED! Having crushed the Dutch and Belgians, the Germans made their way to the English Channel where they encircled the British armed forces. Unless something miraculous happened, the fate of 335,000 British men lay in the hands of the Nazi war machine. King George VI summoned the British people to call upon God for deliverance. The story of what followed at Dunkirk is indeed miraculous.

Officers and men who made it back to Britain in the spring of 1940 told of two weather-related phenomena which turned sure defeat into salvation. The first was a great storm which broke out over northwest Europe on Tuesday, May 28, just two days after King George summoned his people. With the darkness of the storm as cover, British formations were able to retreat eight to twelve miles north to Dunkirk, unimpeded by the German Luftwaffe. Later in life, Winston Churchill felt certain that Hitler assumed “his air superiority would be sufficient to prevent a large-scale evacuation by sea” (Churchill, *World War II*, vol. ii, p. 68). But the sudden and violent shift in the weather grounded the Luftwaffe and foiled the Führer’s plot.

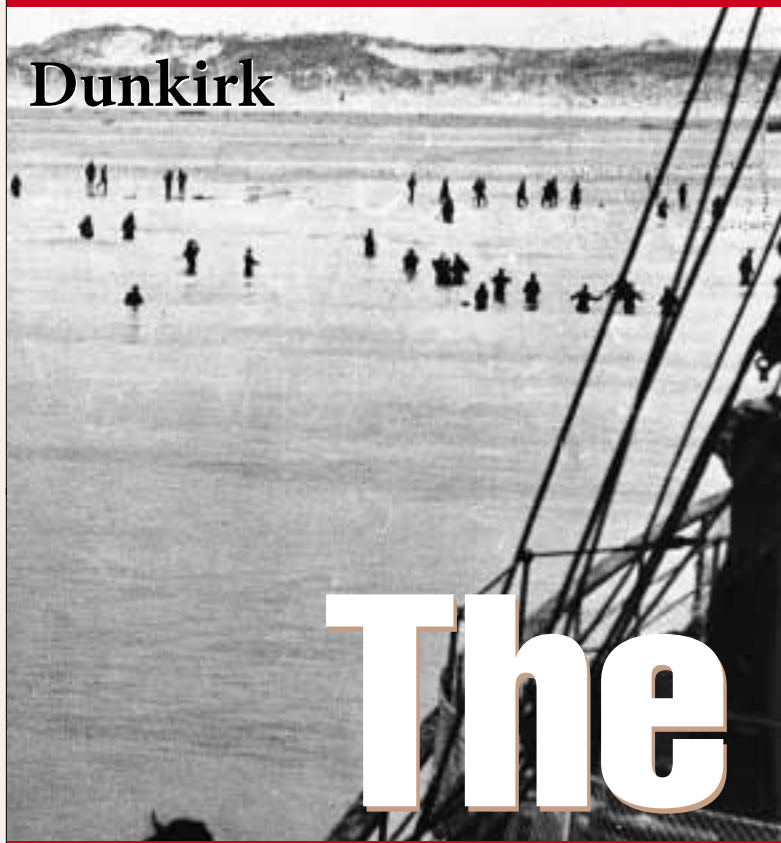
While storm clouds raged over Flanders, a different yet equally miraculous development occurred. A great calm settled over the usually restless waters of the English Channel. It was accompanied by a cotton-like fog to again shield British troops from the Luftwaffe, as rescue boats carted them back to their island safe-haven. According to an article written at the time, “Those who are accustomed to the Channel testify to the strangeness of this calm; they are deeply impressed by the phenomenon of Nature by which it became possible for tiny craft to go back and forth in safety” (*Daily Telegraph*, July 8, 1940). And so it was, as the *Telegraph* went on to say, “two miracles made possible what seemed impossible.” As Churchill declared, “335,000 men had been carried out of the jaws of death and shame to their native land.”

The Weather at Normandy

After being chased off the continent at Dunkirk, Allied forces knew they eventually had to return if they were to completely crush the Third Reich. Four years later, they did—on the beaches of Normandy. And again, the weather played a miraculous role. On September 9, 1944, *The Times* doc-

umented the fascinating story: “For months the meteorological section at Supreme Headquarters had been studying the relative advantages of May, June and July for weather. Using statistics, they found that the chances were about 50 to 1 against weather, tide, and moon being favorable for all services, land, sea and air....”

Dunkirk



The

“On the morning of the assault the wind had moderated, and the cloud was not only well broken, but its base was at least 4,000 feet high, ideally suited for the large-scale airborne operations. In the hour preceding the landings, when perfect conditions for pinpoint bombings were so essential, there were large areas of temporarily clear sky, and throughout the critical time medium and light bombers were unhampered.”

What made the picture-perfect Allied landing on June 6, 1944, so miraculous was the bad weather that led up to it. *The Times* reported on September 11 that year that German commanders were advised by their meteorological service that there could be no invasion by the Allies at that time because of the “continuous stormy weather.” The weather was so bad that General Eisenhower even postponed the landing for 24 hours.

But on June 6, Eisenhower was determined to proceed. Later in life, he recounted the events that unfolded after his decision: “This day eight years ago, I made the most agonizing decision of my life. I had to decide to postpone by at least twenty-four hours the most formidable array of fighting ships and of fighting men that was ever launched across the sea against a hostile shore. The consequences of that decision at that moment could not have been foreseen by anyone. If there were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an almighty and merciful

There was a time in the history of America and Britain, as the examples cited above illustrate, when we looked to God for deliverance from evil. Furthermore, when God did intervene, as He did with the weather on numerous occasions in World Wars I and II, we acknowledged His supreme power and might and gave Him thanks. It didn’t seem strange back then to trust in God for a “break” in the weather. No, for people more familiar with biblical passages than most are today, weather-related miracles did not seem strange at all.

assistance. Trapped by the waters of the Red Sea and the Pharaoh’s pursuing army, Moses lifted his hand toward the sea and God sent a great east wind which divided the sea, creating a path on dry land between the waters!

In the days of Samuel, when the Israelites desired a king like other nations, Samuel told the people they should be ashamed of themselves. He then asked God to send thunder and rain as proof that He ruled Israel, not any human being. God intervened and “the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel” (1 Sam. 12:18).

Normandy



Blessings...

God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it.... The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred the next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed, with losses far below those we had anticipated” (Time, June 16, 1952).

The Times said the brief break in the weather during D-Day came at a time when Normandy was experiencing its windiest month in 20 years. The Allies went on to win the war, thanks in large part to their miraculous escape from destruction at Dunkirk and their weather-aided, flawless landing on the beaches of Normandy.

God’s Might

After creating the earth, the vegetation and plant life did not begin to grow until God caused it to rain.

In the days of Noah, God caused it to rain and flood upon the earth for 150 days. An earthwide flood destroyed every living thing on dry land, except for Noah’s family and the animals preserved in the ark. The Flood totally changed the world at that time.

In the days of Moses, God sent hail and fire, among other plagues, upon Egypt so the Pharaoh would free the Israelites. Even after their exodus, the Israelites needed further weather-aided

In the days of Elijah, there was a devastating drought and famine in the land of Samaria. Seven times Elijah prayed for rain. Once again, God answered the prayer. It rained hard.

Time and again, God’s hand changed weather patterns because of the faithful few who lived by Leviticus 26:3-4: “If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”

God promises mild, seasonable weather to those who remember His

commandments. The faithful prophets of old understood that. So did many Western leaders during the days of World War II. They knew God intervened in the weather because it was His will that the Allies win the war. They knew that, because God intervened on their behalf, the responsibility was on their shoulders to honor and obey their Maker—the one who controls weather patterns.

Perhaps no one summed up the responsibilities set before Western peoples after World War II better than Sir Archibald Sinclair, the air minister of England. Before the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, he said, “We have been most miraculously preserved. We must have been preserved for some purpose, and we must seek humbly to discover what that purpose is and be faithful to it.... I feel sure that we must strive for the utmost for victory, and when we get victory it will solve none of the great problems which are troubling our hearts and minds, but it will give us opportunity. Then the question will come: what use...shall we make of that opportunity. The thing that seems clear to me is that we shall not succeed in making the most of that opportunity if we FORSAKE THE COM-

MANDMENTS OF GOD” (Evening Standard, May 21, 1943).

Fifty years later, the question is, Have we made the most of our “opportunity”? Is God blessing us with good weather because we have walked in His statutes and remembered His commandments? It doesn’t take a meteorologist or a Bible scholar to answer these questions.

Disaster Tolls

Since the National Weather Service began keeping detailed records in the early 1950s, it has been easy to track the substantial rise in hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, floods, droughts and earthquakes in America.

Consider tornadoes as an example. From 1951-1960, there were 5,255 recorded tornadoes. The next decade there were 6,809. There were 8,791 in the 70s and 8,462 in the 80s. And in only the first five years of this decade, we have had nearly 6,000 tornadoes! We are on a pace to record well over 10,000 tornadoes in the 90s—twice as many as we had in the 50s.

Early this year, a band of El Niño-driven tornadoes swept across central Florida, killing at least 40, and leaving 250 injured. One twister sucked an 18-

month-old toddler right out of the arms of his screaming father. The baby was found dead later that day.

But in America, stories like this seem almost commonplace anymore. In May of 1997, a twister ripped through the small Texas community of Jarrell where it killed at least 27 people. Two months earlier, a giant swath of tornadoes swept through Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, killing 29.

Like tornadoes, the number of tropical storms and hurricanes to reach U.S. coastlines the last two decades has risen sharply. (Tropical storms have maximum winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour; hurricanes have winds over 73 miles per hour.) During the five years from 1991 to 1995, we had almost as many tropical storms and hurricanes in the U.S. as we did during the 20 years from 1961 to 1980!

Of the 30 costliest hurricanes to hit the United States this century, 20 of them struck after 1960. (And that is figuring the damage according to today’s dollar value.) Hurricane Andrew in 1992 by far caused the most damage—over \$27 billion! The next closest this century was Hurricane Hugo in 1989—over \$9 billion. Other hurricanes which hit in the 90s include Fran (1996, \$5

...and

Cursin

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

Oklahoma

billion), Opal (1995, \$3 billion), Marilyn (1995, \$2.1 billion), Iniki (1992, \$1.8 billion), and Bob (1991, \$1.5 billion). And those are just hurricanes! Add to that all of the tropical storms to hit this decade, like Alberto in 1994, which dumped 10-25 inches of rain on parts of Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Alberto's final price tag: \$1 billion.

Ever Increasing Intensity

Last year, the National Climatic Data Center compiled a listing of billion dollar U.S. weather disasters which have occurred since 1980. There have been 30. Of the 30 disasters to strike over the last 18 years, 21 of them occurred between August 1992 and May 1997! Those 21 have racked up a cumulative price tag of \$90 billion and have killed 911 people. That in five years!

In addition to hurricanes and tornado strikes, consider some of the other disasters Americans have endured in this tumultuous decade. Last year, parts of the Dakotas and Minnesota experienced severe flooding due to a heavy spring snowmelt. In 1996, the Southern Plains finally made it through a \$4 billion drought. Then

there was the blizzard of '96 which hit the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast causing 187 deaths and \$3 billion in damages. In 1995, floods submerged parts of the Midwest and California. Estimated damages: \$8 billion, 59 deaths. The floods of 1995 were like small ponds compared to the massive Midwest flood of 1993 which killed 48 people and cost between \$15 and \$20 billion! The floods in 1993 and 1995 sandwiched the Northridge earthquake in California in 1994. Final damages: \$15 billion, 61 deaths. In March 1993, what was referred to as the "Storm of the Century" hit the eastern seaboard. That blizzard caused at least 270 deaths and between \$3 and \$6 billion in damages. And then there was 1992, the year Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki carved their deadly swaths of destruction. Add to this list the recent adverse weather patterns stemming from the effects of El Niño and we have the makings for a terribly violent decade, as far as "natural" disasters are concerned.

Something is dreadfully wrong with our weather. Shouldn't we consider why this dramatic shift in weather is occurring?

Blessings or Cursings

Just as sure as God will bless a nation or people with good weather for obedience to His laws, so will He curse us with inclement weather for disobedience. Leviticus 26 bears this out. It has been called the "blessings and cursings" chapter. We already covered verses 3 and 4 where God promises rain in due season and bountiful crops for obedience. But notice verses 18-20: "If even then you will not listen to me, I will punish you seven times more for your sins; I will break the power of which you are so proud, I will make the sky hard as iron for you and the earth hard as bronze, till you spend your strength in vain; for your land shall bear no crops and your trees shall bear no fruit" (Moffatt). Quite a contrast to verse 4.

Identifying who the United States and Britain are in Bible prophecy makes this prophecy in Leviticus especially pertinent. The passage is addressed to Israel. Our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves that those nations are the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel—the very nations upon which the blessings of Abraham have been showered.

Consider the once-dominant British Empire. The sun never set on her possessions. In all of the Commonwealth nations which were once under her control, God truly provided the British people with some of the choicest real estate on earth.

Consider the astonishing wealth and power of the United States. America has been called the land of opportunity; a place where freedom and justice reign. It has also been called the "bread basket" of the world. Where else can we find such an abundance of fertile farmland and a climate so well-suited for fruitful abundance?

God truly has showered wealth, prosperity, and great power upon our peoples. But that's just it! God gave us all of those blessings. And now, because of our sins, He is rapidly taking them away—actually turning them into curses. And the natural disasters which have intensified in the last several years are only one indicator that we are under a curse.

Notice Amos 4:7: "And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered." God causes this! Floods in one region, drought in the other; just like in 1993, when the Midwest was flooded and the Southeast plagued by drought.

Notice why God causes this: "So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (v. 8). God causes it because we haven't returned to Him. Clearly, as Amos points out, extreme weather upsets come as a result of sin.

In Leviticus 26, Amos 4 and several other passages, God reveals that there is a direct connection between how we live and the weather we experience! But somewhere along the line, we forgot that God controls the weather (Nahum 1:3-4; Ps. 107:25). And somewhere along the line we "discovered" that how we live has nothing to do with what we experience—whether good or bad.

But God does control the weather! And character does matter! And until we turn to God in repentance and change our ways, the Bible forecasts even worse weather ahead—worse than what we have already experienced.



A Decade of Billion Dollar



Drought/Heat Wave
Central and Eastern U.S.; estimated \$40 billion damage/costs; estimated 5,000 to 10,000 deaths (includes heat stress-related).

Hurricane Hugo
Category 4 hurricane devastates the Carolinas after hitting Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands; over \$9 billion damage/costs; 86 deaths.



Hurricane Andrew
Category 4 hurricane hits Florida and Louisiana; approximately \$27 billion damage/costs; 58 deaths.

Midwest Flooding
Summer 1993. Central U.S.; \$15-20 billion damage/costs; 48 deaths.



Storm/Blizzard
Eastern U.S.; \$3-6 billion damage/costs; approximately 270 deaths.

1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993

Hurricane Bob
Category 2 hurricane—Mainly coastal North Carolina, Long Island, and New England; \$1.5 billion damage/costs; 18 deaths.

Hurricane Iniki
Category 4 hurricane hits Hawaiian island of Kauai; about \$1.8 billion damage/costs; 7 deaths.

Drought/Heat Wave
Summer 1993. Southeastern U.S.; about \$1 billion damage/costs; death toll undetermined.

Southeast Ice Storm
Intense ice storm, extensive damage in portions of 11 states; approximately \$3 billion damage/costs; 9 deaths.

Oakland Firestorm
Oakland, California firestorm due to low humidities and high winds; approximately \$1.5 billion damage/costs; 25 deaths.

Northeastern of 1992
Slow-moving storm batters northeast U.S. coast; New England hardest hit; \$1-2 billion damage/costs; 19 deaths.

California Wildfires
Fall 1993. Southern California; approximately \$1 billion damage/costs; 4 deaths.

Tropical Storm Alberto
Remnants of slow-moving Alberto brought torrential rains, widespread flooding in parts of three states; \$1 billion damage; 32 deaths.

Prelude to Christ's Return

The very fact that bad weather is increasing in intensity is in itself prophetic. Jesus Himself said the increase in chaotic weather would actually be one of the signs of His imminent return to this earth. "What shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?" His disciples asked in

Terrible Twenty-five: In ten years, the U.S. has had 25 disasters cost at least \$1 billion. Statistics: Nat'l Climatic Data Center. Damage figures are actual costs at the time, not adjusted for inflation.

Matthew 24:3. Jesus answered, "And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (v. 7). Famine and pestilence result from chaotic weather.

Skeptics say there have always been famines, pestilences and earthquakes. "Disastrous weather is nothing new," they argue. And that's true. But what is new is the rapidity at which these disasters now strike—so much so that a hurricane which rips through Florida now seems commonplace. Jesus said chaotic weather would get worse and worse leading to His return.

Other critics like to point out that

storms of 60 or 70 years ago killed more people on average than storms today—and that is true. But consider why. Advance warning technology, reinforced skyscrapers, and general education of what to do in a disaster have all contributed to lower death tolls today. The modern technology of man truly is a wonder to behold. (See "Science vs. Nature" on page 8). But this hi-tech society has done nothing to PREVENT these unnatural disasters from happening. And they are happening more often than ever before.

The civilization which developed after the flood in Noah's day also relied

U.S. Weather Disasters

Blizzard, then Flooding
Snowstorm over Appalachians, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast; followed by severe flooding due to rain and snowmelt; \$3 billion damage/costs; 187 deaths.



Hurricane Fran
Category 3 hurricane strikes North Carolina and Virginia; over \$5 billion damage/costs; 37 deaths.

West Coast Flooding
Torrential rains and snowmelt flooded portions of six states; estimated damage \$2-3 billion; 36 deaths.



Mississippi and Ohio Valleys Flooding, Tornadoes
Tornadoes and severe flooding hit nine states; estimated \$1 billion damage/costs; 67 deaths.

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

Texas Flooding
Torrential rain and thunderstorms flooded much of southeast Texas; \$1 billion damage/costs; 19 deaths.

Severe Weather, Flooding
Torrential rains, hail, and tornadoes across Texas/Oklahoma and Louisiana/Mississippi; Dallas, New Orleans hardest hit; \$5-6 billion damage; 32 deaths.

Hurricane Opal
Category 3 hurricane strikes six eastern states; over \$3 billion damage/costs; 27 deaths.

Southern Plains Drought
Fall 1995-Summer 1996. Severe drought in agricultural regions; over \$4 billion estimated damage; no deaths.

California Flooding
Frequent winter storms caused periodic flooding across much of California; over \$3 billion damage; 27 deaths.

Hurricane Marilyn
Category 2 hurricane devastates U.S. Virgin Islands; estimated \$2.1 billion damage/costs; 13 deaths.

Pacific Northwest Flooding
Very heavy, persistent rains and melting snow over four states; approximately \$1 billion damage/costs; 9 deaths.

Northern Plains Flooding
April-May 1997. Severe flooding in Dakotas and Minnesota due to heavy snowmelt; \$1-2 billion damage/costs; 11 deaths.

heavily on developing technology. They endeavored to build a tower that would reach the sky. Surely no flood could ever destroy mankind again, they reasoned. God has His way of eventually dealing with such pomposity.

God has always intended nature to be an absolute blessing to man. But God bestows those blessing upon us when we live right. When we turn from God in disobedience and arrogance, He withdraws those blessings and sends curses—chaotic weather being one of those. The world in general, and especially the end-time descendants of Israel, are under a curse. The question

remains, what are you going to do about it?

Our peoples may be so deeply entrenched in sins and selfishness that they will not repent until it is too late. But you as an individual can be spared from the violent crescendo of increasingly chaotic weather. Perhaps you've seen pictures or heard stories about that lone house which weathered the storm, even when everything around it had been demolished. God says you can be like that preserved house—protected from the mass destruction to come upon our peoples. In Philippians 2:12, Paul admonished us to work out

our own salvation with fear and trembling.

If we turn to God and keep His commandments, as it says in Leviticus 26, God promises abundant blessings and divine protection when disaster strikes. Like Noah during the Flood, like Lot when God rained fire upon Sodom, like the Israelites during the plagues in Egypt, YOU CAN BE SPARED! But it will take a willing and submissive attitude. It requires obedience to God's law. That is the only sure protection any of us have during these violent times. That is our only sure salvation. ♦

(continued from page 11)
variables. This project was hailed as an international financial savior, thanks to the preparations for this century's worst El Niño event made possible by their forecasts.

But experts such as Ants Leetmaa (director of the Climate Prediction Center) warned, "Even with the advances in El Niño forecasting, people shouldn't expect too much" (USA Today, Aug. 1, 1997). The complexities of global climate prediction outsmart even the most sophisticated computer models running on the world's fastest computers. There are simply too many factors to consider.

Scientists have learned well how to predict the onset of an El Niño. Acting on those predictions undoubtedly reduces the potential for loss, but they only dampen the magnitude of devastation. PREDICTIONS DON'T STOP EL NIÑO FROM DEVELOPING. Being prepared is one thing, but stopping or preventing the destruction is beyond our control—or is it?

The Cause of El Niño?

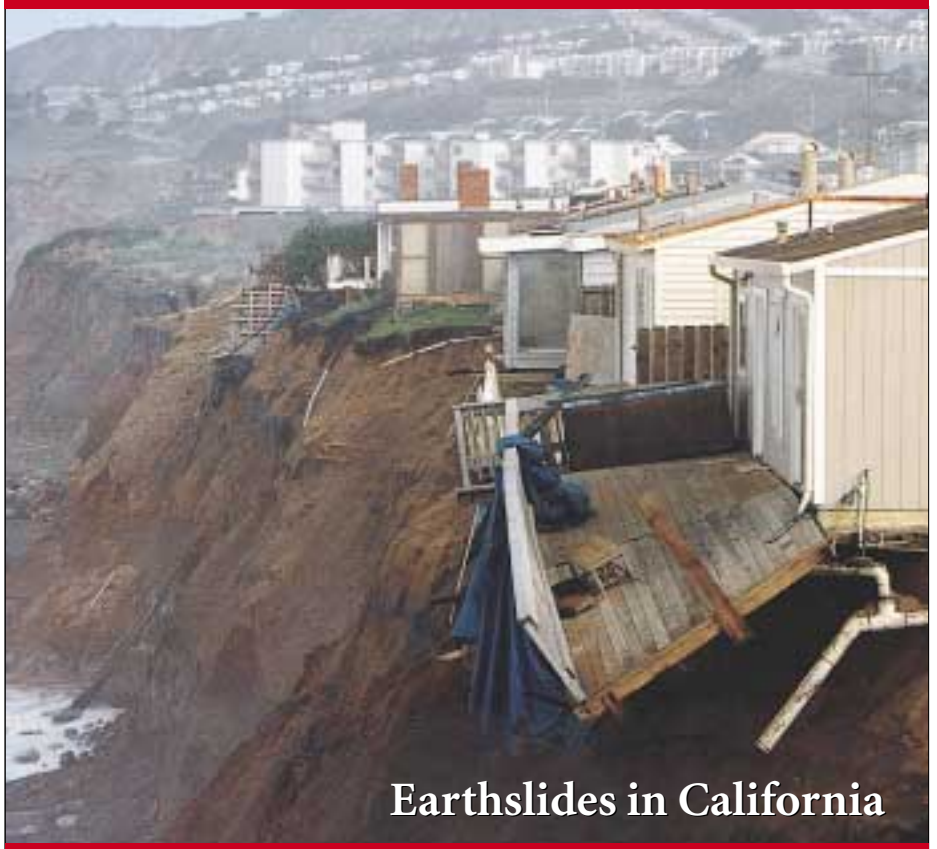
In the wake of El Niño, one thing has become crystal clear. We are better than ever at recording and analyzing the various effects of El Niño, but we keep drifting further and further away from understanding the cause. Advances in technology develop and aid our understanding of the vast matrix of influences which result in an El Niño, but we still don't know WHY it happens. "The more scientists learn about the earth's climate system, the more complex and interconnected it seems, and the harder it is to unravel" (Time, Feb. 16, 1998).

The March 9, 1998, issue of Newsweek adds, "There is little agreement on what weather pattern will replace El Niño. Meteorologists are intent on figuring it out—their winter forecasts allowed Californians to patch their roofs, shore up hillsides, clear flood channels, bolster levees and train swift-water rescue crews. But predictions can do only so much. The devastation in Florida and California shows that the power of science is nothing compared with the power of El Niño's storms."

What comes next? Some are predicting La Niña. Whatever happens, this much we know: weather is becoming more unusual and less predictable! "El Niños come every three to seven

years on average, and most are relatively mild. But something funny may be going on. Between 1991 and 1996, the sea surface was almost continuously warm, and there have been two record-breaking El Niños in the latter part of this century" (U.S. News and World Report, Oct. 6, 1997).

the plagues will get seven times worse. We are now witnessing the impact of El Niño magnified in succession. The past fifty years demonstrate a strengthening of the entire phenomena. With each oscillation bearing more devastation, it is clearly obvious that God's prediction is true.



Earthslides in California

The early 1990s have brought a succession of El Niño events. Some wonder if this is caused by global warming. Others believe it to be a random fluctuation in the natural cycle. According to Time, "There are as yet no good answers to these questions. Observes Michael Glantz of the National Center for Atmospheric Research: 'The discrepancy between what we think we know about El Niño and what there is to know may still be quite large'" (Time, Aug. 16, 1997).

In Leviticus 26:20-21 God says, "And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins." When God says He will bring seven times more plagues, the expression more accurately is translated that

These "disasters," which are scarcely understood, could be brought to an end if we would only obey God. He uses these events to bring us back to obedience to His law—a law which will yield prosperity if obeyed. Please read through Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 to discover the relationship between physical blessings for obedience and the horrible "natural" consequences of disobedience. An honest evaluation of God's warnings, compared to what is observed today in our delicate climatic balance, can yield only one conclusion—God does exist and He controls the weather!

It's time we took notice of what God says. The most accurate method of prediction and preparation lies in the pages of your Bible. Sadly, that is often the last place we look. How long before we truly understand the simple connection between our prosperity and our relationship with Creator God? ♦

The most profound and significant event since the fall of the Berlin Wall is about to break onto the world scene. It will change the whole framework of existing global political, economic and financial cooperation.

EMU Takes Off

BY RON FRASER

The European Commission has recommended that 11 of the 15 member nations of the European Union (EU) join together in monetary union next year. This will unite 300 million consumers in an economy exceeding the U.S. in size and dwarfing Japan. Behind closed doors in their steel-frameworked, concrete and glass-clad headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, Eurocrats are busy refining their assessment of the 11 candidate nations. Those nations selected to proceed will immediately begin to prepare for the adoption of a single European currency. Then, on January 1, 1999, they will commence phasing in that currency over a three year period to replace their own national means of exchange.

What is EMU?

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), as defined by the committee convened by Jacques Delors in 1989 to initiate the process, is the permanent locking of exchange rates between EU members, as a forerunner to replacing their individual national currencies by a single European currency. In February 1992, EU nations signed the Maastricht Treaty, which defined, as its central plank, the goal of full Monetary Union of member nations.

As early as October 1958, Shirley Williams wrote: "The ultimate goal is the complete economic and political uni-

fication of the six countries. It may take a long time; but just as the makers of the Coal and Steel Community understood that they could never completely control coal and steel until the rest of the economies of the six were also integrated, so the founders of the European Economic Community appreciate that they cannot stop at any arbitrary point. In the end, even that integration of policies that the Rome Treaty fails to mention—like monetary policy, the creation of credit and the setting of exchange rates—is bound to come about" (European Journal, Nov. 1997).

EMU is thus part of a program drawn up over 40 years ago. Monetary union is but a means to an end—the fiscal means to achieving the goal of political union—a federation of European nation-states—in fact, a European empire.

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which has spawned the single currency unit, the euro, took on renewed meaning to candidate nations as 1997 drew to a close. At issue was their final opportunity to join the first round of nations selected to join in full monetary union. Annual budgetary performance for 1997 was the criterion for acceptance into candidacy for monetary union.

Britain was clearly, by her proven economic performance, qualified to join. She has chosen not to proceed at this time. Ironically, those nations which were the prime driving force behind EMU had the greatest difficulty

in matching their budgetary performance to the "convergence criteria" set by the EU for candidacy.

Germany was caught in a bind with escalating unemployment and difficulty restructuring her welfare-based economy, combined with a huge transfer of capital from former West Germany to former East Germany to underwrite development and infrastructure programs. She tried to fudge her 1997 budgetary figures with an attempt to revalue her gold bullion stocks. The Bundesbank stepped in and stalled the process. By dint of some creative accounting, Germany managed to present annual performance figures to the EU sufficient to match the convergence criteria.

France, also bedeviled by escalating unemployment and economic restructuring costs, opted to finance her way out of embarrassment by the transfer of superannuation funds to government coffers. Italy decided to scheme her way into candidacy by imposing a special "euro-tax," which is to be withdrawn in 1999.

On May 2-3, at a summit meeting of EU nations in Brussels, the candidates approved by the Union to be the first to proceed to full monetary union will be announced. Their present national currencies will be phased out over the following three years. The

The 1 euro coin, according to a drawing released last June by the EU. The back of the coin is left blank for each country to decide on its design.



History of the Rise of the EU

1951

The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) formed under the presidency of one of the EU's founding fathers, Jean Monnet, and included Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. It was formed to rationalize the excessive concentrations of coal and steel in the hands of German magnates and cartels in the Ruhr valley which had underwritten the power of Germany's Third Reich.

1957

The Treaty of Rome concluded in Paris as a French initiated idea to "keep Germany in check." Signatories were France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. These six nations then formed the European Economic Community (EEC), or "Common Market," and Euratom, the European Atomic Energy Community.

1967

The European Community (EC) was formed, comprising the three original community institutions—the ECSC, Euratom and the EEC.

1979

The European Parliament was born. The European Monetary System (EMS) was also introduced.

1992

The Maastricht Treaty was drawn up, eventually to be signed in 1993. The term "European Union" is now used to describe the former European Community in its newly expanded form.

1997

The Amsterdam Treaty was signed by the now 15 member nations of the EU. Due for final ratification by all member states this spring, the treaty represents the third major revision of the original Treaty of Rome.

price of goods and services, bank accounts, debts, and all currency transactions will be measured in euros.

It is estimated that the conversion costs for member nations will be around \$50 billion. This involves changing everything from computer systems to price tags. The latest, final changeover to the single currency, following the phase-in process when the euro will run side by side with local currencies, is slated for July 1, 2002.

Why EMU?

Why would such a motley, disparate group of nations as those comprising the European Union aspire to monetary union? Doing so sacrifices sovereignty over their individual fiscal policies and controls to a single European currency controlled by a single central European bank. From the beginning, there was division even over the name for the new currency unit. Both leading EU nations, France and Germany, bickered over this point. The name ECU was considered, only to be rejected by Germany as being "too French." The French rejected the term "Euro-Mark" as "too German." They compromised on the innocuous "euro."

The objective of European Monetary Union is clearly political. It is the singular mechanism which will force the completion of the single market process, begun with the first links forged via the European Steel and Coal Community founded in 1951. "European history since 1945 is told as a story of unification: difficult, delayed, suffering reverses, but nonetheless progressing. This is the grand narrative taught to millions of European schoolchildren and accepted by central and east European politicians when they speak of rejoining 'a uniting Europe.' That narrative's next chapter is even now being written by a leading German historian, Dr. Helmut Kohl. Its millennial culmination is to be achieved on January 1, 1999, with a monetary union that will, it is argued, irreversibly bind together some of the leading states of Europe" (Timothy Garton Ash, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 77, no. 2, emphasis mine).

Garton Ash reflects on a comment by former mayor of Stuttgart, Manfred Rommel: "There is no alternative to a united Europe." Rommel's view is strengthened by fellow Teutons, German President Roman Herzog, Chan-



Waiting for Euro: Blair of Britain has elected to sit out this round, while Germany's Kohl can't wait to start.

cellor Helmut Kohl, and even former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who all have said, "If the Euro does not come, there will be war in Europe." In fact it is Germany's political leaders who have spoken out loudest in support of EMU. Why?

Majority opinion in Germany, in public circles, seems overwhelmingly against monetary union. France voted in a referendum and by only 1.5 percentage points passed the vote in favor of monetary union. Denmark voted NO to EMU. The British and Norwegian economies are doing extremely well outside monetary union with the EU. So why the forced march towards EMU?

Controlling Germany

Deep in the psyche of European nations is a fear of an excessively powerful Germany. France has made it clear that binding Germany into political, economic and social union with Europe is seen by her as a means of controlling the historic expansion of German power.

Helmut Kohl has publicly supported this thesis on numerous occasions. Yet in promoting monetary union, Kohl is, in the midst of a crucial election year, ignoring the German electorate, which has said in numerous opinion polls that it favors its beloved deutsche-mark over the euro. Why? Timothy Garton Ash points out, "In Berlin, we are witnessing the extraordinary archi-

tectural reconstruction of the grandiose capital of a historic nation-state. Yet at the same time, Germany's political leaders, above all Helmut Kohl, are pressing ahead with all their considerable might to surrender that vital component of national sovereignty—and, particularly in the contemporary German case, also of identity—which is the national currency. There is a startling contradiction between, so to speak, the architecture in Berlin and the rhetoric in Bonn" (ibid.).

Yet as that quintessential Europhile, Jacques Delors, once said, "Our community is the fruit not only of history and necessity but of political will." It is political will that is triumphing over reason in the forced march toward European Monetary Union! It is political will that is riding roughshod over the stated desires of the German electorate. It is political will that is destined to triumph over all opposition to force monetary union in the Europe created by the treaties of Rome, Maastricht and Amsterdam!

The Cement that Binds

EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan has stated that "a single currency is the cement that binds our economies together." Although there has been a history of attempts at economic, customs and trading unions through past centuries in Europe, there exists no historical precedent for the current EMU process. As we have previously stated, the end-goal of monetary union is political union—a federation of European nation-states. Why is it so crucial to European Union that member nations submit to monetary union?

Writing for Spectator magazine, Charles Moore, editor of the Daily Telegraph in London refers us to the Bible, specifically the words of Jesus Christ: "Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:17-21).

Commenting on Christ's exposition on the monetary affairs of state,

Moore declares, "From biblical times, sovereign authority and money went together. Jesus appears to assume that it could not be otherwise." So what is the significance of this observation in relation to EMU? "The coin proclaims and represents Caesar—the legal authority under which a nation lives. It is because people accept the authority that they accept the coin and attribute value to it. This is a physical demonstration of a vital fact—that politics and economics are inextricably linked" (Spectator, March 7, 1998).

This linkage will happen on "Conversion Weekend," at the end of this year. It will happen to all those nations which are to be identified at the forthcoming May summit. Those nations will then proceed as the first wave to be bound thus into monetary union with each other. They will then fall under the untrammled control of the European Central Bank (ECB), based in Frankfurt, Germany.

As Brussels Commissioner for Economic Affairs Yves Thibault de Gilguy recently declared in a speech delivered in London, "For the first time since the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe will have a single currency."

The ECB is Caesar!

"If the Maastricht Treaty means what it says then Caesar is the ECB, which becomes the only truly supranational institution of the European Community" (ibid.). Under the Maastricht Treaty, the ECB is mandated to do whatever it considers necessary to maintain price stability, and NO ONE CAN PREVENT IT FROM DOING WHAT IT WANTS! In other words, the European Central Bank, which comes officially into being on July 1 this year, becomes the supreme authority over all nations locked into the EMU, and IT IS ANSWERABLE TO NO OTHER POWER! Unelected, faceless bankers in Frankfurt will have the power to dictate fiscal and economic policy to EMU nations which may throw millions into unemployment! As Charles Moore exclaims, "The idea that a rich foreign banker is making you poor or jobless is explosive!" (ibid.).

It follows then, that the chief executive of the ECB must be a man capable of wielding such unfettered power in a manner which, though his policies may prove unpopular within member nations, nevertheless is able to back up and enforce such policies within those

member nations. Who will this person be?

Once again the European Union's mixture of iron and miry clay (Dan. 2:33) has produced a struggle for mastery of the ECB within the EU. The most obvious disagreement, yet again, is between the EU's dominant partners—France and Germany. France wants EMU because of its firm belief that this will give it more control than it presently has over Germanic power. Germany wants EMU to further its own ends of retaining and developing German dominance in European affairs. One of these two nations must lose the battle for control of the ECB. We believe it will not be Germany. Once Germany gains control of the ECB and installs her own hand-picked candidate as chief executive, she will once again have the power to dictate the affairs of Europe.

Germany's prior experiences wielding such political power have proven catastrophic for Europe!

Under the influence of Britain's parliamentary democracy and American constitutional democracy, the world has generally come to believe that democracy is the best system of government that man has devised. What is happening in Europe is manifestly undemocratic. The economic government that dominates EMU will have been chosen by no electorate and will be answerable to no one! Yet the nation-states which will comprise EMU are, in the main, open, liberal democracies. The potential for conflict in such a situation is glaringly apparent.

EMU and the U.S.

Across the Atlantic from EU headquarters in Brussels, little is known of the profound impact which the euro is about to have on the dollar. For the first time since the dollar overtook sterling as the world's dominant currency, it will have a real competitor! Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics, believes that "as much as \$1 trillion of international investment may shift from dollars to euros" (Foreign Affairs, vol. 76, no. 4).

Mr. Bergsten foresees a "bipolar currency regime dominated by Europe and the U.S., with Japan as a junior partner," replacing the dollar-centered system that has prevailed globally since the close of World War II. Economically, the EU has already outstripped



The Challenger: Gerhard Schröder is playing off the German electorate's agitation over economy troubles. His Social Democrats may oust Chancellor Kohl in September.

the U.S., accounting for 31 percent of world output of goods and 20 percent of world trade, as compared to the U.S. with 27 percent of global production and 18 percent of world trade.

Of most concern to the U.S. will be its vulnerable external economic position, which will continue to contribute to doubts, internationally, about the dollar's future stability. At present, net foreign debt in the U.S. exceeds \$1 trillion, rising by between 15 and 20 percent annually. Contrast this with the EU, which is vastly superior to the U.S. in balancing its international assets, and has shown modest surpluses in its international accounts over recent years.

The potential for a euro being driven upwards and a dollar downwards would seem obvious. But America has yet to wake up to the potential threat to its economic stability which will stare it in the face on January 1, 1999!

Essentially, we may be witness to the reality of one man, the chief executive of the European Central Bank, dictating policy on the global economy! No longer will

the U.S. be dominant. Fred Bergsten predicts a capital flight of between \$500 billion to \$1 trillion from dollars to ECUs once EMU is enacted. Protectionist pressures, or trade war, would seem inevitable under such a scenario. As the enlightened Bergsten opines, "The ECB is likely to out-Fed and out-Bundesbank its most distinguishable role models" (ibid.).

The End Result

1998 is a crucial year for Germany. "Germans have rarely been so nervous about the future. They do not know what is going to happen to their mark, savings, pensions or Chancellor of the past 15 years" (Roger Boyes, *Times*, Feb. 23, 1998, emphasis mine). Those who really know Germany, her people, and the national psyche of this talented, aggressive, clever, powerful population, know that a nervous Germany is a dangerous Germany.

Commenting on the future of Europe in relation to German domination, Italian journalist Luigi Barzini offers this view: "There cannot be a really united Europe without a common cur-

Institutions of the EU

Over the past 20 years, the expansion of the European Union has inevitably led to an increase in the number of institutions created by it to give force and expression to its administration. The principle institutions of the Union are:

European Parliament: Purported to be the directly-elected democratic expression of the political will of the peoples of the European Union, the largest multinational parliament in the world.

Council of the European Union: Usually known as the Council of Ministers, and has no equivalent anywhere in the world. Here, the member states legislate for the Union, set its political objectives, coordinate their national policies and resolve differences between themselves and with other institutions.

European Commission: Identifies three distinct functions: initiating proposals for legislation, guardian of the treaties, and the manager and executor of Union policies and of international trade relationships.

Court of Justice: Provides the judicial safeguards necessary to ensure that the law is observed in the interpretation and application of the treaties, and generally in all of the activities of the Union.

Court of Auditors: The taxpayers' representative, responsible for checking that the European Union spends its money according to its budgetary rules and regulations and for the purposes for which it is intended.

European Investment Bank: The European Union's financing institution. It provides loans for capital investment promoting the Union's balanced economic development and integration.

Economic and Social Committee: In accordance with the treaties, the committee advises the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament. The opinions which it delivers (either in response to a referral or on its own initiative) are drawn up by representatives of the various categories of economic and social activity in the European Union.

Committee of the Regions: The European Union's youngest institution whose birth is designed to reflect member states' desire not only to respect regional and local identities and prerogatives but also to involve them in the development and implementation of EU policies.

European Ombudsman: Every citizen of each member state is both a national and a European citizen. One of his/her rights as a European citizen is to apply to the European Ombudsman if he/she is a victim of an act of "maladministration" by the EU institutions or bodies.

European Monetary Institute: The function of the EMI is to facilitate the process of monetary unification.

European Central Bank: The ECB is the Frankfurt based central bank of the European Union which will dictate financial and economic policy to member nations of the European Monetary Union (EMU). The bank commences operations on July 1, in preparation for the commencement of the monetary union process in January 1999.

(Source: The Council of the European Union)

rency and a common foreign policy, but above all, a common defense policy. This, in the twentieth century, means nuclear weapons and space defenses. It entails a tangle of insoluble political problems among the member nations and the superpowers. But the principal obstacle is the German problem.... The future is in the laps of the gods. It will probably be decided, once again, by Germany's decisions. And Germany is, as it always was, a mutable, Proteuslike, unpredictable country, PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS WHEN IT IS UNHAPPY" (The Europeans, p. 267, emphasis mine).

Already we see Gerhard Schroeder, Lower Saxony's prime minister, becoming the natural Social Democrat challenger to Helmut Kohl as chancellor. Will the Social Democratic Party (SDP) take the helm in Germany over the Christian Democrats (CDU) in this year's German elections? Watch September for the results. Will old German bullying tactics railroad the decision on who will take the chief executive's post at the European Central Bank? Watch July for this decision. What of the startling rise in youthful neo-fascism in Germany over the past year, now spreading its cancer eastward through Austria and the Czech Republic? How will the transfer of administration from Bonn to Berlin affect the collective mind of the German peoples? Government of the nation from this ancient capital has promoted would-be Caesars intent on ruling all of Europe and even the world in the past. Will the increasing army of youthful unemployed, particularly in Eastern Germany, continue their embrace of Nazism? How will Germany handle its increasing frustration with immigrant workers in the face of continuing escalation of national unemployment?

Traditionally, Germany has turned to a strong, charismatic leader when such tensions create a state of national nervousness. Will another Caesar arise from the Fatherland to put the imprint of his visage on the ECU? "Those few men in history who believed that they could be the European Caesar have left millions of corpses scattered across our continent" (Charles More, op.cit).

Once monetary union is achieved, the EU will turn to face the most crucial clause in the Maastricht Treaty, the implementation of which will give the Union the military might to exert con-

siderable international force. The minds which pull the strings behind the scene as the Euro-combine merges together its mixture of iron and miry clay have been careful to reserve this sensitive matter until last. For it first required that Germany be seen as a trusted ally of the West, a dramatic reversal of her role for much of modern history.

It is Article J1 of the Treaty on European Union which will take on the greatest importance following EMU. This article of the Treaty flowed from a resolution by its fifteen signatories "reinforcing the European identity and its independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and the world." It states:

1. The Union and its member states shall define and implement a common foreign and security policy, governed by the provisions of the time and covering all areas of foreign and security policy.
2. The objectives of the common foreign and security policy shall be:
• to safeguard the common values, fundamental interests and independence of the Union;
• to strengthen the security of the Union and its member states in all ways;
• to preserve peace and strengthen international security...to promote international cooperation.

This is perhaps the most dangerous clause of all contained in the Treaty on European Union! It is this clause within the Maastricht Treaty, daughter of the old Pact of Rome, that spawned the European Union, which the EU leaders will use to legitimize their creation of a powerful combined military force that will startle the world with the ferocity of its future "peace keeping" missions!

The lessons of history already dictate the style of leadership which will follow in the wake of EMU. As Timothy Garton Ash observes, the only occasions when Europe was able to sustain supreme order over its historic violent disorder was by the imposition of "hegemonic order that itself was always built on the use of force and the denial of national and democratic aspirations within the constitutive empires or spheres of influence" (op. cit., emphasis mine).

EMU denies national and demo-

cratic aspirations of its member nations. Such aspirations are precluded under the willful hand-over of the sovereignty of EMU member nations to central European control manifested by the ECB. The force that has been applied in the past to enmesh, hold together and protect past European Federations (the Holy Roman Empire in its various configurations since Charlemagne) is military might, significantly Germanic military might! Historically, this Germanic military strength has been linked with a strong religious power—the Roman Catholic Church.

Recently, the Vatican attempted an apology for its benign neglect of the Jewish Holocaust. Yet the Holy See went to great pains to ensure that Pope Pius XII, the ruling pope during the holocaust period, gained a clean slate. Why? It was Pius XII who declared in a pontifical exhortation on February 10, 1952 that "the whole world must be rebuilt from its foundations!"

It was Pius XII who claimed in his Christmas message of 1944 that world peace could only come through an organization which "will be vested...with supreme authority and power to smother... aggression."

The proof of secular history and the more sure word of biblical prophecy all declare that a Vatican-dominated, German-led Euro-combine will promulgate article J1 of the Maastricht Treaty, enforcing EU will not only on member nations, but most significantly on those nations outside the Union.

How will all this affect you? Continue to read the pages of this magazine and watch! (I Thes. 5:6; II Tim. 4:5). Watch EMU's impact on the global economy. Watch the EU rapidly move to implement a common foreign and security policy. Watch the Vatican—and watch Germany!

"We need a new vision," said German President Roman Herzog in a recent interview (Washington Post, Feb. 17, 1998). "Visions are nothing but strategies for action. The one we had helped us rise from the ruins of World War II to build a social market economy for the prosperity of all. Our political elites need to get out of the trenches of dogma and decide society's course for the 21st century. We must take the lead, not stumble behind." ♦



Where Will It Go?: A worker stacks millions of Indonesian rupiah, which has lost more than 75 percent of its value in recent months; Suharto at his swearing-in for his seventh term.

ily and friends in financial dealings is what has become known as “Asia’s crony capitalism”: leaders enriching themselves and their favorites while impoverishing the people of their country.

Indonesia’s Plight

MSNBC News Service in Jakarta, Indonesia, reported the following on January 9, 1998: “Fearing a worsening economic crisis, thousands of panicked Indonesians rushed to supermarkets where they snapped up everything in sight.... Ignoring an army appeal for calm in the world’s fourth most-populous nation, Indonesians lined up more than 20-deep at checkout counters to buy sugar, rice, cooking oil and whatever else they could grab before yet another price rise. [Local] markets have been ravaged as the IMF sends its team to Indonesia. Calls for [President] Suharto to step down, unthinkable a week ago, were published Friday on the front page of the Jakarta Post, Indonesia’s influential English-language newspaper.”

In spite of riots, violent protests and social unrest, President Suharto was re-elected by his puppet parliament on March 10 to his seventh five-year term of office. And as The Christian Science Monitor (CSM) of March 4, 1998, stated, “[Mr. Suharto] has accumulated a fortune during his three decades in power...and has no intention of stepping down—crisis or no crisis.” Yet, the article continues, “The situation is dire. Indonesia’s poor worry more and more about putting food on the table.... Take tempeh, a product made from milled soy beans that is a key source of protein for Indonesians who can’t afford more expensive foods like meat or eggs. A block of tempeh that cost 1,000 rupiah several weeks ago

And Meanwhile...: Indonesians gather around a tractor pushing a new load of garbage into the dump, scrounging for recyclable material. About 200 men, women and children live permanently at the dump, scavenging to earn a living out of about 5,000 rupiah (US50 cents) a day they can earn.

Rescuing the Rich

In Southeast Asia, currency devaluations and other austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund are devastating common workers while wealthy investors and bankers are being bailed out. Fair? No. Typical? Very!

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders is quoted in the February 16, 1998 Insight magazine as saying, “I think the record is pretty clear that the impact of IMF austerity programs has been tragic for lower-income families. Very often unemployment goes up, wages go down and government programs in terms of subsidizing food and health care are cut.... I don’t think the U.S. should be part of a process that makes life worse for those living in abject poverty. I don’t think it’s any secret that the major cause of this problem is huge global institutions [primarily banks] who lent substantial sums of money to [other] banks and businesses in Asia who were unable to pay them back. The banks made a mistake, but I don’t think I should go running to [U.S.] taxpayers

nor should I be punishing workers in Indonesia. We should look at restructuring the problem to ask those who caused the problem to pay for what should be done.”

The Insight article continues, “In Indonesia, for example, [President] Suharto has acted as a major distorting influence on the country’s economy. His six children have amassed [financial] holdings in virtually every sector—airlines, banks, hotels, mining, petrochemicals. As in other Asian countries, the banking system is riddled with corruption and nepotism. The Suharto clan and their friends have enjoyed sweetheart deals and tax breaks that haven’t helped the Indonesian economy and did much to bring it down. Estimates of the family’s wealth run to \$40 billion—exactly the amount of the IMF’s rescue package for the country.” This favoritism towards fam-

now costs 4,000 rupiah.”

Indonesia's currency, the rupiah, has lost over 75 percent of its buying power since July 1997 when the rupiah's exchange rate was 2,430 rupiah to US\$1. As of March 6, 1998, the rupiah traded at an incredible 10,250 to US\$1, down from an astronomical high of 14,750 rupiah to US\$1 in January 1998. Only the rich have the means to avoid such a devastating currency devaluation by quickly converting their savings into a reserve currency like the U.S. dollar. However, the poor have no options, and must watch helplessly as the value in their money is literally devoured before their eyes by hyperinflation, leaving them virtually penniless.

In the March 13, 1998, CSM, Helena Cobban writes, "Indonesia...is not the only Asian nation suffering from the current downturn. The problems started in Thailand and have swept through other East Asian nations. But nowhere else except in Indonesia has the political will to solve problems been so totally stymied by the country's internal political rot. And Indonesia is big: Asian statesmen are rightly fearful of the consequences if this 200-million person nation implodes. With its loca-

tion astride key shipping lanes...and its status as the world's largest Muslim nation, an Indonesian collapse could spark political and military unrest throughout the [Asian] continent.”

Witnessing Poverty Up Close

In Matthew 26:11, Jesus Christ said, "You have the poor always with you," and that is certainly true. The vast majority of mankind is wretchedly poor and it will continue that way for now. Proverbs 10:15 (RSV) tells us, "A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.”

On March 16, my wife and I returned to America from a business trip to Guyana, South America, where we witnessed the effects of shameful government corruption and currency devaluation. We saw real poverty up close and on a personal level as we visited several small villages about 70 miles outside of the Georgetown capital. This was my second trip to Guyana and the first for my wife. Though I had told my wife about the crushing poverty in Guyana, she was unprepared for the emotional impact of what we would encounter: an impoverished society which, for most Westerners, is almost

unimaginable.

In spite of an abundance of natural resources like bauxite, gold, diamonds and manganese, as well as major export crops like sugar cane, rice and coconuts, the political corruption and failed economic policies of this English-speaking country's leaders have led Guyana into an ever-deepening pit of devastating poverty.

One of my Guyanese friends said that in 1966, when the British relinquished control of what was then known as British Guyana, the currency exchange rate for the Guyanese dollar was US\$1 to Guy\$1.80. Today, that exchange rate is US\$1 to Guy\$146.00, a grievous 99% loss of value against the U.S. dollar!

Last year, an IMF loan of \$2.1 billion was arranged for Guyana. My friend says the average citizen does not know how it was spent and no improvements can be seen because of the loan. But now the poor citizens of Guyana, who are already in grinding and disheartening poverty, must repay it. Who profited from the loan? It certainly wasn't the impoverished citizenry.

As we journeyed, we saw many people wearing clothes which were





Needing a Bailout: Guyana's living conditions have gone down with its currency.

heavily worn, often repeatedly mended, and more often still in need of mending. Cleanliness is only relative in many areas because household cleaning water must be drawn by buckets from roadside ditches filled with mosquito-infested, foul-smelling, muddy, stagnant water contaminated by human waste and garbage, and in which cattle, sheep, donkeys and pigs wade and drink.

Piles of garbage line the roads because no sanitation system exists. Litter is everywhere—some new, some years or even decades old. Rusting hulks of abandoned cars lay alongside the roads, stripped bare of any usable parts and simply left where they quit running ten, twenty or thirty years ago. No one bothers to clean up the mess.

Near the pothole-filled roads one occasionally sees the rotting corpse of an animal being swarmed by vultures or packs of scavenging dogs. On the landing approach to Timehri Airport outside Georgetown, we all gagged as the plane filled with the repugnant odor of putrefying garbage and smoke from burning sugar cane fields. To say the environment is polluted would be a gross understatement.

Refrigeration of food and running water are only a sometimes thing because the electricity is on and off continually, frequently overnight. In grocery stores and homes alike, frozen

food goes through repeated cycles of thawing and refreezing due to prolonged power outages.

Guyana is not a healthy place to visit, let alone live.

Over the last 30 years, incompetent, greedy and self-serving government officials and business leaders have ravaged the Guyanese economy and devalued the currency into NOTHINGNESS! The same thing is occurring in Southeast Asia today, and is even being worsened by the IMF which is supposed to be "saving" the Asian people from the 1997 Asian financial meltdown. But it is only the rich and powerful who profit as they drive the poor into deeper poverty through the IMF loans. As Job 24:3-11 shows, the poor are victimized and left helpless by those in power.

Deceitful Dealings

Nationally syndicated columnist Pat Buchanan wrote in the February 16, 1998 *Insight*, "Like the savings and loan debacle [in the U.S. during the 1980s], Asia's financial crisis is not some natural disaster. It is man-made and made not only in Asia but also in the United States at the Treasury Department and the International Monetary Fund, or IMF...."

"When the [Asian] crisis exploded, the IMF rushed in to bail out the banks and impose its patented medicine on the stumbling Asian regimes: austerity and [currency] devaluation.... Thus, like some quack [doctor] prescribing a

regime of rigorous exercise for a patient with two fractured legs, the IMF rescue squad arrived in Indonesia and nearly killed the patient."

Mr. Buchanan summarizes his article by saying the American people should "send a message to big money: Next time, you boys eat your losses." He then calls for the abolition of the IMF "to ensure that in future defaults, it is the big banks and foolish investors who made the blunders, not American taxpayers and workers, who take the hit." In closing he wrote, "Asia's crisis has revealed the inherent risks in [the] drive for 'global integration,' and [the] new world order stands exposed as a RICH MAN'S RACKET."

Nothing New Under the Sun

King Solomon of ancient Israel, the wisest man to ever live, other than Jesus Christ, is quoted in Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NIV) as saying, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." Truly, the impoverishment of the poor has continued for thousands of years and will continue until the system is changed by the return of Christ when He will "make all things new" (Rev. 21:5).

Almost 2,000 years ago, when Christ was in human form on this earth, He told mankind how human government works and about this present evil world (Gal. 1:4) and its Golden Rule which says, "He who has the gold rules." Christ's words are recorded in Luke 22:25 where He says, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them [the people]; and they that exercise authority upon them [the kings and rulers] are called benefactors."

According to various commentaries, those "benefactors" are "royal tyrants" who were "more often a curse and a scourge" as they ruled politicians and royalty with their money and their power, driving down the poor in the process of enriching themselves. The real power in today's world, just as in ancient societies, is Big Money—the benefactors—who rule from behind the scenes by pulling the strings of the puppets they have put into office and whom they control with their wealth.

What Are the Fruits?

The Holy Bible says, to understand a matter we must judge "by the fruits" (Matt. 7:16-20). And what are the fruits

of IMF bailouts?

The Washington Times of February 15, 1998, says in an article by Lorraine Woellert that "The International Monetary Fund is the world's richest uncle, a generous free-spender.... But after more than half a century of fiscal nurturing, the GREAT BENEFACITOR is going broke. In a matter of months, the economic free-fall in Asia claimed nearly all of the IMF's \$200 billion in reserves."

As this article goes to press, the United States Congress is debating whether to replenish the IMF's coffers with \$18 billion of taxpayer's money for future activities. The Wall Street Journal of March 13, 1998, carried an article entitled "The IMF's Big Wealth Transfer," in which it discussed how American taxpayers are "losing money because the [interest] rates at which [the IMF is] lending dollars are lower than the rates at which they are borrowing dollars...."

"These so-called IMF 'loans,' then, actually offered extraordinarily generous rebates of about 10 percent below

market rates. On the \$117 billion lent to East Asia under IMF auspices thus far, the region is saving about \$12 billion a year in interest payments. Over three years, South Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia will have received a direct wealth transfer of at least \$35 billion, mostly from U.S. and Western European taxpayers....

"More specifically, much of this \$35 billion will amount to a wealth transfer from middle-class Westerners to East Asian governments, banks and their rich equity owners, and from there to wealthy Western and Japanese investors who risked capital in foolish ways (or perhaps not so foolish, since there was a good chance they would be bailed out in the end)...."

"The IMF, despite its efforts to push economic reforms, rewards bad regulatory regimes in the same way East Asia's crony capitalism rewarded bad investments. There is good reason to be wary of a cure whose side effects include generating more of the same disease."

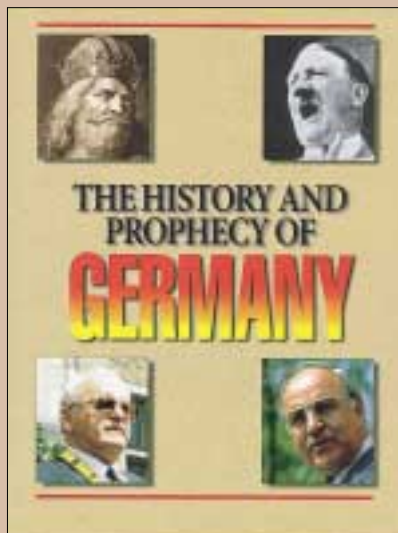
President Yoweri Museveni of

Uganda, Africa, is quoted in the March 21, 1998 World magazine as saying that "three decades of Western aid [IMF and World Bank hand-outs] have led to 'slavery' rather than economic improvement for Africa."

Jesus Christ brings the matter clearly into focus when He states in Luke 6:43-45 (NKJV), "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

The "fruits" of this "great benefactor" known as the IMF speak loud and clear. The Wall Street Journal of February 3, 1998, sums it up well in an editorial entitled "Who Needs the IMF?" which states, "As is typical when the IMF intervenes, the governments and lenders were rescued, but not the people." ♦

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World News Watch

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape.”

◆ WORLD ECONOMY

Sony chairman predicts financial collapse

“The Japanese economy is on the verge of collapsing,” said Norio Ohga, chairman of electronics giant Sony Corporation, on April 2. He said, “If the economic situation continues to decline, we [Japan] will face a long spiral of deflation. This will no doubt have a damaging effect on the world economy.” This deflationary downward spiral in



Honest Ohga

Japan and its worldwide implications is exactly what the Trumpet has been warning about in many articles in our 1997 and 1998 issues. The nations of the world are facing tremendous financial trouble and Japan is at the very heart of that trouble!

The April 3 Wall Street Journal states, “Japanese [stock market] shares have

plunged 5% in the past two days, and 7.5% in the past week... A weakening Japanese economy and falling Tokyo stocks would trigger round two of the Asian crisis.”

The March 4 International Herald Tribune said economists “warn that Japan, the world’s second-largest economy, is about to enter the worst deflationary period in decades unless the Japanese government takes urgent action.... Deflation is downward momentum in prices, profit and wages. This [Japanese economic condition] is deflation, and it’s something we have not seen in a long time. No major economy has suffered this

kind of thing—where you have all three factors dropping at the same time—since the mid 1930s.”

On April 3 a spokeswoman for Mitsubishi Research Institute was quoted on Australian TV news as saying, “Japan is the largest supplier of funds to the rest of the world and most notably to America. The American economy is very much surviving on strength of funds flowing in from Japan and if that is not forthcoming, obviously, the wonderful new paradigm of the American economy is going to collapse as well.” ◆



Wake-up call

◆ EUROPE

No need for nukes, says UK

Europe is metamorphasizing. It has entered a cocoon, and no one seems certain what will emerge.

Monetary Union will be taking shape this year. Military union should soon follow. Rising unemployment is demanding a solution, even a drastic one. September may usher in a new German chancellor. France is becoming stranger ideologically. The Bundeswehr is showing neo-fascist undercurrents.

It is in this uncertain, ominous atmosphere that Britain, under its current Labour government, is undergoing Strategic Defense Review. Mapping out a new program for its military in a post-Cold-War world.

So, is she taking a tougher, more defensive posture? Preparing herself in case something may go awry, as it very



AP/Wideworld

The toothless RAF

well may?

No; in fact she is doing the opposite. “We no longer face the threat of general war in Europe,” the Defense Secretary is boldly stating. That is the major premise of the Review.

On March 31 Britain announced that the Royal Air Force’s nuclear arse-

nal will be eliminated—hundreds of small-scale, very accurate and deadly tactical nuclear weapons, decommissioned. Michael Clark of the Center of Defense Studies at King’s College explained simply, “Nobody could think of a sensible use for nuclear weapons carried under aircraft like this.” How simple things become when Germany is viewed as an ally.

That leaves Britain with just her Trident-loaded submarines, which have incomprehensible, Armageddon-like power. These, honestly, Britain will never use.

In the process of “restructuring,” “modernizing” and “evolving” its military, the UK is parading its weak will and further opening itself up as a target of international aggression.

The Bible prophesies that Britain does in fact face the threat of a European war, and soon. Our booklet *The History and Prophecy of Germany* thoroughly explains why. The Bible also says that nuclear weapons WILL BE USED.

But not by Britain. ◆

Israeli pullback continues

True to the Trumpet's prediction, the Mideast peace process is in shambles. Several sources predict a possible Mideast war in 1998.

The November 1993 Trumpet revealed, via Gerald Flurry's feature article, Yasser Arafat's public speeches as being replete with references to the ultimate goal of "an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital." Arafat went on to say, as we reported, "We plan to eliminate the state of Israel and establish a Palestinian state."

Our feature article in the January 1996 Trumpet blared, "Here is what to watch for in the months ahead: Look for Israel to continue in their complete retreat from territories gained in past wars. This will

make them more vulnerable to attack.... Tensions between Israel and her neighbors will increase.

THERE WILL NOT BE PEACE—regardless of how many treaties are signed. As the threat of war looms for Israel, look for them to turn to the European Union for help and support instead of America."

Two years later, the peace process is all but over, violence in the region has not stopped, and Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories continues.

Though unwilling to pull back from more than 10 percent of the West Bank, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to halt all military action in Lebanon and withdraw Israeli troops from the 340-square-mile buffer zone



Future role reversal? AP/Wideworld

to the international border.

Lebanese President Elias Hraw, however, rejected the Israeli cabinet's decision as a "trial balloon," while Damascus continues in rhetorical mode its demand for the return of the Golan Heights—an area located in northern Israel, secured during the 1967 war and crucial to Israeli security.

Sources within both the U.S. and Israeli administrations claim that America is intent on seeing Netanyahu removed from office so that he might be the scapegoat for the failed peace process. Meanwhile, the man whom Arafat has called his friend, Shimon Peres, waits in the wings, biding his time. ◆

Israel keeps courting EU

"Seldom has an Israeli prime minister made such a concerted effort to bring so many of the European Union's key members into the Middle East peacemaking picture as did Netanyahu" on his European tour in March, according to the Jerusalem Post.

Each of Netanyahu's stops proved symbolic: Madrid hosted the Middle East peace conference in 1991; Bonn has been more responsive to and supportive of Israeli policies than any other EU nation; Oslo was where the Palestinian accords were drawn up; and London is where the current EU president resides.

This trip, along with Netanyahu's visit to Bonn on December 4 last year, sends a strong message to all observing the political landscape of the world: Israel wants the EU more involved in Middle East peace efforts.

Considering the recent inertness of U.S. diplomacy in Middle East peace negotiations, it's easy to see why Israel is looking for help

elsewhere. American envoy Dennis Ross' unsuccessful stint in the region in late March was viewed by some as America's last chance to revitalize talks. After Netanyahu flat-out rejected Ross' proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from 13 percent of the West Bank, Ross lost patience. He said the matter of arranging further talks rested solely in the hands of President Clinton. The New York Times said Ross' failure left Clinton with two options: "Either try to exert greater pressure on Netanyahu by making their proposals public, or abandon the role of mediator" (March 31, 1998).

For some time now, we have been saying that America's days are numbered as the primary broker for Middle East peace. At the same time, we have been advising our readers for years to watch for strengthening ties between Israel and Europe (see p. 28 of Jan. and p. 29 of Sept./Oct. 1997 issues). Recent events confirm our biblical prediction for Israel: When the going gets tough for Israel in the Middle East, they will turn to the German-led EU for help, not the United States. ◆

No rain in rain forest

The onslaught of history's worst El Niño did more than cause tornados and flooding. It turned South America's once-bountiful tropical rain forests into parched wasteland.

The Amazon basin suffered through its most severe drought in 30 years. Underbrush and fallen trees on the forest floor created prime conditions for an inextinguishable fire.

Even when doused with water, the fire spread underground through vast root networks. As flames were extinguished in one region they sprang up in another, making the fire almost impossible to fight.

As of April 1, over 17,000 square miles of prime rain forest in northern Brazil have been consumed. According to the United Nations, this was a disaster without precedent in the world.

Panic among residents and firefighters brought them to search for alternative methods: according to firefighter Colonel Alberto Carballo, "Only God and rain can help us stop these fires from spreading." Pagan Indians were called upon to perform a "sacred" rain dance. The rains finally did come in early April.

How typical: when disaster strikes, we turn to God only after every other possible solution has been considered. And even then, our pleas for divine intervention are at best half-hearted. ◆



Amazon inferno

THE KEY OF DAVID

TELEVISION PROGRAM

TELEVISION LOG

United States

WGN—6:30 am ET, Sunday (Nationwide cable)
WPHL—6:30 am ET, Sunday (Northeast United States cable)

Alabama, Montgomery—WHOA 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Arizona—KUSK 9:30 am MT, Sunday
 Arizona, Phoenix—KSAZ 6:30 am MT, Sunday
 Arkansas, Little Rock—KASN 8:00 am CT, Saturday
 California, Concord—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Los Angeles—KCBS 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Oakland—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Diego—KGTU 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Francisco—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Jose—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Sacramento—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 Colorado, Alamosa—KOB 8:30 am CT, Sunday **
 Florida, Jacksonville—WTEV 6:30 am ET, Saturday
 Florida, Orlando—WRBW 7:00 am ET, Saturday
 Florida, Tallahassee—WTLH 8:30 am ET, Sunday **
 Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Georgia, Atlanta—WGNX 6:30 am ET, Saturday
 Illinois, Chicago—WCIU 6:30 am CT, Saturday
 Illinois, Chicago—WGN 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Illinois, Decatur—WAND 7:00 am CT, Sunday
 Indiana, Indianapolis—WNDY 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Kansas, Topeka—WIBW 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Kansas, Wichita—KSAS 10:00 am CT, Sunday
 Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 10:00 pm ET, Saturday
 Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 11:30 pm CT, Sunday
 Louisiana, Shreveport—KMSS 8:00 am CT, Sunday
 Massachusetts, Boston—WFXT 8:00 am ET, Sunday **
 Massachusetts, Boston—WSBK 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00 am ET, Sunday
 Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul—WFTC 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Minnesota, Rochester—WFTC 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Missouri, Cape Girardeau—WDKA 11:30 pm CT, Sunday
 Missouri, Kansas City—KCWB 6:00 am CT, Saturday **
 Missouri, St. Louis—KPLR 6:00 am CT, Sunday
 New Jersey—WPHL 6:30 pm ET, Sunday
 New Mexico, Albuquerque—KOB 8:30 am MT, Sunday
 New Mexico, Farmington—KOB 8:30 am CT, Sunday **
 New York, Buffalo—WIVB 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 New York, New York City—WPXN 12:30 pm ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Asheville—WHNS 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Cincinnati—WKRC 5:30 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Cleveland/Akron—WVPX 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Columbus—WWHO 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Oklahoma, Tulsa—KOKI 9:00 am CT, Sunday
 Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCO 6:30 am CT, Sunday

Oregon, Eugene—KLSR 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 Oregon, Portland—KPDX 7:30 am PT, Sunday
 Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WPHL 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh—WPGH 7:30 am ET, Sunday
 Pennsylvania, Red Lion—WGCB 8:30 am ET, Sunday
 South Carolina, Columbia—WOLO 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WHNS 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00 am ET, Sunday
 Texas, Corpus Christi—KDF 6:30am CT, Sunday
 Texas, Dallas—KDFI 7:30 am CT, Sunday **
 Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Texas, Tyler—KLTU 10:30 am CT, Sunday
 Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30 am ET, Sunday
 Washington, D.C.—WUSA 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Washington, Seattle—KONG 8:00 am PT, Sunday **
 Washington, Spokane—KXLY 6:00 am PT, Sunday

Australia

Network 10—4:30 am, Sunday
 —Channel 10, Melb., Syd., Brisb., Perth, Adelaide
 —NRTV, North New South Wales
 —Capital TV, South New South Wales
 —Southern Cross TV, Victoria
 —QTV, Queensland

Britain and Europe

Channel 7—04:00 GMT, Sunday (Astra 1A, 7)
 —08:00 GMT, Sunday (Astra 1A, 7)

Canada

VISION Network—9:30 am ET, Sunday (Nationwide Canadian cable)

Alberta/Calgary—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 Alberta/Edmonton—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 Alberta/Red Deer—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 British Columbia, Prince George—CKPG 8:30 am PT, Sunday
 British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00 am PT, Sunday
 New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Quebec, Montreal—CKMI 11:00 am Sunday

India and Southeast Asia

Asian Television Network—5:30 pm, Sunday (India Standard Time)
 (Pan Am Sat 4)

New Zealand

TV3—6:00 am, Friday

Philippines

IBC TV—7:00 am, Sunday

Worldwide

WWCR—4:30 pm, ET, Monday (Shortwave Radio) 15.685 MHz

** Indicates a new station or time change

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