

AT EASE

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U.S. and British militaries

TRUTH ABOUT TERROR

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even in the West, try to justify and romanticize it?

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DECEMBER 2004

THE PHILADELPHIA

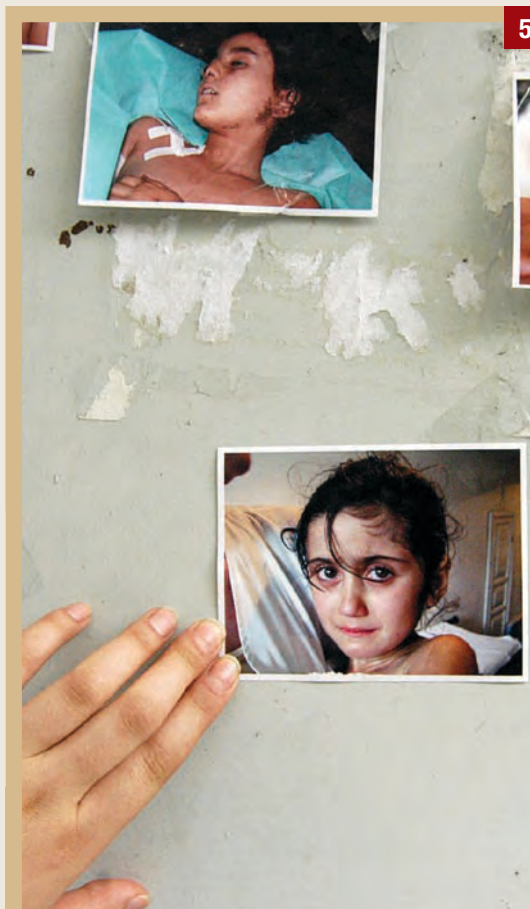
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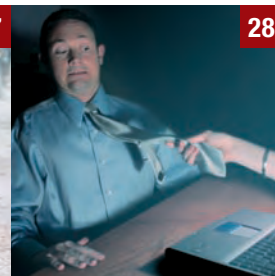
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A Catholic priest unsheathing a sword—symbolizing the tough stance the Vatican proposes to take against Islam. Photo illustration by Joel Hilliker/Aubrey Mercado/Philip Nice; wardrobe by Paulette Corey-Armstrong.

Gerald Flury



The Coming War Between Catholicism and Islam

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS BEEN SHOCKED BY WHAT is happening in the Islamic world. And it has dramatically shifted its approach to Islam—especially radical Islam.

Carefully examine this stunning report: “Nearly two years after conducting a vigorous international campaign against military intervention in Iraq, the Vatican reversed itself.

“The *Telegraph*, Britain’s leading conservative newspaper, reported October 10 that Vatican officials now support a multinational military presence led by NATO to restore order and protect Iraq’s nascent democracy. ...

“[A]n editorial in the newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference, *Avvenire*, written by Vittorio Parsi, a professor at the Catholic University of Milan and the newspaper’s foreign policy expert, bluntly outlined Vatican policy: ‘What (the terrorists) want is, in fact, not “Iraq for the Iraqis,” but “Iraq for the assassins.” Thus all of Iraq will become a colossal common area for fundamentalist terrorism, for the brigands of Ba’ath, and for the most extremist Shiite mullahs. The international community and the West, which objectively holds within this community the greatest share of power, culture and responsibility, have the duty of blocking the realization of this plan. The Atlantic alliance, with its attitudes and counterbalances, is the multilateral institution that can assume the onus of protecting the right of the Iraqis to express their political will by voting.’

“Rome’s stance goes beyond a resigned acceptance of uncomfortable facts or the determination to influence the issue. It reflects a gradual yet increased awareness—and fear—of jihadism’s growing influence. ...

“Rome also appears more willing to advocate a more assertive military presence against jihadist terror, within limits governed by international law. ...

“When asked whether the God of Christians is the same as Allah, [Monsignor Cesare] Mazzolari [bishop of Rumbek in Sudan] replied, ‘No way! Where would the concept of the Trinity fit in ...?’

“Mazzolari stated what many Vatican officials are afraid to admit: the ‘clash of civilizations’ is here.

“‘This is just the beginning,’ he said. ‘The church has defeated communism, but is just starting to understand its next challenge—Islamism, which is much worse. The holy father has not been able to take up this challenge due to his old age. But the next pope will find himself having to face it.’

“Mazzolari is not alone. [Sandro] Magister [who has covered the Vatican for more than 25 years] wrote that when bishops from around the world report personally to the pope, ‘many of those hailing from Muslim countries think just like

Mazzolari. And, when in audience with the pope, some of these bishops even speak up about it.’

“[Vatican secretary of state Angelo] Sodano, the Vatican’s second-most powerful cardinal, has been listening. ‘The big problem of the future will be our relationship with the Islamic world,’ he told the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on October 15. ‘It is a challenge that does not only concern the church.’ ...

“Given the horrifying nature of jihadist imperialism, perhaps Rome is starting to realize that it doesn’t

have centuries to act” (FrontPageMagazine.com, November 9).

If we know history, we can see this situation building toward war! Some background will help us understand.

The Crusades The Crusades were a series of Roman Catholic “holy” wars to wrest control of the Holy Land from Muslims. They produced some of the bloodiest battles in history. Did you ever wonder how the Catholics reconcile that “holy” slaughter *with the Bible*, which states, “Thou shalt not kill”? Or how they can read the Sermon on the Mount and still lead the religious world in spilling rivers of blood?

They are called the *Christian* Crusades. That label itself is a deception. They were primarily *Catholic* crusades. Other Christian religions have their problems, but let’s not blame them for what the Catholics did—and *will do*.

In A.D. 622, Catholics fought and were defeated in a crusade against the Persians and the Jews. Some 60,000 Catholics were killed and 35,000 enslaved. The fall of Jerusalem left the Catholic world shocked and mourning.

This war embittered Catholics against the Jews for the role they played in it. Much anti-Semitism began because of it.



THE SEE

The Vatican is talking tough against the incursion of Islam into Europe.

AP/GETTY IMAGES

Some historians consider this the First Crusade. But the Crusades we best remember came later, beginning in the 11th century.

Pope Urban II unleashed a savage Catholic army and started these later Crusades. This “righteous” army marched 3,000 miles to conquer the Holy Land.

Here is an excerpt from the book *Crusades*, by Terry Jones and Alan Ereira, which became a BBC television series: “By summoning an army under the banner of the cross, THE POPE WAS EXTENDING THE CHURCH’S MANTLE OVER ALL CHRISTENDOM. THIS WAS THE IDEA AT THE VERY HEART OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PAPACY; in place of separate local churches at the center of discrete communities, THERE WAS TO BE ONE OVERARCHING CHURCH, RULED BY ONE OVERARCHING POPE. The crusade was to be its expression and its instrument” (emphasis mine throughout).

They state that this thinking was AT THE HEART OF THE PAPACY. The popes wanted to rule any church called Christian. Through the Holy Roman Empire, they also tried repeatedly to rule the entire world. They have succeeded six times, and according to Bible prophecy are about to succeed again—for the last time. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for proof.)



FREE UPON REQUEST

The Protestant churches are prophesied to be brought back into the Catholic Church (Isaiah 47). Mostly, this will be done through bloodshed. Remember, this wish to rule all Christianity is at “the very heart of the revolutionary papacy.” That

means this philosophy has motivated them for nearly 2,000 years. They still believe violent and bloody crusades are righteous. Have they ever truly repented of this condemning history? The answer is no. The best they have managed are some recent vague apologies.

History proves the Catholic Church to be one of the most militant institutions ever created. It does not believe in a democratic philosophy. It has routinely and often “converted” people by the sword. And yet, this world seems unwilling to hold it accountable for its war crimes.

Modern historians have shown how closely the Vatican worked with the Nazis. It was through the Catholic Church that most of the leading Nazis escaped after World War II. That history is well documented. No one should doubt it. (Read *The Unholy Trinity* by Mark Aarons and John Loftus, available at bookstores.)

Doesn’t that crime reveal that the Catholics were deeply involved with the Nazi war machine? Just a little logic should teach us that!

This subject is too important to let our emotions stand in the way, because the worst is yet to come!

The last crusade will be the supreme inquisition of all history. It is time we understood the bloody history of the Crusades and let it be a warning!

The world seems almost unaware of these monstrous crimes.

The Jones and Ereira book continues, “Urban’s army would also rescue Jerusalem, the spiritual (and therefore the physical) CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. He hoped that the redeemed Jerusalem would be directly ruled by the church.

“Every man who enrolled for the struggle must mark himself out by wearing a cross and, most important, vow to continue on his way until he reached Jerusalem.

“Urban’s method of raising this army was completely original; as well as pay, he could offer paradise [much like the Islamic terrorists]—anyone who took part had all their sins forgiven. “Whoever for devotion alone, not to gain honor or money, goes to Jerusalem to liberate the church of God can substitute this journey for all penance.”

Any Bible student ought to know that *only God* can offer paradise and forgive sins. But that is the big problem with most Christians: They don’t believe and obey the Bible!

The whole world, including the religious world, is deceived (Revelation 12:9). Enormous problems like the Crusades will continue until we confront our own deception.

Jones and Ereira conclude, “By saying that carrying out a military/political enterprise would make you a better person, wiping



IN THE NAME OF GOD

During the Crusades, Catholics and Muslims converted with the sword.

out past sins, Urban had invented a way by which every person could internalize papal policy. Fighting in the pope’s cause was not only an obligation, it made you righteous. With that one idea, mass political action was launched. With that one idea, ideology was born. With that one idea, the Crusade was set in motion. **URBAN DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE HAD DONE.**”

Perhaps this pope did not know what he had done. **BUT WHAT HE BEGAN LED TO A NUMBER OF INDESCRIBABLY BRUTAL WARS BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND MUSLIMS.**

The real tragedy is that the world, like Pope Urban, still doesn’t understand what he did, and what the Catholic Church *continues* to do. Their real beliefs surface when they gain power. Today, they are building the greatest power they have ever had. **IF YOU UNDERSTAND THEIR HISTORY, THEIR FUTURE IS VERY PREDICTABLE—FAR MORE THAN MOST HISTORIANS BELIEVE.** Add Bible prophecy to that equation and you will see that this world faces a frightening specter.

Fighting on Both Sides THE CRUSADES CREATED RIVERS OF BLOOD. AND IT WAS ALL DONE IN THE NAME OF GOD. Of course, the Muslims responded with massive slaughters against the Crusaders, also in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

Jerusalem is considered a holy place by *both* religions. It is indeed considered the “center of the universe” to the Catholics. They believe conquering Jerusalem makes them righteous. That has been their ideology from the beginning. It is still true today. The fruits are there to prove it. The Bible says that “by their fruits ye shall know them.” They believe in war as an instrument to achieve their religious goals.

“The following morning the Crusaders re-entered the al-Aqsa Mosque and slaughtered every Muslim sheltering there. No one knows how many died; the Muslim chronicler reports 70,000. ONE OF THE CRUSADES REPORTS PICKING HIS WAY THROUGH A MESS OF BLOOD AND BODIES MORE THAN KNEE-DEEP” (ibid.). This is only one episode of many. Many people have seen pictures of this very mosque.

How many Muslims still remember the history of this mosque being knee-deep in Muslim blood? And all of this savagery supposedly made Catholics righteous! A warrior who burned Muslim babies in the Crusade was considered worthy of glory for all eternity! Does this really make sense to a sound mind?

“But killing, the pope now declared, need not be a sin after all. It depended on who you killed. In fact, if you killed the enemies of Christ, killing did not require penance—it *was* the penance. HOLY SLAUGHTER COULD BE AS EFFECTIVE A DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY AS PRAYER, OR FASTING, OR PILGRIMAGE.”

The pope said, “Now we are proposing that you should fight wars which contain the glorious reward of martyrdom, in which you can gain the title of present and eternal glory”

“The pope had also pointed out the importance of rescuing Jerusalem from the infidel. He seems to have suggested that ‘rescue’ meant ‘seize and keep’” (ibid.).

The pope also said, “Take the road to the Holy Sepulcher, rescue that land from a dreadful race and rule over it yourselves.”

Muslim and Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem were slaughtered like pigs. And all of this was done by Catholics who presumably became more righteous in the process.

Were these killers true Christians? A true Christian is one who follows Christ. If we look in the gospels, Christ tells us to love our enemies, even die for them—not kill them!

The memory of such horrendous massacres still lives in the minds of many Muslims. Those memories have provoked Arabs and Jews to massacre Catholics throughout history in a similar manner—all in the name of religion.

King Peter's Crusade King Peter launched his crusade from the little Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which was captured by Catholic Crusaders during the Third Crusade. Here is what Steven Runciman wrote about King Peter's crusade in *A History of the Crusades*: “King Peter arrived at Rhodes early in the month, and on the 25th the whole Cypriot fleet sailed into the harbor, 108 vessels in all, galleys, transports, merchant ships and light skiffs. With the great galleys of the Venetians

and those provided by the hospital, the armada numbered 165 ships. They carried a full complement of men, with ample horses, provisions and arms. Not since the Third Crusade had a proportionate expedition set out for the Holy War. ...

“During the Friday night there was a fierce Muslim counterattack through one of the southern gates, which the Christians in their excitement had burned down. It was beaten off; and by the Saturday afternoon, all Alexandria was in the Crusaders' hands.

“THE VICTORY WAS CELEBRATED WITH UNPARALLELED SAVAGERY. TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES OF HOLY WARFARE HAD TAUGHT THE CRUSADES NOTHING OF HUMANITY. The massacres were only equalled by those of Jerusalem in 1099 and Constantinople in 1204. The Muslims had not been so ferocious at Antioch or at Acre. Alexandria's wealth had been phenomenal; and the victors were maddened at the sight of so much booty. They spared no one. The native Christians and the Jews suffered as much as the Muslims; and even the European merchants settled in the city saw their factories and storehouses ruthlessly looted. Mosques and tombs were raided and their ornaments stolen or destroyed; churches too were sacked, though a gallant crippled Coptic lady managed to save some of the treasures of her sect at the sacrifice of her private fortune. Houses were entered, and HOUSEHOLDERS WHO DID NOT IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS WERE SLAUGHTERED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. Some 5,000 prisoners, Christians and Jews as well as Muslims,

were taken to be sold as slaves. A long line of horses, asses and camels carried the loot to the ships in the harbor and there having performed their task were killed. THE WHOLE CITY STANK WITH THE ODOR OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL CORPSES.”

This author said, “THE CRUSADES WERE THE POPE'S WORK.” The Crusade philosophy has made Catholic popes the bloodiest religious leaders ever!

Still, most people try to hide from this frightening reality. That is the main reason why the worst Catholic crusade is yet to come. Mankind refuses to believe the truth and believe God.

The world so quickly forgets. And as a result, the massive bloodshed continues. The Catholics did these appalling, despicable deeds before the world. But has anyone heard them REPENT before the world?

Cyprus More than one crusade has been launched from Cyprus. Will we see the last crusade launched from there as well? Is history about to repeat itself?

Turkey, just north of Cyprus, has been a strong member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for many years. Yet, a German-led European Union rejected them from joining the EU—even though they have been applying since 1963, when there were only six members!

Cyprus, on the other hand, was accepted as an EU member as of May this year.

Why, then, has the EU consistently rejected Turkey? Is it because Turkey is predominantly Islamic?

The EU is prophesied to be ultimately comprised of 10 nations, or groups of nations, dominated by Catholicism. Already the EU is being called the Holy Roman Empire. It has traditionally been the enemy of the Muslims.

The Crusades created rivers of blood. And it was all done in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

And why did the EU want tiny Cyprus to be a member? Is the EU already thinking about Cyprus as a launching pad from which to protect its Jerusalem interests?

You can be certain that the EU is thinking about how to protect the holy places in and around Jerusalem. Catholic Europe has thought like this for almost 2,000 years!

Even the people building the EU don't fully understand what is happening. There is a spirit and force behind these events that the world does not see.

Final Crusade Prophesied The Jews have Jerusalem now. But not for long. Both Muslims and Catholics have designs for Jerusalem. These two great powers are about to clash again—and go head-to-head in the final crusade over Jerusalem!

In 1997, Iran conducted major war games code-named "Road to Jerusalem." Between 150,000 and 500,000 soldiers participated. What could be more provocative? Iran is advertising its strategy to the world.

Iran's designs on Jerusalem are a driving force behind its nuclear program and its acquisition of military hardware. Tehran's military demonstrations are intended to unnerve Israel. Earlier this year Iran successfully tested its new Shahab-3 intermediate-range missile. This missile can reach southern Europe—Jerusalem is well within its limits! In September, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps General Commander Yahya Rahim-Safavi said Iran's greatest threats are the United States and Israel. This is preposterous! Israel has never initiated an attack against its neighbors. The truth is, Iran feels no threat to its own peace and safety—it is speedily building its military so it can become a greater threat to *Jerusalem's* peace and safety!

Few people understand this Muslim passion for Jerusalem and its holy sites. It is the kind of passion that causes war!

Iran will undoubtedly lead the king of the south (Daniel 11:40). This power will be comprised of the radical Islamic movement. Iran is working fiercely to lead this radically militant religion.

Iran has virtually destroyed the peace process single-handedly. Still, the world continues to talk about peace. Iran and radical Islam don't want peace, and words won't deter them.

Joseph de Courcy once wrote this in the *Islamic Affairs Analyst*: "Subscribers should be in absolutely no doubt about this. From Iran's support for subversion in Bahrain, through its improving ties with Egypt, its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamist revolutionaries in Khartoum, to its close strategic alliance with Moscow, everything has the same ultimate purpose: *the liberation of Jerusalem from under the Zionist yoke.*"

The U.S. has tried to isolate Iran. Almost no other nation supports America. This attempt has failed. The U.S. is fighting against Bible prophecy.

Here is what the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in 1996: "We know but one word: struggle, struggle. *Jihad, jihad, jihad.* When we stop our *intifada*, when we stop our revolution, we go to the greater *jihad*, the *jihad* of the independent Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem."

Jihad is the Arab cry for holy war. They will get their war. But it will not be holy. It will lead to the worst suffering this planet has ever experienced!

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a

whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Daniel 11:40). This king of the south is undoubtedly the Iran-led radical Muslims. They are strong and are beginning to PUSH others around the world today.

Soon they will PUSH at the king of the north, the so-called Holy Roman Empire—the same religious power that was behind the Crusades. And that push will surely revolve around Jerusalem.

Just 20 years ago, nobody could have even imagined two world powers coming out of the Middle East and Europe. But God knew exactly what would happen. Nobody but God could have inspired these prophecies. Everybody can see these two great powers today.

Just look at what is happening in Europe—and has been for years. Pope John Paul II has worked feverishly to revive the Holy Roman Empire. Early in his pontificate, in Spain, Nov. 9, 1981, he said this: "It can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that it is precisely in Christianity that are found those common roots by which the Continent has seen its civilization mature: its culture, its dynamism, its activity, its capacity for constructive expansion in other continents as well; in a word, all that makes up its glory. ...

"Find yourself again. Be yourself. Discover your origins, revive your roots. Return to those authentic values which made your history a glorious one and your presence so beneficent in the other continents."

During the Inquisition, OVER 50 MILLION innocent people WERE KILLED IN THE NAME OF "CHRISTIANITY"! That's right—50 million! And you can add many millions more as victims of the Holy Roman Empire. Shouldn't the whole world fear a pope who would say, "DISCOVER YOUR ORIGINS, REVIVE YOUR ROOTS. RETURN TO THOSE AUTHENTIC VALUES WHICH MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE"? Those "origins" and "roots" and that "history" caused many millions of people to die!

This is why the world should be so alarmed when it hears the Vatican today talking about its next great adversary being Islamism. They are right: This Middle Eastern power is rising and becoming a serious threat. But for the Catholic Church to speak out about the problem is to bring the specter of the Crusades to life once again!

We must understand the Holy Roman Empire and the Crusades to understand the Catholic passion for Jerusalem. They have a long history of spilling rivers of blood over Jerusalem.

Notice what their first action is after they are victorious: "He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon" (verse 41). They "enter" into the glorious land, or the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this is a peaceful entry—not forced. That indicates that the Jews are going to experience a spectacular double-cross!

There is no excuse for America and Britain not knowing the truth. God has been sending His message in power for over 70 years! They have rejected it repeatedly. That is why they now must suffer so intensely. Finally, God will get their attention and lead them to peace, full joy and abundance. ■

The Vatican says its next great adversary is Islamism. True, this Middle Eastern power is becoming a serious threat. But for the Catholic Church to speak out about the problem is to bring the specter of the Crusades to life once again!

**INNOCENTS**

Photographs of injured children are affixed to a hospital wall in Russia. They were among the survivors of a terrorist attack on Beslan School #1.

Ugly Truths About ISLAMIC TERRORISM

Calling evil by its name. BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR quickly became a nightmare. At 9 a.m., with the gymnasium packed with 6-to-16-year-old students in assembly, terrorists blasted into the school. After machine-gunning down several adults, they took over and rigged the building with explosives.

For 53 excruciating hours, they terrified their captives. One boy begged a terrorist for some water, and in response got a bayonet plunged into his body. De-

hydrated students were forced to drink their own urine in order to survive. After one of the teachers pleaded for the terrorists to spare the children, she was asked,

“Have you finished?” When she nodded, she was shot dead. Several individuals were dragged to one particular classroom, murdered and thrown out a window.

What causes people to act so mercilessly? How could a mind become so sick as to justify terrorizing and killing innocent people—let alone children? The terrorists of 9/11 targeted buildings full of adults—bad enough, to be sure. But how evil do people have to be to deliberately select as their target a *grade school*?

In the end, the terrorists slaughtered over 350 people with sniper fire and rigged explosives. Over 150 of the dead were children.

In a world growing increasingly desensitized to daily headlines describing suicide bombings, institutionalized torture, kidnappings and beheadings, the September 3 terrorist attack at School #1 in Beslan, Russia, was particularly shocking for its barbarity. It was deeply revealing of the grisly heartlessness, the lack of concern for innocent life, that typifies the terrorist mentality.

But perhaps just as shocking was the global response to the calamity.

Rather than expressing indignation over the wickedness—and sympathy for its victims—several governments and much of the mainstream press sought to pin blame on the Russian leadership. The European Union demanded that Russia explain “how the tragedy could have occurred.” President Putin was particularly criticized by an international community sympathetic to the aims of the separatists in Chechnya that have been waging a terrorist war against Russia for over a

assailants, captors, insurgents, perpetrators, rebels and so on.

This too was deeply revealing. It revealed moral compromise. It revealed an unwillingness to admit the reality that Chechnya has become another bloody battleground in a war waged by Islamic terrorists—killing innocent civilians for political purposes in nations all over the globe. It revealed a *complete failure by so many in the West to comprehend the grim threat that terrorism poses in the world today.*

Such naivety is appallingly dangerous. It virtually guarantees that ISLAMIC TERRORISM will become perhaps *the single most shockingly destructive force in the world in the near term.*

We must face this issue squarely. Wishful thinking, political correctness, careless assumption, unfounded emotion—all these obscure the truth. Looking at the observable facts with unblinking honesty provides a chilling picture of nothing less than the early stages of another Medieval religious crusade.

But even more importantly, if we also sweep aside any prejudice against

cism, is a religion whose ultimate goal is *universal conversion*. “In the classical Islamic view, to which many Muslims are beginning to return, the world and all mankind are divided into two: the House of Islam, where the Muslim law and faith prevail, and the rest, known as the House of Unbelief or the House of War, which it is the duty of Muslims ultimately to bring to Islam” (Bernard Lewis, *Atlantic*, September 1990).

Among the multiplicity of religions throughout history, most have been polytheistic, idolatrous and relatively tolerant of other beliefs. Islam and Catholicism, by contrast, stand out not only as being two of the few religions that demand worship of only one god, but also as being missionary—and quite aggressive in their ambitions. (Not surprisingly, then, Muslims and Catholics have been found in conflict with one another during most of the 14 centuries that they have coexisted, struggling through a repetitive cycle of jihads and crusades.)

In the writings and speeches of many influential Muslims, the language of religious conquest appears again and again. Sayyid Qutb, one of the leading thinkers behind the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in the mid-20th century, wrote in a 1955 essay of his desire to establish a headquarters for Islam worldwide, “which is then to be carried throughout the Earth to the whole of mankind, as the object of this religion is all humanity and its sphere of action is the whole Earth.” Qutb’s ideas provided impetus for the rise in radical Islamist groups; his followers assassinated Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Qutb’s thinking is alive and well today. Even moderate Muslims speak of Islam as being a universal religion aimed at encompassing the world. Dr. Zaki Badawi, the moderate former director of London’s Islamic Cultural Center, said Islam “hopes that one day the whole of humanity will be one Muslim community.”

Many Muslims are particularly excited about converting Western nations, especially the United States. The first Muslim missionaries to the U.S. in the 1920s declared frankly, “Our plan is, we are going to conquer America.” Today’s adherents to this belief are not just on the extremist fringe—they populate mainstream Muslim groups in the U.S. and inhabit tenured positions in American universities.

The ultimate goal “is to apply the Islamic law (the Sharia) globally. In U.S. terms, it intends to replace the Constitution with the Koran” (Daniel Pipes,



WORK OF “FREEDOM FIGHTERS”

Volunteers carry away a badly injured schoolgirl from the carnage at Beslan, Russia.

decade. The Council of Europe urged nations to “keep up the pressure [on Russia] for a resolution to the Chechen conflict.”

Such statements effectively diverted attention from the evil by romanticizing the terrorists’ cause and cloaking their Islamist connections. The mainstream press, having largely opted to avoid the stigmatized word *terrorist*, chose to describe the monsters of Beslan as *activists*,

the unerring truth of the Bible, we will receive a far more accurate—and even more terrifying—view not only of the UNSEEN CAUSE of Islamic terrorism, but also of its FUTURE as we can expect to see it unfold within the next few years.

Universal Conversion The more clear-eyed and frank religious scholars generally agree that Islam, like Roman Catholi-

FrontPageMagazine.com, September 23). For a clear statement of this goal, Pipes points to a 1989 book written by an influential commentator on American Muslim issues named Siddiqi: "Siddiqi argues that Muslims taking control of the United States has more importance than such goals as sustaining the Iranian revolution or destroying Israel, for it has greater impact on the future of Islam" (Pipes, *Militant Islam Reaches America*). The prospect of uniting America's material success with the "superb ideology" of Islam is deeply motivating to Siddiqi.

The vast majority of Muslims who seek to spread the religion globally are nonviolent. Nevertheless, they seek to "save" decadent Western society by 1) increasing the number of Muslims through immigration, reproduction and conversion; and by 2) gradually applying Islamic law—that is, promoting the spread of Muslim customs and rituals; securing special privileges for Islamic schools, mosques and other organizations; and gradually cracking down on un-Islamic activity.

The plan may be working. Islam has

become the second-largest religion in America, Europe and Australia. The French government estimates that 50,000 Christians in France convert to Islam each year; in Britain, mosque attendance has outpaced that of the Church of England. In Europe, the purely demographic danger posed by Muslim immigrants has become an explosive political issue: In the last 30 years, Europe has absorbed some 20 million Muslims—equal to the combined populations of Ireland, Belgium and Denmark. Reputed Islam scholar Bernard Lewis says, "Europe will be Islamic by the end of the century."

This evolutionary approach is a seri-

Critics Without Solutions

WHEN PROMINENT Islamic leaders speak and write, often their goals are noble. Their criticisms of life in the West are accurate—similar, in some ways, to more conservative voices within Western society.

One Muslim leader called Islam "a pathway toward a new world, warranting a prosperous life, moral soundness, and salvation for mankind."

"[T]he major sufferings and grievances of man," he said, "have permanently been the same: poverty, ignorance, discrimination, war, insecurity, and finally man's incarceration in the prison of materialism and captivity by his evil tendencies. ... Wars flare in nooks and corners of the world, while others not affected by war are constantly in fear of the eruption of war. ... The Western materialistic civilization is directing everyone toward materialism, while money, gluttony, and carnal desires are made the greatest aspirations. Finally, sincerity, truthfulness, altruism, and self-sacrifice have been replaced in many parts of the world by deception, conspiracy, avarice, jealousy, and other indecent features. Science, technology, equipment, speed and facility have dramatically changed the world as compared with the past, but the chronic and age-old

pains and chagrin of humanity still remain unchanged." Not an entirely unfair critique of the West.

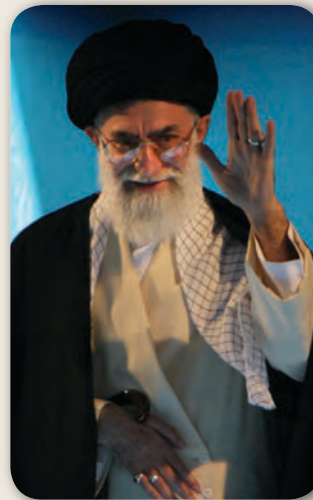
Another leading Muslim said this: "These people who want freedom, who want our youth to be free, write effusively about the freedom of our youth. What freedom do they want? ... They want the gambling casinos to remain freely open, the bars to be freely open, they want the fleshpots to remain freely open, they want heroin addicts to be free, opium addicts to be free. ... We want to take our young people from these [movie theaters] that were designed and made to drag them to corruption, and to take them by the hand to places where they will be of some use to the nation. ... The safeguarding of the realm cannot be effected with the freedom that you proclaim. This freedom fragments and ruins the realm."

Regular *Trumpet* readers may recognize this as a theme we have addressed occasionally, based on the truth in Romans 6:16: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

These men can look at the world and see problems—and recognize that we

need serious solutions! They have a mind to set things right and to spread their way throughout the Earth.

The trouble is, they do not have the solutions. In fact, their "solutions"—the means by which they would bring about "a new world," "prosperous life, moral soundness, and salvation for mankind"—



KHAMENEI

only create more problems—far worse problems!

The first statement above was from Ali al-Husseini al-Khamenei, the supreme religious leader of Iran, from a speech he gave to the Organization of Islamic Countries in 1997. He regularly speaks of America as being the leader of the world's evil forces and calls it "the Great Satan." He wants Iran to lead the world's Islamic move-

ment—and his country is the greatest sponsor of terrorism on Earth today.

The second statement was from his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the man who led the Iranian Revolution, from a speech he gave at a theological school in 1979. In that same speech, when Khomeini was talking about the harm to young people, he proposed this "solution": "We want to release our youths from the opium pipe and place machine guns in their hands. We want to release our youths from the opium pipe and dispatch them to the battlefield." Elsewhere this man wrote, "Whatever good there is exists thanks to the sword and in the shadow of the sword! People cannot be made obedient except with the sword! The sword is the key to paradise, which can be opened only for holy warriors! There are hundreds of other [koranic] psalms and hadiths [sayings of the prophet] urging Muslims to value war and to fight. Does all that mean that Islam is a religion that prevents men from waging war? I spit upon those foolish souls who make such a claim."

You can easily see how that kind of thinking is not going to bring this world peace. Jesus Christ uttered the simple truth that "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

ous enough threat to the West, but some few Muslims advocate a speedier, more *revolutionary* method. Though Osama bin Laden is the most notable example, his thinking is not as far on the fringe as most Westerners would like to believe.

In the July 24 *Spectator*, Anthony Browne wrote about the violent side of the universalist mindset within Islam: “Saudi Arabia, whose flag shows a sword, seems unabashed about its desire for Islam to take over the world. Its embassy in Washington recommends the home page of its Islamic affairs department, where it declares, ‘The Muslims are required to raise the banner of jihad in order to make the Word of Allah supreme in this world.’ Saudi Arabia has used

Islam, which is a peaceful religion. That said, it is this Islamic desire for universal conversion that is manifesting itself in widespread hatred of the West and, in its most fanatical form, *terrorism*.

Tactics of Terror With over a billion Muslims in the world, it takes only a tiny percentage who are sympathetic to the militant cause to create huge problems. As the *Spectator*’s Mark Steyn said, even 1 percent is “enough for a vast global support network” (September 11).

Governments around the world are being forced to step up their resistance to Islamist violence. Consider Europe. Officials dealing with terrorism are waking up to the increasing threat of Muslim violence on the Continent, uncovering terrorist cells with well-established links to North America, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Post-mortem analysis of 9/11 showed that the European Union, with its lenient asylum laws and generous social programs, had served as a haven for the terrorists in those attacks.

Islamist activity in Southeast Asia is also burgeoning. In many ways, the region is ideal for radicalism to flourish—its huge Islamic population (240 million) largely lives under weak or corrupt governments and lax security conditions. The past half-decade has seen a sharp trend toward their becoming more anti-American, politicized and radicalized.

A similar pattern is emerging in Africa. Mideast Muslims are searching for safe havens outside the reach of American power, and Africa is proving itself useful to them. Suffering from crushing poverty and disease, much of the continent provides powerful testimony to the failure of Western aid and religion to solve its problems. Anti-Americanism in particular is growing, and increasing numbers of Africans are seeing some appeal in the message of Islam.

There is a unique mixture of economic realities, cultural pressures and religious beliefs that combine to create an environment conducive to terrorism.

Consider: The Western world spends trillions of dollars defending itself with high-tech airplanes, warships, surveillance equipment, bombs, missiles and so on. The poorer Muslim nations’ economic, technological and military inferiority eliminates for them the option of direct conventional warfare. *Terrorism*, however, can be a cheap tool. And effective.

Think about the bang that the perpetrators of 9/11 got for their buck: some

flight lessons, motels, rentals cars, box cutters—chump change. Used strategically, these limited resources turned the most powerful nation on Earth on its ear. Terrorism is, as intelligence analyst Dr. George Friedman put it, “among the most accessible types of warfare,” one that “provides a unique opportunity for small, non-state groups to wage war” (August 3).

The primary weapon of the terrorist is the *fear* within the heart of his enemy. The more shocking, audacious, arbitrary, cruel and brutal his attack, the deeper the fear it will inspire.

The terrorist doesn’t necessarily target a government directly. His goal is to so terrorize *the people* that they pressure their government to make political change. The potential of this tactic to get results was impressively displayed in Spain on March 11 this year, when a train bombing just 72 hours before an election moved the public to boot its prime minister in favor of a candidate who pledged to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq. (As Steyn wryly commented, this sent “a tough message to the Islamists: ‘We apologize for catching your eye.’”)

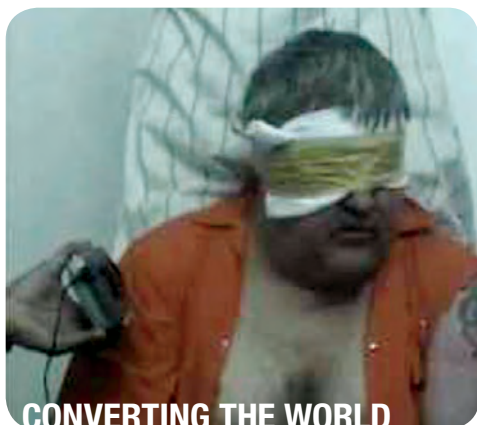
The words of prophetic Scripture leap into perspective in vivid description of these times: “For these be the days of vengeance Men’s hearts failing them for fear ...” (Luke 21:22, 26).

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the terrorists are not only wearing down the resistance of the Jewish population through repeated suicide bombings and other strikes, they are targeting Israel’s allies—trying to drive the *costs* associated with the alliance above the *advantages* it brings. The same approach is being employed in Iraq today against coalition forces.

But the mere possibility of injuring powerful enemies using low-tech means is not enough to turn people into terrorists. In the Middle East and elsewhere, it is the association of these strategies and goals with the universalist religion of Islam that combines into such a potent poison.

Worshipping Death It may well be a corruption of correct koranic interpretation, but Islamic terrorists are using the Koran to justify the most monstrous of acts.

Even as far back as the 8th century, Hajjaj, the governor of what is now Iraq, invoked the Koran after a battle with these words: “The great God says in the Koran, ‘O true believers, when you encounter the unbelievers, strike off their



AP/WIDEWORLD

CONVERTING THE WORLD

A blindfolded American, Paul Johnson, is held by Islamic radicals in Saudi Arabia.

billions of its petrodollars to export its particularly harsh form of Islam, Wahhabism, paying for mosques and Islamic schools across the West. About 80 percent of the U.S.’s mosques are thought to be under Wahhabi control.

“Saudi Arabia’s education ministry encourages schoolchildren to despise Christianity and Judaism. A new schoolbook in the kingdom’s curriculum tells 6-year-olds: ‘All religions other than Islam are false.’ A note for teachers says they should ‘ensure to explain’ this point. In Egypt, the schoolbook *Studies in Theology: Traditions and Morals* explains that a particularly ‘noble’ bit of the Koran is ‘encouraging the faithful to perform jihad in God’s cause, to behead the infidels, take them prisoner, break their power—all that in a style which contains the highest examples of urging to fight.’”

Politicians and priests, students and scholars in many countries have explained persistently that the violence being advocated from within the Muslim community is in fact a *corruption of*

heads.’ The above command of the great God is a great command and must be respected and followed.” The koranic verse he referred to, Sura 47:4, reads, “When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield, strike off their heads and, when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly.” Other militaristic verses include Sura 2:190-191 (“Fight for the sake of God those that fight against you, but do not attack them first. ... Slay them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from which they drove you. Idolatry is worse than carnage.”) and Sura 9:5 (“When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them.”).

With such scriptures drummed into their minds, an increasing number of Muslims are becoming saturated in a religious culture that worships death. Allah is portrayed as being pleased with the murder of infidels as well as with the “martyrdom” of those who murder them. This is a sick distortion of the Christian concept of martyrdom—being innocently killed for one’s faith. A Muslim “martyr” can be one who blows himself up while killing enemies of the faith.

There are verses in the Koran that condemn killing innocent people, which those who claim that Islam is a peaceful religion often cite. But who is “innocent”? One prominent Saudi sheikh strongly disagreed with those who condemned the 9/11 attacks because they killed innocents: “This was jihad and those people were not innocent people.” Bin Laden also insists that his victims are not innocent.

Once a believer is convinced of the righteousness of his cause, he can be moved to perform acts of disturbing ruthlessness. To him, the ends justify any means. To kill an innocent is to do God a favor; but to kill him in a grisly manner and upload a home video of the killing onto the Internet is simply to increase its propaganda value.

Such methods evoke Isaiah’s prophecy about our present day: “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood The way of peace they know not: ... they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace” (Isaiah 59:7-8).

As Michael Ignatieff wrote in the *New York Times*, “Indeed, the whole logic of terrorism is to exploit the rules, to turn them to their own advantage. If we hesitate to strike a mosque because the rules of war designate it as a protected place,

then the smart thing for a terrorist to do is to store weapons and suicide belts there. If our forces start from the presumption that civilian women should be treated as noncombatants, then terrorists will train women to be suicide bombers. If all existing codes of warriors’ honor forbid the desecration of bodies, then it is not just mindless brutality but actually a sound terrorist tactic to drag contractors from a car in Fallujah, set them alight and display their severed and burned limbs from a bridge. Such provocations are intended to drag us down to their level” (May 2).

A chilling peek under the lid of this faith-driven, death-loving culture was offered last March. A 14-year-old named

Such brainwashing and intimidation is contemptible. We should not be timid about passing judgment on individuals who not only don’t mind slaughtering innocent children in Russian schools, but who are also comfortable with slaying their own children to increase the death count! As the psalmist wrote, “The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth” (Psalms 11:5).

In a May 29, 2002, interview with Islam Online, terrorist Salah Shehadeh, who was commander of the military wing of Hamas before being killed by Israeli Defense Forces in July, spoke of how his organization chooses a boy to become



LEARNING THE WAY

Young boys absorb Arabic scripture at a Muslim school in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Hussam Abdu surrendered himself at an army roadblock near Nablus, Israel. He had 14 pounds of explosives strapped to his waist; after planning to blow himself up, he’d had second thoughts. His confession was revealing: “I wanted to get to the Garden of Eden, to have sex there with 72 virgins,” he told the soldiers after they cut his explosive belt off. “They told me that this was the only way [to get to heaven], and they promised that my mother would get 100 shekels [about us\$22] if I did this.”

Having been bullied at school, Hussam wanted “to be a hero.” In the end, fortunately, he proved too cowardly for that brand of heroism—unlike many other boys before him. Since the latest *intifada* began in 2000, 29 children under age 18 have been sent to their deaths on suicide missions.

a bomb. “The choice is made according to four criteria: First, devout religious observance. Second, we verify that the young man complies with his parents’ wishes and is loved by his family Third, his ability to carry out the task assigned [to] him, and to understand its gravity; and fourth, his martyrdom should encourage others to carry out martyrdom operations and encourage jihad in the hearts of people” (translated by Memri.org).

This kind of thinking is being promoted on a broad scale within certain segments of Islamic society. Many Islamic seminaries, called *madrastas*, are infecting their young students with hatred and death worship. This religious education is generally free, unlike a regular education, and the countries that devote the least amount to public education have the highest *madrasta* enrollment. “In some

ways, *madrasas* are at the center of a civil war of ideas in the Islamic world,” says Husain Haqqani, a Muslim and former *madrasa* student. “Poor students attending *madrasas* find it easy to believe that the West, loyal to uncaring and aloof leaders, is responsible for their misery and that Islam as practiced in its earliest form can deliver them” (*Foreign Policy*, November-December 2002). Thus, the education these masses of people are receiving is, in an increasing number of cases, frighteningly militant, and is churning out students who end up being foot soldiers in the terrorists’ war on the West.

But even the intoxicating combination of economics, culture and religion does not completely account for the terrorism problem we have today. The most brilliant thinkers cannot fully explain *why* the West faces such ferocious enemies within Islam.

There is an UNSEEN CAUSE of Islamic terrorism that we need to understand.

The Unseen Cause *How could* human beings act in such inhuman ways? What would drive people to such cruelty? There is a spiritual dimension to this question that we must not overlook.

The terrorist mind-set—though extreme—is a measure of the evil within man. God states plainly in His Word, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ...” (Jeremiah 17:9). The unspeakable horror of terrorist actions is a clear demonstration of the *wickedness of human nature*.



FREE UPON REQUEST

But where does this evil human nature—the cause of this world’s problems—come from? Scripture reveals the very real presence of an invisible spirit being—the original murderer and the father of evil—intent on destroying humanity (John 8:44). Satan the devil is not a myth. The fact that he is invisible does not negate his existence. The Bible reveals that he *deceives this whole world* (Revelation 12:9) and is the god of it, *blinding the minds* of mankind (2 Corinthians 4:4). It is critical for you to understand how Satan generated the evils of human nature and continues to influence mankind today. Our free booklet *Human Nature—What Is It?* contains this critical understanding.

What causes terrorism? It is man’s willing submission to the mind of Satan! Terrorist behavior is a direct reflection of

Satan’s mind—which has no capacity for feelings of sympathy, empathy, kindness, sorrow, love. This alone explains the despicable, cold-blooded atrocities perpetrated by terrorists! The devil is stirring hatred and emotions with a mind to destroy. But, as he masquerades as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14), he couches his evil intentions in high-sounding rhetoric and noble religious ideals.



- In 1993, American officials confiscated enough highly enriched uranium for 20 nuclear bombs using ordinary bolt cutters to remove a single padlock—the only form of security at an abandoned Soviet facility.
- The Soviet military probably developed “suitcase” nuclear munitions, 80 or more of which are unaccounted for.
- Significant quantities of highly enriched Soviet uranium are missing.
- Chemical and biological weapons produced under the Saddam Hussein regime remain unaccounted for.
- In the past 11 years, there have been 630 confirmed incidents of trafficking nuclear and radioactive materials.
- In April this year, Jordanian authorities seized over 20 tons of explosive agents and 71 lethal chemicals from terrorists planning an attack on the nation’s capital that was to occur only a few days later.

A failure to grasp this *hidden cause* of terrorism results in misguided and fruitless efforts to negotiate, compromise and appease. Like Satan himself, terrorists probe for weaknesses in their adversaries (1 Peter 5:8); efforts to pacify them only make them stronger.

As the *Trumpet* has often pointed out, it is Western *naivety, weakness and lack of will* in eradicating terrorism that has enabled it to flower into such a monstrous problem today. Never in human history has the potential for such devastation been placed in so few hands! A mere handful of suicidal terrorists, with adequate coordination and appropriate

technology, can wreak extraordinary destruction. This terrifying reality is a reminder of the Apostle Paul’s words: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be ... [w]ithout natural affection, ... incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good” (2 Timothy 3:1-3).

How serious is the problem of terrorism? How much of a threat does it pose to Western nations? Politicians would have you believe they can provide security against it. The Bible tells a different story entirely.

Cursed Sevenfold! We are moving into the very days prophesied in your Bible: days of rampant terror, crime, corruption and subversion!

The *Trumpet* has often referred to Leviticus 26 as being a prophecy for America and Britain (as well as the other modern descendants of Israel, as explained in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). But we must understand that it is a conditional prophecy.

In this chapter, God lays before these nations a choice: On the condition that the people obey Him, He promises a whole host of blessings (verses 3-12). But if instead they go their own way, God promises an intensifying nightmare of curses (verses 14-39) designed to bring the people back to Him (verses 40-45).

America and Britain have forgotten their history with God. And now they are clearly reaping the CURSES of wholesale rebellion against God and His law.

Meditate on these warnings from the great God of the Bible: “I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you TERROR ... that shall ... cause sorrow of heart And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies ... and ye shall flee when none pursueth you” (verses 16-17). In this age of terrorism, we are living these curses!

Again—these prophecies are conditional. And when people ignore God’s correction, He increases the pressure: “And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins” (verse 18).

Read the rest of the prophecy. As long as our nations refuse to hear, they will experience intensifying curses and punishments from the living God! He cries out in verse 28, “I, EVEN I, WILL CHASTISE YOU”!

God warns four times of Israel receiving “seven times” the punishment (verses 18, 21, 24, 28). Those two Eng-

lish words are translated from the single Hebrew word *sheba*, which conveys both the *duration* of punishment, and a sevenfold increase in the *severity* of the punishment.

In other words, the terror of September 11 was only a mild prelude. Failure to turn to God will mean a *sevenfold increase* in terror! God is *allowing* the terrorism, allowing the violence—allowing the devil to sway these people into acting upon their brutal, satanic hatreds against America and Britain.

How Severe? Ezekiel 5 prophesies about the threefold fate to befall the inhabitants of the modern-day nations of Israel. Using three sections of Ezekiel's beard to illustrate, God shows that the first third will "burn with fire ... in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled ..." (verse 2).

What is this "fire"? Whatever it is, it will kill a staggering *one third* of the citizens of America, Britain and the other Israelitish nations! It will critically weaken these nations by bleeding them of their peoples.

This same group is described further in verse 12 as dying "with the pestilence." The Hebrew word translated *pestilence* means destruction or death; one definition of the root word is "to lay snares, to plot against, to destroy."

Gerald Flurry shows in his book *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* (also free to you upon request) that this refers to violence in the cities that includes terrorist violence. Ezekiel's prophecy indicates that future attacks will wreak death on a sickening scale!



September 11 killed thousands.

THE DEATH TOLL OF THIS FUTURE VIOLENCE WILL MOUNT INTO THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS.

FREE UPON REQUEST

The *Trumpet* often focuses on the many prophecies about Israel's fall to the European beast power. This passage in Ezekiel supplies more of the picture: that MUCH of what will undermine Israel's strength and set the Israelitish nations up for the final defeat very likely WILL BE CAUSED BY ISLAMIC TERRORISTS.

The peoples of America and the rest of the world *must understand the nature of the enemy they face*. It is bigger, angrier, more violent, more elusive, more terrible than they understand. And rather than trusting in God to deliver them, they are

trusting in armaments. Their sins, their stubbornness, their faithlessness, will lead to their defeat.

And just like after 9/11, Muslims will dance in the streets.

These successes will stoke the aggression of Islam's radicals. The dream of the downfall of the West and the dawn of a new era in Islam will become vivid. It will inflame the hearts of great numbers



TARGET

■ A single chemical-weapon strike in a major city like New York or Chicago could kill tens of thousands.

■ Half a milligram (a pinprick-sized dose) of Sarin will kill an adult. Cyclosarin is even more durable and deadly. One metric ton dumped into a reservoir, river or the ground would take thousands of lives.

■ A 10-kiloton nuclear explosion would require less than half a pound of fissionable material.

■ Single or coordinated nuclear attacks in major American metropolises using common means of delivery (such as vans, suitcases or cargo containers) could kill around a million apiece. Indirect implications would be exponentially greater than 9/11 as panic spreads; telephone, information and transport networks are destroyed; power grids blink out; and riots ignite.

of Muslims. The elusive goal of political Islamic unity will effectively be reached.

At this point, fully formed on the world scene will be a formidable power—prophesied of in Scripture for millennia—THE KING OF THE SOUTH.

The Final Jihad; the Last Crusade It is easy to imagine what will be on the Muslim mind at this point: for on the scene will be another power, one which also rose to fill the void left by the U.S.—a united Europe, THE KING OF THE NORTH. As has been the case throughout its history, this war machine will also be guided by a muscular, politicized religion.

The stage will be set for the climactic conclusion to a centuries-long struggle—the final jihad, the last crusade.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Daniel 11:40).

This is a clash between two religions—Roman Catholicism and Islam. More specifically, it is a clash between the extreme elements of these two religions.

The extremists, at present, constitute a small minority of Muslims and Catholics. But be assured, you will be able to WATCH as their numbers swell and eventually grow to become the dominant force within each of those religions.

Watch and PRAY that you will not be around to witness the time when they form the heads of the two spears that will clash in this spectacular battle spoken of by the Prophet Daniel! For by then it will be too late: That war will occur in the early days of the GREATEST TRIBULATION THIS WORLD HAS WITNESSED.

These are the days when we need the vision to see beyond the immediate horror of the current reality. In these darkening times we need a vision of hope such as portrayed by the Prophet Isaiah to those who repent of their rebellion against the Eternal God: "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee" (Isaiah 54:11, 14).

Those who watch world events with their eyes open realize that this world is an angry, conflicted, violent place. Those who watch with an awareness of biblical prophecy realize that it is going to get angrier, more conflicted, more violent—right up until its last tortured breath.

But only those who WATCH and PRAY, those who *repent now*, those who *submit themselves* to the all-powerful God who foretold these events and is now bringing them to pass, can look to the future with hope and confidence. They alone *know in faith* not only that they will be *protected* by a loving Father, but that when the warfare reaches its climax they will then help usher in the start of a truly new age—an age of peace, of a single world religion under merciful, righteous rulership—under the King of kings, Jesus Christ. ■



The Terrorists' MEGAPHONE

ANTIHERO
Press coverage of Arafat's death was alarmingly favorable to him.

The potent Western press has become an unwitting tool for terrorists because it is scared—or worse, sympathetic. BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHEN YASSER ARAFAT DIED last month, the Arab street filled with thousands of mourners.

Among them were a large number of Western journalists, who gave him a hero's treatment. Various news outlets described him as being "committed to the peace of the brave," "one of the outstanding freedom fighters of this generation," "a man of courage and conviction," "a respected and approachable human being," and "the Palestinian Abraham Lincoln." London's *Guardian* said Arafat's "undisputed courage as a guerrilla leader" was exceeded only "by his extraordinary courage" as a peace negotiator. The BBC's correspondent Barbara Plett admitted to crying when the sickly Arafat was first air-lifted from Ramallah because of her "connection to the man."

Notably absent from much of the coverage was Arafat's role in the development of modern terrorism. Absent were the voices of the Jews who had been victimized by his tactics of terror for over 40 years—the families of Israelis blown up in suicide bombings he paid for or of Americans killed in planes his people hijacked. Absent were the stories of the Palestinian Arabs who suffered under his corrupt leadership, who had been denied hundreds of millions of dollars of international aid earmarked for them because Arafat had illegally skimmed the funds for personal use.

No, the press instead focused on the mourning of those who shared Arafat's commitment—in the words of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) charter—to "destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence."

Tom Gross shook his head over this stunning media phenomenon: "[N]owhere did Arafat find more starry-eyed fans than among some deluded European and North American journalists" (*National Review Online*, November 11).

Sadly, the coverage of Arafat's death was just the latest example of the press's consistently oversensitive treatment of terrorism.

What Is Terrorism? Here's how the U.S. government defines *terrorism* in Title 22 of the U.S. Code, Section 2656f(d): "The term *terrorism* means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience." A sensible, straightforward description. It easily includes groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both classified as terrorist organizations by the State Department.

In the press, however, things get more complicated.

The policy of several major media outlets, including such vaulted institutions as Reuters and the *New York Times*, is to rely on euphemisms like *militant* rather than using the "emotive term" *terrorist*—

particularly in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In researching the editorial practices of various news sources, HonestReporting.com has found that a distinction is often made, for example, between al Qaeda (*terrorists*) and Hamas or Islamic Jihad (*militants*). Papers such as the *Washington Post*, *Orlando Sentinel* and *Boston Globe* justify this decision by saying the Palestinian terrorist groups are "resisting occupation" or "at war" with Israel; thus, even acts targeting civilians aren't necessarily "terrorism."

Some media outlets are deliberately defying this practice and calling terrorism exactly what it is. Canada's largest newspaper chain, CanWest, recently took this course. On September 14, it tested out its new tactic on a Reuters article it printed. Reuters reporter Jeffrey Heller described the Palestinian al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades as having "been involved in a four-year-old revolt against Israeli occupation in Gaza and the West Bank." CanWest changed this to a more accurate description: "a terrorist group that has been involved in a four-year-old campaign of violence against Israel."

Reuters protested and officially informed CanWest that if it was going to change stories that way, the Reuters byline should be removed. "Our editorial policy is that we don't use emotive words when labeling someone," explained Reuters global managing editor, David A. Schlesinger, to the *New York Times*. He didn't want there to be any confusion over what Reuters reported, and expressed concern for the safety of the company's field reporters on dangerous assignments. "My goal is to *protect our reporters* and protect our editorial integrity," he said. Shortly afterward, on a CBC radio interview, he spoke candidly of the "*serious consequences*" if certain "people in the Mideast" thought Reuters was calling such men "terrorists."

The ugly truth comes out: Reuters refuses to call terrorists what they are—not in pursuit of editorial objectivity but, significantly, *because it is afraid of them*.

Cowardice and Sympathy The intimidation factor may be more pervasive than we realize. The Reuters incident brings to mind the story reported by the *Trumpet* earlier this year of CNN's chief news executive, Eason Jordan, admitting—after Saddam Hussein's ousting in 2003—that for years he had suppressed major stories of the atrocities happening in Iraq in order to protect the lives of his reporters. In the 1990s, Saddam's men

abducted and tortured one CNN cameraman on trumped-up spy charges. It didn't take much of such brutality to convince CNN to be very cautious in its Iraq coverage. If it wanted to retain its bureau in Baghdad, it had to be willing to compromise.

That is not to say that all news coverage of terrorist activity is tainted by cowardice. Some of it is tainted by pure *bias*—a perverse *sympathy* with the aims of the terrorists.

Within certain governments and media outlets is a common, yet flawed, logic that if people are willing to slaughter civilians, they must have a good reason. As the saying goes, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Most journalists would not state this view directly (although stunts such as Dan Rather interviewing Saddam Hussein on network television before the Iraq invasion do make you wonder).

Can we not recognize evil when we see it? However "noble" the cause, to use it as justification for killing noncombatants is heinous, and there should be no equivocation on that point. As Israeli terrorism scholar Boaz Ganor said, "When you deliberately choose to attack civilians, you cannot say any more, 'I am not a terrorist because I am a freedom fighter.' Maybe you are a freedom fighter, but you are also definitely a terrorist."

Nevertheless, newsmakers time and again have shaded their coverage, parsed their language, obscured certain facts and headlined others, in a manner inarguably advantageous to terrorists. This reflects a bias that easily springs from—but represents a perversion of—the newsmedia's traditional adversarial role against government and big business, and its historical advocacy of the underdog.

In the July 12 *Wall Street Journal*, Orson Scott Card ridiculed an Associated Press news story about terrorists murdering civilians and taking hostages in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, for scrupulously avoiding the word *terrorist*. "Instead, the killers are 'gunmen' (in the headline), 'suspected Islamic militants wearing military-style uniforms' and 'attackers' (in the body of the story).

"*Suspected Islamic militant*—this pussyfooting appellation even though later in the story we learn that an Islamic group called 'Al-Quds' and signing itself 'al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula' is claiming credit for the attack. But presumably they are only 'suspected' of being Islamic militants because, after all, they might

turn out to be long-hidden Nazis or perhaps holdouts from the Irish Republican Army or—who knows?—maybe Timothy McVeigh's buddies from the 'red states' in America." This is not mere "impartiality." It is outrageous distortion.

Consider on the other hand the reportage that *counterterrorism measures* often receive—particularly, again, in the Israeli-Palestinian arena. When Israeli soldiers killed Hamas founder Sheikh Yassin and Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz Rantissi last spring, vociferous condemnation was heaped on the Israeli government. The media regularly fling about terms like *murder* and *assassination* after such strikes (which, incidentally and in stark contrast to terrorism, are planned to be as surgical as possible—even increasing the risk to Israelis—so as to minimize the possibility of civilian casualties).

The press's propensity to identify with terrorists was powerfully evident after 9/11. A close cousin of the anti-Americanism that triggered the attacks immediately produced a profusion of speculation that the U.S. was guilty of having provoked the terrorists—in other words, "America had it coming." Such nonsense didn't just appear in tabloids on the Arab street, but in reputable mainstream papers throughout Europe and Asia. France's *Le Monde*, for example, featured a front-page article in its Sept. 19, 2001, issue that included a denunciation by Morocco's Islamist Justice and Welfare Party of the "boomerang effect" of American domination, saying, "The dead at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are only 'the most recent victims' of an American power." Some commentators went beyond the already egregious sin of expressing solidarity with the terrorists: They actually *accused the U.S. of somehow orchestrating the attacks* to drum up a sham excuse to go to war. Surely al Qaeda couldn't have been more pleased.

This situation brings to mind the wisdom contained in Proverbs 17:15: "He that *justifieth the wicked*, and he that *condemneth the just*, even they both are abomination to the Lord."

Exploiting the Media How much does this type of fearfulness and bias embolden terrorists and help their cause? To what extent are the media accomplices in the violence? This is a terrifying question.

To answer it, we must think beyond the artificial language that bestows legitimacy upon acts of barbarity. We must

consider as well the terrorists' *exploitation of mass media* to achieve their goals.

While many terrorists condemn how Western technology spreads wickedness and corruption, repeatedly they have proven themselves quite savvy at using it to spread *fear*. And *fear* is simply the terrorists' most potent weapon.

A videotaped message from Osama bin Laden receives not just airtime during major network news broadcasts, but hours of discussion and commentary on radio and television talk shows. A single envelope containing a few anthrax spores makes front-page headlines on every major daily in the country. That is not to say that the public should remain uninformed, but rather to pose the question: How much do newsmakers play into the hands of terrorists, inspiring fear in millions, by pumping their words and deeds through media megaphones?

Even more horrific, consider the spate of kidnappings we have witnessed in Iraq over this past year. Seared in our minds are the images—again, replicated countless times over Internet lines and television airwaves—of innocent hostages surrounded by hooded terrorists making anxious appeals to their home governments to alter foreign policy, then being pitilessly beheaded with dull sabers. Would this tactic of terror even work if not for mass media?

As Daniel Mandel wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*, "Clearly, the media fail in their mission when they allege superior detachment while in reality they become obliging accomplices of terrorists. Terrorists might well continue killing, whatever the nature of the reportage. But they should receive no help from journalists. And if they do, the media cannot expect immunity from criticism" (November 5).

Unwitting Tools Terrorists are emboldened by weakness.

To be able to intimidate journalists, manipulate media coverage, commit arbitrary violence and simultaneously stir up global hostility against the victims, film shocking brutality and watch the tapes seize attention worldwide, swing elections in major nations—*these are heady victories*.

As long as the press puts its priority on the scoop, or the viability of the bureau, or some twisted ideology, rather than on the truth, it will continue to be terrorized, exploited and used—unwitting tools in the hands of the most violent enemies of civilization. ■

BY BRAD MACDONALD

THE GREATEST AND most destructive war in the history of mankind is on our doorstep. This coming war will not be confined to a specific region or small set of countries, but will impact every person on the face of the Earth. Events that prove this war is brewing are happening even now. The power that is going to trigger this war is rising today.

In spite of global opposition, Iran's nuclear program continues to thunder forward. In October the nation revealed that it *already* has the potential to produce about 100-120 kilograms of enriched uranium. This is enough uranium for three to five *nuclear warheads*.

Since February 2003, Europe's and America's attempts to halt Iran's nuclear program through negotiation have failed. Even the agreement the European Union's Big Three—the UK, France and Germany—wheeled out of Iran in November included only a *temporary* suspension of uranium enrichment—a voluntary move aimed at building confidence. Iran has done nothing but lie, cheat and misrepresent facts regarding its nuclear ambitions.

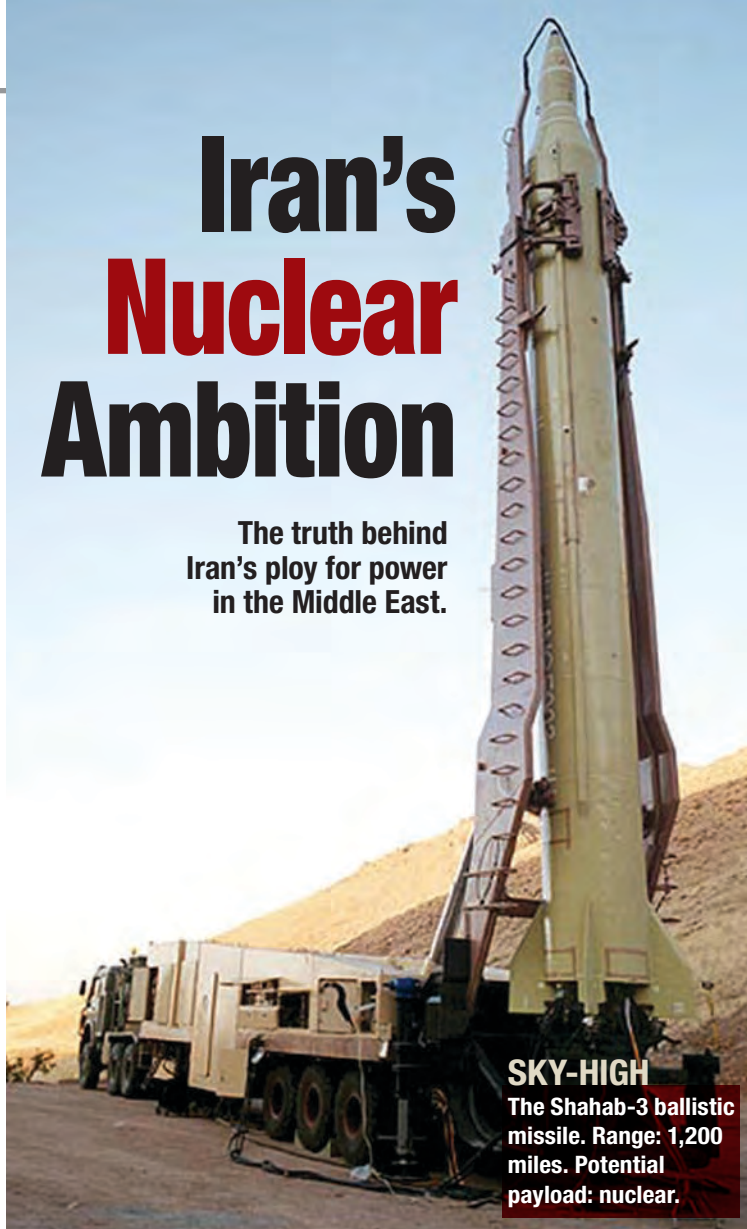
This comparatively small yet ambitious nation continues to boldly defy two of the world's greatest powers. Threats of economic sanctions, prosecution and even invasion loom over the heads of Iranian officials, yet President Muhammad Khatami persists with the program. *Why?* Thousands of U.S. soldiers occupy next-door Iraq, and still Iran is not afraid. *Why not?*

For Iran to be prepared to risk so much, the benefits it perceives from such a program must be impressive. What does Iran stand to gain by becoming a nuclear power?

Iran simply views the short-term risks as insignificant compared to the long-term benefits of gaining nuclear status, particularly the growth in the nation's regional and international power.

Iran's Nuclear Ambition

The truth behind Iran's ploy for power in the Middle East.



SKY-HIGH
The Shahab-3 ballistic missile. Range: 1,200 miles. Potential payload: nuclear.

Iran's quest for nuclear weapons is essentially a push to establish itself as the preeminent nation in the Islamic world, and as a recognized and influential player in international politics. Its drive for nukes is simply a drive to become the dominant Islamic nation.

While Iran's relations with Europe and America are declining, its defiance of these nations is fostering great respect and admiration from surrounding Islamic and Middle Eastern nations.

Proactive, Not Reactive Many people recognize that Iran's claim that its nuclear program is intended solely for energy purposes is a cloak to hide its real motives. Few analysts, however, can explain the true reasons for the program. Here are the two most widely reported purposes. While both are credible, the fundamental reason for Iran's quest for nuclear status has largely been overlooked

by the mainstream media.

First, some claim that Iran is threatened by Israel's nuclear weapons and is simply seeking to counter this threat by acquiring its own cache of nukes. Jonathan Power argued this point in the *International Herald Tribune*: "Israel's nuclear weapons are politically unusable and militarily irrelevant, given the real threats it faces. But they have been very effective in allowing India, Pakistan, Libya ... and now Iran to think that they, too, had good reason to build a nuclear deterrent" (September 22).

Mr. Power is essentially saying that Iran's desire for nukes is simply a REACTION to external pressures in the region. This argument, that Iran is being forced to acquire nuclear weapons because of the nuclear threat it faces from Israel, is shallow and largely unsubstantiated. The motivation behind Iran's nuclear program is about far more than trying to counter what Power calls Israel's "politically unusable and militarily irrelevant" nuclear weapons.

The second reason many believe Iran is seeking nuclear weapons is that the nation is trying to counter U.S. hegemony in the region. *Washington Post* columnist George Will wrote, "Iran lives in a dangerous neighborhood, near four nuclear powers ... and the large military presence of another, the infidel United States. Iran has seen how the pursuit of nuclear weapons allows the ramshackle regime of a tin-pot country such as North Korea to rivet the world's attention. *Iran knows that if Saddam Hussein had acquired such weapons, he would still be in power ...*" (September 23; emphasis mine throughout). Will is reasoning here that one of the main purposes of Iran's quest for nuclear weapons is to counter American presence in the region. He even indicates that the Iranians believe Saddam would not have been overthrown if he had possessed nuclear weapons; therefore Iran needs to attain nuclear weapons in order

to avoid being overthrown by “the infidel United States.”

Both reasons for Iran’s nuclear program are plausible and logical. But is there more to the story? The stakes cannot be higher for Tehran. The nation must stand to gain more from having nukes than simply an ability to counter the threat from Israel and America. In fact, Iran has *heightened* the possibility of violence from both Israel and the U.S. by pushing its nuclear program. *Why is Iran so dedicated in its drive for nuclear power?*

The fundamental reason behind Iran’s nuclear program is explained in the pages of your Bible. When combined with analysis of recent news events, the Bible clearly reveals the purpose behind, and the future of, Iran’s nuclear program. The truth is, this program is far more PROACTIVE than REACTIVE.

Filling the Islamic Power Vacuum The Islamic world is in disarray right now. Among the Islamic nations, unlike other peoples, no country stands above the rest as the major influence. The West has America. Europe has Germany. Asia has China, with Japan on its heels. Yet on the surface, it appears that no *one* Islamic nation has inarguable and definitive influence over the rest.

Internal political disunity holds Pakistan back from playing a stronger role in regional affairs. Libya has scrapped its nuclear program and is complying with U.S. requests. Saudi Arabia is staving off terrorist attacks and fighting for political stability. Iraq is a clutter. Syria is trying its best to fly under the radar in order to avoid U.S. scrutiny. Afghanistan remains unstable. Jordan is influenced too much by the West to be respected as a leader within the Islamic world. Across the Indian Ocean, Islamic Indonesia is in political confusion. There is no mistaking that a significant power vacuum exists in the Islamic world right now.

Iran seeks to fill this void.

Through its nuclear program, Tehran wants to demonstrate its power to the Islamic peoples. It would gain respect from surrounding nations, not only by having an arsenal of nuclear weapons, but by boldly defying the “Great Satan” and European powers. Iran’s nuclear program is a PROACTIVE attempt by the nation to build its reputation and become the clear-cut leader of the Islamic peoples.

Stratfor’s analysts recognized this in a recent article. “For all the complexity surrounding Iran’s negotiations with the

West—the United States and the European Union’s Big Three states—one thing is clear: Iran is trying to shed its status as a rogue state and re-enter the international community. One of the obstacles to the Islamic republic’s escaping the realm of international pariahs is the objective of Tehran’s movers and shakers to catapult their country into a major regional or global player. For the clerical regime, the acquisition of nuclear weapons seems to be the preferred method of attaining great power status” (November 10).

Iran seeks to fill the leadership void in the Islamic world.

The following description from the respected *Middle East Quarterly* succinctly sums up Iran’s objectives: “There is a vision and a method to Iran’s policies. In the words of Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran’s Expediency Council, *Iran believes it is destined to become the ‘center of international power politics’ in the post-Saddam Hussein Middle East. ... Under the rubric of ‘deterrent defense,’ Iran is exploiting U.S. preoccupation with Iraq to build capabilities that will establish its hegemony in its immediate neighborhood and enhance its role across the Middle East.* Iran’s moves, if unchecked, will create a grave and growing challenge to U.S. aims in the region. *At stake are nothing less than the geopolitical balance in the Middle East and the long-term achievement of U.S. goals, from stability in Iraq to regional peace*” (Spring 2004).

Iran’s nuclear program is its primary instrument for establishing hegemony in the Middle East. Upon becoming the sole possessor of nuclear weapons in the region, watch for Iran to increase its demand for respect and support from its Islamic neighbors.

In a March 1997 research paper for the Air Command and Staff College, Col. Richard M. Perry wrote, “... Iran wants to retain its form of traditionalism but at the same time be recognized as a legitimate power within the region. ... *Iran considers its own role in reviving Islam as central. ... Iran sees itself as the leader of traditional Islam, and as such, requires a measure of strength to back up its discourse.* Possessing nuclear weapons gives a state both a ‘voice’ in determining events within the region and a means to ‘retain’ its own Islamic identity ...”

Further on, Perry wrote, “To drive events in the Middle East, Iran will have to continue to modernize its forces *as well as build a viable and deliverable nuclear*

weapons capability.” Almost eight years after that was written, it is clear that this is precisely the path Iran has taken.

Tehran has not only made great strides toward developing nuclear capabilities, it has successfully built and launched long-range ballistic missiles. It is quickly becoming the Islamists’ regional king.

Policy of Prestige Renowned international relations expert Hans Morgenthau coined a specific term for the foreign policy that Iran is pursuing through its

nuclear weapons program. He called it the “policy of prestige.”

In *Politics Among Nations*, Morgenthau spoke of three basic patterns in the foreign policy of nations: a policy seeking to *keep* power, to *increase* power, or to *demonstrate* power—the last of which is the policy of *prestige*. Through its nuclear program, Iran is clearly seeking to build its reputation for power and to demonstrate power.

Iran’s desire for national prestige has been evident for years. Notice this statement from a 1992 *New York Times* article: “... Iran expects to further its greater ambition of being the MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL POWER IN THE PERSIAN GULF, a long-held foreign-policy objective” (Nov. 7, 1992). There is no mistaking the fact that Iran is grinding its way toward that goal.

Morgenthau explained, “Besides the practices of diplomacy, the policy of prestige uses *military demonstrations* as a means to achieve its purpose.” When Iran test-fired its new long-range Shahab-3 missile in October—a weapon that puts Israel within striking range, Australia’s Special Broadcasting Service (October 21) called it “a *deliberate show of military strength* ahead of the negotiations at the IAEA”—the International Atomic Energy Agency, the body monitoring whether Iran is complying with its restrictions. Iran’s “deliberate show of military strength,” just days before it was due to have meetings with Europe regarding its advanced nuclear program, was an obvious demonstration of its resolve to pursue its nuclear goals.

Continue to look for a group of Middle Eastern Islamic nations to unite behind Iran and its nuclear program. When the project comes to fruition, watch for a dramatic increase in the confidence and influence of this bloc of nations.

Where Does the Policy of Prestige Lead?

Some might wonder if Iran's quest to build its reputation by attaining nuclear weapons is more about regional politics than international politics. So what if Iran rules the Middle East and the Islamic peoples, as long as it does not disrupt nations outside of its sphere of influence? This thought assumes that the policy of prestige is a stagnant policy. That is a wrong assumption.

History tells us that when a nation holds overwhelming power and has the support of a posse of other nations, it will often look to expand the extent of that power. Look at Germany in both world wars, or the Ottoman Empire. Human nature dictates that, upon acquiring great power, most men and nations will seek to increase it. This will occur in Iran.

Morgenthau explained, “[P]restige, in contrast to the maintenance and acquisition of power, is but rarely an end in itself. More frequently, *the policy of prestige is one of the instrumentalities through which the policies of the status quo and of imperialism try to achieve their ends.*” A policy of prestige is a forerunner to a policy of imperialism—that is, a policy bent on INCREASING power.

Naturally, prior to actively expanding its territory (imperialism), a nation or alliance of nations will seek to *demonstrate* power. By building its reputation of power, a nation seeks to foster fear in its enemies. Then, when a nation discards its policy of prestige and pursues a policy of imperialism, the hope is that peaceful nations will fear the aggressor nation's reputation so much that they will submit without resistance.

Through its nuclear program, Iran is rapidly increasing its reputation as a regional power. Even now Tehran is establishing itself as the clear-cut leader of the Islamic world. When Iran's dominion over the Middle Eastern Islamic peoples is complete, history, human nature and Bible prophecy tell us that, with a united bloc of nations at its back, it will begin to push its newfound geopolitical weight around on the global scene.

Whirlwind Warfare Even without the Bible, we can see that Iran's motives for nuclear weapons are far grander than what most people believe. Iran has global ambitions. By welding together an Islamic power bloc, it will grow in influence. A grand alliance of Islamic people, with most of the world's oil under its control



This Iranian heavy-water production facility could produce bomb-grade material.

and its leader carrying nuclear weapons, would be extremely powerful. But *what would it DO with all this power?*

Here is where you really need to look to your Bible.

The biblical name for this Islamic bloc of nations led by Iran is the *king of the south*. “And at the time of the end shall the *king of the south* push at him; and the *king of the north* shall come against him ...” (Daniel 11:40). For proof of the identity of the king of the north and the king of the south, and to understand the full meaning of the term “time of the end,” please request our free booklet *The King of the South*.

The catastrophic confrontation mentioned in this verse is prophesied to take place within a time of great global disorder. An unprecedented clash of two great powers will then take place. Regular *Trumpet* readers know that this verse discusses a great battle between the Iran-led Islamic peoples of the south and a German-led European Union of the north. Europe's approach to Iran appears weak today, but look for a revolution in European foreign policy in the near future. Notice the phrase “push at him” in Daniel 11:40. This is a proactive “push” by the king of the south at the king of the north. This is what ignites rage in this united Euro-

pean power and causes it to counterattack against this war-mongering southern alliance. The word *push* as it is used in this context implies violence. It means to *wage war!* In a foreign-policy blunder that leads to its own destruction, Iran is prophesied to prod the king of the north into war!

Consider Iran's current foreign policy for a moment. Would you not consider it “pushy”? Through its nuclear program, Iran is already stirring up trouble with Europe today! Iran's present actions toward Europe are a signpost warning us that fulfillment of the Daniel 11:40 prophecy is rapidly approaching. Does this shock you? Such actions ought to alert us to what is about to happen!

Notice this recent “pushy” decision by the Iranian parliament: “To shouts of ‘Death to America,’ Iran's parliament unanimously approved the outline of a bill Sunday that would require the government to *resume uranium enrichment, legislation likely to deepen an international dispute over Iran's nuclear activities*” (Associated Press, October 31).

In two rounds of peace talks in October, Europe offered Iran a healthy deal in return for assurances that Tehran would suspend its nuclear activities. Iran's nuclear negotiator Hossein Mousavian responded, “We have rejected two possibilities: cessation and unlimited suspension. ... We told the Europeans if your target is cessation, it will be impossible” (ibid.). Then, following the November agreement with the EU3, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami warned that his government would honor its commitment *only if*, at the coming IAEA meeting, Europe would support Iran's “right” to pursue nuclear technology. If this not a “pushy” foreign policy, what is?

In spite of massive pressure from both the U.S. and Europe, Iran will not halt its nuclear program and remains as defiant and “pushy” as ever!

For now, Tehran's pushiness may remain unchecked and unanswered by European powers. The time is rapidly approaching, however, when this bold Islamic nation will push one too many times. Europe's response will be “whirlwind” warfare. Daniel 11:40 concludes, “[T]he king of the north shall come against him *like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships*; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” Iran and its followers will be overwhelmed, and Iran's nuclear program irrecoverably destroyed! ■



FREE UPON REQUEST

BY RYAN MALONE

“WILL EVEN APPOINT OVER YOU terror,” one Bible prophecy says. “Ye shall be slain before your enemies,” it says later. “I will break the pride of your power,” and, “your strength shall be spent in vain.”

What nation has been plagued by terror and spends its strength—too often in vain—rooting out the masterminds behind such terror? What nation has had its men and women slain—often brutally—for all its enemies to see via the World Wide Web? What nation is rapidly losing its pride, or national will, to continue to use its military might?

These prophecies in Leviticus—given anciently to a people who now largely populate the Western world—present a sad picture of the state of American affairs in the last days.

Herbert Armstrong’s free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains how America is one of the modern-day nations that descended from Israel. This book uses God’s words in Leviticus 26 as an infallible guide to what will happen to this greatest single

nation on Earth IF it does not “hearken” unto God and “do all these commandments” (verse 14).

Through this one chapter of Bible prophecy, the demise of Israel—the U.S. in particular—is laid out before us.

These prophecies are now being fulfilled in greater detail than ever!

Understanding Leviticus 26 allows us to make ABSOLUTE statements about America’s future as a global, military superpower. Statements that, at times, may seem unfounded.

For instance, when Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed in 1961—after the Korean War of the early 1950s—“America has won its last war,” many scoffed or ignored what they saw as crazy ramblings. *Why, America is the strongest nation in the world! How could he say that?*

But he repeated the same statement in 1961—after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. Then there was the Vietnam debacle and a hostage crisis in Iran in 1979. In the 1980s, however, the U.S. did have some success in Grenada and Libya, though these skirmishes could hardly be described as wars. Still, Mr. Armstrong never recanted.

But then, he never lived to see the end of the Cold War—which itself, in reality, was not a war at all, but an almighty stalemate between two powers: the U.S. and Soviet Union. Nevertheless, the Cold War’s end may have caused some to doubt Mr. Armstrong’s statement. After all, America stood then as the single most powerful nation on the planet—unmatched for about a decade. Relatively successful military campaigns in Iraq, Haiti and the Balkans displayed a formidable America.

As successors to Mr. Armstrong’s message, we never retracted his words. We displayed them again—on our May 1991 *Trumpet* cover—AFTER the U.S. had driven Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Throughout the 1990s, we kept restating that, though these conflicts might have attested to America’s strength, they still displayed a fundamental weakness. We proclaimed that the current administration, by the conflicts it chose to get involved in, was actually revealing a weak and gun-shy America—only willing to use its might in relatively risk-free conflicts. Usually, if casualties reached the double-digits, the U.S. ended the mission.



THE PROPHESED WANE OF THE U.S. MILITARY

We also pointed to the fact that, under a military-hating administration, the U.S. had diminished its military presence worldwide during the 1990s. The numbers of troops at bases in Europe and East Asia were drastically reduced. America's ability to fight a war on two fronts was now history.

Then came Sept. 11, 2001. A new power had been rising: one that America in its 1990s dominance had practically ignored. Two thorns in America's side throughout the 1990s were still there: Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. Whatever their arguable connection, it couldn't be disputed that militant Islam was the new power to challenge the U.S.

Thus another WAR was declared—on terrorism. The first campaign in Afghanistan went quickly; the Taliban was sent running—a feat not even the Soviets could accomplish less than two decades earlier. Then came “shock and awe” in Iraq, and the historic scenes of Saddam's dictatorship being toppled.

What an odd time to be proclaiming the weakness of the U.S. military, right?

Well, leave it to us. It wasn't but two months after Saddam's regime crumbled that we proclaimed the further demise of the U.S. military. It had to do with the Pentagon's announcement that it would be shuffling its troops worldwide—moving thousands of troops out of Europe (mainly Germany), out of Asia (Japan and South Korea), and relocating them to fit the strategy of the new war.

Few would say this was a sign of a weaker U.S. Unlike the drastic downsizing of the 1990s, this seemed to be a strategically assertive move—streamlining. But again, the *Trumpet*, basing its assertions on Bible prophecy, showed in its July 2003 issue how the U.S. withdrawal was ignoring the greatest long-term threat, as dictated in Bible prophecy—a German-led Europe.

Now for the latest in the weakening of the U.S. military. As the U.S. continues to talk redeployment, another ailment afflicts the U.S. military machine. LACK OF SUFFICIENT TROOPS is now the curse of American operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It's true that both the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns demonstrated the unmatched strength of the military to invade and conquer through the use of ample technology, and with few soldiers. The problem is, these “victories” did not bring combat operations to a close, as has happened historically (in World War II,



for example: Topple the regime and resistance will cease). In the post-9/11 world, we see now the next phase of war—the OCCUPATION of a hostile nation—being as intense a military operation as the battles themselves. Added to this is the fact that this war on terrorism is virtually *no end in sight*. Can we expect *more* shock-and-awe military campaigns that are followed by draining occupation efforts? Does the U.S. have the manpower at hand to sustain its current policies?

While the U.S. has been occupying two hostile territories, Congress has only authorized a 30,000-man increase in troops. As Stratfor pointed out, “Attempting to occupy two countries without massively increasing the size of the Army is an extraordinary decision” (August 18).

The U.S. strategy for the high-intensity conflict—small numbers, agility and technology—is not working for the occupation. “Occupation requires a force large enough to gain control of the country while waging counterinsurgency operations. That represents a lot of boots on the ground—and a lot of tank treads” (ibid.).

But the Pentagon's strategy has been to hold to the redeployment plan—moving 70,000 troops from bases in Europe and Asia. Stratfor says this is a miscalculation: “[I]t is an attempt to *reshuffle the same deck*, WHEN WHAT IS NEEDED ARE MORE CARDS” (ibid.; emphasis mine throughout).

What's more, Stratfor argues, is that “[t]he lack of sufficient troops is now *shaping U.S. policy*. Washington is rooting for political opponents because it has no real capacity for intervention should instability result” (August 17). America's ability to intervene in or handle other conflicts has

greatly diminished. It has been forced to shape its foreign policy around the *lack of* manpower and muscle behind those policies. “With the United States in inextricable situations in Afghanistan and Iraq, Washington will have a difficult time using military power to prevent Tehran's pursuit of nuclear arms” (*Asia Times*, September 30). Thus the U.S., in this case, will likely be forced into diplomatic bargaining and compromise.

As Stratfor stated, “[T]he policy choices available to the United States are evaporating along with the force” (op. cit.).

America still is strong enough to intervene and achieve temporary “victory” in high-intensity conflict. But using small forces and technology to control a defeated country is beyond the U.S.'s ability as a military power. America has lost the power to vanquish the enemy!

This lack of troops sufficient to control Afghanistan and Iraq is also hurting the morale of some troops already there. First, the Pentagon's only option after 9/11—with forces reduced so dramatically in the 1990s—was to dip into reserve forces. Now, with prolonged occupation, the Pentagon has even issued stop-loss orders preventing some reservists from leaving the military even after their enlistment period ends. Keeping these people—fathers, mothers, small business owners, teachers—away from home for so long will continue to wear on the national spirit.

This is where we return to Bible prophecy. Notice that the scripture describing the curse of our military didn't state that we would have a *weak* military. America still boasts the world's most dominant force; it has nuclear power exponentially greater than any of its enemies. But what Leviticus does say is that America would have the PRIDE of its power broken. And that *whatever strength it did have* would be spent IN VAIN!

Does that not describe the nation of America? The morale of its troops, and its people's will to see a thorny occupation through, will continue to disintegrate. And the snazzy technology and highly trained special forces—though achieving certain temporary success for the nation—will ultimately be resources spent IN VAIN.

As Mr. Armstrong said, any military success the U.S. will experience will be limited to a few minor skirmishes or perhaps some major battles. But *victory* in war will continue to elude the U.S. because AMERICA—not just the president, or the

policy-makers, or the movers and shakers at the Pentagon—but *America* as a nation and as a people—has abandoned its history with God. The first half of Leviticus 26 shows the remarkable blessings that would come to this nation if we turned to Him. Sadly, we can only quote the latter half of that chapter—the curses—when referring to the current state of America and its waning military strength.

The lack of sufficient troops to carry on successful operations is a direct fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Whether the cutbacks of the 1990s or the reshuffling to occur over the next 10 years were strategically sound decisions is a moot point. However it plans to remedy this troop deficiency—if it plans to do so—the United States of America is being CURSED. Its military strength will be insufficient to meet the challenges ahead.

There is coming a time when, God says, “They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof” (Ezekiel 7:14).

America—despite its technological and military edge over other nations—will soon FALL to a mightier power. Its military will become defunct. Ezekiel tells us that millions of our peoples will die “by the sword.” Cities will be leveled and without inhabitant—indicating NUCLEAR annihilation.

Yes, *America has won its last war*. The good news here is that this prophesied World War III is the LAST WAR America will lose. Because it is the war that shall end ALL WAR! This coming prophesied nuclear conflagration will culminate in the Second Coming and necessary intervention of Jesus Christ Himself.

But must we suffer? Must we live through the horrors of the coming downfall of the U.S. military? Is this the only way God can get our attention? Can we heed His warning now?

Whatever decisions the U.S. leadership makes over the coming years, YOU can ensure yourself *safety* from the calamity ahead. We have ample literature on this subject that can give you hope. God does not want us to trust in the military establishments of this world to keep us secure and free from living in terror. He wants us to look to Him! To humble ourselves under His mighty hand—and seek refuge in His charge.

Order a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.



TWILIGHT
British troops and the kingdom's military pride and capability are fading, again.

BRITAIN CUTS MILITARY

BY ANDREW HESSONG

BRITAIN WAS ILL-PREPARED FOR World War I. Although it had enlarged its Navy, its standing Army had been reduced in size in the years leading up to the war. It wasn't until Britain had engaged Germany that a sufficient fighting force was raised, with the help of its allies, to eventually bring the nation to victory.

In the lead-up to World War II, again the nation was vulnerable. It possessed only a small Air Force and was nearly devoid of tanks. Though Winston Churchill cried out to the nation to rearm as Germany rose again, his message largely fell on deaf ears. Peace through appeasement was the ideal. It took German blitzkrieg in the low countries to finally awaken the British people to the danger they were in, forcing them to scramble to retool in order to save the country.

Lack of military readiness, combined with naivety, twice put Britain's existence in danger in the 20th century. Today, history is repeating itself—but with a vital difference.

Up to the period of the world wars, the nature of warfare allowed time enough for a nation to produce the necessary armaments and train soldiers even after the declaration of war. Since then, warfare has changed. With today's weapons, whole cities can be razed within minutes.

Precision-guided weapons require only a few aerial sorties to destroy their targets, where it once took hundreds. In addition, the 21st century is far more unstable and dangerous than the previous. Global stability can be altered in a matter of hours. Today, a country may no longer have the luxury of *time* to build up its armed forces after a danger becomes apparent.

That in mind, consider how stretched British (not to mention U.S.) military forces are. Britain currently is engaged in more conflicts than at any one time in the last 30 years. At the same time, military expenses have soared as a result of poor project management and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This has left the Ministry of Defense £3.5 billion (US\$6.5 billion) in the red. The government has called upon the ministry to fix the problem.

As a result, even in this tenuous state of global security, Britain is embarking on *unprecedented cuts* to its military capability and enacting a radical restructuring of forces to meet budget and a completely new war paradigm. Have the lessons of history not been learned?

Bible prophecy shows this sudden and drastic military shift will contribute to the downfall of the nation.

A New Paradigm Secretary of State for Defense Geoff Hoon documented Britain's new model for war in his paper “Deliver-

ing Security in a Changing World,” presented to the British Parliament in July. The paper outlines how British forces are to be restructured to function within a coalition framework, focusing on small- and medium-scale expeditionary operations. It is assumed that Britain will no longer engage in the most complex large-scale operations unless it does so alongside the United States in a coalition framework. With Europe no longer seen as a threat, the idea that Britain may ever have to stand alone to defend itself is not addressed. The new structure will not allow this to be successfully accomplished.

Based on reliance upon technology, the new fighting paradigm assumes that far fewer forces and equipment will be required to achieve equivalent objectives. New technology, according to Mr. Hoon, will mean a “shift away from an emphasis on numbers of platforms and of people.” The irrefutable fact that fewer forces and less equipment mean a *de facto* reduction in the ability to defend the nation was not mentioned.

The logic is that by increasing the *technical capability* of the military force, it can be reduced in *quantity of manpower*. At best, this is a gamble. At worst, it is *suicidal*. “Just how much security the UK forces will now be able to deliver is a fundamental question” (*Aviation Week & Space Technology*, August 2). After all, as the *Scotsman* pointed out, no matter how good the *communications and control sys-*

tems are, they need to have troops and armaments to command and control (July 22). And what use is high-tech intelligence-gathering equipment if the military doesn’t have the wherewithal to take action on that intelligence? London’s *Mirror* described it as the government’s attempt to replace “boots on the ground” strength with “cyber-age science” (July 22).

The occupation of Iraq is a classic example of the continued importance of troops on the ground. Iraq, as well as Britain’s own experience in Northern Ireland, should have proven that fighting even the current threat—terrorism—is manpower intensive.

Britain believes it can get away with the huge reductions because it will achieve its aims in the future by holding sway within coalitions. The idea is that its force structure will allow Britain to maximize its influence on other nations within a coalition at all levels of planning, execution and management of operations. Thus, the Defense Ministry believes that even with *greatly reduced capability*, Britain can still achieve its wider security policies and objectives.

But basically, all the jargon about modernization, efficiency, flexibility and optimization is just an attempt to cover up the fact that Britain’s military is being decimated.

With the Cold War over, the Defense Ministry assumes direct threats to Britain have been greatly reduced, and therefore British forces and capability

can be safely reduced. What silly, naive thinking! Britain, or biblical Ephraim, at this end time is described as being silly and without sense (Hosea 7:11). This is clearly an example of such.

Twice in the past century Britons spilled their own blood defending crown and country from GERMANY. Even as the German-led European Union continues to strengthen and prepare to rise militarily, this fact is completely discounted in Britain’s new defense strategy. Are there any British leaders awake, as was Churchill before World War II?

The Cuts Britain’s drastic defense cuts will affect all three armed services, with the Royal Air Force (RAF), Navy and Army all having both personnel and equipment slashed. Notice the severity and broadness of these losses, the biggest for generations:

In all, 10,500 military personnel will be cut, with the RAF losing the most—7,500. In addition, 10,000 Ministry of Defense civilian staff will go. The London *Times* reported that all three forces will be smaller in size *than they have ever been* (July 22).

The Army will lose four infantry battalions, three from England and one from Scotland. A third of its main Challenger 2 battle tanks will be discarded. Six AS90 heavy-artillery batteries will also go. The Army will undergo drastic restructuring, resulting in the further altering of Britain’s famous regimental system—a

A Sleeping Nation

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE will be slashed by nearly a quarter.

The Navy will have 12 fewer ships. Almost a third of the Army’s primary battle tanks will be gone. In total, Britain’s armed forces will be cut by 10 percent. Never before have there been such wide-ranging defense cuts in Britain.

One would think a national debate would be set off among politicians and the media over the prudence of such action. In times past, certainly. But not today.

In a July 31 article in Britain’s *Spectator*, Stephen Glover reported that “the armed forces were literally decimated without either

the opposition or the press raising much more than a grumble.”

To be fair, the defense cuts did catch front-page



news in several newspapers for a day, but they quickly disappeared with virtually no serious discussion. Glover expressed concern most of all about the lack

of expert analysis and “real concentrated rage.”

“To most newspapers,” he wrote, “this was just another story. To the armed forces and, I would submit, for the country, these cuts are catastrophic.”

“This country has changed,” Glover concluded, “and so have its newspapers. We nod to the armed forces as they pass, we may even regret that they are being cut again, and then we cheerfully turn the next page.” Such apathy in Britain only increases the danger posed by the reduction of defense capabilities in the face of increasing military threats.

In our August issue, editor in chief Gerald Flurry

drew attention to the responsibility of the media to *warn* the nation and its failure to do so in the years leading up to World War II. He described the media’s silence at that time as “extremely repugnant and shameful.”

“This is how quintessentially passive Britain (and America) had become in the 1930s,” he wrote. “The media led the way. There should have been a massive changing and turning from such dangerous thinking after World War II. But it is far worse today, and we are going to pay an unparalleled penalty for refusing to seek the truth! We should start the process by learning from history.”



SHRINKING SQUADRONS

Britain is cutting 10,500 military personnel, 7,500 of which belong to the Royal Air Force.

system which has served it so well in the past—and an anticipated loss of morale.

Four squadrons will disappear from the Air Force and five bases will be closed. By way of comparison, the Air Force's home-defense squadrons are being slashed to the level of 1936 (*Scotsman*, op. cit.). Five of the 21 high-tech Nimrod MR2 maritime patrol aircraft—almost a quarter of the fleet—are being axed. All Jaguar fighter-bomber squadrons will be cut. The number of Rapier anti-aircraft missile launchers will be reduced by a half, and High Velocity Missile capability will also be almost halved.

The Navy will lose 12 vessels, including three Type 42 destroyers and three anti-submarine Type 23 frigates—a fifth of its destroyer/frigate fleet—along with their Sea Dart missiles, vital to air defense. Three mine hunters and three patrol vessels will go. For the first time since the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Britain's surface ships will number below those of France.

And this is all on top of cuts that have already been made in the past decade. For example, in 1990 the British armed forces contained almost 315,000 personnel; in 2000, there were only 213,000 (*Aviation Week & Space Technology*, op. cit.). Do the math: To say this is a drastic reduction is an understatement. Now, with the current round of cuts, within the next four years the number will drop to 188,000.

With the intensity of the cuts, one would think that all was quiet on the world scene. The very opposite is the case! British forces are already overextended in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and Iraq (*Mirror*, op. cit.). In the

words of the chairman of the Commons Defense Committee, "Please explain who the idiot was who thinks you can cut the infantry at a time when the pressure on them is enormous?" (ibid.). *Aviation Week & Space Technology* reports that for elements of the British armed forces, *overstretch* has been a "chronic condition" (August 2). The Army's manpower, for example, is currently 5,000 *below* levels set by the government in a 1998 strategic defense review—and now it is being *cut* by a further 1,500!

Though there are plans to replace some of the defense hardware being cut, by the time the new equipment is procured, it won't even cover the shortfall let alone fill expanding needs. In the case of the Air Force, which will have less than half the number of crew needed to fly the number of jets supposedly being procured, there are concerns that the government isn't really committed to the purchases. As for the Navy, the delivery of two new aircraft carriers is not due until 2012 and 2015. As Defence Systems Daily stated, Blair "may well come to rue this restructuring of the UK's armed forces" (July 22).

However, there is much more to be concerned about than just the cuts.

Vulnerable As stated, the rationale for Britain's military cuts lies in the new high-tech approach to war. This new battlefield approach entails what is being termed a Network Enabled Capability (NEC). "NEC is about the coherent integration of sensors, decision-makers and weapon systems along with support capabilities" ("Delivering Security in a

Changing World," www.mod.uk). The system essentially links all aspects of the battlefield together. Information is gathered from every area of operations including satellites, surveillance aircraft and foot patrols, all the way down to the shooters on the ground. It is delivered to command-and-control centers, which can share it with coalition partners and relay engagement commands. The result is expected to be a well-coordinated effort utilizing high-tech precise weapons based on the ground, ships and aircraft.

At the heart of this data and voice network is Skynet 5, a very sophisticated satellite to be built by the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS). Paradigm Services, an EADS subsidiary, will actually own the satellite and provide critical specialized secure communications services to the British Ministry of Defense under a contractual agreement.

While this may not sound unusual under modern military *modus operandi*, it is an extreme danger and an Achilles heel for the entire British nation. As the *Trumpet* has pointed out in a number of issues, EADS is a German-dominated European conglomerate. This means that Britain has hedged its national defense, all its troop and equipment reductions as well as future battle plans—the defense of the nation—on a high-tech strategic system whose very lynch pin is being held by a nation that has twice attempted to wipe it off the map.

This is the height of naivety! From a prophetic standpoint, this fatal vulnerability is real. The Prophet Ezekiel states, "They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (Ezekiel 7:14). A warning goes out for battle and there is no response! This verse indicates a probable breakdown in military communications.

How silly and naive British leadership is! Even now, the relationship of Britain to the EU is tenuous, and Bible prophecy shows that Britain will not end up a part of the risen German-dominated Holy Roman Empire. Yet at this point, the heart and core of its defense needs involve an essential and vital system that is squarely in the hands of the nation at the core of this fast-rising imperial Europe! It is time for the nation of Britain to *hear* the trumpet warning being given from God—to *turn* from its evil ways and *return* to the one true God who alone can deliver them from their enemies (Ezekiel 33:11). ■

EUROPE

Constitution Signed in Rome

UNDER THE WATCHFUL gaze of a bronze statue of a former pope, leaders from 25 European countries gathered together to sign the European Union constitution on October 29. The momentous ceremony was symbolically held on Capitoline Hill in Rome in the same room where the original Treaty of Rome was signed to establish the European Economic Community, forerunner to the EU, in 1957.

Once adopted, the constitution, which is 300 pages long and consists of more than 400 articles, will replace most of the existing EU treaties. It will bring the 25 member states under one supranational government body and law.

The EU faces a major obstacle to implementation of the constitution however: 11 member nations, including the UK, have committed to holding referendums to ratify the constitution. In those countries, rather than the constitution being ratified by parliament, the people will vote directly to accept or reject it. The constitution must be ratified by all nations in order to come into effect Nov. 1, 2006. If there is a *no* vote in even just one country, a clause states the matter will be taken up by the European Council.

"A 'no' vote would ... spur the creation of a two-speed Europe in which countries like France and Germany will push ahead toward an 'ever closer union' without laggards like Britain" (*United Press International*, October 28).

Still, the signing of this document was a historic



WHEN IN ROME Under the statue of Pope Innocent X, European leaders sign the EU constitution in Rome, October 29.

event with profound implications. As Henri Spaak, the former secretary general of NATO, said of the 1957 signing: "We felt like Romans on that

day; we were consciously recreating the Roman Empire."

This magazine has long contended that the unification of Europe under the

guise of the EU is in fact a resurrection of the Roman Empire of old, in accordance with Bible prophecy. A united Europe, going back to its Roman roots, will once again be a world-ruling empire.

For more on where this resurrection of the Roman Empire is leading and on the prophetic implications of the EU con-

stitution, see our August 2004 article "Europe's True Nature Exposed" under "Issue Archives" at www.theTrumpet.com.

Germany to Britain: Forget the War

DID GERMANY NOT WREAK HAVOC ON Britain during the Second World War? According to German Foreign Minister Joschka Fisher, the British should get over it. Speaking on a BBC radio show, *The Today Program*, Fisher accused the British media of keeping alive antiquated images of Germany. "If you want to learn how the traditional Prussian goose-step works, you have to watch British TV, because in Germany, in the younger generation—even in my generation—nobody knows how to perform it," he said (*Deutsche Welle*, October 28). World-war antagonist Germany is now the victim of British memories of its militarism?

The usual homespun pacifists could not agree more. London's *Independent* ran this: "The root of the problem is ... an ingrained tendency, even—perhaps especially—among young Britons, to affirm their national identity by crowing about old victories and doing a defeated enemy down. Do we really have nothing better, nothing more recent, to feel good about?" (October 21).

This cultural quandary was elevated front and center as Queen Elizabeth prepared for a historic visit to Germany. *Bild*, the biggest national German newspaper, ran a front-page story asking if the Queen should not



OUTDATED Nazis give the famous salute.

apologize for British war-time bombings. Only in the politically correct 21st century could such a proposition be put forward. It is as if defending yourself from a tyrannical government intent on subjecting you to national slavery has become an offense.

The British, deceived by a biased press before the Second World War, are today a shadow of their former selves, and the Germans, eerily mirroring the 1930s, wax strong with each economic, political, cultural and militaristic achievement.

Bible prophecy points to the final outcome of this ancient Anglo-German relationship: The Germans will lead the world into one final conflagration, and Britain will be swept away with it. To learn more about these prophecies, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

Wanted: Mightier Military

IN A WORLD FACING MOD-ern threats such as international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, conventional self-defense strategies are fast becoming outdated. The European Union recently has been rethinking its security strategies and proposing plans for Europe to become better prepared to fight terrorism and other global threats.

An EU-commissioned report published September 15 calls for Europe to develop

the military and civilian resources to engage in regional conflicts around the world and the capabilities to respond to terrorist threats at their source. To facilitate these plans, defense experts propose more defense spending and a 15,000-member human security response force. The proposal not only entails the use of military power, but using civilian means such as

policing to help with crisis management and civil disruption after EU intervention.

In a separate paper, the Institute for Security Studies—an autonomous EU institute dominated by the Germans and French—is proposing an EU defense strategy that would include preemptive wars. In it, military strategists suggest the preemptive strategy *include the use of nuclear arms*, stating that British and French nuclear weapons could be used as a military option

(www.german-foreign-policy.com, October 10). Their proposal stresses the need for the EU to develop a strategy that fosters early, rapid and robust intervention.

There is no doubt these new proposals and plans will be considered seriously with the aftermath of the Iraqi war still going on and the Madrid bombing of March 11 still fresh on European minds. The EU is learning from U.S. experience in Iraq and realizing more and more the importance of preemptive strategies for fighting terrorism.

Watch the EU develop more aggressive strategies to become a dominant global force—using terror threats as an excuse to beef up its military.

EU Troops Take Over Balkans

ON DECEMBER 2, NATO hands over command of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia to the European Union. The mission consists of 7,000 men and is the largest military mission the EU has led by far.

To many, this event may not seem significant. Maj. Gen. David Leakey, commander of the new EU force, has served in the NATO force in Bosnia previously. In fact, on December 2, 80 percent of the troops in the NATO force will “simply change the insignia on their uniforms” (*Irish Times*, November 4). According to Deutsche Welle, the EU “will sort of ‘borrow’ personnel and equipment from NATO” (September 17).

How is this event significant? The question is not one of military presence, but of *political power*. As the EU’s special representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lord Ashdown, put it, “It is scarcely possible to overestimate the significance of this operation For Bosnia, it marks a milestone on the route from war toward peace



IN LINE Italian NATO soldiers dutifully serve in the Balkans.

stabilization and eventually joining the European Union. ... It’s the biggest, most important realization of the common European foreign and security policy. It has to succeed because, upon this, the whole of the rest of the policy will be based” (BBC News, October 23).

Ever since Europe, led by Germany, used the U.S. and NATO to muscle its way into the Balkans, this magazine has been declaring that this is all *prophecy being fulfilled!* As our editor in chief wrote in the March-April 2003 issue, “MOST OF THIS CONQUERING WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH U.S. MILITARY POWER. But it is Germany and the European Union that are taking control of the former Yugoslavia. ... They have a dangerous global ambition.

... Germany is leading the EU. *Now it has an area (former Yugoslavia) to test and build its military—relatively unnoticed by the world. ... [T]he EU uses NATO planning and assets—mostly U.S.—to build this Frankenstein monster. ... It is leading to the worst world war ever.*”

Now, rather than hiding behind NATO and the U.S., the EU is operating under its own military authority in Bosnia. Although Germany currently has 7,000 troops in the Balkans, it continues its policy of maintaining support for international organizations as the umbrella under which to carry out German ambition.

To understand more on the prophetic significance of the EU’s presence in the Balkans, please request our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.

German Troops to Hold Post

GERMAN TROOPS WILL continue their mission in the Mediterranean and off the Horn of Africa as part of the fight against terror.

Maritime troops are stationed there in support of U.S.-led anti-terrorism operations, a deployment that was set to expire November 15. However, the German parliament overwhelmingly approved a measure to leave the 500 soldiers there for at least another year. Officials said the measure, which allows for up to 3,100 troops, was “essential to German security” and that it was part of Germany’s responsibility as a member of the United Nations (Deutsche Welle, November 12).

This was the first deployment of German troops *outside* Europe since World War II, and an example of how the fight against terror is being used an excuse to assume a more muscular military posture.

MIDDLE EAST

EU Moving In?

AT A EUROPEAN UNION summit in Brussels on November 4-5, EU leaders endorsed a plan proposed by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana outlining how the EU can assist in the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The four-pronged offensive calls for EU cooperation with the Palestinian Authority on security, institutional reforms, economic aid and local elections.

Specifically, the plan calls for deploying EU peace-keeping troops to the Gaza Strip ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned unilateral withdrawal from the territory. At first they will help train and organize a Palestinian police force to enforce law and order following Israel's retreat, but one Solana aide says "a more robust role should not [be] ruled out" (EUobserver.com, November 2).

"We are ready to contribute and to cooperate with our Palestinian friends on all the elements that they need: security, or administration reform, or whatever is necessary," Solana said in an interview with Germany's *Der Spiegel* (Middle East Newswire, November 4).

Interestingly, at the same time the EU is offering "whatever is necessary" to help the Palestinians, it is calling for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, including the eastern half of Jerusalem. Israel must "commit to making the [Gaza] withdrawal the first step in a process that leads to the pullout from all the occupied areas," Solana told *Der Spiegel*. "Sharon is mistaken if he thinks that withdrawal from Gaza is enough," he said. "Europe won't support that" (Jerusalem Newswire, October 24).

Ironically, Sharon's proposal to withdraw from Gaza, which was sold to his people as a way to stall international pressure on Israel to give up eastern Jerusalem and other territory, is doing just the opposite. Europe is lauding the move at the same time it uses it to pressure Israel into further territorial concessions. The EU is attempting to use the Gaza withdrawal to jump-start its Roadmap to Middle East peace—a plan that gives the Palestinians an independent state, including eastern Jerusalem.

Referring to Zechariah 14:2, editor in chief Gerald Flurry forewarns, "East Jerusalem—one half of the city—will be conquered by



AITA HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES

WATCH Jerusalem is destined to be center of a soon-coming global conflagration, with Europe at the heart of the conflict.

the Palestinians!" (*Jerusalem in Prophecy*). When this trigger event happens, you can be certain that Europe will muscle its way into assuming "a more robust role" in securing Jerusalem as well. Such a prospect should send off alarm bells for anyone familiar with Christ's famous Olivet prophecy, "And

when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20).

Request *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to learn more about Europe's prophesied involvement in Israel and continue watching for God's prophecies concerning Jerusalem to be fulfilled.

ASIA

Nations Growing Closer

TOO MANY PEOPLE FAIL to recognize Asia's mounting global influence. Few seem to understand the potential worldwide ramifications should these nations unite. How much power would this kind of coalition ultimately boast on the world scene?

Consider these recent developments. On October 19, India said "it wants to set up an Asian economic community that would include ASEAN countries, China, Japan, South Korea and India and would create a huge market from the Himalayas to the Pacific Ocean. 'This is an idea whose time is fast approaching and we must be prepared for it collectively,' Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told the third India-ASEAN business summit in New Delhi" (Reuters, October 19).

This proposed Asian community would be as large as the European Union and would rival the developing Latin American Free Trade

Agreement in size. As these nations rapidly form into a great trading bloc, watch for them to take on a new sense of identity and power.

Also, watch for Japan and China to become leaders in this Eastern coalition. China is actively working to ensure its ultimate control of the Asian economic community. For example, Beijing has made a deal with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to remove tariffs by 2010—the latest in a plan to create a China-ASEAN free-trade zone.

Trade, economy and mutual political interests usually underpin any coalition of nations. Take the 25-nation EU for example. This evolved from the European Economic Community, which spawned from the European Coal and Steel Community. You can be sure that the development of trade and economic ties be-

tween Asian nations will act as a catalyst toward further unification of the region.

As Asian countries draw closer in trade, watch also for these nations to align politically and militarily. Consider the influence that a politically united Asia, supported by a militarily united Asia, would have on the world scene! What would be the ramifications of Japan's superior navy combining with China's space and nuclear technology, and both being supported by tens of millions of foot soldiers from around Asia? It would create the greatest military in history.

That is exactly what the Bible prophesies. For more on where current trade and economic agreements in Asia are leading, please request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



STRATFORD/GETTY IMAGES

OPEN First China-ASEAN Expo, November 3

Hurricane's Financial Aftermath

IN JUST SIX WEEKS, FLORIDA and the southeastern United States were smashed by four of the top 10 costliest disasters in U.S. history.

Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne racked up over \$20 billion in *insured* losses, which, at most, represents only half of the total loss. Every fifth home in Florida was damaged and an estimated 37,000 were destroyed. More than 2.1 million claims have been filed. Taken together, only the 9/11 terrorist attacks (including property, liability and life insurance) cost insurers more than the four hurricanes.

The losses would have been *much* higher to the insurance companies, however, had they not raised deductibles on Florida homeowners in the aftermath of 1992's Hurricane Andrew. While a typical U.S. policy has a \$500 deductible, about two thirds of Florida's homeowners have a 2 percent deductible for hurricane damage. For example, if a home is valued at \$200,000, the homeowner pays the first \$4,000 in damages! Some deductibles are as high as 5 percent. The strategy saved the insurance com-

panies *billions* of dollars this time around, but how much more can the *homeowners* withstand?

Meanwhile, some economists argue that hurricanes are actually *good* for the national economy—that the losses from disruption and destruction are *more* than offset by the stimulus provided through rebuilding efforts. They point to the 71,000 construction jobs created in October and the extra 48,000 jobs added by temporary staffing agencies—many to help with hurricane-related work.

This argument misses the main point.

God says *He* controls the weather! Read all of Job 37. “God thunder[s] with His voice wonderfully, Doing great things and we know not. ... From the inner chamber come[s] a hurricane ...” (Job 37:5, 9; Young's Literal Translation).

Why does God do this? “Whether for *correction*, or for his land, or for *love*, he causes it to happen” (verse 13; New Revised Standard Version). Maybe God is trying to tell us something. What will it take to get our attention?



JEANNE BLUES Insurance companies are feeling the pinch from Florida's record-breaking hurricane season.

IN BRIEF

GERMANY

EU Human Rights Law Not Applicable

European Foundation Intelligence Digest, October 22

“THE GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL court has ruled that the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg are not binding in German law. The German judicial system must take account of the rulings of Strasbourg, and it must attempt to integrate them into domestic law, but it is not subject to them.”

To say nothing of Berlin's view of “human rights,” this is yet another instance of the EU's largest nation showing itself to be above the laws set forth by the EU. The double standard that Germany applies to itself is a sign that this nation will in fact *lead Europe*, as the Bible prophesies.

BRITAIN

Spain Solid on Rock

Mercosur, November 4

“THE SPANISH FOREIGN minister said [November 3] that his government maintains its claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar and will continue to press the issue in a renewed dialogue with Britain. ... [He] said the strategy of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's Socialist administration would be to recover sovereignty over Gibraltar through dialogue and cooperation.”

Britain, once possessing the world's most crucial sea gates, has been losing them since the mid-20th century—from Suez to Hong Kong. We have foretold that it will also lose Gibraltar. For more on this, see our September-October 2001 article “Britain Dislodged Over the Rock” at www.theTrumpet.com, under “Issue Archives.”

ASIA

China-Iran Oil Deal

Wall Street Journal, November 1

“IRAN HAS SECURED A PRELIMINARY oil and natural gas agreement with China potentially valued at tens of billions of dollars, the biggest in a spate of energy deals complicating Washington's efforts to economically isolate Iran over its nuclear program. ... The deal demonstrates how global energy needs are complicating U.S. security interests.” Iran is now one of China's top four crude-oil suppliers. Earlier this year Washington failed to dissuade Japan from signing a \$3 billion deal concerning an Iranian oil field. Thus, Iran's march to regional supremacy continues.

AFRICA

Poor of the World

Business Day, November 3

“SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA will hold 50 percent of the world's poor by 2015, an annual South Africa Survey, released by the SA Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), shows. ... ‘Africa will get significantly poorer during a time period that will see global poverty reduced by a third,’ the SAIRR said in a statement ...”

WEATHER

Disaster Toll Tripled in '03

CNN News, October 29

“NATURAL DISASTERS killed 76,806 people in 2003, three times the number of victims in 2002, a rise due in part to extremes in the global climate.” The earthquake in Iran that killed 31,000 and the heat wave in Europe that killed 35,000 were the biggest contributors to the figures. “In all, a quarter of a billion people were affected by drought, floods and earthquakes, which caused at least \$56 billion in damage in 2003, twice the cost of the previous year ...”

Immoral Majority

The red states may have won an election. But the blue states have won the culture war.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

IF WE COULDN'T TRUST THE EXIT polls to determine who would win the U.S. presidential election, why should we believe its post-election analysis? On Election Day, exit polls had liberal journalists in newsrooms all over the world positively giddy. Senator Kerry was projected to win easily. After he lost, the downcast media elite at least took comfort in the fact that, according to exit polls, it was the right-wing, homophobic Christians in the heartland of America that tilted the scales in favor of the incumbent.

Suddenly, America was ultra-religious—a “conservative” nation. It scared thousands of paranoid liberals enough to even consider the prospect of immigrating to Canada. Bloggers circulated maps of North America around the Internet with the West Coast and the Northeast shaded blue, along with Canada—collectively calling it “The United States of Canada.” Middle America, in red, was labeled “Jesusland.” New Yorkers and San Franciscans took offense at Middle America's self-righteous disdain for the lifestyle and culture promoted on both coasts. The *New York Times* quoted one New Yorker as saying, “I'm saddened by what I feel is the obtuseness and shortsightedness of a good part of the country—the heartland. This kind of redneck, shoot-from-the-hip mentality and a very concrete interpretation of religion is prevalent in Bush country—in the heartland.”

All this fuss because of a biased elite media and one question, asked by one pollster, which found that 22 percent of Americans based their vote on “moral values” more than any other single issue. This issue superseded the six other choices on the survey: economy and jobs, terrorism, Iraq, health care, taxes and education. But as Charles Krauthammer noted in his November 12 column, comparing the broad category of moral values with something like health care skewed the findings of the survey. “Moral values encompass abortion, gay marriage, Hollywood's influence, the general coarsening of the culture and, for some, the morality of preemptive war. The way to logically pit this class of

issues against the others would be to pit it against other classes: ‘war issues’ or ‘foreign policy issues’ (Iraq plus terrorism) and ‘economic issues’ (jobs, taxes, health care, etc.)” Krauthammer wrote.

“If you pit group against group, the MORAL VALUES CLASS COMES IN DEAD LAST: war issues at 34 percent, economic issues variously described at 33 percent and moral values at 22 percent—i.e., they are at least a third less salient than the others” (emphasis mine throughout).

Additionally, exit polls also found that in an open-ended questionnaire (without multiple choices), only 14 percent said “moral values” mattered most in their vote. The moral minority dwindles yet further!

As an aside to the reporting on this election, it is interesting to consider how short the memory is for elite journalists. In 1992, President Bush's father lost his bid for re-election *precisely because* he pandered to the religious right, judging by how that election was reported. It was Patrick Buchanan's “culture war” speech in Houston at the Republican National Convention that supposedly sealed the elder Bush's fate. Buchanan's hard-line rhetoric terrified the moderate “swing” voters, we were told. Americans weren't interested in upholding a high standard of moral conduct.

Now, 12 years later, America is so conservative it's scary. And how do we know this? Because 14 percent of voters surveyed said “moral values” mattered most when deciding how to vote for president. That's the conventional wisdom now disseminating from the secularist media. America is *too* conservative—its moral code being driven by radical religious fundamentalists.

Moral Concern The media's knee-jerk reaction to Middle America's so-called religious extremism is more a reflection of the animosity it has for President Bush, a man who has made no secret of his faith and how it affects his decision-making. It may be true that the president's private beliefs have encouraged more vocal support from religious circles (something, again, that makes the media uncomfortable), but

that doesn't mean we are in the midst of a moral revival. In truth, our moral values have been in sharp decline for decades. An avalanche of evidence supports this fact—going back at least 12 years.

In several polls taken during the mid-1990s, the majority of Americans said they were “very concerned” about the sex, violence and profanity on television and in movies. In 1995, a *USA Today/CNN/Gallup* poll interviewed more than 65,000 TV viewers. It found that 96 percent of television viewers were *very concerned* or *somewhat concerned* about sex on TV. The percentage concerned about violence was even higher. In other words, in 1995, all were nearly unanimous in their agreement that television had too much sex and violence. Eighty-three percent of those surveyed said the entertainment industry should make a serious effort to reduce sex and violence in movies, music and TV. Sixty-eight percent said that if the industry would do that, it would significantly improve the moral climate in America.

Of course, the entertainment industry would *never* do that. And the reason is that no matter how valueless their content is, Americans will still tune in. In the average American household, the television is on approximately seven hours per day. Many American children spend more time with a television set before age 6 than they will spend with their fathers *during their entire lifetime*.

The November 9 issue of *Family Circle* noted similar findings regarding Americans' views and habits in television viewing. According to its survey, 81 percent of adults “think that reality TV shows pander to our worst nature.” Yet, the same survey found that 56 percent of adults with children under 18 say they almost always watch reality TV. Again, 71 percent of adults worry about what shows like *Extreme Makeover* and *The Swan* will teach young people about how to judge human worth. Yet, even with these concerns, 52 percent of women polled would like to have a makeover.

Notice the trend here? Judging by what we say *about* moral values, it would appear that Americans are quite concerned—but only in a passive sense.



MURDOCH



REDSTONE

Only a minority of us actually exhibit the willpower to change our behavior.

Added to that, our very definition of morality today is relative. It means different things to different people. But this much is true across the board: As society's standards lower, everyone's definition of right and wrong continues to be watered down. This is highlighted by a Pew research study conducted in the summer of 2003 which found that "an increasing number of Americans are able to accept such social changes as homosexuality and changing women's roles *while maintaining* traditional religious and social values."

Religion has done nothing to slow our long-term decline in morality—at least judging by the way God defines morality. As Victor Davis Hanson put it in the *National Review Online*, "Most Americans—in the movies they watch, the TV shows they view, the radio they hear, the abortions they receive, the sexual practices they choose, and the fashion and entertainment they enjoy—do not feel they are straight-jacketed by a Christian fundamentalist society" (November 12).

The Cultural Agenda Last month in the *Trumpet*, we pointed out that the traditional family values platform was all but forgotten in this year's political campaign—even on the "conservative" side. We pointed to the Republican National Convention as one example of that. Four speakers from that convention support gay rights. Two of them are pro-abortion. One previously admitted to sexual harassment. Two were involved in messy, high-profile divorces.

It's no wonder Republicans decided to shelve the traditional values platform. Fred Barnes, of the *Weekly Standard*, noticed that the Republicans "barely mentioned" the values campaign in the lead-up to the election.

The media didn't either—until the day after the election, when they shamelessly amplified the myth that Middle America was far too conservative and religious. *Anything to make their secular agenda seem moderate and balanced.*

But as Frank Rich correctly noted in the *New York Times*, "Everything about

the election results—and about American culture itself—confirms an inescapable reality: John Kerry's defeat notwithstanding, it's blue America, not red, that is inexorably winning the culture war, and by a landslide. ...

"Excess and vulgarity, as always, enjoy a vast, bipartisan constituency, and in a democracy no political party will ever stamp them out. If anyone is laughing all the way to the bank this election year, it must be the undisputed king of the red cultural elite, Rupert Murdoch. Fox News is a rising profit center within his News Corp., and each red-state dollar that it makes can be plowed back into the rest of Fox's very blue entertainment portfolio" (November 13).

Murdoch fancies himself as a radical conservative, but you'd never guess that after viewing an episode of Fox's *Trading Spouses*. Murdoch's News Corporation also owns Direct TV, which delivers soft- and hardcore porn into millions of homes across North America. ABC News estimates that pornography on Direct TV pulls in \$500 million per year for Mr. Murdoch.

Other media conglomerates also rake in big bucks from porn. Time Warner's public relations director Mark Harrod insists that its decision to offer its 11 million cable customers porn is driven by consumers. Time Warner also owns HBO and Cinemax, which together have nearly 39 million subscribers. It also pulls in close to \$3 billion annually from Warner Brother's Pictures. Time Warner's CEO is a man by the name of Richard Parsons, a registered Republican.

Viacom is one of the largest global media empires, with a financial stake in movie production and distribution, cable TV, radio, the Internet and book publishing. It owns Blockbuster, Paramount Pictures, the CBS network and numerous cable stations, like MTV, VH1, BET and Showtime. Its Infinity Broadcasting plays shock-jock Howard Stern on 27 radio stations every weekday morning, drawing an estimated weekly audience of 8 to 10 million. Viacom's CEO, Sumner Redstone, endorsed President Bush for re-election.

General Electric owns Universal Pictures' movie and television studios and the NBC television network. Its CEO, Jeffrey Immelt, contributed to President Bush's campaign.

It is *these corporate giants*, Frank Rich wrote in his column, "not Susan Sarandon and Bruce Springsteen, *who actually set the American cultural agenda.*"

A Losing Battle A few weeks after President Clinton's impeachment trial in early 1999, Paul Weyrich, head of the conservative Free Congress Foundation in Washington, made a startling suggestion to his peers. He wrote, "I no longer believe that there is a moral majority. I do not believe that a majority of Americans actually share our values." Otherwise, he said, President Clinton would have been driven out of office.

Weyrich then spoke in broader terms: "The culture we are living in becomes an ever wider sewer. In truth, I think we are caught up in a cultural collapse of historic proportions, a collapse so great that *it simply overwhelms politics.* ... I don't have all the answers or even all the questions. But I know that what we have been doing for 30 years hasn't worked, that *while we have been fighting and winning in politics*, our culture has decayed into something approaching barbarism."

No Republican victory will ever resurrect our NATIONWIDE moral collapse. To believe that is OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY! The "blue states" have *already won* the cultural battle, notwithstanding the media's shameless attempt to cram the secular agenda even further down our throats. That's why conservatives ignored the moral values platform this past election cycle.

To see how devastating our cultural collapse has been, one need only look at the central issues to the present moral debate. Do homosexuals have the legal right to get married? Do women have the legal right to murder their partially born babies? Can scientists legally kill embryonic life in order to extract stem cells?

These are the issues now up for debate? That in itself shows how far we've slid into the pit of cultural depravity. ■

DO YOU WANT TO BE FREE FROM pornography? If so, you are not alone. But you are in for a bitter battle.

Our culture is saturated in sex. Highly sexualized images and messages are printed, displayed and broadcast incessantly through every form of mass communication. Many people have convinced themselves that there is nothing wrong with this—that it is harmless, even healthy.

Such thinking is deception.

Jesus Christ plainly condemned our pornophilic culture. He called it *adultery*—a violation of God’s eternal spiritual law: “I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). Of course, this applies to lusting after men too. In fact, it would include a lot of sexualized content that isn’t even commonly called *pornography*; some in the sex industry have devised distinctions intended to make certain types of lust-inducing material seem harmless. Christ disagrees.

With pervasive temptations, by no means is it *easy* to keep your mind free of lustful thoughts. The Apostle Paul went so far as to call it a *life-and-death* struggle: “Put to DEATH, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: *sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires* and greed, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5, New International Version). The Apostle Peter also spoke of it as being a *war*: “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

What is *your* attitude toward pornography? Does it match God’s?

Many who look at porn say they don’t feel guilty about it. Their conscience is either uneducated, or it has been seared (Jeremiah 6:15; Ephesians 4:17-19). They need to understand that porn is sin. Last month’s *Trumpet* cover story showed how it is a major tool that Satan the devil uses to destroy men in particular, and women and children, and families.

Many others acknowledge that porn and public sexuality are destructive and want to steer clear of them. For anyone with any degree of contact with mass media—television, Internet, magazines, newspapers, movies, books—this requires genuine effort. Practically speaking, *failing* to battle means *losing* the battle.

How much are you *fighting* to protect your mind against pornography?

Sadly, many, even with effort, are losing that battle. Porn, and its often-



JOEL HILLIKER/UBREY/MERCADO

PORN FREE

Can you remain sexually pure in a smutty world? BY JOEL HILLIKER

associated immoral sexual habits, can be powerfully addictive. And it can be much harder to overcome than some addictions—and not only because generally the people affected don’t want to give it up: With chemical addictions, you can purge the elements from your bloodstream, but mental images from pornography cannot be erased.

Many are caught in the trap of pornography and want to be free of it. They can see the damage done to themselves and their families—they wish they had more self-control—but they feel unable to free themselves. They are living testimony of the truth contained in 2 Peter 2:19: “[W]hatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved” (Revised Standard Version).

Is this a problem you face?

The First Step Breaking free from the common sexuality around us, and even the immoral desires within ourselves, can be an enormous challenge. The obvious first step each of us must take is to acknowledge that it is a problem.

Because public sexuality is so pervasive, it is easy to compromise with. We must understand, however, just how damaging compromise can be in this matter.

The Bible makes a powerful comparison between sexual immorality and fire,

or hot coals. Permitting yourself a “little” sexual lust is like carrying a “small amount” of fire close to your chest, or walking barefoot on red-hot embers—you will be burned and blistered every time (Proverbs 6:23-29).

The Bible contains a two-part definition of “pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father.” It says a man practicing pure religion is “to keep himself unspotted [or unstained] from the world” (James 1:27). This is a true challenge in a world *deeply stained* with sexual impurity!

Pure water contains no contaminants; you would not call a glass of water with a “little bit” of mud mixed into it *pure water*. A *pure* sexual life includes nothing outside God’s commanded use of sex between a lawfully wedded husband and wife—a relationship God created to be fully satisfying and rewarding sexually.

Pornography is poison; a meal containing a “little bit” of cyanide is not a healthy meal. Compromising with pornographic or lust-inducing material is essentially making the same choice Adam and Eve made in eating from the tree of the knowledge of *good and evil*—that is, a satanic *mixture* that is appealing to the senses, but leads to death (Genesis 2:17).

Good and evil is ingrained in our think-

ing as a society. To take a prime example, the entertainment industry is filled with artistic excellence besmirched by moral depravity. (In many cases, the material most lauded and honored by critics and insiders is actually the most corrupt.)

Can you recognize the extent of the problem? How much of this compromising mindset has affected your own thinking?

Consider a comparison with alcohol. To a recovering alcoholic, even a *drop* of alcohol can be an unbearable temptation. Likewise, for someone who has allowed pornography to get the better of him, the tiniest dose can inflame a desire for more. The important difference, however, is that a non-addict can consume alcohol moderately with no negative effects, whereas lust is not something that should be indulged, even in moderate amounts.

It is truly a rare individual who is willing to make the effort to distance himself or herself from this way of thinking and strive, even against powerful personal temptation, for true *purity*.

We live in a media-soaked world. We all need to step back and get perspective on this aspect of our personal lives and rigorously, honestly evaluate our media consumption, specifically its *negative* effects on us. What are your attitudes, behaviors and habits regarding, in particular, mass-media portrayals of sexuality? Prayerfully confront assumptions and faults in your own thinking. How has porn hurt or hindered you and those around you? Do you truly want to be rid of it? Are you willing to do whatever it takes? If not, why not? How can you overcome that resistance? The more honest your assessment, the more benefit you'll gain from it.

As Jesus Christ said, purity includes not just law-abiding *actions*, but also *thoughts*. As King David prayed, "Let the words of my mouth, and *the meditation of my heart*, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my re-

what goes into our minds. That means not creating rationalizations about what we can "handle," but rather being truthful with ourselves and with God, and seeking to keep ourselves—and our families—as far away from unsuitable material as possible.

In determining what is acceptable media use, *we cannot use societal standards to make our decisions*. These are in constant flux, with a clear trend toward increasing corruption. *God's unchanging spiritual law* must be our only standard.

We want to be able to say, like the Apostle Paul in Acts 24:16, "I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men" (RSV).

No Provision for the Flesh What if you do find yourself drawn toward sexually explicit material?

The most important principle to live by in overcoming such temptations is to stay as far away from the problem as possible. Human nature wants to get as *close* to the problem as possible. That is a guaranteed path to failure, because, as Christ said, "[T]he spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Shun entertainment with inappropriate sexual content. Strictly avoid movies that contain nudity or lust-inducing sexuality. Before deciding to see a movie, check reviews from moral-based film critics; websites such as ScreenIt.com or MovieGuide.org provide much more comprehensive explanations of possibly objectionable material than the only-vaguely trustworthy MPA system employed in the United States. Consider cutting out "R" or even "PG-13" rated movies altogether. Often you cannot take the word of mainstream critics, who evaluate only a movie's aesthetic value, and many of whom are simply perverts. (Popular film critic Roger Ebert, for example, co-wrote X-rated movies in the 1970s.)

Romans 13:14 instructs us to "make

stroy any indecent magazines, books or videos. If you need to have certain channels blocked from your cable TV service, do so. If you need to get rid of your DVD player or television, do so. If you need to purchase a content filter for your Internet connection, do so. If you need to change ISPs to a provider that screens out porn, do so. If you need to cut off your Internet access, do so. If you need to get rid of your computer, do so. If you need to, have your phone company block out phone numbers that start with the 900 area code.

Get as far away as necessary, take whatever steps you need, to eliminate the temptation. Christ advocated *radical measures* where necessary to preserve your spiritual health and well-being. After explaining that simply looking lustfully can constitute adultery, He said, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:29).

Are you willing to get radical—to figuratively pluck out your eye?

Have a Battle Plan Purity requires a battle plan. Examine your life for things you may need to change about your lifestyle. Look for patterns of failure. Think ahead about situations you know will pose a temptation. Know where you are weak and take action *in advance* to avoid those situations where possible, and remove destructive options where necessary.

Perhaps you get into trouble when you have too much idle time. If so, plan your free time. Stay active. Make sure you are getting regular, vigorous physical exercise. Rather than using those idle moments in the wrong activities, force yourself to get up and go for a run or shoot some basketball. Keep your *mind* active as well, so it won't have an opportunity to wander into places it shouldn't.

Perhaps being *alone* is a problem for you. If you are going to be traveling

We all need to step back and rigorously, honestly evaluate our

media consumption, specifically its negative effects on us.

deemer" (Psalms 19:14). 2 Corinthians 10:5 enjoins "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and *bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ.*"

What we allow ourselves to *look* at certainly affects what we think about. We must not underestimate the power of mass media on our thinking. To become pure, we must be vigilant gatekeepers for

not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." *The Living Bible* translates this, "[D]on't make plans to enjoy evil," and the New International reads, "[D]o not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." In other words, rid your life of all the temptations you can, and then *burn your bridges*.

If you have sexually explicit material in your home, get rid of it. Toss out or de-

alone and you tend to be tempted by a hotel's adult movies-on-demand, stay only at hotels that enable you to block those capabilities—and do so before you arrive. If necessary, have the hotel staff remove the TV from your room.

At times temptation will still arise—or, in a moment of weakness, you may seek out something you should not. When things begin to go off track, you

must have *emergency procedures* you can immediately follow.

Immediate Action Understand this: It is *not* a sin in and of itself to have a tempting thought. The “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)—Satan the devil—is actually capable of injecting thoughts in our minds.

The SIN is allowing ourselves to *dwell* on that temptation.

That’s why it is important to become skilled at *directing our thoughts*—to get in the habit of *immediately* stopping a sinful line of thinking the moment we recognize it. That is realistically the best—and perhaps *only*—moment you can make a genuine choice to block it. Once you’ve tossed it around mentally a few times, it can be virtually impossible to then get rid of it before it leads to a sinful *act*. As James wrote, “[E]very man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [Notice—*every man!* You are not alone!] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:14-15).

At the first moment of temptation, you must break that thought before it takes root. Imagine a big red “NO” being written across your mind. Notice the sky. Whistle. Pinch your cheek. Get out your Bible and read a random passage. Go to a private spot and pray. Whatever it takes.

If you find yourself mulling over plans about how you may be able to see a certain book or movie or go to a certain place, you must expunge those thoughts *immediately* and force yourself to think on something else. The longer you let the wrong thoughts linger, the harder they are to evict and the likelier they are to lead to action.

When you are alone in a place where people don’t know you, it may be easy to take advantage of your anonymity and convince yourself that no one will know

the wrongful act even after recognizing it as wrong. In such a situation, the *moment* you realize you are off track, stand up and walk away, throw the magazine down, turn off the computer—do whatever you must to STOP WITHOUT DELAY.

The biblical command is simple: *Flee fornication* (1 Corinthians 6:18).

That’s right. Don’t wrestle in your mind. Don’t try to be cool, calm and collected. FLEE. Physically *run*—get away from the source of temptation. Often in our battle for purity in the world, if we just *get out of the physical environment*, the temptation will diminish or disappear. Joseph is an example—when he was propositioned to commit adultery, he ran, leaving his garment in the hand of the adulteress.

If you’re watching TV or a movie and sexual content comes up, immediately change the channel, turn off the TV, walk out of the theater—at the very least for that scene. If someone around you is telling raunchy stories or jokes, walk away or change the conversation. Tell the person you don’t want to hear such things.

If you have failed, you must try to learn from the situation so you don’t repeat it. Trace the lead-up to your decision to view the pornography. Try to discern how you got into it in the first place. Then take the necessary measures to deny yourself that option the next time around.

Eliminating lustful options for yourself is *liberating*. It may be difficult for a moment, but you will experience tremendous *peace of mind* when you no longer have to toss back and forth, wrestling with your own thoughts, over some temptation that is still within your reach.

Powerful Help All of the strategies we have been discussing are essentially tangible, physical means of eliminating or at least minimizing the temptations presented by this world and our own minds. It is worth every effort to keep ourselves clean from

or simple entrenched habit. Some have tried countless times to free themselves from the deadly grip of porn and always stumbled and again become ensnared.

The plain truth is, *willpower* alone will not, in most cases, solve the problem. So often, *the spirit* IS WILLING—but the FLESH is just *too weak* to produce lasting change! True freedom from pornography and lust cannot come from the “flesh.”

But it can come.

The Bible is *filled* with promises of *spiritual help* in overcoming such obstacles!

Read this guarantee in Psalms 119:9-11: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? *by taking heed thereto according to thy word*. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Christ Himself supported this fact in John 8:32: “And ye shall know the truth, and THE TRUTH shall make you free.”

Notice too this ironclad promise in James 4:7-8: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

These are promises God makes to His begotten children—those in whom, upon His calling them and their responding in repentance, He has imparted a measure of His Holy Spirit life. He then fulfills these promises through the power of that Spirit. This awesome spiritual power is not available to any but those whom He has called and to whom He has given it upon their repentance.

Perhaps God is convicting you and calling you to REPENTANCE—a complete *turnaround* from a life of sin to a life of OVERCOMING, *using the power of God’s Holy Spirit*. God wants *all people* to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), but at this point He is calling only a very few

Eliminating lustful options for yourself is liberating. It may be

difficult for a moment, but success brings great peace of mind.

if you succumb to lust—but of course, *God sees everything*. It is to *Him* that we are most accountable. Put any thoughts to the contrary out of your mind as quickly as possible.

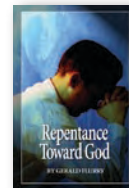
What do you do if you fail?

If you find yourself looking at pornography, STOP IMMEDIATELY. The lust is bad enough—but the sin is compounded when we *continue to violate our own conscience*, carrying on with

pornography. Every time we indulge in it we hurt ourselves and break down our character; every time we take the high ground and avoid it we spare ourselves and our loved ones real pain and anguish.

The trouble is, many people have deep-rooted sexual addictions that *cannot* be solved by such simplistic methods. They suffer the effects of childhood trauma, deep emotional emptiness, and/

to do so. If you believe you may be one of them, request immediately a free copy of our potent and convicting little booklet *Repentance Toward God*. It could be the first step toward truly ridding yourself of the evils of pornography and lust, and achieving the true purity God wants in your life!



You Shall Not Steal

Stealing is the “acceptable” sin. Could you be a thief?
Here’s how you can prevent this sin from entering into your life. BY DENNIS LEAP

KING DAVID, A MAN who loved God deeply, wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul ...” (Psalms 19:7). The word *convert* here carries the colorful meaning of turning back to an original starting point. This word holds firm the idea of turning away from a life of sin back to living the way God lives. Of course, that is what the Ten Commandments are all about. God has given us these incredible, perfect laws so we can *turn our lives around*.

To this point in our series, we have learned that with the giving of the first four commandments, God places the greatest importance on our relationship with Him. In the next three commandments, God teaches how to protect the next most important relationships: parent and child, husband and wife, our neighbor—members of the larger human race. Even more, we must not only put a high value on our relationships, we must protect the health and safety of every human life! Obedience to God’s laws is the only true way that leads to peace, happiness and a wonderfully abundant life.

Eighth Commandment Stated With the Eighth Commandment, God protects *the right* of all human beings to own property. From the highest part of Mount Sinai, God thundered out to Israel, “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15). Few stop to even consider this commandment in our 21st-century world. Yet every nation on Earth is sick with an epidemic of theft.

There are the *obvious* thefts—street muggings, bank heists, auto theft and shoplifting. Nations go to war to steal what belongs to another nation. But there exists a more menacing kind of stealing—white-collar crime. Recognize that this is not just a problem in corporate America. The executive-suite greed at Enron and other companies reflects only the tip of the iceberg; many employees who point



JOEL HILLIKER/AUBREY MERCADO

an accusative finger at corporate leaders think nothing about stealing from their employers. In fact, white-collar crime has permeated every level of our society.

The National White Collar Crime Center reported in 2000 that one in three American households are victims of white-collar crime. That statistic should shock us. Yet the problem is far worse. Police estimate that only 41 percent of those crimes are reported. This means that less than half of all white-collar crimes are ever prosecuted.

White-collar robberies come in many different forms. Most people are well aware of telemarketing schemes, false advertising and inflated pricing. We suffer from a new wave of white-collar crime. The computer and advancements of the Internet have opened the door to high-tech crimes. People have their identities and credit card numbers stolen. Others have their checking accounts and savings accounts drained. Authorities are scrambling to develop new legal tools to handle this out-of-control problem. Yet we should not have to write new laws to handle it. There already is a law written with the finger of God (Exodus 31:18). It is a very simple law: *You shall not steal!*

We must realize that the majority of people in this world are stealing from someone. How? Few people question the attitude of *getting the best* of someone else. This is stealing!

In his book *The Cheating Culture*, David Callahan wrote, “Cheating is everywhere. By cheating I mean breaking the rules to get ahead academically, professionally or financially. Some of this cheating involves violating the law; some does not. Either way, most of it is by people who, on the whole, view themselves as upstanding members of society. Again and again, Americans who wouldn’t so much as shoplift a pack of chewing gum are committing felonies at tax time, betraying the trust of their patients, misleading investors, ripping off their insurance company or lying to their clients.”

Remember, all sin begins in the mind with wrong thinking. The problem of theft in our society shows how wrong our thinking is. Most justify their thefts by saying, *Everybody does it*. This will never make stealing okay! If all people would honestly measure their individual actions against the Eighth Commandment and then change, imagine the revolution in our modern world! Abundant prosperity would break out on every continent. Let’s understand this important commandment.

God-Given Right to Property There is a very positive side to the command. According to God’s Word and His law, every human being has the *right* to own property. The Apostle John clearly communicated God’s desires for our personal prosperity and well-being. He wrote, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). God has no desire for any human being to live in poverty and squalor. In fact, God desires us to have the many good material things in this life, as long as we do not put any of them before Him. This is wonderful knowledge. The command also teaches that every human being has the *duty* to protect the property of other people. How? By *not stealing* what another owns.

This commandment shows there are *two right ways* you can come into possession of anything. The first is by receiving a *gift* from another person, which includes God. The second is by honest labor—earning something as a *just* return. Paul taught this easy-to-understand Bible principle. He wrote to the Ephesians, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him *labour*, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28). God considers it theft if you obtain property any other way.

In principle, any form of gambling—in play or business—is a sin against the Eighth Commandment. Why? Gambling is the effort to obtain money or goods without honest labor. Gambling is simply robbery—taking something that belongs to someone else. Besides playing games like cards or dice for money, gambling also includes lotteries and sweepstakes. These activities spawn an insatiable *lust* for possession without working for it. Government-supported lotteries often offer multiple millions of dollars to their citizens. Yet, it is the poor and disadvantaged who are most hurt by lotteries. Many spend money necessary for food and clothing on lotto tickets that, considering the incredible odds, never deliver the desired life of ease.

Paul warned the young evangelist Timothy, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:10). Paul is speaking about avarice—the greed for gain. This kind of mind-set attracts other evils. So we should not be surprised to know that the major casinos and gambling centers attract prostitution rings, drug-trafficking and organized crime. Where is the true happiness in these kinds of lifestyles? There is none—only sorrow upon sorrow.

Just Weights and Measures Do some deep thinking about current business and economic policies. We have built systems that *thrive* on theft. God cautioned the nation Israel, “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:35-36). God intended that His people be *just* in business. Israel was to have an exemplary economy—an example for the whole world to follow.

Yet, what do we find in our nations today? We are plagued with business practices that are the direct opposite of just weights and measures. In *principle*, major industries and individual merchants use unjust weights and measures continually. There is not room enough in this article to cover every area of theft in our business practices. Let’s discuss a few.

Manufacturers use false advertising—making false claims—to trick buyers into unnecessary purchases. There

To take a wage without giving full effort is stealing. God expects laborers to really work.

are hundreds of infomercials promising consumers that some newly developed pill will provide miracle weight loss, weight gain, hair restoration, or increased sexual potency, to name just a few. In many cases, these infomercials contain willful lies. Other high-pressure infomercials offer exercise equipment, kitchen appliances or other work-saving products that either do not work or are made of poor-quality materials. Such practices literally rob consumers.

Major manufacturers of necessary items such as automobiles, furniture, homes and clothing use inferior materials to make their products, yet still charge a price far in excess of the real value of the product. This is stealing. Besides hurting consumers, the poor quality of a majority of our manufactured products is also causing the decrease in demand for American and British exports.

One modern industry most guilty of outright theft is the food-processing industry. Greedy for profits, modern practices for growing and packaging foods rob consumers of any real food value. Current farming methods—using chemical fertilizers and pesticides—not only destroy precious soil, but poison our foods. In addition, foods are so highly processed that the life-building vitamins and minerals God created to be in them are removed. What are the results? As food producers fill their bank accounts, people suffer from poor health. Honest medical professionals know that most of our medical maladies are the direct result of poor diets. Of course, our society is full of *personal* ignorance of proper

diet and exercise. Nevertheless, the food industry has its part in the declining health of our nations. Knowingly robbing consumers of their health is one of the most serious thefts of all.

Banking, credit card and lending institutions are guilty of charging excessive interest rates to many people already caught in serious financial woes. Here is a prime example: Some credit card companies advertise balance transfers to lower-rate cards as *the* solution for those suffering from higher-interest balances. Yet, some transfer schemes only add to the problem. It is well-known that if you move balances to a card with an existing balance at a high interest rate, the credit card company will pay off the lower-interest balance first. This means that the higher interest rates on remaining balances keep mounting up. This is mugging by plastic!

Honest Work—Honest Wages We discussed in previous articles that God’s purpose for human life is to build His very character in all who so desire. God will not force His purpose on anyone. We must choose God’s way! Jesus Christ plainly taught this to His disciples: “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). We must live our lives just as God lives His life. God does not live a life of ease. He is a working God. Christ also said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). God works. Jesus Christ came to this Earth and did His Father’s work. Both are still working today. We must do the same.

There is a serious warning here for both *management* and *labor*.

Employers should not defraud employees who do good work. Jesus Christ taught, “[F]or the labourer is worthy of his hire” (Luke 10:7). Yet this is a common problem in our working world. Some businesses even require workers to work under deplorable conditions. The Apostle James warns, “Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabbath” (James 5:4). God requires employers to give an honest day’s wage for an honest day’s work. Recognize that God hears the cries of defrauded workers.

In a similar vein, God expects laborers to give a full day’s effort for their wages. This is where labor unions violate God’s law. Many employees rob their employers when their unions sponsor work slowdowns and stoppages. Some effi-

cient, hard-working individuals are put down or ostracized by their fellow union employees for working too quickly.

Here is the point. To take a wage without giving full effort is stealing. It is a generally accepted fact that, on average, employees are productive for only six hours in an eight-hour work day. Some employees live for the morning break, afternoon break, coffee break or smoke break. We should be more passionate about our work than our breaks. Many less-advantaged countries now outwork America and Britain. Our economies are paying a heavy price for our national laziness.

Many employees do not even think twice about stealing from their employers. Although only a few may consider embezzling millions of dollars, thousands will *lift* office supplies, materials, coffee, food, cleaning products and even toilet paper from their places of employment. Some employees even run personal businesses from their work place—using office equipment like computers and telephones—while on the payrolls of their employers. This is outright stealing.

Stealing From God Stealing from other humans is not the only principle involved in the Eighth Commandment. Because God is not real to most people, humans fail to see Him as property owner. The Prophet Haggai records God's own words: "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:8). Are you robbing God? Don't be too sure you're not.

In Malachi 3, addressing modern-day Israel (the United States, Britain and the tiny nation of Israel), God speaks out: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8). Few religious people obey God's tithing system established throughout the pages of the Bible. A tithe is simply a tenth of one's income. Paul shows that the ministry that is truly doing God's work has the right to receive God's tithe (Hebrews 7:5).

God continues: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Malachi 3:9). A fundamental lesson all nations need to learn is that God owns the universe and Earth. God placed within the Earth matter, materials and energies—the very means to produce wealth. God is sharing His goods with all men. In essence, He gives all men the power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). He expects us to return

something to Him—a tenth! For more information about God's tithing system, please write for our reprint articles "The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe" and "Ending Your Financial Worries."

Why does God require this of men? The answer is astounding. God promises, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out

A fundamental lesson all nations need to learn is that God owns the universe and Earth.

a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). God asks for a tenth to fill His house, or work. Why? He wants to bless us even more.

Living by God's tithing system is a blessed way to live. In our modern world, it is a challenge, but the outcome is *always* truly miraculous. God says He will bless you when you begin tithing as He *commands*. He always keeps His word. He never breaks a promise. Thousands of case histories exist that prove God keeps His word. God blesses those who obey Him—even in financial ways. The material blessing may not be immediate. God does expect us to obey, trust and exercise faith in Him. The great God will do His part.

As a loving Father, God even protects from financial harm those who are faithful to Him. He says, "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts" (verses 11-12). These promises are certain. Even though our nations are failing God on the national level—we are suffering curses in our weather and economy—God will still bless individuals. Are you up to the challenge?

Living the Give Way It is time for all people to seriously consider this commandment. Our eternal life is dependent upon how well we obey God's own words, "*You shall not steal.*" Paul clearly understood and taught this. He wrote, "Know ye not

that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, *Nor thieves*, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). No thief will enter into the Kingdom of God. We have outlined for you some of the ways men *violate* this law. It is up to you to do more self-examination.

As we examine ourselves, we must not fail to understand the positive side of this commandment. Stealing is clearly condemned. However, we must come to see that working and *giving* represent the positive way to live. There is certainly nothing wrong with gaining property and possessions through honest labor; however, property and possessions should not be gained to merely satisfy personal desires. God wants us to learn to share our excess with others by giving.

The spirit of the Eighth Commandment shows that we could be stealing from another by not *working* or not *giving* to someone in need. Of course, the greatest need for most people in this world today is to be given God's precious truth. Bible prophecy shows that as times grow critically worse, the truth will be the only thing that will deliver people from the natural calamities, plagues, violence and wars to come. If you would like to know more about how you can support this great work of God, write to the address on the back cover of this magazine.

Paul taught the ministry at Ephesus, "I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Working honestly and living the give way of life fulfill the spirit of the Eighth Commandment. God showers incredible blessings upon those who give as He does. God is the perfect example of living the give way of life. James tells us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). The very nature of God focuses on working, producing and giving. God would never steal from any other being in any form. If we truly desire eternal life, we must learn to be the same way. Let's work hard to obey the command that says, *You shall not steal.* ■

HEALTH

Problem Keeps Getting Bigger

HONEY, I OVERFED THE kids. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, in the past 30 years, obesity has doubled in 2-to-5-year-old children and tripled for those ages 6 to 11 (November 3). Today, over 15 percent of children between 6 and 19 are considered obese.

Experts have always been quick to point out that too much junk food and TV are the big contributors to child obesity, but other problems are now taking the spotlight.

One factor is the academic load for most youngsters.

More schools are assigning more schoolwork while cutting back on time allotted for recess. Fewer than 6 percent of high schools require upper-classmen to take physical education classes. The emphasis on academics is sending the message that basic physical activities are unproductive. Some schools are eliminating physical activities from their curricula altogether.

Another factor contributing to the rise of child obesity is the consumer culture in America. Children spend five times more time shopping than playing outdoors.

Perhaps the most disturbing cause is lack of parental supervision during after-school hours. Because parents are not home to keep an eye on any playtime outdoors, latchkey kids are often confined to the home until their parents return from work. According to the same article, more than 14 million children between kindergarten and 12th grade have no parent home after school. This not only prevents them from playing outside, it increases the likelihood of snacking, watch-



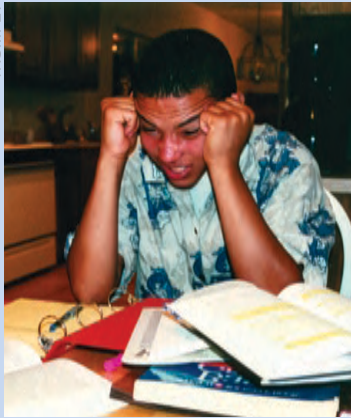
young children making their own dinners too. (For more information on problems associated with unsupervised children, refer to our August 2004 articles "Motherhood: The Untold Story" and "Fatherhood 101," which can be found under "Issue Archives" at www.theTrumpet.com.)

ing TV and playing video games—it promotes a sedentary lifestyle. This change in family life even has many

To reverse this trend, schools must rediscover the value of physical activity in a balanced education. More importantly, parents must accept responsibility for teaching children how to live.

Academic Steroids

APPARENTLY, COFFEE and caffeinated, sugary sodas no longer do the trick for students who need a boost while studying. Now they're popping pills. The most common drug they are using is called Adderall.



Like Ritalin, the drug is prescribed to people with attention deficit disorder. For academic performance, Adderall users find it easier to concentrate longer on school work and make their time studying more productive. Some students even take the drug immediately before taking important tests, such as the SAT. It's common enough that it has some teachers concerned about their students' health.

As with any quick fix, there are side effects. While it might increase alertness, Adderall can cause insomnia, a loss of appetite and weight loss. Some doctors worry that the excess hyperactivity can cause emotional and physical strains while increasing the chance of heart attacks and strokes. And, like any other amphetamine, Adderall can become addictive.

Though it's a prescribed drug, students still find ways of obtaining it. Some find ADD patients and buy pills from them. Others go direct to the source and lie to doctors in order to receive prescriptions.

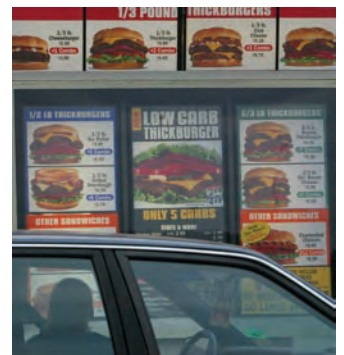
God's way is much simpler, a lot less expensive, and it actually improves your long-term health: It's plenty of drinking water, fresh air, lots of fruits and vegetables, adequate sleep and occasional exercise.

And So Do the Portions

HARDEE'S JUST INTRODUCED its biggest burger yet—the Monster Thickburger. Now the unofficial king of all burgers, it packs two 1/3-pound beef patties, four strips of bacon, three slices of American cheese and mayonnaise between two buttered sesame seed buns. Incredibly, the burger is loaded with a whopping 1,420 calories and 107 grams of fat (McDonald's Big Mac has 600 calories). The Center for Nutritional Policy and Promotion recommends a daily calorie intake of between 1,600 and 2,800.

Hardee's doesn't seem the least bit concerned about the possibility of lawsuits coming from obese customers. Last year, two lawsuits were filed and later dismissed against McDonald's for making people fat.

The fast food industry has also received heat from the award-winning documentary *Supersize Me*, which targeted fast food chains as a major source of American obesity. The Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocate for nutrition and health, called Thickburgers "food porn." Other news releases have referred to this new burger as a "monument to decadence." Despite all this, Hardee's stands by its Thickburger. Sales of the product have been steady.





Bowl of Candy

EATING A BOWL OF CEREAL, once a childhood favorite, is becoming increasingly popular as the meal of choice for teenagers and young adults. According to the *New York Times* (November 14), cereal is becoming the staple in the average college student diet. It's consumed so frequently that it can hardly be considered only a breakfast food. The article explains that some college students eat it for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

Eager entrepreneurs, having picked up on the trend, are milking it for all it's worth. "A new restaurant called Cereality Cereal Bar and Café is scheduled to open ... on the University of Pennsylvania campus, with a menu of more than 30 cereals and even more toppings served by pajama-clad 'cereologists' ..." (ibid.). A restaurant specializing in cereals has also opened near Arizona State University.

Not surprisingly, nutritionists are concerned. One professor of nutrition at New York University, Marion Nestle, said that eating cereal was just "an excuse to eat candy." While it may be true that a handful of cereals might make for a semi-nutritious meal, the ones that are most common on campuses (judging by those mentioned in the *New York Times* piece) are loaded with sugar.

Earlier this year, researchers examined the contents of 100 popular cereals and found

that 85 of them had "a lot" of sugar, while 40 percent had lots of salt. The study noted that the worst of the lot were marketed directly at children. It isn't uncommon for some of the most popular brands to contain upwards of 40 percent refined sugar.

It wasn't always this way, as William Dufty wrote in his book *Sugar Blues*. "Vegetables, fruits, berries, and nuts—these natural sources of what we now call vitamin C—had been sweets until concentrated, refined sugar was marketed. Sugar was an unnatural sweet that had been robbed of its vitamin C in the refining process, which was when 90 percent of the natural cane was removed."

No wonder many diseases associated with high-sugar diets are now afflicting the young.

Prozac: Bad to the Bone?

"SIDE EFFECTS MAY include ..." is a common expression in our drug-happy society. And now, a new study shows that Prozac—today common fare for depressed children—may impair bone growth. "Researchers say cellular mechanisms important to bone growth may shut down in the presence of the drug, hindering healthy skeletal development" (*HealthDay*, November 11).

Additionally, all antidepressants must now carry a "black box" warning, the government's strongest safety alert, linking the drugs to *increased suicidal thoughts and behavior* among children and teens taking them.

Just how dangerous are these drugs on which so many have come to rely for their mental well-being?

ABORTION

Double Homicide

IN SOME INSTANCES, ABORTION is killing more than just the unborn child. The deaths of three would-be mothers have been linked to the abortion pill RU486, called Mifeprex.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also reported 676 other adverse events that have been linked to the pill. These reports range from women experiencing dizziness and sickness to women being hospitalized. Seventy-two women have bled so much after taking the pill that they needed blood transfusions. The FDA has also issued new warnings that the RU486 pill may cause life-threatening bacterial infections.

Danco Laboratories, the company that produces Mifeprex, stands behind its product and states that it is safe and effective. There is a warning on the box, but the FDA will expand it to include information about bacterial infections and bleeding. Since the FDA approved the pill in 2000, 360,000 American women have used it.



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

IN BRIEF

FAMILY

Being Homemaker Pays

Times (London), November 11

"NEW MOTHERS WOULD be paid £150 a week to stay at home and look after their babies under radical plans proposed by the Conservatives today. Michael Howard, the Tory leader, will float the idea of extended maternity benefit, available for up to a year Surveys consistently show that these women are unhappy at being forced back to work to make ends meet."

DRUGS

FDA Less Strict?

Washington Post, November 18

"IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, the Food and Drug Administration has taken a noticeably less aggressive approach toward policing drugs that cause harmful side effects, records show, leading some lawmakers, academics and consumer advocates to complain that the agency is focusing more on bolstering the pharmaceutical industry than protecting public health." U.S. Senator Charles E. Grassley said, "One of my concerns is that the FDA has a relationship with drug companies that is too cozy."

MORALITY

College Replaces Church

CNN.com, November 8

TOM WOLFE'S NEW FICTION novel explores hedonistic college life, where the heroine sheds her small-town ideals and "matriculates to the world of sex, drinking and materialism Wolfe said the idea of a college novel interested him [partly] because college has replaced the church as a moral touchstone."

Agriculture

I'M WRITING TO YOU IN REGARD TO YOUR article "The Downfall of American Agriculture" (September-October). I found it very informative, but there was one key that was left out: the land sabbath as described in Leviticus 25. Just as the wages of sin is death to mankind, so it is with our once-fertile farmland. This commandment is just as important as any other commandment, if not more. However, if mankind is not keeping the weekly Sabbath, or God's feast days, I doubt they would observe the sabbath of our land either. From my view, to incorporate the land sabbath at this point in time may be too little, too late. When people accept God's plan of salvation, they should strive to be a good steward of His Word—that is, all of God's Word from Genesis to Revelation. ...

James Booker—HENNING, TENN.

The article you refer to placed the blame for American agriculture's downfall on the nation's rejection of God's laws, and these certainly include the land sabbath. The land sabbath is indeed a most important part of God's agricultural law that is ignored today, to the detriment of America's land.

U.S. Responsibility

I JUST READ YOUR ARTICLE "THE SCARY Truth Behind the Milosevic Trial" (September-October). In that article and many others, you continue to support the present Iraqi and U.S. war. You call Saddam a terrorist, and you're still not convinced that he did not have WMD. Saddam may have been a terrorist dictator, and I do believe that it was time for him to be removed from power. However, it was the U.S. government who gave Saddam Hussein weapons of mass destruction in the first place during the 1980s when Iraq and Iran were at war. Thus, the U.S. government is even more responsible for the innocent people who were killed by Saddam. The U.S. government loves to talk about how Saddam used WMD on his own people but never wants to acknowledge the fact we gave Saddam the weapons in the first place.

Marlon Evans—CORCORAN, CALIF.

I AM A SOLDIER CURRENTLY IN IRAQ. I know what the Philadelphia Church of God teaches and that you advocate

the coming Kingdom of God. I hope to someday follow in your footsteps and live by the law of God. By reading your magazine and booklets, I am able to see world events through the *Trumpet* and am amazed by our nation's response to the terrorists. We are blinded by the media and the prince of the power of the air. Please continue to warn our nation of coming events. We need to hear and believe and heed your warning.

Juan Montoya

I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED YOUR sample of the *Trumpet*; I couldn't put it down. I am looking forward to having a year's subscription and consider you and your publication a true blessing. Though the events you talk about seem frightening and hopeless, your articles put it all in the perspective of God making it good news. This has affected my own life in a wonderful way, giving me hope and a peaceful feeling in the most stressful and weary of situations.

Theresa Castongway—DOUGLASVILLE, GA.

Stem-Cell Research

WHILE VISITING MY MOTHER, WHO IS an avid reader and subscriber to your magazine, I was drawn in by an article on stem-cell research (September-October). This was a very enlightening topic. Although I have heard a little on the subject, I did not quite grasp the seriousness of it. Now, after that mini education on how it works, I am still a little ambivalent about this subject. But I will continue to follow this story which is sure to be a contentious topic in many debates for months or even years to come.

Monica Ward—NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

THANK YOU, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL my life for these answers. Thank you for the literature. Words can't explain how much thanks I feel.

Nitcole Gebo—NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

Carrying on the Work

I AM WRITING YOU TO SINCERELY THANK you for all the reading material you so unselfishly provide me. Not only the wonderful *Trumpet* magazine that I ea-

gerly await the arrival of every month, but also the booklets and pamphlets you have sent. ... I am so overwhelmed and happy every single time I finish reading and studying Scripture alongside all the material you provide. I am so joyous that you, the PCG and Mr. Flurry as pastor general, continue to carry on the beautiful work begun by Herbert W. Armstrong many years ago. ...

Joseph Brunner—BUNKER HILL, IND.

I WAS JUST REINTRODUCED TO THE *Trumpet*. I read the *Plain Truth* under Mr. Armstrong years ago. Now I am aware of this great truth now continuing with the tool of the *Trumpet*. ... I read through a stack of back issues [including those on] the court case battle and the rightful outcome. God's truth will not be withheld! ... I am very sure the Philadelphia Church of God is the voice of God and a true servant under His care. ... You are producing a vital link that has tried to be hidden under a mass of false teaching and direction. Please continue to meet the forces of darkness head on. ...

William Gilvin—CRESTVIEW, FLA.

I WANTED TO THANK THE PCG AND MR. Flurry for all his prophetic insights. ... The end-time work is most important. The world needs to know the one and only true God before the Great Tribulation comes. I'm looking forward to the wonderful World Tomorrow with Satan cast out, when we will learn God's true ways from our Lord Jesus Christ and His saints. Thank you again for bringing us the plain truth about our Creator.

Gerardo Estevez—CHICAGO, ILL.

I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY HAD MY UNDER-standing opened by the books you send out. ... I am amazed at what is being said by our news media, or rather what is not being said. It is as if they have their heads in the sand

David Harris—LEAKSVILLE, MISS.

Comments?

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

U.S. Election: Hope and Despair

The country is divided over how to view the Bush victory. Both sides are right—and wrong. BY FRED DATTOLO

THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS THIS YEAR COST A RECORD \$4 billion—about a billion dollars more than the 2000 elections. Was it worth it? Well, that depends on your point of view.

Conservatives, who generally champion traditional family values and esteem leadership with moral backbone, are elated. The Republican victories in the White House and Congress inspire hope in the hearts and minds of millions of voters. Many *hope* their government will curb the decadent decline of our modern society. They *hope* their government will support efforts to halt the spread of same-sex marriages. They *hope* the president will have the opportunity to nominate judges to the Supreme Court who, when confirmed, will overturn the infamous 1973 decision (*Roe v. Wade*) that legalized abortion. They *hope* their government will provide a moral compass for moral change that will usher in an era of tranquility.

On the other hand, those more concerned with the *economic* preservation of their homeland are deeply bothered by the results. They envision a continuation of policies that threaten the economic stability of their great nation. They foresee the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer while the middle class gets squeezed out of the picture with nobody to look after the poor—a recipe for class conflict. They fear that ballooning budget deficits, burgeoning trade deficits, social security shortfalls, lackluster job growth and stagnation of wage income will only get worse.

The U.S. is *heavily* reliant on foreign investors and central banks to subsidize its deficits. In August, foreign private investors sold \$2 billion *more* U.S. government bonds than they bought and dumped \$4 billion *more* in stocks than they purchased. Then, at a September 9 auction of government bonds, indirect bidders (including foreign governments) purchased only 3 percent of the bonds issued (normally they acquire almost half). These are omens of what lies ahead.

Without steady foreign financing, the U.S. would have to *drastically* cut expenses and raise taxes. Or, it would have to *substantially* raise interest rates to continue to attract foreign investors. Either way, the standard of living would plunge. Since hostilities against the U.S. could *contribute* to foreign capital flight, the predominantly economy-minded voters are despondent with the outcome of the election because they blame the president and his administration for the opposition the U.S. faces in the world. Now they figure it will only get worse.

Both sides are *passionate* about their beliefs and views. That's one of the tragedies of the November elections—that divisions between Americans have been sharpened. The United States of America is rather *disunited*—the Republican “red states” clashing with the Democratic “blue states”; urban against rural; and

those perceived to be morally high-minded vehemently opposed to the morally depleted. Battle lines have formed and strategies to foil the other side's agenda are already taking shape.

Truth be told, *both* sides have legitimate apprehensions, although *both* sides have misdiagnosed the real *cause* of America's woes. The root cause of our troubles relates to who we *ARE* and what we have failed to do.

America is descended from the so-called *lost 10* tribes of Israel! We are brothers with Britain and the modern State of Israel. You can *prove* this to yourself by requesting our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Britain and America, like the Jews of Israel, have a history with God! Britain became a great commonwealth of nations and America became the greatest nation on Earth because God ordained that it be so (Genesis 35:11). But we have despised our heritage and abdicated our responsibilities. *We refuse* to obey God.

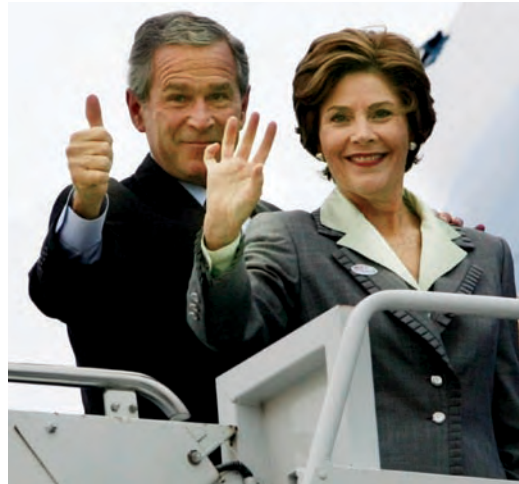
Regardless of our political persuasion or to which side we claim allegiance, God warns that the whole nation of America is spiritually *sick*—from head to toe. Therefore, God is *withdrawing* His blessings and protection.

That is the *real* reason for the mounting troubles in America. God is warning us to *repent*—to *CHANGE* our ways. If we don't, our national problems will continue to increase. Then the blame rhetoric from both sides will become more heated and pronounced than ever before. Unity will be ever more elusive. Division will lead to ruin. “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself *shall not stand*” said Jesus (Matthew 12:25).

Meanwhile, while we jostle and position ourselves to quash the “other side,” terrorists passionately pursue *their* goal—to kill as many Americans as possible, regardless of political affiliation, moral standing or anything else. God wants to *save* us from terror. But most will not heed the warning. Will you?

God revealed to Daniel that in the last days, He would set up a *literal* worldwide government that would replace *all* of the Earth's governments! (Daniel 2:44). Short of national repentance, the *only* pragmatic solution for America's ills—indeed the world's—is a global government that *enforces* God's way of life for the good of all people! *Everyone* will be on the same side. THAT IS OUR LAST HOPE—and it's coming soon! God promises that any individual who *really* repents will have a leadership position in that government (Revelation 2:26). Elections will be historical curiosities of a bygone era—God will *appoint* the rulers. You can be one of them, *if* you properly prepare by yielding to God and His way of life now.

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