



**THE WORLD WILL
NOT END THIS WAY**



How to
Save Money
in a Recession

JULY 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

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Major news sources ask

***Will Christ
Ever Return?***

Yes, He will. And probably within a decade!



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MAJOR NEWS SOURCES ASK:

Will Christ Ever Return?

(Yes, He will. And probably within a decade. Here's why.)

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY OR the hour of Christ's Second Coming (Matthew 24:36). But that same chapter also tells us that we should know when Christ's coming is "at the door" (verse 33; Williams Bible).

It is now at the door and you can prove it. I will give you CHRIST'S OWN ANSWER to when He will return.

After all, *no man could possibly answer that question—only Christ* (verses 23-24).

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD?" (verse 3). So what is the sign of Christ's coming and the end of this world, or this age of man's rule over man?

After that question, Christ proceeded to give His answer. So why don't men understand? Because human nature doesn't really want Christ's answer at this point (Romans 8:7). So mankind must suffer until that attitude changes.

When Christ returns, He will begin to change human nature in all of the world's inhabitants. Today, the whole world is deceived (Revelation 12:9)—including religious people. Only a very few are having their human nature changed. One day soon, they will be able to help Christ change the world. (Request our free booklet *Human Nature: What Is It?*)

Christ taught the disciples the SIGN of His coming and the cataclysmic end of this age. So what is that sign? Christ's coming will be the greatest event ever to occur in the universe. And it is going to radically change this Earth and the universe! Christ has promised to put the *whole universe* under man's rule, to build and beautify, *when* he surrenders to God (Hebrews 2:8; Moffatt translation).

That means Christ is going to save atheists, Hindus, Catholics, Muslims, Protestants—all humanity. But He will do it in His own time frame.

Christianity is confused and deceived. They exalt the person of Christ but reject His message (Matthew 24:4-5). And they deceive *many* people. In this chapter, Christ addresses that massive issue first.

How many Christian leaders do you hear even discuss Matthew 24? IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROPHETIC MESSAGE CHRIST GAVE WHEN HE WAS ON THIS EARTH! They talk about the person of Christ continually—but not His message.

Events Leading Up to the Sign

Christ taught the disciples about wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes that lead up to the *sign* of His Second Coming (verses

6-8). But these are only "the beginning of sorrows." The *sign* comes at the *end* of sorrows.

Thousands of God's own lukewarm people will be killed and hated. *Many* other people will be hated and betrayed (verses 9-10).

Many false prophets (secular and religious) shall deceive many people (verse 11). Will that list include you? Not if you heed these words.

"Iniquity," or lawlessness, shall abound—and even God's own people have lost their God-given love (verses 12-13).

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (verse 14). This "end" is not the same Greek word as the "end" in verse 3. The translators tell us that the *context* must reveal which *end* is being discussed in verse 14. The context shows us that this is the end of the gospel being preached to the world, and then Matthew 24 begins to be fulfilled specifically. (Our literature will prove all of this to you.)

So this Matthew 24:14 *end* is not the end of this world, or age, discussed in verse 3.

Now we come to the *sign* of Christ's Second Coming and the end of the world. "When ye therefore shall *see* the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (*whoso readeth, let him understand*)" (verse 15). The *sign* is something you can *SEE*—the abomination of desolation. It appears that it can be *understood* by anybody who reads this prophecy.

It is also a sign that tells you when to *flee* if you are in God's true Church.

"Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day" (verses 16-20).

The first-century disciples thought Christ was coming while they were alive. That made their question about the sign even more urgent. Their country was to be destroyed in a few years. They knew about these prophecies Christ was discussing—prophecies that appear many times in the Old Testament.

Christ's disciples did have to flee to Pella in A.D. 70. So these scriptures about fleeing applied to them, as well as to us today. Their fleeing was only a *type* of what God's very elect must do in this end time, when they must be protected from the *Great Tribulation* that occurs just before the Second Coming.

So the *sign* also has a very practical reason for people being able to see it. When they see the abomination that makes



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF



LAST DAYS The April 9 Newsmax Magazine featured the article "Will He Return?" Many mainstream media outlets are asking the question.

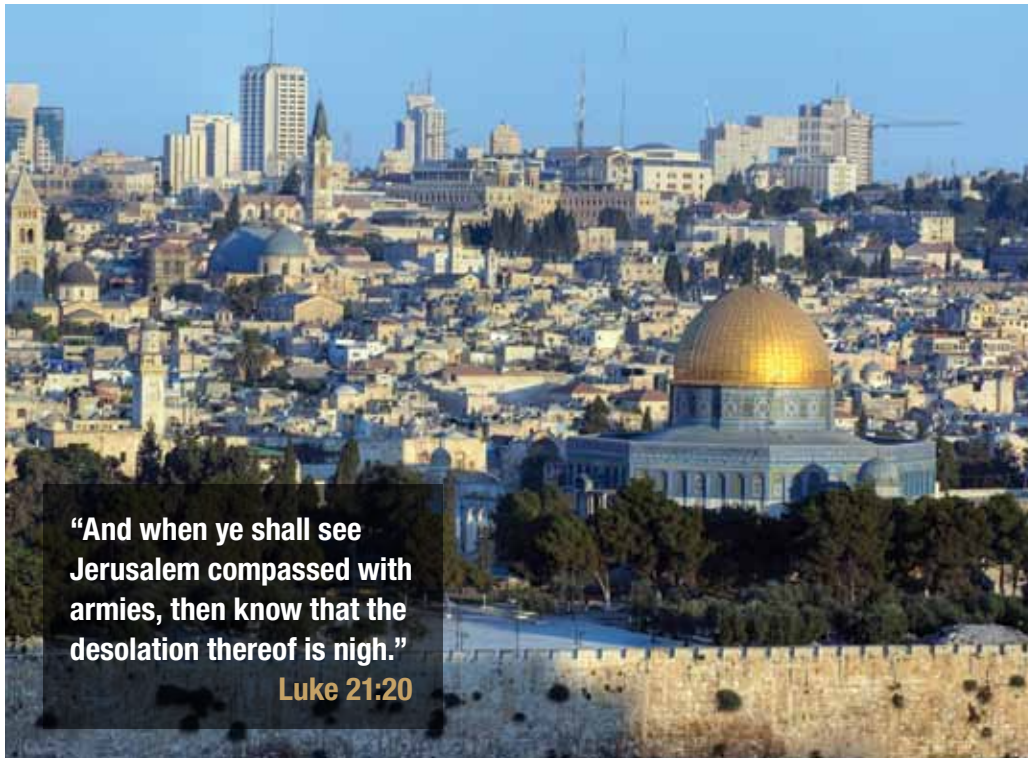
desolate, they must run for their lives to a place where God protects them! God will reveal where that place is when the time comes (Revelation 12:14).

Let's take another look at Matthew 24:15. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him *understand*)." God expects us to *understand* what the abomination of desolation is.

The word *understand* is defined by *Strong's Concordance* as "to exercise the mind." The *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible* adds, "To perceive with *thought coming into consciousness* as distinct from the perception of senses." The Greek word means more than "merely the act of knowing." It "denotes independently the action of the mind or the heart. ... [I]t means to understand, think, reflect." It means to *put something all together and make out its meaning*.

How many people try to *understand* according to this definition? This is the key that unlocks the *sign*—a deep concept from the mind of our Creator.

According to verse 15, you must understand what the Prophet *Daniel* taught about the abomination. Our booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* will explain that Bible teaching to you. There you will find that the abomination is *dual*. It manifests itself in God's Church and in the world. (All of our literature is free.)



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

What Is the Abomination?

When we can see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place—the Jerusalem area—that is the sign. But what is the abomination of desolation? Matthew, Mark and Luke all give us their version of what the abomination is in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.

Let's compare Luke's version to Matthew's.

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). THE ABOMINATION THAT MAKES DESOLATE IS ARMIES SURROUNDING JERUSALEM. This happens just before the Great Tribulation begins. The Tribulation only lasts 2½ years, and then comes the

Day of the Lord, which lasts for one year, concluded by Christ's Second Coming.

Arab armies have been in that area for a long time. But the abomination is a European army with 10 kings. This is all explained in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. Many of our readers have already read our foundational book on this subject, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Germany and the European Union are already the real economic power of this world. Their military power is rapidly forming now.

When the abomination is surrounding Jerusalem, God's very elect are told to flee (verse 21). Verses 22-23 discuss *wrath* coming upon the people and *great distress!* That is the same message you read in Matthew 24 and Mark 13.

Nuclear Power

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22). Notice that the abomination *sign* is tied to nuclear war so bad that NO FLESH WOULD BE "SAVED ALIVE" (Moffatt translation) if Christ didn't intervene and stop it.

Would you say we are close to that time? Intelligence agencies and defense experts now say that North Korea has the power to destroy major cities in South Korea and Japan at this very moment. The Taliban terrorists could soon conquer a nuclear Pakistan. And the whole world knows that Iran could become a nuclear power extremely soon. THAT MEANS THAT THREE MADMEN COULD POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN A FEW MONTHS!

IT IS CHILDISH FOLLY TO THINK ANYBODY BUT CHRIST COULD STOP THIS NUCLEAR MADNESS.

No wonder God has His people flee!

So all this nuclear insanity is also a part of the *sign* of the Second Coming, when Christ will save humanity from totally exterminating itself!

The real nuclear damage is not done by the three madmen—but mainly by the abomination of desolation. There is also some madness in other leaders with nuclear power!

This abomination is going to be the major force that endangers the lives of every person on Earth. But it will be too late to do much when you actually *see* the abomination unless you have prepared yourself spiritually. God wants us to *understand* what Daniel and other prophets taught about events that lead up to the abomination that makes desolate with its nuclear bombs! Then, step by step, we can trace all of the prophecies and events that point to that sign until Christ returns.

God promised His protection to any individual who will heed His warning and repent. The sign includes the worst news and the best news we could hear! It is time that each one of us understands the sign of Christ's coming and the end of this age. ■

SPECIAL REPORT

On the Edge

Radical Iran is on the edge of completing the nuclear cycle.

Nuclear North Korea launched a missile that could reach Los Angeles.

Unstable Pakistan, besieged by Islamists, is losing its grip on governance—and perhaps on its atomic arsenal.

Unpredictable states. Unimaginable deadly potential.

The goal of nuclear disarmament has never been more crucial.

The means to achieve it have never been so elusive.

Human survival is at stake.

In the following pages, we look squarely at this nightmarish reality.

But we view it in context of a promise. A promise that gives us hope.

Not the promise by some politicians to try to coax a tempest into a cage through negotiation.

But a promise that is unbreakable, inviolable.

The promise that this crisis—though inevitable—presages something beautiful.

That what looks like the edge of annihilation ... is really a frontier of a new beginning.



The World Will Not End This Way!

Nuclear disarmament will not prevent mankind from being annihilated by atomic war. Thankfully, a higher power will. BY BRAD MACDONALD

DISARMAMENT IS A NOBLE ASPIRATION. BUT, AS WINSTON CHURCHILL exhorted in 1932, it can never be “attained by mush, slush and gush.”

Throughout the 1930s, the warning howl of Britain’s lone bulldog was mocked and ignored by a government enamored with the virtues of disarmament. That changed in 1939. On September 1, German bombers began razing Polish cities. Hitler’s impeccably organized, well-trained and heavily rearm ed army marched into Poland. Meanwhile, Britain was unprepared and grossly under-armed. Disarmament’s shortcomings were painfully obvious.

History shows that Britain’s fixation with disarmament during the ’30s actually dressed the aggressor and stripped the victims. By doing so, it made *conflict* inevitable! The lesson is worth remembering.

Speaking before a live audience of 20,000 in Prague on April 5, U.S. President Barack Obama gushed about the “future of nuclear weapons in the 21st century” and America’s “moral responsibility” to “seek the peace and security of a *world without nuclear weapons*.” He articulated a *comprehensive strategy* for attaining his noble goal.

Unsurprisingly, the strategy begins with America relinquishing nukes. “First, the United States will take concrete steps toward a world without nuclear weapons,” the president promised. “To put an end to Cold War thinking, we will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and urge others to do the same.”

The strategy includes negotiating a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia, aggressively pursuing America’s ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and spearheading a new treaty to end the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons. And these are just first steps. The Obama administration also plans to remodel and strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—the 1970 agreement to pursue global nuclear disarmament.

“Clearly, the ‘no nukes’ policy is one close to the president’s heart,” Anne Applebaum observed after the president’s speech. Advancing the nuclear nonproliferation movement was actually one of the few foreign-policy initiatives Barack Obama got firmly behind when he was a senator. It was a central tenet of his foreign-policy platform while campaigning for the presidency.

His address in Prague was his first opportunity as president to share on a grand scale his vision of global nuclear disarmament. It was effectively a declaration that global nuclear disarmament is a primary goal of U.S. foreign policy, and that if all goes according to plan, America will be first to retire much of its nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Obama’s infatuation with disarmament is similar to that espoused by the appeasers who inhabited 10 Downing Street before World War II. There is one critical difference: America’s fixation threatens to gift the aggressors with the ultimate instrument of death—nuclear weapons!

Just as Britain’s policy of disarmament made the Second World War inevitable, America’s policy of nuclear disarmament makes *nuclear* World War III inevitable. Think about World War II for a moment; multiple world powers clashing on land and at sea, millions of soldiers slaughtering one another; tens of millions of civilians dying; economic and social carnage on an unprecedented scale.

Now imagine if each party had nuclear weapons at its disposal. *Human extinction* comes to mind.

This is the end that current world conditions are barreling toward!

Thankfully, however, this is not how the world will end.

Not So Fast ...

Broadly speaking, the president’s vision of global nuclear disarmament was embraced by two groups: 1) peaceniks, and 2) rogues seeking nuclear weapons.

North Korea and Iran were among those assuredly pleased to learn about President Obama’s strategy for relinquishing nuclear weapons. In fact, April 5 was

an especially satisfying day for Pyongyang. Only hours before Mr. Obama's speech, North Korea had put a satellite into orbit by attaching it to, and then launching, a long-range ballistic missile. Although the success of the exercise is debatable, the launch was certainly a measure of North Korea's developing ballistic-missile and nuclear programs. The missile is capable of hitting the West Coast of the United States—and it can deliver a nuclear payload.

International response to the missile launch involved little more than condemnatory statements: The United Nations imposed additional sanctions on three North Korean companies. Nevertheless, Pyongyang's reaction was fiercely confrontational and unrepentant. Calling the UN Security Council a "tool for the U.S. high-handed and arbitrary practices," North Korea announced its withdrawal from six-party talks on nuclear disarmament, threatened to conduct a nuclear test, expelled nuclear inspectors from the country, and declared that it would immediately begin reprocessing plutonium at its Yongbyon facility. The country reportedly possesses enough plutonium for six to eight weapons and has produced one rudimentary nuclear device.

According to the *New York Times*, one North Korean official told the state-run news agency KCNA that Pyongyang was prepared to take "additional self-defensive measures," including "nuclear tests and test-firings of intercontinental ballistic missiles," unless the Security Council apologized.

Where does a wretched tyrant leading an anthill-size state get the audacity to lambast and even threaten major world powers, including the UN? First, Kim Jong Il clearly doesn't fear consequences for his actions. Second, he listens to speeches like President Obama's in Prague, detects weakness and a spirit of capitulation, and decides that to augment his strategic and geopolitical position relative to Washington and the rest of the international community, acquiring nuclear weapons is his best option.

Third, he knows he has the support of others such as Iranian president and co-nuclear-conspirator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The Genie Is Out of the Bottle

It's no coincidence that Iran launched a missile similar to North Korea's in February. Experts say Tehran and Pyongyang have long been cooperating on developing missile and nuclear technology.

Speaking before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in May, New York District Attorney Robert

Morgenthau—after months of spearheading financial investigations of Iran during which he spoke with leading nuclear authorities—warned that Iran is "deadly serious" about acquiring nukes. "It is later than a lot of people think," warned Morgenthau in reference to Iran's nuclear program. "Frankly some of the people we have consulted are shocked by the sophistication of the equipment they are buying. . . . *It is late in this game and we don't have a lot of time to stop Iran from developing long-range missiles and nuclear weapons.*"

Iran is about to acquire nuclear weapons. North Korea has them already. The fear now is that al Qaeda and other radical terrorist organizations will get hold of them, which will become all the more likely as Pakistan falls to pieces (article, page 7).

"Humanity has never built or designed weapons that it did not eventually use. Man will find a use for the deadly nuclear weapons and other destructive devices created since World War II."

As Herbert Armstrong once said, *the nuclear "genie" is out of the bottle.*

It would be naive to think it can be enticed back into the bottle through eloquent speeches, negotiations and dreams of a nuclear-free world. President Obama's vision of global nuclear disarmament grossly underestimates human nature, especially the violent ideological ambitions of America's enemies. As in Britain during the 1930s, his plan weakens those countries prepared to embrace the strategy, and empowers the rogue powers that resist it.

Britain's policy of disarmament brought temporary peace by giving Germany time to build its military arsenal. America's nuclear disarmament strategy may do the same as the likes of Iran, North Korea and terrorist organizations take time to build their nuclear arsenals.

In a real sense, disarmament will make the detonation of a nuclear bomb inevitable!

A Terrifying Prophecy

In addition to history, the "more sure word" of Bible prophecy tells how successful America's strategy for nuclear disarmament will be.

As Jesus Christ's earthly ministry came to a close, He was asked by His disciples, "[W]hat shall be the sign of thy [second] coming, and of the end of the world?"

Sitting on the Mount of Olives,

surrounded by His disciples, Jesus answered that question in what is today commonly referred to as the Olivet prophecy, found in Matthew 24. (If you're interested in Christ's entire explanation and in proving that He was discussing the times we live in today, request a free copy of our Matthew 24 reprint article.)

Notice what Jesus says in verses 21-22: "For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved . . ." Christ tells the disciples that His Second Coming will occur at a time when mankind has the ability to destroy *all living creatures*. It will be a time of tribulation exceedingly worse than any other in history.

Consider more deeply the wording of verse 22: "[E]xcept those days should be shortened, *there should no flesh be saved . . .*" This time of tribulation will be so terrible that, without intervention from a higher power, no flesh will escape death. Mankind has never experienced such a time. Wars have killed tens of millions, famines have wiped out regions, disease epidemics like the Black Death have inflicted catastrophic destruction. But this scripture is speaking of a global catastrophe that threatens all flesh, both animal and human!

Widespread detonation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is the *only* explanation of how mankind can and will reach this point!

As our booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* states, "The scale of war Christ prophesied in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 simply could not have been fulfilled at any other time in man's history! *Humanity has never built or designed weapons that it did not eventually use.* Man will find a use for the deadly nuclear weapons and other destructive devices created since World War II" (emphasis mine). Many other accounts in the Bible also tell us that a future nuclear holocaust is inevitable.

The goal of global nuclear disarmament may be noble, but Jesus Christ says it will fail, and nuclear war will erupt.

If this sounds discouraging, step back and ponder the awe-inspiring event being discussed in these scriptures. Concentrate on the ramifications and hope embedded in the last half of verse 22: "but for the elect's sake *those days shall be shortened.*" Jesus Christ promises He will return and intervene to *prevent* mankind becoming extinct by nuclear war!

HE WILL NOT ALLOW THE WORLD TO END THIS WAY!

Ultimately, these prophecies are about the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth. Nothing is more promising, more exciting, more filled with hope!

Particularly given the rush of current events on the nuclear front, we cannot afford to take these prophecies lightly. Study Christ's message in Matthew 24. It's stunning how events described in that prophecy, written nearly 2,000 years ago, match events currently unfolding in the chaotic

world around us. The study of world events together with Bible prophecy is one of the most moving studies you could undertake!

But remember, as you read about the horrific events surrounding Christ's return: This event is more of a beginning than it is an end. While Christ's return will bring an end to the age of human government and self-rule, it marks the beginning of the Kingdom of God being opened to all of mankind.

At this time, after saving mankind from extinction, Christ will implement on Earth a comprehensive strategy that will eradicate human nature—thereby guaranteeing global nuclear disarmament forever!

It is imperative that you learn about this new world as you study the end of the one we know today. For the best description of this coming new world, request a free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. ■

America Disarms, the World Rearms

OFTEN, it takes an economic crisis to reveal where a country's national priorities really lie. Notably, all of the world's major power blocs are using this time of financial hardship to increase their military spending—except the United States.

Take Russia. The financial pandemic has forced the Kremlin to drastically cut government spending across the board. Budgets for both the Energy Ministry and the Transport Ministry this year were slashed by almost a third. In fact, the only massive, expensive project the Russian government has increased funding for is its military.

President Dmitry Medvedev vowed on March 17 to increase government military spending this year by 26 percent in order to transform Russia's creaky, Soviet-era defense industry into a leaner, more effective fighting force. Vladimir Putin and his Kremlin cohorts clearly place a high priority on national defense.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute recently reported that Russian arms exports were 14 percent higher from 2004 to 2008 than the previous five years. Seventy-one percent of these exported weapons were delivered to Russia's Asia-Pacific allies; deliveries of naval vessels and advanced combat aircraft to China and India accounted for a considerable share.

The Russians aren't the only ones beefing up their armed forces amid economic crisis. Chinese Adm. Wu Shengli told reporters on April 15 of his nation's ambition to start building large combat warships, next-generation aircraft and sophisticated torpedoes. International media sources speculate that China is already building as many as six aircraft carriers. Whether or not that is true, the fact remains that Beijing has upped its military spending by 14.9 percent this year. Its military is fast becoming a formidable force—especially in light of Beijing forming military alliances with Moscow, Tokyo and New Delhi.

Germany also has caught rearmament fever, and will be funneling almost €500 million (US\$633 million) from the second government stimulus package into the Defense Ministry. This money will be used to buy tanks, combat drones, submachine guns, military vehicles and underwater mine detectors for the German armed forces.

Germany's military industries have increased their arms exports by a record 70 percent over the past five years. This means that Germany is now the third-largest arms exporter on the planet—behind only the U.S. and Russia. This new multimillion-euro injection of stimulus money will increase Germany's military capacity even more. Just as most of Russia's arms exports are going to Moscow's Asia-Pacific allies, so much of Germany's arms exports are going to Berlin's European allies. Indeed, German arms exports to European destinations grew by 123



percent from 2003 to 2008.

The U.S., it appears, is the only major world power that is not drastically increasing military spending. In fact, Washington is drastically cutting spending on some of its most vital defense programs.

On April 6, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Washington's intention to restructure American defense spending to concentrate on the "wars we are in" rather than those that military planners may anticipate in the future. In other words, the Pentagon is now focusing on counterinsurgency warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan at the expense of other threats to America.

As part of this restructuring, the F-22 Raptor fighter jet program will be terminated, the Airborne Laser and Transformational Satellite programs will end, and the U.S. Navy will continue to shrink from the 313-ship fleet size that was set just a few years ago.

"It is important to remember," said Gates, "that every defense dollar spent to over-insure against a remote or diminishing risk—or, in effect, to run up the score in a capability where the United States is already dominant—is a dollar not available to take care of our people, reset the force, win the wars we are in and improve capabilities in areas where we are under-invested and potentially vulnerable."

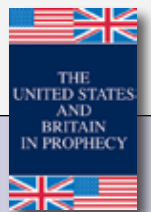
Of course, perceived "remote" and "diminishing" threats do not always stay remote and diminishing. As America focuses in on terrorism and ignores the threats posed by traditional nation-states, it risks allowing nations like Russia and Germany to narrow the gap between their militaries and the preeminent U.S. military.

As journalist Walter Lippmann observed in 1943, the push for disarmament after World War I only proved "tragically successful in disarming the nations that believed in disarmament."

The truth behind the restructuring of America's military spending is that Washington can no longer afford to maintain its military superiority. Other nations know this and are seizing the opportunity. The day is fast coming when the Pentagon will have many more threats to worry about than just Afghanistan.

ANDREW MILLER

For more information on America's military decline, order a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Herbert W. Armstrong.





PUSHY NEIGHBORS

Pakistani Taliban are taking over the country and driving toward the capital.

Wildly Explosive Real Estate

Allied forces are trying to put a lid on it—but the contest for control of Afghanistan and Pakistan is turning ugly. BY JOEL HILLIKER

FOR MOST OF US, A WORLD AWAY, IT'S been easy to ignore. The war in Afghanistan has often ceded the spotlight to other global conflicts. But for much of 8½ years now, for participants from over 40 countries, it has been an epic struggle.

Today, that struggle is about to drag our planet into a chamber of horrors.

This powder keg, which at times has seemed fairly contained, if not defused, is exploding into an unpredictable mess with nuclear potential.

Right at the center is America. The war began in response to the Sept. 11, 2001,

attacks on American soil. The United States has built and helmed the coalition to eliminate the terrorist threat in this theater. The war has become a measure of America's power. And the new U.S. president has made this fight his own: Labeling Iraq a distraction, Barack Obama has called Afghanistan the heart of the fight against terrorism and proclaimed his commitment to achieving victory there.

But, as other great powers that tried to conquer Afghanistan have learned, victory in this rugged country can be fiendishly elusive.

Complicating the situation is the fact

that neighboring Pakistan is descending into anarchy. Its hardy mountain dwellers are providing safe haven to Afghanistan's Taliban and attacking coalition supply lines, turning an unmanageable war in Afghanistan into an impossible one.

Making matters far worse, Pakistan's native Taliban are making an alarmingly successful push at toppling their nation's government. Like Iran in 1979, these Islamist radicals are taking a weakly governed country by the throat and preparing to shape it according to their twisted spiritual vision.

The danger is heightened exponentially by Pakistan being one of the world's eight nuclear powers. It possesses between 60 and 100 nukes scattered throughout the country. Amid escalating chaos, some of those bombs are sure to slip into extremist Muslim hands.

Pakistan is turning into the Iranian Revolution—plus nuclear weapons.

Though the United States and other nations *talk* about preventing this scenario, they simply aren't willing to take measures forceful enough. Signs suggest, in fact, that the Obama administration is

beginning to realize this is a losing cause. Brace yourself for the consequences.

America Alone

Recognizing the tangled nature of the crises in these two countries, the Obama administration unveiled a new joint Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy on March 27. It focuses on encouraging Afghanistan and Pakistan to assume more of the burden of neutralizing Islamists. It commits 4,000 troops to train an Afghan military force and \$1.5 billion per year for five years to Pakistan to help it fight the Taliban.

At the NATO summit that began just days later, the president summoned every possible ounce of charm and influence to cajole members of the alliance into joining him in assigning troops to Afghanistan.

Just how weak America's leadership has grown became eminently clear. Its NATO allies glad-handed and smiled—and utterly refused.

President Obama said America would swell its Afghan force by 21,000 troops. Belgium responded by offering all of 35 military trainers. Spain offered 12. Gordon Brown said the UK would send 500 to 700 troops as a “temporary uplift”—meaning that they'll return home after elections take place *this summer*.

(The nature of NATO is becoming clear: It's a forum for Europe to exploit America. When Europe needs U.S. muscle—as in the Balkans war—America steps up and provides it. When America asks Europe to help fight al Qaeda and the Taliban, Europe says it has other obligations.)

But the fact that America looks increasingly isolated in trying to bring the Taliban to heel is just a sliver of the problem.

Even if it had enthusiastic NATO support, the strategy itself is fatally flawed. Putting faith in native forces to stop the Islamists from taking over the region may work on paper, but it will never, ever happen. Taliban infiltration and sympathy run deep in both nations.

A Flawed Strategy

America wants to train Afghan military and police forces. Realistically, this process will provide the opportunity for hostile elements to infiltrate those forces. As Stratfor reported March 30, if America recruits an all-Afghan force, it is likely to attract many Taliban sympathizers. But if it restricts its recruiting only to ethnic groups that are hostile to the Taliban, it is drawing from “a minority pool that the Taliban already defeated in a civil war.”

Even then, Obama's goal is to train just



54,000 new Afghan soldiers and police officers in 33 months. It's not enough. The U.S. military estimates a force of 400,000 would be needed to secure the country.

In Pakistan, the problem is worse. The government is plagued by infighting and conflicting loyalties. In fact, it has a history of supporting and exploiting Islamic militancy for its own purposes. The military and intelligence services—key to the country's stability—are rife with Islamist sympathizers. The Pakistani military actually *formed* the Taliban in the 1990s. The alliance between these two forces is simple and strong. Pakistan uses the Taliban as a tool both to keep the West off balance and to ensure that, once the U.S. vacates Afghanistan (which it is sure to do eventually), *India* won't move in. Meanwhile, Pakistani support and protection enables the Taliban to control a growing swath of territory in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Nothing in the U.S. plan is going to split this alliance. Evidence shows that in preparation for the U.S. troop surge, the Pakistani-Taliban bond is actually strengthening.

“Realizing that Obama means to step up the U.S. campaign against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan and in Pakistan, the Pakistani military has recalibrated its strategic position and brought the Taliban into its fold, *to serve as its proxy in a confrontation with the U.S. forces,*”

MEMRI wrote (April 1, emphasis mine throughout). The *New York Times* reported a jaw-dropping example on March 25: Pakistan's military intelligence agency is actually giving military supplies, funding and other help to Taliban fighters who are attacking U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

This from Washington's would-be “ally” in *fighting* the Taliban.

Truly, hopes of Pakistan policing its own extremists are being smothered by reality.

March Toward the Capital

Having already taken over the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, the Pakistani Taliban are violently expanding their control inward toward Pakistan's heartland. After more than a year of fighting in the Swat Valley region, the outgunned government found it had little choice but to concede the area, forming a “peace” agreement with the Taliban in February. The Taliban now has official authority to enforce its signature cruel *sharia* law system in a huge chunk of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province. (The deal was called “sharia for peace”—but just ask those victimized by Taliban rule what a sick joke that is. To take one example, the Taliban forbids girls to be educated; schools in the Swat Valley that have refused to comply have been bombed.)

The Taliban promised to end the

insurgency at the time—but that quickly proved a sham. Within a week of Islamabad signing the deal in April, the Taliban broke its promise and sent its army into Buner, a strategic area just 60 miles from the Pakistani capital. It recruited local madrassa graduates to establish a new government there and began implementing *sharia*. It's spreading like an aggressive cancer.

When Pakistan's army reacted by issuing a threat, the Taliban announced that it would soon sack Islamabad. "If a man or woman is working with the government, or they are supporters of the government or of the foreigners, we want to kill them," the *Globe and Mail* quoted one Taliban organizer as saying. "And we want to dissolve the government" (May 4).

The Taliban's ambitions and confidence are growing as fast as the territory it governs.

The movement is gaining momentum with the populace. First, it is tapping into the rich supply of young men who received free Islamic education at one of Pakistan's 12,500 madrassas—men who view the Taliban as God's army.

Second, it is intimidating others who recognize that the government can't stop it. Since the insurgency is taking over, people don't want to be seen as resisting it. The Taliban is notoriously brutal to its detractors. It uses terrorism with devastating effectiveness. When Islamists strike civilian targets, the people's confidence in the government and in coalition forces drops—as does their motivation to defy the up-and-coming dictators.

Although Pakistan's military still makes strikes against the Taliban, evidence suggests that these are intended more to preserve the flow of cash from America than to attain victory. Islamabad is always eager to accept those billions in aid. However, the Obama administration shouldn't expect much of a return on the investment. The same strategy has failed for the past seven years.

Western powers want a neutral, al-Qaeda-free Afghanistan. Their hope is that, in the long run, this can be guaranteed not by America and NATO, but by Afghanistan's primary neighbors: Pakistan, Iran and even China.

This is not really a plan. It is a fantasy perched on a dream within an illusion.

As America plans a troop surge into Afghanistan, the Taliban are planning a bloody response. They are eager to send a hard message to the new American

president and to test his reputation for weakness. They know he doesn't want to remain in AfPak indefinitely. They, by stark contrast, are there to stay.

Thus, in the months ahead, expect ugly.

Repeating the Same Mistake

Another comparison with Iran in 1979 bears mentioning: *America's* responsibility—but this president's, but his predecessor's.

In 2007, U.S. officials inexplicably drove Pakistan's military leader Pervez Musharraf from office, opening an enormous power void that radicals rushed to fill. Our own editor in chief warned at the time that this is just what would happen. "American leaders are telling Musharraf to take off his military uniform and give

As America plans a troop surge into Afghanistan, the Taliban are planning a bloody response. They are eager to send a hard message to the new American president and to test his reputation for weakness.

real freedom to that country. However, the military is the *only* institution that gives stability to that extremely divided country! *This is another example of how little our leaders know about Pakistan,*" Gerald Flurry wrote. "America's problem is even worse than a weak will. We even help *push* our allies into the hands of radical Islam. That is a dangerous kind of ignorance.

"We helped get rid of Iran's 'corrupt' shah in 1979. He was replaced by Ayatollah Khomeini, who began state-sponsored terrorism in the Middle East. Are we about to see another ayatollah rise to power? This time in nuclear Pakistan? And will America be mostly to blame?" (*Trumpet*, January 2008).

These questions ring loudly today. We're hearing a lot of official assurances not to worry. At the end of April, President Obama said he was "confident that the nuclear arsenal will remain out of militant hands." Considering Pakistan's rickety government and the Taliban's shocking gains, this is impossible to guarantee.

And these assurances are being drowned out by the chorus of intelligence, defense and diplomatic voices saying that, for all practical purposes, the devil has already slipped his leash.

Watch Islamabad. A coup is probable. Nuclear weapons escaping the government's control is virtually assured. Where they go from there is the stuff of nightmares.

Why America Will Not Win

As we are highlighting in this *Trumpet* issue, Jesus Christ specifically forewarned of this age of nuclear proliferation and peril. Though He promised that God would cut it short to prevent human extinction, we are about to experience untold suffering because of the irresponsible and malicious use of weapons of mass destruction. Events in Afghanistan and Pakistan are chilling vindication of the power of Christ's prophecies.

We should also recognize that these disasters are unfolding despite America's vigorous efforts to prevent them—and actually, to no small degree *because* America's efforts have been so misguided and unintentionally damaging. Why? Because

this too fulfills biblical prophecies in a remarkable way.

The reason for America's inability to secure a positive outcome in AfPak is actually spelled out in detail in Scripture. You can prove it by reading Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Request your own free copy to get a true perspective on America's current foreign-policy challenges—and to preview the outcome.

In this book, originally written in 1967, Mr. Armstrong actually foretold the end of the conflict in these two countries. "Today America finds herself heir to just about all the international problems and headaches in this post-World War II, chaotic, violent world," he wrote. "And THE UNITED STATES HAS WON HER LAST WAR Many other nations *sap America's national strength*, 'and he knoweth it not,' as God long ago foretold!"

Mr. Armstrong based his forecast on a collection of stunning biblical prophecies that show America being besieged by curses in our day, including humiliating military defeat.

Don't be fooled by talk—not even by the U.S. sending billions of dollars and thousands more troops into Afghanistan and Pakistan. The warning signs of America's failure are clear.

Just as the Bible said. ■

FUTURE BATTLEFIELD

Tensions and hatreds in this one city will soon affect you.



What Will Trigger the Next World War?

This is the clash we need to watch for next. BY STEPHEN FLURRY AND BRAD MACDONALD

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU IS ON A mission. Over the next several months, Israel's new prime minister aims to convince world leaders of the imminent danger Iran poses to Western civilization. Shortly before he was sworn in on March 31, Netanyahu told the *Atlantic* that besides fixing the economy, Washington's other primary imperative must be to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

"You don't want a messianic apocalyptic cult controlling atomic bombs," Netanyahu said of the Islamist theocracy.

Should the Obama administration fail to stop Iran, Netanyahu said, Israel might be forced to preemptively strike the Islamic Republic.

Since the Bible affirms that *Europe*—not Israel or the United States—will ultimately smash the Iran-led "king of the south" (Daniel 11:40), in some ways, Israel's hawkish threats against Tehran might distract us from other, far more consequential events, prophetically speaking.

The Bible says the spectacular clash between the European "king of the north" and radical Islam will *primarily revolve*

around Jerusalem. It's the division of Jerusalem, not Iran's quest for nuclear power, that will trigger the next worldwide war.

The Inevitable Clash

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh," Zechariah wrote in a prophecy for the end time. "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:1-2).

In the vision, the prophet begins with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and then works his way back to describe events that immediately precede the Messiah's appearance on Earth. Before all nations gather to fight against Christ at His return, Jerusalem "shall be taken"—conquered by the European conglomerate. This event, signaling the beginning of what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation, occurs shortly *after* Europe's whirlwind attack against radical Islam.

Shortly *before* that clash between the kings of the north and south, Zechariah says *half* of Jerusalem will "go forth into captivity," indicating the city will be divided by some kind of violent struggle. What this prophecy indicates is that a Hamas-dominated Palestinian insurgency, backed by Iran, will take half the city of Jerusalem captive.

The Israeli-Islamist clash over Jerusalem is what we need to be watching for next.

For the past decade, at times it *appeared* as if Israel would willingly give up East Jerusalem at the negotiating table. In December of 2005, a poll published by *Yedioth Ahronoth* found that about half of Israelis supported the idea of giving up parts of Arab East Jerusalem if it would solidify a peace deal with the Palestinians.

Even before he became prime minister, Ehud Olmert said that Israel would someday have to give up its dream of an eternally united Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty. After one month in office, one of Olmert's colleagues in Kadima told the Associated Press that Olmert's government was devising a plan for dividing Jerusalem.

Compare that with where we suddenly are today. What a difference three years makes, as Pierre Atlas wrote March 27 for Real Clear Politics, contrasting Israel's new government with Ehud Olmert's. Atlas noted that in 2006, most Israelis supported the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, and much of the Knesset favored withdrawing from parts of the West Bank. At the time, the right-wing Likud party, which opposed unilateral withdrawals, suffered most as a result of the electorate's mood. It lost 26 of its 38 seats in the 2006 parliamentary elections.

"No one could have imagined then that, three years later," Atlas wrote,

“Netanyahu would be forming the next Israeli government.”

Actually, shortly before those 2006 elections, as our regular readers know, our editor in chief mentioned on his weekly *Key of David* television program that Benjamin Netanyahu would likely return to power in Israel because of the prophecy in Zechariah 14:2. He said half of Jerusalem is “going to be taken by force, and you need to realize that. Now, that might also indicate that the Likud, or the conservative party, will get in power” (Jan. 6, 2006).

With a right-wing coalition now in power in Israel, that brings us one giant prophetic leap closer to the inevitable clash over Jerusalem.

The Fight for the City of David

In sharp contrast to his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu campaigned for prime minister on keeping Jerusalem united. At a campaign stop at the Regency Hotel on Mt. Scopus, Netanyahu said, “If we gave up half of Jerusalem, there would be an Iranian base right near this hotel.”

International scorn for this harder-line stance has been intense. In early March, for example, Israel was blasted for its proposal to expand an archaeology park in the City of David, which would require the demolition of dozens of Palestinian homes that have been constructed there illegally over the past 20 years. This in spite of the fact that, under the plan, not only would East Jerusalem wastelands be converted into beautiful gardens and parks, but the illegal residents would also be given generous compensation packages, which would include relocation land.

During her March visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said *any* plan that calls for the demolition of Palestinian homes would not help the peace process.

Nir Barkat, Jerusalem’s new mayor, criticized Clinton for being duped by Palestinian propaganda. The Palestinian Authority has accused Israel of “ethnically cleansing” East Jerusalem in order to “Judaize” the city.

The European Union has also harshly criticized Israel. According to a confidential EU report that was leaked to the media in March, EU officials have accused Israel of “actively pursuing the *illegal* annexation” of East Jerusalem (emphasis ours).

Benjamin Netanyahu’s government has vowed to push ahead with this multiyear development plan even as critics lambaste the government for making it harder to divide Jerusalem as part of any two-state

solution. One official from Netanyahu’s office who defended the government’s position told the *Times* of London, “Jerusalem has been the eternal capital of the Jewish people for some 3,000 years and will remain the united capital of the State of Israel.”

Mayor Barkat, like Prime Minister Netanyahu, supports keeping Jerusalem united. Under the direction of Barkat, Jerusalem authorities recently sent eviction notices to 90 families in East Jerusalem near the Old City, warning that because their homes had been built without proper council approval, they would be demolished.

In an interview with the *Jerusalem Post*, Barkat defended the municipality’s plans for the city by saying, “I would like to see what [New York Mayor Michael] Bloomberg would say about illegal building in Central Park. Would he give up Central Park because there is illegal building there?”

The battle for the City of David, located in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan, is a microcosm of a larger struggle that will soon thrust the entire city of Jerusalem into a boiling cauldron of hatred and violence.

Becoming a War Zone

Tension between Palestinians and Jews increased substantially after the Gaza war in January. It intensified further after the elections of Prime Minister Netanyahu and Mayor Barkat. Many right-wing Jewish movements, invigorated by the new government’s refusal to cave in to Palestinian ambition, are experiencing a renaissance.

This is not to imply that the Palestinian cause is flailing. In fact, it too is gaining steam, thanks to increasing direct and indirect support from the international community—most notably from the American administration of Barack Obama.

Jerusalem, especially East Jerusalem, is quickly deteriorating into a war zone!

Consider a few recent events. On April 2, in the West Bank town of Bat Ayin near East Jerusalem, a Palestinian brandishing a pickax hacked a 13-year-old Israeli boy to death and wounded his 7-year-old friend. Islamic terrorist groups Islamic Jihad and the Imad Mughniyeh Group claimed responsibility for the murder, warning ominously that it was merely a “natural response to the crimes of the occupation.”

The same day, at about 2 a.m. in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem’s Old City, seven Jewish settlers broke into the home of Nasser Jaber, a Palestinian businessman who had moved out of the home while renovations were being done. Claiming they owned the house, the settlers replaced the locks and took over the home.

In April, a Palestinian man driving a car tried to run over Israeli police officers. The police, who were monitoring the demolition of the Jerusalem home of the Palestinian terrorist who killed three Israelis in a bulldozer rampage last July, shot the man dead. Afterward, a scuffle erupted between police officers and dozens of angry Palestinians who sympathized with both the driver of the vehicle and the terrorist whose house was being bulldozed.

The next day, a spokesman from Hamas’s military wing delivered a prophetically electrifying response to Israel’s efforts to defend itself against illegal Arab intrusions. Hamas official Abu Ubayda “threatened Israel of an ‘explosion’ if it continues to consolidate control of Jerusalem,” the Ma’an News Agency reported. Ubayda also warned that “the Judaization of Jerusalem and threat to the iconic al-Aqsa Mosque could provoke reprisals.”

Jerusalem’s cobbled streets are rumbling, tension is mounting, war is brewing. This is sobering. But it is also incredibly exciting.

This intensifying conflict will result in the prophesied division of Jerusalem, which is the trigger that will set off a rapid-fire sequence of events culminating in the return of the Messiah to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:4).

“When half of Jerusalem falls,” editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in March 2006, “it starts a chain reaction of events—an avalanche of crises—that leads directly to Christ’s Second Coming!” This is why—even during economic, political, social and personal calamity—we *must not take our eyes off Jerusalem*.

Events in that city are the measure of how close we are to the most awesome event in human history!

Logically, Jesus’s focus *right now* is on ensuring Jerusalem, His landing pad, is ready for His return. In a spectacular way, conditions in Jerusalem today—politically, demographically, economically, even archaeologically—are aligning just as Christ described in the Bible *2,000 years ago!*

We need to watch Jerusalem closer than ever. Even now, events in that city indicate that the Messiah’s return is imminent, and that the time rapidly approaches when He will transform Jerusalem into exactly what its name means: a city of **PEACE!**

Study Zechariah’s prophecy in detail in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, specifically Chapter 3.





How will you react when you read the world's most shocking headline?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WHILE WORKING AS AN ADVERTISING manager at a daily newspaper during the 1920s, Herbert W. Armstrong had a brief discussion with four or five reporters and editors about what would be the most astonishing and dramatic newspaper headline.

“Another World War Breaks Out,” one of them suggested.

Not to be outdone, one of the others proposed a headline he believed would be even more sensational: “New York City Suddenly Blown Off the Map!”

“That’s tame,” a third newsman exclaimed. “Second Coming of Christ Happened This Morning!” All of them, except Mr. Armstrong, cackled with laughter.

“You men,” Mr. Armstrong said

solemnly, “may live long enough to write that headline.”

As it turns out, they didn't. Neither did Mr. Armstrong. But for an increasing number of people today, especially here in America, the subject of Jesus Christ's return is no longer a joking matter.

“Will He Return?” *Newsmax* asked about Jesus Christ on the cover of its April edition. According to the feature, “public buzz about the biblical last days is at its highest level since 9/11.” In a 2006 survey, the Pew Research Center found that 79 percent of American Christians believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, although only 20 percent believe

His return will occur during their lifetime. Still, there was a time when “doomsday” preachers were universally seen as wild-eyed fanatics. Today, those same Jeremiahs are attracting large throngs of faithful supporters.

On the other hand, as Jon Meacham argued in an article also published in the lead-up to Easter, while America remains “a nation decisively shaped by religious faith, our politics and our culture are, in the main, less influenced by movements and arguments of an explicitly Christian character than they were *even five years ago*” (*Newsweek*, April 4; emphasis mine throughout). According to Meacham, since 1990, the number of self-identified Christians has dropped by 10 percent. Conversely, the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation, he says, has jumped from 8 to 15 percent over the same period.

Thus, even as apocalyptic teachings about the last days increase in popularity, our *way of life* drifts further and further from God.

Signs of the End

The Apostle Paul described the end time in 2 Timothy 3. “This know also, that in the *last days* perilous times shall come” (verse 1). Jesus said it would get so dangerous at the end of this age that unless God intervened, no flesh would survive (Matthew 24:22).

Skeptics who deceive themselves with the belief that we are in no special danger today—that the world has always been like this—had better start watching world events.

At present, eight nations in the world

possess nuclear weapons. The most recent member admitted into the nuclear club was North Korea.

London's Times Online reported April 24, “The world's intelligence agencies and defense experts are quietly acknowledging that North Korea has become a fully fledged nuclear power with the capacity to wipe out entire cities in Japan and South Korea.”

Think on that. A mad dictator now has his finger on the trigger of a nuclear bomb and all that our intelligence experts can do is *quietly* acknowledge that he has nuclear weapons?

In Pakistan, Taliban terrorists are rapidly seizing control of territory, and the shaky government appears virtually helpless to stop them. Thus, extremists are frighteningly close to grabbing hold of that nation's nuclear arsenal (article, page 7).

Then there is Iran—the terror-sponsoring Islamic state that is probably within *months* of acquiring nuclear weapons.

Yes, human nature has always been selfish and vain. But it's only been in the last half century that mankind has developed weapons powerful enough to, as Jesus prophesied, obliterate all flesh from off the Earth.

This *alone* proves we are living in the

It's only been in the last half century that mankind has developed weapons powerful enough to, as Jesus prophesied, obliterate all flesh from off the Earth. This alone proves we are living in the last days.

last days.

But besides the proliferation of nuclear bombs, there is another sign that we are the last generation before Jesus Christ returns: our increasingly rebellious, anti-God, anti-family, upside-down culture. Paul correctly foresaw man's perverse nature in these latter days, describing it as being unthankful, proud, covetous, disobedient to parents, without discipline, and a lover of self and of pleasures more than of God (2 Timothy 3:2-4).

“Few, indeed, realize the shocking facts of this accelerating downward plunge,” Mr. Armstrong wrote back in 1964. “It is rapidly becoming a greater threat to humanity than the hydrogen bomb!”

In his booklet *What Is Faith?* Mr. Armstrong wrote, “This present world breakdown, with world economic collapse,

social unrest, religious confusion, is merely the warning signal that the end of the present civilization is here. The Second Coming of Christ to establish a new order of world peace on Earth is near—much nearer than people think!”

Yes, indeed—that is a front-page story most of us will live long enough to read for ourselves!

And as shocking as that headline might be for people who scoff at the promise of His coming (2 Peter 3:3-4), many of those who consider themselves Christian will be startled by another headline, closely related to Christ's Second Coming.

Will Christ Find Faith?

Notice! When asked by His disciples about the sequence of events leading up to His return, Christ answered by saying, “Take heed that no man deceive you [disciples]. For *many* shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ [they believe in Christ, in other words]; and shall *deceive many*” (Matthew 24:4-5).

Elsewhere in Scripture, religious deception is identified as the first horseman of the apocalypse. Did you know that Jesus Christ prophesied that most Christians in this end time would be *deceived* about His gospel message and His inspired teach-

ings—deceived about what *true Christianity* really is? Jesus said false Christianity would be so widespread that even many of *His own disciples* would be deceived.

Notice how Paul described the latter-day modernist religious movement in 2 Timothy 3:5: “Having a *form of godliness*, but DENYING THE POWER thereof: from such turn away.” That is God's assessment of mainstream Christianity. There's an outward appearance of godliness, but very little substance. It's a popular brand of Christianity that, while it might accept the *existence* of God—even the appearance of God's Son on Earth—it fully rejects His power and authority.

Look at the age in which we live. God and His laws no longer have any direct authority in people's lives. Overcoming evil is viewed as impossible by church leaders

today—so the clergy rationalizes sinful living by falsely teaching that Jesus came to *excuse us* from obeying God’s laws. Added to that, God the Father and Jesus Christ are represented as weak and incapable of intervening in the affairs of mankind. The miraculous events of Scripture are often spiritualized away as fables or old wives’ tales.

And while many traditional Christians

to qualify to replace Satan on the throne of this Earth. It says God would allow Satan to “bruise” Christ’s “heel” in causing Him to be crucified. But Christ would bruise Satan’s head by rising from the dead to depose him as ruler of the world.

Throughout the Old Testament, numerous prophets and teachers of God foretold of a future Messiah and King who would rule the Earth. Moses wrote

consume all other kingdoms.

Nearly all the minor prophets refer to this coming King. Micah said the Lord would reign over Israel in mount Zion forever. Zephaniah said, “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.” Haggai said that at His coming, He would “shake all nations.” Zechariah 14 describes that Second Coming in great detail. Malachi said that the Eternal would come and that He would be like a refining fire.

In the Gospels, it says Jesus would be given the throne of David and that His Kingdom would never end (Luke 1:32-33). This obviously refers to Christ’s Second Coming, as numerous other passages in the Gospels explain. In the model prayer Jesus outlined for His disciples, for example, one of the first subjects He admonishes us to pray for is, “Thy KINGDOM come” (Matthew 6:10). In John 14:3, Jesus

Mankind has denied the good news gospel message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God—described throughout Scripture as the Family of God administering God’s law of love by His authoritative family government.

might hold to a belief in Jesus Christ’s return, few accept the biblically prophesied, 1,000-year, rod-of-iron rule that Jesus Christ will administer over all the Earth.

From the First Pages to the Last

One of the first promises in the Bible, in Genesis 3:15, is of a Savior who would come

about His coming in the law. David described it in the Psalms. Isaiah referred to it in several places throughout his book.

So did Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Daniel said the Messiah’s dominion would break in pieces and

THE REAL JESUS

The man depicted in Western art is nothing like the one described in the Bible.

LATELY, several news-magazines have graced their covers with a pale, tender-skinned, soft-spoken, long-haired, womanish figure wearing a beard. It’s *supposed* to be Jesus. But these erroneous depictions of Christ look *nothing* like the Jesus described in your Bible.

The real Jesus was a powerfully built, masculine man—a rugged outdoorsman. He was a master of every situation. He was a people person and a dynamically persuasive teacher. He was a man of upstanding character—an upholder and promoter of God’s perfect law of liberty.

Isn’t it time you became acquainted with the Jesus of the Bible?

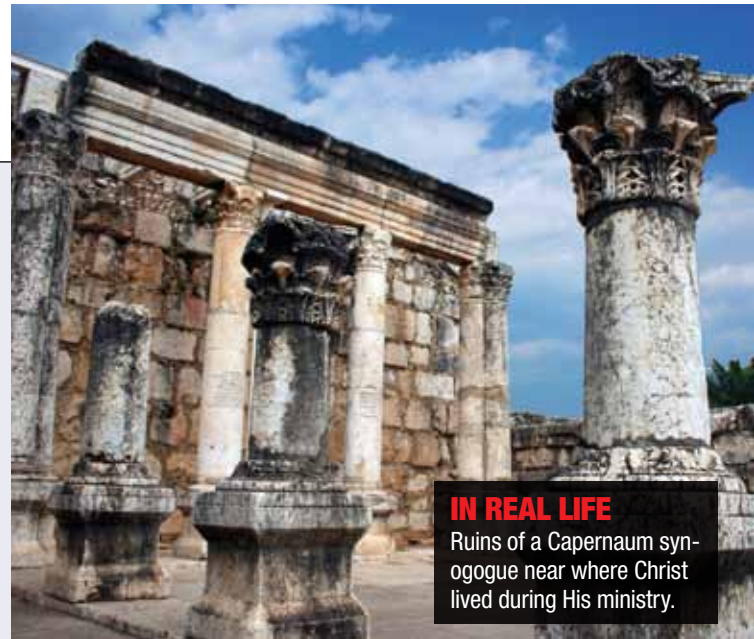
Christ’s Family

Prior to His 3½-year ministry,

Jesus Christ was brought up in a large family as the oldest of five brothers and at least three sisters (Matthew 13:54-56). Traditional Christianity depicts Jesus’s stepfather as some kind of uneducated, deadbeat dad who was baffled by his stepson’s remarkable genius. Joseph was supposedly married to a superior woman.

The real Joseph, however, was the loving head, provider, protector and primary educator of this extraordinary family. He was a “just” man, Matthew wrote, with sterling character. Upon learning that Mary was pregnant, Joseph initially intended to secretly dissolve the engagement for the sake of his own reputation—and Mary’s.

But while Joseph “thought on these things,” an angel appeared to him and said that Mary had conceived of the Holy Spirit. In



IN REAL LIFE

Ruins of a Capernaum synagogue near where Christ lived during His ministry.

response to the angel’s instructions, Joseph obeyed God, risked his upstanding reputation in the community, took a pregnant woman to be his wife and accepted her firstborn son as one of his very own.

In northern Galilee, Jesus became known as the son of *Joseph* (John 6:42). As a teenager and young adult, Jesus worked outdoors, developing into a master craftsman on his stepfather’s carpentry crew.

“And the child grew, and

waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him” (Luke 2:40). This was due, in large part, to the indomitable influence of His mentor and stepfather, Joseph.

When Jesus was 12, for example, Joseph took his wife and children to Jerusalem to observe the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. Only males were required to go to Jerusalem for the three annual festival seasons (Exodus 23:14-17). But Joseph was a successful businessman

said, “[I]f I go ... I will come again” In Mark 13:24-26, Jesus described the latter days in time order—first tribulation, then heavenly signs, “then shall they see the Son of man coming”

The book of Acts says Jesus would return the same way He left 2,000 years ago (Acts 1:11). The Apostle Paul wrote extensively about Christ’s return and His worldwide rule, particularly in the book of 1 Thessalonians and in 1 Corinthians 15. James said, “Be patient ... unto the coming of the Lord” (James 5:7). John said that when He appears, we, the firstfruits, shall be like Him (1 John 3:2). And Peter, as noted earlier, spoke of “scoffers” coming in the latter days who are willingly ignorant of the promise of Christ’s coming.

Then there is the book of Revelation, where John describes God’s coming Kingdom in incredible detail. When Christ comes down from clouds, John wrote, “every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7). When the seventh angel sounds, he wrote in Revelation 11:15, the kingdoms of this world will “become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” Again, in Revelation 19:6, “And I heard as it were the voice of a

great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

Over and again, your Bible promises the soon-coming reign of Jesus Christ over all the Earth. Why, then, aren’t more people familiar with the reality of God’s coming Kingdom?

By our *actions*, mankind has denied the good news gospel message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God—described throughout Scripture as the Family of God *administering* God’s law of love by His authoritative family government.

Religion without substance is why Jesus asked in Luke 18:8, “[W]hen the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Talk about a stunning headline! In looking ahead to our present-day generation, Jesus Christ foresaw the near-total absence of real, believing faith.

That means this world has almost completely lost sight of what it means to actually *live by faith*.

What Must We Do?

A *Trumpet* reader recently e-mailed me about a common theme he has picked up

on in many of our articles. “You often write about the Second Coming of Christ and the calamitous events to unfold in the lead-up to His return. *But what must we do?*”

It’s a beautiful question—not unlike the one the disciples asked in Acts 2:37 after Peter’s sermon on the feast of Pentecost. There is absolutely something you *must do!*

Repentance is the first step (see verse 38). To assist you in that transformation, begin by studying Mr. Armstrong’s booklet *What Is Faith?* Then dig into God’s Word and learn about the true God as He is revealed in the Bible. Sign up for our free Bible correspondence course. Study as if your survival depended on it. Immediately begin living in accordance with God’s perfect and holy laws. Work toward baptism.

Then, when the Son of man returns to this Earth, you *won’t* be caught off guard—and you will have living faith!

You are welcome to request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s booklet *What Is Faith?*



and family man, so he took the entire family.

It was during this trip to Jerusalem that Jesus wound up in the temple reasoning with the doctors of the law. Having learned to be an exceptional student under His father’s direction, Luke’s account says that Jesus was “hearing” and “asking questions” (Luke 2:46). He was listening and learning from some of the most distinguished educators of His day. This was no ordinary 12-year-old.

His parents, having lost track of Jesus on the way home, returned to Jerusalem to find Him in the temple. They were “amazed.” The teachers of the law were “astonished at his understanding.”

From that point forward, Scripture says, “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (verse 52).

The real Jesus grew up in a well-balanced, God-fearing household where His physical father served as head and His mother as a submissive and loving helpmeet and homemaker.

Jesus as Master

Think back on your education. Generally, the male teachers we tend to appreciate most are the stronger, more authoritative role models we can look up to.

Now think about Jesus Christ—the greatest orator and teacher who has ever lived. Why should we imagine Him to be an effeminate weakling who somehow moved the masses while speaking in hushed tones?

“Follow me,” He supposedly whispered to the fishermen, tax collectors and businessmen of His day, moving them to promptly drop everything to learn a new profession.

That is not the Jesus of your Bible. The real Jesus “waxed strong” physically and spoke with such powerful conviction and clarity that He astonished the masses! “For he taught them as one *having authority*, and *not* as the scribes” (Matthew 7:29).

Jesus Christ did not teach or even look like the self-righteous religious figures of His day. After the miracle of the loaves and

fishes, the Jewish commoners wanted to make Jesus a king (John 6:15). His wildly popular impact early on in His ministry enraged the jealous chief priests and Pharisees. “If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation,” they reasoned in John 11:48. They demanded their officers apprehend this persuasive scholar. But none of the officers would lay hands on Him.

“No man ever spoke like this man!” they said in John 7:46 (Revised Standard Version).

Jesus Christ simply did not fit into the mold of what people *thought* a religious leader should look and sound like. He was a hard-working, rugged-looking, masculine family man. He loved construction and numerous other outdoor activities like sailing, hiking and camping. He was an avid reader and student—conversant in every imaginable topic.

And He loved people. He socialized so much that His critics accused Him of being a glutton

and winebibber! In actual fact, Jesus was the friendliest man who ever lived. He loved being among crowds. He interacted with Samaritans, the blind and lame, the elderly, and women and children. He broke bread with Pharisees, tax collectors and sinners.

Then there were His students—the disciples. Most of those who dropped everything in order to follow the Messiah later sacrificed their very lives for this impressive, God-fearing man. “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”, His disciples lamented after Jesus was gone (Luke 24:32).

Jesus lived the abundant life (John 10:10). He practiced what He preached. And in living in accordance with all of God’s holy laws, He left for us a perfect example to follow (1 Peter 2:21).

Strive to follow those steps set before us by Jesus Christ—the real Jesus, as depicted in the pages of your Bible.

STEPHEN FLURRY

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

“THERE IS A RISK OF revolution in **France**,” declared former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin in April. The economic crisis has caused instability throughout Europe, and France has been hit especially hard. During April, workers caused power blackouts in the Paris region, kidnapped their bosses, blockaded channel ports and held large strikes.

Protesters were especially vigorous before and during the 60th anniversary NATO summit held on the French/German border on the weekend of April 4 and 5. Between 10,000 and 30,000 protesters rampaged through Strasbourg, France. The rioters burned a hotel and two other buildings and attacked police; several were carrying loaded guns.

In **Moldova**, more than 10,000 protesters took to the streets during the first few days in April. They were protesting the Communist Party’s victory in the March 29 elections. Dozens were injured and one killed. Rioters ransacked and burned the parliament building and replaced the Moldovan flag with the Romanian. Some also took over the president’s office.

On March 23, **Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany** announced before parliament his “irreversible” decision to resign. The next day, the government of the **Czech Republic** narrowly lost a no-confidence vote. The economy played a major role in the fall of both



these governments.

Spain also has been badly hit by the economic crisis. Unemployment hit 17.4 percent during the first quarter of 2009.

In **Italy**, the post-fascist National Alliance—a party founded by the political heirs of Benito Mussolini—merged with the conservative party of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Despite claims to the contrary, the March 22 merger shows that pro-fascist politicians are now being accepted into mainstream



Italian politics. The greatest danger to Europe is not the neo-Nazi thugs who shout and jeer at a soccer tournament. It is the well-dressed extremist who sits in a position of power.

The racist political activists of yesterday have become the respectable technocrats and politicians of today.

On March 16, the U.S. and **Germany** signed a treaty on scientific and technological

cooperation in the field of civil security. The two countries will spend €10 to 20 million on four major projects by 2012. More importantly, German scientists will gain access to America’s top-secret laboratories, where Washington tests its latest counterterrorism technology. “Such openness would have been previously unimaginable,” Spiegel Online wrote. “Until now, the Americans have kept their efforts to develop new security technologies secret” (March 16)—yes, and for good reason. Security technologies are a matter of national security.

Plans to revise the European Union’s working time bill failed as members of the European Parliament gave up trying to reach an agreement on April 27. This legislation forces workers to work no more than 48 hours in a week. Currently, however, workers in Britain and some other EU member states can opt out of its provisions. The *Trumpet* has been closely watching the bill, as the Catholic Church

has tried to use its influence to change the law so that it mandates a Sunday rest day for all. Expect the Vatican to continue its efforts through other means.

Croatia and **Albania** joined NATO on April 1. NATO is now entrenched in the Balkan Peninsula. Germany led NATO to attack the former Yugoslavia back in 1999. Now it is cementing that conquest. To learn more, request a free copy of *The Rising Beast—Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*.

MIDEAST

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU was sworn in as **Israel’s** new prime minister on March 31 after building a coalition made up of right-wing and religious parties, along with the center-left Labor Party (article, page 10).

Tension is building between Israel and the Vatican over contested parts of Jeru-





salem. Negotiations between Israel and the Vatican have been ongoing for the past 10 years concerning the hand-over of sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere claimed by the Roman Catholic Church. Reports in the Catholic media and information from Israeli sources imply that these negotiations are nearing their conclusion. While Israel's Foreign Ministry denied the reports, IDF Army Radio said that President Shimon Peres is pressuring Interior Minister Eli Yishai to surrender six properties demanded by the Vatican. Though this is meeting with strong resistance by some in Israel, Bible prophecy reveals that the Vatican will be successful in its designs on Jerusalem (article, page 33).

A Palestinian university poll in April confirmed that **Hamas is growing more popular in Israel's West Bank**. In student elections at Birzeit University in Ramallah, which are known as an indicator of public opinion in the territory, Fatah won just two more seats

than Hamas out of the 51 up for grabs.

Turkey and **Syria** held unprecedented joint military exercises April 27 to 29 along their common border. Turkish and Syrian officials also signed an agreement for cooperation in the defense industry. Turkey is Israel's closest Muslim ally, but relations between the two countries are becoming increasingly strained. These recent developments presage a future prophesied betrayal of Israel by Turkey.

In 2005, **Lebanon's** anti-Syrian Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated—a stern message to Lebanese leaders that they must cooperate with Syria or suffer the consequences. Four pro-Syrian Lebanese generals have been held since 2005 for their alleged involvement in the assassination plot. Upon orders from the United Nations-backed international tribunal investigating the case, the generals were released from prison April 29. This is a victory for both Syria and Hezbollah,



the political force that has gained from the intimidation of the Lebanese opposition. Together with other developments, this mean the tribunal will "effectively be paralyzed," said Stratfor (April 30).

U.S. officials are considering whether to accept **Iran's** pursuit of uranium enrichment. "As part of a policy review commissioned by President Barack Obama," the *Financial Times* wrote, "diplomats are discussing whether the U.S. will eventually have to accept Iran's insistence on carrying out the

process, which can produce both nuclear fuel and weapons-grade material" (April 4). Since 2006, Tehran has blatantly ignored UN Security Council resolutions and sped up its program of uranium enrichment. Now it appears the Obama administration is ready to cede to Iran's nuclear ambition, only demanding it not develop a nuclear weapon.

In order to retain its influence in **Iraq**, Iran seeks to shore up its support among Iraq's Shiite parties. To this end, two of Iran's most powerful political figures visited

Iraq in March. On March 25, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani met with Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite religious leader. Earlier in the month, Iranian Assembly of Experts Chairman Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, traveling with a 105-person delegation, met with a host of Iraq's top figures including al-Sistani and the country's three other grand ayatollahs, and the Iraqi president and prime minister. Watch Iran's involvement in Iraq as the U.S. winds down its military presence there.



of plutonium in our nuclear power plants, so it is possible for us to produce 3,000 to 4,000 nuclear warheads." All it would take to transform Japan into one of the deadliest martial forces on the planet is a final sidelining of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, in which Japan renounces the right to wage war. This move is already in the works.

For the first time since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, institutional investors from mainland **China** can invest in Taiwanese money markets. An announcement made by **Taiwan's** financial regulator on May 1 ended a decades-old ban imposed amid fears that Chinese investment would make Taiwan economically dependent on the mainland. For years, Beijing has claimed the island of Taiwan as a renegade province and threatened to use military force to bring it under Chinese rule. Now it appears that Beijing is cleverly taking advantage of the global economic downturn in order to interlace Taiwan's economy with its own—thus making it more difficult for Taiwan to declare de jure independence at any point in the future.

ASIA

North Korea SUCCESSFULLY launched a missile on April 12 capable of reaching the West Coast of the United States. North Korea has become a classic example of the futility of mankind's attempts to stop nuclear proliferation (article, page 4).

A week after North Korea's missile test, former **Japanese Finance Minister Shoichi Nakagawa** said that his nation should discuss building a nuclear arsenal. "It is common sense worldwide that in a purely military sense it is nuclear that can counteract nuclear," said the conservative politician in a speech given April 19. "North Korea has taken a step toward a system whereby it could shoot without prior notice. We have to discuss countermeasures." Back in 2006, Nakagawa proclaimed that a nuclear arsenal built for defensive purposes would not violate **Japan's** pacifist constitution. Japanese opposition leader and chancellor candidate Ichiro Ozawa said in 2003: "We have plenty

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

FROM AN ECONOMIC STANDPOINT, **swine flu struck at the worst possible moment for Mexico**, which was already in danger of collapsing because of its floundering economy, debilitating drug war and collapsing oil revenues. All non-essential government agencies and private businesses were

ordered to cease operations May 1 to 6 to combat the spread of the virus—in essence, Mexico was shut down, causing its domestic economy to tank even further and crippling the tourism industry. Before the outbreak, Caracas had already turned to the International Monetary Fund for help by opening a line of credit worth \$47 billion. Mexico is the largest country to do so.

President Obama visited Latin America for the fifth Summit of the Americas, which ran April 17 to 19. Before the meeting, he published an op-ed in 15 Latin American newspapers that offered a relationship "freed from the posturing of the past." While there, he was photographed smiling and shaking hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The *Wall Street Journal* observed that despots must work to maintain "the legitimacy of their authority,

Iran. He met with an Iranian delegation on May 2, then with the Iranian defense minister on May 6. The two countries are establishing a joint development bank, funded with \$200 million.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** on March 26. The BBC reported that French nuclear firm Areva took advantage of Sarkozy's visit to sign a deal to exploit uranium in DR Congo, which has major uranium reserves. President Sarkozy said his plan for DR Congo's mineral wealth is to use it to help bring peace to Central Africa. The reality, though, is that the deals are intended to benefit France and the rest of Europe. Expect further EU involvement in Africa as the global race to secure African resources continues.

In **South Africa's** elections held April 22, the African



which by definition is always on thin ice. To Mr. Obama and his handlers perhaps it was just a photo-op. For Mr. Chavez it was priceless. Merely being seen or photographed in the presence of civilized society—at summits, negotiations, in state visits—empowers the autocrat and discourages his opposition" (April 23).

Despite Obama's overtures, Chavez continues to develop his country's relationship with

National Congress (ANC) won 65.9 percent of the vote—a clear majority, but not the two thirds required to make changes to the country's Constitution. The ANC, the dominant force both politically and legislatively, appointed Jacob Zuma as president on May 9.

Madagascar joined the ranks of African nations in chaos when its legitimately elected president was ousted by a man six years too young

to constitutionally hold the country's highest office. After a week in which tanks took over the presidential palace, Madagascar President Marc Ravalomanana resigned from office and turned authority over to a navy admiral on March 17. Andry Rajoelina became president on March 18. The new leader suspended parliament and set up transitional bodies to run the country.

ANGLO-AMERICA

MAY 1 BROUGHT THE FIRST “Big Three” automaker bankruptcy in history as Chrysler went into federal bankruptcy protection. **The government organized a deal to keep the bankrupt company afloat** by loaning it up to \$8 billion more and merging it with Italian automaker Fiat. The deal also includes replacing the company's board of directors and commits the federal government as a powerful company investor. The Treasury will select four of the new directors. The **U.S.** government, which once bragged about the superiority of pure capitalism, is now a powerful partner not only in the banking business, but the auto business as well.

Americans chose the April 15 tax-filing deadline as an opportunity to express outrage against the federal government and its gigantic spending bills, calling their rallies “tea parties.” Congress signed off on the president's \$3.6 trillion budget in late April. The budget will launch the national debt from \$11.2 trillion to \$17 trillion by 2014.

States are reacting against the federal government's increasingly expanding power. In mid-April, Texas Gov. Rick Perry backed a Texas Legislature resolution that rebukes Washington for violating the Bill of Rights, which says that



powers not specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states. Calling it oppression in terms of size, intrusion into personal lives and state affairs, the governor said he wanted to reject strings-attached federal stimulus money and indicated that secession from the union was not off the table.

Labor Department statistics published in May revealed that 539,000 jobs were cut in April for a total of 5.7 million since the beginning of 2008. The unemployment rate for the month hit a 25-year high.

The commercial real-estate market may be beginning to collapse. The second-largest mall owner in the country, General Growth Properties, declared the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. real-estate history on April 16 after amassing an astounding \$27 billion in debt.

Fortune 500 companies, the nation's top corporations by revenue, experienced their worst year ever in 2008. Overall profits plunged 84.7 percent. Thirty-eight financial titans disappeared from the list altogether due to bankruptcy, mergers or foreign takeovers.

China has “canceled America's credit card,” House Appropriations Committee

Co-Chairman Mark Kirk said in late April. The federal deficit is now more than \$956 billion, one seventh of the nation's gross domestic product and the biggest since World War II. China owns \$1.7 trillion in dollar-denominated assets, but has dramatically reduced its purchases of treasury bonds and has indicated it is interested in moving away from investing in the dollar.

In April, the House approved a bill to enhance the federal government's authority to prosecute “bias-motivated violence.” House Minority Leader John Boehner described the legislation on “hate crimes” as charging someone “for what we think they were thinking.” Others warn that the bill is basically a gag order for religious figures who criticize homosexuality.

Lebanese immigrants, including Hezbollah terrorists, have been pouring across the Mexican border into the U.S. The *Washington Times* reported in April that Hezbollah has partnered with Mexican drug cartels to smuggle operatives and material into the country.

Britain has ended its combat operations in Iraq. British troops began pulling out of Basra on the last day of April. Meanwhile, Britain's BAE

Systems, the last heavy-duty combat vehicle manufacturer in the **United Kingdom**, is shutting down its tank-building plant and armor operations because it does not anticipate any new government orders.

Babies now come before marriage for most young women in Britain, the Office for National Statistics found. Women under 25 are more likely to become mothers before they consider getting married. Currently, about 45 percent of children in the UK are born to unmarried mothers.

On May 2, the public version of the Australian Ministry of Defense's 2009 white paper was released by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, which outlines the country's defense priorities. These priorities include projecting Australian influence and power north into **Indonesia**, which is a far-flung and fractious nation that boasts the world's largest national Muslim population (240 million)—and a place that a hostile power could easily coerce into hosting a military base that would project its power straight into **Australia**. For more on Australia's defense capabilities, read Chapter 8 of our online booklet *Australia—Where to Now?* on theTrumpet.com.

How to Save Money During a Recession

Financial freedom and peace of mind are just a budget away. BY ROBERT MORLEY

IF YOU ARE LIKE MOST PEOPLE, YOU hardly know where your last paycheck went.

You might be flabbergasted to see just where your money disappears—the wasted dollars, pounds or euros that could have been put to good work elsewhere.

Every successful business operates on a budget. Whether you are with or without debt—in a low-income bracket or high—if you would rather live on Boardwalk than the poorhouse on Baltic Avenue, *you need to establish a budget.*

But how?

The Necessities

Here is the basic rule for sensible budgeting: Never plan to spend more than you can afford.

In the past, financial planners in the U.S. said to spend no more than 20 percent of your income on housing. During the housing bubble years of the late 2000s, many planners adjusted that estimate up to 40 or even 50 percent. In the post-bubble era of recession and contraction, it is prudent to spend no more than 30 percent. That figure *includes* utilities and repairs as well as the rent or mortgage payment. (All of the percentages given here are to be figured on your *net* income—after income taxes and other deductions have been taken from the *gross* amount of your check.)

Food and groceries will generally take up 10 to 15 percent of your net income. This includes miscellaneous items purchased at the grocery store such as toothpaste, hair products, soap and so on. Those with large incomes can apportion a smaller percentage here and a larger percentage to some other category. If you have a large garden, you may apportion less since you grow

much of your own food. Larger families, on the other hand, may have to increase this percentage to be sure their budget allows for an adequate, wholesome diet.

Shoppers are often too hurried to notice prices. Many are unaware of the high cost of certain *kinds* of items. But it is also important *not to skimp on food*. Don't let the price drive you to eat cheaper, less-healthy foods. Instead, cut down your other expenses to allow enough money for a healthful diet.

To get the most healthful food for your money, be bargain conscious. Watch for specials, and eat plenty of fruits and vegetables—organic when possible. You can also save money by not buying the most expensive cuts of meat. By being careful and prudent, you can cut down your grocery expenses considerably and still eat healthy.

Your clothing budget may range from 5 to 10 percent of your net income, depending on regional climate, season and occupation. Buy only the type and quality of clothing that your budget will allow. Control your desires for expensive clothes if you cannot afford them. Be *very* careful about using that department store credit card; it can ruin you before you know it.

After the Necessities

Next after these three basic necessities comes transportation. Car payments, if any, gas and oil, insurance and repairs must be included. Don't forget that cars need repairs and preventive maintenance to keep them in safe running condition. If you cannot afford a car, don't buy one. You may need to explore the availability of public transportation instead. If you can afford a car, stay within your ability to pay for it. Endeavour to keep your transportation

costs between 10 to 15 percent.

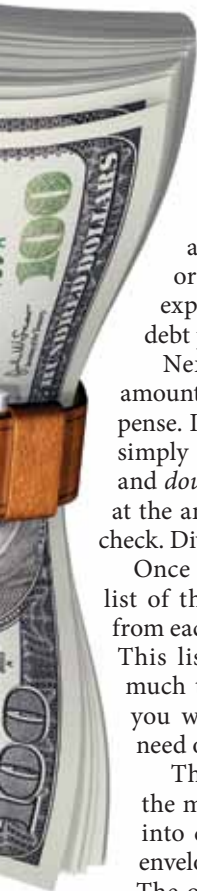
Be sure you carry at least the minimum auto insurance required by your state. You should also carry life insurance if you can possibly afford it. God's Word testifies that certain events will transpire and befall all men. It's appointed to man once to die (Hebrews 9:27). And "time and chance happeneth to them all" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Therefore, faith, wisdom, common sense and prudence alike dictate that we should be prepared for unforeseen eventualities. Having insurance is being responsible. In fact, it is showing love toward your neighbor. But don't let the combined premiums for all your insurance climb beyond 5 percent or so of your net income.

Other smaller items that you are apt to overlook are *entertainment* and *pocket money*. Though many feel that entertainment or recreation are luxuries they cannot afford, the truth is that some form of diversion is necessary to maintain a happy family. Plus, *budgeting* for these expenses keeps them from consuming more of your income than they should.

Pocket money for *miscellaneous* small expenses not included elsewhere in the budget—such as haircuts and newspapers—is also important. Without money in your pocket to buy what you need when you need it, you can *feel* like a pauper even though you have a comfortable balance in the bank.

Also, it's critical that you apportion part of your income to *savings*. More on that in a bit.





These overall guidelines will help you establish a practical, balanced budget.

Nuts and Bolts

Here's how to begin setting up a budget. First, sit down and make a complete list of all ordinary monthly and yearly expenses, including any monthly debt payments you might have.

Next, apportion the correct amount from each check for each expense. If you are paid twice a month, simply *divide* monthly bills in half and *double* any weekly bills to arrive at the amount to be taken from each check. Divide yearly bills by 24.

Once you have done this, make a list of the amounts that must come from each paycheck for each expense. This list will tell you exactly how much to save out of each check so you will have precisely what you need on hand to pay each bill.

There are two ways to handle the money itself. One is to turn it into cash and keep it in separate envelopes for each budget category. The other is to use a record book or computer program, and keep the money in the bank.

You may want to use a combination of these two methods. For those expenses most conveniently paid by check or automatic bill-pay, the bank method is probably *safer* and therefore recommended. You will have to keep detailed records, however, whereas no written records are necessary when you keep your cash in envelopes. The separate envelopes are their own record.

Since keeping large sums of money at home is rather risky, extreme care should be taken to keep any cash—and the knowledge of it—safe. The envelope system should be kept away from children and possible burglars and in a fire-proof box if possible. If you are struggling to keep to your budget due to uncontrollable credit card spending, cutting those cards up and using envelopes might be your best option. The only things you can buy are the things you have cash for.

Once properly set up, your budget will be simple to maintain each time you receive your check. You will always know that you have not overlooked any items and where your money is coming from and going to. You will be able to spend your money with the reassuring knowledge that

it was intended for that purpose, and that it was spent the wisest way possible *within the bounds* of your income. You will experience new joy and peace of mind, and you won't feel guilty spending for extras and even luxuries—because those expenses will come out of the funds specifically prepared for that purpose.

Two Categories of Savings

If we are to be truly successful in managing our finances, we must take Christ's advice in Matthew 6: Put our confidence in *God*. We can only do that if we are faithfully obeying His command to tithe. If we obey this law, blessings will overwhelm us (Malachi 3:10)—God promises! Those blessings might not always be apparent or exactly what you are looking for. This passage in Malachi doesn't guarantee financial blessings in the form of cash, but God says He will take care of us in far greater proportion than the 10 percent we pay back to Him. The context in Malachi 3 shows that if we rob God, or if we fail to live obediently under His tithing laws, we should not expect blessings and success.

It has been said that a good rule for wise financial management is to save something for a rainy day. A companion rule is to distinguish between light sprinkles and heavy showers.

Every family budget should provide for

paid for from such a fund. This savings fund is for things not regularly budgeted out of each check.

The other kind of savings is for totally unexpected, unpredictable emergencies. This is your *reserve savings*, a built-in safety valve for your budget. Authorities recommend you budget approximately 5 percent of your net earnings each pay period until you have accumulated two to three times your monthly pay. In today's uncertain economy, it would be best to have up to six months' worth of emergency savings. Then, when an emergency occurs that reduces your reserve, build it back up with the same diligence as before. An emergency fund reduces the stress resulting from any future financial problem. Anything we can do to prepare for tomorrow in a regular, consistent manner will help diminish some of the emotional impact that might result from an emergency.

Discipline

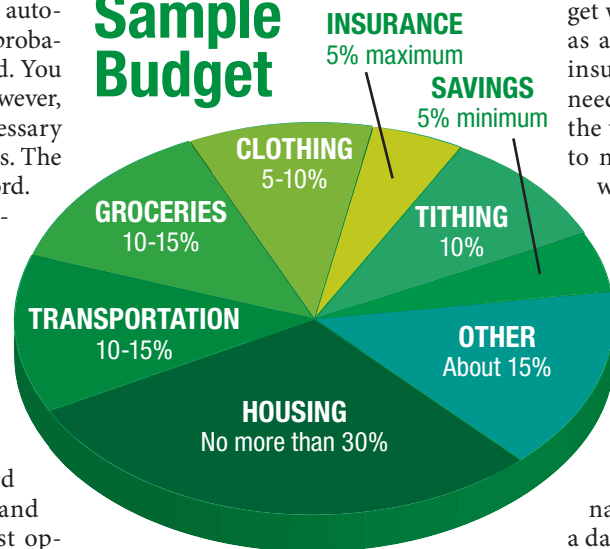
Using a budget to guide our financial lives requires diligence, thorough accounting and fortitude. Society throws many materialistic temptations our way, and human weakness is hard to overcome. But we must be disciplined throughout the year to stick to our budget. A well-managed budget accounts for our needs and helps us fulfill some of our desires.

We should review and change our budget whenever circumstances change, such as a pay raise at work or an increase in insurance costs. At least once a year, we need to review its accuracy. Throughout the year, we should evaluate our position to make sure we are consistently living within our means.

Don't view budgeting as restrictive. It is a practical, real way to ensure freedom from financial worry. As Jesus Christ said about God's way of life, *happy* are we if we *do* it! If we live a balanced lifestyle and are financially responsible, then even the emergencies that might arise will be less troubling, and we will certainly have more financial freedom and peace of mind on a day-to-day basis.

Set yourself the goal *now* to establish a well-balanced budget! Determine to live according to it and not let anything distract you! Doing so will prevent your tumbling from circumstance to circumstance and lead you into financial freedom. Needless worry and concern will be eliminated. Take charge of your financial future. That is what God desires for all of us! ■

Sample Budget



two kinds of savings. Though your initial amounts will be small, you need to develop this habit of saving.

One type of savings is for expected expenses. It is called *operational savings*. Special expenses like maternity bills, a major furnishing, new shingles for your roof, or preparing for winter should be

Radical Social Engineering

The “gay rights march” is gaining steamroller momentum. BY JOEL HILLIKER

“THIS IS NOT RADICAL SOCIAL engineering,” said Pennsylvania State Rep. Dan Frankel. “This is something that is becoming routine, almost. And it’s being embraced in some of the most unlikely places.”

Mr. Frankel is right. He’s also dead wrong.

He was speaking of a controversial bill moving through Pennsylvania’s legislature that would guarantee homosexuals and transsexuals protection against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. As he correctly said, such legal measures are becoming routine in the United States and are being embraced by an increasingly large swath of the nation.

But the notion that this doesn’t represent a radical reengineering of American society is a lie.

Victories on the Legal Front

The legality of same-sex “marriage” is rapidly gaining ground. In April, Iowa and Vermont joined Massachusetts and Connecticut in allowing same-sex unions. In May, Maine followed suit. New York already recognizes same-sex unions from other states and, along with New Hampshire and New Jersey, is poised to take up the question soon. Six other states and the District of Columbia legally permit some form of same-sex partner recognition.

Tellingly, all of this activity has taken place *outside the reach* of the voting populace. So far, 16 states have held referendums on the issue, and every one of them has voted it down with majorities ranging from 52 to 86 percent. So how have homosexual activists gotten these laws on the books? Some are using the judiciary—forcing controversial cases into court and enlisting the aid of radical judges to change laws. Others are driving

bills through state legislatures. In every case, their victories represent years of determined effort to push their cause.

In addition, 20 states and over 180 cities and counties across the country have passed legislation specifically banning discrimination against homosexuals and, in most cases, transsexuals.

The morally and culturally transformative nature of these laws is only beginning to manifest itself. The *Washington Post* of April 10 provided several recent examples of individuals and faith-based groups fighting legal battles for having resisted the cause—and losing.

- “A Christian photographer was forced by the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission to pay \$6,637 in attorney’s costs after she refused to photograph a gay couple’s commitment ceremony.
- “A psychologist in Georgia was fired after she declined for religious reasons to counsel a lesbian about her relationship.
- “Christian fertility doctors in California who refused to artificially inseminate a lesbian patient were barred by the state supreme court from invoking their religious beliefs in refusing treatment.
- “A Christian student group was not recognized at a University of California law school because it denies membership to anyone practicing sex outside of traditional marriage.”

These examples provide a glimpse at how rapidly the homosexual movement is progressing toward its goal: to be able to silence, with the full force of the law, anyone who objects to their immoral behavior. This cause is gaining steamroller momentum in not only the United States, but also several other Western nations.

Those who take a stand against it are getting leveled. Legal analysts say religious groups that resist supporting

homosexual rights could be punished by having to forfeit their tax exemptions. The *Post* also mentioned how any group opposing homosexuality can lose even when it wins. The Boy Scouts of America, for example, won the right in 2000 to ban openly homosexual Scout leaders. Since then, they have lost support from private charities and benefits from some governments. Right now courts are deciding a suit where the city of Philadelphia is demanding \$200,000 yearly rent on a building the Scouts had formerly used for free.

Expect such policies and legal actions to multiply. These homosexual activists are gaining allies in the highest offices in the country.

A Battalion of Zealots

The Obama administration has wasted no time in laying the groundwork for more radical social engineering. Aided by a sympathetic Congress, the president is filling the executive and judicial branches with liberal activists whose effect on the nation could be incalculable. Among them are notoriously radical advocates of abortion rights, pornography—and homosexuality and transsexuality.

As dean of Harvard Law School, Elena Kagan booted military recruiters from the campus and sought to do the same for all colleges that receive federal funds. Why? Because she believes the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy is “a moral injustice of the first order” by discriminating against soldiers who want to be openly homosexual. Kagan is now America’s new solicitor general—the executive branch’s chief courtroom lawyer and adviser to the Supreme Court.

Morrell John Berry, during his tenure as director of the National Zoo, implemented several pro-homosexual employee policies. He wants the Defense of Marriage Act repealed and supports benefits

for same-sex partners of federal employees. In April, Berry became director of the Office of Personnel Management, which puts him in charge of 1.9 million federal employees—and their benefits. He is the highest-ranking openly homosexual official ever to serve in the executive branch.

Harry Knox is a homosexual activist. Earlier this year he called certain Catholic leaders “foot soldiers of a discredited army of oppression” for supporting California’s Proposition 8, which legally defines marriage as male-female. He criticized the Apostle Paul for being an “educated, rich heterosexual man” who “didn’t think [homosexuality] was natural because for him it must not have been.” The president apparently appreciates Knox’s view of Scripture, because he appointed him to his Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

These are just a few individuals in what is shaping up to be a battalion of zealots being endowed with the power to give their immoral beliefs binding legal force and to turn their radical notions into reality. This army of activists is justifiably filling homosexuals with hope for the future of their cause.

The individuals and faith-based groups that are suffering losses to this juggernaut of homosexual rights claim that their “freedom of religion” is being sacrificed. In truth, the problem is far more pernicious than that.

It is nothing less than a revolutionary redefinition of *the pillar institution* in our society.

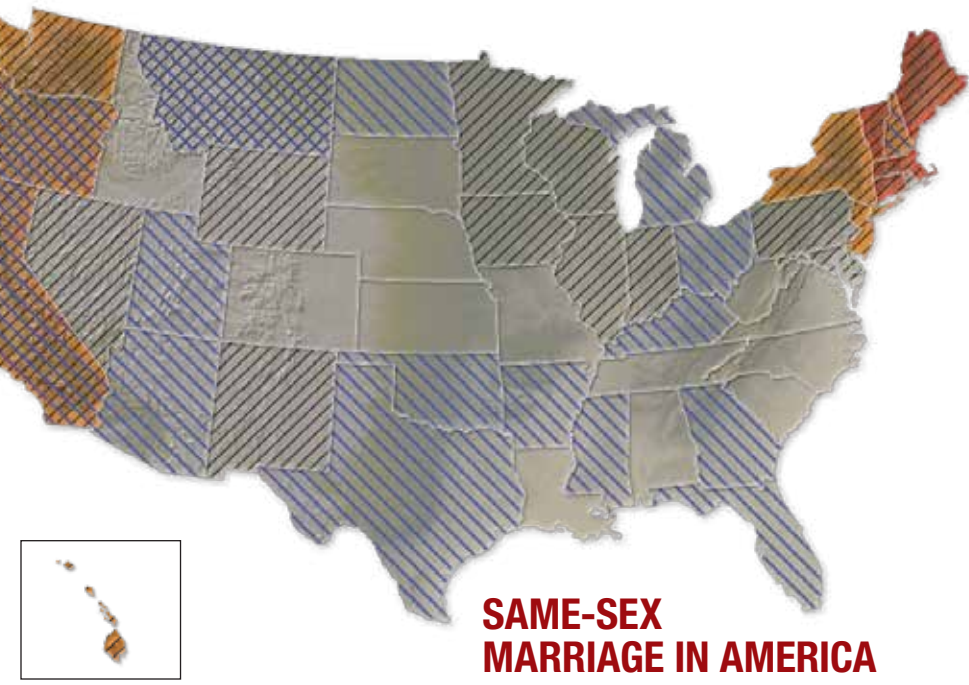
No civilization in history—not even those quite tolerant of homosexuality and transsexualism—has ever proposed *redefining the concept of marriage*.

Are any of the individuals so zealously promoting the gender confusion associated with these practices curious as to why?

Where Is This Leading?

The legal protections surrounding the marriage of a man and woman, and the children that emerge naturally from that union, are intended to safeguard family, the fundamental building block of civilization. The legal obstacles facing homosexual and other couples have been constructed expressly—in society after society throughout history—to discourage behavior that undermines social stability.

Evidence is plenteous showing the benefits of traditional marriage to both husband and wife, as well as society at large—and the high costs associated with its dissolution.



SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN AMERICA

	Voters rejected same-sex marriage.		Legalized same-sex civil unions.
	Homosexual anti-discrimination laws.		Legalized same-sex marriage.

Time and again, studies have shown the enormous advantages to children—in personal safety, academic performance, financial well-being, emotional stability, self-respect, and assimilation into law-abiding adult life, among other things—of growing up under the same roof with both biological parents. In other words, societal stability directly depends on the greatest number of children possible growing up in a home with both a father and a mother to whom they are biologically related.

Marriage is the most effective way of guaranteeing children grow up in this favorable environment. For the sake of our children and our society, we should be doing all we can to promote stable marriages—in the true sense of the term. (Order a free copy of *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* to understand the profound spiritual underpinnings of this wondrous institution.)

However, under an onslaught of no-fault divorce and other anti-family pressures, marriages are falling apart at alarming rates. In just the past few generations, every millennia-long tradition regarding marriage—all of which, it should be mentioned, were based on God-ordained laws—has been challenged: the respective roles of husband as guide and provider, and wife as helpmeet and homemaker; the importance of abstaining from sex outside of marriage; the authority of parents over their children. As these principles were contested, a negative cycle began. Rejection of these principles produced bad marriages and fueled the tendency to question the institution’s fundamental nature. The result was a general, misguided dissatisfaction with marriage itself and an inevitable

lack of appreciation for and understanding of it. The current dispute over the very idea of marriage involving one man and one woman is a measure of just how deep this misunderstanding has grown.

The legitimization of homosexual unions—as the jewel in the crown of a host of initiatives aimed at drawing more and more people into the homosexual lifestyle—is moving 180 degrees opposite the family stability we desperately need to be encouraging. This promotion of personal license over the broader interests of society is a deadly error.

To understand just *how* deadly, you need to understand how this trend was prophesied in the Bible. And not just in the Old Testament prophets. One of the gravest prophecies about it can be found in the New Testament *epistle of Jude*.

The Apostle Jude gave several examples of people whom God harshly judged. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, *are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire*” (Jude 7). Order a free copy of Gerald Flurry’s booklet about Jude to learn more about this prophecy. It’s likely the strongest warning you will ever hear on this tremendously crucial subject.

Make no mistake: We are witnessing *radical social engineering*. We all need to understand exactly where it will lead. ■

Financial Regulation in Prophecy!

Anti-Anglo-Saxon, anti-democratic, anti-free-enterprise: That's the system of global financial regulation that is about to exert its control around the globe! BY RON FRASER

“FOLLOW THE MONEY,” SAID the informant in the Watergate affair.

Similarly, if you really want to make sense of the complex web of banking, finance and commerce that makes up our global system of economy in the 21st century, just “follow the money.”

There are a number of major institutions that control and influence monetary policy throughout the world. Apart from the World Bank (also incorporating the Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and the International Monetary Fund headquartered in Washington, D.C., the institutions that are currently most influencing monetary policy are based on the continent of Europe.

Most influential among these European-headquartered institutions are the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), based in Switzerland, and the European Central Bank, in Germany. A recent addition to these, and destined to probably become the most powerful, is the global regulatory authority termed the Financial Stability Board (FSB), cloned from a German initiative by the G-7 nations, within which the EU is the dominant force.

Why should you be concerned about this?

Note this electrifying Mail Online report from May 9: “The paper is aged and fragile, the typewritten letters slowly fading. But U.S. Military Intelligence report EW-Pa 128 is as chilling now as the day it was written in November 1944.

“The document, also known as the Red House Report, is a detailed account of a secret meeting at the Maison Rouge Hotel in

Strasbourg on Aug. 10, 1944. There, Nazi officials ordered an elite group of German industrialists to plan for Germany's post-war recovery, prepare for the Nazis' return to power and work for a ‘strong German empire.’ In other words: the Fourth Reich.” (This intelligence report is reprinted in full in our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.)

This plan for a Nazi comeback was to be funded by cash and bullion, channeled through the Swiss National Bank and the Nazi-controlled Bank for International Settlements in exchange for a 5 percent commission.

Why are both these banks, to this very day, still at the heart of the international banking system? Why do they wield such clout in determining money flows, interest and exchange rates internationally? The real answer is astounding! As Adam LeBor reflects, “[T]hese three typewritten pages are a reminder that today's drive towards a European federal state is inexorably tangled up with the plans of the SS and German industrialists for a Fourth Reich ...” (ibid.).

Power of the Central Banks

The distribution of wealth internationally is vested in the nations' central banks. Of these, the most powerful is the Bank for International Settlements.

The BIS, based in Basel, Switzerland, was originally established after World War I to collect and distribute Germany's war reparation payments. It soon became the “bank for central banks,” supplying safe haven for the European central banks' gold stocks. Its sole depositors are, in fact, the central banks. A treaty signed in 1930 at The Hague guarantees the BIS

immunity from government intervention and from paying taxes on the profits it makes on all transactions.

Secrecy is a vital ingredient to the operations of the BIS. As Edward Epstein reported in 1983 for *Harper's Magazine*, “[T]he central banks themselves have highly competent staff capable of investing their deposits. The German Bundesbank, for example, has a superb international trading department and 15,000 employees—at least 20 times as many as the BIS staff. Why then do the Bundesbank and the other central banks transfer some \$40 billion of deposits to the BIS and thereby permit it to make such a profit?

“One answer is, of course, *secrecy*. By committing part of their reserves in what amounts to a gigantic mutual fund of short-term investments, the central banks create a convenient screen behind which they can *hide their own deposits and withdrawals* in financial centers around the world. For example, if the BIS places funds in Hungary, the individual central banks do not have to answer to their governments for investing in a Communist country. And the central banks are apparently willing to pay a high fee to use *the cloak of the BIS*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Since its creation as the institution through which German war reparations were supposed to be channeled, the BIS has become the most powerful banking institution in the world—in reality, the world's central bank.

Epstein described the regular treks of central bankers to the BIS as follows: “Ten times a year—once a month except in August and October—a small group of well-dressed men arrives in Basel, Switzerland. Carrying overnight bags and attaché cases, they discreetly check into the Euler Hotel, across from the railroad station. They have come to this sleepy city from places as disparate as Tokyo, London and Washington, D.C., for the regular meeting of the most exclusive, *secretive* and powerful supranational club in the world.”

In general, Epstein's description of the power and influence of the BIS remains accurate to this day. “The membership of this club is restricted to a handful of powerful men who determine daily the interest rate, the availability of credit, and the money supply of the banks in their own countries. They include the governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the Swiss National Bank, and the German Bundesbank.

“The club controls a bank with a ... kitty in cash, government securities and

POWER The Financial Stability Board, chaired by Mario Draghi, is entrusted with the economies of nations.



gold that constitutes about one tenth of the world's available foreign exchange. The profits earned just from renting out its hoard of gold (second only to that of Fort Knox in value) are more than sufficient to pay for the expenses of the entire organization. And the unabashed purpose of its elite monthly meetings is to coordinate and, if possible, to *control all monetary activities in the industrialized world.*"

Then there's the leading customer of the BIS, the powerful European Central Bank (ECB).

Underpinning the European Monetary Union (EMU), the ECB operates from Frankfurt, Germany. It sets monetary policy for the EMU completely independent from the influence of any of the national governments or anyone else. The ECB combines with the central banks of all of the states in the European Union to form the European System of Central Banks, which implements the monetary policy of the ECB.

The Financial Stability Board

At a meeting in Bonn on Feb. 20, 1999, Dr. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Deutsche Bundesbank, recommended to the finance ministers and the governors of the central banks of the G-7 nations (Germany, Italy, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.) the establishment of a Financial Stability Forum (FSF). The G-7 accepted the proposal.

Ten years later, at the G-20 meeting in London in April, the world's 20 richest countries agreed to accept regulation of their economies by the FSF under its new

name, the Financial Stability Board.

The final communiqué to which all G-20 nations agreed commits each of those nations to action as follows: "In particular we agree:

- "to establish a new Financial Stability Board (FSB) with a strengthened mandate, as a successor to the Financial Stability Forum (FSF), including all G-20 countries, FSF members, Spain, and the European Commission;
- "that the FSB should collaborate with the IMF to provide early warning of macroeconomic and financial risks and the actions needed to address them; ...
- "to extend regulation and oversight to all systemically important financial institutions, instruments and markets. ...
- "to endorse and implement the FSF's tough new principles on pay and compensation and to support sustainable compensation schemes and the corporate social responsibility of all firms."

With four of the G-7 nations plus Spain being EU member nations, added to which is the European Commission, it is obvious that the most influential bloc under FSB regulation will be the European Union.

Pending Chaos

When the powers of the BIS and the ECB are aligned with that of the new Financial Stability Board—especially given the current global economic and financial crisis—a certain vision of the future, prophesied in your Bible, suddenly leaps into perspective. It is a vision that was prophesied decades ago by Herbert Armstrong.

During the 1980s, bank failures in the

United States broke all records in the wake of the savings-and-loans crisis. In 1982, Herbert Armstrong could see the writing on the wall. With the long-term effects of financial irresponsibility in mind, speaking from Vienna in a message to his supporters, he declared that the failure of any major bank in the U.S. "will affect the banks in Britain, in Paris, in Tokyo, and in the capitals of the world. And the heads of the governments in those countries know it.

"The banking system is so interlocked between nations, that if one goes under they will all go under and that's going to mean *chaos*, economic *chaos* all over the world for many nations and millions and billions of people."

It was German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche who declared, "The German soul has its passage-

ways and inter-passageways; there are caves, hideouts and dungeons in it; its disorder has a good deal of the attraction of the mysterious; the German is expert on secret paths to *chaos*."

Sigrid Schultz, who reported for the *Chicago Tribune* from within Germany after World War I through the early years of World War II, wrote, "[T]he Germans have brought *chaos* and agony to every country within their long reach. They will cry *chaos* again, and still again ... at the first sign of weakness on our part, *they'll try it again*" (*Germany Will Try It Again*).

Schultz described how the Nazi organization was set up as far back as 1940 to continue to pursue the Nazi dream of world conquest underground in the event of German defeat in World War II. "The broad outline of the campaign aims at a 'scientifically provoked and directed *chaos*,' with which they feel certain to win ultimate victory," Schultz wrote.

Most integral to the ultimate fulfillment of the Nazi vision was *control of the global banking system!*

German Influence

Schultz tracked the effort to infiltrate and exert influence and ultimate control of the global banking system back to as early as Germany's defeat in World War I in 1918. She pointed to the initiatives of German Gen. Erich Ludendorff, who initiated a covert interwar enterprise comprised of nationalist Germans "with wide knowledge of human beings and the world ... to serve their common cause—German world supremacy. ... Since then its mem-

bership has quietly directed the *creation of world encompassing political and financial structures.*” Following the 1918 armistice, “the most trusted secret staff members who held positions in the *Reichsbank* [predecessor of today’s Bundesbank], the *Finance Ministry*, and, naturally, the War Office, took care to keep their jobs.”

This is no conspiracy theorist in action. This is a steely-minded journalist who was personally acquainted with Hitler, Goering and Himmler, who lived and worked in Germany between 1918 and 1943, who had a deep perception of the orientation of the German elites and their dream to revive the old Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation!

A similar perception was held by Bernard Connolly, who formerly worked in the monetary policy area within the EU. He noted the “plans for a German-dominated European Economic Community that had been detailed during 1941 in a compendium of papers presented to the president of the Reichsbank”—and a number of leading bankers, industrialists and economists within the Third Reich. “That blueprint bore a startling resemblance to the EEC [European Economic Community] of the Treaty of Rome” (*The Rotten Heart of Europe*).

Connolly went on to note that the Nazi professor who synthesized this “compendium of papers” specifically emphasized that the economic policy of a united Europe should not reflect “the old structural laws of the Anglo-Saxon world economy,” but rather “must be shaped in accordance with the new [Nazi] political criteria and will consequently appear different from the economic structures of the past.”

That very system is currently imposed on 27 nations in Europe.

Then, suddenly, in the wake of April’s G-20 conference in London, we find that a very German idea, having initially gained acceptance as the Financial Stability Forum by the EU-dominated G-7 nations, has become, under a new name, the regulatory authority for the global economy! The Financial Stability Board’s authority is not based on those “old structural laws of the Anglo-Saxon world economy,” but on “new political criteria ... different from the economic structures of the past”!

As Dick Morris commented in an observation much keener than most observers, “Literally from April 2 of this year ... it’s a whole new world of financial regulation in which, essentially, all of the U.S. regulatory bodies and all U.S. companies

are put under international regulation, international supervision. *It really amounts to a global economic government*” (Fox News, April 2).

How could the leaders of the G-20 nations have been so fooled?

Dick Morris laid his finger on the reason. “I’ve had a long experience in dealing with the European Union, and *this is how they operate*. All the [G-20] focus was on how much will there be in the stimulus package, \$1.1 trillion. And did Obama win? Did Sarkozy win? And in the meantime, *they slip this in under the radar, which is absolutely creating an international economic union.*”

“It’s a whole new world of financial regulation in which, essentially, all of the U.S. regulatory bodies and all U.S. companies are put under international regulation”

DICK MORRIS

Follow the Money

It is in *monetary policy* that the innate drive toward centralizing Teutonic corporatism has found its greenest pastures.

Since 1979, when the European Council adopted the European Monetary System—consuming in the establishment of the ECB and subsequent launching of the single European currency, the euro, in 1999—the European central banking system has evolved into a powerful source of financial regulation and control.

When EU monetary policy is linked with the EU drive for global financial regulatory power, the agenda of the EU elites is revealed at its most sinister, anti-Anglo-Saxon, anti-free-enterprise level. This becomes of even greater concern when objective historical research reveals that, in Europe, “there is a certain overlap between two currents of thought—Nazi and modern pro-Europeanism—whose ... antecedents reach back in European intellectual and geopolitical history to well before the outbreak of the Second World War ...” (John Laughlin, *The Tainted Source*).

Perhaps nowhere is that old Nazi vision as prevalent as in the European central banking system.

A consistent thread that runs from the

European Commission headquarters in Brussels, via Basel, through Frankfurt, to Berlin, and on to Rome, has woven its web of covert banking intrigue. It began in the post-World War I process of German reparations in 1918, and has led to the most recent establishment of the new global finance and banking regulator, the FSB, in April. This thread ties together the BIS, the IMF, the ECG, the powerful Bundesbank, and the Vatican Bank with the FSB.

If you want to make sense of the massive changes that have taken place in the global order since the Berlin Wall fell, then simply “follow the money.” It will lead you to Brussels, via Basel, to Frankfurt, to Berlin, and ultimately to Rome!

Recently, there has been no more powerful witness to the accuracy of the biblical prophecies publicized for over 50 years by Herbert Armstrong and for the past 20 years by Gerald Flurry than this latest startling development in the global economy.

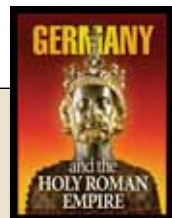
As Herbert Armstrong declared, “I believe that some event is going to happen *suddenly*, just like out of a blue sky, that is going to shock the whole world, and is going to cause the nations in Europe to realize they must unite! ... I think I can see what may be the very event that is going to trigger it, and that is the economic situation in the world” (public address, July 7, 1984).

Mr. Armstrong pointed to massive bank failures as causing “*chaos*, economic *chaos* all over the world for many nations and millions and billions of people.”

Watch for the coming *chaos* that will soon set in across the world in the wake of these huge changes to the global financial system, creating great disruption in the global economy. And as you watch, see this *chaos* transmute the current unwieldy 27-nation EU into a tightly knit combine under 10 leaders, all giving their allegiance to one who will promise to bring order out of that chaos.

Watch for the rise of that prophesied “king of the north” that will create, for a brief moment in time, a “new world order” out of that chaos—an order most reminiscent of that *ancient* order that has historically wreaked so much *chaos* in the world: *the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation!* ■

For further study, order a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



Infiltrating Egypt

Is Iran about to take over? BY RICHARD PALMER

EGYPT HAD A VERY PUBLIC ARGUMENT with Hezbollah recently. In April it arrested 49 Hezbollah agents for espionage and planning hostile operations. A government-controlled newspaper even called Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah a “monkey sheikh.”

This spat is no trivial matter. Hezbollah is essentially an arm of Iran. And Iran poses a serious threat. Its infiltration of Egypt has become so deep that Cairo felt impelled to act.

The Hezbollah cell arrested in April had smuggled weapons and arms to Hamas, planned attacks on tourists in the Sinai, and conducted surveillance on the Suez and other strategic

targets. According to Egypt’s Attorney General Abdel-Magid Mohammed, it had rented apartments overlooking the Suez Canal to spy on canal traffic, and held training workshops on how to spread Shiite ideology in Egypt.

Nasrallah rejected the many accusations but did admit that Hezbollah had some operatives in the area to smuggle weapons and men into Gaza.

In spite of the bust, the threat is far from neutralized. Israel’s Lt. Col. Moshe Marzouk, of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, warned: “Other cells operate in Egypt. The one that was uncovered is neither the first nor the last, and so there is still the danger of an attack against the Israeli Embassy in Cairo” (Ynetnews, April 13).

Too Strong to Shake Off

“Egypt’s territory has become no-man’s-land for the smuggling of money, weapons and terror cells. In fact, because of the difficulties in transporting arms, Hezbollah and the Iranians have built rocket production workshops in Sinai,” Lieutenant

Colonel Marzouk continued. “However, until now the Egyptians preferred not to act against the cells, assuming they do not pose a threat to the Egyptian regime but [are] rather meant for Gaza.”

“Now it has become clear that the terror infrastructure was planning to carry



ANOTHER THINK COMING
Hezbollah’s leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and puppetmaster, Iran, have something in store for Egypt.

out attacks against Israeli targets in the heart of Egypt, while ignoring the sovereignty of the local government, and by this it crossed a red line.”

Hezbollah is not the only group Iran is using to infiltrate Egypt. Iran has long had informal ties with Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, an extremist group that aims to create an Islamic state in Egypt.

Iran has also heavily penetrated Egypt’s neighbor Sudan, out of which the Nile flows. Journalist Smadar Peri painted a dire picture of how vulnerable this makes Egypt: “In one moment, Iranian intelligence agents can block the Nile’s water sources, Egypt’s lifeblood, send in al-Qaeda-style murderers, and smuggle weapons and explosives not only to Gaza’s tunnels but also to Cairo and to the Alexandria Port” (ibid., April 12).

It is now clear to Egypt’s leaders that Iran’s presence through Hezbollah—to mention Egypt’s own Muslim Brotherhood—is a threat not only to Israel, but to their own nation as well. Marzouk says Iran’s hold on Egypt is already too strong for Egypt to shake off.

Iran’s Fingerprints

Hezbollah’s activities in Egypt have Iran’s fingerprints all over them. Two of the Hezbollah agents arrested in April worked for an Iranian TV channel broadcasting out of Cairo. Its offices were used by Hezbollah for secret meetings.

The government knows that Iran is the real enemy. Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* quoted a senior official in Cairo saying that Iran was plotting to use Hezbollah to attack various targets across Egypt.

“The terror network is just part of the second stage of the Islamic revolution, whose goal is not only to take over Iran like in Khomeini’s days, but also to export the revolution to the Muslim countries of the region,” Marzouk stated.

“Iran has started pouring money into the Arab countries years ago, in a bid to establish ideological-religious infrastructure that would help topple the Sunni regimes” (op. cit.).

Now Egypt has had to act against Hezbollah for its national security. It shows how strong Iran’s influence has grown.

Over recent years, Egypt has shifted closer to Iran. Iran wants Egypt onside—either by cajoling it into forming an alliance or by replacing the regime with one more supportive of the Islamic revolution. By infiltrating Egypt with groups like Hezbollah, Tehran could compel Cairo to align more with Iran to avoid trouble—or it could use the group to help put an Islamist government in power.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is aging. If he died or was removed violently, it would be easy for the popular Muslim Brotherhood to take over. Should that happen, you could expect the Brotherhood to align Egypt with radical Iran.

For years, the *Trumpet* has warned that Egypt will ally with Iran just before the return of Christ. Daniel 11:40 prophesies that “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.” A pushy nation south of Europe will provoke a great northern European power. This nation is Iran—a nation constantly pushing against the world’s major powers. But then verse 42 lists Egypt as one of Iran’s allies. Our free booklet *The King of the South* explains this prophecy.

Iran’s infiltration of Egypt is a step on the road toward Christ’s return. The Bible shows that Egypt will soon be allied with Iran. Watch closely for this prophecy to be fulfilled. ■





The Giants of the East

For decades, Herbert W. Armstrong said it would happen. Today, Russia and China are strong allies. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

RUSSIA AND CHINA ARE NOW BETTER prepared to fight together than Britain and America were before World War II.

For decades, Herbert W. Armstrong predicted an alliance between Russia and China. "Scripture prophesies two great military powers to arise in the last days—one the revival of the Roman Empire by a federation of 10 nations in the territory of the ancient Roman Empire; the other ... Russia, with her allies ... possibly China or Japan," he wrote in the *Plain Truth* as far back as 1934.

He kept proclaiming this message as the Communist Party took over China. He held to this forecast even as Russia and China broke off relations in 1964, and Chinese posters publicly called for the people of the world "to overthrow Soviet revisionism."

Since Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, much has changed. The USSR has fallen and been replaced by Vladimir Putin's Russia. China has risen to become an economic and even military powerhouse. Yet Mr. Armstrong's prophecies continue to prove correct. Russia and China are now close allies.

"Anti-Terrorist" Exercises

Although the two don't always see eye to

eye, Russia and China today have a strong military alliance, largely to counter mutual foes. The two nations have already signed a de facto defense pact.

Russia and China held their first set of war games in 2005. These were labeled "anti-terrorist" exercises, but in reality they were far more—involving over 10,000 troops, warships and airplanes. They simulated landing attacks against hostile shores and even featured large-scale paratroop drops. Experts believe they may have been a trial run for a joint Russia-China invasion of Taiwan, or for supporting a Central Asian government against an American-backed insurgency.

Another major Russian-Chinese "anti-terrorist" exercise, called "Peace Mission 2009," is scheduled for this summer. The war games, primarily intended to benefit the command staff, will involve around 2,000 men, as well as tanks, artillery and other heavy ground equipment.

In April, Russia and China announced yet more military exercises as part of a new era of military cooperation in their growing "strategic partnership." During a meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov announced that Russia and China would hold

up to 25 joint maneuvers in 2009. "This points to a high level of cooperation between the defense ministries of the two countries," he said.

These types of war games show a phenomenal level of cooperation. Many analysts have dismissed them as being inconsequential, especially as compared with the military integration within NATO, for example, or the old Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. However, as United Press International analyst Martin Sieff pointed out, the NATO model of a permanent alliance is historically very unusual. "Before World War II and until U.S. entry into the war in December 1941, Britain and the United States held no exercises comparable to the scope and complexity of the 21st-century series of Russian-Chinese summer maneuvers," he wrote (March 26).

Just as Mr. Armstrong prophesied, Russia and China's military alliance has become reality.

"Special Relations in All Fields"

In 2001, Moscow and Beijing signed a "Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation." Article Nine of this treaty states, "When a situation arises in which one of the contracting parties deems that peace is being threatened and undermined or its security interests are involved or when it is confronted with the threat of aggression, the contracting parties shall immediately hold contacts and consultations in order to eliminate such threats."

If one of these nations is attacked, the other is bound to defend it. This is a military alliance. The two nations are training to fight together and have already signed a treaty pledging to defend each other.

Since the treaty was signed in 2001, the two countries have only grown closer. This year is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and China, and statesmen from both countries want to use this milestone to become closer still—especially in military cooperation.



IT'S HERE The head of Russia's armed forces' General Staff (right) welcomes his Chinese counterpart during joint military exercises in 2005. Historically leery of each other, China and Russia are now embracing each other as key allies.

Last December, Chinese President Hu Jintao praised the nations' military alliance during talks with Russia's visiting defense minister. "As the strategic partnership between China and Russia develops, the relationship between the two militaries has also continued to become more consolidated and stronger," he said. "I hope ... to advance the China-Russian strategic partnership and the relationship between the two militaries from a new historical starting point to better and faster development toward the future."

In April, in a meeting with China's defense minister, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that Russia maintains "special relations in all fields" with China.

His foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, went into more detail following talks with China's foreign minister. "Russia and China have a common vision of the contemporary world and of its development trends; a common vision of ways to tackle global and regional problems based on international law, a more central role for the UN, and multilateral diplomacy," he said. "Secondly, Russia and China, in the framework of the approaches I have set out, always support each other on concrete issues that directly affect the national interests of Russia and China. Such comradely mutual assistance is only going to be strengthened."

Where It Is Leading

Russia and China have "a common vision of the contemporary world," they "always support each other on concrete issues that directly affect the national interests of Russia and China," and they have a de-facto military alliance to back it up.

Compare that reality with this forecast in the February/March 1985 *Plain Truth*: "Ultimately, as the prophesied united Europe rises to global superpowerdom, a fearful Kremlin would be *forced to settle its differences with China*—to be free to deal with rising European religious political and military leadership.

"However it happens, Russia and Asian neighbors *will* ultimately find themselves in some degree joining forces out of necessity to confront a power they perceive as threatening ..." (emphasis mine).

Today, Europe is rising in the world. Russia and China are already responding by joining forces. What is next?

Mr. Armstrong actually forecast a Russia-China alliance as one of the events leading to the return of Christ!

The April 1952 *Plain Truth* foretold the fall of the Iron Curtain and the rise of a 10-nation union in Europe: "Russia may

give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria to complete the 10-nation union."

In January 1957, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "When the right psychological moment arrives, a number of these nations will break away from Moscow." This has already happened. Many of the countries that were behind the Iron Curtain are now part of the European Union. Watch for this Union to shrink to 10 entities, as Mr. Armstrong forecasted.

The military alliance between Russia and China is already in place. Watch for other Asian nations like Japan and India to put aside their differences as the Euro-

The military alliance between Russia and China is already in place. Watch for other Asian nations like Japan and India to put aside their differences as the European Union continues to rise in the west.

pean Union continues to rise in the west.

In 1980, Mr. Armstrong personally warned China's then-Vice Chairman Tan Zhen-lin of this future. He recounted the exchange in the February 1980 *Plain Truth*: "Mr. Vice-Chairman ... there will be ... a union of 10 nations or groups of nations in Western Europe—and it might include two or three Russian satellite countries—in a union of church and state—brought about largely by the Roman Catholic Church. ... They will have a common currency, a common government and a common military power. It will emerge out of the present Common Market. It is going to shock the whole world," he said.

He was right! Yet how could Mr. Armstrong possibly have known these things would happen? It wasn't because of any special insight he had himself. He knew because these events were prophesied thousands of years ago in the Bible.

Based on those prophecies, he also told the vice chairman of the hope that was on the horizon: "There will finally come ... a tremendous single world power, with political and military rule over ALL nations—no military power to challenge it. I speak with heads of governments all over the world. All are faced with problems, troubles and evils greater than any man or group of men can handle—although many or most heads of state are unusually competent men. They are doing the best they can, and I'm trying to assist any way I can as an ambassador for world peace. But it will finally require what an American

editor called the intervention of an unseen 'STRONG HAND FROM SOMEPLACE' to bring about this world-ruling Kingdom."

Daniel 11 prophesies of a great Northern European power that will invade the Middle East and conquer Jerusalem. But notice what stops this power in its tracks: "But tidings *out of the east and out of the north* shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (verse 44).

Which nations are north and east of Jerusalem? Russia and China—among other Asian nations. When this European "king of the north" conquers the Middle East, these "kings of the east" will feel threatened, and will unite to mobilize militar-

ily. This prompts the king of the north to make a preemptive strike.

In 1956, Mr. Armstrong also wrote about the how this European empire would meet its end. "Plagues, terrible beyond description, shall fall upon this fascist European empire," he wrote. "The sixth of these punishing plagues will be a military invasion of Europe by the Communist forces from Russia and the Orient. By that time, the Red Armies of Russia, China and allies will number 200 MILLION!

"Think of it. A vast army of 200 million soldiers! These vast hordes will then sweep across Europe, UTTERLY DESTROYING ALL THIS RESURRECTED ROMAN EMPIRE!"

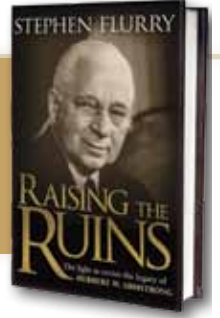
Revelation 9:16 tells of this attack by a great *200 million-man army*. Where could an army this huge come from but an alliance of populous Asian nations? These nations strike back against the king of the north by forging the largest army the world has ever seen, in a colossal military alliance.

But these prophecies all end in the intervention of that "strong hand from someplace." The book of Revelation shows that this Asian army, along with all human armies, will finally be destroyed by a triumphant Jesus Christ.

Mr. Armstrong showed that this Russia-China alliance is another step toward Christ's return!

You can prove these forecasts from the Bible by requesting a free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.





In his book *Raising the Ruins*, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God.

Here is part one of the 25th chapter.

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

Raising the Ruins

PART ONE

“[A]nd I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old.”

— Amos 9:11

AFTER WORK ON JUNE 29, 2000, I PICKED UP MY WIFE and newborn daughter at home and we drove about 7 miles north in Edmond before pulling off the road onto an open field. The sun was setting—we have beautiful sunsets in Oklahoma—and since it was June, it wasn’t too hot yet. We got out of our car and walked across the field. I was holding our baby girl, and everything was calm and peaceful.

Not long after we arrived, a few other cars full of people pulled up and did the same thing—slowly driving through grass before parking and getting out. It reminded me of *Field of Dreams*—a movie about a farmer who built a beautiful baseball field and people from miles around showed up just to see it.

We didn’t have that many people show up—there were about 25 of us. And there was no baseball field. In fact, there was nothing! I mean, there was a certain natural beauty to the place—especially because of a small, spring-fed pond surrounded by clusters of trees—but most of it was just an open field with wild grass that had grown up to about knee level.

There were no roads.

No real entrance onto the property.

No buildings.

Nothing.

And yet, there we were—25 of us—wandering around, sipping champagne. We were fellowshiping. We were laughing. We were envisioning the future.

Shortly after we visited that field, my father wrote in the *Trumpet*, “I plan to start a small college in 2001, perhaps 2002. In June, the Philadelphia Church of God purchased 38 acres of land with a beautiful 3-acre lake.”

That was quite an announcement! In our church newspaper, it had been mentioned that this 38 acres might also be the site for a future *television studio*, an *office building*, an *auditorium* and a *youth camp*. And—on top of that, a new college! That’s a lot to squeeze on 38 acres, especially when a small lake and shoreline cover seven or eight of those acres. My father continued, “At our college, we will teach our young people to open their minds to all truth and ‘prove all things.’ ... [O]ur aim will be to provide students with a well-rounded, liberal arts education. We plan

to have strong classes in history, journalism, music, nutrition, computers, television production, speech and leadership.”

He wrote this just *two weeks* after buying a field. Later in the article, he wrote, “We will have a class on news analysis, where students will be taught the true meaning behind world news. They will see how world news is fulfilling Bible prophecy. Their Bibles will come alive as they never imagined!

“We also have the capacity to teach accounting, agriculture, English, Spanish and some other basic classes.”

We hadn’t broken ground on a single building. There were no administrators. There were no departments, no teachers and no students. Even more astounding was that just a few weeks after my father wrote that article, the church purchased another field of 120 acres!

Without a doubt, our college and new headquarters facility had to begin first as a *vision*.

■ DAY OF SMALL THINGS

In the Old Testament, God commissioned His servant Zerubbabel to lead a band of captive Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem in order to build a temple. In Zechariah 4:6, God said to Zerubbabel, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.” In other words, for Zerubbabel to successfully complete his task—even in the face of numerous obstacles and strong enemy resistance—he needed *God’s power*. Unless *God* built the house through His human instruments, all their labor would have been in vain.

So God started His rebuilding work in Jerusalem, which had become a desolate wasteland during its Babylonian captivity, through this small remnant of Jews. “For who hath despised the day of small things?” God asked in Zechariah 4:10. Zerubbabel’s enemies were critical of his work because of how small it started.

Mr. Armstrong’s critics also found fault with the way the Worldwide Church of God began. His God-given commission to preach the gospel to the world started in 1933 on a small 100-watt radio station in Eugene, Oregon. He began publishing the *Plain Truth* magazine the following year; the inaugural issue, mimeographed by hand, went to 234 recipients. Ev-

everything seemed so small and insignificant *at the beginning*. But it was all by DESIGN.

“When the great God, Creator and Ruler of the vast universe, does something by Himself,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, “He demonstrates His supreme power by doing it in a stupendous, awe-inspiring manner. But when it is actually God who is doing something through humans, it must start the smallest. Like the grain of mustard seed, the smallest of herbs, which grows to become the largest, God’s works through humans must start the smallest, but they grow, and grow, and grow, until they become the biggest!”

Though his work started from practically *nothing*, Mr. Armstrong walked by faith. He had no scholarly training, no corporate funding, and yet, thanks to the blessings of God, over a period of decades he raised up a highly successful, globe-encompassing work. When God builds something through people, He starts small, because He never wants us to forget that *He is the one who provides the increase*.

“Had Ambassador College started big,” Mr. Armstrong continued, “with several hundred or a few thousand students, a great campus filled with large college buildings—an administration building, classroom buildings, laboratories, music conservatory, large ornate auditorium, gymnasium, a fine quarter-mile track and football field, a large library building with 500,000 volumes, dormitories, dining halls—everything complete, then I could certainly have no faith in accepting it as God’s college.”

That wasn’t how Ambassador College developed at all. It began as a modest institution, almost comically tiny.

■ A MAN OF VISION

On Nov. 27, 1946, Mr. Armstrong located what seemed to be a suitable building for the school, though it was somewhat run-down. Within weeks of the purchase, Mr. Armstrong produced a special edition of the *Plain Truth* magazine, January-February 1947, announcing the exciting news: “This year, September 22, our own new school, Ambassador College, will swing open its doors to students!”

If something like this seemed unlikely in 2000 after we bought those 38 acres, how much more so in 1947, considering the limited help and experience Mr. Armstrong had at his disposal? He wasn’t raising ruins that had been built before—he was starting from scratch! Mr. Armstrong continued, “Ambassador is to be a general liberal arts institution—not a Bible school, ministers’ college, or theological seminary. It will fit students for all walks of life, offering a general and practical basic education, with unusual advantages for special technical courses, as well as a thorough, sound, complete Bible course. ... There is no other college like Ambassador.”

No other college like Ambassador? THERE WAS NO AMBASSADOR at that point. All the church had was a run-down building in Pasadena. And besides Mr. Armstrong, there was no faculty. No students had even applied.

But why was Mr. Armstrong so confident his vision of Ambassador College would turn into reality?

Because he had faith in the POWER of God!

Here is how Mr. Armstrong described this college which, as he wrote, did not yet exist: “It is, in a sense, a revolutionary new-type college—*different* from those of today’s world—a forward-looking, progressive institution built on soundest principles, having highest goals and objectives, yet employ-

ing the best of proved methods of administration, and maintaining highest academic standards.” How CLEAR the concept was in Mr. Armstrong’s mind. He continued, “The vision of this new and *different* college, and its imperative urgent need, came like a revelation straight from God last spring. At first the idea seemed impossible, for us—almost fantastic.

“But the Eternal our God is a miracle-working God who promises to supply every need. And literally, God has performed a miracle! When one knows the facts and circumstances, that cannot be doubted. Events have happened swiftly! Amazing developments occurred unexpectedly. The vision has become a definite reality. The opening of Ambassador College next September is assured.”

What an example of faithful reliance on God—and of *vision*.

In that same article, Mr. Armstrong described the vast difference between an Ambassador education as compared to what any other college had to offer. Instead of teaching students how to make a living, Ambassador’s focus would be on *how to live*—on developing godly character.

Modern education, he wrote, wastes precious years on “nonconsequential details and impractical and untrue theories, instead of teaching young men and women the basic knowledge of life—what life is, why we are here, where we are going, and *how to live* successfully, usefully, happily, joyfully!”

Ambassador was to be the solution to the evils of modern education. Its curriculum would be different from all other colleges. He wanted to offer general education courses in science, math, music and physical health. But the spiritual instruction on how to live would underpin all of it.

Mr. Armstrong also had a crystal-clear vision of social life at Ambassador. He said it would be “directed not toward just ‘fun’ alone, or worldly pleasures, but toward personality and character-development, the acquisition of that portion of culture which includes the graces of politeness, courtesy, kindness, gentleness, self-restraint, selflessness.”

This great visionary was in his 50s when he wrote this, and he had never been to college himself. Even more remarkable is how this 1947 article perfectly describes Ambassador College during the 1980s—*more than 30 years later*. The Ambassador College that existed at the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986 truly was the product of a vision that started in the smallest of ways—in one man’s mind.

■ THE REMNANT AND THE RUINS

Amos 9:11 says, “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old.” Even in the early days of the PCG, my father said this scripture was a prophecy that the work built by Herbert W. Armstrong would be turned to ruins—and that we would then raise it back up. God wanted to replicate the way things were done “in the days of old.”

Verse 12 continues, “That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this.” As my father has taught, *Edom* and the *heathen* refer to those who have forsaken God’s truth in this end time. God says those who raise up the ruins will take possession of the remnant, or surviving portion, of Edom. That remnant, my father wrote in 2001, “must include *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong’s other books and booklets.”

That has now happened. God gave us those books and booklets.

In Amos 9, God says possessing those many books and booklets *coincides directly* with the work of *raising the ruins that were built before Mr. Armstrong died!* Of course, as with everything God builds through human beings, it started incredibly small. There were no visible manifestations of construction and building when we started printing Mr. Armstrong's literature in late 1996.

But God did plant a *seed* in one man's mind.

We received our first copy of *Mystery of the Ages* from the printer on Dec. 20, 1996. My father announced the new phase to our members on Jan. 4, 1997. During this same time period, the Worldwide Church of God entered its final phase of destroying Mr. Armstrong's legacy.

When Mr. Tkach decided to pursue accreditation for Ambassador College in 1988, it set off a chain reaction that had a massive impact on the college and the work of the church. They broke ground on a new administration building in Big Sandy the same day my father was fired—Dec. 7, 1989. The following year, Tkachism closed the campus in Pasadena and consolidated all college resources in Big Sandy. They intended to move *all* headquarters operations to Big Sandy. They built nine new buildings on the Texas campus in 1990 *alone*—including the Hall of Administration, Ambassador Hall and student residence halls.

On June 25, 1994, Tkachism finally obtained accreditation for the college. Upon receiving the news, Tkach Sr. decided to change the name of the college to Ambassador University, saying it was a "more appropriate description of the range and diversity of programs" the institution had to offer. By 1996, the sprawling campus had become a virtual self-contained city. There were more than 50 buildings encompassing 730,000 square feet—administrative buildings, multipurpose centers, a gymnasium, classrooms and lecture halls, dormitories, a huge convention center and 25 single-family homes. The campus center was surrounded by 2,000 acres of farmland and timberland. There were two beautiful lakes, a campground, on-site water and waste treatment plants and an airstrip with a hangar to accommodate corporate jets.

Yet, on Dec. 29, 1996, just 2½ years after being accredited—and *nine days* after we received that first reprinted copy of *Mystery of the Ages*—Ambassador's board of regents shocked the surrounding community, as well as its own church membership, by announcing that the college would abruptly and permanently close after the spring semester ended in May 1997. Exactly 50 years after Mr. Armstrong established the school to support the church's worldwide mission, Ambassador College had been completely ruined.

Yet, even in the midst of this desolation, *God planted a seed.*

■ THE VISION EXPANDS

Big Sandy's demise in 1997 set off another chain reaction—one that had a massive impact on *our* work.

Two months after the college's final graduation in May, our news bureau chief, Ron Fraser, toured the facilities in Big Sandy on a fact-finding mission for my father. "I was informed," Mr. Fraser wrote soon after his visit, "that the WCG would seek to sell the whole campus intact." He explained that if the campus didn't sell after 12 months, the WCG would consider breaking up

the property to sell off parcels. This piqued my father's interest.

In September of 1997, Grubb and Ellis, a real estate agency in Dallas, listed the property with an asking price of \$32 million, which was reasonable, considering how much money the WCG had invested into it. At the same time, however, the property was uniquely designed to service the church's needs during the days of Mr. Armstrong, and it was situated in a remote location in the middle of East Texas. We didn't think there would be too many interested buyers—not at that price.

Apparently, the WCG didn't think there would be either. After the property was listed, one of our members in Dallas obtained additional information from a broker who had contacts at Grubb and Ellis. He said that while it was listed at \$32 million, the fire-sale figure floating within real-estate circles was \$6.5 million. That figure *really* piqued my dad's interest.

By early 1998, the campus was still on the market. Meanwhile, my father's vision for our work had expanded. To reach the largest audience possible with Mr. Armstrong's books and booklets, he believed we needed the same kind of facilities Mr. Armstrong used for his work—we needed to resurrect those desolate ruins. At the time, it seemed like the best way to accomplish this was by breathing life into a dead campus that had been built specifically for the needs we had.

My father wanted more information before taking such a bold step for a small work that was already entangled in litigation over *Mystery of the Ages*. So I sifted through all the church writings I could find about Big Sandy. Having attended there for a semester in 1989, I was somewhat familiar with the environs and its facilities. I found a couple of articles I thought my dad would be interested in and then wrote to him on April 18, 1998. I said, "If God should provide us with Big Sandy and all the buildings on that campus, I cannot see Him doing so unless He has huge plans for this work and plans for resurrecting the now-defunct Ambassador College. If you read those articles I included in this packet, you will notice two things that happened quickly after AC started in the 1960s [in Big Sandy]: 1) The work began to grow phenomenally and fast. 2) They began to reap much fruit in the way of qualified personnel and leadership after just two or three years."

I went on to explain how we needed student labor in order to produce more literature, process more mail, answer more calls and correspond with more prospective members. I drew up a proposed course load for an incoming freshman class of an estimated 24 students. I totaled the number of hours those students could work part-time and explained how this work force would impact the day-to-day operations of the work. "In short," I concluded, "the opportunities Big Sandy would open up for us, this work and for God's children are truly limitless."

The following month is when we made our anonymous offer of \$5 million for the Big Sandy property.

What we didn't fully realize at the time is that when God begins a work through human beings—even a work of resurrecting what has been ruined—it *MUST* start the smallest! God didn't want us to make a big splash with a ready-made infrastructure like Big Sandy.

He did, however, want us to *THINK* big! So He used Big Sandy's demise to help focus my father's thoughts on acreage and facilities—administrative buildings, multipurpose centers, a gymnasium, classrooms, lecture halls, dormitories, a convention center, faculty homes and an airstrip. But God didn't want us to obtain all those facilities with one single transaction.

We had to start from scratch. ■



IN THEIR MIDST

The pope is flanked by Benjamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres during his May visit.

The Vatican's Hidden Jerusalem Agenda

Why did the pope visit Israel, and why now? BY RON FRASER

THIS MAGAZINE HAS BEEN WATCHING Joseph Ratzinger for a long time. As we have watched, we have followed his course from chief confidante of the late Pope John Paul II, to his enthronement as pope, and then on throughout the past four years of his controversial papacy.

As we have watched this leading religious figure, we have monitored his involvement in a clandestine project of the Vatican that was documented in Bible prophecy almost 2,000 years ago and which remained a mystery until fully exposed within the last two decades.

Now, in light of Benedict XVI's visit to Israel in May, his first since being elected pope, it is crucial that the Vatican agenda for the city of Jerusalem be publicized.

Hushed About History

Back in the mid-1990s, a statement made by Pope John Paul II during an interview in his native Poland, broadcast in Italian over a Polish radio station, was noted by one of our Italian associates. She sent us a transcript of the interview, which included one particularly startling reference by the pope regarding the Vatican's ultimate goal of transferring its headquarters from Rome to Jerusalem.

What was unusual about this admission of John Paul II was that the Vatican's intentions to possess Jerusalem are seldom publicized and little commented-on. In fact, an air of secrecy—something that the Vatican has a history of creating over various of its affairs over the centuries—has surrounded this project since the failure of the Crusades, the most obvious of the overt and now very historical attempts by the Vatican to seize control of the Holy City. Those attempts have a long history

with strong attachments to the German nation, right up to the past two world wars, and beyond to our present day.

As far back as the eighth century A.D., emissaries were sent to Jerusalem by Emperor Charlemagne to negotiate an agreement with the Muslim Caliph Haroun al-Raschid. The result was, Jerusalem became a protectorate of the Holy Roman Empire.

Historical records indicate that such a protectorate was limited to the oversight of the welfare of Christians, the care and protection of designated holy sites, and the properties of the Roman Catholic Church in Jerusalem. The fact that the caliph would be a financial beneficiary to this enterprise was a given. Muslim support of the Kaiser's army in World War I, and again of the Nazi regime in World War II, was the end result of a long historical nexus between the Muslims and Germany.

From the time of the Charlemagne/Haroun pact, through the attempt by Kaiser Wilhelm to seize Jerusalem in World War I, to this day, elements within Germany have historically viewed themselves as protectors of the Roman Catholic Church. From the time of the failure of the great Crusades, German elites have worked to find ways and means of seizing the plum job of protector of Jerusalem.

Link With Germany

Recently, courtesy of the actions of Germany's Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany has aggressively stepped up its diplomacy in the Middle East.

Vatican and German diplomatic moves in Israel are both linked to a common end: possession of the Old City of Jerusalem and most of the eastern half of the city.

The Jews are the pawns in this grand game of international diplomacy. The Palestinians are the grunts on the ground, eager to help divide Jerusalem and annihilate the State of Israel in the process.

The Vatican already has a significant presence in Jerusalem. Under Israeli law, Rome has legal jurisdiction over, and free access to, its holy sites, including both its institutions and assets in Jerusalem. The consolidation of these arrangements came in a bilateral agreement termed "The Fundamental Agreement Between the Holy See and the State of Israel," which the Israeli government signed with the Vatican on Dec. 30, 1993. The terms of this agreement, composed in secret, were subsequently legislated by the Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

What remains largely unknown is the secret deal made by current Israeli President Shimon Peres and the leftist peacenik and former Meretz party member Yossi Beilin, known widely as "Peres's poodle."

On June 15, 1994, six months after signing the bilateral agreement with the Vatican, the Israeli government inked another agreement with the Vatican endorsing the Roman Catholic Church's participation in negotiations to determine the future of Jerusalem.

This was followed in February 1996 by Secretary General of the Vatican Serge Sebastian announcing that Rome recognizes Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem. The Vatican had thus revealed its hand.

Four years later, the Palestinian terrorist Yasser Arafat met in audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. The two signed an accord normalizing relations between the Palestinians and the Roman Catholic Church and agreeing to work toward establishing Jerusalem as an international city based on international guarantees. Later that year, the pope visited Israel. Declaring that Jerusalem was the main obstacle to peace in the region, he publicly called for international oversight of the holy city to safeguard its sacred sites.

But there is another party that also has an interest in establishing a presence in Israel. Germany expressed its desire to do that as far back as 2002. Having an established presence in the Mediterranean, off the Persian Gulf and in Lebanese waters as well as Afghanistan, Germany is already encircling the Middle East in its seemingly benign capacity as "peacemaker."

It is clear that Germany's and the Vatican's Middle East policies are aligned. Each is patently playing both ends—Israel and the Palestinians—toward the middle.

Germany and Rome used the same tactic in the Balkan Peninsula to achieve a desired result with implicit UN agreement, with the Serbs becoming the pariah in the world's view. This time, it's the Jews who are being pilloried, especially since the Gaza incursion in January. The result will be the same: the seizure of iconic territory to be placed under the influence of Berlin and Rome with the willing acquiescence of the United Nations.

Journalist Joel Bainerman, a well-known commentator on Israeli affairs, wrote, "The end goal of the Vatican is to seize control of the Old City of Jerusalem out of the clutches of the State of Israel. To that end they have a secret agreement with Israel which obliges Israel to respect the 'extraterritorial' claim to their physical presence in the city. In short, we have accepted the Vatican's rights to have little Vatican sovereign embassies throughout our eternal capital of Jerusalem. That same Vatican has committed itself, in public and in a written agreement, to ensure that the Palestinians have sovereignty in the Old City of Jerusalem" (www.joelbainerman.com).

"Toward the Pleasant Land"

Yet, beyond the proof of the hidden agenda of the Vatican exposed by commentators, there is the "more sure word of prophecy," which we have well documented in our publications, that forecasts this very reality.

In Daniel 8, we read about the coming of an individual who will be the spiritual head of a great religio-political institution centered in Europe. The entity he leads is prophesied to spread its tentacles "toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land" (verse 9).

Believe it or not, your Bible prophesies the hidden agenda of the Vatican!

The press and media remain fixated on what they believe are the faltering mistakes of a pope out of touch with reality. (Witness the imbroglio over Benedict's Regensburg speech and the latest kerfuffle regarding the lifting of the excommunication of the four Lefebvrist bishops, including the Holocaust-minimizing Richard Williamson.) Such diversions are but a smoke-screen for those whom Lenin famously called "useful idiots." They keep people diverted from following the scent on the track to the ultimate Vatican story, the coming takeover of Jerusalem by Rome!

Request and study our free booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation* for a real eye-opener on this story of the decade! ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

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

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri; KWGN 10:00 am, Sun

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

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

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

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

Hawaii, Kaula Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

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

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am,
 Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU
 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT
 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-
 DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30
 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri

Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW
 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
**Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kenne-
 wick** KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT
 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am,
 Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30
 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30
 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am
 ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision
 TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel
 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOs 8:30 am, Sun;
 CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30
 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Barbados CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL
 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/
 WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg K SXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30
 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am,
 Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV
 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri;
 WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 9:00 am, Sun

German Nightmare

EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT ARTICLE! (“The German Nightmare Has Returned!” May/June). I can recall when Mr. Armstrong talked about an event such as this bringing together those nations of Europe to such a horrendous end. And it is thanks to you, Mr. Flurry, that we can watch and see these prophetic events unroll before our very eyes. *Doris—CANADA*



Dangerous Deficit

THE IDEA OF EXTREME SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN in this country was once surreal (“The Most Dangerous Deficit,” May/June). By the last sentence of this article, I felt a little staggered at it becoming such a cold, looming reality. The American values that withstood the pressures of the Great Depression no longer exist. That’s unpleasant to acknowledge but it’s a reality. *D.J.—INDIANA*

Affordable Health Care

THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU again, Stephen, for this marvelous article (“The Most Affordable Health Care There Is,” May/June). I am a regular, avid reader of the *Trumpet* and formerly the *Plain Truth*. It is the first time I have come across an informative article related to food and its effect on our health and well-being. ... [O]ur food chain has long been contaminated and damaged beyond repair. The epidemic levels of cancer and disease in the so-called advanced countries like ours is proof. ... The corrupt food manufacturers and the conniving governments leave little room for rescuing the average citizen now, with the contaminated, highly

Correction

In the article “Why Churches Keep Sunday” (May/June), we wrote: “On the first day of the week, God created the sun.” This is an error. It should have said: “On the first day of the week, the great Creator God separated the day from the night, saying ‘Let there be light.’” As Herbert Armstrong observed in *Mystery of the Ages*, there may have been millions—or even billions—of years between the original creation and the re-creation depicted in Genesis. On the first day of week, Almighty God again made light visible to the Earth after the angelic war described in chapter two of *Mystery of the Ages*. The *Trumpet* regrets the error.

processed “foodless” food. When I carry out my modest grocery shopping, I always face a dilemma looking with suspicion at the fresh produce infected with chemicals and the packaged food that is laden with cancer under the disguise of “nutritious ingredients.” America’s obsession with mass production changed and polluted our food chain forever. ... Greed, indifference and selfishness rule. ... A turnaround can only take place in your prophesied end-time scenario. May God bring that day closer.

Simon Adams—AUSTRALIA

Anti-Semitism

YOUR ARTICLE ON THE PERSECUTION OF Jews in today’s world was very enlightening and frightening (“Anti-Semitism: Why You Should Be Alarmed,” May/June). I was born in 1933 and have seen the horrible consequences of this behavior. It is evil to the roots and based on lies, lies, lies. It shows how clearly our world is once again heading to all-out war! May God have mercy on the USA! *Lynn Beidl—UNITED STATES*

Gift for Your Children

READING THIS ARTICLE ... HELPED ME TO realize the importance of time to our children (“The Gift Children Need Most,” May/June). They crave our time! In this world that demands our time, we can easily ignore the little one that tugs at us, asking us for just a few minutes. Those few minutes mean the world to them! To those who may read this article and who may not have come from an ideal family background (as I didn’t, not being able to remember during my childhood where any such positives took place) or may not be in an ideal family situation ... know that the positive fruits will come with God making up the difference. All we have to do is ask Him. After all, we are His children, and when we make time for Him, He always makes time for us! *A.G.T.—TEXAS*

Imminent End of America

I DIDN’T FIND YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT America’s end pretty reading (“The Imminent End of America,” May/June). However, I find myself agreeing with it. I’m not a religious scholar, but particularly in the past week or so when we see a president and his government seeking to prosecute those who sought to protect us after 9/11, you know that there is

something seriously screwed up in this nation. As an American, I am angered and shocked at the recklessness of this administration and, again, find myself agreeing with your article.

Paul McGraw—LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

Incredible Impact

I HAVE BEEN A RECIPIENT OF YOUR *TRUMPET* magazine for some time, and would like to express to you the incredible impact I experience each month while reading it from cover to cover. The articles are outstanding in their content and vision. Thank you for continuing to send the monthly editions. I would like to make a monetary donation to your organization. ... Thank you for your excellence in reporting world events as they unfold before our very eyes.

Debra Von Alpers—PRESCOTT VALLEY, ARIZ.

I AM CATHOLIC AND WILL NOT CHANGE. But I love your publications. There is a wealth of information on anything on or about our life. God bless you for that. I wish my church was this active in teaching. People need to know how it was, how it is now, and how it will be. Big thank you for being there for us.

Christ Wroblowski—VANCOUVER, WASH.

Plain Truth

I USED TO USE THE *PLAIN TRUTH* MAGAZINE as a resource when I was in the Marine Corps serving in the intelligence field from 1983 to 1993. The articles and research were outstanding. I used the *Plain Truth* in formulating analysis of world situations. One item that made me a laughing stock in the intelligence community for a time was the unification of East and West Germany. I was ridiculed at first, but received applause later when Germany started to tear down the wall. The *Plain Truth* gave it a five-year time frame. It happened a year later after that issue went to print. I stuck by my guns, with the aid of the *Plain Truth*. Now I am a civilian. My question is: Is the *Trumpet* originally from the *Plain Truth*? I am hoping so. I have missed that magazine since leaving the Marine Corps. Of all newsletters and periodicals I have received in the past, the *Plain Truth* had the best research and foresight. *Gary*

Comments?

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

Keep Hope Alive

Bad news is descending like a tidal wave. Hold your head high. BY JOEL HILLIKER

THESE NASTY HEADLINES ARE HITTING HOME. HARD. Perhaps reports of elephantine federal bailouts and rollicking national debt can seem like just a parade of numbers. News of rogue states acquiring WMDs, or of governments collapsing in nations with nuclear weapons—huge as it is—still feels distant.

But it's hard to ignore the hurt when job losses wipe out whole towns—when retirement funds evaporate—when dreams must be postponed or scrapped—when bad news from Afghanistan and Pakistan means more deployments—or worse, the loss of a friend, a son, a dad. Hope deferred, the proverb says, makes the heart sick. And times will get yet worse before they get better.

Still, there is great cause to hold your head high.

World events are hurtling toward the greatest news story ever to occur.

Jesus provided a detailed description of what would transpire globally *just before* this event. The Bible contains dozens of major prophetic events to watch for, and hundreds of additional events.

Toward the end of His ministry, Christ delivered the tremendous Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). It was His response to the disciples' earthshaking question, "[W]hat shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). This is Christ's explanation of the *world conditions that would precede His Second Coming*.

Jesus began by describing the four horsemen of the apocalypse, which bring false religion, wars, famines and disease epidemics (verses 4-8—compare with Revelation 6:1-8) and other horrific events (verses 9-11). He then spoke about a falling away within His own Church in this end time (verse 12)—which puts the time frame right into our day today (request a free copy of *Raising the Ruins* for a thorough explanation).

Christ also tells us *how to survive* these events: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be *saved*" (verse 13). According to Jesus, there will be people *spared* from these nightmares.

And then, verse 14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Right in the middle of these crises is a prophecy about a work of God. Whether or not you believe it, this prophecy has already been fulfilled. Through the *World Tomorrow* television program and the *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong warned the world for over 50 years with an intense prophetic message. Now, through the *Key of David* program and the pages of this magazine, the Philadelphia Church of God is *prophesying again* (Revelation 10:11)—even *more intensely*, as fulfilled prophecy reveals we are even closer to the end.

In verse 30, we see what all these signs *lead to*: Christ's return.

Yes, world conditions are bad, and getting worse. But we at

the *Trumpet* aim to focus on the connection between all the bad news and this most spectacular, hope-filled event ever.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh; So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (verses 32-33). Christ says that we will know the end of this age is near by *watching* as the specific signs He has given us are fulfilled step by step.

Why would God give us all these prophecies and then tell us to watch for them?

To warn us. God isn't just going to spring these calamities on this world—He is giving plenty of warning.

That warning includes God's admonition to *repent*—to turn from the sin that is *causing* all these disasters: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked *turn from his way and live*: turn ye, turn ye from your

evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

We are told, individually, to *watch*. Christ's prophecy as recorded in Luke 21 concludes, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always"—and why?—"that ye may be accounted worthy to *escape* all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (verse 36). To escape these nightmares coming on the world, we must *watch and pray always*.

What can happen to one who is *not* vigilant? Read verses 48 through 51 back in Matthew 24. Our attitude about Christ's return—our urgency and excitement about those signs He has given us—has a direct relationship with our personal conduct. Looking for the day of Christ's return gives us a perspective that should translate into a desire to seek God's way of life. It spurs us to *actively prepare* for what is coming (verse 46).

Current conditions make plain that the prophesied Great Tribulation is coming in *this generation*. Conditions are only beginning to worsen, and already many people recognize that something is dangerously wrong. The worse events become, the more people will despair. But God tells us to maintain a broader perspective. As conditions decay, we must not become depressed. Remember—always remember—where it is all *leading*: "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And *when these things begin to come to pass*, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:27-28).

Keep a posture of vigilant, hope-filled anticipation. The worse things get, the greater should be our hope. (Request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope*.) The more vigilant we are—the more diligently we watch and pray—the more filled with hope we will become. All this bad news is pointing toward the event this world desperately needs.

Lift up your head—Jesus Christ is about to return! ■



A GIFT FOR YOU

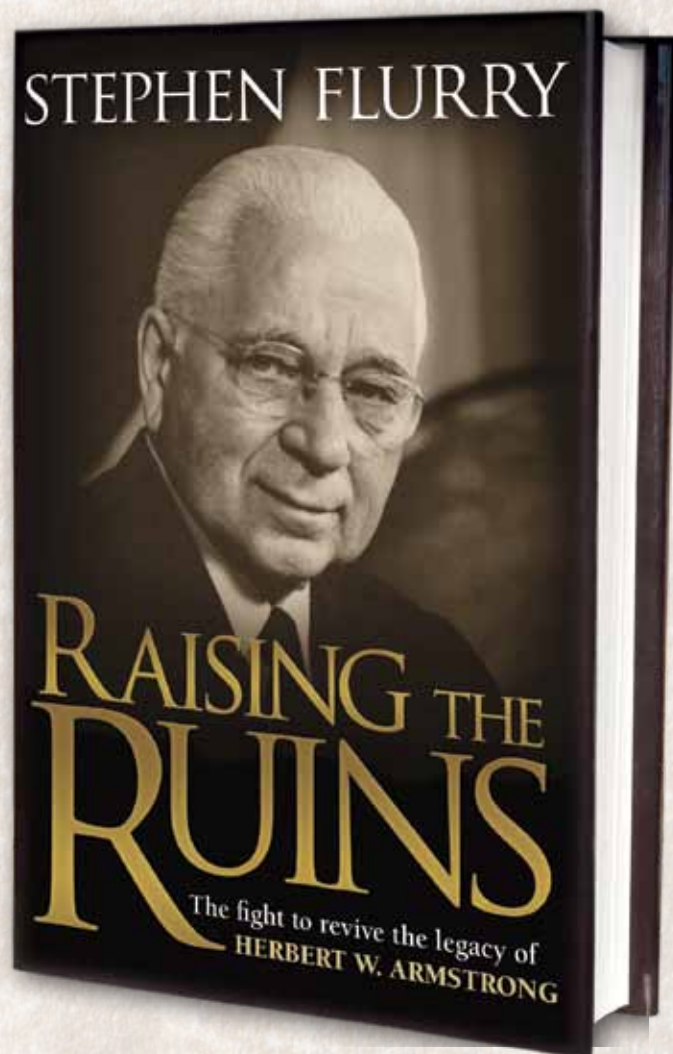
We offer you *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry's landmark book, *Raising the Ruins—The fight to revive the legacy of Herbert W. Armstrong.*

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During the 1980s, Armstrong's work was bigger than those of Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham combined. What happened after his death in 1986, however, is the most astonishing story in modern religion.

Here is the shocking, gripping story of how the foundation, colleges and church Mr. Armstrong founded were doctrinally hijacked and spiritually destroyed. It is the story of the cabal of leaders who trashed his work, silenced his voice, sold the church's assets and hoarded the money. It is also the inspiring story of the life-and-death, six-year court battle that ensued when a faith-filled few held fast to his mission and sought to defend his legacy—by *raising the ruins*.

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