

Loneliness
*CAUSE AND
CURE*

**The HISTORY
IRAN FORGOT**



Worth
Less



JANUARY 2011

THE PHILADELPHIA

WWW.THETRUMPET.COM

TRUMPET



Target: **Jerusalem**

Three powerful states are locked in a battle over the Holy City



1

9

20

10

28

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR
The Last Crusade
- 16 WORLDWATCH
- 31 PRINCIPLES OF LIVING
**Break Through
GIANT Barriers**
- 34 LETTERS
- 35 COMMENTARY
**Don't Even
Think About It**
- 36 TELEVISION LOG
The Key of David

WORLD

- 4 **Target: Jerusalem**
- 7 **Get Ready for Oil War**
- 24 **Clouds Across the Rainbow**
Following the World Cup euphoria,
it's back to cold reality in South Africa.
- 28 **Britain Buddies With France:
What Could Possibly Go Wrong?**

SCIENCE

- 9 **Have You Ever Looked
at a Monkey?**

ECONOMY

- 10 **Why Your Dollars Buy
Less and Less**

LIVING

- 13 **How to Concentrate**
- 14 **Loneliness: The Cause and Cure**

HISTORY

- 20 **The History Iran Forgot**
An inspiring look back at when the
Islamic Republic's forefathers were
friends and champions of ... the Jews

BIBLE

- 26 **What Is the Day of the Lord?**

For a free subscription in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

COVER Jerusalem (StockPhoto)
STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry
Executive Editor Stephen Flurry News Editor Ron Fraser
Managing Editor Joel Hilliker Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Ryan Malone, Brad Macdonald, Robert Morley, Philip Nice
Associate Editor Donna Grieves Production Manager Michael Dattolo
Research Assistants Adar Nice, Aubrey Mercado, Richard Palmer
Proofreader Nancy Hancock Circulation Shane Granger
International Editions Editor Wik Heerma French, Italian Deryle Hope German Hans Schmidl Spanish Edition Editor Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. ©2010 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **Website** www.theTrumpet.com **E-mail** letters@theTrumpet.com **Subscription or literature requests** request@theTrumpet.com **Phone** U.S., Canada: 1-800-772-8577; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0; New Zealand: 0-800-500-512. Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 400, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0. **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguanas, Trinidad, W.I. **Britain, Europe, Middle East** P.O. Box 900, Northampton, NN5 9AL, England **Africa** P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa **Australia, Pacific Isles, India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 375, Narellan, NSW 2567, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 6088, Glenview, Hamilton, 3246 **Philippines** P.O. Box 52143, Angeles City Post Office, 2009 Pampanga **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.

The Last Crusade

Most people think the crusades for Jerusalem are a thing of the past—over forever. They are wrong. Preparations are being made for a final crusade, and it will be the bloodiest of all! The exceedingly good news is this: The world will never again see a bloody crusade for Jerusalem. And nothing is more important than your understanding why!

THE CRUSADES WERE A SERIES OF ROMAN CATHOLIC “holy” wars to wrest control of the Holy Land from Muslims. They produced some of the bloodiest battles in history.

Did you ever wonder how the Catholics reconcile that “holy” slaughter *with the Bible*, which states, “Thou shalt not kill”? Or how they can read the Sermon on the Mount and still lead the religious world in spilling rivers of blood?

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

This last crusade is not just about the evils of Catholicism; it’s also about evils of other nations and religions. Some background will help us understand.

Pope Urban II

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Protestant churches are prophesied to be brought back into the Catholic Church (Isaiah 47). Mostly this will be done

through bloodshed. Remember, this wish to rule all Christianity is at “the very heart of the revolutionary papacy.” That means this philosophy has motivated them for nearly 2,000 years. And they still believe violent and bloody crusades are righteous. Have they ever truly repented of this condemning history? The answer is no.

History proves the Catholic Church to be one of the most militant institutions ever. Catholic leaders do not believe in a democratic philosophy. They have often “converted” people by the sword. And yet, this world seems unwilling to hold them accountable for their war crimes.

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

Doesn’t that crime reveal that the Catholics were deeply involved with the Nazi war machine?

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

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

The world seems almost unaware of these monstrous crimes.

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

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

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

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

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

Jones and Ereira conclude, “By saying that carrying out a



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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

This pope certainly did not know what he had done. What he began led to a number of indescribably brutal wars between Catholics and Muslims.

The real tragedy is that the world, like Pope Urban, still doesn't understand what he did, and what the Catholic Church *continues* to do. Their real beliefs surface when they gain power. Today, they are building the greatest power they have ever had. If you understand their history, their future is very predictable—far more than most historians believe. Add Bible prophecy to that equation and you will see that this world faces a frightening specter.

Thankfully, all of that trouble is a SIGN tied directly to an imminent paradise that will unite all religious and secular movements forever! Our free literature will prove that statement to any person who wants to understand.

Fighting on Both Sides

The Crusades created rivers of blood. And it was all done in the name of God. Of course, the Muslims responded with massive slaughters against the Crusaders, also in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Muslim and Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem were slaughtered like pigs. And all of this was done by Catholics who presumably



UNHOLY WAR The Catholic Crusades against Middle East Muslims caused rivers of blood, with both sides killing "for God."

became more righteous in the process.

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

The memory of such horrendous massacres still lives in the minds of many Arabs.

Those memories have provoked Arabs and Jews to massacre Catholics throughout history in a similar manner—all in the name of religion.

King Peter's Crusade

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



ports, merchant ships and light skiffs. With the great galleys of the Venetians and those provided by the Hospital, the armada numbered 165 ships. They carried a full complement of men, with ample horses, provisions and arms. Not since the Third Crusade had a proportionate expedition set out for the Holy War . . .

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

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

Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

entered, and HOUSEHOLDERS WHO DID NOT IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS WERE SLAUGHTERED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. Some 5,000 prisoners, Christians and Jews as well as Muslims, were taken to be sold as slaves. A long line of horses, asses and camels carried the loot to the ships in the harbor and there having performed their task were killed. THE WHOLE CITY STANK WITH THE ODOR OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL CORPSES.”

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

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

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

There is good news: Over a hundred Bible prophecies tell us that Jesus Christ will *personally* stop the next crusade! Sadly, however, that will only occur after the worst suffering ever on this Earth (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-22).

Cyprus

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

Turkey, just north of Cyprus, has been a strong member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for many years. Yet, a German-led European Union has rejected it from joining the EU—even though it has been applying since 1963, when there were only six members! Twenty-one new countries have joined since then. But that number is about to be reduced dramatically.

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

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

Cyprus is now a member of the EU. Are European leaders already thinking about Cyprus as a launching pad from which to protect their Jerusalem interests?

You can be certain that they are thinking about how to protect the holy places in and around Jerusalem. The Europeans have thought like this for almost 2,000 years!

There is a real crisis in Cyprus today. Some people fear a war between Greece and Turkey, who share the rule of this island. Greece became the 10th member state of the EU in 1981, and Russia has already sold missiles to Greece, whose intention is to bully Turkey with them.

At a conference in Cyprus in July 2001, Dr. Osman Metin Ozturk explained that while EU membership of Cyprus would support the interests of Greece and the EU, it would stall U.S. and NATO interests.

Back in 1998, before Cyprus became an EU member, Christopher Lockwood, the *Daily Telegraph’s* diplomatic editor in Nicosia, wrote, “The EU has maneuvered itself into a position where it may soon have to take a bitterly divided island, with a propensity for violence and even war, into its bosom.

“It has poisoned relations with Turkey, a crucial NATO ally; made a solution to the Cyprus problem harder to achieve than ever . . .” (March 30, 1998).

Today, Turkey is allying itself with Iran.

Why would Europe risk such serious problems, even warfare, over this tiny island?

Even the people building the EU don’t fully understand what is happening. There is a spirit and force behind these events that the world does not see. “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And THEY WORSHIPPED THE DRAGON WHICH GAVE POWER UNTO THE BEAST: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months” (Revelation 13:3-5).

If people truly understood what is happening in Europe, they would be trembling in fear.

IS THERE A FINAL CRUSADE PLANNED TO BE LAUNCHED INTO THE MIDDLE EAST FROM CYPRUS? IS THAT WHY THE EU WAS

➤ See **CRUSADE** page 32



TARGET: JERUSALEM

Locked in a battle over the Holy City **BY RON FRASER**

THIS IS NOT A STORY YOU ARE going to see on the nightly news. Yet it is a huge story of the moment that will soon dominate all news media.

Iran and the Vatican State—representing two great religious movements: pan-Islamism and Roman Catholicism—and the most powerful state in Europe, Germany, are gearing up for a titanic battle for the possession of the “city of peace”—Jerusalem.

Besides those two globally dominant religions claiming entitlement to that city, a third does as well: world Jewry.

This is an age-old battle. In modern times it has waged since World War II, when Islam, under the Ottoman Turks, lost Jerusalem, and since Kaiser Wilhelm was denied its possession by British Imperial forces occupying Palestine, freeing the city from past Islamic dominance and the prospect of a Teutonic-Roman takeover.

Vatican Vision

The recapture of Jerusalem has burned as a fervent desire in Vatican hearts since the days of the great Crusades, initiated by Pope Urban II in A.D. 1095.

Since the end of World War II, and especially since the 1962 Vatican II congress, Rome has worked toward this goal. Through diplomacy, primarily employing its excellent international intelligence network and by exercising more open dialogue with its wayward Protestant and Orthodox daughters, it has sought to achieve a bridgehead in the drive for the universal conversion of mankind with Jerusalem as its spiritual capital.

At the same time, since the Israelis withdrew from the territories they occupied in 1967, Islam has chosen the path of jihadist war through terrorism to achieve similar goals. Extremist Islamic move-

ments intent on “holy war” have been blowing up airplanes, blowing up embassies, blowing up their enemies by blowing themselves up in their midst, in their efforts to achieve the universal salvation of mankind in the name of Allah and their prophet Mohammad. They take the future seizure of Jerusalem as a given.

Recently the pope upped the ante in his crusade via his coded anti-Islam verbal salvos. He received a swift, violent Muslim response: the slaughter of Roman Catholics

The recapture of Jerusalem has burned as a fervent desire in Vatican hearts since the days of the great Crusades, initiated by Pope Urban II in A.D. 1095.

celebrating mass in a cathedral in Baghdad.

Check the sequence of events.

First came Pope Benedict's verbal outburst in his controversial speech at Regensburg, Bavaria, in September 2006. Careful analysis of that speech reveals that Benedict was accusing Islam of being an irrational faith. Indeed, he provoked great wrath from Islamic clerics by quoting a dialogue between a Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam: “Show me just what Mohammad brought that was new, and there *you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.*”

The stab at Islam was not lost on the religious and political leaders of modern Persia—Iran—nor on their terrorizing lackeys!

Pope Benedict is known for his brilliant intellect. This was a well-thought-out speech, prepared in advance, not off the cuff. The choice of Manuel II's statement

was both deliberate and calculated—CALCULATED TO GET A REACTION!

And what a *reaction* it received! Public demonstrations broke out in Turkey, in Iran, in the Islamic communities in Britain and on the European continent. Effigies of the pope were burned in the streets. Al Qaeda called for the pope's death.

Ever since, Islamic extremists have increasingly targeted Christians—mainly Roman Catholics—in the Middle East, especially within Iran's western neighbor, Iraq. UN statistics show that, before the Iraq War began in 2003, Baghdad was home to 1.5 million Christians of various sects. Today that number is fewer than 500,000—mostly because of those who have fled religious persecution.

Extraordinary Synod

This past October, the pope called an extraordinary synod of archbishops together in Rome to consider the fate of the church in the Middle East. It was a watershed event in the pope's program for evangelizing the world. For Benedict, the fulcrum around which his global project revolves is—as it has always been with the Vatican down through the ages—Jerusalem. To this end, the Vatican is ramping up its involvement in the Middle East peace process.

This synod was the platform the Vatican used to further emphasize its coded verbal crusade against Islam.

In his homily at the close of the synod on October 24, Pope Benedict recalled, “During the work of the synod what was often underlined was the need to offer the gospel anew to people who do not know it very well or who have even moved away from the church. *What was often evoked was the need for a new evangelization for the Middle East* as well.” To Islamic extremists, that statement would have to have been like waving a red flag in front of a bull!

To top it off, Benedict promised that the theme for the next synod in 2012 would be “the new evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith.” He explained, “At *any time* and in *any place*—also in the Middle East today—the church is present and works to welcome each human being”

Those are *crusading* words—words that offer a powerful challenge to any competing religion that has its own missionary zeal to convert the world—which, very obviously, Islam does!

It was no coincidence that, on October 31, just one week later, masked Islamist gunmen burst through the doors of a Catholic cathedral in Baghdad and slaughtered 58 Roman Catholics attending Sunday evening mass. Days later, follow-up attacks occurred in Christian neighborhoods in Iraq.

The pope had his answer to his latest

“So it is not easy to have, even with moderate Jews, a rational discussion about what is actually happening in the Middle East.”

—European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht

missionary challenge to Islam!

Historic Comparison

Compare these events with the spark that ignited Rome’s earliest crusade to capture Jerusalem. In A.D. 1077, the Seljuk Turks massed in Jerusalem and slaughtered around 3,000 Catholic pilgrims. The attacks continued on Catholics over the next decade and a half. In 1095, Pope Urban II cried “enough” and challenged the knights of Europe at the Council of Clermont to a crusading battle to seize Jerusalem and wreak revenge on the Islamic hordes: “The Turks and Arabs have attacked our brethren in the East and have conquered the territory of Romania (the Greek Empire) as far as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont They have killed and captured many and have destroyed the churches and devastated the [Roman] Empire On this account I ... persuade all people of whatever rank, foot soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians”

Thus was the First Crusade enkindled.

Nine centuries later, another Islamic horde pushes at the doors of Jerusalem and Rome, threatening to overtake much of Europe by mass migration from the Middle East and to push the tiny nation of Israel into the sea. Hidden among the émigrés are hundreds of extremist Islamists bent

on crusading jihad warfare against Christendom. In the Middle East, once again, Islamists slaughter Roman Catholics.

When will the pope move beyond his war of words?

The Vatican may well be able to boast of a billion-plus adherents to the Roman Catholic faith—yet crusades are fought by bloodletting battles. It is to the Vatican’s traditional protector, Germany, that the popes have looked as Rome’s defender since the time of Charlemagne.

Believe it or not, your Bible prophecies that Rome will yet again look to Germany for support in one final crusade to eliminate the threat of Islam and recapture the real prize in the process—Jerusalem.

The Pope and the Baron

In the early Crusades, the Franks were at the forefront. It is interesting to note that a bright,



charismatic young Frank, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Germany’s current defense minister, has become the driving force behind the effort to drastically upgrade the German armed forces. In the process he has made it clear that he seeks the amalgamation of NATO with a combined European military force to produce a battle group of a size and with the nuclear power potential to match all comers!

This same young Frankish aristocrat traces his lineage back 900 years to the First Crusade! His family has been dedicated supporters of the popes down through the centuries.

Recently on a balmy Roman autumnal evening, the pope witnessed a stunning performance of Verdi’s *Requiem Mass* led by a fellow Bavarian, conductor Enoch zu Guttenberg, father of Germany’s minister of defense, at the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican.

Among the audience was an inveterate Vatican watcher, Dr. Robert Moynihan. He was moved by the uniqueness of the event to make an intriguing observation in respect of this particular performance. Referring to “the political overtones of the event,” Moynihan noted that “[t]he concert had perhaps unintentional political overtones because the son of the conductor, right now Germany’s minister of defense, Karl-Theodor Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg, 38, has just become, according to polls, the

single most popular politician in Germany. This means the younger Guttenberg may have a real chance, and soon, to become the next chancellor of Germany after Angela Merkel” (*Inside the Vatican*, Oct. 19, 2010).

Meanwhile, across the Tyrolean border in neighboring Germany, it was as though the whole country was seized with Guttenberg fever. One German newspaper termed it “Guttenberg Hysteria.” Literally every leading German newspaper and magazine has carried a major story on the Guttenbergs since the end of summer. Germans are simply enraptured with the baron and his wife.

But what will be most intriguing to readers of the *Trumpet* is the following statement made by Dr. Moynihan: “The fact is that this concert for the German pope was conducted by the father of the man who may soon head the German government.

“This at least suggests a *strengthened connection between Berlin and Rome, or between the two men, should they come into contact in the future as world leaders*” (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

For decades we have been looking out for two dominant leaders to come to the fore in Europe: one, a powerful political leader from Germany; the other, an influential religious leader from Rome. This power pair is prophesied to dominate the final rise of a European-based empire, a reincarnation of the old Holy Roman Empire.

Watch for further developments that may suddenly propel this duo into the spotlight! The fact that one of the most astute watchers of Vatican politics is prepared to suggest a future linkage between Pope Benedict XVI and fellow Bavarian Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, a Frankish baron of the Holy Roman Empire, is most intriguing indeed.

Another Target of the Vatican

One other dramatic episode emanated from that recent synod in Rome. What was most profound in relation to the “peace” spoken of there was the stance the Vatican took on the tiny, embattled, fighting-for-its-own-survival, Judaic nation of Israel.

Reuters reported that, in their concluding statement, the bishops declared that “*Israel cannot use the biblical concept of a Promised Land or a chosen people to justify ... territorial claims ...*” (Oct. 23, 2010). When Greek-Melchite Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustros was asked about this passage at a news conference, he responded, “We Christians cannot speak

about the Promised Land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people. All men and women of all countries have become the chosen people. *The concept of the Promised Land cannot be used as a base for the justification of the return of Jews to Israel The justification of Israel's occupation of the land of Palestine*

cannot be based on sacred scriptures."

In the synod's concluding message, the Vatican reiterated a call it has made before: that Jerusalem come to have a special status that "respects its particular character" as a city sacred not only to Jews, but also to Christians and Muslims. Though it briefly acknowledged the Jews' need to

enjoy peace within internationally recognized borders, the document spent far more words on the Palestinians' plight. It bemoaned their "suffering the consequences of the Israeli occupation: the lack of freedom of movement, the wall of separation and the military checkpoints, the political prisoners, the demolition of

Get Ready for Oil War

Hostility between Iran and Europe will erupt in a gusher.

THE world's greatest terrorist-sponsoring nation now presides over the world's most powerful oil cartel. What will this mean for oil prices, and for the world? One Russian analyst says an international oil dispute is sure to erupt—but this time, it is not America's fight: It is Europe's.

On October 14, Iran was unanimously elected president of OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The move says a lot about America's waning global influence. This grouping of nations, some of which are American "allies," clearly intended the vote as a slap to America's face. Not only did it ignore Washington's outreach to many of them—which included the U.S. propping up the Iraqi government and selling Saudi Arabia \$60 billion worth of upgraded F-15 fighters—but it also undermined U.S.-led efforts to enforce sanctions on Iran for continuing to pursue nuclear weapons.

Making the slap sting all the more is the fact that Iran's oil minister, Seyed Masoud Mirkazemi, holds the OPEC presidency. Mirkazemi is a senior-level commander within the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which the U.S. State

Department considers a terrorist organization. So OPEC is now chaired by a terrorist representing a terrorist-sponsoring nation.

Clearly the Arabs dread offending Iran far more than they do America.

IRAN VS. EUROPE

Fear of Iran infects the Persian Gulf. And the Arabs *should* be afraid. America has begun withdrawing from Iraq and will begin pulling out of Afghanistan soon. The Arabs will be left to deal with—perhaps submit to—Iran.

Iran is acutely aware that America is an exiting superpower. But what exactly is Iran's agenda?

Iran will certainly work to increase oil prices, and will likely succeed, says Russian Center for Public Policy Research director Vladimir Yevseyev. But Iran is gearing up for a far bigger battle, he says: one against Europe.

As head of OPEC, Iran *will leverage its position to counter the policy of the European Union.*

Europe, in addition to participating in certain embargoes that complicate Iranian oil sales, has recently begun taking further steps to restrict trade and foreign investment in Iran due to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weaponry. On September 30, four of

Europe's largest oil companies (Shell, Total, Statoil and Eni) announced they had committed to stopping business with Iran.

The situation is getting touchy. Iran has now retaliated by giving ultimatums to other European oil

firms: *Either commit to business in Iran or prepare to have your assets seized.*

Iran has other weapons too. Europe depends on imports for the vast majority of its oil. Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy import almost all of their oil. Nearly half of Europe's imported oil comes from the Middle East. And most of that comes through the Persian Gulf—which is half Iranian coastal waters.

"Security of energy without Iran has no meaning," OPEC's new president warned on October 14. The international community and Europe in general should take close note, he said.

It wouldn't take much to send the cost of crude oil soaring. Global estimates suggest that due to depletion, over the next 5 to 10 years the Middle East is going to become the world's most valuable source of oil. Iran is predicted to be one of the few countries with excess oil supplies.

"[T]he political risks are rising," says Russia's Yevseyev. "I do not see the way how this situation could change, as I do not see grounds for a rapprochement between Iran and Europe. ... *Europe looks at Iran's presidency of OPEC as a problem with which it will fight*, but not as the possibility of rapprochement with Iran" (emphasis mine).

Yevseyev is right. Rapprochement is out of the question.

THE PUSH

The Middle East has the oil. Europe needs it. Iran wants to use it as a tool to push Europe. Europe

wants to stop Iran from getting the bomb. America just wants out. Both Iran and Europe want in. The rest of OPEC balances on nitroglycerine—not wanting to offend Iran, and enjoying higher oil prices—but also looking with apprehension at a withdrawing America and with interest at emerging European aggressiveness.

In an oil-constrained world, Iran believes its position is impregnable. As OPEC's second-largest producer, it has the oil, and it is now leveraging its position within OPEC to push its agenda and try to attain nuclear capability. Yet a nuclear-armed dominant Iran is not something Europe wants to live with either. This is not a recipe for peace in the Middle East.

Tensions are escalating even faster than the price of oil, if that is possible. But where is it all headed?

The Bible says a clash between Iran and Europe is inevitable. Daniel 11 prophesies that an Iranian-led Middle Eastern power (referred to as "the king of the south") will *push* at a European power ("the king of the north") and provoke a war. The *Trumpet's* editor in chief has written that *oil* would likely be a big part of this push—specifically the tightening of Europe's oil supply.

Iran's taking control of OPEC is a sign of its power and confidence growing. Expect it to use its new position to continue to push at Europe until it eventually provokes a far bigger response than anticipated.

ROBERT MORLEY

You can read more about this prophecy in our booklets *The King of the South and History and Prophecy of the Middle East.*



homes, the disturbance of socio-economic life and the thousands of refugees.” The imbalance of the Vatican’s perspective on the situation of Jerusalem, the Jews and Palestinians was obvious.

Peel aside the sophistry, and the truth is plain: The Vatican is clearly biased against the Jews and Israel’s birthright claim to the city of Jerusalem and the biblical land of Israel, which were gifted by God to the nation of Israel in perpetuity. This, from a religion that claims to speak for all Christendom—indeed, claiming, albeit falsely, that its own religious roots lie in the birth of the land of Israel.

The reality is that this “war against the Jews” is just one part of an insidiously spreading anti-Semitic mindset—one that extends out against the Anglo-Saxons.

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch said it all in a recent speech at an Anti-Defamation League dinner, the text of which was printed in *Commentary* magazine under the headline, “The Aim Is to Make Israel a Pariah”: “Now the war has entered a new phase. This is *the soft war that seeks to isolate Israel by delegitimizing it*. The battleground is everywhere: the media ... multinational organizations ... NGOs. In this war, *the aim is to make Israel a pariah*.”

“The result is the curious situation we have today: Israel becomes increasingly ostracized, while Iran—a nation that has made no secret of wishing Israel’s destruction—pursues nuclear weapons loudly, proudly, and without apparent fear of rebuke.”

War Against the Jews

Murdoch, who received an award from Pope John Paul II for his contributions to the media, made no reference to the Vatican’s stance on the nation of Israel, his statement coming before this latest startling declaration of the Vatican Synod on the Church in the Middle East.

But he did condemn the European Union for its blatant bias against Israel, a bias that is feeding the rising anti-Zionism across the Continent: “We saw a recent outbreak when a European commissioner trade minister declared that peace in the Middle East is impossible because of the Jewish lobby in America. Here’s how he put it: ‘There is indeed a belief—it’s difficult to describe it otherwise—among most Jews that they are right. And it’s not so much whether these are religious Jews or not. Lay Jews also share

the same belief that they are right. So it is not easy to have, even with moderate Jews, a rational discussion about what is actually happening in the Middle East.’

“This minister did not suggest the problem was any specific Israeli policy. The problem, as he defined it, is *the nature of the Jews*.”

This is the same argument that former German central banker and politician Thilo Sarrazin makes in his bestselling book *Germany Does Away With Itself* to underpin his thesis that Jews are unsuitable for residence in Germany.

Murdoch also hit out at the anti-Zionism prevalent in Islamic communities in Europe, and the degree of tolerance that Islamic-inspired anti-Zionist attacks are given by European authorities: “In Europe today, some of the most egregious attacks on Jewish people, Jewish symbols and Jewish houses of worship have come from the Muslim population.

“Unfortunately, far from making clear that such behavior will not be tolerated, too often the official response [suggests] Jews and Israel were partly to blame themselves.

“When Europe’s political leaders do not stand up to the thugs, they lend credence to the idea that Israel is the source of all the world’s problems—and they guarantee more ugliness. If that is not anti-Semitism, I don’t know what is.

“The world of 2010 is not the world of the 1930s. The threats Jews face today are different. But these threats are real. *These threats are soaked in an ugly language familiar to anyone old enough to remember World War II*. And these threats cannot be addressed until we see them for what they are: part of an ongoing war against the Jews.”

The reality is that this “war against the Jews” is just one part of an insidiously spreading anti-Semitic mindset—one that extends out against the Anglo-Saxons. For unbeknown to the greater part of society is the fact that the Promised Land was gifted to the *nations* of Israel—*plural!* For proof of just who these nations are, request our eye-opening book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

The Promised Land

The Eternal Creator of humankind promised the territory from the Nile River to the Euphrates to the descendants of Abraham, through his son Isaac and, in turn, the descendants of Jacob (Genesis 15:18-21; 28:13; Exodus 23:31; Deuteronomy 1:8). These are the true Israelites. Believe it or not, they include 11 other nations in addition to the Jewish people.

Since the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35)—despite what Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustras falsely maintains—and the Eternal God never changes (Malachi 3:6), His promise of the perpetual inheritance of that piece of Middle Eastern real estate by Israel is binding to this day and beyond.

It is certainly not conditional on the utterances of the Vatican. In fact, Israel is least accountable to that particular Babylonish institution, of all institutions.

Those who seek to refute the claim on the Promised Land by Israel will one day have to swallow their own words. Jerusalem is destined to be the capital of a new society, a whole new civilization to be established by the very King of Salem, the King of kings, Jesus Christ Himself (Hebrews 7:2; 1 Timothy 6:15). It will remain the capital of that globe-girdling kingdom for over a thousand years. Then it will become the very site of the eternal throne of Almighty God Himself! (Revelation 21:1-3).

Those who falsely claim that “there is no longer a chosen people” are refuted by Scripture! The very “peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9) chosen by God to do so will soon claim their rightful inheritance of the Promised Land—and, not long after, the *whole world* will learn to truly rejoice in the reality of that inheritance!

It’s time to more closely watch Iran as it continues to aggressively push its jihadist foreign-policy agenda against Rome, against a German-led Europe and against the embattled Judaic nation of Israel.

It’s time to more closely watch Germany’s growing exertion of its national power, especially in militaristic terms, and to watch for its coming blitzkrieg response to this push from the biblical “king of the south,” Iran!

And it’s time to watch, ever more closely, the city of Jerusalem. This “city of peace” has endured centuries of warfare, and yet again it faces being torn apart by two great competing religions in a great new crusade for its possession, propelled by the resurrected power of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

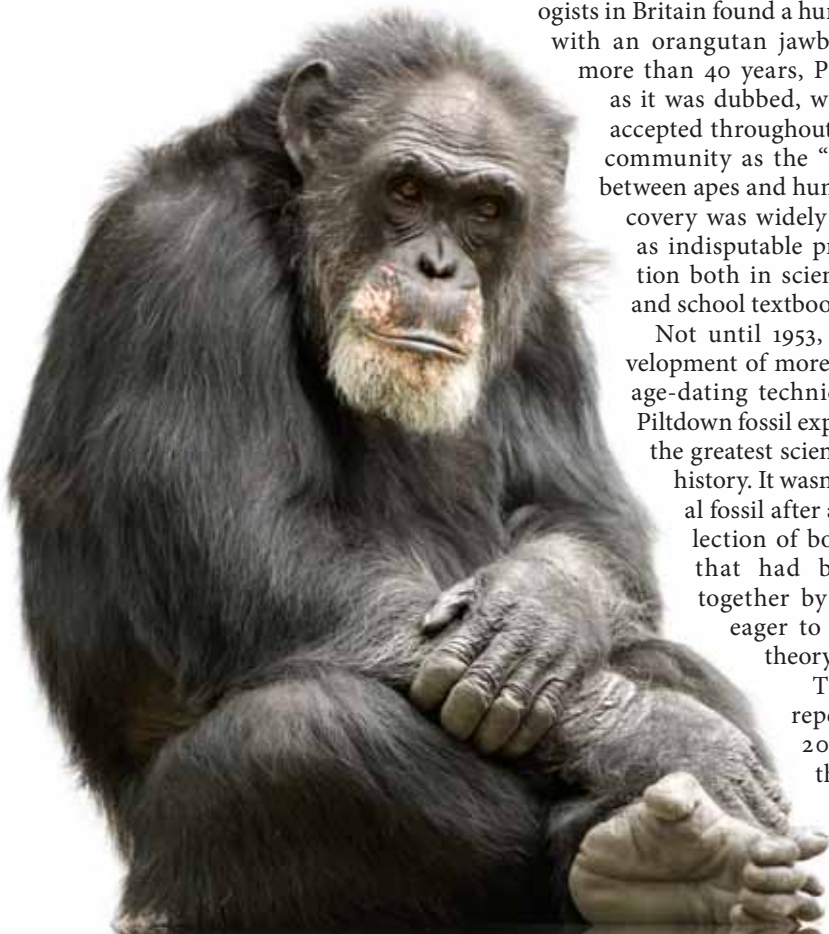
But more, as you watch, watch in hope for what is prophesied to follow: the establishment of a new city of Jerusalem that will last for over a thousand years—then the *ultimate* vision of *hope*, the *new* Jerusalem! That city will be one of *universal peace*, the future capital of the universe! It will last *forever*, on into an *eternal* future of scintillating peace, joy and happiness under the supreme rule of the eternal Father of all mankind! ■

WHEN DELAWARE REPUBLICAN Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell referred to evolution as a *myth* during a 1998 roundtable discussion, comedian Bill Maher contemptuously shot back, "Have you ever looked at a monkey?" Maher replayed that video clip on his talk show in September.

In October, as if taking its cue from Maher, CBS's *60 Minutes* paraded before millions of Americans the most celebrated monkey-observer the scientific community has ever produced: Jane Goodall. Fifty years ago, as a fresh-faced, vivacious youngster from Britain, Goodall became famous for her National Geographic reports about life in Africa with chimpanzees.

Have You Ever Looked at a Monkey?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



In describing what she discovered during her "magical" experience in Tanzania, Goodall told CBS correspondent Lara Logan that she learned how chimps were happy and sad, affectionate and funny, playful and communicative—"all of these things done in the same context *we do them*," she said (emphasis mine throughout).

In fact, before embarking on her groundbreaking study, Goodall assumed that monkeys would be a lot like humans—*only nicer*. But while studying animal life in the African forest, Goodall witnessed the darker side of the animal kingdom. Monkeys actually treated other monkeys cruelly—sometimes even brutally killing their own species.

In the end, Goodall concluded, monkeys are *not* a nicer species of human-like creatures. They are actually "JUST LIKE" human beings!

You want scientific proof? *All you have to do is look at monkeys.*

"Equal Minds"?

It used to be, in order to link human beings to chimpanzees, you had to at least produce evidence in the fossil record. In 1912, for example, a group of paleontologists in Britain found a human-like skull with an orangutan jawbone. And for more than 40 years, Piltown Man, as it was dubbed, was universally accepted throughout the scientific community as the "missing link" between apes and humans. The discovery was widely disseminated as indisputable proof of evolution both in scientific journals and school textbooks.

Not until 1953, after the development of more sophisticated age-dating techniques, was the Piltown fossil exposed as one of the greatest scientific frauds in history. It wasn't a transitional fossil after all—just a collection of bone fragments that had been cobbled together by evolutionists eager to "prove" their theory dishonestly.

This same story repeated itself in 2009. During the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's

birth, scientists in New York unveiled a fossilized skeleton of a monkey they named *Ida* and AGAIN proclaimed it to be the long-sought-after "missing link" in human evolution. The *Guardian* called it "one of the most significant primate fossil finds ever." It was supposed to impact the world of paleontology "somewhat like an asteroid falling down to Earth."

A few months later, however, *Ida* was exposed as yet another in a long line of highly publicized scientific hoaxes. As it turns out, *Ida* was nothing more than an extinct variety of lemur—just a nice fossilized set of monkey bones.

For nearly two centuries, evolutionists have searched in vain for transitional forms between monkeys and humans. As Robert Morley noted in the August 2009 *Trumpet*, "According to the evolutionary theory, *there should be millions and billions* [of transitional fossils]. Animals have been evolving into new species for hundreds of millions of years, the theory goes. Therefore, scientists have reasonably expected to find thousands, or at least hundreds, or maybe 10, fossils of transitional species. *But they can't find a single one!*"

But never mind the bones. JUST LOOK AT MONKEYS, some atheists now say, as they scoff at the thought of a great Creator God. Consider this statement from the *60 Minutes* report, made by Bill Wallauer, a photographer who works at the Jane Goodall Institute: "You get the feeling when you're looking at him [a monkey] and he's looking at you—*it's equal minds.*"

I don't get that feeling at all—not when watching *60 Minutes* or while observing monkeys at a zoo or wildlife preserve. When I watch monkeys, as fascinating as it is to see one use a stick to fish for termites, it reminds *me* of the GIANT GULF that exists between the animal kingdom and human beings.

The Source of Mind Power

Why such a massive gap? As far as the physical composition is concerned, there is little difference between the brains of human beings and monkeys; they're nearly identical. Why, then, is the human mind so VASTLY SUPERIOR to the animal brain? It's because of a *nonphysical* component that exists in man called the human spirit (see Job 32:8 and Zechariah 12:1).

This is what gives human beings MIND POWER!

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the SPIRIT OF MAN which is in him?" the Apostle Paul asked in 1

► See **MONKEY** page 36

EVER FEEL LIKE YOUR MONEY doesn't stretch like it used to? There's a reason for that. And it's more serious than you probably think.

The dollar's value is plummeting. It has been slipping for years, but the trajectory is getting steeper. Against the world's major currencies, the dollar has lost more than 14 percent of its value over just the past five years—and a shocking 32 percent in the last decade. In October alone, the dollar plummeted 6.5 percent. For the first time in history, the Australian and Canadian dollars both traded at parity with the U.S. dollar.

But the dollar rout is actually even worse than these numbers show. As the dollar has devalued, so have the currencies the dollar is compared to. When

measured against hard commodities, the dollar crash is much more vivid. A decade ago, you could have purchased an ounce of gold for \$275. An ounce of silver cost \$4.80. Today you will pay around \$1,400 and \$28 respectively. But the dollar isn't just plunging against precious metals; it's crashing against virtually all commodities.

What's going on here? Well, American politicians have spent the nation to the verge of bankruptcy. Total government debt (local, state, federal) now stands in excess of \$14.7 trillion. However, this is only beginning to scratch the surface of America's debt problem—despite the fact that it is already over 100 percent of America's gross domestic product. Total debt in America was a gargantuan \$57 trillion as of last April, according to the Grandfather Economic Report. If you include liabilities such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and other pension plans, the government is on the hook for another \$59 trillion or so in promises.

There is only one way America can pay its debt—and it is not an honest way. Central bankers know it, the world's top financiers know it, and foreign nations are beginning to realize it too. The Federal Reserve calls it "quantitative easing." The world calls it counterfeiting.

The only way America will be able to pay its debt is to simply print the money to pay the bills. But as the laws of supply and demand dictate, with every dollar created out of thin air, each existing dollar becomes worth less. Since we are talking tens of trillions, then over the long term the dollar is virtually doomed to depreciate in value.

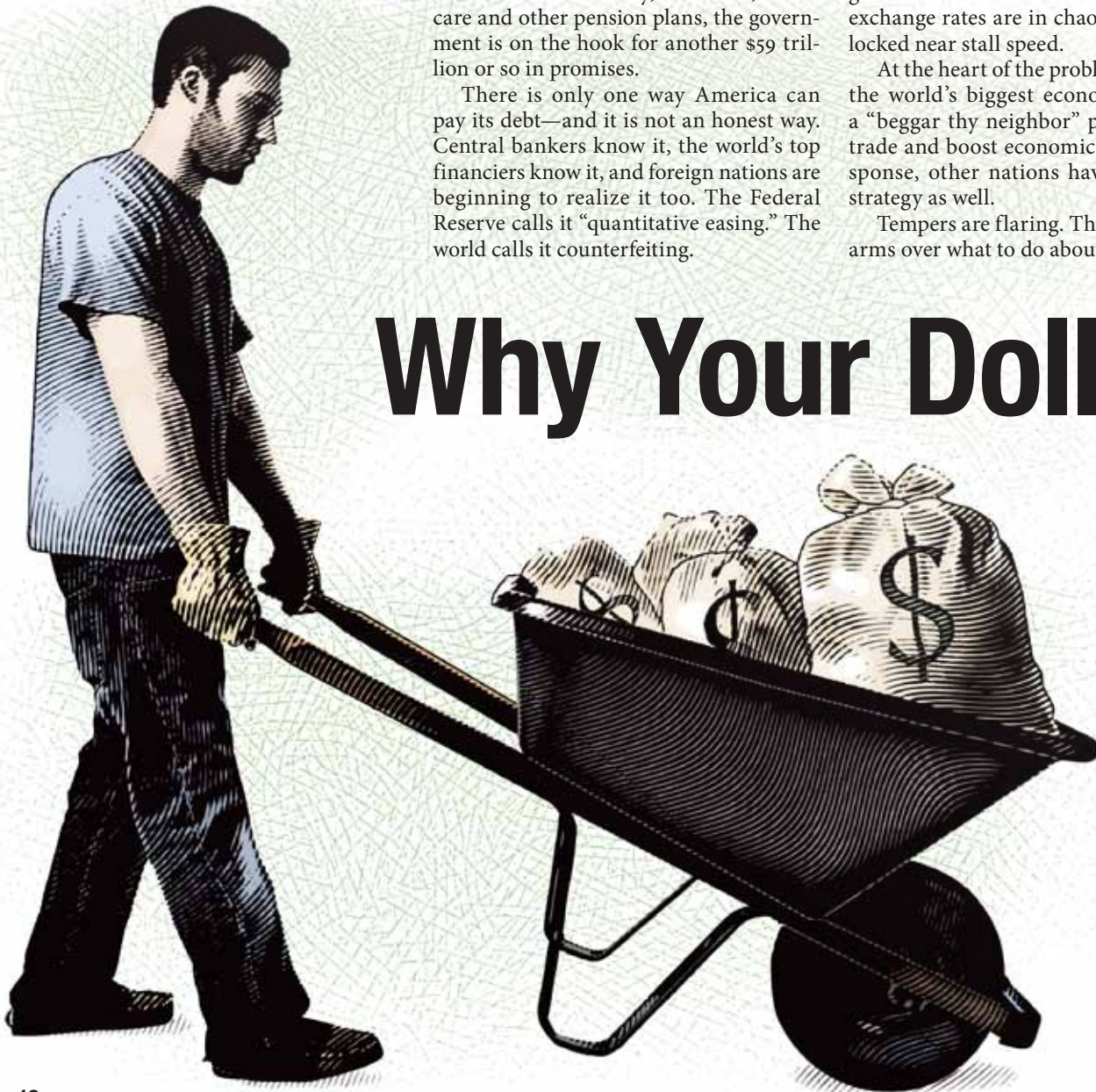
Americans can feel the pinch. But it also puts the rest of the world in a mighty big pickle.

"U.S. Policy Is Clueless"

On November 12 and 13, the richest and most powerful nations descended on South Korea. It was the biggest G-20 summit of all time, attended by nearly 10,000 of the world's most influential politicians, CEOs of international organizations and corporate business barons. There was a good reason for that. Global currency exchange rates are in chaos. The world is locked near stall speed.

At the heart of the problem is America, the world's biggest economy, executing a "beggar thy neighbor" policy to poach trade and boost economic growth. In response, other nations have adopted the strategy as well.

Tempers are flaring. The world is up in arms over what to do about the dollar!



Why Your Dollars

The problem is enormous: America's trade partners can either knuckle under, letting their currencies appreciate and risking severe recession—or they can stage a dollar revolt. This would upend the global economic system.

It's in this precarious climate that the Federal Reserve, just prior to the G-20 meeting, *raised the stakes*. It announced that it would unleash a second round of "quantitative easing" to "stimulate" the economy—a move that is guaranteed to sink the dollar even more. The Fed's hope is that by creating an additional \$600 billion—out of thin air—to purchase U.S. government bonds, interest rates will fall and consumers will begin spending.

The world, however, took a more cynical view.

Some nations, like Germany, saw it as a blatant attempt to devalue the dollar and thus steal trade. Others, like China, worried that it was an attempt to stealthily repay America's debt with fraudulent dollars.

But even if the \$600 billion money-creation plan was solely implemented to stimulate the economy, the plan is doomed to fail. JP Morgan analysts estimate that \$2 trillion might buy America 0.3 percent additional growth in 2011 and 0.4 percent in 2012. To get America on track, some analysts say upward of \$6 trillion might be needed. One Goldman Sachs guru

says that, considering the debt deleveraging and the

wealth destruction the economy is still facing, it might take \$30 trillion to do the job.

But for America, money has never been an obstacle. From the world's perspective, though, *that's precisely the problem*.

"They have already pumped endless amounts of money into the economy with extremely high budget deficits, and with a monetary policy which has already pumped in lots of money," German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said. "The results have been hopeless. With all due respect, U.S. policy is clueless."

That about sums up how the rest of the world feels about America too.

Politicians try to distract attention from America's debt problem by pinning the blame on China. But it is the politicians who are the most culpable.

Yes, China is purposefully undervaluing the yuan to promote Chinese manufacturing at the expense of American jobs, but it has been doing so for decades and American politicians and academics have said and done virtually nothing.

Speaking from Beijing, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus recently railed at China for not allowing the dollar to fall against the yuan. He said that if China allowed the yuan to appreciate to its true value, the result would be the creation of up to 500,000 new American jobs. Baucus might be right, *but the bigger point is that 500,000 jobs is not even close to what America needs*. Over 8 million jobs have been lost during this recession. And America needs to create around 150,000 jobs per month just to keep up with population growth.

America's biggest economic problem is by far its debt problem—and now it is the world's problem.

What Happens in a Dollar Revolt?

China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Brazil, South Korea, Germany, India and other nations collectively hold more than \$4.2 trillion in U.S. government debt. That does not count state or corporate debt, or the \$6 trillion owed by U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

These countries have invested their money and their faith in America. But now they see the U.S. embarking on "quantitative easing" monetary policies that will pay them back with devalued dollars.

Dissatisfaction with the dollar is escalating. And America's trade partners may be getting to the point where they actually do something about it.

A dollar revolt is brewing. And though the signs are increasingly obvious, America's leaders act like they don't see it coming.

If the world decided to abandon the dollar as a global reserve currency, living in America would change overnight. America would be engulfed in a dollar flood.

Dollars flooding back into America might sound like a good thing, but in reality it is the equivalent of the repo man coming to take away not only your F-150, but the leather couch, and all the copper pipes and wiring in your house too.

That may sound extreme, but ask yourself what a dollar bill really is. That piece of paper is nothing but a fancy IOU. It is a debt instrument—a promise to pay. And America has issued them to the point that they have—literally—gone out of style.

What does this mean for Americans? It means that inflation is virtually guaranteed. It means that not only will the supply of dollars surge due to the government printing presses, but trillions more dollars that until now have been locked away in government vaults in China, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere will also be released into the economy.

It means that foreign sovereigns are about to go on a shopping spree in Americans' backyards.

Spend It While You've Got It

Foreign nations understand that the best way to preserve their wealth is to spend their U.S. dollar hoards—to buy something, anything—before it is too late and the dollar is worthless. And as this happens, the velocity of dollars zooming through the U.S. economy will suddenly accelerate too, causing imbalances, supply shortages, and drastic plunges in the purchasing power of the dollar.

The dollars are already heading home.

Across the country, indebted cities

Buy Less and Less

And how the greenback's falling value will have some scary consequences

BY ROBERT MORLEY

and states are auctioning off their best income-producing assets—at fire-sale prices—to plug budget holes.

In October, the state of California announced that it had sold floor space that was the equivalent of two Empire State Buildings to plug budget shortfalls. The state will receive \$2.3 billion from a group called California First LLC. Over \$1 billion will go to repay a tiny portion of the state's debt. The rest will be spent for general administration. The state will now rent back the buildings from the investors *for the next 20 years!* During that time, the state will pay \$5.2 billion in rent, according to the Associated Press.

Just guess where all those billions in future rent will go? Not to Californians. California First LLC sounds pretty American, but it doesn't take much digging to find that it is just a front to make the deal more palatable to voters. One of the biggest investors is Antarctica Capital Real Estate—an opaque *international* hedge fund. Saudi Arabia? Russia? Who knows where that money will end up.

The liquidation sale is becoming commonplace in America. And the prices are

to gross about \$5 billion over the life of the contract—for a cool \$3.85 billion profit.

As Taibbi shows in his new book *Griftopia*, that is just the good part of the deal. Now, the new owners have changed the hours on the meters: Instead of allowing free parking before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m., they collect between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. One alderman wanted to keep the old hours for 270 of his meters and was told it would cost \$608,000 over three years. So if the city wanted to pay for the privilege of keeping the parking hours the same as they were before the deal for just those 270 meters, over the next 75 years the city would be forced to pay the investors \$2.12 billion—far more than the investors originally paid for all the meters in the first place.

If the city wants to close the streets for a festival, roadwork or any other reason, it has to pay out even more compensation. The meter rates have gone up too—from 25 cents per hour to over \$1.25 in some areas. Take a guess at what meter rates will be in 70 years or so.

Chicago residents might also be surprised to find out who the new parking meter owners really are. When the deal

much of anything about Redoma except that it has an address in Luxembourg—a notorious tax shelter and flow-through for Middle Eastern investors.

To say the deal heavily favors the investors is an understatement. And if the dollar keeps falling in value, they can keep raising the meter rates.

For the next 74 years, Chicago meter revenue will flow to enrich wealthy oil sheiks and who knows who else. Chicago's budget problems, however, will remain.

How will Chicago plug its budget gap next year? Sell some more city property. There will be plenty of dollar dumpers.

Revenge of the Creditors

Not that it is any consolation, but Chicago is far from alone. Parking meters have been sold in Miami, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and other cities. Toll roads in Indiana. The Chicago Skyway. A port complex in Virginia. A whole slew of infrastructure projects in California. Airports are also being considered. The Pennsylvania Turnpike was almost sold.

It is liquidation on a national scale.

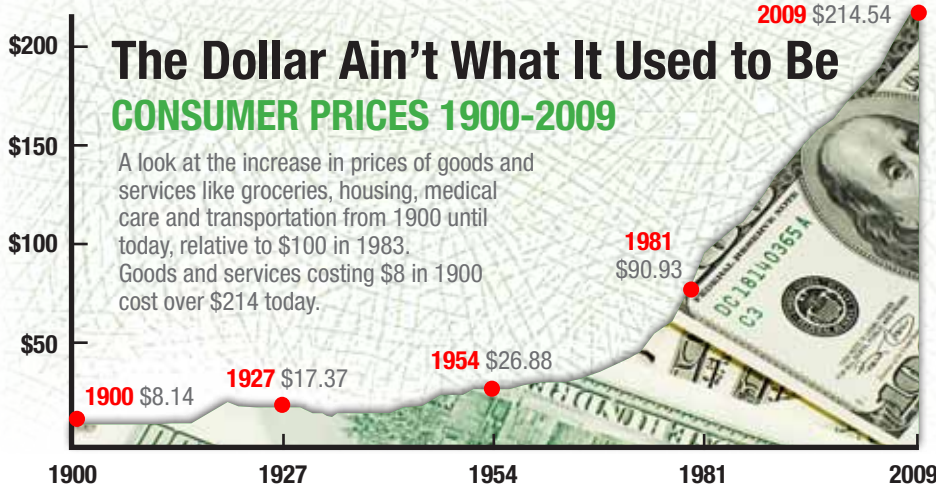
Each day, more of America's collective wealth is transferred to the bank accounts of foreign governments—because America is so corrupt and morally bankrupt that it cannot control its spending. Consequently, America's income-producing assets are being auctioned off at an alarming rate. And increasingly to foreigners who no longer want so many dollars.

America is broke. It has run up a massive trade deficit and its economy is in travail. Foreigners hold trillions of dollars' worth of U.S. debt, and now that money is coming flooding back into America to purchase strategic infrastructure. Instead of biting the bullet and cutting back its big-spending ways, America has decided to cheat and print money to pay for its spending.

And it is all leading to the destruction of the dollar.

In Habakkuk 2:6-8 God warns America of this exact predicament: "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, even mockery and insinuations against him and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his—for how long—and makes himself rich with loans? Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. Because you have looted many nations, all the remainder of the peoples will loot you ...'" (New American Standard Bible).

A dollar revolt is brewing. Next comes the looting. ■



dirt cheap because the country is broke and there is so much for sale.

The Parable of the Parking Meters

Consider the desperation of Chicago. To plug its spending holes, it sold the rights to all its parking meters—for 75 years!

Originally, the 36,000 meters were sold to a group of investors led by Morgan Stanley. This consortium, which goes by the innocuous-sounding name of Chicago Parking Meters LLC, happily forked over \$1.15 billion for the opportunity to extort parking meter fees from Chicago residents. Later, investigative journalist Matt Taibbi revealed that investors stood

first went through, Morgan Stanley's investors were pretty benign-looking—either Americans or investors from nations with uncomplicated relationships with America, from places like Australia. Only 6 percent of the investors were from Abu Dhabi, for example.

But then, just *two months* after the deal was done, guess what happened: The ownership structure completely changed. Morgan Stanley sold its stake, and several other investors bailed to make way for new investors from Abu Dhabi, who now own 30 percent of the meters. Investors in another fund called Redoma SARL now also own 50.1 percent. And no one knows

How to Concentrate

BY MICHAEL DATTOLO

WE HAVE ALL DONE it: read the same paragraph over again, having day-dreamed through it in a haze the first time, gaining nothing. Frustrated, we command ourselves to concentrate and try again.

Surely you've also experienced another common annoyance: being introduced to someone, only to forget his name before your conversation ends. How embarrassing when your new acquaintance greets you by name merely hours later, and your only response is, "Hi ... *you*."

Why can it be so difficult to concentrate? Why do we forget some things so quickly?

Interestingly enough, both of those conditions—difficulty in concentrating and forgetting things as soon as you hear them—are symptoms of the same problem. Fortunately, both are curable.

The Key to Memory

We think of memory as our ability to recall information: the name of a colleague or the answer to a question. But before a memory can be recalled, it must first be stored.

When you first encounter new information, be it a person's name or an anecdote from a book, your brain collects the details into your working memory. From there, the information travels into your longer-term memory.

The trouble is, your working memory is extremely small. Nicholas Carr, in his book *The Shallows*, likens the size of your working memory to a thimble. "Imagine filling a bathtub with a thimble," he says. "That's the challenge in transferring information from working memory into long-term memory."

Meanwhile, you are constantly bombarded with firehose-streams of information. Your thimble can transfer a preciously tiny amount of that information back to the bathtub for permanent storage.

So if you want to remember something, you must *concentrate*: set your thimble



under a single dripping faucet, ignoring the other streams of information. It turns out concentration is a real, tangible state of mind: Studies by biologists have proven that the act of concentrating releases hormones that set off a chain reaction of signals through various memory-forming areas of the brain, enhancing the brain's immediate ability to store memories.

Lack of concentration, on the other hand, is the reason you forget someone's name the moment you hear it. Instead of focusing on the name, you were thinking about what you were going to say, how the handshake felt or how the individual looked. You can't recall the name later because it never made it from the thimble to the bathtub.

Overloading Your Brain

It takes no extra time to concentrate, but it does take significant *effort*.

There are more impediments to concentrating today than ever before. In our world of technological conveniences, information is instantly accessible in torrents—as is constant distraction.

Does a tiny distraction like an incoming text message affect your memory? Recall how small your working memory is. Every time a distraction pours in, the contents of your memory thimble overflow, and the old information is displaced by the new. The phenomenon is called "cognitive overload."

The very design of the Internet leads us to cognitive overload. Unlike books, which are linear and focused, the Web is a hurricane of distraction. Using it, our brains, in addition to reading, must make constant decisions about clicking hyperlinks, flashing banners, pop-up windows and more. Information pours into our

working memory at a dizzying rate. Our brains cannot store everything. Concentration—and thus memory—suffers.

How, then, can we concentrate?

Pondering Makes Perfect

Eliminate distractions. When reading or studying, turn off your music. Silence your cell phone ringer. Quit your e-mail program. Go to a quiet place if possible. Turn off all the information faucets except one.

When listening, focus your eyes on the speaker and imagine you are a translator, having to capture the meaning of every word.

Admittedly, you can't always turn off all distractions. You may have a job that depends on timely access to e-mail and phone calls. But consider: Can you set your e-mail to check less often? Can you disable audio notifications of new messages on your phone? If not all the time, consider setting aside certain distraction-free periods.

More good news about concentration: You can get better at it. Research by biologist Eric Kandel has demonstrated that the makeup of our brains changes according to what we do. Neurons form new connections as we repeat tasks. The more connections that relate to a given activity, the easier that task becomes. That is not surprising: It's why we get better at things we practice.

Less known until recently is that mental activities are also improved by repetition. Research by psychologist Sheila Crowell indicates that the acts of concentrating and remembering actually modify the brain in such a way that it becomes easier to learn in the future. The more we concentrate, the easier it becomes.

So if you want to improve your concentration in a world of distractions, engage in activities that require it. One of the easiest is to read books. If you're used to reading only snippets on the Internet, you might find it difficult to focus for prolonged periods at first. But stay with it. As you concentrate—away from your computer, with your cell phone in silent mode—your neurons will go to work, and your powers of concentration will grow. ■



Loneliness

THE CAUSE AND CURE

BY DENNIS LEAP

OUR SOCIETY IS AFFLICTED WITH chronic loneliness. Concerned experts warn that loneliness is at the epidemic stage, affecting both genders of all races. It is a global problem.

Of course, it is only human to feel lonely at times. Professionals refer to this as *situational* loneliness. For example, the death of a loved one can cause painful loneliness. However, this condition generally lessens with the passage of time.

Chronic loneliness is far more dangerous. Confronting loneliness daily is a difficult struggle. Medical professionals now see it as a serious health threat that can lead to heightened stress, high blood pressure, heart disease, sleep disorders and depression.

The irony is, world population is at an all-time high. Cities are bulging with people. So why should anybody be lonely? What is the cause? What is the cure? You may be surprised at the answers.

People Living Alone

To understand the cause of loneliness, we must first recognize that it is a modern malady. Pre-

vious generations did not have the problem on the same scale. Why? Sociologists have collected some interesting data to help unravel the mystery.

In the United States in the 1950s, about one in every 10 households had one person living alone. By the 1990s this figure had jumped to one out of four households. New Census Bureau figures show that “just me” homes are 27 percent of U.S. households today. These figures are similar for most countries throughout the Western world.

So we can see there has been a marked change in our social landscape. More and more people live alone. The startling truth is, single-person households are the fastest growing segment of our 21st-century populations.

No wonder loneliness has risen so dramatically. Some predict that this century will be known as the *lonely century*.

Several centuries ago, when large extended families dominated society, a single adult living alone would have been unthinkable. Even in the mid-20th century, single adult homes were dominated by either young, pre-married males or older widows. Yet today, the majority of one-person households are middle-aged men and women.

Why are so many people living alone? Some are forced to because of the death of a spouse, but this primarily affects the elderly; younger widows and widowers often have children living with them, and they are far likelier to remarry.

The majority of people living on their own today are those who have suffered through *divorce*. Worldwide divorce rates have risen sharp-

ly in recent decades, and second and third marriages have far less chance of success. In America, 41 percent of first marriages fail, and 60 percent of second marriages. Among third marriages, nearly three out of four end in divorce.

In addition, a growing number of men and women are simply choosing to postpone getting married or avoid marriage altogether. It is estimated that 1 in 10 Americans plans never to marry. Some—especially well-educated, upwardly mobile single women—delay marriage until well into their 30s to pursue careers. Many young men are choosing not to marry in order to remain free to pursue personal hobbies unhindered by responsibilities. Some refer to this choice as enjoying the *me* years.

Others decide not to marry because of a poor family life. After growing up amid parental bickering and fighting, or witnessing excruciatingly painful divorces firsthand, they are soured on marriage. Living the childhood years under the stress and tension of parents at war has caused many to fear repeating this tragic history. They want nothing to do with marriage.

More and more people are failing at family or avoiding it completely. Experts have concluded that all this *aloneness* has led to chronic loneliness.

Their solution seems simple enough. Chronically lonely people need to develop strongly bonded loving relationships.

Yet are these conclusions true? Do the experts truly understand the cause of chronic loneliness? We must get to the *root* of the problem, or nothing will change.

The Real Solution

Is the solution to the problem merely developing strongly bonded relationships?

Today, there is a desperate search for such relationships, and people are experimenting with all kinds of ways to make these relationships happen. Many couples live together without marriage. Others get into same-sex “marriages.” Some people even try to develop strong bonds with pets, including exotic wild animals.

In the end, these relationships will not work. Loneliness often remains. The needed strong bonds cannot be built. Human beings are meant for better.

Let’s look at this problem honestly. Why are people chronically lonely? The facts lead us to the only viable conclusion: *We have chronic loneliness because we have been systematically destroying the God-ordained institution of marriage and family.*

The traditional family of a married couple with children—so common just a cou-

ple of generations ago—is disappearing. Society today doesn’t just *embrace* all other possible combinations—it *exalts* them at the expense of the biblical model. Men and women, by their own self-acquired wisdom, have created their own ideas of family. Yet the truth is that *all* the combinations man dreams up will never be truly family!

Chronic loneliness is a curse resulting from what we have done and are doing to marriage and family.

God never intended for men, women and children to live alone or be lonely. At man’s creation, God said, “*It is not good that the man should be ALONE; I will make him an help meet for him*” (Genesis 2:18). From the beginning, God created man to need human contact and support. He solved the problem by creating a *help* suitable for Adam, which happened to be Eve—a woman. No other created being could fulfill such an important role (verse 20).

Then, to insure that men, women and children would remain in a state of togetherness, God created marriage and family. After creating Eve, God said: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (verse 24). Adam and Eve were the first humans to be married, yet their children were also to marry.

Marriage and family were created to ensure that no human being would suffer chronic loneliness. God has an awesome plan for mankind. He earnestly wants us to become His sons and daughters (2 Corinthians 6:18). To ensure man’s success, He created the family.

A full understanding of God’s plan for man reveals that marriage and family are eternal institutions. For more details on this subject, request our booklet *The God Family Vision*. It will be sent to you at no charge. This stirring booklet explains in detail that God is a Family and that man, made in His image, is destined to be in that Family for eternity.

To permanently solve the problem of chronic loneliness, humankind must get back to building family God’s way.

Gain True Education

The Prophet Isaiah stated thousands of years ago that family life would nearly be destroyed in our day. Isaiah 3:1-12 discuss this breakdown and its tragic results.

Newscasters and commentators recognize that our world has been turned upside down, yet they don’t know the cause. Most blame our failing economy. Others condemn the politicians. Most seem to forget that *we the people* have chosen those who

lead us. We must come to see the truth as Isaiah prophesied it: that today’s failures in leadership and our collapsing economy have their roots in our sick family life.

God holds *everyone* accountable for our upside-down world. Each individual must point the finger at himself or herself. God sees our problems clearly and tells us how to solve them.

He states: “Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter’s clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?” (Isaiah 29:16). This society has rejected God by saying *He made me not*. This one simple statement sums up everything written on the subject of evolution!

By rejecting God, mankind has also pushed aside His revealed knowledge about marriage and family. In doing so, we are saying that God *had no understanding* when He created man. How arrogant of human beings!

Even though mankind has stockpiled vast amounts of knowledge, we lack the understanding of how to build and maintain right relationships. We have lost true education in the things that really matter.

To end the human suffering caused by chronic loneliness, we must come to know and apply what God teaches about marriage and family.

God used Herbert W. Armstrong to restore this incredible knowledge for those willing to read and study it. Request our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. It thoroughly explains God’s purpose for creating marriage and family. This knowledge opens up to us the only workable solution to set right our upside-down family life.

All lasting, loving relationships are built and maintained within God’s design for family. God intended the family to be the training ground for building right relationships. It is within the context of family that we learn to love, care for, serve and support others. If our family life is twisted and distorted, *all* our relationships will be twisted and distorted. We will continue to suffer from ills such as chronic loneliness.

However, when our family life is strong and oriented in God’s ways, the results are miraculous. No elderly person is left alone. No couple experiences a painful divorce. Young people marry and have children to help build up a stable society.

Does this seem unreal to you? This is the kind of world Jesus Christ will build at His return (e.g. Zechariah 8:4-5). You can begin to enjoy that world now. It is your choice. ■

1 Getting ready for U.S. to leave

AS THE WAR IN Afghanistan wears on, Kabul is seeking to accommodate both the Taliban and neighboring Iran. America, pushed into a corner, is accepting the prospect of greater Iranian and Taliban involvement.

The U.S. intelligence community agrees that the Taliban is maintaining its strength; America's intensified military campaign has inflicted only fleeting setbacks on the insurgency. Military officials say the Taliban appear confident they can outlast the U.S. troop buildup, which is scheduled to diminish in July.

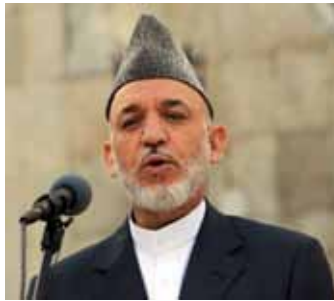
Conceding this reality, Afghanistan's new High Peace Council on October 21 offered to make concessions to bring Taliban fighters to the negotiating table. The 70-member council was formed last September to seek a negotiated end to the war. Its spokesman said inducements to get Taliban fighters to work with the government could in-

clude jobs, homes and cash.

The U.S. is also looking to include Iran in forging a solution for Afghanistan. On October 18, an Iranian representative joined officials from the U.S. and other countries at a security conference on Afghanistan in Rome.

Iran has a strong presence in Afghanistan—aiding both sides in the conflict in order to enhance its own regional position. “From the U.S. perspective, a settlement in Afghanistan underwritten by Iran and Pakistan could create the conditions conducive to a Western military withdrawal from the country,” reported Stratfor (Oct. 26, 2010).

Afghanistan's president seems quite happy with Iranian involvement. **Hamid Karzai** admitted on October 25 that Iran has supplied his office with millions in cash over the past



several years—intended to buy the government's loyalty and promote Iran's interests. Karzai called the cash “official aid” and said he would continue to ask for Iranian money.

Karzai then lashed out at the U.S., accusing it of exporting killing to Afghanistan by using private security companies. In a heated session with NATO commander Gen. David Petraeus and other officials, he stormed out, saying he didn't need the West's help.

These actions speak volumes about Karzai—a supposed American ally. Like the Taliban and Iran, Karzai sees the day of the American withdrawal nearing and is preparing for it.

lin. “I would have liked to see somewhat more support from us all on this question.”

Köhler had stated that the military should step in when regional instability threatens Germany's trade, jobs and income. Guttenberg re-opened the debate, warning that growing demand for natural resources could lead to new conflicts. “The raw materials needs of emerging powers are constantly grow-

ing, and thus competing with our requirements,” he said. “I think in particular of what is happening today with rare earths”—a reference to China's monopoly on the valuable minerals. Guttenberg also targeted piracy as potentially requiring military intervention, calling it “a serious challenge to our economic performance.”

Guttenberg seeks to create a newly assertive Germany. His policies will make the army efficient and capable of fighting overseas. Now he is arguing that Germany should use it.



3 Guttenberg: The military is for using!

IN MAY, GERMAN PRESIDENT Horst Köhler resigned amid a chorus of criticism after he said Germany may have to deploy its army to safeguard its economic interests. Six months later, Germany's most popular politician said he agrees with Köhler.

“I ask myself to this day what was so bold about (Köhler's) comment,” said German **Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg** on November 9 in Ber-

2 Cost of broken homes

ON NOVEMBER 4, Britain's Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

revealed that children who come from broken homes are nine times likelier to commit a crime than those raised in stable families. Speaking before an audience at a family counseling service, Duncan Smith made what the *Daily Mail* called “the strongest defense of marriage made by a major government figure in years” (Nov. 4, 2010).

“It is important that we recognize the role of marriage in building a strong society, especially if we want to give children the best chance in life,” he said.

According to Dun-



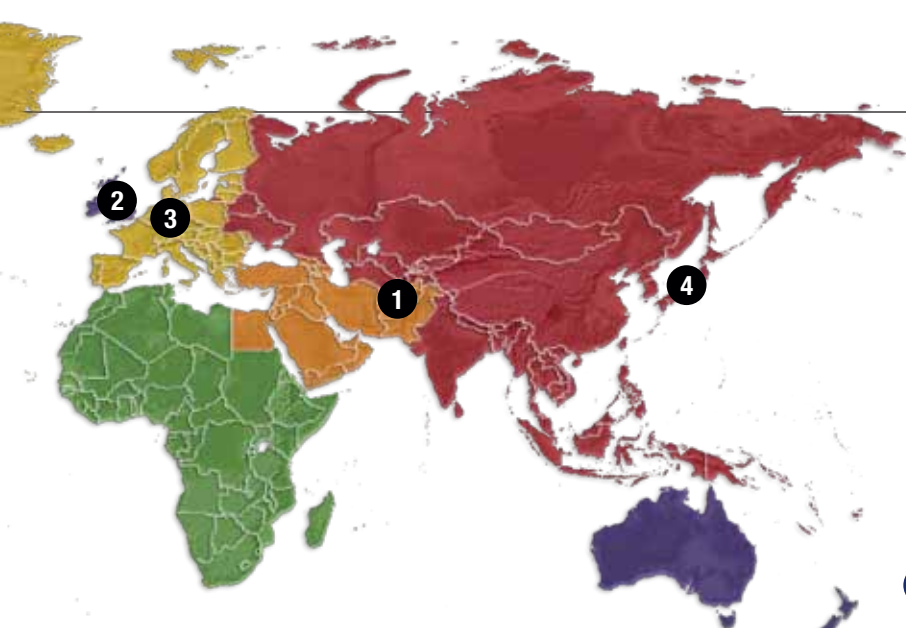
can Smith, family breakdown costs the nation

£20 to £40 billion a year. However, adding hidden costs such as “social breakdown, addiction, crime, lost productivity and tax revenues” could put the figure over £100 billion, he said.

“Lone-parent families are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than two-parent families,” he said. He stated that “Only 30 percent of young offenders grew up with both parents.”

Speaking of the opposition party, Duncan Smith said, “Sadly, the last government seemed determined to undermine marriage—for example, by removing references to it from official forms.” The last government replaced “broken homes” verbiage with phraseology like “reformed families,” and ordered the word *marriage* deleted from official documents because it implied “presumption of someone's sexual orientation.”





4 Japan: nationalism on the rise

AROUND 5,000 JAPANESE nationalists assembled in Tokyo on November 6 to demonstrate against China. It was the latest of many signs that China's expanding economic clout, political assertiveness and military might are provoking a nationalistic backlash in Japan.

The protest was the third since early September, when a Chinese fishing boat rammed a Japanese patrol ship near disputed islands in the East China Sea. A video of the collision was leaked to YouTube on November 4, showing that it was a deliberate act of Chinese aggression—and enraging the Japanese.

Tokyo is also disputing with Russia over the Southern Kuril Islands, which both nations claim. When Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visited the islands in November—a first for any Russian leader—Japan denounced the trip. Russia's foreign minister responded that the islands are “Russian land” that the president “can visit whenever he

chooses to.”

These provocations are stirring up nationalism and jingoism in Japan partly because only two decades ago, Japan was the rising star of Asia. Now it sees that China has taken its place. More and more Japanese desire a stronger military in response. The Defense Ministry announced October 21 that Japan's navy plans to add six submarines to its fleet. Tokyo's governor said Japan would be able to confront China if it had nuclear weapons.

Back in 1971, Herbert W. Armstrong predicted Japan would awake from its post-war slumber: “Japan today has no military establishment But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so powerful economically that it could build a military force of very great power very rapidly.”

Today's tensions, while prodding Japan

to develop its military power, will not remain. Despite the hostility, Japan and China are increasingly dependent on each other economically. China has surpassed the U.S. to become Japan's most important trade partner. In 2009, China consumed a record 19 percent of Japan's exports, and Japan bought 22 percent of its imports from China.

Bible prophecy reveals that Asian nations will soon put aside their differences to unite



against a common enemy. Japan's economic cooperation with China, alongside America's waning influence in the region, will ultimately lead Tokyo and Beijing to a powerful military alliance, just as Mr. Armstrong foretold.

5 America votes for change—again

IN MIDTERM ELECTIONS on November 2, Americans handed congressional Democrats a drubbing.

In the House of Representatives, where all 435 seats were up for election, Republicans won more than 60 seats and a comfortable majority. In the Senate, where a little more than a third of the 100 seats were contested, Republicans retained all 41 of their seats and won six more from Democrats.

President Obama conceded that the election represented a “shellacking” for Democrats, but refused to admit that it reflected a repudiation of his liberal agenda.

Exit polls indicated voters felt *both* parties were out of touch, a phenomenon apparent in the success of the “Tea Party,” which arose largely because many voters felt abandoned by the Republi-

can Party.

Seventy percent of Americans now believe America is on the wrong track. Almost as many believe it is facing a “crisis” in leadership. Approval ratings for Congress are at near-record lows.

The *Financial Times* reported that the election showed deep divisions across the political map, producing the most polarized Congress in recent history. Nine out of 10 African-Americans voted Democrat, and 8 out of 10 whites voted Republican. Similarly wide gulfs separated the old from the young, and people from small towns versus city dwellers.

Now, politicians from both parties are digging in for what will assuredly be two years of nasty gridlock.

No amount of change in human government will fix what is already broken. Soon, we can expect the accelerating pace of prophetic events to fully expose the fact that mortal men cannot solve the colossal problems facing America.

● EUROPE

■ France's protests turned violent in October. At one point, one in four gas stations in the country ran dry as protestors shut down oil refineries and airports. Youths led the way in rioting, overturning cars and attacking police in several cities. The protests were triggered by a bill that raises the French pension age from 60 to 62, which ended up passing into law on November 10. Meanwhile, protestors in Greece sent mail bombs to embassies in Athens, and leaders outside of the country, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Expect this kind of lawlessness to cause Europe to clamp down harder on its citizens.

■ In Brussels on October 29, EU leaders agreed on budgetary reforms aimed at preventing another economic crisis. Under the new German-designed initiative, which EU member states were pressured to accept, the Lisbon Treaty will be revised to create new

■ CONSERVATIVE MEP DANIEL HANNAN

“The official launch of the [European External Action Service] represents a significant ramping up of the EU’s ambition to be a global power.”

get is \$9.2 billion—over double that of the British Foreign Ministry. The EEAS will employ around 7,000 people; the British Foreign Office employs 4,863. Conservative MEP Daniel Hannan wrote in the *Daily Mail* that “the EU means to signal to other countries that it, rather than its 27 constituent members, should now be their first port of call. To a remarkable degree, it has already succeeded” (Nov. 1, 2010).

● MIDEAST

■ Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was reelected on November 11. The day before, Iraqi political parties had agreed to a framework for a new government, ending eight months of gridlock fol-

lowing inconclusive elections March 7. Rival political parties have reached a power-sharing deal wherein Maliki, a Shiite, remains prime minister and Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani retains the presidency; the position of speaker goes to Osama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni. This is a victory for Iraq's Iran-backed Shiites, with Maliki, whose National Alliance actually won fewer seats in the March election than the Sunni-backed Iraqiya bloc, staying in power. Moreover, it represents a major victory for Iran and a defeat for the U.S. As the *Independent* wrote on November 11, “The U.S. campaign to promote its favored candidate, Iyad Allawi, as president appears to have

failed spectacularly. ... Iran has outmaneuvered the U.S. in shaping the new government to its own liking.”

■ The U.S. has labeled an Iranian anti-government militant group as a terrorist organization, in a major concession to Tehran. On November 3, the U.S. State Department placed Jundallah, a Sunni-Balochi rebel group, on its list of international terrorist entities. Voice of America points out the irony that “Although Iran is on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, the Departments of State and Treasury designated one of the Tehran government’s most radical opponents as a terrorist organization” (Nov. 3, 2010). The U.S. decision represents “a huge gesture toward Iran,” Stratfor wrote. “Washington likely made the move in hopes of reaching an understanding on the balance of power in the Persian Gulf region after U.S. forces exit Iraq” (Nov. 3, 2010). This is just one more demonstration of the leverage Iran has over America in the region.

■ On October 31, Sunnis in the Bahraini government lost

control of parliament. The second round of the country’s legislative elections gave Shiite and independent candidates a parliamentary majority in the Persian Gulf kingdom. The Shiites comprise the majority of Bahrain’s population and the results are a major blow to Sunnis, who had dominated the last two parliaments. The election sweep by the Shia is another indicator of growing Iranian-Shiite influence in the Persian Gulf region.

■ Nigeria’s secret service said on October 26 that it had intercepted 13 containers of weapons from Iran that were possibly destined for the Gaza Strip. Rocket launchers, grenades and other explosives camouflaged as building materials were seized in the Nigerian port of Lagos after being unloaded from an Iranian ship. Israeli defense sources believe this may be part of a new smuggling route from Iran to Hamas in Gaza, via Africa.

● ASIA

■ Washington has concluded that Chinese businesses are bypassing UN sanctions and aiding Iran in its quest for nuclear weapons and more advanced missile technology. A senior U.S. official told the *Washington Post* on October 18 that U.S. intelligence believes several Chinese companies are providing restricted technology to Tehran’s military programs. With Iran taking on the influential post of presidency of OPEC, oil-thirsty China has more reason than ever to seek good terms with Tehran.

■ On November 10, a UN report claiming that North Korea is sharing illegal nuclear technology with Iran, Myanmar and Syria was submitted to the Security Council. The report says Pyongyang is using “multiple layers of inter-

■ IRAQI POLITICAL SCIENTIST GHASSAN AL-ATTIYAH

“American hegemony in Iraq is over. U.S. influence is falling by the day.”

rules and mechanisms to protect the euro. The initiative is bound to tighten Berlin’s stranglehold on the European Union. “This mechanism will function like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Europe, and with it, Berlin ... would be planted firmly in the driver’s seat,” Stratfor wrote. Berlin “would have control over both the financial life and death in the eurozone” (Nov. 4, 2010).

■ The new European External Action Service (EEAS), or diplomatic core, formally entered service Dec. 1, 2010. Emerging details reveal how it will massively expand Europe’s global profile. The EEAS’s annual bud-

get is \$9.2 billion—over double that of the British Foreign Ministry. The EEAS will employ around 7,000 people; the British Foreign Office employs 4,863. Conservative MEP Daniel Hannan wrote in the *Daily Mail* that “the EU means to signal to other countries that it, rather than its 27 constituent members, should now be their first port of call. To a remarkable degree, it has already succeeded” (Nov. 1, 2010).





ASIA POWER
Hu Jintao hosts Dmitry Medvedev in Beijing.

mediaries, shell companies and financial institutions” to “circumvent” UN sanctions.

■ Finance ministers of the world’s 20 biggest economies voted on October 23 to grant emerging market countries like China, India and Turkey more weight in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). China emerged as the key winner, gaining 6 percent more voting power, making it the third-largest voting member of the IMF. The *Wall Street Journal* called the agreement “belated recognition of the old Western economies’ fading place in the Great Scheme of Things.” As China’s massive growth forges on, the global balance of power will continue to shift.

■ China desires increased cooperation with Russia within the G-20 framework, Chinese President Hu Jintao said at a meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on November 11. Hu explained that the aim would be to use the body to advance the interests of emerging economies. The two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation within various forums. Expect the Russo-Chinese strategic partnership to gain momentum, culminating in full-scale alliance.

■ Moscow has earmarked \$63.4 billion for national defense and security in 2011, Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin announced November 8. The budget marks a significant increase over Russia’s 2010 defense budget of \$41.5 billion. The 2011 budget, the largest ever for Moscow, allocates \$14.9 billion for new arms purchases.

LATIN AMERICA/ AFRICA

■ Venezuela will make an \$800 million investment in the South Pars gas field, an Iranian official said on October 24. The South Pars gas field, located in the Persian Gulf, is the world’s largest and is shared by Iran and Qatar. Hamad Akbari, the Iranian energy project’s coordinator, says Venezuela’s investment will comprise 10 percent of total financing for this phase of the project. Caracas’s agreement is just one in a string of deals between Venezuela and Iran; the *Latin American Herald Tribune* reported that bilateral trade between the two is more than \$5 billion a year.

■ News of another series of mass rapes has emerged

from the Democratic Republic of Congo. On November 5, UN spokesman Maurizio Giuliano announced that 600 girls were raped along the border between Congo and Angola during a large-scale expulsion of illegal immigrants during the previous two months. “What worries us is that rape seems to be becoming endemic in several parts of Congo,” he said. “We

■ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that the La Niña weather pattern is likely to cause varied problems throughout the U.S. this winter. While the Pacific Northwest will benefit from lower temperatures and increased precipitation, the Southwest and Southeast will probably be warmer and drier than usual, aggravating existing drought conditions. The Northern Plains and the Ohio and Tennessee valleys could see high levels of storminess and flooding.

■ The *Daily Mail* reported on October 11 that Britain is the “jobless capital of Europe,” with one in eight adults liv-

HOMOSEXUAL WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SHIN INOUE

“We have made a record number of openly LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender] appointments, and we are confident that this number will only continue to grow.”

feel it’s becoming part of the routine.” The UN’s presence seems to have done nothing to stem the problem.

ANGLO-AMERICA

■ On October 27, law enforcement officers arrested Farooque Ahmed in Virginia. The Pakistani-born Ahmed was plotting to bomb Washington, D.C., metro subway stations. The week prior, shots were fired at both the Marine Corps Museum in Virginia and at the Pentagon, two events that the FBI confirmed were linked. Shots were also fired at a Marine Corps recruiting station in Chantilly, Virginia. Some wonder whether the uptick in these events is a result of a statement earlier this year by Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud that terrorists should begin to target American cities.

ing in a house where no one is working, more than in any other country in Europe. In the worst areas, as many as 84 percent of people are on welfare.

■ Also in Britain, children are attacking their parents. The charity Parentline Plus received 22,537 telephone calls in a two-year period, from June 2008 to June 2010, from parents who are struggling with their children. About 14,000 dealt with verbal abuse, and almost 7,000 with physical abuse, usually children attacking mothers.

■ On October 15, it emerged that the first entire parish has voted to leave the Church of England and return to the Roman Catholic Church, and a fourth Church of England bishop announced that he would become Catholic. “I don’t feel I have any choice but to leave the church and take up the pope’s offer,” John Broadhurst said.

The History Iran Forgot

An inspiring look back at when the Islamic Republic's forefathers were friends and champions of ... the Jews BY BRAD MACDONALD

IN 1971, IRAN THREW A PARTY. A big one.

It took 10 years to plan and lasted five days. The *Guinness Book of Records* recorded it as the largest gathering of world leaders in history. More than 600 foreign dignitaries, including some 65 heads of state, abandoned their presidential palaces and braved the Iranian desert—on sand dunes on the outskirts of Persepolis, capital of the ancient Persian Empire.

The shah was a gracious host and spared no expense to ensure their comfort. Two hundred and fifty custom-built red Mercedes-Benzes zipped across the desert carrying foreign diplomats. Hairdressers and make-up artists were flown in from Paris; drapes and flowers were imported from Italy. Guests stayed in gigantic air-conditioned tents, constructed in traditional Persian style. They ate the finest food, catered by Maxim's de Paris, which closed its Paris location for two weeks to prepare for the banquet. More than 150 chefs, bakers and waiters were imported. The world's master hotelier, a Frenchman, was brought out of retirement to manage the waitstaff. Attendees dined on fine china and drank from goblets made from Baccarat crystal.

There were fireworks displays, performances from some of the world's finest musicians and spectacularly choreographed parades by Iranian soldiers, all dressed in traditional Persian garb. The price tag of the grand affair, according to the *New York Times*, was \$100 million.

Why such a spectacular celebration? What was so important that the shah felt compelled to transform the Iranian desert into an exquisite tent city so he could celebrate with hundreds of the world's most powerful leaders?

It was the 2,500-year anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire!

In the sixth century, King Cyrus the Great displayed unmatched and unique skills of leadership to forge the disparate peoples of Mesopotamia into one of the mightiest civilizations in mankind's history. In 1971, the shah of Iran celebrated this history with such grandeur in an attempt to "REAWAKEN THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO THEIR PAST and REAWAKEN THE WORLD TO IRAN."

The shah had his critics for this giant celebration—but we need to think about the history he was trying to invoke. His desire to showcase the legacy of Cyrus the Great and ancient Persia was praiseworthy. He was absolutely right: Iran boasts one of the most unique and majestic histories of all countries on the planet.

Moreover, the history of King Cyrus and ancient Persia is *more vital, more illustrious, more inspiring, more hopeful, more faith-building* than the shah of Iran ever knew! The shah could have spent \$2 TRILLION on his celebration and still not have properly showcased the importance of this history.

The Origins of Persia

Before the 1930s, today's Iran went by the name *Persia*. Today the names *Iran* and *Persia* remain interchangeable. Historians

agree that the Persians are an Indo-European people, meaning they can trace their heritage back to Shem, the Caucasian son of Noah. The Jewish historian Josephus records the Persians as being descendants of Shem's son Elam (Genesis 10:22).

For about 1,500 years after the Flood, the Persians herded sheep and raised horses on the plains of Mesopotamia, mostly in the region just north of the Tigris River and the sea known today as the Persian Gulf. In the mid-sixth century B.C., however, the Persian lifestyle experienced an upheaval.

Under the leadership of Cyrus the Great, the Persians began conquering surrounding city-states. First, they conquered the Medes, who in defeat accepted an invitation from Cyrus to join forces with the Persian army. Within 10 years, King Cyrus was ruling over a kingdom of then unprecedented proportions, one stretching from Thrace in the west to Egypt in the south to the Indus River in the east.

Politically, the Persians were very different from the Assyrians before them. After Cyrus conquered the gargantuan Assyrian/Babylonian-Chaldean empires and fused the disparate peoples and cultures into a single kingdom, succeeding monarchs managed to keep the kingdom united and strong for some 250 years. It wasn't till Alexander the Great barreled eastward in 333 B.C. that Persia was knocked from its perch above the civilized world.

Historians agree on and admire the fundamental reason Cyrus and his successors were able to maintain such an enormous kingdom: The Persian monarchs



were terrific humanitarians. They had tremendous respect and tolerance for the customs and traditions of the people they ruled over.

“Under the close supervision of his government, [Cyrus] permitted the conquered peoples to retain their own customs and religions and their own forms of government,” explains Stanley Chodorov in *The Mainstream of Civilization*. As an example, he cites the history of King Cyrus allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem around 535 B.C.

By not forcing his religion or creed on the people he conquered, Cyrus gained their respect and loyalty. The result? Many willingly submitted to Persian rule!

In 1879, British archeologists digging in Iran discovered a barrel-shaped cylinder made out of clay. They called it the Cyrus Cylinder because inscribed on the cylinder in ancient cuneiform is a decree by King Cyrus. In the 40-line decree, the king recalls his defeat of Babylon and outlines a number of policies designed to *defend the rights of the conquered*. The Cyrus Cylinder confirms King Cyrus’s reputation as a great humanitarian, and is, according to the United Nations, the “*world’s first charter of human rights*.”

Historians recognize that the governance of Cyrus the Great was profoundly unique. History does not overflow with examples of powerful men mercifully allowing the peoples they conquer to keep their religions, customs and traditions. In fact, it’s full of individuals doing the opposite.

Really, when it came to ruling the

people he conquered, Cyrus displayed characteristics that simply don’t spring from the natural human mind, which is *inherently selfish* (Jeremiah 17:9).

Where did this admirable and heretofore unrepeatable character trait come from? Where did Cyrus come from, and why did he suddenly emerge in the sixth century? You won’t find the answers in your encyclopedia or via a Google search. We’ll have to look into the world’s most neglected and underrated history book.

CELEBRATING PERSIA The gala thrown by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi included a gown woven of gold threads for his wife, Queen Farah (top left). Over 600 dignitaries attended the celebrations in Pasargad, site of the tomb of Cyrus the Great (top middle) and Persepolis, which was transformed into a luxurious tent city (model, right). Over 65 heads of state, including Prince Ranier and Princess Grace of Monaco (bottom middle) attended events such as the parading of the Sassanid Cavalry (bottom left).

Cyrus the Prophecy

As you might expect, Cyrus is mentioned a lot in the Bible. Chronologically, the first author to discuss Cyrus in the Bible is the Prophet Isaiah. Chapter 44 reveals that God “says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘*She shall be built*,’ and of the temple, ‘*Your foundation shall be laid*’” (verse 28, Revised Standard Version).

Here, the Bible recalls the decree by

King Cyrus in 539 B.C. commissioning the Jews to leave Babylon and return to Judea. In this decree Cyrus told the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which had been sacked by the Babylonians about 45 years earlier. Isaiah’s account gels perfectly with archeological evidence such as the Cyrus Cylinder, as well as the works of historians such as Herodotus and Xenophon.

Here’s the thing: Isaiah wrote his book in the *latter half of the eighth century B.C.*—more than 150 years *before* King Cyrus commissioned the Jews to return to Jerusalem!

Think on this! Cyrus, Persia’s greatest king, was prophesied *by name* MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE HE WAS EVEN BORN!

Not only that, God, through Isaiah, prophesied specifically that He would inspire Cyrus to dispatch the Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple! Remember, Isaiah wrote this *before* Persia existed as an empire, *before* the Chaldeans had conquered Jerusalem and taken the Jews back to Babylon, and long *before* King Cyrus ever conquered the Chaldeans and gained control of Mesopotamia.

Surely, among all his terrific accomplishments, Cyrus’s greatest accomplishment was being the living, breathing fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy!

Cyrus the Humanitarian

It is clear that credit for the timing of Cyrus the Great’s emergence belongs to God. But what about his profound and intriguing tolerance and respect for the culture and traditions of other races and peoples?

Let's pick up the history in Ezra 1: "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA ..." (verse 1). Ezra here is recording the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 44, where God said He would use Cyrus as a "shepherd" and that through him He would "fulfill my purpose."

God was working with the mind of this great Persian king!

Ezra also records that under God's inspiration, Cyrus "made a proclamation

Daniel, a Jewish man, to a position of great power within the mighty Persian Empire. During Daniel's public promotion, the king of Persia issued a decree to "all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth," demanding "that in all my royal dominion men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel."

Now *that* is thrilling history! Persia's greatest king not only recognized God's presence in his life, but he also encouraged his subjects to "tremble and fear" before the God of Israel!

No wonder the Persian Empire reached the height of its power under Cyrus the Great!

Cyrus the "Zionist"

Historians widely accept that Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Judea. But none has ever investigated the depth of his affection for the Jews. When you read the Bible, especially Ezra 1, it's clear that there were no bounds to the favor Cyrus showed toward the Jews.

In Ezra 1:2, Cyrus says openly that the God of Israel had personally "charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem." He was king of the mightiest empire on Earth, and one of his driving goals was to help the Jews rebuild Jerusalem!

Verses 3-6 show Cyrus giving the Jews a key to the treasury of the Persian Empire. Whatever the Jews wanted, they got, including gold, silver, precious stones, building utensils, lumber, and animals and crops for food. When they finally started building the temple around 535 B.C., they imported cedar trees from Lebanon and tradesmen from Phoenicia, all thanks to the "grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia" (Ezra 3:7).

Verse 7 recounts Cyrus being so thrilled by the building project in Judea, he had his men fetch from the treasury the "vessels of the house of the Lord" that had been taken when the temple was sacked by Babylonians in 585 B.C.

History is clear on this point: King Cyrus of Persia was a patron of the Jews, and a willing facilitator of those of them inhabiting Jerusalem. HE WAS, IN A REAL SENSE, A WHOLEHEARTED "ZIONIST"!

The more you think about this history, the clearer it becomes that outside of the Jews themselves, Cyrus the Great was one of the loudest advocates in history of Jewish statehood in Judea!

This is the reason the Persian Empire thrived as the world's greatest power during the sixth and fifth centuries B.C.: God

used ancient Persia as a tool in His work with the Jews and Jerusalem!

As incredible as Cyrus's moral and material support for the Jews was, that wasn't even his greatest gesture. His greatest achievement was *institutionalizing* his affection for the Jews, and establishing a legacy of pro-Jewish policy within the Persian monarchy.

Study the history of Cyrus's successors. Ezra 5 and 6 record the work of the Jews in Jerusalem about 20 years after the first wave returned to Judea in 535 B.C. Cyrus was dead and Darius I was king of Persia.

With Cyrus gone, leaders from nearby cities had begun persecuting the Jews in Jerusalem. In response, the Jews sent a letter to Darius reminding him of Cyrus's decree and asking that he issue a similar mandate. "If it seem good to the king," they implored, "let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter" (Ezra 5:17).

Darius initiated a search, found and studied the original decree, then issued one of his own: "Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place" (Ezra 6:7). The legacy of Cyrus lived on!

This God-inspired favor for the Jews was still alive and still shaping Persian policy during the kingship of Artaxerxes I, who reigned from 465-423 B.C. You can read the history in Nehemiah 1 and 2. Here, 20 years into the reign of Artaxerxes (around 445 B.C.), Nehemiah, the king's Jewish cupbearer, besought the king to allow him to return to Jerusalem and build a wall of defense around the city. Artaxerxes didn't begrudgingly grant the leave of absence. He issued a royal decree giving official sanction to Nehemiah's work and installing the prophet as governor of Jerusalem! Beyond the official order, the king provided Nehemiah with materials, as well as an official letter instructing the "keeper of the king's forest" to give Nehemiah the timber he needed for his wall!

Nearly a century had passed since Cyrus had issued the original decree, and protecting the presence and work of the Jews in Jerusalem remained a KEY PILLAR in the foreign policy of the Persian Empire!

Condemned by History

Five years ago, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Some historians

When you understand the history of King Cyrus of Persia and what he did for the Jews, you can begin to understand the hatred of Iran's radical Islamists for the shah!

throughout all his kingdom ... saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel ... " (verses 1-3).

This passage is KEY to understanding the unique character, as well as the accomplishments, of Cyrus the Great—but you never see it mentioned in history books.

Here, we see that it was the God of the Israelites who "stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia" to display matchless fondness toward the Jews. Historians, and even Iran's current president, Mahmoud Ahmadijad, recognize that Cyrus had exemplary respect and tolerance for human values, and for the culture and traditions of all people. Many would agree that this humanitarian tendency was his defining quality.

Ezra 1 reveals its origin: King Cyrus's respect for humanity—for the Jews certainly, but even for all the people he conquered—was the direct result of a miracle God caused in the king's mind!

Sure, you have the prerogative to discard that as claptrap. Before you do, read again what Cyrus himself said about God's presence in his life and work: "The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth."

Further evidence of God's hand in the life and work of Cyrus can be found in the book of Daniel, particularly chapter 6. In verse 25, the Persian king promoted

A LIGHT FROM HISTORY

Each of the two candelabra standing in the lobby of Armstrong Auditorium weighs 650 pounds and holds 802 piece of crystal handmade in Baccarat, France.



believe that the shah's costly and elaborate anniversary celebration, which overlooked the Islamic religion, *was the spark that lit the fire that ended up seeing the country hijacked by radicals in 1979, just a few years later*" (*Royal Vision*, September/October 2005).

Think about that. Iran's radical Islamists despise their history so vehemently that in 1979 they overthrew the Iranian leader who deeply valued that history, and was engaged in a national—even global—campaign to revive and recreate it.

When you understand the history of King Cyrus of Persia and what he did for the Jews, *you can begin to understand the hatred of Iran's radical Islamists for the shah!*

Radical Islam lives to destroy the Jews and conquer Jerusalem. The shah of Iran deeply revered the Persian king who showed deep favor to the Jews, and who devoted his empire to supporting the Jews as they returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the city and the temple!

Radical Islamists hate this history because it so powerfully CONDEMNS them and undermines their fundamental cause!

In Tehran this past October, President Ahmadinejad gave a speech in which he recalled some of the achievements of Cyrus the Great, and stated that Iran today remains committed to "*culture, human values, justice, love and sacrifice.*" He delivered this speech at a ceremony unveiling the Cyrus Cylinder, which is currently in Tehran on loan from the British Museum.

Politically and ideologically, Iran's president and King Cyrus are polar opposites. So why would Ahmadinejad invoke the history of ancient Persia and a king whose accomplishments, if he understood them, he would find repulsive? It's simple. Millions of Iranians today continue to cherish the history of King Cyrus: Ahmadinejad is identifying himself with the upright character and accomplishments of Cyrus the Great in an attempt to cover his own hate-filled fanaticism.

It won't work—it can't. The life and accomplishments of Cyrus the Great are bright and radiant, while those of Ahmadinejad are dark and black. Invoking the awesome works of King Cyrus only exposes the evil in his own works all the more.

That is exactly why the Iranian people and the world need to be reminded of Iran's rich and glorious history!

Our Candelabra

More than 40 years ago, when the shah of Iran was making preparations for his spectacular celebration, he commissioned

the construction of two candelabra. During the weeklong celebration, the 7-foot brightly lit giants, each weighing 650 pounds and decked with 802 pieces of Baccarat crystal, stood in the midst of the royal tent where all the world leaders gathered to dine.

Together, these shimmering beauties, *and the history of King Cyrus and ancient Persia that they embodied*, dazzled the kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers at that royal banquet.

Today, those candelabra stand tall and bright in the grand lobby of Armstrong Auditorium, our breathtaking new concert hall here in Oklahoma.

Just as they did to the world's royalty and upper echelon nearly 40 years ago, those same candelabra dazzle the concertgoers and artists that enter our auditorium today!

They really are stunning. But as breathtaking as they are in appearance, it's the story behind them we most cherish. Our candelabra were part of the celebration of the 2,500-year anniversary of Cyrus the Great and the Persian Empire. The shah intended that these candelabra awaken the Iranian people and the world to Iran's majestic history!

Sadly, the hope emanating from Iran was extinguished in 1979, when the shah was violently overthrown and Iran's government was replaced by an Islamic theocracy. Since then, very few people have revisited the history of Cyrus the Great and Persia.

Until now!

These two candelabra standing in Armstrong Auditorium recall that history to us today in a beautiful, majestic way. They remind us of the glorious reign of Cyrus the Great—the Persian king whose life, from beginning to end, WAS SHAPED BY GOD.

This was the king who guaranteed the Jews' presence in Jerusalem, the king whose mind God inspired to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem—a temple designed to point people toward God's future temple in new Jerusalem!

If you haven't done so yet, make it a goal to come visit Armstrong Auditorium. When you enter the grand lobby of the auditorium, stop a moment to look at these candelabra. As you do, let your mind hearken back to the glorious and spiritually uplifting history of ancient Persia, of Cyrus the Great, a patron of the Jews—and a man whose life and work prove the existence of an all-powerful God! ■

HARD REIGN Shantytown dwellers chant slogans during clashes linked to anti-foreigner violence.



Clouds Across the Rainbow

Following the euphoria surrounding the World Cup, it's back to cold hard reality in South Africa. BY RON FRASER

A FEW WEEKS AGO I WAS SITTING IN the lounge of the King George Hotel in beautiful George in South Africa's Western Cape province. Memories of South Africa's big moment of the year, the hosting of the soccer World Cup, were already fading. The country had returned to dealing—or rather not dealing, in many respects—with its ongoing challenges.

Looking out across the rugged Outeniqua Mountains, all appeared calm and peaceful, just as it did when I first took in this view back in 1994. But then, as now, the view belies the reality. South Africa is far from being “the rainbow nation at peace with itself,” as touted by Nelson Mandela shortly after he gained the nation's presidency in 1995. This troubled society is jarringly at odds with the beauty of the handiwork of the Creator who carved out its breathtaking countryside.

After spending a few days in the picturesque tourist resort of George, we landed in Cape Town, its renowned Table Mountain dominating the hinterland, the waters of the famous harbor glistening in spring sunshine.

The first time I took in this view was also in 1994. I expected change, and that's what I saw. The most obvious change is the prominence of African blacks in positions of service previously held by whites. This is the result of a deliberate policy of the African National Congress (ANC)-dominated government to displace whites with blacks based on racial preference rather than job performance. The

result has been an obvious reduction in the efficiency of the delivery of service.

Those whose minds have been perverted by the inane political correctness of the age will have trouble handling that statement of fact; nevertheless, it is the reality. There is no political correctness in today's South Africa—just a blatant effort by the leaders of the majority ethnic population to take from those who brought them from rank tribalism to civilized society in barely a couple of centuries.

A Broken Promise

Any transition of power from a dominant, sophisticated culture to a less developed culture would ordinarily take a good deal of time and effort, and full cooperation between the parties involved. This has not been the case with South Africa. The old government simply wanted to divest itself of the largest problem in its “too hard” basket, for the right price. The new government came in with an agenda: Displace whites from their perch and take over the wealth of the land, distributing it to privileged blacks who had been the most vocal and active in resisting white rule.

In South Africa, the result has been much the same as in other ex-colonial African nations: The Big Men (and women) get the lion's share of the wealth; the poor continue to rot in their festering ghettos.

A year after the handover of the country by President F.W. de Klerk to the ANC-dominated government, I stood only a few yards away from Nelson Mandela in the press gallery on the lawns in front of

the fine old colonial Union Building in Pretoria. The politicians who had helped give away a country that had been gifted by God to the modern descendants of the ancient nation of Israel sat behind him. Before Mandela, the adoring, clamoring crowd amassed on the lawn. The occasion was the first anniversary of the handover of the country, “Freedom Day” as it has come to be labeled.

As I looked into the eyes of Mandela, the former terrorist, one year into his presidency of the great country of South Africa, the words of my editor in chief rang loud in my ears. “South Africa,” he said to me as we discussed just what 1994 portended for the West, “is the first of the Anglo-Saxon nations to give away its God-given birthright.”

Returning to this once richly blessed country a decade and a half later, I see the results of that fatal decision. The shanty towns in Cape Town that were a new blight on the country in the mid-’90s are now entrenched in the urban scene. They are larger and continue to extend, month by month. Illegal immigrants pour across the nation’s ill-secured borders to the north. Their number adds to an already endemic social problem in South Africa: the rapidly swelling ranks of the unemployed. This in a country that already has a staggering 37 percent general unemployment and 60 percent youth unemployment. That latter figure is now leading to spontaneous youth riots in various communities.

Mandela’s electoral promise of a home for every black remains largely unfulfilled even as a significant class of black *nouveau riche* has arisen attached to the government, the bureaucracy and, to a certain extent, business and commerce. This is the result of deeply entrenched corruption, nepotism and a “jobs for the boys” mentality: Ill-qualified lackeys of the ANC are granted fat-salaried “jobs” that often amount to nothing more than an official title with the trappings of office and a nice paycheck with little or no accountability. This situation has not been helped by a white commercial class that has toadied to the government for the favor it needs in order to continue reaping corporate profits.

Despite such rampant corruption, the South African government continues to window dress under the delusion that it can aspire to global power status.

A New Growth Path

In late October, South Africa’s president, Jacob Zuma, trotted out a list of platitudes designed to mask the reality of the

systemic problems that have plagued the country for 17 years now.

The *Economist* reported on October 29, “President Jacob Zuma’s government announced a ‘new growth path’ this week, with the aim of creating 5 million jobs over the next 10 years. Since the official unemployment rate stands at over 25 percent—and at almost 37 percent if those too discouraged to go on looking for a job are included—this should indeed be a priority.

“Sadly, however, there is not much new in the government’s plan. It amounts to little more than a long list of worthy suggestions (less corruption, more efficiency, greater cooperation with unions and so on). If conditions were right this might do it. But they are not.”

On the foreign-policy front, the Zuma government seeks to align with the so-called BRIC emerging economies—Brazil, Russia, India and China. Zuma has visited each of these countries over the past year in efforts to raise inward investment in South Africa.

Last August, President Zuma visited Beijing and signed a comprehensive strategic partnership with China, the latest in a number of efforts to cozy up to other emerging economic powers and thus increase Pretoria’s global prestige. However, as Stratfor reported, “While such partnerships can help bring much-needed invest-

ment and technical expertise into the country, South Africa’s domestic challenges, such as unemployment, public sector strikes and widespread poverty, will need to be addressed before it can credibly rise as a regional power with global influence, and some of the potential partnerships with China could even exacerbate existing problems” (Aug. 24, 2010).

The Zuma government must recognize that any nation that invests in the development of South African resources will have only its own national interest at heart. Distracted by deeply entrenched social problems and having lost much of the strong military edge that South Africa once possessed before the ANC/SACP took over in 1994, more dominant powers have little to fear in terms of retribution for pilaging the nation’s wealth. As Stratfor noted, a “potential influx of Chinese laborers displacing their South African counterparts, as has been the case elsewhere in Africa, would compound Pretoria’s existing employment problems” (ibid.).

A Difficult Choice

South Africa faces a difficult choice. To survive, it must market its much-desired natural resources. The risk is that it will be taken advantage of by stronger and more resilient economies such as China and the increasingly powerful European Union, especially its lead nation, Germany. These two giant competing yet interdependent markets are eyeing South Africa’s raw materials as they seek to feed their resource-hungry industries. These are the two great “marts” prophesied in Isaiah 23. Between them they hold the major portion of the bargaining chips for South Africa’s mineral wealth.

Any aspiration by South Africa to mix with the mighty as a global player will continue to be frustrated by the ineptness of its self-serving political class. Rather than advancing the lot of its native population, South Africa appears rather to be retrogressing in the delivery of much-needed social services. As in so many other African nations, it seems the cult of entitlement has subsumed any sense of public responsibility in South Africa’s post-apartheid rulers.

Storm clouds are gathering over the rainbow nation. The risk is that the tensions between the 4 percent of the population that pay taxes and the rest will become so great that South African society will erupt in inter-cine strife. In the meantime,

those of the birthright people who remain, whose leaders sold their nation for a bowl of pottage, maintain a precarious foothold, mostly in the Western Cape province.

A Curse Fulfilled

Whether it is obvious or not to the casual observer, South Africa is a classic demonstration of what happens to a people who forget their God. He simply allows them, in their rebellion, to flush their God-given birthright down the drain!

In the great prophecy to the Israelites, the Eternal God declared, “[I]f thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes ... all these curses shall come upon thee ... The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. ... [H]e shalt be the head, and thou shalt be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 43-44).



The *Philadelphia Trumpet*, in conjunction with the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course*, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

What Is the Day of the Lord?

TO THE AVERAGE PERSON, THE idea of Jesus Christ returning to Earth is a fantastic fable that has no bearing whatsoever on the realities of life.

Yet millions of professing Christians still expect the Second Coming of Christ—though widely divided among themselves as to why, when and how He will appear.

Just before His death and resurrection—before His departure from the Mount of Olives almost 2,000 years ago—Jesus Christ promised, “I will come *again*” (John 14:3).

So was Christ telling the *truth*? Will He come again? The answer is a resounding *YES*—though the manner of His return will be shocking to most professing Christians.

Jesus Christ came about 2,000 years ago as a meek lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. But when He comes again, He will be *wrathful*—angry—toward all evil! He will use His mighty power to change the ways that have caused all the sorrow and suffering on Earth.

Let’s understand why.

What Christ Will Do When He Returns

1. When Christ returns, exactly why will God have to punish mankind? Revelation 11:18, last few words; Zephaniah 1:17.

COMMENT: God is *love* (1 John 4:16). God and Christ love all of humanity (John 3:16). But Christ will be angry at the *sins* of mankind when He returns. To save the human race alive (Matthew 24:22), He is coming to punish in *love*! Otherwise, man would destroy all life upon the Earth!

In *love*, God revealed His way of life that leads to everything good and desirable—including eternal life—to our first parents, Adam and Eve. But they rejected that way. Their descendants have continued to reject God’s way for 6,000 years!

Therefore, as any wise and loving father *punishes* his children for their own good when they refuse to respond to kind

the Old and New Testaments, the period of Christ’s supernatural intervention and wrath at mankind’s sins is called the Day of the Lord!

3. How long does this prophetic “day” of the Lord’s wrath last? Isaiah 34:8; 61:2; 63:4. Does a prophetic day often represent a year? Numbers 14:34.

COMMENT: The “day of the Lord” refers to a *year-long* punishment that culminates with the return of Christ.



The Trumpets Begin to Sound!

In the last installment, we learned that the Great Tribulation is immediately followed by supernatural signs in heaven (Matthew 24:21, 29). The signs in heaven are also referred to as the *sixth seal* in Revelation (Revelation 6:12-14).

1. What happens next? Is the seventh seal, which contains the seven trumpets, opened? Revelation 8:1-6. Is this time period of the seventh seal (which occurs immediately after the heavenly

signs) called the Day of the Lord? Acts 2:20.

COMMENT: The wrath of the “day of the Lord” is manifested in the seven “trumpet” plagues which are unleashed consecutively over a period of months, *culminating* in the Second Coming of Christ.

2. What will occur on Earth when the first angel blows his trumpet? Revelation 8:7.

COMMENT: A gigantic firestorm will burn all green grass and one third of the trees. Burned vegetation will be the first punishment on mankind for continued re-

and loving verbal admonition, an all-loving, all-wise God will have to punish this world to *bring it to its senses*! The glorified Christ is coming in all the splendor, power and glory of God to stop escalating wars, nuclear mass destruction, and human pain and suffering. He is coming to usher in peace, abundant prosperity, happiness and joy for all mankind.

2. What is this time period of God’s wrath called? Isaiah 13:6, 9; Joel 1:15; Zephaniah 1:18.

COMMENT: In over 30 prophecies in

fusal to submit to the government of God and refusing to obey His commandments.

3. What does the blast of the second angel's trumpet announce? Verses 8-9.

COMMENT: The seas will be gravely affected by this plague. One third of the seas will turn to blood, one third of life in the seas will be destroyed, and one third of the ships, mainly used for trade and warfare, will be destroyed!

4. Next, what happens to part of the Earth's supplies of drinking water when the trumpet of the third angel sounds? Verses 10-11. Will many die from drinking this poisoned water? Verse 11.

COMMENT: God will next punish unrepentant sinners by making one third of the waters of the Earth unfit for human consumption. The waters will become bitter, causing many to die.

5. What terrifying plague is announced by the fourth trumpet? Verse 12.

COMMENT: Most people during the Day of the Lord, although terrified because of the heavenly signs, will still continue in sin, despite God's repeated warnings to repent!

Nevertheless, remember that God is ultimately after *repentance*. As each plague from God falls on the wicked and disobedient, those who surrender to God—those who do repent and begin to obey Him and forsake the ways of this evil society—will be protected from the horrible punishments yet to come.

Woe, Woe, Woe!

1. Will there be further cataclysmic events that will jolt humanity? Verse 13. Are these three woes the same as the final three trumpets? Same verse.

COMMENT: These three woes involve three final major battles, each so horrifying that it is called a "woe" by Almighty God. Each battle is so destructive that only God will be able to repair the damage man's armies will do to the surface of the Earth.

At the third battle—the third woe and last trumpet—all mankind will be saved from extinction only by a miracle from God. If God did not personally intervene in this climactic war, men would destroy the last vestige of human life from the face of the Earth!

2. What is revealed about the fifth trumpet, the first woe? Revelation 9:1-12.

3. Does the Apostle John describe terrifying "locusts"—grasshoppers—that will be used to inflict pain on men? Verses 3-10.

COMMENT: John used the symbolic

term *locusts* to describe the terrifying war machines that would be invented by scientists and used by the military in this final world conflict! Notice that these symbolic *locusts*, or grasshoppers, are driven by men and are able to fly (verses 7, 9). They will make a tremendous noise and are protected by armored plating.

These superweapons of destruction and world conquest were completely unfamiliar to the Apostle John. He could only describe them in the language of his day. These terrifying weapons of war probably now exist in design in our modern military arsenals. At the time of the fifth trumpet and the first woe, it will be plainly evident just what these weapons are and how they will be used.

4. Who is the real leader of this army that is equipped with these awesome weapons of mass destruction? Verse 11.

COMMENT: The Hebrew word *abadon* and the Greek word *apollyon* both mean "destroyer"! The sinister power that will guide this army is Satan the devil!

5. Where does this army, with its diabolical leadership, come from? Verses 2-3. Is this symbolic "bottomless pit" referred to elsewhere so we can identify the army that proceeds from it? Revelation 17:8. Is this superarmy of the beast power—that is, the final restoration of the Roman Empire (in Europe)—backed by a great false religion? Verses 7-13.

COMMENT: For a detailed explanation of the beast power and the false religion that will dominate it, request our free book-

let *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*

This war will come about as hordes from the east will be preparing to attack the beast power. But rather than let them obtain the advantage by striking the first blow, the beast will turn to attack them in the full fury of his military might! (Daniel 11:44).

This attack—using all the terrifying destructive power the beast can devise—will be the first woe. It will be the beginning of the all-out struggle for complete world domination between two Eurasian rivals for world rule.

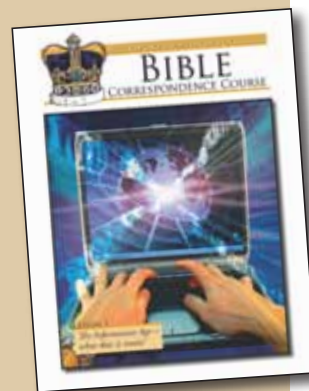
6. Are the sixth angel's trumpet plague and the second woe clearly the same? Revelation 9:12-13. What will happen when the sixth trumpet is blown—who will even dare to threaten and make war on the beast power? Verses 14-16. And how are their weapons described? Verses 17-19.

COMMENT: The Asian hordes of *200 million soldiers* will counterattack, devastating the cities and armies of the beast. Again, the Apostle John could describe the terrifying weapons they will use only by comparing them with things familiar to him! These symbols likely represent nuclear explosives, as well as chemical and biological weapons.

At this point we come to the climactic moment of the sounding of the seventh trumpet. One more "woe" remains to occur. Almost immediately, at the blast of this final trumpet, God will move with lightning speed to execute multiple events around the globe, as we will cover in the next installment. ■

Enroll in our FREE Bible course!

This short study you've just completed is a sample of the study method employed in each monthly lesson of the **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have already enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course! Ordering information is on the back cover of this issue.





GETTING ON A light moment between Cameron and Sarkozy hides the history, current situation and future of their two countries.

BRITAIN BUDDIES WITH FRANCE

What Could Possibly Go Wro

Facing a budget pinch, the UK stakes its fortunes on an alliance with a longtime European foe. BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHAT AN ODD TURN OF EVENTS! Suddenly the leaders of Britain and France are fawning over each other as they join in a military alliance supposedly to last 50 years!

What is going on here? For the better part of the previous six centuries, these two have been bitter enemies. For the past century they've been grudging partners at best.

Their national interests have gone in opposite directions far more often than they've lined up. As recently as the Iraq War in 2003, Britain sent 45,000 troops while France actively worked to keep Saddam Hussein in power.

Now the leaders are instant buddies. In early November, France's Nicolas Sarkozy and Britain's David Cameron signed up for their nations to share aircraft carriers; collaborate on technology for nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and nuclear submarines; work together on cyberwarfare; and commit troops to a joint rapid reaction unit, among other things. And they act like anyone who doesn't embrace the agreement for

its innate logic and "perfect sense" is crazy.

"From a purely practical military perspective," explained the head of Britain's Armed Forces, Gen. Sir David Richards, "we have been working very closely with the French ever since the First World War, but particularly in NATO."

Uh ... not quite. As historian Andrew Roberts responded, "If filling in the gaps on the Western front after the French Army mutinied in 1917, sinking the French fleet at Oran in 1940 and being bombed in Gibraltar by the Vichy air force in retaliation, capturing Lebanon and Syria from the French in 1941, invading French North Africa and Madagascar in 1942, opposing French policy toward Bosnia, Rwanda and latterly Iraq, while watching General de Gaulle expel all NATO forces from France, can possibly be described as 'working very closely with the French ever since the First World War,' then General Richards is right. If not, then it is—like the defense pact itself—merely wishful thinking" (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 5, 2010).

What are France and Britain thinking?

Even if Sarkozy and Cameron see eye to eye, what could possess them to believe their successors will—until 2060, no less?

In reality, it isn't fellow feeling or shared interests driving these nations into each other's arms. It's *beggary*. Both Britain and France are strapped for cash and desperate. Though their militaries are Europe's two largest, they're shrinking and falling apart, getting slammed by budget cuts. This awkward alliance is their effort to maintain some semblance of power. Britain in particular is looking for ways to strengthen its military on the cheap.

But those budget cuts, and this pact, are based on a dangerous miscalculation. They reflect terrible weakness—and remarkable lack of vision. They expose Britain's foolish overdependence on nations it considers allies, and reveal the steep decline in what even a few generations ago was history's greatest empire.

Anyone who has followed the prophetic warnings of Herbert Armstrong or the *Trumpet* over the years knows this story won't have a good ending. The Bible specifically prophesies of this problem—and reveals its devastating conclusion.

CE
ng?

The Aircraft Carriers With No Planes

In mid-October, just a couple of weeks before signing the agreement with France, the British government released its Strategic Defense and Security Review, detailing how it will shrink its military budget 8 percent over the next four years. The cuts include 17,000 personnel. The army, after already being reduced by one third since the end of the Cold War, will lose 7,000 more soldiers; 40 percent of its tanks and 35 percent of its artillery will go. The 20,000 British troops in Germany will come home. (Compare the 95,000 troops Britain will have by 2015 with the 690,000 it had in 1957.)

Britain's navy—the greatest symbol of the global power it once wielded—will suffer some of the worst embarrassment. The navy's aging Ark Royal aircraft carrier will go out of service. The navy's fleet of destroyers and frigates will shrink to 19. (In World War I Britain had over 300 destroyers alone, out of a fleet of nearly 600. After these cuts, the fleet will be smaller than it has been since the days of Henry VIII.)

The most bizarre turn of events surrounds two new 60,000-ton aircraft carriers being built for the Royal Navy—the largest, most expensive ships in Britain's illustrious naval history. Britain can't afford them, but contractual obligations actually make it cheaper to finish the mammoth projects than to stop them. Thus, as soon as possible after the first one is completed in 2016, it will be mothballed or even sold.

It gets worse. The government also decided to scrap the navy's 80-strong fleet of Harrier jump jets within a year. This means the aircraft carriers will have—of all things—no jets to carry. New fighters won't be available until 2020. Thus, these floating airbases will only be able to serve as helicopter pads and assist with humanitarian missions.

In the words of one serving navy commander, "How can you send an aircraft

carrier to sea without aircraft? I think that future history will show the rashness of this decision." Indeed it will.

Worse still, navy insiders told the *Telegraph* that, because of the intricacies of carrier landing, even after new planes come along it will take many more years to bring the navy's Fleet Air Arm—the world's oldest air force—back to full strength. "Once these carrier skills have gone they will take at least 16 years to build back up," said Commodore Steve Jermy, who once headed the Fleet Air Arm (Oct. 18, 2010). Now we're talking about 2036. In effect, this marks the death of Britain's ability to project air power.

Britain's defense secretary, Liam Fox, said that Britain not having planes to put on the carrier won't be a problem, since it can just use American and French planes.

Further underscoring this trend of dependency is the fact that the Royal Air Force's Nimrod spy planes will also be cut. These nine planes were built for patrolling the waters around Britain and intercepting unwelcome foreign submarines and other ships. Now, reported *The Sun*, Britain "will have to depend on the French to stave off a naval attack" (Oct. 22, 2010). "French Atlantique planes operating from UK bases will monitor and intercept unauthorized ships and submarines," it said.

Essentially, in order to cover its defense budget gaps, Britain is banking on its European neighbors—France in particular. This ignores the yawning historical, cultural and political gaps between the English-speaking Brits and Europhile French.

Can Britain Really Trust France?

President Sarkozy says—with a straight face—that it's impossible to imagine a



■ The UK government has made plans to sell off Britain's forests. Law currently governing treatment of "ancient forests" is likely to be changed, giving private firms clearance to cut down trees in 1.8 million acres of woodlands including Sherwood Forest, among others.

scenario where Britain's and France's interests would diverge. Impossible to imagine? For whom, pray tell?

But he couldn't even make it through a press conference without raising eyebrows about France's dependability. When a BBC reporter asked if Britain could borrow France's aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, in case of a crisis in the Falklands, the president responded, "It would take a h--- of a crisis." Then he dodged and went political: "Do you imagine our British friends facing a crisis and France folds its arms and does nothing?" Again, how much imagination does it take?

Well, maybe that was a trick question. After all, in 1982, Britain faced a crisis in the Falklands and France didn't do nothing: It actually supplied the Argentines with missiles to use against Britain!

The notion that these two countries would actually be able to agree on just where and for what to deploy their joint forces is difficult to swallow.

Even since the split over the Gulf War, French leaders have repeatedly voiced their contempt for the UK. They have snootily derided Britain for its incessant niggling over regulations and procedures, for dragging its feet on European integration, for slowing the EU's progress. Their disdain only intensified when the global economy tanked: They looked down their noses and blamed London for its loose fiscal practices. They dropped the regulatory boom in punishment. Britain's relationship with Europe, always prickly, has looked wobblier than ever—even up to quite recently.

It all makes the sudden camaraderie, the handshakes and grins, a bit surreal.

For Britain, this pact represents a lurch away from the United States in favor of Europe. American insiders are warning that U.S. cooperation and intelligence sharing with Britain is going to be curtailed out of fear of the wrong information reaching France and spreading from there. David Campbell Bannerman of the UK Independence Party concurred: "In a nutshell, the closer we get to France, the more we risk losing the support of the biggest military power in the world—the USA."

If history is any guide, this portends disaster for Britain.

As former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wisely said in 1989, "In my lifetime all our problems have come from mainland Europe, and all the solutions have come from the English-speaking nations who have kept law-abiding liberty for the future."

Swallowed by Europe

Viewed shallowly, the British move is unsurprising, considering the poor treatment Britain has received from the current American administration, not to mention the declining trajectory of American power. Nevertheless, France is hardly a prize substitute.

Leave aside the decrepitude of its present defense capabilities (the French government has admitted that “most” of its tanks, helicopters and jets are unusable; the Charles de Gaulle, its sole carrier—upon which



**FORCED
RETIREMENT**
The HMS Ark
Royal

Britain will solely rely in a few years—has had an almost comically bad maintenance record). Just judging by France’s uneven history as an ally and as a military power, this seems a very shortsighted decision indeed. There is a reason this modern nation is described in biblical prophecy—after its patriarch, Jacob’s son Reuben—as being “unstable as water” (Genesis 49:4).

The biggest issue, though, is how this deal casts Britain’s fortunes together with those of the Continent.

In a sense, one can view the deal as an extension of the Entente Cordiale, the agreement Britain and France forged in 1904 in response to Germany’s burgeoning power potential. Today, once again, Germany is clearly the strongest nation in Europe, and one could view this alliance as France trying to establish its military leadership to counterbalance Germany’s power. That’s the view of the analysts at Stratfor. And apparently, despite widespread mistrust of the EU within the UK, some Euroskeptics are hoping the bilateral pact “distracts France from pursuing military cooperation at an EU level” (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 3, 2010).

But such thinking only goes so far before its smacks into the reality of today’s European Union. The simple fact is, no independent alliance between EU states will remain beyond the purview of Germany and the EU for long.

Look again at how Britain ended up

trapped in that ridiculous unaffordable aircraft carrier venture. This folly sprang from Britain’s misguided efforts to link itself with Europe and contribute to building a single EU defense force—*via a defense agreement with France*. Back in 1998, Prime Minister Tony Blair and France’s Jacques Chirac pledged that their countries would begin cooperating toward that end. The next year, aiming at establishing a European Rapid Reaction Force, Britain agreed to contribute two large aircraft carriers. In 2006, it was determined that these carriers would be a joint project between Britain’s BAE Systems and the French firm Thales.

“In effect, when built, they will be operated jointly with the French, with French pilots flying French aircraft,” explained Christopher Booker in the *Telegraph*. “So little money is left to buy the escorts needed by a carrier group that *these will have to be provided by other EU navies, such as those of Spain or Italy*” (Oct. 23, 2010; emphasis mine).

The inevitable outcome of the whole deal is not at all difficult to predict. Once these jointly built Anglo-French carriers are operational, and are escorted by Spanish or Italian vessels, whose flag do you suppose they will be flying? The White Ensign of the Royal Navy? The Tricolor flag of France?

It will just eliminate a lot of hassle, won’t it, to just hoist the EU ring of stars.

“Thus,” wrote Booker, “after 600 years, will the Royal Navy merge its identity with that of the new EU Navy.”

Britain’s leaders may naively view this latest defense pact purely as an agreement with France. They have bristled at any suggestion that it will require giving up even a smidgen of British independence or sovereignty.

But let’s open our eyes. France is inseparably entangled with Germany in the European project. And as much as France has tried to fight this reality, Germany is the senior partner. France has already sacrificed its sovereignty for the sake of the EU collective; it simply is no longer free to act purely as a sovereign military power.

Does anyone really believe Germany will be content to allow France and Britain to seize the initiative on European defense?

Just watch! Like everything else happening in Europe, Anglo-French military cooperation is certain to become prey to encroaching EU regulation and bureaucratization, and eventually subsumed wholly into the common European defense.

“From now on, neither [Britain nor France] has any independent defense policy. Both have handed it to the EU,” wrote

Peter Hitchens. This alliance “is intended as the beginning of federal European armed forces. These will be controlled by the new post-Lisbon ‘legal personality,’ the European Superstate they keep telling us doesn’t exist” (Mail Online, Nov. 9, 2010).

Britain allowing its military to become swallowed by a European empire is of enormous prophetic significance. For not only does Scripture foretell Britain’s loss of prestige and power and the severing of its relationship with America, it also tells of its foolishly seeking salvation from its false European allies—and of the shocking double-cross it will then suffer at their hand!

Where It Will End

In biblical prophecy, Britain is called by the name of the tribe of ancient Israel from which it descended, *Ephraim*. Detailed proof of this can be found in Herbert Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

“Ephraim [Britain] also is like a silly dove, without sense,” wrote the Prophet Hosea (Hosea 7:11; New King James Version). *Silly* means simple, easily fooled. And the dove perfectly symbolizes the senseless, toothless and naive nation Britain has become.

As the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written, no “silly dove” nation can endure in a world full of hawks and tigers.

Hosea’s prophecy continues by saying of Britain, “[T]hey go to Assyria.” *Assyria*, as we explained in our October/November 2010 article on the subject, is the prophetic name for *Germany*. This is one of several prophecies that describe a weakened Britain looking for help from its neighbors in Europe.

But in prophecy after prophecy, the result of this dangerous gamble is revealed. God says through His prophet, “When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; *I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them*, as their congregation hath heard. *Woe unto them!* for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me” (verses 12-13).

God recorded these prophecies to serve as a *warning* to modern Britain!—a warning the British people will soon regret having ignored. The fact that this and many other specific prophecies are rapidly becoming present reality is sure and convicting *proof* of their reliability—and of the active existence of the Creator God who is bringing them to pass! ■

Break Through GIANT Barriers!

MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN FRESHMAN speech class at Ambassador College was an assignment called “The Overcoming Speech.” We were told to expect several interruptions from our instructor while we were still speaking, as he corrected some of our weaknesses on the spot.

As memorable as my own experience was, a speech one of my classmates gave that same day took the overcome lesson to another level.

I’ll never forget it: She was a sweet, soft-spoken, painfully shy girl from South Africa. She barely made it through five words of her speech before our instructor stopped her. “I don’t know if you’ve ever seen *Jack and the Beanstalk*, but I want you to play the giant,” he said. “I want you to leave the room, and when you come back in, shout, ‘FEE FI FO FUM, I SMELL THE BLOOD OF AN ENGLISHMAN!’”

Time and again, the instructor told her to leave and re-enter the room until she was able to enter as an all-powerful giant with a thunderously booming voice. Eventually, she broke through that barrier. Her “overcome speech” was essentially learning to act like a giant.

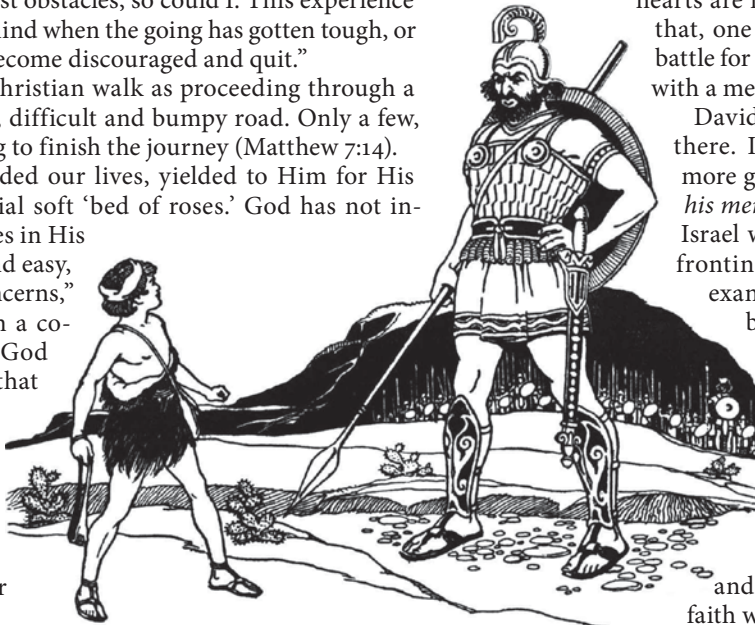
This lesson in smashing barriers to pursue excellence applies far beyond public speaking.

As a young man, Herbert W. Armstrong learned this lesson while visiting Niagara Falls for the first time. He wrote about a boulder that formed an enormous barrier to the rushing waters. “[T]he waters of that river swirled around the great rock, struck it head-on and splashed over it,” he wrote in his *Autobiography*. “One way or another the waters got past it, and hurried on to their destination—the falls, and then down the swift rapids of the river on into Lake Ontario. The waters didn’t lie down. They didn’t become discouraged. They didn’t quit. They found a way around the impassable barrier, and on to their destination.

“I decided that if inanimate, mindless elements could surmount and find a way past obstacles, so could I. This experience has often come back to mind when the going has gotten tough, or when I was tempted to become discouraged and quit.”

Jesus described the Christian walk as proceeding through a narrow gate onto a long, difficult and bumpy road. Only a few, He said, would be willing to finish the journey (Matthew 7:14).

“God has never intended our lives, yielded to Him for His service, to be a proverbial soft ‘bed of roses.’ God has not intended our Christian lives in His service to run smooth and easy, with no problems, no concerns,” Mr. Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter in 1955. “God intended—ORDAINED—that we should be confronted with continual problems, difficulties, troubles—that we should have to make constant sacrifices, learning to give up our own ways and wants”



God is looking for people who will break through barriers and conquer fears. To do that, we may have to act like a giant. Or, like a young boy who became Israel’s greatest king, we may have to *slay* a giant.

1 Samuel 17:20 describes a young man who was eager, who rose early and who obeyed his father’s commands. At the moment when Israel really needed a few good men to step forward and fight for God, all the elder, wiser and best-trained soldiers slunk into the background (verses 21-24). Only David, a lowly shepherd, stepped forward and said, “Who is this giant who thinks he is going to stop God’s work?”

David knew he had *cause*—a good reason to face his fears and confront the enemy (verse 29). He possessed faith, but also wisdom. He didn’t just grab one stone—he took five (verse 40). What a wonderful spirit! If nerves got the best of him the first time around, he wasn’t about to quit after just one try.

Notice verse 42: “And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.” Compared to Goliath, David looked small. But he was no weakling—he was a strong, robust fellow. He had spent long days and nights tending his father’s sheep, even fighting off lions at times to protect them (verses 34-35).

The key to David’s success—and ours—was his understanding that *God* is the one who fights and wins for us. We still have to do our part—David had to find a simple sling and search for a few smooth stones—but *faith* is what enables us to prevail.

Verse 48 shows that David *ran* to the fight. Like the men in Gideon’s army, David couldn’t wait to get on with the battle. As long as we are poor in spirit and rich in faith and our hearts are in God’s work, we can rest assured that, one way or another, *God* will win the battle for us. David prevailed against Goliath with a mere sling and a stone!

David’s miraculous victory didn’t end there. In 2 Samuel 21, we read of many more giants who were slain by David *and his men*. Years earlier, the whole nation of Israel was terrified at the thought of confronting Goliath. But David’s inspiring example of courage and faith had given birth to a NATION of giant killers!

In my freshman speech class, I was more inspired by the young lady who overcame her fears than by my own assignment. Whether we are learning to slay a giant or to act like one, God will win the battle for us and help us break through barriers, and then our example of courage and faith will inspire others to do the same. ■



STEPHEN FLURRY

WILLING TO TAKE A DANGEROUSLY DIVIDED LITTLE ISLAND AS A MEMBER? It would not be the first crusade launched from Cyprus!

According to biblical prophecy, the European beast power will hold power for 3½ years, and then Christ will destroy that evil empire forever! We are entering the worst times ever, but they will lead into the best news we could ever receive!

The King of the South

One of the main tourist attractions in Jordan is the Crusader castles. The Catholics built most of them to war against the Muslims and control Jerusalem. These castles are stark reminders of the bloody past—and a far bloodier future!

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

In 1997, Iran conducted major war games code-named “Road to Jerusalem.” Between 150,000 and 500,000 soldiers participated. Iran pours vast resources into supporting the terrorist groups bordering the Jewish state. Hamas and Hezbollah strongholds to Israel’s west and north are awash in Iranian money and weapons. Israeli sources recently revealed that Egyptian efforts to prevent aid from reaching Hamas in the Gaza Strip have broken down, and that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps has smuggled “record funds” to the radical Palestinian group. Iran and Syria have provided Hezbollah tens of thousands of rockets and missiles. Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps has stepped up its training of Hezbollah’s soldiers. It has built a set of underground tunnels and an underground telecommunications network for the terrorist group.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad personally visited southern Lebanon in October. He was welcomed like a superstar—“showered with rice and rose petals by tens of thousands of Hezbollah supporters who lined the streets and waved Iranian flags as his motorcade made its way from the airport to the presidential palace,” the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported (Oct. 13, 2010). Speaking to a raucously supportive crowd just two miles from Israel’s border, he said, “The whole world knows that the Zionists are going to disappear. The occupying Zionists today have no choice but to accept reality and go back to their countries of origin.” He called Lebanon the “focus point of resistance” against the Jews and stressed Iran’s commitment to “full liberation of occupied territory in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.”

What could be more provocative? Iran is advertising its strategy to the world. It knows that conquering Jerusalem would help it unite the Arab world. Few people understand this Muslim passion for Jerusalem and its holy sites! These are the kind of passions that cause war!

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

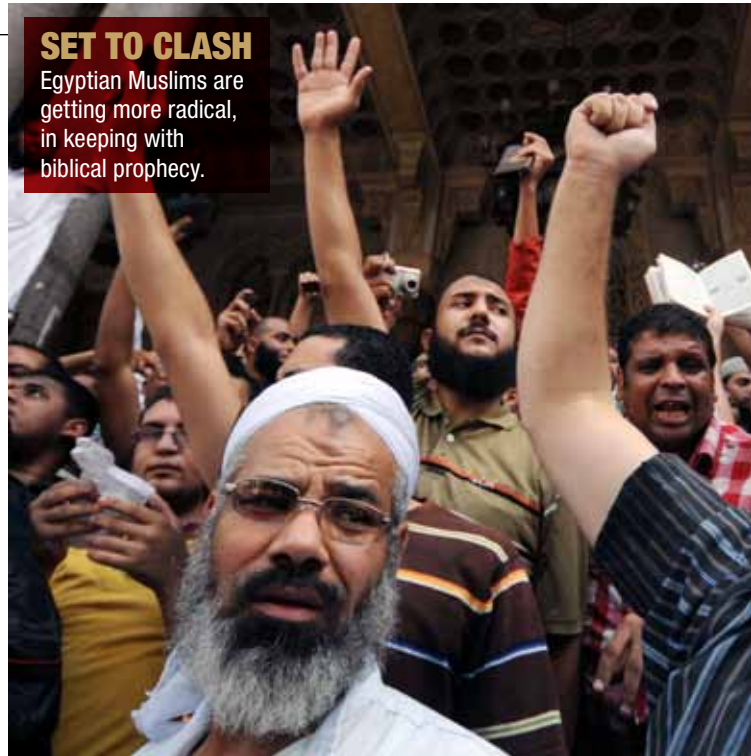
Iran has virtually destroyed the peace process single-handedly. But still, the world continues to talk about peace. Iran and radical Islam don’t want peace, and words won’t deter them.

This past September, one day after Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to resume talks on a U.S.-backed peace deal, Ahmadinejad urged Palestinians not to abandon their armed struggle against the Jews.

The occasion was Quds Day—or Jerusalem Day—Iran’s annual display of support for the Palestinian cause and the “liberation of Jerusalem.” Started in 1979 by Ayatollah Khomeini, Jerusalem Day is an occasion for Iran and its supporters to denounce Israel and call for its destruction, praise terrorism and condemn the

SET TO CLASH

Egyptian Muslims are getting more radical, in keeping with biblical prophecy.



peace process.

This past year, Ahmadinejad emphasized the global significance of the festival. The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center reported that “according to Ahmadinejad, THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM is not limited to one geographic area; it is not just a Palestinian issue and it is, in fact, ‘EVEN GREATER THAN THE ISSUE OF ISLAM.’”

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

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

Iran is about to have nuclear bombs. Its leaders believe America can be neutralized by terrorism—perhaps nuclear terrorism.

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

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

Final Crusade Prophesied

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships [perhaps from Cyprus]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40). This king of the south is the Iran-led radical Muslims. They are strong and are PUSHING others around in the Middle East.

Soon they will PUSH at the king of the north, the so-called



Holy Roman Empire—the same religious power that was behind the Crusades. And that push will surely revolve around Jerusalem.

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

Just look at what is happening in Europe—and has been for years. Pope John Paul II worked feverishly to revive the Holy Roman Empire. Twenty-nine years ago, in Spain, Nov. 9, 1981, he said this: “It can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that it is precisely in Christianity that are

found those common roots by which the Continent has seen its civilization mature: its culture, its dynamism, its activity, ITS CAPACITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EXPANSION IN OTHER CONTINENTS AS WELL; IN A WORD, ALL THAT MAKES UP ITS GLORY. ...

“Find yourself again. Be yourself. Discover your origins, revive your roots. Return to those authentic values which MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE and your presence so beneficent in the other continents.”

During the Inquisition, OVER 50 MILLION innocent people WERE KILLED IN THE NAME OF “CHRISTIANITY”! That’s right—50 million! Was that history glorious? And you can add many millions more as victims of the Holy Roman Empire. “DISCOVER YOUR ORIGINS, REVIVE YOUR ROOTS. RETURN TO THOSE AUTHENTIC VALUES WHICH MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE”? Those “origins” and “roots” and that “history” caused many millions of people to die!

In Revelation 17, God paints a vivid picture of a great church as a lavishly dressed harlot, holding sway over the nations. God sees things as they truly are! Let’s look at God’s view: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration” (Revelation 17:6). God sees this lady “drunken” on the blood of the saints! Is killing God’s saints “glorious”?

The Holy Roman Empire will come at the king of the south like a whirlwind. WILL THERE BE A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM CYPRUS? Will we see the final crusade launched from there? A whirlwind comes suddenly. So it doesn’t appear the attack will be launched from Western Europe.

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

Notice what their *first action* is after they are victorious. “He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41). This army “enters” into the glorious land, or the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this is a peaceful entry—not forced.

The Jews appear to invite them in as peacekeepers. But this leads to a great double-cross, prophesied in Ezekiel chapter 23. (Request our free booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*.)

The Jews should remember the history of the violence and bloodshed by the Crusaders. Then perhaps they would choose differently.

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (Daniel 11:42-43). Many other countries are going to fall to this great power too.

Twice it mentions that Egypt will not escape. For over three decades, Egypt has been the most moderate nation in the Middle East. Iran has PUSHED Egypt toward its own radical camp. That is because Egypt fears terrorism and its own radical Muslims. We have seen that happen before our eyes, just as God prophesied it would!

The Good News

At that point in prophecy, the Holy Roman Empire will face disaster. “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). The Russians and Chinese will prepare for war with Europe. The Europeans will see it happening and strike first. They will, however, be defeated.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet HE SHALL COME TO HIS END, and none shall help him” (verse 45). Notice, the religious leader will move his headquarters to Jerusalem—and not just for protection. He could go to many other cities that would be safer. But this will be a religious act of faith. THE VATICAN CONSIDERS JERUSALEM TO BE ITS MOST HOLY PLACE ON EARTH—THE “CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.” Still, he will come to a most ignominious end. Nobody will be there to help him.

There should be no chapter break between Daniel 11 and 12. The story flow continues, illustrating that this religious war will trigger a nuclear World War III.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). There has never before been trouble like this. God promises to protect His people physically. Otherwise, they would perish in a nuclear nightmare.

As bad as this news is, IT LEADS TO THE BEST NEWS THIS WORLD HAS EVER HEARD! “And from the time that the *daily sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (verse 11). The *daily sacrifice* is referring to GOD’S WORK. That work will be taken away—removed when God takes His people to a place of protection (Matthew 24:15-16; Luke 21:20-21). That must happen because the abomination of desolation, or the king of the north, is going to conquer America and Britain. But when that happens, you will be able to start counting days to the return of Jesus Christ (Daniel 12:12). He will end these “holy wars” forever.

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

Pope Meets the Queen

VERY DISTURBING NEWS COMING OUT OF Britain and also from the pope ("Pope Meets the Queen—Insight Into Man's Magnificent Future!" December 2010). And just this morning a headline from the local newspaper read: "Conservative Catholics Becoming More Assertive." In a nutshell, the article says that a "new breed of theological conservatives has taken to blogs and YouTube to say the church isn't Catholic enough." A well-written and timely article Mr. Flurry! Prayerfully more people will wake up to what is really going on! *Emily Gray—OHIO*



Magnificent Auditorium

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE beautiful new Armstrong Auditorium ("The Magnificent New Armstrong Auditorium," December). The photos are splendid and I look forward to seeing more. The story behind the building process is inspiring. *Steve Baranaskas—MARYLAND*

WHILE READING THE ARTICLE AND TOGGING on the images of the newly completed Armstrong Auditorium and also toggling on the former Ambassador Auditorium, I came away impressed by the magnificence and glory of Armstrong Auditorium. I have to say, nothing compares to this. It is truly breathtaking and, in one word, awesome! God, has truly blessed His house. *Cecilia Rivera—NEW YORK*

This Means War

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THAT YOU [AMERICANS] didn't expect this result from your economic actions over the last 30 years ("This Means War," December). Who began outsourcing jobs and knowledge to foreign countries out of their control only because they work cheaper without complaining? The slogan of your CEOs, stock traders and corporate raiders is "greed is good," no matter the harm. All of your

Correction

The December 2010 issue, "Pope Meets the Queen—Insight Into Man's Magnificent Future!" stated that Benedict XVI's visit was the first visit by a pope to Britain and the Queen since the Reformation. Though it was not an official state visit, Pope John Paul II visited the Queen in Britain in 1982.

much-needed jobs, including the quality ones, now reside in East Asia. You looked down on European countries, which didn't outsource as much with their socialist governments. The only country which followed you blindly—not-so-Great Britain—is currently the poor house of Europe. At the Continent, we stick to our Rijnlands Model of economics. Stockholders have limited influence on corporate decisions (which will decrease in the coming years). ... The research and develop departments of most U.S. companies are in Europe and

East Asia because the schools are higher quality than yours. Money is not the biggest meaning of our life—and last but not least, we believe in long-term results instead of quarterly results. You've handed over all the means and knowledge to China—so don't be surprised at this result. Be humble, lower your economic standards drastically, take care of your weak and poor and start over again. We have learned that the hard way over the last century. *R. Koote—NETHERLANDS*

Is China in the Bible?

ONCE THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES IS DONE, you should compile them as a companion piece to the *United States and Britain in Prophecy* ("Is China in the Bible?" December). When I lived in Hong Kong for a short period, I found it odd that my subway stop in Victoria Park was named "Queen of Heaven." I thought it referred to Mary but I knew the Chinese were not Catholic. I didn't know they were once associated with Semiramis. Fascinating! *John Hopkin—NORTH CAROLINA*

Ending the War on Poverty

GOOD ARTICLE ("ENDING THE WAR ON Poverty," December). The poor will always be there. Jesus knew it! As a citizen of a country that receives donations, I can testify that they don't eliminate poverty. The solution to poverty lies in giving, not in receiving! Yet even the best of all such NGOs spend 90 percent of the donations on their salaries/benefits and Prados, while 10 percent is donated! Mathematics speaks! *Charles Shiroko—ETHIOPIA*

I CANNOT SPEAK FOR WHAT IS GOING ON in America, but from what I see here in the province of Ontario, Canada, there are many people who are poor by choice, and others by no fault of their own. The

ones who are poor by choice are the ones I have no sympathy for because they feel that they are entitled to government handouts. I've even heard some brag that they'd rather be on welfare because working is for "suckers," and that they'd rather have "free" money. Well I'm sorry, that money is not "free." Those of us who do work have to pay high taxes so those people can get their "free" money, and I don't appreciate people getting "free" money at my expense. Jesus said those who don't work shall not eat.

Craig—TORONTO, ONT.

Thy Kingdom Come

YES, JOEL, IT IS DISTURBING! ("THY KINGDOM COME," December). Thanks for noticing and caring. Portland is also known as the "City of Roses"! It's shocking even to me, living only five blocks from the hub of this depraved activity (but wish I didn't), and I pray for the day I can get out of this city. The roots go deep when examining this problem closely. It's surprising, but many "nice" people turn away from discussing this. What a travesty of human nature! Your message is a most welcome one. Thanks for taking note of the sinful plight—or blight—of this city! *Carol—PORTLAND, ORE.*

THANK YOU FOR YET ANOTHER MIND-BENDING article. I had no idea about the enormity of Portland's depravity. We tend to think of these terms relating to Las Vegas or Hollywood. How very deceived are so many, including myself. Thy Kingdom come. *Richard Jenkins—OHIO*

The Silk Superhighway

YOU ARE DREAMING ("THE SILK SUPERHIGHWAY," December). There is not a single reason for Europe to attack the U.S. There are hundreds of reasons for close cooperation. That the economy of the U.S. is currently tanking is its own problem: debt-financed consumption, outsourcing, unproductive and destructive finance industry, excessive military spending, tax cuts for the super rich, a failing political system, drug addiction, gun addiction, no savings, wasting fossil fuels like there is no tomorrow, greed. ... Change that and the U.S. will prosper again. *John Holmes—UNITED STATES*

Comments?

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

Don't Even Think About It

The wretched world of werewolves, vampires and zombies **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

THINK POSITIVE. THIS WORLD IS UGLY—BUT DON'T BECOME a cynic or a brooder. That's brilliant advice from one of history's spiritual giants, the Apostle Paul. "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things," he wrote (Philippians 4:8; Revised Standard Version). It's one of the most helpful admonitions in Scripture about maintaining mental and spiritual health.

Take a glance around, and you see a world dead set on thinking the polar opposite. Whatever is foul or crooked, whatever is unjust and impure, whatever is grotesque, whatever is hateful, if there is any degeneracy, anything barbaric and evil, anything worthy of condemnation, *that* is what people tend to think on.

The other night, after putting the kids to bed, I turned on the television. I walked to an adjoining room, which put the remote out of reach. Suddenly—at the same time one of my daughters emerged from her bedroom asking for a glass of water—an ad came on that showed four grotesque murders in about 10 seconds. "Do not look at the television!" I said, scrambling for the remote.

This repulsive nightmare was meant to *attract* viewers to an upcoming program. Shows about bizarre, deviant acts and morbidly violent crimes dominate the airwaves.

That schlock fittingly symbolizes the terminal condition of our culture. As this sick world rots, people are increasingly fascinated with all things dead—and undead.

You've heard of *Twilight*, the series of books and movies about a love affair between a glamorous vampire and a gorgeous woman he must protect from a hunky werewolf. The books have sold over 100 million copies and been translated into 38 languages; the three films have raked in over \$2 billion. "Box office gross" indeed.

Adding in popular TV shows like HBO's *True Blood* and the CW Network's *The Vampire Diaries*, all told, vampire entertainment is now a \$7 billion industry and growing. It's a world of glamor, romance and sex mingled with blood, violence and occultism. Millions of minds are marinating in this lurid material. *Harmless escapism*, most people say. I disagree. But no one can argue that in some few, it's having truly bizarre effects.

A subculture of people who consider themselves real vampires is taking root and spreading. Joseph Laycock, author of *Vampires Today: The Truth About Modern Vampirism*, says these wackos either consume blood or believe they absorb life energy from people around them—and most think their physical, mental and emotional health will fade if they don't feed. Somebody please slap them.

Stupid teenagers are reportedly biting each other and licking or sucking each other's blood. "These are kids who think they are real vampires," Dr. Orly Avitzur of the Consumers Union told an MSNBC reporter. One teen wrote on a vampire-themed website, "Having that thick, warm copper-tasting blood in my mouth is the best thing I can think of! Sometimes my boyfriend lets me feed off him. I let him feed off me as well."

This passes for a hobby these days? Aside from it being sick,

painful and disgusting, health officials say these kids are asking for nasty, even dangerous infections, and are liable to give each other blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV. C'mon folks. Do you really have to be told not to do this?

Another mind-boggling trend coming to an urban center near you is zombie walking. It started in California nine years ago and has spread, virus-like, to cities across America, Britain and Australia. Feeding off a booming film and television trend, multitudes—sometimes thousands strong—dress up like ghoulish reanimated corpses, spattered with blood, for a few hours of public moaning and foot-dragging, pretending to be on the hunt for human flesh. Parents bring their children and make it a family affair, and police close streets and provide escort.

There is an explanation for all this nonsense. These modern amusements actually have evil roots that go back millennia.

God has seen it all. He knows the way to happiness. He is full of joy; He is love (Psalm 16:11; 1 John 4:8). He is light, and there is no hint of darkness in Him (1 John 1:5). He doesn't find wickedness the least entertaining, and He doesn't dismiss evil as harmless fun (e.g. Psalm 11:5; Proverbs 14:9).

God forbids us to consume blood (e.g. Leviticus 17:10; Acts 15:20), or to practice occultism and witchcraft, with which it is often paired, as in vampire lore (Leviticus 19:26).

He is a God of *life*. "[T]o be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). In ancient priestly law, God forbade even touching a dead body. "I have set before you life and death," He says in Deuteronomy 30:19—"therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may LIVE."

But there is another spirit being that Scripture calls the "god of this world" and "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." He is the antithesis of everything God is. He propagandizes and peddles evil by any and every means—making it alluring and glamorous, making it light and funny. He promotes the perverse. He exalts death. And he's dangerously good at what he does. Scripture also calls him "the great dragon ... that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which deceiveth the whole world*."

The only blood God tells us to "drink," symbolically, is that of Jesus Christ, which was spilled to pay for our sins. Jesus said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:53). Is it any wonder the prince of the power of the air has inspired a twisted yet seductive counterfeit about immortals who must drink human blood to sustain their existence?

Evil is a drug. It gets its hooks into you. Paul compared it to slavery. It leads to death (Romans 6:16). Our society is saturated with it, obsessed with it. No shock, then, that it's increasingly obsessed with death. They go together.

That's why God warns us not to even start down that road. *Abhor what is evil—cleave to what is good*, He tells us. Shun twisted death mythology. Think up, think positive. Whatever is *true*, think about that. Whatever is honorable, just, pure, lovely. If there is any excellence, anything worthy of praise, think about that. ■



Corinthians 2:11. The human spirit imparts the power of intellect to the human brain. It enables man to think and reason, to make calculated decisions and choices, to create and compose, to stake out positions on ethics and morality, to set goals, to pursue excellence.

Animals, on the other hand, have no such spiritual component in their brains. This is why chimpanzees, dolphins and elephants are **INCAPABLE** of understanding *the things of man*.

This past October, I watched the world-renowned chamber orchestra Academy of St. Martin in the Fields as it joined forces with an extraordinarily talented Israeli pianist named Inon Barnatan. They performed an all-Mozart concert inside the stunningly beautiful Armstrong Auditorium here in Edmond, Oklahoma.

It was one of the best classical performances our foundation has ever sponsored. What a testimony it was to the awesome power and superior intellect in the human mind compared to the brain of a monkey.

If you were to observe a family of monkeys at the zoo in the afternoon and then attend the same concert I did later that night, how could you honestly conclude that what you observed was pretty much equal in mind power?

One reason we sponsor such fine events at Armstrong Auditorium is to showcase the remarkable achievements of the human spirit! Among other things, our concert series highlights the fact that man is a **UNIQUELY CREATED BEING** with *awe-inspiring potential*.

Consider again 1 Corinthians 2:11: “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so *the things of God knoweth no man*, but the **SPIRIT OF GOD**.” Notice: Two **SPIRITS** are mentioned in this verse—the spirit of man, which is *in him*, and the Spirit of God, which is *not* in man, **BUT CAN BE, if we surrender to God in repentance and faith!**

There is, after all, a “missing link”! But it doesn’t connect man to mindless monkeys in the jungle. *It joins human beings to their heavenly Father*. That link, as plainly revealed in the inspired Word of God, is Jesus Christ! “For the wages of sin is death; but the **GIFT** of God is eternal life *through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

This is the profound, irrefutable truth of the gospel message proclaimed throughout the Bible. The living Jesus Christ is our link to eternal life in the Family of God! ■



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. 216 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 KPPX 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 KPXN 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 8:30 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' Ika 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 WBXP 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
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 KSXF 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 KTUV-DT 8:30 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

North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 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, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
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 WXPQ 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; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 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 KVO5 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick 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; Grace Television Network 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVO5 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Maritime Provinces CIHF 7:30 am, 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
Arua WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 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

Can you **prove** it?

Have you ever *proved* whether the Bible, as the Book itself purports, is the authoritative Word of the Creator God?

Or have you simply assumed, from what you have heard, read or been taught, either that it is authentic, or else that it is the religious writing of a small ancient Jewish race, groping in the darkness of ignorance and superstition, trying to develop a concept of God?

Isn't it about time that you prove the answer to this important question? Consider, if the Bible is in fact the inspired, authentic Word of a living, all-powerful God, then your eternal life will be judged by it.

Request your free copy of our eye-opening booklet *The Proof of the Bible*.



HOW TO ORDER LITERATURE IN THIS ISSUE

Phone U.S. and Canada: 1-800-772-8577
Australia: 1-800-22-333-0
New Zealand: 0-800-500-512
United Kingdom: 0800-756-6724

Online www.theTrumpet.com

E-mail Literature requests: request@theTrumpet.com
Letters: letters@theTrumpet.com

Mail Write to the address of the regional office nearest you.
Addresses are listed inside the front cover.