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# TRUMPET

Pope Benedict XVI

# Italy Bows to Vatican

Soon all of Europe will do the same.



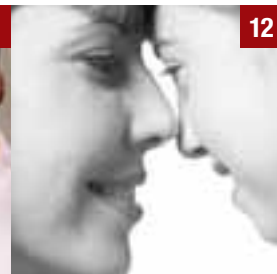
24



2



6



12

**WORLD**

FROM THE EDITOR

1 **Anglicans Submitting to the Pope**

22 **Get Ready for Pope TV**

COVER STORY

24 **Prodi Bows to Vatican Pressure**

Soon, all Europe will do the same.

**WORLD**

2 **Peace Through Diplomacy: Can It Work?**

10 **American Lawyers: Terrorists' Weapons**

14 **Should America Ally With Arabs Against Iran?**

16 **The Mufti and the Führer**

18 **WORLDWATCH**

EUROPE EU to Trump National Laws ■ EU Set to Lead Kosovo ■ BRITAIN Sharia Law for British Schools? ■ CANADA Revealing Muslim Stat Ignored ■ Hamas Invests in Media Upgrade ■ RESOURCES Qatar Gas Sales Sock the Dollar ■ China Swallowing Latin America ■ Russia Expanding Energy Ties With Asian Giants ■ SOUTH AFRICA Follow Zimbabwe's Bad Example

32 **European Energy: Role Reversal**

A swap in energy supply between Britain and Germany

**LIVING**

5 **The Stranger in Your Home**

How TV could be hurting you

12 **Successful Single Parenting**

**BEHIND THE WORK**

6 **Preparing Jerusalem for Its King**

An archeological dig in the Holy City with a magnificent purpose

**RELIGION**

BOOK EXCERPT

26 **Discard**

Tkachism trashed 120,000 copies of *Mystery of the Ages* while telling members the book was "temporarily" out of print.

**SOCIETY**

TRUMPET ARCHIVE

29 **Universal Prosperity: Is It Possible?**

30 **SOCIETYWATCH**

EDUCATION Schooling in State's Hands ■ BRITAIN Collapse of Authority ■ FAMILY "Family" Ruled as Hate Speech ■ U.S. Courts: Defenders of Porn

COMMENTARY

37 **Generation Me**

**DEPARTMENTS**

34 **Key of David Television Log**

36 **Letters**

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**STAFF** **Publisher and Editor in Chief** Gerald Flurry  
**Executive Editor** Stephen Flurry **News Editor** Ron Fraser  
**Senior Editor** Dennis Leap  
**Managing Editor** Joel Hilliker **Contributing Editors** Mark Jenkins, Ryan Malone  
**Contributors** Brad Macdonald, Robert Morley, Timothy Oostendarp, Gary Rethford  
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**Proofreader** Nancy Hancock **Circulation** Mark Saranga  
**International Editions Editor** Wik Heerma  
**French, Italian** Deryle Hope **German** Hans Schmidl **Spanish Edition Editor** Carlos Heyer

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Gerald Flurry

# Anglicans Submitting to the Pope

**E**NGLAND'S KING HENRY VIII BROKE AWAY FROM THE Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century. The Anglican Church has been England's church since that time. Some of Britain's kings, queens and parliamentarians sacrificed blood to establish England's own church. Britain suffered some of its worst nightmares when the Catholic Church reigned over it. However, the people have forgotten that oppressive history. Now, *they are about to embrace the Catholic Church again.*

The *Times* of London reported February 19: "Radical proposals to reunite Anglicans with the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of the pope are to be published this year, the *Times* has learned. The proposals have been agreed by senior bishops of both churches. In a 42-page statement prepared by an international commission of both churches, Anglicans and Roman Catholics are urged to explore how they might reunite under the pope."

A key paragraph in the draft document, titled "Growing Together in Unity and Mission," reads: "We urge Anglicans and Roman Catholics to explore together how the ministry of the bishop of Rome might be offered and received in order to assist our communions to grow toward full, ecclesial communion."

Additionally, the *Times* revealed: "Anglicans are also urged to begin praying for the pope during the intercessory prayers in church services, and Catholics are asked also to pray publicly for the archbishop of Canterbury."

THIS IS A SHOCKING DEVELOPMENT, CONSIDERING THE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ENGLAND. ANGLICANS ARE EMBRACING THE BITTEREST ENEMY AGAINST THE BRITISH THRONE! The history behind that throne is incredibly inspiring. You can read about this in last month's *Trumpet* cover story. That throne is the greatest of all physical thrones by far, and a supreme blessing from the great God. If you understand its history and prophecy, you know that it is in fact the throne of King David of ancient Israel—the very throne, according to the Bible, from which Jesus Christ is about to rule! THAT ROYAL THRONE IS THE HOPE OF THIS WORLD. (To understand why, request a free copy of our booklet *The Key of David*.) But the British have turned their back on God. Now they are grasping for *another throne*.

While both Catholic and Anglican leaders have downplayed

the contents of the document, such efforts toward church unity nevertheless indicate a clear direction and intention. According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the chairman of the Catholic side of the commission that prepared the document, Australian archbishop John Bathersby, said that "it was a significant step forward in an attempt at unity that began 35 years ago" (February 20). He said the relationship between Catholics and Anglicans was the closest it's ever been. Dozens of Anglican married priests, in revolt against women's ordinations, have already been accepted into the Catholic priesthood.

Such efforts at church unity are paving the way for a major prophecy in the Bible to be fulfilled. It is recorded in the 47th chapter of Isaiah: "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. ... And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay

these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children" (verses 1, 7-8).

Here God prophesied that the Catholic Church would experience a great rebellion against her evil deeds—and then, in the very end time, would bring those daughters back under her direction; she would not "know the loss of children."

The Protestant Reformation was a rebellion against Catholicism. Today, however, the Protestants are in the process of being reunited with the Catholic Church under the pope's rule.

The draft statement, the first issued by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, is sure to generate more controversy. Indeed, biblical prophecy indicates that *full unity* will not be achieved purely voluntarily. At a certain point, the mother church will abandon its efforts to woo her daughters back by flatteries and instead revert to the age-old method of preserving "Christian" unity by exerting physical force.

However, thankfully, God says the Roman Catholic Church will again suffer the loss of children "in a moment" (verse 9). Then Jesus Christ is going to rule the Earth. Time is accelerating quickly, and all of this will happen *in a moment*. ■



**RECONCILIATION** The archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglicans, meets Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City.

# Peace Through Diplomacy

## Can It Work?

America is beginning to engage its enemies diplomatically. Will this approach be effective? Can diplomacy secure lasting global peace? **BY BRAD MACDONALD**



REUTERS PHOTOS BY JASON REED, YURIKO NAKAO YN/CP, JAPAN OUT/KOREA NEWS SERVICE/FILE, MOHAMED NURELDIN ABDALLA

**M**ANKIND'S TIMELESS and dogged pursuit of peace is a tribute to our perseverance and optimism. World leaders dedicate their lives to fostering peace. World organizations such as the United Nations exist to pursue global peace. Countless billions of dollars flow into efforts to quiet the drum of war. When these options fail, nations often seek peace *through war*.

Lasting peace is the ultimate, yet hardest to achieve desire of mankind. History declares the tragic inevitability of war. Every alternative has been tried, every path walked, but we are still no closer to learning the way of lasting peace. Today, though peace has never been more desperately needed, it has never been more elusive.

The Western world, America in particular, has been waging war to achieve peace for half a decade now. Public discussion in the United States rings with calls for an end to war-making and a revival of diplomatic efforts to achieve global aims. *Peace through diplomacy* has become a national catchphrase. Many public figures increasingly play down the need for force or military action, demanding that U.S. foreign pol-

icy be reconstructed around rhetoric, conversation—*diplomacy*.

Of course, it is infinitely preferable, whenever possible, to achieve foreign policy objectives through diplomacy. The question is: Is this a time when diplomacy alone can achieve the peace we crave?

It appears the present administration in Washington is coming to believe the answer is yes. After labeling Iran and North Korea as members of an axis of evil and Syria a rogue state and long maintaining a policy of refusing to entertain such nations in direct diplomatic talks, the president has lately shown himself willing to sit down with these same nations at a table laid with negotiation and compromise. In March, the U.S. held high-level talks with Iran and Syria on the future of Iraq, and scheduled a follow-up meeting

for April. The same month, the assistant secretary of state met with North Korean officials in New York to discuss normalizing relations between their two nations—steps that could include removing North Korea from America’s list of state sponsors of terrorism and opening a trading relationship.

As America launches this diplomatic offensive with its enemies—a foreign policy direction likely to be pursued more intensively in coming months and years—it is worth considering the art of diplomacy. What is the key to effective diplomacy? Is the U.S. in a position to employ high-quality diplomacy? More fundamentally, can diplomacy of even the highest quality secure peace in the long term? What is the way to lasting peace?

### The Art of Diplomacy

Furthering national interest through peaceful means is the ultimate purpose of diplomacy. International relations expert Hans Morgenthau wrote, “Of all the factors that make for the power of a nation, *the most important, however unstable, is the quality of diplomacy*” (*Politics Among Nations*; emphasis mine throughout). High-quality diplomacy is one of the strongest weapons a nation can possess. Weak diplomacy, on the other hand, can thrust a nation into crisis.

What will be the quality of America’s diplomacy with Iran, Syria and North Korea?

Morgenthau explained diplomacy as the “art of bringing the different elements of the national power to bear with maximum effect upon those points in the international situation which concern the national interest most directly.” Effective diplomacy occurs when a government uses the elements of national power at its disposal—its political connections and influence, geographic situation, economic and industrial capacity, military might—to promote its national interests. Intelligent diplomacy, wrote Morgenthau, harnesses these qualities and pursues its objectives by three means: persuasion, compromise, and threat of force.

Effective diplomacy employs the power of persuasion, compromises at the right time and on the right issues, and—when necessary—uses the threat of military force. It requires the careful, well-timed blending of all three of these components.

“Rarely, if ever,” Morgenthau wrote, “in the conduct of the foreign policy of a great power is there justification for using

only one method to the exclusion of the others.” The art of diplomacy consists of placing the right emphasis on each of the three means at its disposal at the right time. “A diplomacy that puts most of its eggs in the basket of compromise when the military might of the nation should be predominantly displayed,” for example, “or stresses military might when the political situation calls for persuasion and compromise, will ... fail.”

Effective diplomacy requires that rhetoric be *underpinned* by military strength. “Diplomacy without arms,” as the Prussian king Frederick the Great stated, “is like music without instruments.”

The fact is, history shows that unless a credible military option exists, persuasion and compromise have little effect in dealing with hostile regimes. And whether America accepts it or not, Iran, Syria and North Korea are hostile regimes.

### A Critical Case Study

Sept. 30, 1938, was a momentous day in the life of Neville Chamberlain. As he stepped onto the tarmac of Heston airport, he could barely contain his excitement. Clasped in his fingers was the fruit of a long process of hard-fought diplomacy. Jubilation filled the air. The sense of relief was palpable. Standing before the eager public, the prime minister considered the significance that history would award this day. Sept. 30, 1938, would be a glorious testament to the power of diplomacy.

It was on this day that Britain’s Prime Minister Chamberlain, waving the non-aggression agreement signed by Adolf Hitler, declared those infamous words: “Peace for our time.” During the conference in Munich, the power of rhetoric had prevailed and the clenched fist of war was thwarted.

Or so it seemed.

Less than a year later, Hitler flouted the non-aggression pact, fired up the engines of his military, and ignited World War II by rumbling eastward into Poland. France and Britain declared war on Germany, and Chamberlain’s diplomacy was officially pronounced dead.

It is critical we consider the history of pre-World War II diplomacy in the context of current events, and how American leaders are handling global challenges.

The story of the 1930s is of the *failure* of diplomacy because Britain did not demonstrate it was prepared to take action. Hitler laughed at the agreement because he knew Britain was not arming for war; he didn’t believe there would be consequences for breaking the agreement he had signed. What’s more, Britain had a *track record of ignoring* Germany’s aggression. When German troops occupied the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland in 1936, Britain did nothing. When Hitler ordered his troops into Austria in March 1938, there was no reaction. And with the Munich Pact itself relinquishing Czechoslovakia’s Sudeten territory to Germany, what possible incentive did Hitler have to halt his campaign to take over Europe? Diplomacy was *rewarding* his aggression.

Compare this with what is happening today with the U.S. Notice this opinion piece from Novosti, a Russian news agency: “This about-face [embracing hostile nations in diplomatic talks] of



**“PEACE FOR OUR TIME”** Chamberlain’s attempts to secure peace through negotiation failed to prevent World War II.

American diplomacy is all the more astounding since it took place in a matter of a month and a half. In middle January Condoleezza Rice reassured the Senate that the United States would not go for any bilateral diplomatic contacts with North Korea, Iran or Syria until they became reasonably flexible on disputable issues. The U.S. secretary of state described the policies of these countries as ‘extortion’ rather than diplomacy.

“This ‘extortion’ is still in place, and it is Washington that has become flexible. ... Nobody could match Rice in the UN Security Council in her demands for tough sanctions against North Korea after its nuclear test in October. In the case of Iran and Syria, she also preceded the invitation to the conference in Baghdad with a package of confrontation-provoking speeches, and accused Tehran of col-



laboration with the Shiite militants in attacking U.S. troops. *To sum up, each time dessert followed the bitter pill*" (March 6).

The parallels with British diplomacy in the 1930s are disconcerting. Like Britain's pre-World War II appeasement and non-action, the U.S.'s track record instills no fear into rogue nations. For example, bombings of U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Tanzania during the '90s met with virtually no response. After maintaining that North Korean nuclear capability would not be tolerated, the U.S. took no action when Pyongyang exploded its first nuclear bomb in a test last October. Iran's ongoing support of

comfort. It is through strife, or the readiness for strife, that a nation must win greatness." He made that comment at the dawn of American greatness.

The truth of his statement has never been more evident than in our danger-fraught world.

Iran, Syria and North Korea have a history of exploiting concessions, rejecting agreements and trampling on other nations' willingness to compromise. Though America may come away from diplomatic talks with agreements in hand, what will it do if and when Iran or North Korea refuses to meet their agreements? If these countries are confident that the U.S. is

not prepared to back up its compromise and

persuasion with meaningful military action, how effective will the diplomacy be?

Entering into a diplomatic relationship with these nations will be a litmus test of the strength of the U.S. government. Will diplomacy further America's national interest and secure a measure of peace? Or will it only serve to promote the interests of these rogue states and further ruin America's power and reputation?

**Gathering Dangers**

Seventeenth-century English historian Thomas Fuller said, "[I]t is madness for sheep to talk peace with a wolf."

The Middle East seethes with problems for America right now. Israel faces the possibility of a three-front war with Syria in the Golan Heights, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Syria and Iran are pushing for the downfall of the moderate, U.S.-friendly government of Lebanon. Iraq quakes with civil strife between the government and several competing militias. Like Germany in the 1930s, every sign says war is only getting worse across the Middle East.

How does America respond to these clear and present dangers? *Yank the troops out, and let's sit down at the negotiating table with Iran and Syria.* Many American and British leaders, like Chamberlain, are sheep seeking negotiation with wolves.

The tragic result of such weak diplomacy is that we are moving into an era when the enemies of Western civilization simply *do not fear consequences* for their actions. Hence, Hezbollah starts a war against Israel; Hamas continues to launch missiles onto Israeli soil; North Korea tests long-range missiles and nuclear weapons; Iran continues to threaten to

do the same; Iraqi and Afghan insurgents brazenly attack Western forces.

Increasingly, America's enemies have no fear!

On that day in 1938, Chamberlain's style of diplomacy strengthened the enemy and precipitated conflict. The only thing Chamberlain secured for the Continent was *time*: The people had 11 more months of relative peace—while Hitler had 11 more months of preparation—followed by a bloody and lethal war.

This perfectly illustrates the futility of diplomacy if a nation is *weak* and unprepared to *back up* its words. "Diplomacy without a realistic threat of significant action, in the event that diplomacy fails," said Dr. George Friedman from Stratfor Systems, "*is just empty chatter.*" That statement summarizes American foreign policy today. When it comes to problems such as Iran's involvement in Iraq, the policy of the American government is little more than *empty chatter*—conversations not underpinned by *action*. Thus, the diplomacy may buy some time, but the time will serve only the *aggressor*, not America.

**The Ultimate Cause of Peace**

Seeking peace without shedding blood is a noble aspiration. Sadly, history and human nature show that lasting peace cannot be secured through diplomacy, even if it is of the highest quality.

High-quality diplomacy in many cases may avert war and foster peace temporarily. But history shows it will never bring *lasting* peace!

Mankind *dreams* about peace, but *lives* by war! Why?

God says of mankind in Isaiah 59:8: "[T]he way of peace they know not." Nations today cry out for peace; leaders throw time and money at trying to secure it; politicians and statesmen devote their lives to seeking and maintaining peace through diplomacy. But those efforts always fail eventually and war prevails!

Man simply does not know the way to lasting peace—individually, in our families, within our nations, or globally between nations.

God wants this discouraging fact to impress a critical and life-altering lesson upon our minds. The failure of human diplomacy and the tragic cycle of war teach that *without God and His law, peace is impossible!*

Mankind's history of failed diplomacy—evidenced by the multitude of wars—

**See DIPLOMACY page 25 ▶**

**Increasingly, America's enemies have no fear.**

terrorists, incitement of violence in Iraq, and pursuit of nuclear capability provoke little real action from the U.S.

Also degrading the deterrent capability of America's military threat is the nation's history of exiting a war theater once things get tough. America's enemies have witnessed hasty retreats from Vietnam and Somalia, and are watching Iraq. In addition, antiwar Democrats and the mainstream media are playing a powerful part in undermining any threat of military force. Other nations know America's government is isolated and would become even more so if it resorted to force against Iran, North Korea or Syria.

This all raises the question: As America begins to engage its enemies diplomatically, does it have a credible threat of military force? If not, then we can predict that its diplomatic efforts with Iran, Syria and North Korea will crumble and that violence and conflict will eventually prevail.

Unfortunately, it appears this is essentially the situation as it stands. In its enemies' eyes, the use of force by America is extremely unlikely, hence rendering U.S. diplomacy largely ineffective.

**Another Case Study**

Theodore Roosevelt was the first U.S. president to see that America had the potential to be a world power. He knew that effective diplomacy was key to realizing this potential—and that threat of action was an indispensable component of it.

Speaking at the Naval War College in Newport on June 2, 1897, Roosevelt said, "Diplomacy is utterly useless when there is no force behind it. The diplomat is the servant, not the master, of the soldier. There are higher things in this life than the soft and easy enjoyment of material

BY JOEL HILLIKER

“IF YOU CAME HOME and you found a strange man ... teaching your kids to punch each other, or trying to sell them all kinds of products, you’d kick him right out of the house,” said Dr. Jerome Singer of Yale University.

“But here you are; you come in and *the television is on*; and you don’t think twice about it.” A wise observation.

Do you control the television in your home? Or does it control you?

Almost every U.S. household has at least one (if you can believe it, households with a TV outnumber households with indoor toilets), and it’s typically on *seven hours a day*.

The average American adult spends over 1,700 hours a year gazing at it (compared to only 110 hours spent reading books). According to Dale and Karen Mason, authors of *How to Get the Best Out of TV*, millions of Americans are so addicted to TV that they meet the criteria for “substance abuse” in the official psychiatric manual.

Statistically, a young person turning 18 will have whiled away more hours with this “stranger” than doing anything else except sleeping. Six of 10 children watch it without supervision; 4 of 10 keep one of these influential aliens in their bedroom.

It is a fair question—in fact, we would be criminally negligent if we failed to ask it: *What is all this TV doing to us?*

Firstly, the hours devoted to television can never be reclaimed for something productive—working, exercising, studying, reading, communicating with actual people. And it’s not the most refreshing diversion: After an hour or two of television, people tend to be cranky, irritable and tired. Research shows that people “don’t respect themselves for watching television, don’t enjoy it much, and by and large wish they would quit” (ibid.). Does that describe you?

Children who watch a lot of TV show a



TRUMPET PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

# The Stranger in Your Home

Is this huckster hurting you and your family?

reduced capacity for creative imagination, concentration and delayed gratification. Thanks to the images on the tube changing on average every four seconds, their attention spans shrivel and their reading becomes lazy; they exhibit deficiencies characteristic of learning-disabled children. Similar patterns emerge in adults.

And all that doesn’t even take into account the *content* of the shows on TV. As Jim Henson said, “Television is ... teaching—whether you want it or not.” But *what* is it teaching us? What is it teaching our children? We can’t afford *not* to think seriously about these questions.

None of us can watch without picking up ideas, values and patterns of behavior from the small screen. It shapes our sense of what’s normal, what’s funny, what’s beautiful, what’s cool—*what’s right, what’s wrong*.

Even children’s programming is loaded with depressing and wrong messages

(not to mention the fact that 10½ minutes of every hour are devoted to advertisements for things they don’t need or that could be bad for them). But then again, only 14 percent of the networks’ schedules are devoted to kid’s shows—so young people often end up watching adult programs that can feature violence, drunkenness, sexual promiscuity and other evils. In effect, our children are “eavesdropping” on the adult world, picking up lies and faulty behavior as they go.

Take one example: TV’s horribly distorted and decidedly unhealthy picture of sexuality. In addition to its prevalence—with over 65,000 references to sexual behavior on American television each year—broadcast sex is unrealistic: It happens five times more often between unmarried couples than between married; the second-most commonly depicted sexual experience is with prostitutes; homosexuality is pervasive; and consequences of sex such as pregnancy, disease, and disrupted relationships are almost never shown.

In short, immorality is made to look normal, with few or no kickbacks.

Another of this stranger’s primary messages is *materialism*. Among heavy TV users, the feeling is strong that certain material goods are necessities, whereas light TV users usually consider the same goods luxuries. Thus, television can breed into us a dissatisfaction with what we have—no matter how lavish. Is it any wonder we’re so saddled with personal debt?

One of the most commonly televised messages is that *authority is evil*. Anti-government messages simply *saturate* television: from the sitcom families with boyish, bumbling husbands incapable of leading to the “watchdog” news media that operate on the foundational premise that *we’ve got to keep a wary eye on these no-good rich and powerful politicians and businessmen*. And we wonder

See **STRANGER** page 17 ▶

# Preparing Jerusa

**With hands-on help from Herbert W. Armstrong College students, 3,000 years of buried history is coming to life in Jerusalem. God is, even now, preparing the very spot from which Jesus Christ will rule the world during the Millennium. BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**A**S PART OF ITS ONGOING *intifada* against Israel, radical Islam is fighting fiercely on the *intellectual* battlefield as well—especially regarding Israel’s historical ties to Jerusalem.

According to a new book by Dore Gold, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Yasser Arafat preposterously claimed to President Clinton at the 2000 Camp David summit that Solomon’s temple was not in Jerusalem (*The Fight for Jerusalem*). Two years later, in a newspaper interview, Arafat further advanced the myth, claiming that Solomon’s temple wasn’t even *in Palestine*.

According to Gold, *temple denial* “quickly became a new Palestinian dogma that was even repeated, with the firmest conviction, by Western-educated Palestinian officials who are *assiduously courted by the international media*” (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

In an article titled “Reclaiming Biblical Jerusalem,” Rachel Ginsberg wrote about the territorial gains Palestinian propaganda has also made in the field of academia. “For a growing number of academics and intellectuals, King David and his united kingdom of Judah and Israel, which has served for 3,000 years as an integral symbol of the Jewish nation, is simply a piece of fiction. The biblical account of history has been dismissed as unreliable by a cadre of scholars, some of whom have an overtly political agenda, arguing that the traditional account was resurrected by the Zionists to justify dispossessing Palestinian Arabs” (Aish.com, Nov. 6, 2005).

This revisionist history has even been accepted by certain *Israeli* scholars, Ginsberg noted: “Israel Finkelstein, chairman of Tel Aviv University’s Department of Archaeology, began championing a theory several years ago that

the biblical accounts of Jerusalem as the seat of a powerful, unified monarchy under the rule of David and Solomon are essentially false. ... He concluded that David and Solomon, if they existed at all, were merely ‘hill-country chieftains’ and Jerusalem a poor, small tribal village. He claims that the myth of King David was the creation of a cult of priests trying to create for themselves a glorious history.”

This trend toward historical revisionism is what makes the most recent excavations of Dr. Eilat Mazar so controversial. Since 2005, she and her team of archeologists have been unearthing a massive stone structure from the original Jerusalem, called the City of David in the Bible (visit theTrumpet.com to read “King David’s Palace Found?” in our March 2006 issue). Mazar believes she has found King David’s place of residence—the royal palace. Because of her discovery, Gold wrote in his book, “The ‘minimalists’ had suffered yet another blow. Jerusalem, under the united monarchy of David and Solomon, could no longer be credibly characterized as a minor village” (op. cit.).

Since October of last year, Herbert W. Armstrong College has had the honor of jointly participating with Dr. Mazar’s crew on the Jerusalem dig. Three of our volunteer students returned from the site in March. We plan to increase our involvement in Jerusalem over the summer.

Here we will look at the City of David—past, present and future—and show you how Armstrong College, in a very practical, hands-on way, is helping to prepare Jerusalem for the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth!

## **The City of David**

Before King David established Israel’s capital in Jerusalem, the city was a Je-

busite stronghold (Joshua 15:8). When David became king in the 10th century B.C., he detested the thought of an enemy fortress retaining its location right in the middle of Israel’s territory. And so, after seven years of ruling from Hebron, David’s army attacked the Jebusite city.

The Jebusites were so certain they could defend against David’s attack that they taunted the young king—saying even the blind and lame could defend the city (2 Samuel 5:6). David challenged his military generals, saying whoever captured the stronghold would be given command of the armies in the field. So Joab proceeded to lead a sneak attack by climbing up into the fortified city through a water conduit, resulting in its capture (verses 7-8). “So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him” (verses 9-10).

And so the kingdom of Israel under David’s reign became a world-ruling empire, according to the Bible. But revisionist historians claim this account overstates the significance of David’s reign. For some, the biblical version is little more than a fable.

The Bible says the king of Tyre built David a palace after he had conquered the Jebusite fortress and turned it into the City of David—or Jerusalem (verse 11). “But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the [strong]hold”—or, the fortress (verse 17). This verse had a profound impact on Eilat Mazar’s mind while she prepared for the dig.

“The Bible says that David heard about it and ‘descended to the fortress,’” Ginsberg wrote in her article, “imply-



# Jerusalem for Its King

ing that he went *down* from his palace, which was higher up on the mountain than the citadel/city.” She then quoted Dr. Mazar: “I always asked myself: Down from where? It must have been from his palace on top of the hill, *outside the original Jebusite city*.” Many archeologists had assumed that David’s palace must have been located within the walled city. But why would the king of Israel build his royal palace inside the cramped city walls of the old Jebusite fortress, Mazar wondered? The old city was only about 9 square acres in size. Relying on the history recorded in 2 Samuel 5:17, however, it made sense. Once David heard about the Philistines’ approach, he left his palace at the peak of Mount Zion and “went down” to the stronghold—entered the walled city, in other words.

So Mazar started digging immediately north of the City of David, right at the top of Mount Zion. And after just one season of digging, she discovered a massive wall, up to 10 feet wide in some places, and running 100 feet in length, east to west.

This scenario makes sense even looking at Jerusalem today. Just north of Mount Zion is Mount Moriah, where Solomon, David’s son, built the first temple, located on what is called the Temple Mount today. So when David captured the Jebusite stronghold and made it Israel’s capital, he later expanded the city northward, building his own palace adjacent to the walled city, at the top of Mount Zion. Then, to the mount just north of there, Solomon constructed a magnificent house for God. And that’s about how Jerusalem remained for the next four centuries.

During the first phase of the dig in 2005, Dr. Mazar found a bulla, or clay disc used to seal scrolls, with the inscription “Yehuchal” on it. This is the name of the Judean prince mentioned in Jeremiah 37:3 (*Jehucal*), indicating that Judean royalty ruled from the palace David built for more than four centuries—right up to Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem in 585 B.C.

“For me, finding the bulla was tremendous,” Mazar explained. “Yehuchal was no longer just some name in a biblical account

that I might not even have been sure was true. He was a real person. We now have his business card. The account is a real account. It is very rare to find such precise evidence for a narrative in the Bible. ... Today the scholarly approach to Tanach [the Bible] is that it’s not true unless you can prove it true. Maybe we should do a little reverse. Why don’t we say it’s true unless we can prove otherwise?”

How refreshing—a scholar who operates on the assumption that what the Bible says is actually true.

## Jerusalem in “Heaps”

In ancient Israel, God had placed His name in Jerusalem (2 Kings 21:1-4). But after evil kings introduced all sorts of abominable practices within the temple, God promised to cast off this city and the temple (2 Kings 23:27). And, of course, that is exactly what happened. About 130 years after Israel’s captivity at the hands of the Assyrians, God caused the Jews also to be driven out of their land into captivity and slavery.

God prophesied through His servant Jeremiah, “And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant” (Jeremiah 9:11). The Hebrew word for “heaps” in this verse means heap after heap of ruins—or waves of ruins. The Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem was so thorough that very little remained of the ancient city. (See also Jeremiah 26:18 and Micah 3:12.)

Seventy years after Jerusalem was destroyed, about 50,000 Jews returned in order to rebuild the ruined city. This history is recorded in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This time, the city of Jerusalem and the second temple weren’t nearly as impressive as the first ones. Nevertheless, this rebuilt city remained intact for about 300 years—until the second century B.C. during the Maccabean Revolt.

During that period, the Syrians had gained control of much of Judah—and the Jews, led by Simon of the Maccabean brothers, set out to remove the Syrians entirely from the region. According to Jewish historian Josephus, the last Syr-

ian stronghold to fall during the Maccabean Wars was the citadel fortress on top of Mount Zion. Simon cut off supply lines into the city in order to starve its inhabitants into submission.

“He [Simon] also took the citadel of Jerusalem by siege,” Josephus relates, “and cast it down to the ground, that it might not be any more a place of refuge to their enemies when they took it, to do them a mischief, as it had been till now. And when he had done this, he thought it their best way, and most for their advantage, to level the very mountain itself upon which the citadel happened to stand, that so the temple might be higher than it.” Simon convinced the Jews of the necessity of the project, and the people went to work. “[S]o they all set themselves to the work, and leveled the mountain, and in that work spent both day and night without intermission, which cost them three whole years before it was removed, and brought to an entire level with the plain of the rest of the city. After which the temple was the highest of all the buildings, now the citadel, as well as the mountain whereon it stood, were demolished” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XIII, vi, 7).

And so, to this day, there appears to be one mountain—where the Temple Mount is located (Mount Moriah)—and the topography slopes downward from there, heading south. This history covered by Josephus is important for a couple reasons. First, after Mount Zion was leveled off, it was essentially left desolate for generations to come as Jerusalem construction and expansion essentially pushed northward and westward. As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “It is significant that few buildings now stand on the multiple-acre area of the *original* Jerusalem, now being excavated”—referring to an excavation of the area his organization was part of in 1969 (*Plain Truth*, April 1969). Second, by removing the top of Mount Zion, Simon and the Jews essentially spent three whole years getting rid of the heaps that God had prophesied to send upon the ancient city.

With that in mind, consider this comment from Ginsberg: “What most amazed



**PREPARING** From left: Herbert W. Armstrong College volunteers pose with Dr. Eilat Mazar; Dr. Mazar gives author Stephen Flurry a tour of the dig site; an AC student excavates at the large stone structure.

Mazar was how close the building is to the surface—just 1 to 2 meters underground. “The cynics kept saying, *there will be so many layers, so many remnants of other cultures, it’s not worth digging, it’s too far down.* I was shocked at how easy it was to uncover it, and how well-preserved it was, as if it were just waiting 3,000 years for us to find it,” Mazar said.”

Dr. Mazar conveyed this same amazement to me when I spoke with her in Jerusalem last year. “We only dug down a couple meters,” she said, “and we went back 3,000 years in time!”

**Project Delays**

Ginsberg also wrote about the trouble Dr. Mazar had in getting this project up and running. “More than 10 years ago, Mazar proposed a solid thesis as to the location of the palace, and argued her position in a piece published in *Biblical Archaeological Review*. ... Despite her sound hypothesis and impeccable credentials, she couldn’t find any financial backers, as if no one in the academic world really wanted to find David’s palace. It would just be too politically complicated. It’s no wonder, when even mainstream archaeologists are inclined to play down finds which might be considered too highly charged with biblical or historical accuracy. ...

“Despite the seeming indifference from the academic world, Mazar’s proposal finally found a sponsor in the Shalem Center, an academic center in Jerusalem that recently established an institute for archaeological studies, and was funded by Roger Hertog, an American Jewish investment banker who told the *New York Times* that he fronted the dig because he wants to

encourage scientific support for the Bible as a reflection of Jewish history.”

So Dr. Mazar was all ready to proceed with the project in 1995, but had to wait 10 years until she could find someone to fund the project. The ancient ruins from the Davidic Empire were waiting under just a couple meters of dirt. Perhaps God delayed the project just long enough for Armstrong College to become a partner.

When I first met with Dr. Mazar last August to see if she would be interested in using our volunteers, she told us the plan was to begin phase two of the dig in September but said there had already been numerous delays. When I called her two days later, she was extremely excited. Apparently, plans to begin phase two were suddenly progressing rapidly.

In January, while visiting our three volunteers on the job in Jerusalem, I met with Dr. Mazar again; this time she said that after phase two ended in March, a third phase would begin soon after, without delay. This summer schedule for the dig worked out perfectly for our expanded involvement, since class will be out of session at Armstrong College.

This is an incredible opportunity for Armstrong College—but not merely because of the history that is being uncovered. The most important aspect of this archeological project has to do with the *future* of that city.

**God Shall Yet Choose Jerusalem**

We have already noted certain prophecies where God said He would pile “heaps” upon Jerusalem—which He did. But God has also prophesied to “*choose Jerusalem again*” (Zechariah 2:12; see

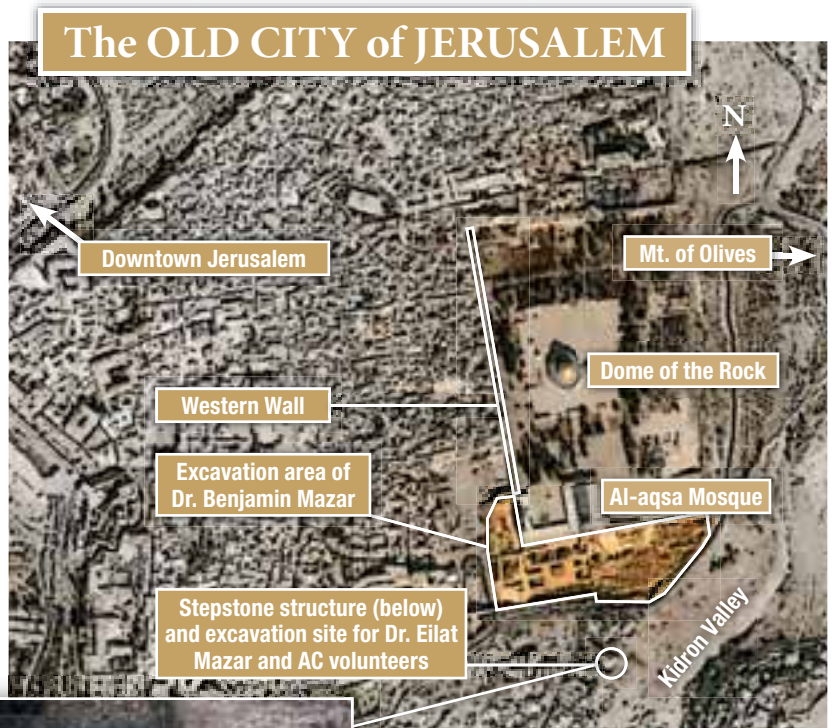
also Zechariah 1:17).

Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote to co-workers in 1968, when he sent Ambassador College students to volunteer at the Temple Mount excavations in Jerusalem, under the direction of Benjamin Mazar, Eilat’s grandfather. He said God had commissioned His people to “*CLEAN UP THE FILTH AND RUBBLE in that area that was the original Jerusalem and City of David (actually several acres of ground—this is a MAJOR operation of excavation)*” (Dec. 10, 1968).

*And why is this important?* Mr. Armstrong asked. “Because Christ has said He will yet choose Jerusalem, and make it the capital city of the whole World Tomorrow! Jesus is coming in all the supernatural power and glory to rule the world. His throne will be there. Do you not suppose it will be in the very spot He chose for David’s throne? Jesus is to sit on David’s throne! Where was David’s throne? It was on this very spot where we are now cleaning up and hauling off the rubble of century after century of accumulation! And even David is to be resurrected! That is the spot we are cleaning up! So there is a physical preparing, as well as spiritual, in preparing the way for Messiah’s coming! Further, God says we are to shout, with amplified power, to the cities of Judah the glad message that the Messiah is soon coming. This is leading to the opportunity to do this (Isaiah 40:1-11).”

Mr. Armstrong said they were cleaning up the “very spot” where David’s throne was located, but actually they weren’t—they were just a little ways north of that spot, on Mount Moriah





(the Temple Mount). He did indicate a desire for the volunteers to work their way down toward the City of David, but they never made it that far.

*God left that for us to do.*

And as Mr. Armstrong indicated in that letter, this all leads into the wonderful World Tomorrow when Christ will rule this Earth (Jeremiah 3:16-17) from the throne of David: “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “How REMARKABLE that this scriptural prediction says plainly that the messianic future world ruler—long, long looked for by many if not most Jews—is to reign ON THE THRONE OF DAVID!” (*Plain Truth*, op. cit.).

### City on a Hill

This magazine has often referred to the very next prophesied event to occur in Jerusalem—the division of the city between Jews and Arabs, referred to in Zechariah 14:1-2, and how that event will lead directly to the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth. “Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of

the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (verses 3-4). The Mount of Olives is across the Valley of Jehoshaphat, directly east of the Temple Mount and Mount Zion.

Verse 5 continues, “And ye shall flee to the valley [or through the valley] of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.” The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says the mountains mentioned here could be referring to the two mounts—Mount Moriah and Mount Zion.

Notice verse 10: “All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin’s gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the

king’s winepresses.” Here is how *Lange’s Commentary* explains this verse: “The whole land is to be leveled to a plain in order that Jerusalem may be elevated, and then the holy city is to be restored to its former grandeur. ... In consequence of this depression of all the surrounding country, Jerusalem becomes high.”

In other words, THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS WILL CONTINUE RIGHT ON INTO THE MILLENNIUM. “The capital seated on her hills shines conspicuous as the only elevation in a very wide region,” says Lange. Jerusalem, in a very literal sense, will be a city that is set on a hill (Matthew 5:14).

“And it shall come to pass in the last days,” the Prophet Isaiah wrote, “that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2).

How wonderful are the prophecies of God! Yes, there is a great spiritual excavation going on in preparation for Christ’s return (see Amos 9:11-12). But as Mr. Armstrong brought out in his 1968 letter, there is also a *physical* preparing for the Messiah’s appearance.

“If the spot of the original throne of David is, in fact, to be the coming seat of world government, then all that accumulated debris of century after century must be cleared off before that event can occur! Exciting?” Mr. Armstrong asked (*Plain Truth*, op. cit.).

“Beyond words to describe, it is!” ■



# American Lawyers:

**A**MERICA'S "WAR ON TERROR" is actually a war against some very inventive, if ruthless, individuals. Though out-matched by American might in every sense, clever Islamists are leveling the battlefield by turning our strengths into liabilities. Commercial jetliners, for example, make for devastatingly effective guided missiles.

One weapon Islamists are using against us is American lawyers.

## The Rise of "Lawfare"

"Lawfare" is a recently coined term denoting efforts to achieve military objectives through legal maneuvers. It is proving to be a helpful tool for Islamists, who have used it to intimidate the American military into softening its battle tactics, to shut down terrorist surveillance programs, to access secret information on counterterrorist measures, to secure extra rights and even gain freedom for captured terrorists, and to swing American and global public opinion against the United States. These successes jeopardize American lives and handicap the nation's war-making capabilities.

Lawfare practitioners do not act alone. They hire whole colonies of Lilliputian lawyers to tie Gulliver—the U.S. Armed Forces—to the ground. They rely on the active help of self-righteous civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). And giving their litigious efforts greater traction with the public is the artificial amplification provided courtesy of the newsmedia, which are eager to publicize any allegations of government or military wrongdoing while ignoring the big picture.

A peek at just how calculated the effort is came when British authorities seized an al Qaeda training manual instructing operatives, if captured, to falsely claim torture and other abuses. This tactic has worked especially well at Guantanamo Bay; detainees' accusations have turned the prison into a lightning

rod for public criticism over human-rights violations and generated countless demands for its closure.

U.S. federal courts are choked with lawsuits from Taliban and al Qaeda prisoners. The *Wall Street Journal* reports, "The suits range from habeas corpus petitions to free captured enemy combatants [such suits were dismissed by the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., on February 20 in its ruling on *Boumediene v. Bush*—though the case is being appealed to the Supreme Court], to tort suits seeking monies from U.S. government officials, to challenges regarding

tably, in the 2004 *Rasul v. Bush* case, the Supreme Court found that appeals by prisoners at Guantanamo over wrongful imprisonment fell under the jurisdiction not of the U.S. military but of U.S. criminal courts.) That such efforts could put dangerous people back into business is evidenced by the fact that 1 in 20 terrorism suspects the U.S. government has released has later been found engaging in terrorist activity, according to military analyst James Dunnigan. It appears that some American lawyers are prioritizing invented "rights" of dangerous enemies over the lives of American citizens.



**PROSECUTION** Shafiq Rasul (left) and two other Pakistanis were held at Guantanamo. Rasul later sued for wrongful imprisonment.

the detainees' conditions of confinement. ... Several suits [also] seek to hold the U.S. liable for the alleged misconduct of other governments"—such as torturing individuals whom the U.S. has deported (February 23).

Via several separate cases, lawyers have aggressively worked to secure the right of captured foreign combatants to petition federal courts for freedom. Misguided activists behave as though the rights given to U.S. citizens under the Constitution extend by natural-born right even to foreigners engaged in terrorism against the U.S. After spending considerable time on trial at all levels, up to the Supreme Court, the issue has met with some measure of success. (Most no-

Trying terrorists and foreign combatants in U.S. criminal courts comes with genuine security risks. For one, there is a potential that, in the discovery process of a legal proceeding, in which each side must turn over information to the other, the enemy will learn how the U.S. gains its intelligence to prevent attacks. This occurred in 1995, during the trial of an Egyptian jihadist, when the U.S. handed over a list of names to the defendant's lawyers that eventually fell into the hands of al Qaeda's leaders, tipping them off to what Washington knew about them.

But the implications of extending the jurisdiction of civilian courts over military matters—in effect blurring the line between military law and criminal law—

# Terrorists' Weapons

A stealth battlefield in the “war on terror” BY JOEL HILLIKER

are even more far-reaching and ridiculous. Jeff Breinholt, deputy chief of the U.S. Department of Justice Counterterrorism Section, gives one example: “[T]he U.S. military could, under established rules in the Law of Armed Conflict, legally bomb a building, but then legally be prohibited, based on the Fourth Amendment, from searching the same building without a warrant” (FindLaw.com, March 9).

While this would never happen, it illustrates the flaw in allowing enemies to call on the judicial branch of the U.S. government for help in a war being waged by the executive and legislative branches.

**This illustrates the flaw in allowing enemies to call on the judicial branch of the U.S. government for help in a war being waged by the executive and legislative branches.**

## Criminalizing Warfare

In trying to handicap U.S. anti-terrorism efforts, these groups have also attacked technological intelligence gathering. In the most well-known example, the ACLU, CCR and CAIR filed suit against the National Security Agency for listening in on phone conversations of al Qaeda suspects on American soil. With the help of the *New York Times*, the lawsuit attracted public outrage over the program; meanwhile, terrorists, having learned of their vulnerability, switched to using disposable cell phones that were beyond the listening ear of the U.S. government.

In the end, lawfare is meant to spook military leaders and soldiers into hypersensitivity over the legalities of each word and step; as they modify their actions to avoid being slapped with war-crimes charges, they lose effectiveness as a fighting force.

Bruce Anderson explained in the *Spectator* that soldiers “have to make instant life-and-death decisions. In the nature of human decision-making, not all of them will be the right ones. But if this means that lawyers thousands of miles away can spend many hours reviewing a decision which a soldier had to take in a fraction of a second, two consequences

will ensue. Fine young men will be subjected to injustice. Worse still, the entire process of military decision-making will be degraded. At a moment when the soldier’s mind should be focused exclusively on operational requirements and the safety of his comrades, he cannot be expected to ask himself how the lawyers might second-guess him. If he does, he will cease to be a good soldier” (July 23, 2005). Just as the enemy wants.

It is not difficult to imagine how vulnerability to prosecution would undermine the confidence and readiness, not to mention morale, of a fighting force.

Today’s military is already saturated with examples of political correctness trumping security concerns. As the *Wall Street Journal* said, the goal of lawfare seems to be nothing less than the “criminalization of traditional warfare” (op. cit.).

Of course the military must operate under the rule of law. But it is of necessity a different law than that which applies to the rest of the us. As one British general put it, “Soldiers are not merely civilians in uniform. They form a distinctive group within our society, which is required either to kill other human beings or ... to sacrifice themselves for the nation.” Thus soldiers, operating under military law, face punishment and/or protection from military officers who are trained to review and judge actions within the appropriate context. Civilian courts, by accepting certain cases and ruling in ways that blur these lines, risk being used and exploited by enemies of the nation for nefarious purposes.

The fact that these Islamist abuses of the American judiciary are as successful as they are exposes some tremendous flaws in our system. The American judiciary has become a paperwork factory, a protocol mill that entangles us in a web of processes that provide only a caricature

of real justice. Our pursuit of impartiality has effectively outlawed common sense.

## “No One Goes to Law Honestly”

The logic in Proverbs 18:5 is basic, but it is largely ignored: “It is wrong for a judge to favor the wicked and condemn the innocent” (The Living Bible). A truly functional system could not be hijacked by enemies of the state; real justice would never take a backseat to criminal rights, real or imagined. For example, in the system of Mosaic law, in which much of American law finds its roots, is the simple but wise dictum, “Keep thee far from a false matter ...” (Exodus 23:7)—a law that, if kept in a spirit of fair and sound judgment, would instantly unclog the judicial logjam that results from having to treat every trumped-up lawsuit with equal seriousness.

Even now, wise, authoritative judges can still shut down foolish lawyers and activists who seek to misuse the system. But as the Prophet Isaiah foretold of our modern world, such judges are disappearing (Isaiah 3:1-2). As a result, base individuals behave themselves proudly against the honorable (verse 5). Another of Isaiah’s end-time prophecies reads, “No one enters suit justly, no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity” (Isaiah 59:4, Revised Standard Version).

Though a blizzard of accusations has been leveled against the U.S. over all aspects of the execution of its “war on terror,” all but a few have been proven false. By several measures, no military in history has worked harder in a time of war to protect civilians and meet out violence with such precision. Still, in the virulently anti-American environment of today, even false accusations, pumped through the megaphone of the media, serve to prejudice the American public and tip the scales against the U.S. in the court of world opinion.

Lawfare provides a microcosmic look at the nature of our time: The strong, under curses from God, are becoming weak; and the weak, strong. ■



INDEX OPEN

## ESTEEM YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

RECOGNIZE THAT CHILDREN IN SINGLE-parent families are also suffering. The problems of adjusting can be just as traumatic, if not more so, for a child. The loss of a father is tough for a boy. A mother could have a hard time valuing her son's hobbies. Who can measure the loss of a mother for a girl? A daughter may soon recognize that Dad doesn't grasp her feminine needs. Likewise, major problems also result from the lack of attention of the parent of the opposite sex.

Although society has promoted alternative families for years, key experts have recently come to recognize that the care of both parents is necessary to completely fulfill the emotional needs of a child. There are marked disadvantages for the children of single parents. Sara McLanahan, a Princeton University sociologist, wrote, "Children who grow up with only one of their biological parents (nearly always the mother) are disadvantaged across a broad array of outcomes. ... [T]hey are twice as likely to drop out of high school, 2.5 times as likely to become teen mothers, and 1.4 times as likely to be idle—out of school and out of work—as children who grow up with both parents. Children in one-parent families also have lower grade point averages, lower college aspirations and poorer attendance records. As adults, they have higher rates of divorce. These patterns persist even after adjusting for differences in race, parent's education, number of siblings and residential location" (*American Prospect*, June 23, 1994). We mention these facts not to discourage you but to show the importance of seeing to the needs of your child.

Understanding and then facing the disadvantages for your child will help you minimize potential negative effects. The best way for you to get your mind off yourself is to focus your attention on your child. All Christians are admonished to put others' needs before their own (Philippians 2:3-4). Certainly Christian single parents must place the highest priority on their children.

Recognize that *neglect* is the root cause of all the disadvantages listed above. Most single parents—especially mothers—struggle with financial and work-related difficulties. Although there are many programs available for you, training and updating work skills can be an intimidating challenge. It is time consuming. Even then, reentering the job

# Successful Single Parenting

BY DENNIS LEAP

SO, YOU'RE A SINGLE PARENT. TAKE HEART: YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

It is ever more common for a parent—father or mother—to end up facing the challenges of life without a mate but with children. In the United States, single-parent households more than tripled between 1990 and 2002. Now, almost 3 in 10 American children under age 18 live with only one parent. Fully 10 million women lead their households alone; 2.3 million men face the same challenge. The trend is similar in other Western nations.

Raising a family is a tough job even for two parents. Being a single parent—acting as both dad and mom—is daunting and demanding. Yours is not an easy task.

Be assured. You can do it—and do it successfully!

## EMBRACE YOUR NEW LIFE

ADJUSTMENT TO SINGLE LIFE AS A PARENT is difficult. The responsibility of acting as both mother and father can leave you physically and emotionally drained. Negative emotions creep in. Single parents often battle loneliness, frustration, envy and bitterness. As a result, many people in this situation are overworked, tired, easily upset and irritable. There are even greater challenges for those recovering from a spouse's death or bitter divorce.

However, recognize that wishing your life was different will never help you do a good job as a parent. Embracing your new life—accepting your status—is the first step to success. Yes, this is a big challenge. How do you do it?

Look at the Apostle Paul's example. He had to face many hardships in his Christian life. He was single. There were times he most likely desired a mate (e.g.

1 Corinthians 9:5), but his difficult task of taking care of the Gentile congregations prevented him from doing so. He did not focus on what he lacked—a mate. Paul worked diligently to get his mind off himself. He focused on his job. In the end, he was extremely successful as a type of father—a wonderful parent to God's people (1 Corinthians 4:15-16).

How did he do this?

He stated, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). Strive for contentment. Find every measure of happiness, no matter how little, with your single status. This will enable you to focus on your job of parenting. Do everything possible to shift the focus off yourself. This kind of contentment comes with prayer, study, meditation and fasting.



market can be a major hurdle to jump. Making ends meet is generally still difficult, even with a good job. Having a job increases the costs for a family. Transportation, clothing and day care can eat into an already tight budget. Besides day care, many single parents employ cleaning and cooking services. It is not surprising then that many single parents end up working overtime or two jobs. Many single par-

ents make the mistake of thinking that money and things make up for the loss of the second parent. Because of such thinking, some place so much importance on the work of earning a living that they neglect other very necessary things such as helping with school work, spending time in doing chores or just plain discussion about the day's events. Many children of single parents complain that parents just

are not there for them.

It is all too easy to miss the real needs of a child. All children (with either two or one parent) need attention more than money and things. There are times when your child's need for attention must take priority over finances and budgets.

Here is the point. You simply cannot do it all by yourself. So, the next step you need to take is to get help!

### SEEK HELP

DAILY ASK GOD FOR HELP—TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN from accident and illness, for the power to fight discouragement. The Bible contains special promises you can claim as a single parent. For example, Psalm 146 states, "The Lord ... relieveth the fatherless and widow ..." (verse 9). Psalm 68 states that God is "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows ..." (verse 5). Psalm 10 states that God is "the helper of the fatherless" (verse 14). Wise King Solomon wrote, "Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee" (Proverbs 23:10-11). God is the mighty Redeemer of widows and orphans. God will use all of His might to defend and sustain you. In the short run, you may suffer as all humans do. But in the long run, God always takes care of things—even if some try to mistreat you.

These special promises hinge on the condition that you put God and His way of life first in your life. Trust God to provide for you. Seek God's guidance in every situation you encounter. Ask God for extra help to face your problems—head on—with courage. When you go to God, *expect* God to bless you—for that is exactly what God plans to do.

Seek the advice of others who may be able to help you with

specific problems. Solomon declared, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14). When facing financial problems, you may need to meet with a financial professional. If you have small children, you may require the help of a housekeeper—someone to cook and clean. Find a lawyer you can trust to help with legal problems. In addition, observe the good examples of others around you. Learn to lean on the help of strong, godly families. Many families would be happy to include you and your children in activities.

Don't hesitate to seek out the sound advice of your extended family and friends. Learn to ask for help when you truly need it. The most successful single parents are the ones who keep in touch with their minister, family and friends.

Being a single parent has its handicaps. You need a fully developed support system. Sometimes a simple chat with an understanding ear is all you need to get up and running again. Trusted friends who listen without forcing their advice or opinions on you are a precious treasure. When you find such a friend, seek his or her help. The solutions for many difficulties come while simply talking about your feelings. Always tell your friend how thankful you are for his or her understanding ear. And don't forget to return the favor.

### GET ORGANIZED

THE ROLES OF A SINGLE PARENT ARE MANY. BEING A MOTHER, father, homemaker, breadwinner, bookkeeper and nurse can pull you in many different directions—all at the same time! The key to your effectiveness lies in organization.

Single parents can tend to allow life to get out of control. Control your life. Get organized. If you have not done so, set a schedule for yourself and your children. Get the whole family involved. Start by making a daily list of things to be done. Be sure to establish strong priorities and to set realistic goals. Remember, your schedule is a guide. Allow for unplanned occurrences that can divert planned activities. Yet, work at sticking to the schedule. Having a schedule will give your family structure and direction. Both attributes create an environment of security.

If possible, schedule your children to help with the cooking, cleaning and laundry. This will not only ease your burden, it will help them learn responsibility and feel needed and useful.

Organize your records. Make a financial budget and stick to it. Keep your home environment in order. Because of a harried life, some have the tendency to allow a home to fill with clutter. Although it may be a real challenge, give away, sell or simply throw out unnecessary and unused items. Find a storage place for everything, and then be sure to put things away when finished with them.

### BUILD CLOSENESS

SCHEDULING TIME WITH THE CHILDREN MUST BE A TOP PRIORITY. Be aware that if your child has lost a parent, he or she can crave your attention more than normal, especially at first. All children experience feelings of insecurity when a parent dies. All children experience rejection when parents divorce. You will need to develop real empathy for your child. By supporting your children, you will teach them to support each other and eventually other people. In time, each member of a strongly united family grows to give and receive emotional and moral support. When one is down, the others step in to provide strength and encouragement.

How do you build this kind of closeness?

Single-parent families must share regular meals together. Few families in our Western society eat any meals together. Meal times should provide family togetherness, security and time for communication. Turn off the television during meals. Use the time wisely to share thoughts, feelings and concerns. As the parent, lead all discussions. Draw out your more reserved children. Ask specific questions: *What was the most exciting part of your day? What good thing happened to you?* Tell your children how your day went. If you are open and honest, your children will learn to be the same way. Be sure to let your children tell you what is on their minds. Learn about their

See PARENTING page 34 ▶



**COURTING ALLIES** U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits Saudi Arabia in January to gain support for America's Iraq policy.

# Should America Ally With Arabs Against Iran?

America isn't the only nation seeking to contain Iran. But there is a danger in thinking that mutual mistrust would make a solid foundation for a dependable alliance. **BY JOEL HILLIKER AND TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP**

**H**OW TO DEAL WITH IRAN? This question is a foreign-policy nightmare that haunts Western leaders.

America is at the forefront of a host of Western nations wringing their hands over how best to limit the destructive potential of this most powerful and perhaps least predictable entity in the Middle East.

But the question also echoes within influential minds in other governments. In fact, among several nations the question is even more elemental and has still greater urgency than it does for the United States.

It may surprise you, but Iran sparks some of the greatest concern among the leaders of Iran's Muslim neighbors—specifically, of its Sunni Muslim neighbors.

Not even 10 percent of the world's Muslims today are Shiite—the sect of the majority in Iran. Fully 90 percent are Sunni. In addition to the larger na-

tions of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, Sunni states also include a handful of other smaller Arabian Peninsula sheikhdoms; these comprise the majority of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

What is known as the Sunni-Shiite rift harkens back to a seventh-century dispute over who would succeed the Prophet Muhammad. Yet the main issue dividing Sunnis and Shiites today is *Iran's power grabbing in the Middle East*. Sunni leaders are deeply disturbed—even panicky—about the radical complexion of the Iranian-led Shiites.

The U.S.—looking to exploit every possible option for containing Iran—sees in this Sunni anxiety an *opportunity*: the makings of a possible alliance. It is viewing states like Jordan and Saudi Arabia as potential partners in erecting a hedge around the Islamic Republic. You may already be reading headlines in your daily news about such efforts.

As you do, remember this: *There is a deadly flaw in this thinking.*

A shocking biblical prophecy explains why—a prophecy involving a number of Arab states, the U.S. and Israel, and, most intriguingly, *Europe*.

## Why the Panic?

Arab leaders have good reason to panic over Iran. The Islamic Republic can export revolution to their countries just as it has undermined Lebanon through Hezbollah, the Fatah-ruled Palestinian territories through Hamas (which, incidentally, is a Sunni organization), and Iraq through Shiite militias and even some Sunni insurgents.

Saudi Arabian fear of revolution is especially acute. Saudi Arabia's eastern province is not only rich with oil, but also teeming with Shiites. According to Vali Nasr, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Saudi royal

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

family believes Iranian operatives, with local Shiite help, have been behind many terrorist attacks inside the kingdom.

Arab states also face the reality of Iran possessing nuclear weapons, which they have concluded poses a direct threat to their interests. In response, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman have all spoken openly about pursuing their own nuclear programs. Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Gulf Research Center in Dubai, stated, "The Iranians left us no option, so this is our answer to them. Now Arabs have no option but to start a program under a civilian banner." Washington has not objected to the Arab states developing nuclear power programs, having already offered to help Egypt with its nuclear technology.

Alani also warned that escalating tensions in the Middle East could "trigger a race for arms." Already, Arab states are sinking billions of petro-dollars into their militaries. According to Tim Ripley of *Jane's Defense Weekly*, Gulf states have earmarked more than \$60 billion for arms. Saudi Arabia has allocated close to \$50 billion for fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, cruise missiles and some 300 new tanks. The United Arab Emirates has budgeted \$8 billion for a rapid reaction force and missile defense.

Another significant threat to Arab states is Iran's ability to wreak havoc on world oil supplies. Iran borders the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most critical energy trade route. Forty percent of the world's crude oil travels through Hormuz daily (including two thirds of Saudi oil); the U.S. Energy Department estimates that this figure will rise to 60 percent by 2025. The world depends on access to the Hormuz strait to gain Saudi, Qatari, Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil and gas, as well as other petroleum products from the UAE. Lt. Col. Rick Francona wrote, "Threats to the straits are a 'red line' for these countries" (MSNBC, March 19). Over this and other issues, Arab states are bracing themselves for a fight with Iran if necessary.

Such concerns, so rife throughout the Arab world, would seem to provide plenty of common ground for an anti-Iran alliance with the United States. In fact, these concerns are taking on a heightened urgency at this time for one very interesting reason: These Arab states *deeply fear that the U.S. is about to leave Iraq*, and are begging it *not to do so*—for fear that this would leave Iran too strong.

Given the attitude of the American

anti-war left, it is not hard to see why the White House is considering aligning with these Arab states.

### Is the President Allying With Arabs?

There is a "new strategic alignment in the Middle East," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January. Rice was referring to U.S. efforts to develop a new alliance with moderate Arab states to stop Iran's power grabbing.

Such an alliance would be built on mutual moderate Arab and American-Israeli interests. Rice identified Sunni Arab states as models of moderation while pointing to Iran, Syria and Hezbollah as being "on the other side of the divide," adding that Iran and Syria "have made their choice and their choice is to destabilize."

Realizing that the war in Iraq has strengthened Iran, the U.S. administration appears ready to empower what it considers "moderate" Arabs in the region as a counterweight. It has been courting eight Arab states in particular since last September. Before that—tracing back even as far as the first Gulf War—Washington has made deals whereby Arab states purchase American arms and receive security guarantees. More recently, the U.S. has sought support for its anti-extremist, antiproliferation agenda by offering a security umbrella to these states.

Even Israel appears to be warming to the idea of a strategic alliance with Arab states based on mutual fear of Iran. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is now considering a five-year-old Saudi plan that could see Israel draw back to its 1967 borders in exchange for peace with some of its Arab neighbors.

What will be the outcome of these efforts, to whatever degree they proceed? Just the visible facts are terribly problematic. Several of these Arab states, though their leaders may be comfortable in dialog with the United States, have populations that are repulsed by the idea of dealing with America; they are, in short, quite sympathetic to Iran's radical agenda. The tentacles of terrorism extend deeply into Saudi Arabia, for example—one of the supposed "moderate" Arab states. Egypt shows signs of an imminent transition from the "moderate" Mubarak era into something far more dangerous

and more closely aligned with Iran. As attractive as the idea of having strategic allies in the region may be, these states are deeply stained by radical leanings or even bloodguiltiness.

Several of these governments are already in trouble with their more religious populations for being too friendly with the "infidel" West. Anti-Americanism and anti-Israelism are defining doctrines throughout much of the Middle East. Surveys by Zogby International and the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies have found that anti-American feelings are at an all-time high, even in "moderate" Arab countries. According to one poll, only 12 percent of those surveyed within America's so-called allies in the

### Several of these Arab states have populations that are repulsed by the idea of dealing with America.

Middle East—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—express a favorable attitude toward the United States. In Jordan, 65 percent have an unfavorable view; in Saudi Arabia, that figure is 79 percent, according to a London *Times* poll.

Yes—even while the U.S. and Israel hope to develop a strategic relationship with moderate Arabs, they must know they are hated by these countries! This should serve as a warning that moderate Arab states should not be trusted to help America's interests. Frankly, if Arab leaders begin to take the additional steps of helping the U.S. to fight the Islamic Republic of Iran—which, for many Muslims, is a symbol of what they believe to be the inevitable political ascendancy of Islam—it is not difficult to imagine great masses becoming even more agitated and radicalized.

These are worrisome possibilities. That the U.S. would seriously contemplate such alliances indicates just how desperate it is becoming on the issue of how to deal with Iran. The degree to which it would seek help from Iran's Arab neighbors in containing Iran would only be a measure of its enfeebled position in Iraq and diminished geopolitical stature.

Nevertheless, we do not expect great things to come of these diplomatic efforts between the U.S. and Arab states.

Yes, this world *is* likely soon to witness the development of an unusual alliance involving these Arab states. However, this alliance, the specific composition of which is strongly indicated in Scripture, will not be *with* the U.S. or with Israel. In



fact, it will be an alliance *against them!*

This prophecy reveals the *deadly flaw* in the notion that America can trust these states as allies!

**Renewing Old Friendships**

With whom can we expect to see these Arab states develop an alliance in the near future? As we will see, prophecy says it will be *Europe*. Already we can see events bearing this out.

With America weakened and moderate Arab states planning for its expected withdrawal from Iraq, Europe sees an opening to secure its own interests in the Middle East. Not since the German Erwin Rommel’s Middle Eastern desert campaign during World War II has Europe, and particularly Germany, emerged with the potential to be such a powerful player in the region.

Since the Israel-Hezbollah war, Germany has dramatically escalated its involvement in the Middle East. In Lebanon, Germany heads the UN naval force tasked by the Security Council to secure the Lebanese coastline. Other European states are part of a multinational task force acting as a buffer between Israel and southern Lebanon. On the Gaza-Egypt border, European observers monitor the volatile Rafah border crossing. Germany has also played an important back-channel role, negotiating on Israel’s behalf for soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, Europe is also making headway with its relations with Arab states. The German foreign minister has visited the region several times, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel has held talks within the last few months with the Palestinian Authority president, the king of Jordan and president of Egypt—not to mention Israel’s prime minister. Germany seeks to become a key negotiating channel between regional players.

In February, Chancellor Merkel toured the Middle East to discuss regional issues with Arab leaders. One issue under discussion, according to a February 6 Reuters report, was a free-trade zone between Gulf states and the European Union. Talk of a free-trade zone between the EU and GCC members began in the early ’90s, but withered on the vine because of irreconcilable differences. Now, it is back on the table. “There is a clear political desire on both sides to get a swift resolution to the disputed points,” one German official stated. Such a trade bloc may help jumpstart a European-GCC partnership and



**ARAB FÜHRER** Haj Amin el-Husseini collaborates with Adolf Hitler.

KEVSTONE/GETTY IMAGES

# The Mufti and the Führer

**H**ISTORY shows that collusion between European and Arab states against Israel is not unprecedented.

Germany and the Arabs have a common history of hatred of the Jews. Germany also has a history of aligning its interests with Arabs to achieve its aims in the Middle East. For instance, following World War I, Germany was anxious to secure access to the rich oil fields in the Middle East, but at the time, Britain and France held considerable sway throughout the region. To overcome this problem, Germany began to develop an alliance with the Arabs.

In particular, the Nazis began to engage Jerusalem Mufti Haj Amin el-Husseini, who, because of fomenting Arab sentiment against the British from 1936 to 1939, was forced to flee to Iraq. Once there, he attempted to arrange an Iraqi coup against the British government in 1941. The mufti then fled through Iran and found his way to Berlin, where he received a hero’s welcome as the “führer of the Arab world.” He met with Hitler on a number of occasions and worked to advance the Nazi goal of exterminating the Jews, personally recruiting Bosnian Muslims for the Nazi cause.

Husseini is still highly regarded within Arab circles today, and the Nazi ideology to exterminate the Jews is alive and well within the Middle East. According to Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* is a bestseller among Palestinian youth.

The history of Germany and Arab states working together to the detriment of the Jews is very sobering to consider in light of the emerging German interest in developing relations with the Arabs.

**TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP**

strengthen German-Arab relations.

During Merkel’s visit, the GCC’s secretary-general, Abdul Rahman Al-Attiah, called on the EU to play a greater role in the Middle East. Indeed, having cleverly side-stepped involvement in the Iraq war, Germany is in prime position to lead the EU in significant diplomatic initiatives that affect the Middle East power equation.

Are we witnessing the first steps of a new partnership within the Middle East—Europeans working with Arab states? We believe so.

However, the prophecy that refers to this does not focus on it being an anti-Iran alliance, though that may play a role in its development. It is, in fact, an alliance formed for an entirely different and altogether more shocking intent!

That is, *to bring down the United States*—as well as two of its key allies, Britain and Israel!

**Blueprints for Destruction**

Daniel 11:40-41 describe a Middle East

power, called the “king of the south,” pushing at what the Bible terms the “king of the north.” As our free booklet *The King of the South* explains in detail, the king of the north is a revived Holy Roman Empire led by Germany, and the king of the south is radical Islam led by Iran. (Request a free copy of this for proof.)

These verses portray the German-led European power swooping down and *smashing Iran*, along with some other countries in the Middle East, with blitzkrieg-style warfare.

But notice: While certain nations, including Egypt (verse 42) will be subdued in this attack along with Iran, these verses show that other parts of the Middle East, including the area we know today as Jordan (Moab and Ammon) will not be conquered. As brutally destructive as Europe’s coming war in the Middle East is, this indicates that it will also be surgical in nature.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written about a mysterious alliance

discussed in Psalm 83. Knowing the modern descendants of the peoples spoken of in these verses is key to understanding this prophecy; though these names do not precisely coincide with modern nations, we can get a strong general idea of those to which they refer. According to this passage, Germany (“Assur,” or Assyria, verse 8) will ally with *Turkey* (Edom), *Saudi Arabia* (the Ishmaelites) *Jordan* (Moab and Ammon), *Syria* (the Hagarenes) and *Lebanon* (Geba). For proof of these identities, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.

What is the purpose of this alliance? Verse 3 says these peoples “have taken crafty counsel against thy people”—referring to the descendants of *Israel*. If you have never proven from your Bible and from history that America and Britain are the modern nations of Israel, you will find Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* a captivating study. We will send you a free copy upon request.

Verse 4 shows far more explicitly what draws this unusual alliance together: “They have said, *Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; THAT THE NAME OF ISRAEL MAY BE NO MORE IN REMEMBRANCE.*” This German-Arab alliance forms for the specific purpose of totally destroying America, Britain and Israel—in an effort to forever erase the very name *Israel!*

Such an alliance, not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture, never occurred in biblical history. That is because it is a prophecy for the end time—our day!

Already you can see the seeds of these future earth-shaking events being sown.

### The Signs Are There Today

The division in the Islamic world we see today portends this drastic split indicated in prophecy between those Muslim nations that a European superpower will *ally itself with*, and those Muslim nations it will *utterly destroy*. Watch that division grow more visible, and for the already apparent differences with which European nations treat these Middle East states to become even more stark.

The anti-Americanism and anti-Israelism boiling throughout the Middle East today—even in those nations Western leaders consider “friendly” or “moderate”—is a precursor to the explosive ferocity with which these nations, having joined themselves with a German-led Europe, will attack the modern Israelite nations.

Only armed with this knowledge can one understand just how dangerously misguided and foolhardy America’s strategy of seeking solutions to its troubles in the Middle East by cultivating alliances with Arab states truly is!

But all this bad news turns into really good news. As these prophecies clearly show, this deceitful double-cross of America, Britain and Israel leads to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! Men have long scoffed at the idea of Christ returning in all power and glory. But Jesus Himself said to *watch!* He gave specific, identifiable signs to help His people know when He was about to return. Among them is the prophecy of this double-cross—an event to unfold within the last days prior to the return of Jesus Christ to rule the Earth. We are drawing incredibly close to that spectacular reality! ■

why “kids these days” have no respect?

Other common messages on television, pinpointed by media researcher Dr. Robert Kubey, include: For everything there is a quick fix; young is better; open and unfilled time is not desirable—in fact it cannot be tolerated; violence is acceptable; and religion is unacceptable. Michael and Diane Medved’s book *Saving Childhood* shows how TV additionally “bombards [us] with messages encouraging impatience, self-pity, insecurity and pessimism.” Then there is the persistent foul language and gross humor, the course communication and shameless disrespect, the shallowness and lies mandated by political correctness. Add to these the ways that television trains us to root for the bad guy, to smile at law-breaking—to cuddle comfortably with compromise as a way of life.

What would we do if we caught a schoolteacher trying to feed these concepts to our children?

*I know—it’s terrible isn’t it?* many silently respond. *I can’t believe they show that stuff.* Yet so many of us keep watching, convinced we can “handle it” while it gradually, incessantly, inescapably sculpts and shapes *the way we think*, the way *our children* think, how *we behave*.

Ephesians 2:2 calls Satan “the prince of the power of the air.” Herbert Armstrong explained that this verse is referring to the devil’s broadcasting in attitudes of “self-centeredness, lust, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, resentment, competition, strife, bitterness and hate.” Considering the pervasiveness of TV and much of its content, we can also see *how much* power that prince possesses over what is broadcast *through the airwaves*, which also finds its way into our minds—hour by hour, by week, by month, by year, by generation. What we see on television isn’t called “programming” for nothing.

That’s not to say there are no positives to television. There are educational programs. It can be relaxing—even bonding—if used judiciously, with genuine moderation.

But the danger is that we grow comfortable with televised sin, after a lifetime of programming. This is an area of family life we cannot be careless about. Don’t let this stranger into your home unchecked. Keep a close eye on him; limit his influence; don’t let your kids spend time with him alone; scrutinize how he affects you and your family.

And if you need to, kick him out! ■

# UNDERSTAND IRAN

## from a biblical view

One of the most explosive end-time prophecies is recorded by the Prophet Daniel regarding a future confrontation that develops into world war—*provoked by none other than Iran!* To prove the biblical identity of this modern power—and to better understand how Iran’s provocative policies are about to lead to dramatic, earth-shaking events, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.







REUTERS/THERRY ROGE

**EARNING COMMISSION** Jose Manuel Barroso's European Commission is aiming for more efficiency at the price of EU member states' sovereignty.

## EUROPE

### EU to Trump National Laws

A NEW PROPOSAL IN THE European Commission would reduce red tape and wasted money, but it comes at a heavy price to European Union member states: further loss of national sovereignty.

The Commission has introduced a proposal that would force EU countries to end their national requirements on goods imported from other EU nations. The Commission's figures indicate that the current rules cost the EU about €150 billion a year in lost trade.

Current EU rules stipulate that a company can sell a product in any of the 27 member nations as long as it respects the regulations of that country. A nation can restrict an import from a fellow EU member state if it fails to meet its national regulations. The new legislation, however, introduced on February 14, requires that national authorities *justify* why a product sold in another EU country cannot be sold in theirs. The draft directive states that if a country refuses market access, it "has to set out in detail the precise reasons for its refusal."

The project also calls

for member nations to create one single agency that would check whether goods

nation or group of nations—whether monarchy, dictator or parliament—essentially rules that nation. Hence, these proposals are one more step in the ongoing creation of a European empire.

### EU Set to Lead Kosovo

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTINUES TO advance its virtual colonization of the Balkans. The latest step is the development of its plan to replace the United Nations administration of Kosovo. According to a recently released EU report, a 72-member EU delegation, supported by a staff of 200, would have a mandate to implement a currently deadlocked UN plan that grants Kosovo internationally supervised statehood status—and independence from Serbia.

The plan, drafted by the UN's special envoy for Kosovo, would give Kosovo its own army, anthem, flag and constitution, while granting minority Serbians local political rights and cultural protection. The plan is deadlocked in the UN Security Council, with the United States and the EU welcoming it, but Russia taking Serbia's side by opposing it.

If the EU has its way, a European delegation will take over from the 3,000-strong UN authority UNMIK, which began its administration in 1999 after NATO ousted the Serb Army. Associated Press reported that the EU delegation would not be directly responsible for run-

ning Kosovo (unlike the UN authority), but it would give direction to Kosovo officials in drafting a new constitution (March 12).

The disputed UN plan is precisely what the EU wants enacted as a step toward its further expansion in the Balkans. The European Parliament issued a statement in early March saying that an acceptable settlement on Kosovo's status "grants the disputed province access to international financial organizations ... foresees an international presence in order to maintain the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo ... provides international support in order to secure the development of effective, self-sustaining institutions for the entire population of Kosovo ... and *allows Kosovo to achieve its desire to be integrated in Europe*" (EUobserver.com, March 13; emphasis ours).

The EU's plan for Kosovo is just another aggressive move made under the cloak of democracy. For more information on the history of the EU's involvement in the Balkans and to see where this is leading, request our free booklet *The Rising Beast—Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*.



EMMA MELIA/GETTY IMAGES

**TURNING A CORNER** The EU hopes to take over authority from the UN Mission in Kosovo—its headquarters building pictured here.

## BRITAIN

### Sharia Law for British Schools?

A NEW PUBLICATION ON British education released by the Muslim Council of Britain reveals a push for Islamic law to be imposed in the British school system.

Reporting for the *Washington Times*, Diana West stated, "At the crux of the Muslim council's document is a call for special treatment for Britain's Muslim students that is so special as to reorient the entire British system according to Islamic law" (February 23).

Based on the fact that a British poll found that religion "appears to be more important" to Muslim youth



ADRIAN DENNIS/GETTY IMAGES

**PUBLIC EDUCATION** An imam helps a boy learn at a mosque in the UK.

than those of other heritage, the report infers that Muslim religious requirements are also more im-

portant than those of other religions. Hence, the report proposes that a huge range of Islamic practices be incorporated into the British school system including: wearing of the *hijab*, the growing of beards, halal meals (including special staff training, food preparation and storage), prayer rooms for Muslim children,

CANADA

## Revealing Muslim Stat Ignored



SIMON HAYTER/GETTY IMAGES

**DEVOUT** Muslims worship at a mosque in Toronto.

**T**HE LARGEST NEWS organization in Canada recently buried a grave statistic revealed in an Environics poll given to Canadian Muslims. CBC News downplayed poll results showing many Canadian Muslims believe that an alleged terrorist plot to kidnap and behead the prime minister was justified.

Instead, the February 13 online CBC News article, titled “Glad to be Canadian, Muslims say,” highlighted that 80 percent of Canada’s 700,000 Muslims are satisfied to live there.

As the February 18 *Calgary Sun* pointed out, CBC News missed the real story. The far more revealing and newsworthy statistic concerned the percentage of Canadian Muslims who felt

a plot to behead Canada’s top leader and blow up the Parliament was justified. Though buried deep in the article was the isolated statement that 73 percent of respondents felt the attacks were not at all justified, no reference was made to the fact that 12 percent—the equivalent of 84,000 Canadian Muslims—said the plot was justified. Even taking the margin of error into consideration leaves a minimum of 49,000 Canadian Muslims who sympathize with the cause of the 18 Muslim men and boys who allegedly plotted the attack.

Here is yet another example of how the media, out of political correctness and fear of causing offense, paints a picture of extreme Muslims that is different to reality.

special washing facilities to perform *Wudu*, participation in Ramadan (including the rescheduling of certain school events to avoid clashes), Arabic classes, Koran recitation—and so on. “The Muslim council isn’t asking the British taxpayer to create the perfect Sharia state exactly,” writes West, “but rather the perfect Sharia state school system.”

Of course, this is just the latest—rather audacious—move in Islam’s assault on the West. The two-pronged approach—overtly through violence, and more subtly through a cultural offensive—seeks the Islamification of Western

society. Islam expert Bernard Lewis once explained this phenomenon: “In the classical Islamic view, to which many Muslims are beginning to return, the world and all mankind are divided into two: the House of Islam, where the Muslim law and faith prevail, and the rest, known as the House of Unbelief or the House of War, which it is the duty of Muslims ultimately to bring to Islam” (*Atlantic Monthly*, September 1990).

When seen in this context, the Muslim council’s latest attempt to change school policy in Britain is far from a simple request for religious freedom.

## Hamas Invests in Media Upgrade

**H**AMAS HAS SPENT millions of dollars upgrading its television stations and Internet sites. The Israeli government-aligned Intelligence Terrorism Information Center released a report dated February 23 that said Hamas’s media upgrade reflects the increasing role of the media in its strategy.

The report explains that, although the Hamas government is bankrupt, “the movement has invested massive sums in improving its propaganda assets, aware of their importance in the battle for hearts and minds against Israel and against its opponents in the internal Palestinian arena.”

Hamas leaders are well aware of how to use the media to manipulate global opinion against Israel. The organization has already been proven to stage events and concoct stories to gain PR advantage. Last June, for example, it fabricated a story accusing Israel of killing innocent Palestinian civilians. Headlines around the world picked up on Hamas’s version of the story, though further investigation ruled out Israeli involvement in the attack and instead pointed to evidence of *Hamas* responsibility.

The terrorist group Hezbollah also employs the same media strategy to its advantage; during Israel’s war in Lebanon last summer, Hezbollah’s tactics had a notable effect in swinging international opinion against Israel.

Sadly, such tactics only succeed because of the eagerness of much of the West’s anti-Israel mainstream press to publicize any injustice done to Palestinians, even if it is manufactured, and because of the credulity of a misinformed public.



BEUTERS/BRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA

**GAZING** Palestinians watch their president on TV in Gaza.



RESOURCES

## Qatar Gas Sales Sock the Dollar

QATAR MAY BE A LITTLE nation, but it is the world's largest natural gas shipper. So when it says it will sell gas in euros rather than dollars if requested by a customer, it may well be a strong indication that confidence in the dollar is rapidly eroding.

In an interview February 9, Qatar's finance minister said the reason for such a move would be to diversify the country's foreign currency reserves (*Gulf Times*, February 10). Qatar is just one of several nations that have lately signaled a reluctance to hold as many U.S. dollars in reserves as they have in years past.

In December, the United Arab Emirates announced that it would convert 8 percent of its dollar holdings into euros by September this year. Central banks in other countries including Italy, Sweden and Russia have also taken similar action.

Natural gas sales by Qatar alone pose little threat to the dollar. However, the challenge to the dollar is in the precedent that would be set. If other nations follow Qatar's example and begin selling gas, oil and other commodities for euros or other currencies, the dollar would be hit with a giant vacuum of demand.

Global trade of commodities priced in dollars increases the demand for the U.S. currency, thus keeping the dollar strong. Robust dollar demand is something the U.S. economy has become dependent on and is what allows U.S. monetary authorities to aggressively expand the dollar supply without causing the economy to suffer from inflation.



STRA/PHOTODISC IMAGES

**WITH ENERGY** Qatar's minister of energy and industry arrives at the Middle East Gas Summit in the Qatari capital March 5.

Although large-scale non-dollar oil and gas sales have not been confirmed, Venezuela, Russia, Iran and Indonesia have all publicly telegraphed their desire to sell commodities in currencies other than the dollar in the near future. Since none of these countries is considered an American ally, their announced intentions are

likely more than just currency diversification—but really veiled jabs at the greenback.

Time will tell if non-dollar gas, oil and other commodity sales become more commonplace. If so, expect international demand for the dollar, and consequently the dollar's value, to wane. Similarly, also watch for inflationary pressures within the U.S. to build.

## Russia Expanding Energy Ties With Asian Giants

RUSSIA HAS BEEN BUSY strengthening its energy ties with key countries in Asia since the beginning of this year.

First was a round of high-level talks between Moscow and Tokyo on energy and other strategic issues from January 23 to 25. Coinciding with these talks, the head of Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency Harufumi Mochizuki and the CEO of Russian gas giant Gazprom met on January 25, which resulted in their inking an energy cooperation agreement.

For Japan in particular, building a bridge to energy-laden Russia seems to be an emerging priority. For Russia, improved ties with Japan open up a new market for Russian energy and goods.

Tokyo's immediate interest is developing a relationship with Russia to diversify its over-reliance on the Middle East, which

presently supplies 90 percent of Japan's oil imports. Japan could potentially receive up to 15 percent of its petroleum from the East Siberian oil fields.

Japan is also interested in the Russian-Chinese Pacific pipeline Russia plans to build from Siberia. Japan

has lobbied hard for the second stage of the pipeline to include Japanese interests, such as running the pipeline to the Sea of Japan.

Russia is happy to see Beijing and Tokyo vie for Russian energy. It appears to be emerging as a real partner to both Asian countries.

Russia is also looking to strengthen its energy ties with India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on January 25 during a two-day trip to New Delhi. The purpose of the meeting was to bolster ties between the two nations' energy industries, interchange technology, and boost trade from \$3.8 billion to \$10 billion by 2010.

Russia, according to Prime Minister



REUTERS/B. MAHUR

**HEADS TOGETHER** Russia's Putin (left) meets with India's prime minister in January to discuss energy cooperation.

REUTERS



**SAVVY** Hutchison Whampoa Chairman Li Ka-shing

pins” (February 8). Through Hutchison, China already controls a number of strategic ports in Latin America including the ports at each end of the Panama Canal, the Buenos Aires Container Terminal in Argentina, the international terminal at one of the most important ports on Mexico’s Pacific coast, a large port on Mexico’s

Atlantic coast, and two ports in the Bahamas.

So why are Latin American countries allowing the Chinese to make such inroads? The answer is *money*. China is investing massive amounts of money in Latin America—particularly in the development of natural resources, including oil. In 2003, Latin America accounted for almost *half* of China’s overseas investments. Just how much money is at stake was revealed in the fact that Ecuador actually *changed national laws* to allow China to put in its bid for the 30-year contract for control of Manta’s port.

Clearly, it is a mutually beneficial arrangement: In return for its investments, China is gaining control of ports and much-needed resources such as iron ore

Singh, “remains indispensable to the core of India’s foreign-policy interests” (*Financial Times*, January 25). A survey of India’s energy dependence highlights just how true Singh’s statement is.

India’s economy is growing swiftly, a full 9 percent in the fiscal year ending March 2006. Now valued near \$1 trillion, it is expected to pass South Korea as Asia’s third-largest economy this year. In sustaining this phenomenal growth, India has become the world’s fifth-largest oil consumer, importing 70 percent of its oil. While India does have 5.6 billion barrels of oil reserves, second only to China in the Asia-Pacific region, the Indian government has suggested those reserves will last less than a decade unless a new discovery is made.

India’s heavy dependence on energy imports underscores its need to diversify its supplier base

and strengthen ties with energy-rich countries like Russia. As such, the same day as the top-level meeting, India’s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (its largest state-owned company) and Russia’s Rosneft announced joint plans to develop exploration and refining operations.

While New Delhi has much to gain, Moscow is the biggest winner of all. Russia is quickly becoming the holder of the balance of power with Asia. The largest Asian nations—China, Japan and India—have come, cap in hand, seeking to form energy partnerships with Russia.

Clearly, Russian energy is part of the glue beginning to bond Asia together. The scenario of such strategic partnerships follows the pattern of behavior outlined in end-time biblical prophecy. Request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* to prove how.

from Brazil and oil from Venezuela. Beijing’s strategy is to secure sources for critical resources and the ability to transport those resources back to China. Toward this end, China recently opened a shipping route across the Pacific linking several ports in China with ports in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. In addition, Beijing is seeking to control the ships themselves; China is currently the world’s fourth-largest shipbuilder, with the aim to be world

number one within the next three years.

China is not without competition in Latin America, however. Europe has been busy over recent years making inroads, particularly economically. What is building is a massive contest for resources—a battle that Latin American countries will find themselves caught in the middle of. Read our March 2006 article “The Battleground” for details on how this future struggle for resources, already beginning, will play out.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Follow Zimbabwe’s Bad Example

**F**OLLOWING IN the footsteps of Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe, the South African government has started to expropriate white-owned land for redistribution to blacks. The first of these enforced seizures was carried out in February.

For some years, under South Africa’s “land reform” policy, white-owned farms have steadily been taken over based on a “willing buyer, willing seller” principle. During this time, immense pressure has been placed on farmers, with squatters illegally occupying white-owned farms and government security doing nothing about it. Last year, the South African government went one step further by giving white farmers an ultimatum: Sell their farms for an agreed price *within six months* or face being forcefully evicted from their farms.

Now, the government is making good on that threat. In its first expropriation of privately owned land, the govern-



**GAINING GROUND** Claimants from the Pniel community celebrate March 10 after the government transferred land to them.

ment seized a 62,271-acre farm in Barkley West owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church on February 13.

This same type of land redistribution program was a primary cause of Zimbabwe’s economic ruin. Zimbabwe suffers from uncontrollable inflation rates and unemployment hovering around 70 percent. It is believed that South Africa may follow in the unsuccessful footsteps of its northern neighbor. Making whites turn over their farms to people with, in many cases, little or no farming experience could greatly hurt the economy. South Africa, which has been so richly blessed in natural resources, may find itself trying to live off fallow ground.



From the  
News Bureau

**RON FRASER**



# Get Ready for Pope TV

**D**AILY AND NIGHTLY, THE mass media shout headline stories about the spreading influence of pan-Islamism. Daily and nightly the public is indoctrinated with the idea that the spread of the Islamic religion, in its various forms and factions, especially in its most extravagant forms of extremism, is about to overtake Western civilization.

The media are wrong.

While so many fixate on the rise of Islamism, another major religion is rapidly gaining ground in terms of its appeal to youth in particular, and, more worryingly, its political clout.

The plain fact to which Western media have yet to awaken is that secularism is becoming *passé*. The liberal socialism that morphed out of a combine of godless German rationalism, child of the 18th-century period that historians label the Enlightenment, and its clone, godless communism, so long the mentor of our campus intelligentsia, is on the back foot. Religion of an older, traditional form is increasingly returning to fashion.

The arm-waving, foot-stomping, stupefyingly hyped-up emotionalism of so much of the evangelical Protestant movement that captivated a generation in Anglo-America seeking to fill the spiritual gap left by the three decades of experiments in social engineering during the 1960s through the '80s has had its day. A powerful force is rising across the Atlantic, destined to pale all religious competition into relative insignificance. It is centered around a highly intelligent and articulate personality holding an office of increasing political significance. It has a collective budget and assets that make it the richest institution in the world. It has greater command of media than any single one of its competitors. It is the mother of all Christian religions.

In March, our news bureau noted a record number of incoming stories on current events involving the Vatican. Also in March, Pope Benedict XVI commented publicly on the power of the mass media to move the masses. Publicity and mass communication

are so important to the Vatican that it has a high-profile department specifically devoted to its effective exploitation, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

“Speaking on the theme of this year’s plenary meeting for the Pontifical

## The pope hates the media—and uses it powerfully to move the masses.

Council for Social Communications—the role of the media in the formation of young people—the pontiff said that the media have a grave responsibility for the attitudes they foster among youth. The proper education of children, he said, can be enhanced by the mass media ‘only to the extent that they promote fundamental human dignity, the true value of marriage and family life, and the positive achievements and goals of humanity’” (CWNews.com, March 9).

Having witnessed the powerful influence of Nazi propaganda during his days as a member of the Hitler Youth, Pope Benedict XVI is well aware of the mind-controlling power of effective communications psychology. Under John Paul II, and now Benedict XVI, hundreds of thousands of youth have turned out at the annual Roman Catholic youth festivals. The pope knows that herein lies the future of the effort of the church to captivate and hold the minds of the upcoming generation—and the future of Roman Catholicism.

“During his Friday audience the pope took note of the important changes in the media industry, including the rising power of the electronic media and the waning influence of print. He pointed to the concentration of media ownership as a matter for concern, and the spread of the Internet, which ‘has opened up a world of knowledge and learning that previously for many could only be accessed with difficulty, if at all’” (ibid.).

Despite the nightly impression given that news of Islamic religious fervor dominates the mass media in the West, the figures tell a different story. The

Vatican is winning the religious media war hands down! From the time of the record-breaking audiences that tuned in to see Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger conduct Pope John Paul II’s funeral, to the massive media coverage of his investiture as Pope Benedict XVI, the small, slight figure of

this Bavarian pope has become the most recognizable of personalities across the globe. Pope Benedict XVI enjoyed

total audiences in 2006 greater than the annual audiences of any single previous pope, and far greater than any other single religious leader in history!

What makes the Vatican’s dominance of the mass media most intriguing is where it is all leading.

### The Vatican’s Media Offensive

Pope Benedict XVI is rapidly seizing the initiative across the Atlantic in a determined effort to ensure that the secular materialistic liberalism destroying the moral fiber of Anglo-American society is arrested on the continent of Europe.

Benedict sees clearly that the power of the British and American peoples is rapidly waning. He sees their increasing lack of political will. He witnesses the sham of their pseudo-religiosity. He perceives their youth to be directionless, their minds increasingly perverted and exploited by a multiplicity of forces that are both character- and soul-destroying. And he sees the power of the primary force that is bending their minds: the power of *mass media*, via the music, film, video, Web-based and telephonic sources so freely placed at their disposal.

Witnessing this denigrating effect of the media-driven attack on the morals of Western society, in particular its youth, Benedict has taken up the challenge to stem the evil tide from overflowing his European pastorate. Even before he gained the papal crown, Benedict, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, railed against that child of Anglo-American sub-culture that has had such deep effect on the morality of Western youth.

**POPE CULTURE**  
**The Vatican**  
**plans to launch**  
**its own global**  
**TV network.**

In his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, published in 2000, he declared that “‘Rock’ [music] ... is the expression of elemental passions, and at rock festivals it assumes a cultic character, a form of worship, in fact, in opposition to Christian worship. People are, so to speak, released from themselves by the experience of being part of a crowd and by the emotional shock of rhythm, noise and special lighting effects. However, in the ecstasy of having all their defenses torn down, the participants sink, as it were, beneath the elemental force of the universe.”

Two years later, in an observation on the spiritual and moral state of Western society at large, Ratzinger said, “It is true that the Muslim world is not totally mistaken when it reproaches the West of Christian tradition of moral decadence and the manipulation of human life” (Zenit, March 3, 2002).

Then, shortly before ascending the papal throne, commenting on the spiritual challenge that the Vatican faced in respect of the European Union, Ratzinger wrote, “In the hour of its greatest success, Europe seems to have become empty inside, paralyzed by a life-threatening crisis to its health and dependent on transplants” (*Values in a Time of Upheaval*, 2005).

During a 2005 mass one month before becoming pope, in a declarative statement about even the moral decline in the condition of the Catholic Church itself resulting from the impact of “liberation theology,” Ratzinger exclaimed, “How much filth there is in the church, even among those who, in the priesthood, should belong entirely to Him. How much pride, how much self-sufficiency!”

That same year, during an interview with a German journalist, Ratzinger *officially declared war* on the secularism that he sees as the root cause for the evils of a society in moral decline: “There really is an ideological, secular aggressiveness that gives cause to worry. ... Laicism [secularism] is not any longer that element of neutrality that opens fields of freedom for everybody. It’s now turning into an ideology, which—with the help of politics—forces



MARCUS BRANDT/EPHRETT/IMAGES

itself into the public and leaves no space for the Christian and Catholic conception—thereby turning it into a merely private and essentially mutilated concern. In this sense, *a fight has really begun in which we have to defend the religious freedom against the pretension of an ideology that acts as if it were the only voice of reason*—whereas it is only the expression of ‘a certain’ rationalism. ... A society that is not at all concerned with God destroys itself. We saw that in the totalitarian experiments of the last century” (*Die Welt*, April 20, 2005).

Of the fact that Benedict is up to the fight, there can be no doubt. He proved that by his tenacious rooting out of liberation theologians during his term in office as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the ancient office of the Inquisition, now with its sanitized, politically correct name), under the papacy of John Paul II. Now he has revealed that he will meet the mass media industry *head on* in the quest for the moral high ground globally!

With Pope Benedict having just roundly challenged the mass media to change their largely destructive tune—destructive of basic family values and all that he sees as being fundamental to a good, “Christian and Catholic conception” of society—the Vatican announced March 12 that it will go on the offensive in the media war. The pope is about to *build a global television audience* to add to the rapidly growing global Web-based audience currently attracted to the Vatican’s well-developed online portal. The Vatican is on the verge of launching not

just its own television station, but *a global television network!* With the call sign H2O, the network is due to be launched by the end of the year, offering a mix of news and original entertainment in seven languages.

The timing could not be better. Figures recently released indicate that “Christian” soft rock music now outsells all other forms of rock music combined. Not only that, Hollywood is on a binge of producing a plethora of films on pseudo-religious themes. That much of the content of these films bears no real resemblance to the iner-

rancy of revealed Scripture matters little to Hollywood producers. What matters is that they have discovered that religion is back in fashion as a form of entertainment. Religion sells, no matter whether or not it depicts the truth. Even better if it doesn’t—like *The Da Vinci Code*. It’s the box office bottom line that counts!

So! Right at the juncture that the masses are clamoring to *get religion*, at least in its form as *entertainment*, Benedict XVI is about to go global with the Vatican’s own brand of religious entertainment via its own global television network.

Take our word for it or not, the day will soon dawn when that network will air shows of a nature that will leave the public absolutely *spellbound!* In time to come, the Vatican will produce religious entertainment that will make Hollywood box-office hits on religious themes look more like Disney cartoons by comparison. The visions coming down the tube from Vatican-networked tv will literally hypnotize their global audience with their out-of-this-world, mind-shattering imagery.

Believe it or not, Bible prophecy declares it will be so!

Read Revelation 13:13 in your own Bible. It’s a real show stopper! In time to come when you witness that event, broadcast around the world via globally networked television, remember where you read that it would one day become a reality. It just may mean that by remembering, you may then be able to do something positive and life-changing in light of the impending consequences of those startling events! ■



# Prodi Bows to Vatican Pressure

Soon, all Europe will do the same.

BY RON FRASER



**O**N February 19, a number of senior Italian government officials met at the Vatican for a closed-door session with some of the pope's senior advisers. The topic under discussion was a burning issue on which Pope Benedict XVI had publicly declared his stance at extreme odds with Italy's Prime Minister Romano Prodi: the matter of state recognition of unwed and homosexual couples.

In numerous public declarations, both the pope and senior Vatican sources had declared vehement opposition to the Prodi government's attempt to ram legislation through the Italian parliament that would allow for the official recognition by the government of such civil unions. If passed, this legislation would allow for those involved in such unions to receive certain government benefits currently available only to those engaged in the traditional institution of marriage between man and woman as endorsed by the church.

Upon emerging from the in-camera session at the Vatican, Prime Minister Prodi was closed-mouthed. His sole words to the press were that it went "well."

Two days later, Prodi resigned his post.

Volatility in Italian politics is nothing new: The nation has seen more prime ministers come and go than there are years since the end of World War II. However, both the timing of and the circumstances surrounding Prodi's surprise resignation bear a closer look.

As reported to the public, Prodi resigned as a result of his coalition government failing to raise a sufficient majority to pass a vote on Italy's involvement in the NATO-led force involved in Afghanistan. Yet the publicized rea-

son for his resignation simply does not stand up to closer scrutiny. Consider the following sequence of events.

Prodi's closed-door meeting at the Vatican occurred on a Monday. Prodi resigned on Wednesday the same week. By Thursday the press was predicting Prodi probably had the numbers to return to power once the president called for an election.

That night, a leading EU news source predicted that Prodi was set to regain office. Friday morning that story was pulled. The press then went silent on the Prodi issue.

Our news bureau combed the news wires during the day, and all remained silent on Prodi's future ... until Friday evening, European time.

That February 23, 10:30 p.m. CET, Catholic World News (CWN) released a story that seemed to tell it all. It was tucked away in the midst of the normal sheaf of news that CWN releases regularly in doing its usually admirable job of keeping its subscribers aware of the latest happenings at the Vatican. It ran under the headline, "New Italian government would not require allies to support civil-union bill."

"Romano Prodi—struggling to forge a new ruling coalition in the Italian parliament after a key foreign-policy loss prompted his resignation as prime minister—has drafted an agreement that will not require his coalition allies to support civil unions," the report said. "The 12-point agreement seemed likely to draw enough support to return Prodi to the parliamentary leadership post. Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alena, a Prodi ally, told reporters that the coalition 'can continue on this basis.'"

Now *that* is intriguing!

The foreign minister made *no* reference

to the Afghanistan issue, which is what was originally touted as the reason for Prodi's resignation! The main issue highlighted in this statement, alluding to the prospect of the Prodi coalition being able to come together to re-form a government, was the removal of the requirement to push the civil-union bill through parliament in opposition to the pope's powerful stand against it!

On February 26, the most reliable news services were reporting the prospect of Prodi retaining the prime ministership, based on the acceptance by his coalition partners of the 12-point program, the highlight of which was not the Afghanistan issue, but *Prodi's changed stance on civil unions*. "To lure support from moderates, Prodi watered down a 208-page program crafted during his April election campaign. The revised version is a 12-point list that drops legislation that authorizes same-sex unions, a measure opposed by some Catholics in the coalition" (Bloomberg.com, February 26).

Sure enough, following agreement to the 12-point program by Prodi's coalition, Prodi won a confidence motion in both houses of parliament, ending the current crisis.

So who rules now in Italy?

It would seem that this victory for the papacy has significantly strengthened not only the Roman Catholic vote in the Italian parliament, but especially Pope Benedict's own political authority and hence that of the Vatican State. It is a notable victory for the pope in his aggressive endeavors to claim the moral high ground for the Vatican in its quest to turn the whole of Europe away from the influence of secularism, back to that which he calls "Europe's traditional roots": its *Roman Catholic* roots!



FILIPPO MONTEFORTE/ARND BRONKHORST/GETTY IMAGES

**Italian Prime Minister  
ROMANO PRODI**

Ever since becoming pope, Benedict has used politics as one of his tools to instill Christianity back into the heart of Europe. Just a couple of months into his reign, for example, the Vatican called for a boycott of a referendum to change Italy's strict fertility laws. The boycott was successful in voiding the referendum. Most recently, Benedict XVI told politicians in a papal document released March 13 they must not vote for laws that go against the Catholic Church's position. Catholic legislators must strenuously defend the church's "non-negotiable values," the pope stated. He said Catholic politicians must not vote for bills endorsing such issues as abortion and homosexual marriage, and also "called for Sunday to remain a day of rest" (ANSA, March 13). It is lawmakers' social responsibility to give "public testimony to their faith," the pope stated.

This is about more than just blocking laws that promote immorality. The Catholic Church is seeking to unite Europe under the power of religion—the Catholic religion, and Catholic laws. The Bible prophesies that this powerful entity will yet gain the power to enforce the policies—including Sunday worship—it now calls upon Europeans to uphold.

For the past decade, we have consistently advised readers to watch Joseph Ratzinger, this present pope. His increasing political clout, most recently demonstrated in Italy, will soon extend across the whole European Union—and, indeed, the whole globe. ■

vividly demonstrates the absolute vainness of mankind's ways. Can we see that unless a Higher Power intervenes in our affairs, peace will forever remain elusive?

Your mind could come to no greater realization. The day you grasp your futility, your absolute nothingness—and the ineptness of mankind in general—could be the most rewarding day of your life. It is only when a person realizes his own futility that he can begin to grasp the magnitude, the perfection, the sheer glory, power and splendor of his Creator!

Our history of war and violence declares our desperate need for a relationship with the Being who created us.

The reason wars have plagued mankind since the dawn of time is that humans have rejected God and chosen to live in subjection to their own human nature. This ghastly nature despises God's laws and glorifies the lusts and desires of the flesh (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:7). Human nature pursues self-interest, self-satisfaction and self-aggrandizement above the interests of fellowman and God.

For almost three decades, many world leaders esteemed Herbert Armstrong as an authority on the subject of world peace, labeling him an unofficial ambassador for world peace. Here is what Mr. Armstrong wrote about the cause of war: "Nations never needed to go to war. *Yielding to human nature is the cause of war. Rebellion against God's law of peace is the cause of war.*" Grasp this profound truth. All wars, conflict and violence are caused by humans rejecting God's law and glorifying and promoting themselves above fellowman and God.

This principle is discussed in James 4. "Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? *Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?* You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. ..." (verses 1-2; New Revised Standard Version). The Apostle James shows that war and conflict occur when men, acting as slaves to their carnal lusts and desires, reject the law and knowledge of God.

The lesson: Disobedience to God leads to war!

Obedience to God's laws, on the other hand, creates and nurtures peace. The law of God was designed to foster peace among men, as well as peace between mankind and its Creator. This principle applies just as much at the individual

level as it does at the national level. Obedience to God's law will bring peace into your life. To understand God's law more deeply, request our free booklet *The Ten Commandments*.

Peace would flow over the Earth today if people understood and embraced the law of God. Wars explode when the interests of nations clash. Consider. If each nation's interests were rooted in the same law, and if all men put obedience to the law above their selfish desires, there would be no conflict among people or nations. War would be impossible, and lasting peace would flourish!

God tells us in the Bible that such a world is almost here. Christ is about to return and establish this new world. God's law will be the universal standard in this coming world; all nations will live by that law. In Hebrews 8, the Apostle Paul shows that at this time God will make a covenant relationship with His people. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; *I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:* and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Hebrews 8:10). God's law will be indelibly etched into the minds of mankind!

The result: Peace will engulf the whole Earth!

Jesus Christ will be the King and supreme Leader on Earth during the World Tomorrow. He will be the ultimate Diplomat—a great Statesman motivated by love and concern for all people and all nations. He will seek to persuade people to submit to His law and government through diplomacy. His diplomacy will be underpinned by the threat of force—and men who reject His leadership will be corrected by His "rod of iron."

Mankind's failed efforts to achieve lasting global peace should not depress us. Diplomatic failures—even wars—need not discourage us.

Mankind's hope for peace does not lie in the hands of politicians and diplomats. It lies not in guns and jackboots. Lasting global peace lies in the hands of God! He has a plan by which He will bring peace to your life, to your country and to this world.

God's plan for mankind is explained thoroughly in Herbert W. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*—a book we will send you a free copy of upon request. Don't invest your hope for peace in mankind; invest it in the all-powerful, all-merciful living God! ■





In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the eighth chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY

# Discard

**“We have more than 120,000 copies of *Mystery* .... Should we, as we are about to do with the Easter booklet, destroy all existing stock of these books and order new printings of them?”**

—Dexter Faulkner. *Memo to Joseph Tkach Sr., April 18, 1988*

ACCORDING TO JOSEPH TKACH JR., THE reason the church put *Mystery of the Ages* “on hold” in the spring of 1988 was because “[t]here were enough historical errors,” “other kind of errors” and “misinterpretations of scripture” that it needed to be corrected before the book could be used again.

Of course, even before the book was officially “on hold,” it had become unpopular within the circle of decision-makers in Pasadena. June 7, 1987, was the last time the book was ever offered on the church’s television program. (It was a summer re-run that brought in more than 37,000 calls requesting the book. The original program, which aired on Jan. 25, 1987, generated 59,000 calls—the fourth-highest response ever. As an aside, the highest weekend response ever came as a result of the Jan. 26, 1986, tribute to Mr. Armstrong—one in which *Mystery of the Ages* was the literature offered.)

The July 21, 1987, *Pastor General’s Report* updated the ministry on the library book program. Members had been working on the project since mid-1986 and had distributed nearly 5,000 copies of *Mystery of the Ages* to U.S. libraries. In December of that year, the church newspaper informed members that *Mystery* was now available in Norwegian and French. The Spanish and Italian versions became available in February 1988.

This, from what we could find, is the last mention of *Mystery of the Ages* in any of the church’s official literature. For most of the church membership and field ministry, it completely disappeared from view for more than a year.

At headquarters, however, there was no hotter topic than *Mystery of the Ages* throughout 1988. It was discussed in nu-

merous meetings, interoffice memos and internal reports.

## ■ 120,000 BAD COPIES

On April 18, 1988, Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services manager, sent an interoffice memo to Mr. Tkach Sr., drawing attention to incorrect teaching about Christ’s sacrifice in *The Wonderful World Tomorrow* and *Mystery of the Ages*. He attached photocopied pages from the *Mystery* section, “Jesus Beaten for Our Healing.” Mr. Faulkner wrote, “We have more than 120,000 copies of *Mystery* that contain the statement [about Christ’s sacrifice]. Replacement cost would be around one dollar per copy. Shipping costs would be substantial because of the weight of the book.

“Should we, as we are about to do with the Easter booklet, destroy all existing stock of these books and order new printings of them?”

We have no record of whether Mr. Tkach responded to Faulkner’s query by memo or verbally, if at all. But we can still piece together a pretty accurate record of what happened. Three weeks after the memo, in Bernie Schnippert’s “Literature Coordination Report”—sent to department heads, regional directors and those involved in producing and distributing literature—we find that *Mystery of the Ages* had been put “on hold” in all languages, so that its content might be revised. The following week, employees were told that, because of its “on hold” status, *Mystery* “should not be distributed.”

Then, on June 2, Mr. Schnippert lowered the boom on those 120,000 copies remaining in stock: “All softbound copies of *Mystery of the Ages* in English, German, Norwegian and Spanish should be discarded IMMEDIATELY be-

cause they contain passages that do not correctly reflect the church's teaching about Christ's sacrifice.

"All hardbound copies of *Mystery of the Ages* should also be discarded."

Roger Lippross, *Plain Truth* production director at the time, later indicated that this action was indeed taken. He said it was common, even under Mr. Armstrong's leadership, to withdraw literature from circulation for one of two purposes: to either retire or revise the publication. "In either case," he said, "the remaining inventory copies, but not archive, personal and research copies, would be disposed of ..."

Mr. Tkach Jr.'s recollection of these events, however, is much less vivid. At his 1998 deposition, he said that, from what he remembers, distribution of the book continued "until we almost ran out." Later, after reviewing some of the documents quoted above, he said, "I really wasn't always aware of when they discarded it or when they didn't."

### ■ TEMPORARILY OUT OF PRINT

Though Mr. Tkach Sr. signed off on destroying the 120,000 "bad" copies, he initially gave the impression he wanted the book to be revised and printed again. Thus, in June 1988, Mail Processing designated the book's status as **TOUT**—temporarily out of stock. Those who requested the book were given written notice saying it was currently out of print and being revised for re-distribution sometime during the first half of 1989. In its place, they offered the booklet *Your Awesome Future*.

In July, the future plans for the book were explained further: "Last week, we decided to move the production of the core version of this book [*Mystery*] up to the No. 7 spot on the core production schedule. This will allow us to get this book back in print in all languages by early summer of next year." The "literature core" was an initiative Mr. Tkach kicked off in 1987 to make the church's most important literature, about 50 titles, available in eight different languages. Their goal was to produce seven titles per year. Now that it was in position number 7, *Mystery of the Ages* was on the fast track, so to speak, to being revised.

In the rush to stay on schedule with the revision, on July 8, Lowell Wagner, in Editorial Services, distributed a questionnaire attached to a photocopy of *Mystery of the Ages* to a number of people who worked with the church's literature and in the letter-answering department. He encouraged recipients to thoroughly review the book and to answer a number of questions like: *Does this literature contain any misstatement of doctrine or fact? Does it leave any false impressions, create any misunderstandings, or generate questions it doesn't answer? Does it contain any statements likely to cause unnecessary offense? Does this literature contain any unnecessary or irrelevant material you feel should be deleted before reprinting? Is the literary style interesting and pleasing overall?*

How incredibly revealing this questionnaire should have been to those editors who read it. Herbert W. Armstrong FOUNDED their church! *Mystery of the Ages* was his life's greatest work. Yet 2½ years after he died, Tkachism circulated this audacious questionnaire asking ministers if they thought the material in *Mystery* was "interesting" or "pleasing."

Years later, when asked why the questionnaire was distributed to the ministry, Tkach Jr. replied, "Rather than just have a few people give input on the errors they find, it was helpful to have a larger group of people comment on the er-

rors they found."

It wasn't sent with the intention of salvaging *Mystery of the Ages* at all. It just provided a way for Tkachism to get more headquarters personnel involved in ridiculing Mr. Armstrong's teachings.

### ■ MORE CHANGES

Meanwhile, changes in fundamental doctrines discussed in *Mystery of the Ages* kept barreling out of headquarters. In the summer of 1988, Mr. Tkach Sr. set off this bombshell: "[W]e must also be willing to face the fact that the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence indicates that there do exist bones, bones like those of humans, that date to a time before the creation of Adam. These bones apparently belonged to creatures that had an appearance like man's. ... We should realize that it is not outside the realm of possibility that God created animals shaped like man in the times before the great destruction that preceded the re-creation. Nor is it impossible that these same creatures had certain skills for building."

At the time, Dr. Herman Hoeh had been giving lectures before WCG ministers about "pre-Adamic" times. Another minister, Richard Burky, also advocated this idea of man-like builders who lived before Adam, in his paper that later circulated under the title "Creative Development."

Mr. Armstrong called these kinds of arguments by another name: "FENCE-STRADDLING THEISTIC EVOLUTION." *God is Creator, but He's operating on a trial-and-error basis—using evolution, you might say, to sort of refine His product.*

It goes without saying that these theories markedly contradict huge sections in *Mystery of the Ages*.

Mr. Tkach followed up his theistic evolution theory with another whopper two weeks later. In Chapter Six, we noted how shifting the focus of the commission to "feeding the flock" turned the church inward. Predictably, it wasn't long before Tkachism rejected the gospel commission entirely.

"Just what is the 'great commission' of the church of God?" Tkach Sr. asked in August 1988. He continued, "Has God given His church a great commission to preach the gospel to the world, and another, secondary or lesser commission to feed the flock? Is there in reality a 'first' commission and a less-important 'second' commission?"

Later, he wrote, "It may surprise some to

**TRASHED** The Tkach administration destroyed 120,000 copies of *Mystery*.



realize that the phrase *great commission* is nowhere found in the Scriptures. Nor are the phrases *first commission* or *second commission* found in Scripture.”

But they are found, *and scripturally explained*, in Chapter Six of *Mystery of the Ages*. The first, and great, commission of the church is to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God; secondarily, it is to “feed the sheep”—to spiritually nourish the Body of Christ. Mr. Armstrong believed that while both aspects of the dual commission worked together hand in hand, first priority had to be given to preaching the gospel. He often told members that their individual spiritual development depended upon how much their hearts were in the work—the first commission—of the church.

Mr. Armstrong wrote *Mystery of the Ages* with the “gospel message to the world” in mind. As the WCG continued its turn inward, such works became expendable.

■ **AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CROSSROADS**

When Mr. Armstrong decided to close the Ambassador campus in Big Sandy, Texas, he said it was because he wasn’t about to pursue accreditation. He also said more resources were needed for the first commission of preaching the gospel to the world.

Since Mr. Tkach began his pastor generalship with an entirely different focus—one that did not put top priority on the first commission—you can see why he so quickly reversed Mr. Armstrong’s decision to close Big Sandy. The first commission needs were not as important to him as they were to Mr. Armstrong.

It didn’t take long for Mr. Tkach’s radically different views on accreditation to be exposed either.

While Mr. Armstrong did not discuss accreditation specifically in *Mystery of the Ages*, he certainly addressed the subject of education in this world compared to Ambassador College. Right at the start of his book, on page 1, he wrote that “higher education in the Western world has sought to erase the mystery by giving its virtually unanimous acceptance to the theory of evolution.” Because of this false premise, he explained in the “Preface,” higher learning has not been able to solve the greatest of all mysteries: WHO AND WHAT IS GOD.

Disproving evolution was a critical point on which Mr. Armstrong’s personal conversion hinged. It was one of two disturbing challenges he confronted early in life, during an intensive six-month study. That study culminated in the beginning of the worldwide work God would raise up through him. “And let me add here,” he wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*, “that my study of God’s revelation of truth has never ceased. Later Christ used me in founding three liberal arts colleges—including one in England. Through constant study, teaching and collaboration with Spirit-minded faculty members in theological courses, my mind has remained open. And knowledge of God’s revealed truth has increased.”

This was the model on which Mr. Armstrong established Ambassador College. It was a character-building institution,

with the Word of God as its foundation.

These are some of the reasons Mr. Armstrong was dead-set against accreditation. He did not want the approval of men if it meant lowering God’s standard at the college. He would much rather be *unaccredited* before men than to compromise with God’s Word. Indeed, as we have seen, he was prepared to *close* Big Sandy entirely should Texas law require certified schools to become accredited!

Beginning in the fall of 1988, Mr. Tkach, Dr. Ward and company set out to strip away everything that made Ambassador College unique, despite their persistent claims to the contrary. This one decision led to a whirlwind of activity and change in the church—all revolving around Big Sandy. In 1988, they decided to pursue accreditation for Big Sandy. In 1989, they decided to consolidate both campuses in Big Sandy. In 1990, they closed the Pasadena campus. In 1994, after wholesale changes in the school—altering the curriculum, increasing student enrollment, building dozens of new structures, introducing inter-collegiate sports—the college finally obtained accreditation.

But getting back to 1988, de-emphasizing the importance of preaching the gospel to the world as a warning while focusing energy and resources inward to expand the college activities did not bode well for the survival of Mr. Armstrong’s most important book.

■ **“CHRISTIAN DUTY” TO TURN YOURSELF IN**

As you might well imagine, by this point there were a number of dissenting voices within the church’s ranks—although not nearly as many as there should have been. Some ministers were beginning to question the church’s direction—even refusing, in some instances, to preach the “new truth” coming out of Pasadena.

To these ministers, Mr. Tkach’s message was clear: GET BEHIND ME OR GET OUT. In 1988, he wrote to the ministry: “[I]f you have any doctrinal area that you do not understand

properly, you have an obligation to contact Church Administration and discuss the matter. It would be dishonest and divisive for a minister to refuse to address with his congregation a doctrinal point of significant import to the church because of his personal disagreement, and to fail to notify his superiors of that disagreement.”

This is one reason so many ministers buckled under the weight of these many changes—they knew if they didn’t declare their support for them from behind the pulpit, it could well cost them their jobs. Tkach continued, “If a matter is unclear to you or deeper understanding is needed, it is your Christian duty ... to call Church Administration for guidance. It is spiritually inexcusable for you to permit your lack of understanding or disagreement to become a source of division among the membership in your local congregation.”

If they didn’t agree with the church’s direction, they had a Christian duty to turn themselves in. Tkachism, we would find out years later, had a great fondness for the term *Christian duty*. ■

**De-emphasizing the importance of preaching the gospel as a warning did not bode well for the survival of Mr. Armstrong’s most important book.**



# UNIVERSAL PROSPERITY: Is It Possible?

Taken from the October 1984 *Plain Truth*

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

**C**AN YOU IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE ALL POVERTY is banished? Well, I have news for you. Yes, good news. You're going to see it, and in your lifetime, but not the way that men think.

Does a world of universal prosperity sound fantastic? Why should it? All material wealth comes out of the ground, and there's enough in this Earth to provide plenty, even luxury for everyone. Stop and think a moment. Why is today's world filled with so much poverty, hunger and want? Why do the few live in comparative wealth and the many in dire need?

One idea in circulation today is that God Almighty created this world to be poor; that God hates the rich and loves the poor. We hear a lot about "God's poor." Does God hate the successful and the prosperous? Is prosperity a sin?

Listen to what God Himself has said in His inspired revelation to mankind, the Holy Bible. Through John, God says, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health ...."

In the first Psalm you read this: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly .... But his delight is in the law of the Lord .... [W]hatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (verses 1-3). The man who walks God's way, who delights in God's law and is obedient in whatsoever he does, God says shall prosper. That's a promise from God Almighty.

Notice Genesis 39:2-3: "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man .... [T]he Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand." Joseph served God (verse 4).

Psalms 84 says: "[N]o good thing will [God] withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (verses 11-12). Blessings are promised. Do you know that God set before His people blessing on the one hand and cursings on the other? And He said to man, "Choose." Man has chosen cursing and death, when God Almighty intended that man should choose happiness and blessings, prosperity and eternal life.

But God warns through David against setting our hearts even on the prosperity that He gives. That's what's wrong with this world.

The way to happiness and prosperity revolves around the true gospel of Jesus Christ. He preached the Kingdom of God, which means the government of God—God's government over our lives and over society as a whole; over all of this Earth.

The laws of God's government are the ways of love; of

giving rather than of receiving; of serving, not getting the best of others. It is a matter of doing, not of inactive hearing. It's a matter of diligence—applying God's way, not the way of laziness. The Ten Commandments summarize that entire law. The Ten Commandments are the way into prosperity and financial success, if you understand the real meaning and spirit back of the Ten Commandments; their purpose according to the spirit of the law rather than just the letter.

The basic law of God's government is the only way to peace, to true happiness and to lasting prosperity. But this world doesn't believe it, and this world has not found prosperity. All the world's ills, all suffering, all inequality and injustice, yes, and even all poverty have come from transgressing the spiritual law—the Ten Commandments.

Sin is the transgression of that law (1 John 3:4). The Apostle Paul said that that law is spiritual, holy, just and good. Many people don't believe that today, and that's why there's so much poverty in this world.

To transgress the ways that lead to prosperity, to health, to peace, to happiness and joy—is sin, and the way of sin is not good for us. It brings penalties, and one of the penalties that we are reaping in this world is poverty. God Almighty never intended it. Sin, then, is the cause of poverty, of suffering, of unhappiness and even of death.

If all men would put their lives under the government of God—if they would live by God's laws—all soon would be prosperous.

But this world has transgressed the laws of God. In the professing Christian world people have been brought up to believe that "the law is done away"—that we mustn't obey that law today or we'll be under a curse. That's what many in the professing Christian world believe. Is it any wonder we have inequality, suffering and poverty? If only this world would turn to God Almighty and to God's ways and live God's ways. You'd just be dumbfounded at the result.

Jesus put the matter in its true relationship when He commanded us to seek first the Kingdom of God. That is, to submit our lives to the government of God (the Kingdom of God is the government of God), to obey God's commandments, to live the life that God directs in His Word, to really seek after God and His ways, rather than setting our whole heart and mind on seeking after money. Jesus Christ promised that when we have done that first, material prosperity shall then be added.

But you'll need to find the spiritual riches first, because they're the more valuable. ■

**Why is today's world filled with so much poverty, hunger and want?**

EDUCATION

## Schooling in State's Hands

OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION is increasingly at the whim of the state rather than under the control of responsible parents, where it has traditionally belonged in free and open societies.

In an open attack on the basic constitutional rights of parents in the matter of their children's education, a district judge dismissed a lawsuit from two Massachusetts couples who objected to classes where children are taught to accept traditionally anti-social, perverse relationships as normal. In one case, a kindergartner brought home a book that showed a same-sex couple. In the other, a first grader was read a book about a prince marry another prince.

The increasingly asinine tendency of law practitioners was further underscored when a female ACLU attorney praised the ruling: "A parent can't control what's taught in the public schools based on their own personal religious views. So it keeps public education alive, really" (*Boston Globe*, February 23).

Another court judgment, however, is perhaps even more worrying, certainly in its method of enforcement, even more so for the system that originally legislated the particular law at issue.

The February 28 *Washington Times* reported on a case in Germany, again involving the state contesting the parents' rights to have a say in the education of the children to whom they, *not the state*, gave birth. Earlier in the month, a Bavarian teenager was taken from her parents and institutionalized for being *home-schooled*. Further, a year ago in

Hamburg, a home-schooling father of six was sentenced to a week in prison and a fine of \$2,000 for the same "crime." Last September, a Paderborn mother of 12 was jailed for two weeks.

Such prosecutions are a result of a law enacted by Hitler himself in 1938, by which he mandated that all German children be educated by the state. In today's "free and democratic" Germany, not only does that Hitlerian law still lie on the statute books, it is being rigidly enforced!

This Germanic idea is also catching on within the rest of the European Union. Last year, in a ruling that backed Hitler's 1938 education bill, the Strasburg-based European Court of Human Rights ruled that a child's right to education "by its very nature calls for regulation by the state." Endorsing

the ruling of the German courts, the European Court declared, "Schools represent society, and it is in the children's interest to become part of that society. The parents' right to educate does not go so far as to deprive their children of that experience."

These current instances of upholding Nazi laws is a pervasive sign that, though their continent has a long and tortuous history, Europeans themselves seem to have very short memories and that we run the risk of those sad and bitter days returning.

And not just in Germany. In America, certain liberal politicians and lawyers are claiming that United Nations conventions are "customary international law" and



REUTERS/MICHAEL REHLE  
**NO PLACE LIKE SCHOOL** German children in Traunstein sitting in school.

should be considered part of American jurisprudence" (op. cit., *Washington Times*; emphasis ours). Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that the state has an inherent right to direct the education of children.

The *Times* posed a question that should have every responsible parent deeply concerned, "[Y]oung Melissa Busekros' ordeal is a German horror story. Could it soon be an American one?"

BRITAIN

## Collapse of Authority

BRITAIN IS STEADILY becoming "decivilized," a Conservative member of Parliament declared February 16 (ePolitix.com).

Following national concern over a spree of shootings in London, Alan Duncan warned that the United Kingdom would be "condemned to decline" if authority over young people is not established. In a speech to the Center for Policy Studies think tank, Duncan called on teachers to be given more authority so they can exert control over children. "The collapse of authority cannot remain undiscussed," he said. "If there is no fear of authority, there is no respect for it."

Duncan rightly pins the blame for the breakdown of

law and order on the family. However, his hope that the Tories can implement policy changes to fill the vacuum left by a loss of parental authority is doomed to failure.

Home and family life is the foundation of any society. Any remedies aimed at treating the effects of broken family life—such as patching up the education system—will not work.

The late J. Edgar Hoover once stated before the Special Senate Committee investigating organized crime in interstate commerce: "The home is the first great training school in behavior or misbehavior, and parents serve as



the first teachers for the inspirational education of youth. ... Here the spadework is laid for instilling in the child those values which will cause him to develop into an upright, law-abiding, wholesome citizen. He must learn respect for others, respect for property, courtesy, truthfulness and reliability. He must learn not only to manage his own affairs but also to share in the responsibility for the affairs of the community. He must be taught to understand the necessity of OBEYING THE LAWS OF GOD" (emphasis ours).

That is something we do not hear public officials in our morally bankrupt society advocating. We must come to recognize that obedience to God's law—and the teaching of it within the family—is the only solution that will work.

## “Family” Ruled as Hate Speech

YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE a permanent marker and black out “family,” “traditional values,” and “family values” in your interoffice notices: They could be construed as hate speech. So said the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in a recent decision.

In response to a notice regarding the start of a homosexual employee association in a city office, two women posted a memo announcing the formation of a different group. The memo said, “Good News Employee Associations is a forum for people of faith to express their views on the contemporary issues of the day with respect for the natural family, marriage and family values.”

Their manager demanded the notice be taken down because of “statements of a homophobic nature.” The two women sued, believing their First Amendment rights had been violated. The court ruled in favor of their supervisor (Cybercast News Service, March 14).

Christian rights groups are up in arms, and for good reason. The court’s ruling basically excluded a group advocating marriage and traditional values from First Amendment rights in a government workplace. The ruling stated public employees could regulate employee speech if their “administrative interest” was more important than the free speech of the employees. And apparently, anything that competes with homosexuality does irrevocable harm to the workplace.

The pro-homosexual posts received no repercussions whatsoever from the case. The court banned a pro-family notice and allowed a pro-homosexual one

to remain. The two women’s post made no mention of homosexuals at all, but merely promoted “family values.” Is that an equal-minded judgment?

Wrong judgment is a hallmark of our society today. Free speech applies to a select few promoting their own set of values. The homosex-



DREAMSTIME

ual agenda is overshadowing the constitutional right to

free speech. And at least two courts uphold that belief.

## U.S. Courts: Defenders of Porn

A U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE HAS RULED Against the 1998 Child Online Protection Act (COPA), designed to protect children from online pornography.

Judge Lowell Reed Jr. argued: “[P]erhaps we do the minors of this country harm if First Amendment protections, which they will with age inherit fully, are chipped away in the name of their protection.” In other words, if the ruling were upheld, it might become marginally more difficult for adults to access pornographic content and much more difficult for children (ABCnews.com, March 22).

The plaintiffs against COPA ranged from homosexual newspapers to so-called “sex educators” who feel they should be able to disseminate explicit pictures for educational purposes, and from artists who portray nude content to bookstores that may offer adult-only content—in other words, exactly the sort of people and organizations many would like not to influence their children with pornographic material.

Lest you worry that some of these organizations’ rights have already been trampled, rest assured that COPA was never enforced. Thanks to these plaintiffs, COPA has been in legal limbo from its inception and has been under a temporary injunction upheld by the Supreme Court since 2004. Not one porn enthusiast or unsuspecting child was restricted by COPA.

This is not the first time a U.S. court has struck down laws that protect children from pornography. In 1997, the Supreme Court declared the Communications Decency Act unconstitutional, specifically stating that prohibiting “patently offensive display”

violated the First Amendment (CNETnews.com, June 26, 1997). In 2002, the high court struck down the 1996 Child Pornography Prevention Act, giving the okay to “virtual” child pornography (never mind that modern technology allows simulations that would be indistinguishable from the real thing).

We cannot rely on the court system to protect our children. Nor can we rely on the government. In this latest case, an attorney for the gov-

ernment argued that it is unreasonable to “expect all parents to shoulder the burden to cut off every possible source of adult content for their children, rather than the government’s addressing the problem at its source.”

The attorney correctly identifies the government’s responsibility, but where the government has failed, parents must step in to close the breach. Installing a filter is one step you can take to protect your children ([internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com](http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com)), but there is much more you can and should do. Don’t allow your child to be on the Internet in another room behind closed doors. Proverbs 29:15 warns that “a child left to himself brings his mother to shame.” Be aware of the websites or chat rooms your child is visiting. Ask the child, but also learn how to check the Internet history files on your computer. As the parent, you have the responsibility and the right to know what your children are doing on the Internet, and an obligation to take steps to protect their minds. For more tips on how to do that, visit theTrumpet.com to read our July 2005 article “Protect Your Child’s Mind.”



INDEX OPEN



# EUROPEAN ENERGY ROLE REVERSAL

TRUMPET ILLUSTRATION

Former energy giant Britain is having to seek its juice elsewhere. Meanwhile, Germany is quietly becoming Europe's new energy hub. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**K**NOWINGLY OR NOT, BRITAIN'S geologists may have deceived their nation. Contrary to forecasts and models, oil and gas production has dropped precipitously. Britain, once the hub of European energy, is no longer energy self-sufficient.

By stark contrast, Germany has for years been jockeying to become the new source to fill European energy needs. It has a strategy to take good care of British energy security. But should Britons be concerned about growing too reliant upon their former enemy?

## Hubbert's Peak

According to data produced by Britain's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), North Sea oil and gas production has now passed what is referred to as Hubbert's Peak. If true, this is disastrous news for Britain. The North Sea, one of the world's largest oil fields, has provided energy security and lucrative revenue for Britain for over 40 years.

Hubbert was a Royal Dutch Shell geophysicist who developed peak-oil theory, which shows how typical oil production from a field follows a bell-shaped curve: At some point an oil field reaches peak production, then pumping rates plateau for a short duration before suffering increasingly severe production declines. Regional production falls as newly drilled wells fail to offset slowing production from the many existing, aging wells.

Although Hubbert's prediction has proved true for U.S. oil production, many geologists and government planners previously rejected Hubbert's models for various reasons, one of which was that

rapidly dropping oil production would supposedly be offset by future technological advances. Unfortunately for the North Sea oil field, economically feasible extraction advances have not materialized to near the degree necessary.

In other words, North Sea oil and gas production may now have entered the stage of prolonged and irreversible decline following Hubbert's Peak. "[T]he implications for future production and secure indigenous energy supplies could be serious. Both the industry and government have their responsibilities in this," says Malcolm Webb, the UK Offshore Operators Association chief executive (UKOOA press release, February 13).

The worse-than-expected production data, as compiled by the DTI, is shocking. These figures indicate that Britain's oil production peaked during 1999 at 2.6 million barrels per day. The DTI's models predicted annual production declines of 3 to 5 percent, and between 1999 and 2003 that held true. However, since then, the declines have been far greater. During 2005, oil production dropped by 11.2 percent, while available statistics indicate that the decline in 2006 will be dramatically worse, especially since the August figure was down an alarming 16.5 percent from the previous year.

Britain's natural gas production figures reveal an even uglier picture. Gas production peaked in 2001 and has since fallen by about 4 percent per year. Yet again, recent declines are dramatically worsening. Production was down 16 and 24 percent year over year in September and October respectively. For 2006, total production is expected to be 15 percent

lower than during 2005.

According to Scotland's *Press and Journal*, it is possible that some oil developments already in construction could temporarily slow the North Sea oil production free-fall, "but there is nothing known out there that might reverse the gas slide" (February 5).

Britain is already a net importer of both oil and gas, but if current production declines continue, some estimates suggest Britain will be compelled to import 90 percent of its natural gas requirements by 2020. This means Britain will have to increasingly look abroad for sources of energy. Not only could this hurt the economy (as Britons would have to spend more money purchasing energy from foreign nations), but, even more importantly, it could also have serious implications for national security.

## Who Controls Europe's Energy?

Most of the national security debate over energy has surrounded whether or not Britain should import Russian gas. Over the past two years, Russia has cut off and/or threatened to cut off gas supplies to countries that balked at paying the massive gas-price increases decreed by Moscow.

With the proposed construction of the Baltic Sea Nord Stream gas pipeline, which would bring Russian gas to Germany before it is distributed to Britain, France and the Netherlands, British voters and politicians alike are understandably wary of becoming dependent on Russia for supplies.

The undersea pipeline, primarily financed by Russian state-owned gas gi-

ant Gazprom and German energy companies E.On and BASF, is “an EU and a Russia project of a size that has never been completed before,” said former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who is now Gazprom’s Nord Stream chairman, in February. “We’re seeing Europe and Russia working together like never before in the past.”

Yet it is not Russia that Britain has most to fear.

Germany is molding itself into the energy hub of Europe. Although an extremely strategic development for Germany, the Nord Stream Baltic Pipeline, due to be completed in 2010, is just the latest step in its achieving this goal.

German energy firms already dominate much of Europe’s energy supply networks and utilities. German energy giant E.On, for example, already the largest private worldwide energy establishment, is locked in a battle to take over Spain’s largest energy supplier, Endesa. The hostile takeover of Endesa, itself a massive corporation with operations in Europe and South America, would vastly increase E.On’s energy market supremacy. Through a string of corporate takeovers, E.On has become the dominant energy company in Europe, owning operations in 13 European nations. E.On, through its purchase of Ruhrgas in 2003, is also the largest Western shareholder in Gazprom. German-based RWE and BASF are other corporations with major power infrastructure networks across Europe.

“If everything goes according to the German plan, the energy supply of Great Britain—as of other EU states—will be under full German control in a few years,” noted German-Foreign-Policy.com analyst Horst Teubert (February 2).

### A Precision Weapon

Teubert continued, “When President Vladimir Putin visited Dresden in the autumn, he said that this would alter the importance of Germany in the energy economy of Western Europe.”

Moscow and Berlin are locked in a high-stakes game of power politics. Once the Baltic pipeline comes online, both Germany and Russia will vastly increase their geopolitical muscle within Europe.

Russia will be able to exert increased influence over certain Eastern European countries. Currently, 80 percent of mainland Europe’s gas imports from Russia enter through the Ukraine, with most of the rest coming through other Eastern nations like Poland and Belarus. Cur-

rently, Norwegian gas is the only significant alternative to Russian supplies. The last time Russia shut off the Ukraine’s gas supply, much of the rest of Europe was cut off too. This evoked a huge outcry in which Western European countries put massive pressure on Russia to immediately turn the gas back on. Once the Baltic pipeline is complete, Russia will be able to cut gas deliveries to Eastern Europe without affecting Germany or other downstream Western customers—making its energy supplies an even more precise and lethal weapon with which to influence Eastern European politics, limit the European Union’s eastern expansion, or possibly even try to reverse parts of it.

Germany too will gain influence within Europe during the years ahead as growing proportions of Britain’s, France’s and the Netherlands’ gas supplies are distributed from Russia via Germany. German strategists realize that once the pipeline is complete, they will hold the same gas supply trump card over downstream countries that Russia holds over many Eastern European countries. The importance of the Ukraine and other Eastern countries to Western Europe as energy conduits will decline in proportion to Germany’s increase.

Understandably, certain Eastern European nations are vigorously opposing the construction of the Baltic pipeline. These nations correctly see it as a powerful tool for Germany to impose its will on a greater proportion of Europe, comparing it to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Non-Aggression Pact in which Hitler and Stalin divided up Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania between their empires before invading them during the early days of World War II.

### Britain’s Achilles Heel

Although most European nations do not realize it, they are becoming increasingly dependent upon Germany for the functioning of their economies. German corporations have extended their influence throughout Europe—owning, operating and controlling many of Europe’s most vital industries, utilities and distribution networks.

Why is it that British and many European politicians do not seem to see the Achilles-heel-like potential associated with a future of growing dependence upon Germany for gas supplies and power distribution? The world has witnessed how Russia used control of gas supplies to extract political and economic con-

cessions from the Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Georgia and Armenia. Is it so inconceivable that Germany, Russia’s old pre-World War II collaborator, would ever seek to do the same?

Relying upon a nation that you fought a world war with just 60 short years ago to provide your nation’s power supply could be extremely dangerous—yet that is exactly what Britain seems set to do.

Britain’s energy-independent days look just about over. Instead of supplying and controlling natural gas exports to European nations, Britain is about to become reliant upon Germany (and Russia) for its energy needs. And unlike Norway, which over the years has used its oil and gas profits to invest in alternative energy supplies and create a \$250 billion legacy fund, Britain has little to show for its years as an energy exporter. Britain has already spent its windfall of natural resources from the North Sea, and as production rates from its aging fields decline, so will the billions in revenue on which the British economy has come to depend.

This emerging British-German energy relationship is particularly sobering when considered in the context of biblical prophecies that point to Britain, as part of the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, having a “lover”-type relationship with Germany (anciently, Assyria) and being double-crossed. Our free booklet *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* explains how scriptures like Ezekiel 23 describe Britain, along with America and the State of Israel, being delivered into the hands of the Germans by God as punishment for rebelling against Him. In verse 9 of Ezekiel 23, God states, “Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted.” Britain will soon be betrayed by Germany.

Request our free booklet on Hosea to read *why* Britain will suffer such punishment and what the ultimate outcome will be. In that booklet, Gerald Flurry writes, in reference to Hosea 14, “Britain will have learned their spiritual lessons so deeply that God will restore their former glory. Only this time the glory will be far greater because they will be full of the knowledge of God.” ■

These two booklets, *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* and *Hosea*, are yours free. See the back of this magazine for how to order.





interests. Then guide and align all interests to be in concert with God's laws and ways.

Listen carefully for problems at school, whether related to studies or other students. You can help prevent poor grades by spending time with your children while they do homework. Don't be ashamed to seek remedial help if you see problems. Build a good working relationship with your child's teacher, who can be an extra arm for you to provide positive help for your child.

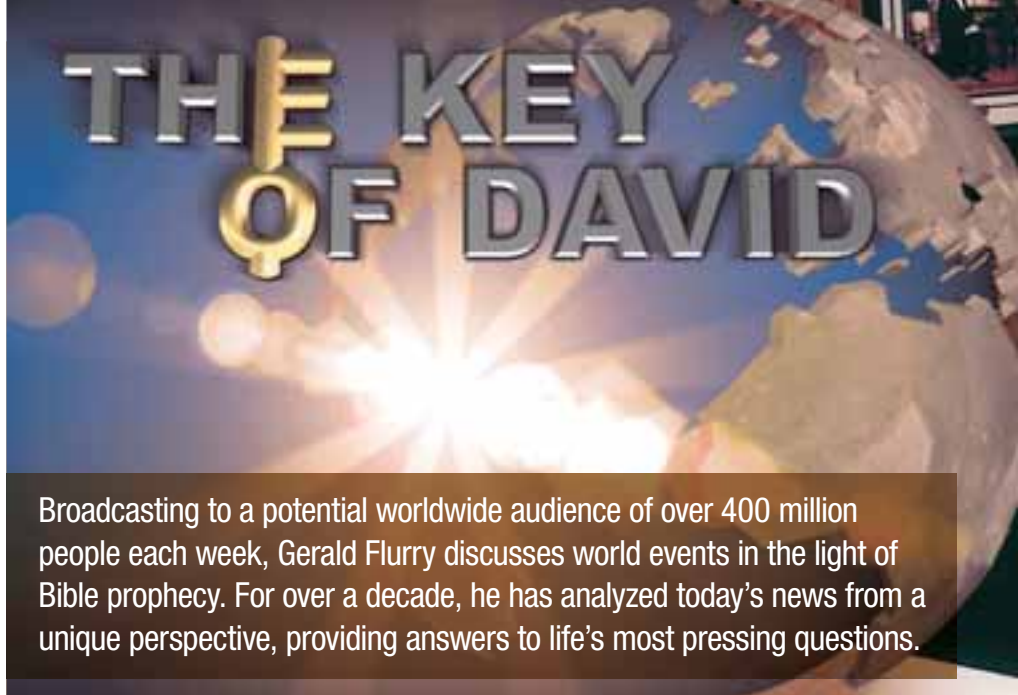
Attend as many school activities as possible. Your personal involvement will bring much encouragement to your child. In addition, there is no better way to get a good view of your child and his or her friends. Learn about your child's friends. Make your home a center for youth activity. Allow your children to invite their friends home when you are present, and monitor all activities. Direct your children away from associates who could have a negative effect on them. Teach your children to choose friends wisely.

Maximize your weekends with your children. Reserve Sundays for family time. Work together around the home. Take care of missed cleaning chores, or use the day for grocery shopping and preparing for the week ahead. As time and budget permits, use the day for family recreation and fun. Family picnics, hikes and sporting activities provide a refreshing diversion from family stress and strain.

### STAY POSITIVE

Realize there are two ways to approach your situation. You can be negative, which only makes a tough situation more difficult. This will destroy the happiness of you and your children, and sap your strength when you need it most. Obviously, the far better approach is to be positive. This will energize you to meet all the challenges you face.

A major threat to your success as a single parent is *bitterness*. No matter what the cause is of your single parent status, don't succumb to anger, envy and resentment. You are not the first single parent. In this present evil world, you will not be the last. Others before you have done a truly marvelous job in raising balanced and stable children. You can do the same. ■



Broadcasting to a potential worldwide audience of over 400 million people each week, Gerald Flurry discusses world events in the light of Bible prophecy. For over a decade, he has analyzed today's news from a unique perspective, providing answers to life's most pressing questions.

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**Arkansas, Jonesboro** KFOS 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Arkansas, Springdale** KWFT 8:30, Sun  
**California, Bakersfield** KWFB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Chico** KIWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, El Centro** KWUB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Eureka** KWBT 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, Monterey** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Palm Springs** KCWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Redding** KIWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Sacramento** KSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, San Francisco** KKPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**California, Salinas** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Santa Barbara** KWCA 9:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00 am, Fri  
**Colorado, Grand Junction** KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Montrose** KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Gainesville** WBFL 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Jacksonville** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Miami** WPXM 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Orlando** WOPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Panama City** WBPC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville** 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** WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Brunswick** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Georgia, Columbus** WBG 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Macon** WBMN 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Savannah** WBVH 9:30 am, Sun  
**Hawaii, Hawaii** Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed  
**Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau** Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon  
**Hawaii, Kauai** Ho'Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue  
**Idaho, Boise** KWOB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KWIB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Pocatello** KWIB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Twin Falls** KWTE 10:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Bloomington** WBPE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Chicago** WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Illinois, Peoria** WBPE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Rockford** WBR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Fort Wayne** WBFW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Indiana, Lafayette** WBFY 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Terra Haute** WBI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Des Moines** KFPPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Keokuk** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Kirksville** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Mason City** KWBR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Rochester** WWR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Sioux City** KXWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Lincoln** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Topeka** WBKS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBWG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Lexington** WUPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Louisiana, Alexandria** KAXN 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe** KWMB 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** WBAN 9:30 am, Sun  
**Maine, Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun  
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**Massachusetts, Boston** WBPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Springfield** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Cadillac** WBVC 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** WBL 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Marquette** WBMK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Traverse City** WBVC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** KWBD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Mankato** KWYE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00 am, Fri  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Columbus** WBSP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenville** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenwood** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Gulfport** WBG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Hattiesburg** WBHA 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Mississippi, Tupelo** WBSP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, West Point** WBSP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KJWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Jefferson City** KJWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Hannibal** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Quincy** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Kansas City** KPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Missouri, St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KWBM 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KWXB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWZB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KWGF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KWH 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KIDW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Kearney** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, North Platte** KWPL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KWBV 9:30 am, Sun  
**New Mexico** KAZQ 6:30 am, Sun; 9:00 pm, Wed  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Binghamton** WBXI 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri  
**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** WBWT 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;  
 WGWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00 am,  
 Fri  
**North Carolina, New Bern** WGWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Raleigh** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00  
 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Washington** WGWB 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** WBFG 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Minot** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Valley City** WBFG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Ohio, Lima** WBOH 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** KWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oklahoma, Tulsa** KTPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KWBO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Eugene** KZWB 9:30 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, Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WBLN 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Florence** WFVB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Myrtle Beach** WFVB 9:30 am,  
 Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBH 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** KWAW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Amarillo** KDBA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Beaumont** KWBB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Brownsville** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Corpus Christi** KWDB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Harlingen** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Houston** KPXB 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Laredo** KTXW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Longview** KWTL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Lubbock** KWBZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Midland** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Port Arthur** KWBB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Angelo** KWSA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Antonio** KPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Sherman** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Sweetwater** KWAW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KWTL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Victoria** KWVB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Weslaco** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Wichita Falls** KWBB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WBC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Harrisonburg** WBHA 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** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Pasco** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Richland** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle** KWXP 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Washington, Yakima** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Bluefield** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Charleston** WLPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**West Virginia, Clarksburg** WVWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Oak Hill** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Weston** WVWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Wheeling** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, La Crosse** WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Wisconsin, Rhinelander** WBWA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Wausau** WBWA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KWYY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Riverton** KWYY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

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**Cuba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
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**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00 am, Sun

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**AFRICA**

**South Africa** CSN 6:30 am, Sun

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**Perth, Western Australia** Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun  
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## Global Warming

YOUR ARTICLE ON GLOBAL WARMING (“The Politics of Global Warming,” April) is right on. To me, it’s an attempt by socialists to take even more control of our lives telling us what kind of car to drive, how much we drive it and what kind of house we should live in. Indeed, the hypocrisy of those like Al Gore and Hollywood actors and actresses is breathtaking. They live in multi-million-dollar mansions that guzzle energy and are flown around in private jets. To me, the global warming issue is nothing more than a Trojan horse by the leftists in this country and others to control our lives, end of story.

Paul McGraw—INDEPENDENCE, MO.

## German Expansion

WHILE AMERICANS ARE TUNING IN ON shows like *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, your magazine articles are causing me to turn my eye to Germany. The article on the developments in Eastern Europe (“The Startling Reason Europe Is Expanding East,” March) definitely looks like prophetic scripture unfolding. ... I have worked with several former Kosovo refugee families here in the U.S. ever since the war in the Balkans and one of the women made an interesting comment this week. She sends money home to family in Kosovo and I asked what currency she uses—the deutsch mark. These people are very street-wise ... and just like the comment in the euro article about the black-market trafficking in the most stable currency, they know what currency is strongest right now in their homeland. ...

Carrie Wyatt—KNOXVILLE, TEN.

YOUR ARTICLE “A TROUBLED DEMOCRACY” (February) demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the subject. I am a Berliner and I demonstrated for freedom at the Reichstag with 1 million Berliners in 1948 when Ernst Reuter called the world to support us in our fight for freedom. I went twice into the Russian Zone to help families escape a dictatorial system to freedom. I grew up under Hitler and experienced the nightly raids by the SA. My father was arrested twice, my uncle sentenced to heavy prison, and thousands were murdered in their fight for freedom. I was in Hitler’s Labor Camp. We went

through the airlift and did not give in to the dictator. The world has supported us with an airlift, and we have resisted the threat of a dictatorial system. As long as there was a Cold War, West Berlin was the bastion for freedom. How fast people forget!

Werner Hauer—LAKEWOOD, N.J.

Though the former East Germany embraced democracy when Germany was reunited, indications are that many in the east are disenchanted with what that democracy has provided them. Polls indicate that more than half believe democracy has failed to bring them solutions to their social and economic problems. History attests to the fact that all it takes is the majority to do nothing for a dictator to take control of a country when democracy is weak. German history, specifically, demonstrates the tendency of the German people to embrace strong leadership—whether constructive or destructive—when they lose trust in their political system. When considered in the context of Bible prophecies involving Germany in the end time, the emerging dissatisfaction of Germans with their current political system is a trend we believe is worth watching closely.

## Church History

I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE SPECIAL presentation of the *Key of David* telecast shown on February 25, which featured the history of the Worldwide Church of God that the late Herbert W. Armstrong founded, and the eventual decline of the church after he died. For years, I received the *Plain Truth* magazine before Mr. Armstrong passed away, and it was soon after his death that I noticed the changes in the presentation of the magazine, especially the slow elimination of articles pertaining to Bible prophecy. Then came the day when I received my last copy of the *Plain Truth* in 1996. By this time, Mr. Tkach Jr. was in charge, and in an article he berated Mr. Armstrong and condemned, as he put it, “British Israelism,” and actually apologized to the reader for the deception Mr. Armstrong had pushed on us for all those years. That was enough for me, and I cancelled the subscription. Then, for over five years, I wondered, “Is that it? Was everything Mr. Armstrong taught all for nothing?” But then in November of 2001, I accidentally ran across the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine, and upon looking inside, the first thing I saw was a picture of Mr. Armstrong. I’ve been receiving this incredible magazine ever

since. I also fully intend to purchase a copy of *Raising the Ruins*, which upon reading excerpts of the book in the *Trumpet* does indeed deal with that gap in time I referred to. ...

Ronald Edwards—CHICAGO, ILL.

IT IS AMAZING TO ME TO SEE HERBERT W. Armstrong’s predictions coming true as he predicted back in the ’50s. I watch with extreme interest to see prophecy unfolding. ...

Douglas Fifield—SAINT JOHN, N.B.

## America’s Last Victory

STEPHEN FLURRY’S ARTICLE (“AMERICA Has Won Its Last War,” February 2000) is exactly right. America has indeed won its last war. As America and the Western world have become increasingly decadent, they have all lost the will to fight to defend themselves or anyone else. Lack of conviction and purpose has undermined the capacity of the United States and the other countries of the English-speaking world to successfully prosecute any war. The article’s writer could also have added to the article’s list such provocations as the North Koreans’ seizure of the USS Pueblo in 1968 and the shoot-down in 1969 of a U.S. Navy EC-121 reconnaissance aircraft, killing all 31 U.S. servicemen aboard, and the 1976 axe murders of U.S. Army personnel in the Korean DMZ. All these crimes committed by the criminal regime in North Korea went unpunished by the U.S. The shoot-down of the USN EC-121 was followed in the U.S. by a statement by William P. Rogers, then secretary of state: “The weak can be rash. The powerful must be more restrained.” Such a statement used to justify the lack of any effective retaliatory action is quite incredible. Kim Il Sung would have been laughing his head off at America’s pusillanimous response. Theodore Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur and Herbert W. Armstrong were all right in what they said and in their approach. America and the West need more men like these. No one has the courage anymore to do what is right.

P.J.M. Sweet—AUSTRALIA

## Comments?

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# Generation Me

How can young people overcome their unparalleled selfishness? BY RON FRASER

WHATSOEVER HAPPENED TO BASIC HUMILITY? Where did the experience of *shame* at wrongdoing disappear to? Indeed, to where did the whole concept of “wrongdoing” flee? Does anyone know what “self-effacement” means anymore? Whatever happened to the magnanimous, seemingly innate, desire of the Anglo-American peoples to *give* to the benefit of fellowman with the expectation of gaining little or nothing in return?

Now it's all about *self*-actualization, pride in *self*, promotion of *self*, the glorification of narcissism. The outcome is an ugly, unkempt, sloppy, self-indulgent, greedy, grasping, demanding generation of greatly ballooned egos. Generation Y has been raised by generation X with not even a beginning concept of the self-sacrificing demeanor of the pioneering generations that built their lands into powerful nations, who sacrificed in blood to protect their freedoms and their kith and kin back home as they fought foreign enemies on far-away foreign soil.

The senior vice president of the global advertising agency JWT, Marian Salzman, exclaimed recently, “Gen-Y is the most difficult workforce I've ever encountered, because part of them are greatest-generation great and the other part are so self-indulgent as to be genuinely offensive to know, let alone supervise” (*Christian Science Monitor*, March 2).

The problem is that generation Y has now become top-billed entertainment! Shows such as *American Idol* and *The Apprentice* bearing all of the sheer ugliness of character of Gen-Y are raking in millions for their promoters and searing the minds of Gen-Y viewers into a stupefying mindset that says, *These are your heroes; this is your expected mode of behavior if you want to succeed in life!*

*Nothing* could be further from the *truth!*

Self-sacrifice built the British peoples into the greatest empire on Earth. The great pioneering spirit of help-thy-neighbor built America into the greatest single nation in history. Self-indulgence is ultimately destined to reduce these once-great peoples to enslavement by the enemies toward which they were so magnanimous in their defeat in war.

A report released late February titled “Egos Inflating Over Time,” produced by a team of researchers led by psychologist Jean Twenge of San Diego University, warns that the self-indulgent child-rearing techniques foisted off onto generation X parents have yielded bitter fruit indeed. Gen-Yers are becoming known for their general lack of empathy, their innate fixation on self, their general lack of manners and inability to satisfactorily adapt as contributing members of a stable society. In fact, the report indicates that this generation presents an unattractive proposition in terms of their employability within the society that has raised them.

The trend toward innate self-indulgence among generation Y is so *deeply* concerning, and its rate of progression so *alarming*,

that the report asks the question, “How high can narcissism go? It is possible to imagine a narcissistic Lake Wobegon: Everyone is attractive or getting surgery to become so; competition and individual pursuits trump group or collective action; relationships are superficial and transient; kids are treated permissively at home and fed with self-inflating messages at school.”

The reported concluded: “Self-correction may occur, however, *given a strong enough external force*. ... [I]f another Great Depression or world war struck, Americans might suddenly have to temper their narcissism” (emphasis mine throughout).

But the strength of the intervention of that *strong external force*, it would seem, will have to be *far* in excess of that posed even by such recent phenomena as 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina. As these researchers observe, “A diluted form of this decreased self-focus might have occurred after September 11, 2001, when many people commented that they focused on their relationships more and were kinder to each other. However, as our data show, those attitudes—if they actually did come about—soon faded.”

What will it take to rescue Western nations from the grip of this nation-destroying self-indulgence? The hope these researchers offer is a dim one indeed: “Overall, it would be very difficult for a generation brought up on narcissistic individualism to suddenly become consistently self-sacrificing. Perhaps at some point American culture will realize that too much individualism, and too much narcissism, will not lead to good outcomes in the long run.”

Where's the real *hope* in that?

The standard of research that produced this report is excellent. Its conclusions are inarguable. However, the *future* it bespeaks is *bleak* indeed!

One thing we can tell you, on the supreme authority of the Creator of generation X, generation Y, and all generations of mankind tracking back to Adam himself, is that the inference this report makes is true: The *only* solution to the devastation of Anglo-Saxon society faced by this current narcissistic generation is, in reality, direct, sudden and *imminent* intervention by that “strong enough external force”!

It will simply take the divine intervention of the Creator Himself to change this very narcissistic, self-indulgent nature of man, and to put, not only America, not just the Anglo-Saxons, but this *whole world* right back onto its original God-ordained course! That much is declared by the divinely inspired revelation of the future in your Bible.

The fact is, believe it or not, only when that supernatural, *strong external force* intervenes in world affairs will *all* mankind be able to fully realize its *incredible* human potential!

Thank God, the signs indicate that day will come soon. *Very soon!*





# 10 steps to an abundant life

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