

Can  **Save the World?**

Weak Dollar May Trigger
TRADE WAR



FEBRUARY 2008

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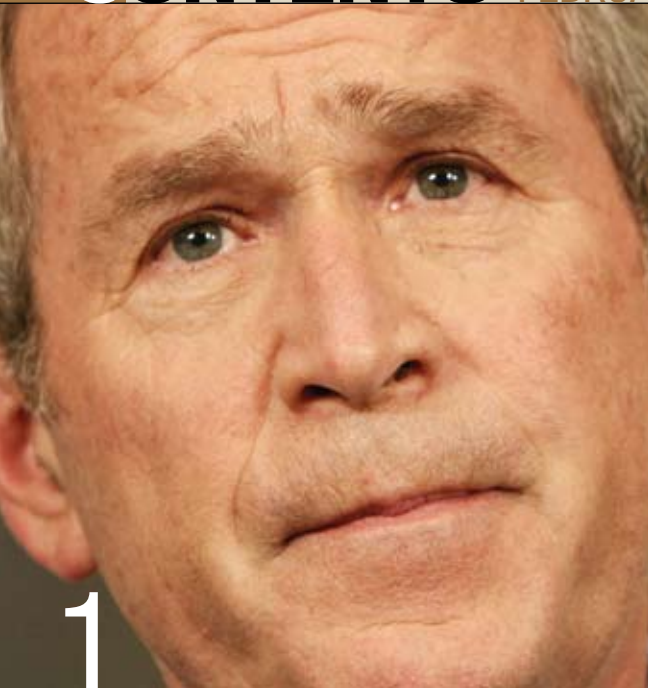
TRUMPET



ANNAPOLIS and the NIE

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... and embraces Iran



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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly June-July and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2007 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

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America Is Copying Chamberlain's Mistakes

In World War II, Britain's prime minister dreamed of making peace with Hitler. Today, the U.S. has the same fantasy.

WE LIVE IN THE MOST DANGEROUS TIMES EVER. AND they are getting much more dangerous every day. At the same time, most people are afraid to face reality—even though that frightening reality is a sign of the best news we could ever imagine.

Two bombshell events happened within one week—the Annapolis “peace” talks and the release of a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) regarding Iran’s nuclear weapons program—that signal a *nation-destroying change in American foreign policy!*

Both events reveal how Americans prefer to live in a fantasy world—like the one portrayed in the NIE. Like little children, far too many Americans hide from the ugly and dangerous truth.

It is hard for me to read about the Israeli-Palestinian “peace” conference in Annapolis—which the U.S. hosted on Nov. 27, 2007—and not think about the relationship between Adolf Hitler and Neville Chamberlain before World War II. Many experts believe we came dangerously close to losing that war because we refused to face reality. Winston Churchill called it “the unnecessary war” because we failed to confront Hitler’s humiliation of the West before he became so powerful.

Coddling Hitler

A terrifying event was unfolding in Germany during 1932. Here is what Martin Gilbert wrote in his biography of Winston Churchill, *The Prophet of Truth* (please take note of that powerful title): “As the German economic crisis intensified, and unemployment rose, Adolf Hitler’s following had increased, and by mid-January more than 400,000 men had joined his semi-military ‘Stormtroopers,’ while Nazi Party membership reached 2 million. The three most strident Nazi demands were an end to the Versailles Treaty, rearmament, and the removal of German Jews from all walks of German life.”

Hitler and the Nazis demanded “the removal of German Jews from all walks of German life.” Hitler’s sick and dangerous demands should have been met with a resolute will. But Chamberlain and others had a defeatist attitude. As a result, Hitler and Germany eventually *caused* the deaths of 50 million people.

During the 1930s, British and other Western diplomats worked feverishly to have *peace* with a diabolical Hitler. Neville Chamberlain, the last prime minister before Churchill, was *humiliated* and had his career tarnished forever by the Nazis. The media, politicians and people of Britain and America were supportive of Chamberlain’s allowing himself to be bullied and abused by Hitler before the whole world. (Just as most of our media, politicians and people loved the Annapolis conference.) There was a strong buzz about Chamberlain receiving the Nobel Prize—until

Hitler started World War II.

Winston Churchill warned Chamberlain and others throughout the 1930s against giving in to Hitler’s egregious demands. But HE WAS ALONE AND ALMOST DRIVEN FROM HIS OWN PARTY—UNTIL PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO SEE THAT HE WAS RIGHT. However, they didn’t see it until it was almost too late.

Let’s just imagine there had been some kind of “peace” made with Hitler. What kind of peace can you have with a murderous racist who wants to remove a whole race of people from his society?

The West did nothing as Hitler toppled the government of Austria and got control of that country. Many Jews and others were slaughtered. The *Times* of London even tried to justify Hitler’s enslaving of that nation against the majority’s will.

That was a land-for-peace deal—which is exactly what Israel has been using for many years to try to gain peace with the radical Arabs. What does this tactic say about Israel? It is in its final phase as a nation if it doesn’t wake up!

After devouring Austria, Hitler wanted the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France forced that country to give away a large portion of its territory—all in the name of peace.

Then Hitler attacked and conquered all of Czechoslovakia. The West let it happen to a freedom-loving country, in the name of peace. Britain and France didn’t declare war until Hitler attacked Poland. But even then, Chamberlain tried to get Hitler to withdraw from Poland and sign a peace treaty with Britain. What a fantasy world Neville Chamberlain lived in.

I MARVEL THAT WE HAVE LEARNED NO LESSONS FROM WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 1930S. In spirit, Churchill is *alone* once again. His views run totally counter to the Nazi spirit that prevailed at the Annapolis “peace” conference. That means a far worse danger is just around the corner, as it was in the 1930s.

Racism in Annapolis

On Nov. 30, 2007, Caroline Glick wrote in her column for the *Jerusalem Post*: “This week the Bush administration legitimized Arab anti-Semitism. In an effort to please the Saudis and their Arab brothers, the Bush administration agreed to physically separate the Jews from the Arabs at the Annapolis conference in a manner that aligns with the apartheid policies of the Arab world which prohibit Israelis from setting foot on Arab soil.

“Evident everywhere, the discrimination against Israel received its starkest expression at the main assembly of the Annapolis conference on Tuesday. There, in accordance with Saudi



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

demands, the Americans prohibited Israeli representatives from entering the hall through the same door as the Arabs. ...

“It is true that Israel has security concerns, but as far as [U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza] Rice is concerned, the Palestinians are the innocent victims. They are the ones who are discriminated against and humiliated, not [Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi] Livni, who WAS FORCED—BY RICE—TO ENTER THE CONFERENCE THROUGH THE SERVICE ENTRANCE” (emphasis mine throughout).

The foreign minister received that repugnant treatment even though she came prepared to make weighty concessions.

How abominable! The spirit of Hitler prevails again. And somehow we think this is going to bring peace. THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO PEACE—IT’S THE WAY TO WAR! Just as it was in the 1930s. We are nurturing the Nazi spirit to our everlasting shame!

This is about two nations—America and Israel—that lack the will to survive! It’s about the end of two WORLD POWERS! It has horrifying consequences for the West.

When will we ever learn?

Many of the Arabs attended the conference *only* because they fear Iran and want America’s protection. But if we won’t take a stand against their Jewish hatred, how can we protect them from Iran? Soon they will understand how weak America really is. Then they will turn to Europe for protection. At that point, *Americans, like the Jews, will probably not be allowed to set foot on Arab soil.* (Remember how Hitler spread his racism and hate toward other races—trying to create his master race? The Arabs know we have been closely allied with Israel for a long time, and they often hate Americans more than they hate the Jews.)

Caroline Glick wrote, “Israel’s humiliated foreign minister did not receive support from her American counterpart. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who spent her childhood years in the segregated American South, sided with the Arabs. Although polite enough to note that she doesn’t support the slaughter of Israelis, she made no bones about the fact that her true sympathies lie with the racist Arabs.

The Israeli intelligence network is probably the best in this world. Israel estimates that Iran will have nuclear bombs within two years—a radically different view than the NIE report.

a jihadist Palestinian society which supports the destruction of the Jewish state and bigoted white Southerners who oppressed African Americans because of the color of their skin” (ibid.).

What a fantasy the U.S. is now promoting. Israel has continually given back land to the Arabs, which it won in a war that the Arabs started. These territorial concessions threaten Israel’s own security as the Nazi Arabs gain control—as they have in Gaza and a large portion of Lebanon. Still, America is moving toward their side, away from Israel. THIS IS NOT ABOUT ISRAELI BIGOTRY AND RACISM. IT’S ABOUT AMERICA’S BROKEN WILL.

It is easy to see why the Israeli-American alliance is beginning to crumble. What a paradox. Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. Have we already lost the war against terrorism?

America is helping to extinguish what it professes to be fight-

ing for in Iraq: freedom and democracy. THE END OF ALL THIS IS GOING TO BE WORSE THAN WE CAN EVEN IMAGINE.

America Favors Syria Over Israel

Syria, *the second-leading terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world*, came to the conference *only* because America agreed to allow its chosen leader to gain control of Lebanon. The terrorists already have the upper hand there.

The political party of Saad al-Hariri, son of assassinated former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, has tried to limit Syria’s influence in Lebanon. On Nov. 28, 2007, however, his party agreed to a constitutional amendment that opened the door for Michel Suleiman, commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, to be elected president. The *Weekly Standard* reported, “Up until now, Hariri and his March 14 allies (the date of the 2005 Cedar Revolution) had resisted Suleiman’s candidacy; Lebanese democrats are generally loath to have military men serve as president of the republic, especially after the last nine years of former commander Emile Lahoud’s presidency. But more importantly, SULEIMAN IS DAMASCUS’S NUMBER-ONE CHOICE TO FILL THE NOW-VACANT SPOT.

“So why have Hariri and his colleagues, including Druze chieftain Walid Jumblatt and leader of the Christian Lebanese Forces Samir Geagea, made an about-face? It is because of Annapolis. They feared Washington was going to cut a deal with Syria over Lebanon, so they made their own bargain to protect themselves since it is now obvious Washington will not. Thus, the wages of peace processing” (Nov. 30, 2007).

The *Standard* article continued by describing some of the background of this situation. Please take note of this: “In October, Hariri visited Washington where he met with the president and every major administration figure along with dozens of legislators on both sides of the aisle. ‘THERE IS A KILLING MACHINE IN SYRIA,’ Hariri told a roomful of journalists. ‘We came to Washington to say, “If you are going to do something about it, let us know. If you are not going to do anything about it, let us know. But no matter what, we’re not going to give in.”’

“Hariri and the rest apparently did give in. March 14 figures are being picked off one by one, and their Washington ally, the world’s lone superpower, has done nothing to check the violence. ...

“Consciously or not, Rice signaled WHERE AMERICA’S REAL PRIORITIES LIE—NOT WITH PROTECTING A FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY IN BEIRUT FROM THE TERRORIST STATE NEXT DOOR, BUT IN TRYING TO REWARD A SOCIETY THAT BREEDS TERRORISM WITHIN ITS OWN STATE. ...

“In Beirut, though, it means a continuation of the Syrian-backed military and security apparatus that has killed Lebanese politicians, journalists, and civil society figures with impunity. IT MEANS, AS WELL, A BETRAYAL OF THE LEBANESE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PEACEFULLY RESISTED A TERRORIST REGIME AND ITS LOCAL ALLIES, WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES OVER THE LAST TWO-PLUS YEARS ON BEHALF OF A NATIONAL DREAM OF TOLERANCE AND COEXISTENCE. ...

“It seems that in the end, Bashar al-Assad and his family will pay no price for their murderous campaign against a U.S. ally. That is to say, insofar as the White House’s post-9/11 free-

America is helping to extinguish what it professes to be fighting for in Iraq: freedom and democracy. The end of all this is going to be worse than we can even imagine.

dom agenda was meant to counter violence and extremism, IT IS OSAMA BIN LADEN'S VISION OF THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAS WON THE DAY IN LEBANON—NOT FREEDOM, SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE, BUT TERROR AND DEATH.”

Now we have a stronger killing machine in Lebanon, supposedly to bring *peace!* And who is rejoicing? The terrorists of Lebanon and the Middle East—instead of the more innocent, freedom-loving people who trusted in America to help them gain peace and freedom. The Arab *Nazis* will usher in a new era of “peace” in the Middle East with their killing machine—with a lot of help from the U.S.

We are helping this terrorist-sponsoring nation destroy a fledgling democracy. How could anyone not believe we are hurting our war against terrorism? Or have we just surrendered in that war?

This is not the action of a real superpower. America made a watershed change in its foreign policy at Annapolis. History clearly shows us that this will lead to a colossal disaster!

How despicably weak and childish our foreign policy has become. REMEMBER THIS: THE AFTEREFFECTS OF ANNAPOLIS WILL BE EVEN MORE BITTER FOR AMERICA THAN FOR ISRAEL. Winston Churchill has already shown us that. But nobody learned from his example. So prepare yourselves for much more suffering to come. There are consequences for such heinous deeds!

An Announcement to the World

Not one week after the Annapolis conference, the U.S. intelligence community released the NIE about Iran. This report was

Abandoning Israel

BESIDES an Iranian bomb, the greatest threat to Israel's existence is diminished support from its long-time ally, the United States. What is astonishing about the National Intelligence Estimate the United States declassified in December is that while shamefully denying the existence of an Iranian nuclear weapons program, Washington *simultaneously* managed to nuke what remained of its strategic alliance with Israel.

Could it possibly get any worse for the Jewish state?

As recently as October 17, President Bush warned, “We’ve got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. . . . [I]f you’re interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon.”

But with the release of the NIE, everyone from the Bush administration to the *New York Times* editorial board to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad all breathed a col-

lective sigh of relief—even if for different reasons.

Israel, though, is not relieved. It is deeply concerned—and now, very alone. Israel’s top officials were quick to reject the NIE assessment. Defense Minister Ehud Barak told Israel’s Army Radio that while Iran may have momentarily stopped its nuclear weapons program, it has since been revived. When asked if America’s new assessment, which directly contradicted its own 2005 estimate, now diminishes the chances of a U.S. preemptive strike against Iran’s weapons facilities, Barak admitted that that was possible.

Other Israeli sources, according to *Haaretz*, assessed the situation more bluntly, saying “the Bush administration appears to have lost its sense of urgency regarding Iran’s nuclear program, making a military strike in 2008 increasingly unlikely” (Dec. 4, 2007).

Ron Prozor, Israel’s new ambassador to Britain and one of Prime Minister Olmert’s leading experts on Iran’s nuclear

America’s indirect announcement to a stunned world that we lack the will to ever stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

Iran is the number-one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world—by far. The Israeli intelligence network is probably the best in this world. Israel estimates that Iran will have nuclear bombs within two years—a radically different view than the NIE report.

When Iran gets nuclear weapons, it is more likely to start a nuclear World War III than any nation on Earth. President Ahmadinejad already said he would wipe Israel off the map. That is not the kind of mind that diplomacy is going to change. The terrorists of Hezbollah and Hamas control southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. They are sponsored and controlled by Iran. They frequently attack Israel without being provoked. How much more dangerous will this world be if they get nuclear weapons?

Well-meaning but weak-willed, dangerous peaceniks (what Churchill called them) in politics and the media helped and encouraged Hitler to start World War II. He could have easily been stopped in the early years. Weak leaders said diplomacy would work. But diplomacy only paved the way for Hitler’s causing the death of 50 million people. Churchill stood alone, warning of the coming catastrophe. Many people called him a warmonger—until they came to see he was right.



EHUD BARAK

weapons program, said this in an interview with London’s *Daily Telegraph*, “At the current rate of progress Iran will reach the technical threshold for producing fissile material by 2009.

“This is a global threat and it requires a global response. It should be made clear that if Iran does not cooperate then military confrontation is inevitable. It is either cooperation or confrontation” (Dec. 7, 2007).

While that may still be true, the transformative event from December now means Israel stands alone in being prepared to use force to confront the Iranian threat. And if the United States is no longer justified in preemptively striking Iran, what do you suppose world opinion would be after an Israeli strike? If American intelligence thinks Iran

froze its nuclear program, a former Israeli military intelligence official told the *New York Times*, “that makes it harder for Israel to go against it” (Dec. 5, 2007).

Describing Israel’s lonely position in a *Haaretz* column on December 5, Amos Harel wrote, “Over the last year, a certain hope has developed in Israel that the U.S. would do our dirty work for us Yesterday, from talking to a number of senior officials in the defense establishment, you could sense this hope had been buried in the wake of the report.”

The sad truth is that while purporting to prove that Iran abandoned its nuclear weapons program in 2003, in actual fact, the National Intelligence Estimate proves America has abandoned Israel.

STEPHEN FLURRY

We are repeating the same distressing, inexcusable error today. WHEN THE PEACENIKS GET CONTROL, SURRENDER AND WAR ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO FOLLOW RAPIDLY! That is especially true in peace-loving nations like America, Britain and Israel today.

Peaceniks offer virtually no resistance to tyrants and even encourage them in their warring spirit. Maybe we should start calling these people who seek peace at any price *warmongers!* History would certainly justify such a label.

Here is what Churchill said after his long warning in the 1930s and shortly before World War II began: “When the situation was manageable it was neglected, and now that it is thoroughly out of hand we apply too late the remedies which then might have effected a cure.

“There is nothing new in the story. It is as old as the Sibylline books. It falls into that long, dismal catalogue of the fruitlessness of experience and the *confirmed unteachability of mankind*. Want of foresight, unwillingness to act when action would be simple and effective, lack of clear thinking, confusion of counsel until the emergency comes, until self-preservation strikes its jarring gong—THESE ARE THE FEATURES WHICH CONSTITUTE THE ENDLESS REPETITION OF HISTORY” (Gilbert, op. cit.).

Churchill was a high-level government official before and during World War I. The government he served made terrible mistakes shortly before and during that war. Mr. Churchill was horrified to see the same mistakes being repeated in the 1930s and during World War II. The Western world scoffed at his warning of a coming world explosion.

Several reputable historians state that Germany came dangerously close to winning World War II. We are making the same tragic mistakes today that were made in those two world wars.

Betraying Israel—and America

Yossi Klein Halevi wrote this for the *New Republic*, December 6, after the NIE was released: “America, even under George Bush, is hardly likely to go to war to stop a program many Americans now believe doesn’t exist.

“Until now, pessimists here could console themselves that a last-resort Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities would likely draw wide international sympathy and even gratitude—very different from the near-total condemnation that greeted Israel’s attack on Saddam’s reactor in 1981. Now, though, the NIE will ensure that if Israel does attack, it will be widely branded a warmonger, and faulted for the inevitable fallout of rising oil prices and increased terror.

“The sense of betrayal within the Israeli security system is deep. After all, Israel’s great achievement in its struggle against Iran was in convincing the international community that the nuclear threat was real; now that victory has been undone—not by Russia or the European Union, but by Israel’s closest ally.

“WHAT MAKES ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIALS ESPECIALLY FURIOUS IS THAT THE REPORT CASTS DOUBT ON IRANIAN DETERMINATION TO ATTAIN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. [The report offers absolutely no evidence to support such a view—but it could have *deadly* consequences!] There is a sense of incredulity here: Do we really need to argue the urgency of the threat all over again? The

Israeli strategists I heard from ridicule the report’s contention that ‘Tehran’s decisions are guided by a cost-benefit approach rather than a RUSH TO A WEAPON IRRESPECTIVE OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COSTS.’ Is it, asks one Israeli analyst sarcastically, a cost-benefit approach for one of the world’s largest oil exporters to risk international sanctions and economic ruin for the sake of a peaceful nuclear program?”

Anybody who doesn’t think Iran has a crash program to build nuclear weapons is simply *refusing* to face the truth. Weak-willed people make deadly mistakes from which a nation may not recover—especially in this nuclear age. It’s the same old story. History keeps repeating itself.

THAT INTELLIGENCE REPORT DID BETRAY ISRAEL. BUT IT ALSO BETRAYED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE! It has caused them to relax and believe there is no immediate threat. It’s the Hitler scenario all over again, this time with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

We should have learned from Hitler that our “peace” making is fostering a nuclear World War III. If we think we can do nothing and somehow escape the raging danger, we are thinking like children! When a nuclear war starts, the whole world is going to be dragged into the fiery furnace.

It isn’t that we can’t see the danger. We *refuse* to face it, hoping it will somehow go away. Instead, we make the problem a thousand times worse.

Winston Churchill called this the “confirmed unteachability of mankind.” He said “these are the features which constitute the endless repetition of history.”

When will we ever learn?

Churchill experienced World Wars I and II. He served as a watchman in both world wars—especially World War II. But we have learned nothing from his vast experience and warnings. That means we are going to suffer as no people ever have by refusing to learn the truth.

Politics Above Survival

Here is another powerful statement from the *New Republic*: “Nor do senior analysts [in Israel] take seriously the NIE’s vague assessments of when Iran will reach the point of no return: beginning in 2010, it says, though not likely until 2013 or even 2015. Israel’s point of no return is when Iran attains the potential to produce sufficient fissile material for making a bomb. And they believe that is likely to happen—barring continued mishaps, accidental or not, in the Iranian nuclear program, like exploding centrifuges—somewhere within the next two years.

UNPERSUASIVE President Bush tried to explain how the NIE helped America’s cause—but the report definitely increased Americans’ sense of complacency over a very real threat from Iran.



Politics are being placed above the welfare of our nation. That portends a black, foreboding future for America. These are the most dangerous times in our history.



“Once the material is available, the final step toward constructing a bomb is the least complicated part of the process. ‘Making bombs is a much shorter process than uranium enrichment,’ explains Ephraim Asculai, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies and a 40-year veteran of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. ‘Today the Iranians are enriching uranium at 4 percent; to make a bomb, you need 90 percent. From there, the transition doesn’t require a lot of time. MOST OF THE WORK HAS BEEN DONE TO GET TO THE 4 PERCENT. IT IS A MATTER OF MONTHS, NOT YEARS.’”

We should be thinking in terms of months, not years! However, major media outlets are picturing this as another intelligence blunder by the Bush administration. They are helping their political party win elections. They are also causing far-reaching damage to America.

POLITICS ARE BEING PLACED ABOVE THE WELFARE OF OUR NATION. That portends a black, foreboding future for America. These are the most dangerous times in our history. We can’t afford such terrifying blunders if we are to survive as a nation.

Grave Danger of a World Explosion

Churchill kept crying out as a voice in the wilderness of political confusion. There was still a possibility, Churchill believed, of preserving peace. “NEVER MUST WE DESPAIR,” he said, “NEVER MUST WE GIVE IN, BUT WE MUST FACE FACTS AND DRAW TRUE CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM.” It was now essential for Britain to retrieve “the woeful miscalculations of which we are at present the DUPES, and of which, unless we take warning in time, we may some day be the VICTIMS” (Gilbert, op. cit.).

We are not facing the facts. Our people are being DUPED by leaders who want to hear “smooth things” in a world filled with unparalleled dangers.

Churchill continued: “Terrible preparations are being made on all sides for war,” and he added: “I DO NOT FEEL THAT PEOPLE REALIZE AT ALL HOW NEAR AND HOW GRAVE ARE THE DANGERS OF A WORLD EXPLOSION. Some regard the scene with perfect equanimity; many gape stolidly upon it, some are angry to be disturbed by such thoughts in their daily routine and pleasures” (ibid.).

Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin later *admitted* HE PUT HIS OWN POLITICAL INTEREST AHEAD OF THE NATION’S WELFARE! And his country came perilously close to death. The people wouldn’t face Churchill’s warning until it was almost too late. He talked about the possible “end” of Britain’s glories. But the people did not want to think about the bloody dangers of a world explosion. They didn’t want to be disturbed from their comfortable routine and pleasures. So they voted for politicians who spoke to them about more pleasures and a prosperous world.

The same is true today. WE FACE A FAR MORE SPECTACULAR WORLD EXPLOSION. But we are too glutted on sports and entertainment to heed a strong warning. As Churchill said, history continues to repeat itself! We have not learned from the historical lessons of World War II. Today, we are again surrendering to evil tyrants.

Ehud Olmert has said that Israel is “tired of fighting.” America has the same sickness. It is a *fatal disease* to have in a world in which you have so many powerful enemies.

Again, let’s hearken back to World War II. France surrendered to Germany in six weeks. There were many reasons why France should have continued to fight. But its government was led by men with no will to fight. Charles de Gaulle was the only real leader in the higher echelon of government. But other leaders fought to keep him out of power.

Would there even be a France today if it weren’t for Churchill’s fighting spirit?

There are over a hundred prophecies in your Bible that tell us we are getting extremely close to the best news you can ever imagine! You can prove every one of those scriptures. You can also live to see every one of them fulfilled.

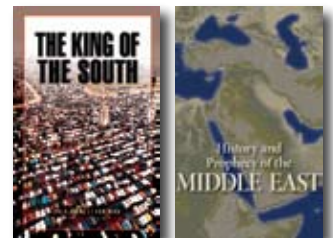
Is there any *hope*? Yes there is! There is hope in ascertaining why America, Britain and Israel have a broken will. It was prophesied in the book of Daniel and other places (Daniel 9:10-14; Leviticus 26:19). Daniel didn’t even understand what he wrote. The biblical book of Daniel is an end-time book—it was written for us today. Request a free copy of our booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* The Prophet Daniel tells us that we can shine like the stars forever and ever if we face the truth.

In the meantime, all we have to do is sit back and wait for Iran to test its first nuclear bomb. I feel strongly that we won’t have long to wait. Then all of the childish fantasies will quickly disappear.

Isaiah prophesied that THE AMBASSADORS OF PEACE SHALL WEEP BITTERLY! (Isaiah 33:7). That is a prophecy for this end time. What a brutal condemnation of our diplomats. We must learn *why* the ambassadors of peace are going to weep bitterly. Therein lies the real path to peace. ■

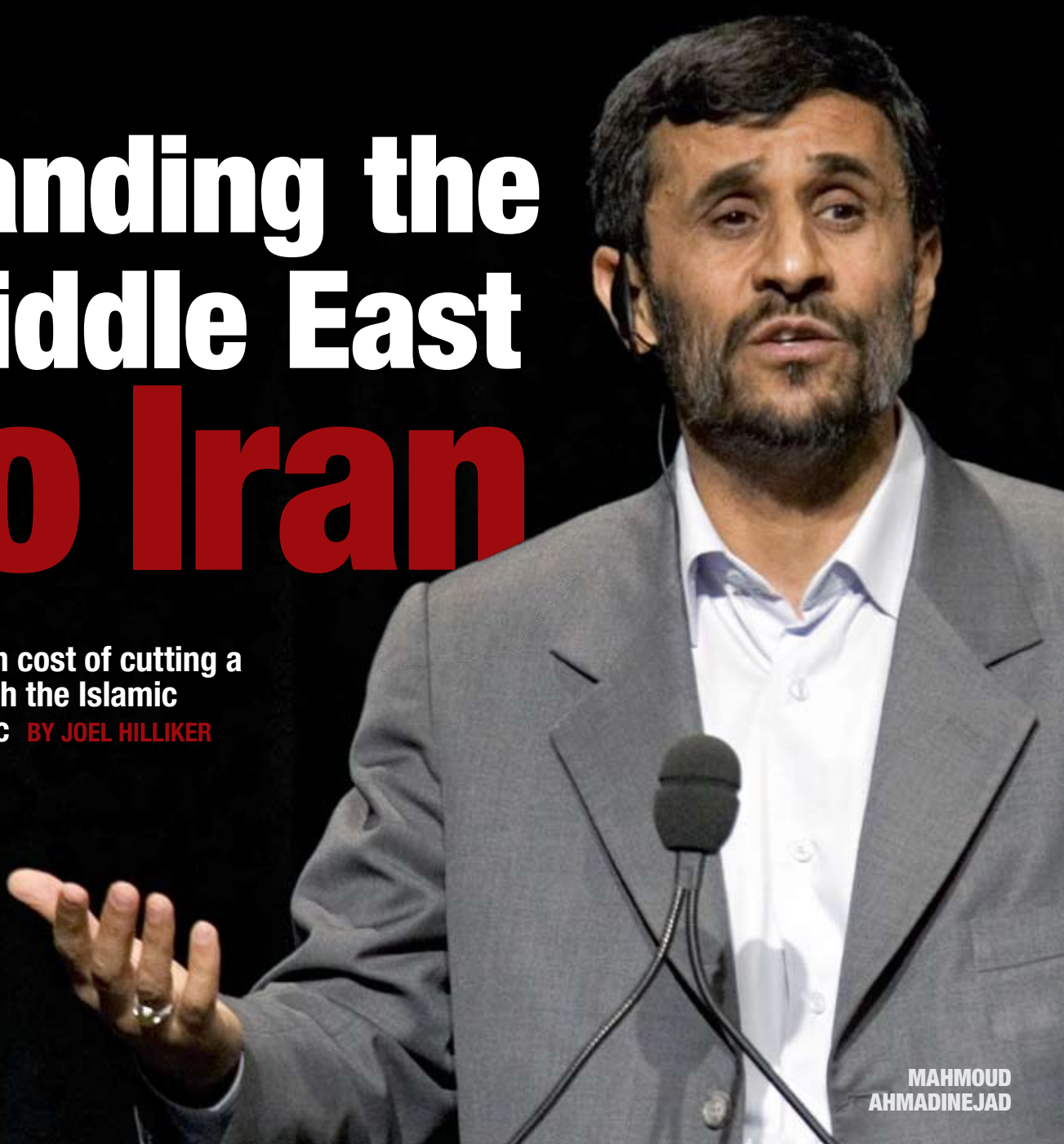
Is there only bad news for the Middle East and the ambassadors of peace? The best news you can even imagine is about to engulf the Middle East and the entire Earth!

Request our free booklet *The King of the South* to understand how and why. Also request our booklet *History and Prophecy of the Middle East*.



Handing the Middle East to Iran

The high cost of cutting a deal with the Islamic Republic **BY JOEL HILLIKER**



MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

THE UNITED STATES IS ABOUT TO hand control of the Middle East over to Iran. On a silver platter.

This is one of the most stunning geopolitical developments since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In its National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) released on Dec. 3, 2007, the National Intelligence Council said it now has “high confidence” that *Iran stopped its nuclear weapons program over four years ago*. The estimate, which caused an earthquake in government circles, was the latest and most dramatic of a series of signs revealing an utterly remarkable, years-long sea change in U.S. foreign policy.

Even more, it pointed to what the

neighborhood around Iran and Iraq is about to look like—and it isn’t pretty.

The NIE was one step—a big step—in an awkward dance the U.S. and Iran have been sharing ever since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It is becoming clearer all the time that Iran is the dance leader.

Iran’s “Victory”

The lack of WMDs found in Iraq since America ousted Saddam Hussein in 2003 utterly ravaged the reputation of the U.S. intelligence community. Intelligence officials learned their lesson. The new NIE instantaneously restored the unqualified confidence and enthusiastic support of the American press. Nearly every critic

of the intelligence that guided America’s decision to invade Iraq—including Iran-friendly foreign governments like Russia and China—immediately accepted the new NIE as sacred scripture.

If the intelligence community overstated Iraq’s WMD capabilities in 2003, this report—in its effect—went 180 degrees in the opposite direction. It single-handedly eliminated any rationale for military action against Iran, and even deflated the prospect of more *sanctions*. In nine terse pages, it dealt a deadly blow to the international effort to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

How that estimate will increase Iran’s standing regionally and even globally be-

came apparent immediately upon its release. The first sign was Iran's increased nerviness—Ahmadinejad talking about his “victory” and the “fatal blow” to American military action; Iranian officials demanding the end of UN sanctions, a U.S. apology and damages; Iran's oil minister calling the U.S. dollar “unreliable” and announcing no more oil trade in greenbacks. There were also the death knells for international pressure against Iran, such as Russia saying discussion of more UN sanctions should end and promising to resume work on Iran's nuclear reactor at Bushehr.

Yes, the Bush administration continues to press for sanctions. But they won't happen. For all practical purposes, whatever urgency there may have been to confront the threat from Iran has dissipated.

What a sudden, drastic change! The last intelligence estimate on the subject, issued in May 2005, stated “with high confidence that Iran currently is determined to develop nuclear weapons.” Why the about-face? Was it merely the result of better information suddenly becoming available?

Shamefully, overwhelming evidence indicates that the primary reason for the change was not the pursuit of truth, but the dictates of politics.

A Faulty Report

Many people—including CIA and other government officials—have lambasted the NIE for a number of reasons. Officials in Israel and Britain made it clear they do not accept its conclusions. Even France, Germany and the United Nations expressed doubts.

The American press, by contrast, conveniently shelved its skepticism for this single assessment.

Consider the evidence.

First, the intelligence community reported that it now sees Iran as a “rational actor”—meaning that the Islamic Republic bases its policies not on religious ideology, but on predictable “cost-benefit” calculations. This report said Iran's abandonment of nuclear weapons development in 2003—done “primarily in response to increasing international scrutiny resulting from exposure of Iran's previously undeclared nuclear work”—suggests that “Iran

may be more vulnerable to influence on the issue than we judged previously.”

Is it true? Is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a “rational actor”? Well, he is known to make unorthodox statements from time to time—like when he said he believes the Twelfth Imam put him in office in order to provoke a clash of civilizations—or the time he said Israel would be wiped off the map in “one storm”—or when he said he looks forward to “a world without America.” What about the ruling mullahs Ahmadinejad reports to—the ones who have turned their nation into the world's biggest bankroller of state-sponsored terrorism? “Rational actors”? Just the right combination of economic and political incentives and punishments, and they'll give up their ambition to transform the Middle East into a Khomeinist empire?

The NIE placed an extraordinary degree of trust in individuals who have repeatedly proven they shouldn't be trusted.

Notice this statement from the report: “We assess with moderate confidence that Iran probably would use covert facilities—rather than its declared nuclear sites—for the production of highly enriched uranium for a weapon.” Moderate confidence? Based on every successful nuclear program in history, and given Iran's history of deceit, we should be able to assess with *absolute* confidence that Iran would *absolutely* use covert facilities to make nuclear weapons. Nobody *advertises* serious efforts to manufacture nukes—that is, until they detonate them.

For its part, Israel has contended for at least three years that the nuclear program Iran has been tussling with the IAEA over is actually a distraction from a more secret program. The NIE itself confirms that Iran had a covert nuclear weapons program for about a decade and a half leading up to 2003, when it supposedly came to an abrupt halt. Iran has a long history of nuclear trickery. Yet now, suddenly, the intelligence community can “judge with high confidence” that it all ended in 2003?

Actually, that “high confidence” was far shakier than mainstream headlines suggested. Notice this statement—buried within parentheses in the estimate: “(Because of intelligence gaps ... [we] assess with only moderate confidence that the halt to those

activities represents a halt to Iran's entire nuclear weapons program.)” The report is a maze of such carefully hedged statements, conjectures and guesses. *We do not know whether Iran currently intends to develop nuclear weapons. We assess with moderate-to-high confidence that Tehran at a minimum is keeping open the option to develop nuclear weapons. We judge with moderate confidence Iran probably would be technically capable of producing enough highly enriched uranium for a weapon sometime during the 2010-2015 time frame.* The *New York Sun* quoted one former senior intelligence officer as saying that this is like submitting a report saying the sun will come up tomorrow unless it doesn't.

Astoundingly, the report read as though we are all meant to have “high confidence” in the civility of Iran's nuclear program—despite mountains of uncertainty and gratuitously charitable assumptions.

WHY? That question stands out in flashing neon when one studies the report. As John Bolton wrote, “[T]he headline finding—that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003—is WRITTEN in a way that *guarantees the totality of the conclusions will be misread*”—that is, *misread in Iran's favor* (*Washington Post*, Dec. 6, 2007; emphasis mine throughout).

Not even the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, gives Iran that much credit; it said it couldn't agree with the report's conclusions based on the evidence. Again, John Bolton: “When the IAEA is tougher than our analysts, you can bet the farm that *someone is pursuing a policy agenda.*”

Now, sure enough, it appears U.S. policy will proceed as if Iranian nuclear weapons pose virtually no threat whatsoever.

In other words, the report achieved its intended effect.

Emboldened Iran

Washington may not like it, but it has been slowly coming to terms with—and, in fact, slowly breaking to the public—the idea that it *needs* Iran, particularly for help in ending its engagement in Iraq. The NIE actually came at a convenient time for Washington: Striking a deal with Iran doesn't look nearly so repugnant if Iran

The NIE came at a convenient time for Washington: Striking a deal with Iran doesn't look nearly so repugnant if Iran isn't a rogue nuclear nation.

isn't a rogue nuclear nation.

Many people see through this pretense, including, notably, Iran's Arab neighbors. Unconvinced by the NIE—and still vigilant to the likelihood of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons—many of them recognize the political concerns that may have informed the estimate. As analyst Mohammed Kharroub wrote in the Jordanian daily *Al-Rai*, the NIE “opens the door wide to numerous ‘compromises’ between Washington and Tehran” in those areas—Iraq and Israel among them—“that have exhausted Washington.” Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment Middle East Center in Beirut, said, “This report is a face-saving device for the U.S. It gives the U.S. administration a subtle way to backtrack on their stance regarding the Iranian nuclear issues” (*Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 6, 2007).

These Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, are deeply concerned as they see the U.S. backing away from its role as a check on Iran, and Iran, in the words of the *Times*, feeling “emboldened to strengthen its military, increase its support for Islamic radicals and exert more influence in the region's troubled countries” (ibid.).

Their concerns are justified. The Middle East is about to see a whole lot more of Iran.

Retracing Our Steps

How did this happen? Even during the Clinton administration, Iran was at the top of the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. Today we are over six years into a supposedly out-and-out “war on terrorism.” When President George W. Bush spoke of that war after 9/11, he said, “Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.” By that definition, Iran would qualify as *the premier* target. In his State of the Union address the following January, he specifically branded Iran as a member of an “axis of evil.”

Let's briefly trace our steps from there to here to see how it is that Iran is now in a position practically to shape the Middle East as it will.

Even by the time “axis of evil” entered public discussion, the limits of America's determination to follow through on its rhetoric had already started to appear. The first target in the “war on terrorism” was the shaky, friendless Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Washington had meanwhile worked to cobble together a worldwide coalition of anti-terrorist nations—and, remarkably, among the nations it invited to join was the world's number-one state

Iran's Big Bluff?

IN stating that Iran abandoned its nuclear weapons program, the NIE explicitly excluded “Iran's declared civil work related to uranium conversion and enrichment.” Yes, it simply took Ahmadinejad at his word that the hundreds of millions of dollars oil-rich Iran has poured into its nuclear program have been exclusively for domestic energy production—even while admitting that enrichment capabilities developed for electricity are just a short step away from those used for nuclear weapons.

But the NIE's conclusions went beyond simply accepting Iran's denials of having any ulterior motives for its nuclear project. They implicitly assumed that years of damning evidence and deceitful behavior on Iran's part were essentially a big bluff. And hey, nobody got hurt—so let's all forget it and move on.

Consider it: For a nation without a nuclear weapons program for four years, Iran has done an impressive impersonation of a nation trying to hide a nuclear weapons program. It has restricted the International Atomic Energy Association from accessing its nuclear facilities. It has threatened to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In the face of all opposition and despite having plenty of oil energy, it has adamantly, even belligerently defended its right to enrich uranium. It has shrouded its supposedly peaceful nuclear program in alarming secrecy. It has been defiant in the face of having sanctions leveled against it for its obstinance and duplicity.

Just the week before the NIE was released, the IAEA director said Iran now has 3,000 centrifuges busily enriching uranium, but he couldn't say whether they could be used to make nuclear weapons—because of restrictions Tehran had placed on his inspectors. Just *two days* before the NIE was released, Iran's new nuclear negotiator brusquely informed officials in London representing the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany that all prior discussions regarding its uranium-enrichment program were null and void.

If the NIE is to be believed, all this stonewalling and chest-thumping must have been a harmless effort to boost its negotiating position by conning the world into worrying itself over the possibility of an Iranian nuke.

sponsor of terrorism: Iran.

Iran denied the request—and surely savored the opportunity to do so.

In response to this sequence of events, the *Trumpet* wrote, “[T]here will soon come a point when *the U.S. won't even be a factor in this war*. . . . [P]rophesy shows that it is, regrettably, underestimating its enemy. . . . As we now examine the facts emerging from this war, we can see unequivocally that the terrorist snake will survive America's aggression—head intact, and stronger than ever. . . . Make no mistake about it: Iran is the head of the snake” (November 2001). You can read the prophetic reasoning behind that forecast in our booklet *The King of the South*, free upon request.

The likelihood of the *Trumpet's* assessment playing out *doubled* a year and a half later, when the White House chose its *second* target in the war on terrorism: Iraq. Here is where the big revelation that emerged from the NIE—that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003—has some fascinating ramifications.

That Iran did in fact have a clandestine nuclear weapons program before 2003 comes as little shock, considering its naked aspirations to be the Middle East's dominant power. But, assuming the NIE's version of events is correct, why halt the program in 2003? The NIE credits “international pressure”—as if it was the threat of sanctions, or some stern words issued through diplomatic channels. Not likely. Diplomatic efforts to stem Iran's nuclear program didn't officially start until 2004. What did happen in 2003 that may have convinced the Iranian mullahs to switch off the power at the nuclear weapons lab—even if only temporarily—was *America's invasion of Iraq*.

If you remember, about that time, Muammar Ghaddafi decided it was in *his* best interest to bring *his* WMD programs to a halt. Seeing the world's mightiest military, backed by an international coalition, smash through Iraq and turn the mighty Saddam into a fugitive cave-dweller in three quick weeks apparently made quite an impression.

The irony is, at the same time Iran stopped its clandestine nuclear weapons program (assuming the NIE is correct), it also held clandestine celebrations over the demise of its archenemy, Saddam. The U.S.-led strike in Iraq successfully removed the biggest obstacle within the region to Iran realizing its regional ambitions.

Nevertheless, the U.S. might have used its victory in Iraq to press its advantage with Iran; indications are it might have worked. But that is not what happened. In

OPEN ENRICHMENT

The IAEA guides diplomats and journalists through Iran's uranium enrichment facilities in Isfahan. Iran insists—and the NIE accepts—that all its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes.



an effort to wage a fundamentally *altruistic* war—one that wouldn't appear imperialistic and nasty to the rest of the world—the U.S. chose not merely to eliminate the threat of Iraq, but to undertake the impossible task of transforming Iraq into a functional, West-friendly democracy. Four and a half years and \$2 trillion later, that task remains a work in progress.

Those 4½ years have been a slow, inevitable illumination of the fact that in failing to pursue Iran—the head of the terrorist snake—from the beginning, the U.S. made a fundamental error from which it could not recover.

Today, the idea of going after Iran has been superseded by a bitter reality: Not only does America not have the means and the political will to mount a successful attack on Iran, but Tehran has also gained enough influence over the situation that it can't even extricate itself from Iraq without Iran's *help*.

Again, this turn of events ranks as one of the most stunning in post-Cold War geopolitics.

The High Cost to America

When the NIE came out, Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards drew a very odd conclusion: He said it “shows that George Bush and Dick Cheney's rush to war with Iran is, in fact, a rush to war.”

Amazing what passes for a rush to war these days. The Bush administration hasn't rushed to anything. What it has done is

slowly, gingerly, reluctantly look for a way to come to terms with an Iranian presence in Iraq. Though it is clearly uncomfortable with the idea and is doing all it can to try to gain the upper hand, the signs of working toward an agreement have been there. In addition to numerous private talks between the U.S. and Iran, the two parties have conducted three rounds of high-level public talks and are about to conduct a fourth. Regarding Iran's nuclear material, almost two years ago the U.S. agreed to allow Russia to enrich uranium for Iran on Russian soil (a proposal Israel rejected)—no small accommodation (Dec. 17, 2007, Russia announced it had begun these deliveries). Aside from occasional, mostly veiled verbal threats, the U.S. has remained solidly committed to addressing the Iran nuclear question through the clunky UN Security Council, which by nature of its composition is unable to agree upon any but the most anemic of punitive measures against Iran. The threat of a military strike on Iran has never been anything more than a negotiation tool.

With the NIE, Washington eliminated the largest cause for public resistance to permitting Iran a freer hand in Iraq and elsewhere: the perceived threat of an Iranian nuke. Again, evidence abounds that this political goal influenced the presentation of the intelligence that informed the NIE.

A week after the NIE was released, Ahmadinejad called it a “step forward,” and said more such steps will lead to “an en-

tirely different situation” in relations between the two countries. True enough.

It is clearer all the time. The world has already seen the toughest U.S. policy toward Iran it is going to see. We should not expect President Bush to get tougher during his final year in office; he has already revealed—even as far back as one month after 9/11—the direction his administration will take with Iran. The next American president is sure to lurch even further toward the appease-and-concede camp.

The U.S. is purchasing an exit from Iraq—and at an extraordinarily high cost. By emboldening Iran, it is selling out all those neighboring Arab states that grow uncomfortable when Tehran gets aggressive. Far more tragically, it is selling out its longtime ally

Israel, which is by far the number-one target of Iran's hostility. (How ironic that all of this U.S.-Iran deal-making occurred in the immediate wake of the U.S. sponsoring the Annapolis “peace” conference—considering that Iran underwrites two of Israel's biggest terrorist enemies: Hamas and Hezbollah.)

On top of all that, the U.S. purchases this exit at the expense of exposing its own crippling weakness of will—and granting Iran bragging rights for having tussled with the “Great Satan” and won.

If you thought Ahmadinejad was insufferable after the NIE was published, just stick around.

This is the nature of the biblically prophesied “king of the south,” spoken of in Daniel 11:40. It is a pushy, aggressive, arrogant power that *dares* other nations to retaliate against it.

How remarkable the degree of responsibility that rests on America's shoulders for facilitating the rise of the king of the south!

What a graphic illustration of the abject failures that befall a CURSED nation!

Read Leviticus 26:13-21, and request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for proof of how and why the U.S. is presently suffering from the curses listed in that passage.

Another King

Though the NIE claimed Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003, it

See **IRAN** page 34 ▶

First



Shots

Will America's weak dollar trigger a global trade war? The last trade war helped create the Great Depression. BY ROBERT MORLEY

Post-World War I industrial America, reeling from the effects of the stock market crash and subsequent job losses, erupted into protectionist fervor. In a reversal of conditions today, back then it was inexpensive *European* imports, especially agricultural products, due to cheap labor and *falling European currencies*, that began to undercut American producers.

Riding a populist wave, U.S. politicians imposed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act—one of the most draconian protectionist policies in America's history. Designed to protect American farmers and manufacturers from cheap-labor low-cost European imports, Smoot-Hawley instead unintentionally triggered an economic arms race that helped plunge America—and the rest of the world—into a decade of depression and despair.

Historian Richard Hofstadter, with the benefit of hindsight, described the tariff act as “a virtual declaration of economic war on the rest of the world.” And that is just how the rest of the world saw it. Foreign nations were outraged. Within two years, 25 countries had retaliated; U.S. and foreign trade took massive losses. America exported \$5.24 billion in goods in 1929; by 1932 the total had fallen to just \$1.6 billion. Overall, world trade declined some 66 percent by 1934.

What does this all have to do with 2008 America? The first shots of global trade war are about to be fired—only this time, America's falling dollar could be the trigger.

Ripple Effects

The dollar has fallen by 40 percent against the world's major currencies over the past seven years. Sixteen percent of that loss has come in the past year and a half alone. Against gold, the dollar has fared even worse,

During the four years after the 1929 stock market crash, the nation regressed like at no other time in its history. Forty-two percent of America's banks folded. Production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities fell by more than half. People's real disposable incomes collapsed 28 percent. Stock prices cascaded to one tenth of their pre-crash height. Unemployment rose from 1.6 million in 1929 to a whopping 12.8 million by 1933—leaving one out of every four workers jobless. People lost their savings, their homes, their health and their hope.

But what made the 1929 stock market crash turn so much more deadly than the previous short-lived crashes of 1920 and earlier?

According to many economists, the 1929 crash was unique because just months later, the first shots of a trade war that quickly engulfed the world were fired.

I am writing to you for some of your old spoiled dress[es] if you have any. I am a poor girl who has to stay out of school on account of dresses, and slips, and a coat. I am in the seventh grade in school but I have to stay out of school because I have not books or clothes to wear. I am in need of dresses and slips and a coat very bad.

IF THE CRASH OF 1929 HAD BEEN like previous ones, the subsequent hard times might have ended in a year or two. But instead, unprecedented economic meddling prolonged the misery for 12 long years.

How bad was the Great Depression? The following letters, written to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's wife, convey the despair many felt as trade stopped, unemployment spiraled, banks collapsed and hunger spread across the nation.

Dear Madam,

I understand that you help the needy. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me a suit of clothes. I've been out of work a long time and I believe if I had a suit of clothes I would have a chance of getting a job.

My age is 45 years, my height is 5 foot, 5 inches, weight 145 pounds. If you won't do this, please don't expose my name.

of Trade War?

losing 19 percent so far this year.

The rapid fall in the dollar's value is drastically changing global trade dynamics. The immediate impacts are being felt most dramatically in Europe.

The drop may benefit America in the short run, even though in the long run there could be stinging political and economic consequences. For example, a falling dollar makes U.S. goods much cheaper when compared to foreign competition, thus boosting U.S. exports and dampening foreign imports. This is why the monthly trade deficit, which came in at a ghastly \$56.5 billion last September, is beginning to improve and U.S. exporters are beginning to reap higher profits.

In Europe, however, things are quite the opposite. The falling dollar is hammering European industry.

The weak dollar means that European products have become more expensive in America, and consequently Europe is selling fewer goods to, and buying more goods from, the U.S. Thus, Europe is sending more money to America through trade, and America is sending less back to Europe.

But Europe is actually getting hit doubly hard because China loosely links its currency to the dollar. As the dollar has fallen, so has the Chinese yuan—thus, European exports have become more expensive in China too, and Chinese goods have become cheaper in Europe—the result being that Europeans are selling fewer goods to, but purchasing more from China—which means Europe is now losing billions in trade with China. During just the first eight months of 2007, the EU's trade deficit with China ballooned 25 percent.

But it doesn't stop there. Saudi Arabia also links its currency to the dollar. So as the dollar has fallen, so has the riyal, which means more trade losses for Europe. Twenty-one other nations, including Jordan, Venezuela, Belize, Qatar, Oman and Hong Kong, officially link their currencies to the dollar. Additionally, 12 more nations, including El Salvador, Ecuador and Panama, actually use the U.S. dollar as currency. Still more nations have currencies that tend to parallel the dollar's value.

For these reasons, America's dollar problem is the world's dollar problem, and especially Europe's problem. A huge chunk of the world's currencies are depreciating against the euro.

No wonder Europe is getting fed up with the dollar's slide.

"We consider that the euro area is not creating these global imbalances. ... We cannot be the only ones that have to support the burden of adjustment," Joaquín Almunia, European commissioner for monetary affairs, told the Chinese on a visit to Beijing in November. Almunia is not alone; rhetoric from other European leaders confirms that economic conditions are approaching critical levels on the Continent.

The upshot of this trend—which traces back to the falling dollar—is that the nightmare scenario is coming closer to reality.



Trade war alarm bells are ringing.

Signs of Trade War

As European businesses suffer, pressure on politicians to take legislative action to protect trade is intensifying. Airbus boss Tom Enders said the dollar's fall is a "life-threatening" event for the company. France-headquartered Airbus, the world's biggest plane maker, loses about €1 billion (US\$1.5 billion) for every 10-cent rise in the euro versus the dollar. Munich-based BMW says it lost €666 million (US\$972 million) last year because of the weak dollar. Multiply those losses by thousands of other companies across Europe, and the trade losses get huge really quickly.

Even in Germany, a nation whose many high-tech corporations are more insulated against currency fluctuations, tension is mounting. According to Stratfor, Germany is considering a French proposal to levy tariffs under the guise of environmental "green taxes" in order to pressure China to unlink the yuan from the dollar and allow it to rise (Nov. 29, 2007).

"The fact that the Chinese currency is depreciating against the euro ... is creating a lot of problems for the European

Buying Up Corporate USA

SOVEREIGN wealth funds (SWFs) are the new rage by which foreign governments are converting their depreciating U.S. debt holdings (e.g. U.S. treasuries) into investment funds to take advantage of other investment opportunities.

China holds around \$1 trillion worth of these depreciating dollars and has set up its first SWF, which is currently capitalized at \$200 billion. Middle Eastern nations also hold hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars. So do the Russians.

It is estimated that current SWFs hold \$2.5 trillion available to be deployed. Just China's "\$1 trillion on hand ... is enough to buy a controlling interest in all 30 of the Dow Jones industrials," noted the *Daily Reckoning* (May 29, 2007). That includes Boeing, ExxonMobil, Citigroup, General Electric, Microsoft, JP Morgan Chase, Wal-Mart, General Motors, plus 22 more of America's biggest and best companies.

Because the dollar has fallen so much, American companies and infrastructure have become favorite targets of these SWFs.

And the Europeans—well, they have a euro that now buys one and

a half dollars, which is 80 percent more than it did at its low seven years ago. So they get a pretty good deal by investing in the U.S. too.

During 2006, foreigners spent \$147.8 billion snapping up U.S. businesses, up 77 percent from 2005. According to the United States Department of Commerce, Europeans led the way, spending an astounding \$109.9 billion—almost twice what they did in 2005.



Stearns Cos. In May, the state-controlled Saudi Basic Industries Corp. agreed to buy the plastics unit of General Electric Inc. (an essential supplier to the U.S. military). The list goes on and on.

All told in 2007, as of this writing, some 800 U.S.-owned companies were subject to foreign buyouts.

ROBERT MORLEY

economy, and we could have as a result protectionism occurring in Europe," Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the Eurogroup of finance ministers, said in Beijing, while on the same trip as Almunia in November.

But perhaps the strongest warning about a looming trade war comes from French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Sarkozy, in a speech to the U.S. Congress on November 7, warned that America risked triggering "economic war" with Europe if it attempted to *devalue* its way out of economic trouble by allowing the dollar to plunge in value. "Those who admire the nation that has built the world's greatest economy and has never ceased trying to persuade the world of the advantages of free trade expect her to be the first to promote fair exchange rates," Sarkozy said. "The dollar cannot remain solely the problem of others. If we're not careful, monetary disarray could morph into *economic war*. We would all be its victims."

Protectionism

At the same time, the falling greenback, while stimulating U.S. exports, is also increasing calls for trade protectionism from within America.

When the dollar falls, U.S.-denominated assets become cheaper—and foreigners are now beginning to take full advantage of the markdown sale in America—not just of toys and trinkets, but of strategic assets as well. Europeans, Chinese and Arabs are grabbing U.S. infrastructure at a rapid pace. Stuffed to the brim with

depreciating dollars, many investors are seeking to spend them before they become worth even less (see sidebar).

As America has witnessed the foreign nationalizing of corporate USA, voter angst has grown, and politicians are feeling pressured to stem the tide. This election year, demands to legislate protections for American assets and trade are sure to increase. Calls to levy tariffs, duties, quotas, subsidies, and even to outright prohibit foreign ownership, are almost sure to abound.

And perhaps with good reason. America is losing billions in trade each year. Furthermore, how much strategic infrastructure does America want to be foreign-owned? When times are good and everyone is at peace, foreign ownership of strategic industry may pose little immediate threat. But given the rising global tide of anti-Americanism, is it wise for America to allow foreign nations to have unrestricted access to American assets?

Then again, trade protectionism in America or Europe could easily escalate into an economic arms race where nations turn inward and erect barriers to benefit local businesses and prevent foreign entities from competing. In such a scenario, global trade would immediately begin to regress, taking stock markets with it.

America does not need a trade war, especially now. The economy is already teetering on the edge of recession. America's manufacturing industry is atrophied, the housing market is collapsing, the banking industry is experiencing losses that will

probably number in the hundreds of billions of dollars, and real inflation is far higher than government statistics suggest. A trade war would quickly put an end to any short-term economic stimulus that a falling dollar might provide.

Yet, Bible prophecy shows that America will be besieged by trade war in the near future.

In a letter dated May 16, 1985, Herbert W. Armstrong, then editor in chief of the globally circulated *Plain Truth* magazine, described this prospect: "Slowly but surely events are working toward a coming conflict between Europe and the United States as prophesied in the Bible. U.S. Secretary of Labor William Brock has issued a public statement threatening a trade war between the United States and Europe. All these events are tending to drive Europe and the U.S. further and further apart. Trouble is definitely on the horizon as God has forewarned in prophecy."

Leaders in America and Europe say they don't want a trade war. Most economists and business leaders don't want trade war, and the average worker certainly doesn't want trade war—after all, nobody likes to be reduced to begging for clothes or to being unemployed. With trade wars, everybody loses. The question just becomes who loses the most.

The Bible says trade war is coming—eventually resulting in the worst depression America has ever witnessed. Evidence of it is mounting. Will the falling dollar be the trigger? ■

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A photograph of three students sitting on a brown couch. In the foreground, a young man in a blue polo shirt and a young woman in a red shirt are looking at books and papers. A third student, a young man in a light-colored polo shirt, is leaning over the back of the couch, also looking towards the camera. The background shows a pool table.

A Day in the Life

**A personal glimpse into the
Herbert W. Armstrong College
experience. BY PHILIP NICE**

HI, I'M A HERBERT W. Armstrong College student. If you'd like to peek into what life is like at Herbert W. Armstrong College, come with me!

My alarm clock rings at 5:45 a.m. I put on my running clothes and go downstairs, where a couple of my bed-headed dorm mates in college hoodies are already leaving for the workout room. One of my buddies is up early reviewing his speech assignment over a cup of coffee. I pat him on the back—I know what that's like—and jog out the door for my run.

I love this time of day, when all sound is muted, when the cool, still air hasn't yet warmed and stirred and the darkness is only beginning to fade to light.

A pair of runners pass me with a wave. From across campus floats the muffled sound of the maintenance shop door rolling up, mixed with assorted animal sounds from the ag department.

After about 40 minutes, I'm back to the dorm right around daybreak, time enough for personal prayer time and getting ready for the day—and, if I'm really efficient, breakfast.

Our first class starts at 8 a.m.: Principles of Living. That name summarizes the core curriculum at this college: learning the fundamentals of how to make life work.

Students at other colleges are learning something much different. Society's gigantic educational establishment emphasizes ultra-specialized instruction for increasingly narrow fields of study, almost exclusively career-based. The ultimate goal—assuming it's not just to party and breeze through a dumbed-down curriculum—is to earn a lucrative living and/or to develop an imperious intellect.

What I would call a materialistic mass-production approach is one of the principal things that turned me off to the other colleges and universities I looked at as a high school senior. Students there aren't taught to analyze, question and prove the institution's educational doctrine as much as they're taught to just memorize it. I also was not as interested in holing up in a career specialty as I was in a broad, well-rounded education: learning how to live, how to think, how to reason, how to act—becoming a different, and better, person altogether.

And I had some questions.

Questions that need answers. Questions that our academic system—descended from Oxford, the University of Paris, the University of Salerno and, ultimately, way back in the day, Plato's pagan Acad-

emy—just does not and cannot answer. Questions it ignores altogether.

I guess I can't blame it. They are hard questions.

But I have to know *why*. We are living in an information age knowledge explosion. Knowledge is everywhere. So *why* haven't we learned to solve our problems? We put men on the moon, but people on Earth still starve to death. *Why?* We still war against each other and murder each other. *Why?* Human government, industry, business, culture and education are unsalvageably corrupt. *Why?* Why do religions, of all things, inspire people to kill each other? *Why* is our world so selfish? And *why*, despite the best efforts of our wealthiest and most intellectual college graduates, is it getting *worse*, not better? *Why* is there no *hope*?

That's the thing I keep coming back to: Education has not *solved our problems!* For all its knowledge, it has provided no real solutions!

What I really want to know is, *why are we here?* What is the purpose for my life?

I can't accept that my ultimate potential is to get a degree, a suburban palace and an expensive SUV and maybe dazzle my circle of acquaintances with my intellect. There has to be more.

But every other college pretends those questions *don't exist*. That just doesn't work for me; it's not an honest pursuit of truth or excellence or anything else. And I can't accept, "That's just the way it is."

But I don't have to.

At Herbert W. Armstrong College, *those questions get asked*. And, incredibly, they get *answered*.

Inside these classrooms, our faculty asks those hard questions about the world around us. And via that instruction, our own critical thinking and proving of the truth, we find answers. Even more than that, we find *hope!*

If you want to learn much more about that proof and that hope, read the booklet that's named after our college motto: "Education With Vision" (request your free copy).

Herbert W. Armstrong College: More hard questions explored by lunchtime than most universities ask all year!

Now it's time for lunch. After a full morning of theology, history, international relations, speech, science, sociology, economics, computer science, business administration and other classes, we

students head for a nutritious lunch at the college dining hall. Over a main course, salad and the best soups you'll ever taste, we discuss the most thought-provoking things we've studied and what's going on this afternoon with each other—and, believe it or not, faculty members.

Herbert W. Armstrong College students share a common thirst for the answers to life's fundamental questions and proving the true answers.

We are also interested in developing ourselves into better people and better friends, and better serving each other and society in general. We're working on ourselves, trying to remove flaws and overcome our many imperfections.

I mention this because it has at least one obvious fruit at lunchtime. Amid all the chatter and fellowship, nobody gets left out. There are no "weird kids" or unpopular individuals who have to kind of hang around the fringes. No insults, no cold shoulders. If I had to describe it in one word, it'd be *family*.

Speaking of developing the whole person, the p.m. is free of classes but chock-full of other education. Most of us will work our part-time jobs for the rest of the afternoon as part of the work-study program, which enables us to pay for our tuition and other costs as we go. Plus we learn professional skills and gain work experience in mail processing, television production, call center operation, information technology, editorial, accounting, administration and other fields. It also enables us to contribute to the institution that gives our lives meaning and hope!

After dinner, the whirl of activity is, in some ways, just beginning. Intramural sports practices and games, service opportunities, formal events, club meetings, field trips, dating and other activities are all part of the average Herbert W. Armstrong College student's week. Oftentimes all of the above gets squeezed into a short seven days. It's a challenge to cram in our studies sometimes, but that just pushes us to grow more.

There's much more to the average day than I've been able to describe in my short time with you, but I hope this glimpse has shown you what a day in the life of Joe AC is like. I've got an activity I need to get to, but you can always visit us online or in person, and I hope you will! ■

PHILIP NICE is a graduate of Herbert W. Armstrong College.

To visit Herbert W. Armstrong College online, log on to hwacollege.org. To schedule a visit at our Edmond, Okla., campus, contact admissions@hwacollege.org or call 1.405.285.6000.

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

RECENT EVENTS REVEAL Europe's inexorable rise toward superpower status.

The European Defense Agency (EDA) received a massive budget increase as plans to enlarge Europe's power militarily and strategically are pushed forward. The EDA is in charge of forging Europe's fractured militaries into a cohesive whole; any money spent on the EDA, therefore, will strengthen Europe's armed services. The EDA's annual budget grew nearly 50 percent to €32 million (US\$47 million).

Spending on Europe's Galileo project also increased by €2.4 billion in November 2007. As we wrote in 2003, "Major wars will never be controlled from this Earth's surface again! From now on, all major wars will be controlled from space." Europe knows a satellite navigation system is a strategic imperative for 21st-century warfare.

The European Union also took several steps toward unification. One important step was the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon, a badly disguised version of the failed EU constitution, by the 27 EU heads of state on December 13. Now all that remains for this treaty to become binding is for the governments of the member nations to ratify it. In a revealing display of Britain's increasing estrangement from Europe, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown missed the signing ceremony, ostensibly because of a scheduling conflict, **signing the treaty later in the day**, away from the glare of the media spotlight. Facing a British public strongly resistant to the treaty, which Mr. Brown has admitted is a "constitution" or "semi-constitution," the British prime



minister's inelegant move may have been a half-hearted gesture at recognizing the need to at least partially placate the views of his electorate.

Another victory for European integration came as **Poland**, long a pariah in the EU, enthusiastically came on board with the rest of Europe.

Poland's new prime minister, Donald Tusk, is far more pro-Europe than his predecessor was. Without Poland reaching for the brake, European integration will run a little smoother. Poland now

gets along famously with the EU, and in particular, Germany. For anyone familiar with the propensity Germans have for wanting control of Poland, this is an ominous development.

Europe's next opportunity to test its strength on the world's stage is rapidly approaching. Tension is mounting over the possibility of independence for Kosovo, a

southern province of **Serbia**. Kosovo wants independence; Serbia says no. Europe, especially **Germany**, is ready to back Kosovo. The Russians, however, are on the side of the Serbs. The UN deadline for solving the problem, Dec. 10, 2007, passed with no progress having been made. Kosovo

says it absolutely will declare independence—Serbia, that it will never recognize it. The battle lines are drawn. The ethnic, religious and political cocktail of the Balkans may soon burst into flames once again.

Europe makes no secret of its desire to control Kosovo. "It will be a state entity, which will continue to be under broad international observation," said German diplomat Wolfgang Ischinger. "The NATO troops will continue to be deployed there. A further international presence of the UN and, consequently, of EU, will be ensured."



British Prime Minister Gordon Brown signs the Lisbon Treaty hours after the rest of the EU heads of state.

MIDEAST

DEVELOPMENTS POINT TO the rise of Iran, the isolation of Israel and the weakness of the United States.

Representative of an ongoing turnaround in U.S. policy toward **Iran**, the United States publicly whitewashed Tehran's nuclear activities with the release of its National Intelligence Estimate on Dec. 3, 2007 (see article, page 6). This appears to be a political move on the part of the U.S. as it attempts to formulate an exit strategy from **Iraq** with the help of Iran. An emboldened Iran, for its part, has high hopes of what it will gain: increased influence regionally and particularly in Iraq. At the same time, Tehran is covering its bases by shoring up its relationship with Russia. On December 13, the two





countries signed five agreements to expand economic and trade cooperation.

As America courts Iran, however, it distances itself from its ally **Israel**. America's betrayal of Israel was also seen at the Arab-Israeli peace talks held at Annapolis, Maryland, at the end of November 2007, and the lead-up to them (see article, page 1). The outcome of those talks was an agreement to hold *more* talks. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began their first formal talks in seven years on December 12, which, unsurprisingly, yielded nothing.

Speaking of Annapolis, the fact that certain Arab countries chose to attend again highlighted the growing Iranian threat. "The Arabs have come here not because they love the Jews or even the Palestinians," said one Palestinian official who attended the summit. "They came because they need a strategic alliance with the United States *against Iran*."

While some Arab states are fearful of Iran, others are seeking to jump on the band-

wagon. Most significantly, **Egypt** is warming to Tehran. For the first time since 1979, when the two countries broke ties, a high-level Egyptian diplomat visited Iran on December 12. The Egyptian deputy foreign minister and the Iranian foreign minister held talks on bilateral, regional and international issues. Both sides say such high-level talks will continue. As Bible prophecy points to an Iranian-Egyptian alliance in the end time, we can expect Iranian-Egyptian relations to continue to improve.

At the same time, Egypt showed its lack of support for Israel when **it opened the Rafah border terminal in early December to allow 1,700 Palestinians to travel to Mecca**, in the process facilitating the travel of terrorists in and out of Gaza.



dent, was assassinated December 12 in a car bombing. Stratfor contends that the bombing may have been Syria telling the Lebanese government to hurry the presidential election process and give in to the Hezbollah-led opposition's demands. An

Elsewhere in the region, instability continues in **Lebanon**. The Lebanese government has been at an impasse, lacking a president since Nov. 23, 2007, when President Emile Lahoud stepped down. Politicians from various factions—apparently with U.S. agreement—have endorsed Syria's choice: Gen. Michel Suleiman, Lebanon's army chief. However, political wrangling within Lebanon has prevented his election as of this writing. The head of Lebanese army operations, Brig. Gen. Francois al-Hajj, slated to become the next army chief after the current commander takes over as Lebanon's presi-

alternative explanation, originating from a Lebanese army source, is that the army itself carried out the killing to rein in Hezbollah. Hezbollah had allegedly gained extensive concessions from al-Hajj including guarantees that the army would not disarm the group.

The Turkish military buildup along **Turkey's** border with Iraq has continued in response to increased attacks on Turkey by Kurdish rebels from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The U.S.'s lack of options in containing this situation highlights America's growing geopolitical impotence.

With no real progress being

made by NATO forces in **Afghanistan** against the Taliban, the UK has asked Taliban militants to join in the political process. Both the U.S. and Kabul have tried this tactic multiple times, but the insurgency has only grown in strength over the past two years. Hence, there is little incentive for the Taliban to lay down their arms and negotiate.

The crisis in **Pakistan** continues, with political instability combining with the rise of radical Islamist movements to endanger the whole region and potentially make things far more difficult for Washington. **Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf stepped down as military chief** at the end of



November and assumed his civilian presidency role. General elections are scheduled for January 8. If the political scene undergoes an Islamic shift and if the army divides at some point in the future (a distinct possibility), the situation in the Middle East could go from American headache to nuclear nightmare.

ASIA

WE ARE WITNESSING A great thrust by **Russia** to return to the power and prestige of its Soviet days.

On November 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law the rejection of the Conventional Armed

Forces in Europe Treaty, which limited the number of combat vehicles, aircraft, and heavy artillery that Russia could deploy near Europe.

Russia also deployed naval forces to patrol both the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean on December 5. This is Russia's first naval presence in the Mediterranean since the Soviet era. As *Moscow News* reported, "The naval expedition represents the latest effort by Putin—bolstered by a torrent of oil revenues pouring into government coffers—to breathe new life into Russia's armed forces." At the same time, it is a powerful foreign-policy initiative designed to strengthen its bargaining position with competing nations.

After Putin declared his "moral right" to retain power over Russia, his United Russia party won a 63 percent majority in the Russian parliament in a December 2 election that Western leaders condemned as neither free, fair, nor democratic. By contrast, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the election was "held smoothly" and that the new Russian parliament would "make an important contribution to the development of **China**-Russia relations."

Eight days later, on December 10, **Putin endorsed the ever loyal Dmitry Medvedev as his presidential successor**, thus ensuring that he will play the role of a puppet master and continue to rule over Russia. Qin Gang praised Medvedev as "a good friend of the Chinese people," again taking Russia's side against the West.

Putin's strong-arm tactics are making the European Union nervous. Watch Europe: Its response to Russian ambition is more important than the growing power of Russia itself.

Meanwhile, Putin has extended a friendly hand to **India**.

Loyalist Dmitry Medvedev (left) was the choice of Vladimir Putin (right) to be the next president of Russia.



November 12, he met with Indian President Manmohan Singh to strengthen what Singh termed a "strategic partnership." The result: Russia will sell India additional military arms, the two countries will closely cooperate in a space exploration program, and Russia will aid India in building four nuclear power plants.

China's growing trade surplus with America and Europe has been a major cause of contention. The EU held a trade summit with China on November 28; America held a separate summit with China on December 12-13. The message of the summits was the same: Western leaders are concerned about their growing trade deficit with China and want China to reform its currency policy to curb the problem. Chinese officials told Europe it would reform its currency policy in a gradual, protracted, manageable manner and told America not to blame its economic problems on Beijing.

The Chinese are expanding their economic influence throughout Asia. China and **Japan** issued a joint statement on December 2 pledging to establish a regional free-trade zone between the two countries, while China and **South Korea** came to a similar agreement on December 10. Japan also signed an economic partnership agreement with the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on November 21 that is set to create a Japanese-ASEAN free-trade zone by 2015. These three agreements follow on from many such free-trade agreements made in Asia in recent times. Watch for the Asian economy to grow far more unified.

LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE his rise to power in **Venezuela** in 1998, **President Hugo Chavez lost an election**: His



constitutional referendum, intended to ensure he would remain president for life, was narrowly defeated. Many outlets reported that Catholic leaders opposed Chavez's proposed changes. This is not the first time President Chavez has been rebuffed by the Roman Catholic Church: In 2006, the pope personally handed him a stern letter counseling him to have second thoughts about the direction

in which he was taking his country. While Chavez is certainly not down and out, his continued victories are no longer assured. More importantly, this event showcases the global reach of the Vatican.

In **Argentina**, President Néstor Kirchner handed over the reins of power to his successor: his wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. Part of her plan for the country is to strengthen the Mercosur trade union, a group whose admittance of Venezuela and consideration of Cuba as a member illustrates declining U.S. influence in the region.

Latin American leaders started a bank on December 9: Banco del Sur, intended to compete with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Headquartered in Caracas, the bank is an innovation of Venezuelan President Chavez and is supported by **Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Ecuador.**

In **Mexico**, the main story continues to be unbridled violence. On November 29, heavily armed men killed former Mayor Juan Antonio Guajardo Anzaldúa, two federal agents serving as his bodyguards, a customs official and two others. This high-profile case drew attention to Mexico's spiraling gang problem.

On December 6, the EU signed a preliminary agreement with several African countries, including **Zimbabwe**, for duty-free and quota-free access to goods. Britain's Gordon Brown shunned the conference due to the presence of **Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe**, but



business between the EU and African nations continued ahead with the human rights violator and without British representation.

In the first such deals since the 1970s, **Libya** signed natural gas agreements with four companies on December 9: Royal Dutch/Shell, Gazprom, Algeria's Sonatrach and Poland's Polski. Libya's energy potential is such that the companies signed deals with no profit potential in the hopes of first access to such deals later. Thus continues the growing competition between Europe and Russia to secure energy supplies. Also, with no U.S. companies getting in on the ground floor, this points to the possibility of America being shut out in the future.

Two car bombs exploded in the capital of **Algeria** on December 11, killing 37 people and injuring nearly 200. The attacks, targeting security



forces and Western installations, are the latest in a string of attacks by Algeria's leading Islamic terrorist organization dating back to March 2004. They call into question the ability of the country's security forces to contain the ongoing Islamist insurgency despite a crackdown by the military-dominated state. In *The King of the South*, Gerald Flurry details the possibility of Islamists taking control of Algeria and bringing that country further into Iran's sphere of influence. Continued destabilization by Islamic forces could increase the potential for such an event.

ANGLO-AMERICA

A SEPTEMBER 2007 U.S. Defense Department report warns that adversaries like India, China and Russia are "supplying the key hardware and software on which the U.S. bases its military and economic superiority. ... Bottom line: globalization of software development, where some of the United States adversaries are writing the code the DoD will depend upon in war, creates a rich opportunity to damage or destroy elements of the war fighter's capability."

The U.S. government continues to rack up debt by \$1.4 billion per day. That's \$1 million per minute and \$9.13 trillion total. Factoring in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security liabilities, the government owes \$50 trillion—\$166,000 per American—and it is struggling to pay just

the interest on those bills.

In a report titled "Recession Coming," Morgan Stanley states, "A mild recession is now likely," pointing to soaring defaults and delinquencies, dwindling credit availability, falling home prices, and an auto industry in "liquidation mode" (Dec. 10, 2007). Consumers could be facing what Morgan Stanley calls "a perfect storm."

Britain gave China's \$200 billion sovereign wealth fund the green light to invest in the UK. Britain has more incoming foreign direct investment than any other European nation. Strategic industries and national security could be affected.

Also in Britain, children are growing estranged from their fathers, according to a BBC affiliate poll. The study shows one quarter of British children do not consider their father an immediate family member, and only 11 percent would turn to their father "if something went wrong," while 76 percent would go to their mum. The survey also showed more boys look up to soccer players as role models (25 percent) than look up to their fathers (14 percent). This is only the latest in a litany of evidence pointing to the catastrophic decline of strong traditional families occurring in Britain.

Band of Brothers

Why the strong ties that once bound together the United States, Britain and Israel are coming unraveled—and where this will ultimately lead. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WHEN WILLIAM BRADFORD stepped off the Mayflower in 1620, he borrowed his New World proclamation from the Prophet Jeremiah: “Come let us declare in *Zion* the Word of God.” For Bradford, Michael Oren writes in *Power, Faith, and Fantasy*, *Zion* “was not the old Promised Land of Canaan but its new incarnation, *America*.”

William Bennett made a similar point in *Our Sacred Honor*: “Like the Jerusalem of old, America’s ‘New Jerusalem’ was to become God’s promised land to the oppressed—an example to all humankind.”

In *Character of Nations*, Angelo Codevilla says there was a tendency for “Americans to equate themselves with the children of Israel.”

The first American statesman to draw a parallel between the biblical Exodus and the establishment of colonial America was Benjamin Franklin. In *Joshua’s Altar*, Milt Machlin said Franklin described early America as “God’s new Israel.” Franklin’s grandfather had said the people of New England “are like the Jews—as like as like can be.”

This *New Israel* concept became especially poignant during the Revolution, Oren wrote. “Yale president Ezra Stiles noted that the number of Israelites present at Mount Sinai—3 million—was precisely the population of the United States at the time of independence,” he wrote. “Harvard’s Samuel Langdon suggested that ‘instead of the 12 tribes of Israel, we may substitute the 13 states of the American union.’”

With this idea rooted in the minds of leading educators of the day, one can see

why early America avidly supported the prospect of a Jewish state in Palestine.

U.S. and British Support

“The proposition that the United States should actively assist the Jews in returning to Palestine was neither new nor, in the antebellum period, considered especially radical,” Oren wrote. Neither was it seen as unusual across the Atlantic, in Britain, where the movement for Jewish statehood found its origin. In 1840, the British foreign secretary strongly urged the Ottoman government to encourage European Jews to “return to Palestine.” In 1853, British politician and restorationist Lord Shaftesbury argued for a Jewish state in Palestine by coining the phrase, “A land without a people for a people without a land.”

The *New York Times* heartily endorsed British initiatives to encourage wealthy Jews to buy land in Palestine with a view toward eventually building an independent state. “So much has been said for generations of the Jews regaining possession of Jerusalem,” the *Times* wrote on Jan. 20, 1879, “that it is agreeable to think that they are likely to do so at last. *They certainly deserve Jerusalem.*”

After returning from a tour through Palestine in 1888, American evangelist William Blackstone began work on a petition for Jewish statehood, which he submitted to President Benjamin Harrison in 1891. The “Blackstone Memorial,” as it was called, carried signatures from more than 400 prominent American businessmen, clergymen, journalists, politicians and educators, including John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, Cyrus McCormick, Speaker

of the House T.B. Reed and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Melville Fuller.

Why not give Palestine back to the Jews? the petitioners asked the president. “According to God’s distribution of nations it is their home, an inalienable possession from which they were expelled by force. Under their cultivation it was a remarkably fruitful land sustaining millions of Israelites who industrially tilled its hillsides and valleys. They were agriculturists and producers as well as a nation of great commercial importance—the center of civilization and religion.” Blackstone urged President Harrison to use the influential power of his office to arrange for an international conference to consider the Jews’ claims to Palestine as their ancient home.

Of course, there were those who opposed Jewish statehood for various reasons. But without question, the United States and Britain were the two most ardent supporters of a new homeland for the Jews. Yet, even with the support of a worldwide empire and a fledgling superpower nation, the Jews may still have been without a home had it not been for the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Europe which resulted in a massacre that overwhelmed the world with horror.

The Foundation of Zionism

As a young reporter for a Viennese newspaper, Theodor Herzl was in Paris in 1895 covering the trial of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus. Like Herzl, Dreyfus was Jewish. An unknown officer in the French Army, Dreyfus had been wrongfully convicted of espionage. Before exiling him to a South American island, the French Army, rife with anti-Semitic fervor, subjected Dreyfus to public

humiliation before an angry mob in Paris.

Herzl witnessed the spectacle. “Kill the Jew!” the mob shouted. A shock wave rolled through Herzl’s being, Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre wrote in *O Jerusalem!* “It was not just for the blood of Alfred Dreyfus that the crowd was clamoring; it was for his blood, for Jewish blood. Herzl walked away from that spectacle a shattered man; but from his anguish came a vision that modified the destiny of his people and the history of the 20th century.”

A year later, Herzl published *The Jewish State*. A year after that, he founded the World Zionist Organization (wzo). The Zionist movement had begun. Herzl had become firmly convinced that Jewish integration into Europe simply would not work. Emigration was the answer. He wrote, “The Jews who wish for a state will have it. We shall live at last as free men on our own soil, and die peacefully in our own homes.”

“Churchill and the Jews”

During the First World War, Zionists wanted the British to conquer the Holy Land and then help to establish a Jewish state. A brief letter authored by Foreign Secretary A.J. Balfour in November 1917 proved to be one giant leap on the path to statehood. Later known as the Balfour Declaration, it asserted that the British government viewed “with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” and would “use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object.”

British forces entered Jerusalem one month after Balfour’s letter. A year later, on Nov. 11, 1918, the war ended, signaling the beginning of a massive Middle East makeover. Because of promises Britain also made to the Arabs during the war, the task of identifying borders for a new Jewish state proved to be very difficult, as many Arabs viewed the Balfour Declaration as a betrayal of British trust.

On Feb. 8, 1920, Winston Churchill wrote, “We owe the Jews in the Christian revelation a system of ethics which, even if it were entirely separated from the supernatural, would be incomparably the most precious possession of mankind, worth in fact the fruits of all other wisdom and learning put together.” Later, he wrote that because of Britain’s conquest of Palestine, the UK had “the responsibility of securing for the Jewish race all over the world a home and a center for national life.”

The following year, after Lloyd George appointed Churchill as secretary of state for the colonies, one of his primary responsibilities was to lay the foundation for

a future Jewish state, a task that was often met with stiff opposition from members of Parliament. Between Churchill’s appointment and the beginning of World War II in 1939, more than 400,000 Jews legally immigrated to Palestine.

In his meticulously researched new book, *Churchill and the Jews*, Martin Gilbert notes how Churchill not only sounded the alarm about Nazism during the wilderness years of the 1930s—he warned of grave danger for the Jewish race. In a parliamentary speech in 1933, Churchill said, “There is danger of the odious conditions now ruling in Germany being extended by conquest to Poland, and another persecution and pogrom of Jews being begun in this new area.” He made that statement a full six years before World War II started! Gilbert notes, “At a time when most British politicians doubted Germany’s aggressive intentions, Churchill’s forecast seemed far-fetched. Within 10 years it had come to pass.”

As is now thoroughly documented, the more Churchill warned of the oncoming Nazi nightmare, the greater the ridicule and scorn he withstood, especially coming from Neville Chamberlain and his party—those who were assiduously courting “peace” with Adolf Hitler. Making matters worse for Churchill, right on the eve of the war, the British government laid

Until very recently, the U.S. and Britain have provided strong support and aid for the establishment of the Jewish state and its continuous right to exist. Like a band of brothers, these three nations have historically worked together to protect one another’s strategic interests.

out a restrictive policy for Jewish immigration to Palestine which would ensure that the Arab population would permanently remain in the majority. Churchill, Gilbert wrote, saw the 1939 “White Paper” as a “betrayal of the Balfour Declaration, and a shameful act of appeasement.”

Even while World War II was raging across Europe, Churchill found occasion to lambaste what the Jews referred to as the “Black Paper.” Of course, of much greater concern in Churchill’s mind at that time was the fate of millions of Jews in Europe. Writing to Foreign Secretary

Eden in 1944, Churchill said, “There is no doubt that this is probably the greatest and most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world, and it has been done by scientific machinery by nominally civilized men in the name of a great state and one of the leading races of Europe.”

By the end of the war, *two thirds* of Europe’s Jewish population had been exterminated. Many survivors of the Holocaust were understandably dismayed at the thought of returning to their home countries. Worldwide support for Jewish statehood increased immensely as the full force of the genocidal nightmare set in. “The Jewish people have waited till the end of the German war,” wzo President Chaim Weizmann wrote to Churchill in 1945, “not only for their deliverance from Hitler, but also from the injustice of the White Paper of 1939.” But with its power and influence already in rapid decline after the war, Britain lacked the means and the will to follow through with its commitment to Jewish statehood.

In response to Weizmann’s request, Churchill wrote, “It has occurred to me for some time ... that it might be a solution of your difficulties if the mandate were transferred from Britain to the United States, who, with her great wealth and strength and strong Jewish elements, might be able to do more for the Zionist cause than Great Britain.”

Truman and the Jews

Not unlike William Bradford and Benjamin Franklin before him, Harry S. Truman’s worldview was rooted in the conviction that God had a hand in establishing the American nation. “God has created us and brought us to our present position of power ... for some great purpose,” Truman said. His religious upbringing, Oren notes, also helped him formulate his Middle East policy. According to David McCullough’s biography, it was Truman’s reading of ancient history and the Bible that “made him a supporter of the idea of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.”

And not just the Jewish state, Oren points out—Arab countries too. “Many Middle Eastern countries, including several that would someday rank among America’s deadliest opponents, owed their independence to the United States.” When Winston Churchill negotiated with Arabs about carving out a sliver of territory for the Jews, he was also quick to point out how much the Allied powers had done to help establish independent *Arab states* in the region, like Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Arab nations,

however, would not accept the establishment of Israel in their neighborhood.

Many in America, however, did—particularly in the wake of the Holocaust. In 1947, surveys showed that Americans favored a Jewish state by a margin of two to one. With British forces exhausted from maintaining “peace” in Palestine, President Truman picked up where Churchill left off. “Americans transformed themselves from largely passive observers of Middle Eastern affairs into the region’s primary architects and arbiters,” Oren wrote.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181 by a 33-to-13 margin. It called for the withdrawal of British forces and the formation of independent Palestinian and Jewish states—the two-state “solution” the Arabs rejected from the beginning.

On May 14, 1948, the day British forces withdrew, the State of Israel declared its independence and the United States immediately recognized its existence. Within hours of Israel’s declaration, five Arab armies declared war on the world’s newest state.

The Jews have been fighting for their survival ever since. They have yet to attain Herzl’s goal of being able to die peacefully in their own homes. Until very recently, the United States and Britain have provided *strong* support and aid for the establishment of the Jewish state and its continuous right to exist. Like a band of brothers, these three nations have historically worked together to protect one another’s strategic interests.

The Lost 10 Tribes

From beginning to end, the Bible is a

book primarily about Israel—physical and spiritual. (Spiritual Israel refers to God’s Church.) Ancient Israel was composed of 12 different tribes (Genesis 49:28). Many today falsely assume that *all* 12 tribes are essentially Jewish, undoubtedly because the name “Israel” has been associated with the Jewish state since 1948. Prior to that time, however, it was more generally understood that the Jewish people comprised only *one* of the 12 tribes of Israel. Oren brought out an interesting point in his book about the name selection for the Jewish state. Before choosing *Israel*, other names considered included *Zion*, *Herzliya* and *Judah*. Since the Jews make up one tribe of Israel, it’s not necessarily wrong to refer to them as Israelites. The error comes in assuming that *all* Israelites are Jews. Indeed, as any student of Old Testament history knows, *most* Israelites are NOT Jewish.

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of *many* nations, not just one (Genesis 17:1-6). The Jews have never been more than one nation. Furthermore, of all 12 tribes, God promised the greatest physical prosperity to Joseph, not Judah. Joseph was to receive the birthright promises (1 Chronicles 5:2). Judah received the “scepter” promise of a royal line beginning with King David and eventually culminating in Christ. Jesus was Jewish. He was not of the tribe of Joseph, which was to receive the super-abundant prosperity and power of the birthright promises.

The Bible reveals that the 12 tribes of Israel divided into two nations after Solomon died because of the burdensome taxes initiated by his successor, Rehoboam (1 Kings

12). Most of Israel instead chose to follow Jeroboam. As it says in 1 Kings 12:20, “... there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah [or the Jews] only.”

Verse 21 reveals that the tribe of Benjamin also went with Judah. At this critical juncture in history, the 12 tribes of Israel became two separate nations. Those who followed David’s line included Judah, or the Jews, and Benjamin (and also part of the tribe of Levi, which other scriptures prove). They became known collectively as the NATION of Judah.

But the majority of Israelitish tribes, including Joseph, which was to receive the material, birthright promises, followed Jeroboam and became known as the NATION of Israel.

This is the most obvious, yet *overlooked* fact of biblical history. Anciently, the name *Jew* did not apply to the nation Israel. In fact, the first time the term “Jew” is used in the Bible, it is within the context of Jews fighting *against* Israelites! (2 Kings 16:5-6).

The history of each of these two nations, ancient Israel and Judah, was quite different, yet they both ended in disaster. 2 Kings 17:22 says, “For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them.” These sins continued through nine different dynasties, despite constant warning from God’s prophets. God then removed the Israelites out of His sight, allowing them to be carried away captive into the land of Assyria—never to return again to Palestine (verse 23). That captivity began in 721 B.C.

After Israel was taken captive, *Judah remained in Palestine* for more than 100 years

Road to the Jewish State



WINSTON CHURCHILL said the UK had “the responsibility of securing for the Jewish race all over the world a home and a center for national life.”

HARRY TRUMAN, because of his reading of history and the Bible, was “a supporter of the idea of a Jewish homeland in Palestine,” according to his biographer.



INDEPENDENCE On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence, and the United States immediately recognized its existence. Independence would not have been possible without the aid of Britain and the United States. At right, Jews celebrate the creation of a homeland.

(verse 18). The Jews were eventually taken into captivity as well, but not by the Assyrians—they went into Babylonian captivity. At that point, none of the original 12 tribes of Israel resided in Palestine. Yet the book of Ezra shows that 70 years after Judah's captivity, a Persian king allowed a group of Jews to return to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the temple. These people were of the nation of Judah (Ezra 1:5; 2:1).

Israel, on the other hand, was lost from world view, becoming known as the “lost 10 tribes.” Even though most in this world have not correctly identified these lost tribes, there was a time when it was at least more commonly known that they were definitely *not* Jewish. Oren, for instance, says many American colonists traced the lineage of Native Americans to the lost 10 tribes.

A search through the archives of the *New York Times* reveals how much speculation there was during the 1800s about where the lost 10 tribes migrated after their Assyrian captivity. Consider this headline from 1885: “Afghans and Their Home—Are They Descendants of Israel’s Lost Tribes?” The *Times* wrote, “A very ingenious attempt to connect the Afghans with the 10 lost tribes of Israel was made by Sir G.H. Rose, in a pamphlet issued 30 odd years ago. The Old Testament was abundantly drawn upon to show that the tribes disappeared toward the east ...” (April 19, 1885).

Of special significance is that during the same time period the *New York Times* printed numerous articles in favor of the establishment of a

Jewish state in Palestine, there were several other articles containing speculation about where the lost 10 tribes might have migrated to. Clearly, people then knew the lost 10 tribes were not Jewish.

Where, then, did they go? While G.H. Rose thought they might have moved east, there is abundant evidence from the Old Testament revealing that they disappeared *northwest* of Palestine—primarily settling into the northwestern nations of Europe, the British islands and eventually the United States of America!

God, remember, told Abraham he would be the father of *MANY* nations. More specifically, He promised the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, the greatest physical blessings of all—the birthright promises. Manasseh was to develop as one of the greatest and most prosperous nations in history. Ephraim was to develop into a multitude of nations—a world empire that spanned the globe.

In a 1969 article about the work of Herbert W. Armstrong, the *New York Times* wrote, “Another important teaching of the ... movement is that the English and American peoples are the descendants of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh ...” (Oct. 10, 1969). The *Times* estimated that this teaching had more than 2 million adherents in America. This widespread

awareness of the truth about ancient Israel’s lost identity can be attributed primarily to the dispensation of Mr. Armstrong’s most popular work, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*—requested by more than 6 million people during the 20th century! To prove the latter-day identity of the lost 10 tribes, in particular the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, please request your own copy of Mr. Armstrong’s book. We give it away for free.

America, Britain and Israel in Prophecy

My father has written before about how the establishment of Israel in 1948 was a remarkable fulfillment of Bible prophecy. “The Jews are prophesied to *lose* Jerusalem and the rest of their land in the latter days,” he wrote in March 2006. For them to lose their land shortly before the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth, they first *had* to become an established state.

Long before that happened in 1948, the United States and Britain were not only established as sovereign states, they rose to a level of power and prominence the likes of which this world has never seen beginning about two centuries ago. This too was God’s doing, in order that He might fulfill the birthright promises made to Abraham and his descendants—specifically Joseph’s two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

These two world powers, as Winston Churchill noted in his famous “Iron Curtain” speech, have had a very “special relationship.” Midway through the 20th century, that special re-

See **BROTHERS** page 31 ▶



JOHN F. KENNEDY said that “The United States has a special relationship with Israel in the Middle East ... comparable only to what it has with Britain ...”

Meet Australia's New Prime Minister

Australia looks primed to turn its focus away from Britain and America and toward Asia. Here's why this is a dangerous idea. BY JOEL HILLIKER

AUSTRALIANS JUST BOOTED ONE of the world's strongest national leaders and awarded a landslide electoral victory to an untested man with questionable ideas.

Several news outlets described the Nov. 24, 2007, election as a "humiliating defeat" for Prime Minister John Howard. His long political career came to an end as he lost not only at the hands of the Australian electorate but also became only the second prime minister in Australian electoral history to lose his own local constituency in the process.

The Australian press and mainstream media had followed their usual pattern of pointing to social issues to argue for governmental change. They appealed to Aussie liberals to vote for trying to cool the planet down. They urged workers to seek more money from the coffers of Australia's booming commodities markets. Clearly, campaign mistakes made by John Howard and some of his supporters helped Rudd to forge ahead in public opinion. Still, these were among the big issues on voters' minds this election.

In his first few days in office, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd didn't disappoint them. He immediately reversed

Australia's policy on climate change by signing the paperwork to ratify the Kyoto Protocol; he approved a proposal for same-sex unions in the Australian Capital Territory, opening the way for the nation's first homosexual-union ceremonies; he promised to implement workplace "reforms," which will reverse the industrial relations laws Prime Minister Howard put in place to limit the power of trade unions; and he initiated discussions to hasten a formal statement of apology on behalf of the nation to Aborigines for the so-called stolen generations.

Thus we saw outlined the bold course Australia will take in the time ahead: one that panders to political correctness, trashes tradition and denies history.

These same characteristics mark

Rudd's approach in another policy arena certain to have a far greater impact on his nation's future—the policy area that, given the state of the globe today, should have headed the bill in this election. Yet it is in this area that the new prime minister is dangerously untested: international relations.

Prime Minister Howard recognized an important reality: that, given Australia's location at the rump of Asia, the nation's most valuable alliances lie with other nations—though geographically distant—rooted in the same history, culture, religion, language, democratic traditions and national character as its own. Kevin Rudd is far more enamored with the prospect of anchoring his nation to its Oriental neighbors.

This single difference between these two men has enormous implications.

We are about to witness a perilous shift in Australian politics.

Severing Ties With the Crown

One of Rudd's campaign promises was to hold a vote on severing Australia's link with the British monarchy. "We're going to consult the people again," he said, alluding to a failed attempt to do this in 1999. "I think the time will come before too much longer when we do have an Australian as our head of state."

Rudd was speaking of the fact that, right now, Elizabeth II serves not only as the Queen of the United Kingdom, but also as Queen of Australia. Rudd's victory was viewed as a public endorsement of his desire for Australia to rid itself of its ties to the Crown and to become an independent republic. "The Queen faces the chop," ran a post-election headline in the UK's *Sunday Mirror*.

Indeed, when he was sworn into office by the Queen's representative, Governor-General Michael Jeffery, Rudd broke a decades-old tradition by refusing to swear allegiance to the monarch.

It's important to understand what is at stake in this long-running debate.

Throughout its century of existence as a constitutional monarchy, Australia has enjoyed remarkable political stability, and the Crown has been no small part of the reason for that. "The Queen may be a purely formal figurehead," explained Kenneth Minogue in the *National Review* some years ago, "but she constitutes the formal unity of Australia. To be an Australian citizen is to be a subject of the Queen" (Dec. 31, 1995). With remarkable grace, Queen Elizabeth II's presence has drawn together Australia's diverse political—and, in-



ADJUSTING HIS VISION
Kevin Rudd plans to take Australia in a new direction.

creasingly, ethnic—groups into a single, cohesive nation.

Many have lauded the benefits of Australia's present form of governance for taking the best that democracy has to offer and melding it with the safeguards against political corruption inherent in the monarchical system. Prime Minister Howard was one. An avowed supporter of the Queen's sovereignty over Australia, he appears to be the last of his kind with such influence in the government.

The push to separate from the Crown has come mostly from white intellectuals who hate Britain. Arguments center on an apparent need to gain respect among other nations (particularly those in Asia); they rely upon manufactured grievances the monarchy has supposedly caused Australians. As of a few years ago, however, the majority of the public wasn't buying it. Regarding the failed 1999 referendum, Andrew Roberts wrote, "For all that Australia's republicans had long argued that it was offensive to compel newly immigrated Australians to swear

allegiance 'to an elderly Englishwoman, for the most part resident in Berkshire,' in fact many Greek, Italian and Vietnamese-born Australians were not only perfectly happy to do so, but voted in large numbers to retain the Queen as their head of state, rightly seeing her sovereignty as a guarantee of the political stability that they badly wanted in their new home" (*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900*).

But eight years have passed, and it appears attitudes have shifted. A poll conducted by the *Australian* in January 2007 found that 45 percent of Australians would favor decoupling from Britain, compared to only 36 percent who want to keep the monarchy (19 percent are uncommitted). These numbers reflect the increasing degree to which Australians are addled by political correctness, ignorant of their nation's history, and indifferent about anything so apparently outmoded as the throne of Britain.

An organization called Australians for Constitutional Monarchy correctly asserts that becoming a republic would gain nothing in the way of independence—the Queen is already very hands-off in the political affairs of the nation—and lose much in the way of national unity, identity and heritage. The organization's charter calls the drive for governmental change "unnecessary, irrelevant, divisive and distracting."

To take one example, relations with Australia's Aboriginal population are a

festering problem involving thorny issues of sovereignty and land ownership. In the event that Australia becomes a republic and ultimate power shifts away from within a far-off palace and into a politician's office in Canberra, it is not difficult to imagine how the erosion of Australia's formal unity could turn an already ugly situation into a nightmare. Rudd hopes to resolve the issue with a formal apology to the Aborigines, but it is difficult to believe their demands will be satisfied by something so intangible—and so indicative of the government's willingness to appease.

The prospect of republicanism has several such easily foreseeable problems. It is a movement ostensibly intended to increase national pride and patriotism—yet is built on a foundation of contempt for Australia's heritage. To think that a stronger, more united nation can emerge after trashing the very thing that has united

That Australia's new prime minister is eager to turn his back on Britain's monarchy exposes a deep lack of understanding of the importance of this institution to Australia's past, present and future.

Aussies for over two centuries is to profoundly misunderstand human nature.

That Australia's new prime minister is eager to turn his back on Britain's monarchy exposes a deep lack of understanding of the importance of this institution to Australia's past, present and future. (If you are interested, you can gain an excellent start at understanding it yourself by visiting theTrumpet.com to read the *Trumpet's* April 2007 cover story, "The Inspiring Story of Britain's Royals.")

Eroding the Alliance With America

As shallow as Prime Minister Rudd's regard for Britain is, his appreciation for Asia is deep. He once served as a diplomat to China and speaks fluent Mandarin. CNN reported that he "would seek a broader engagement with China that goes beyond the booming energy and resources trade at the heart of current Australia-China relations" (Nov. 22, 2007). In fact, Rudd has stated his goal is to "transform Australia into the most China-literate and Asia-literate economy in the Western community of nations."

Australia's economy has always been based on raw materials. Lately, however, withering drought has rendered much of its agriculture inactive—a huge blow to the economy. But this comes at the tail of another, larger trend: Asia, undergoing an unprecedented economic expansion, is gobbling up Australian resources. Today

we see a longstanding trade relationship with Japan being challenged by one with China, a nation bursting with economic energy. China's demand for Australian raw materials, its iron and steel, its uranium and natural gas, grows every year. On top of that, Russia has also entered the competition, particularly for Australia's iron ore and uranium. Russia's entry as a customer for Australia's yellowcake gives the Aussies three booming Eastern economies—China, India and Russia—seeking their uranium deposits. The rise in commodity prices resulting from this heavy demand has substantially greased the gears of Australia's economy.

Yet there is a danger here. Australia is becoming hugely dependent on raw materials contracts. If a major hiccup were to halt the growth of its Eastern trading partners (like the great East Asian meltdown that happened in the 1990s), much of the eco-

nomical gains that Australia has experienced over the past decade could be wiped away overnight. In the event of a commodity slump, Australia lacks a fall-back position.

Given the thirst for its raw materials from the masses to its north, the question of Australia's national security is one that any responsible government should place at the top of its agenda. Australia simply doesn't have adequate means—in population or military might—to defend its vast territory alone against incursion from the north.

A policy of increased engagement with Asia is apparently meant to head off this potential problem. Of course, the success of this strategy—quite unlike the one John Howard pursued—rests upon faith in the long-term goodwill of nations possessing histories, cultures, religions, languages, governing traditions and national characters that are entirely different from those of Australia.

But the new government proposes to do more than strengthen ties with Asia as it turns its back on Britain and knocks out a pillar of national unity in the process. Another campaign promise the new prime minister has begun working to fulfill is that of withdrawing Australia's highly efficient combat troops from Iraq by mid-2008.

Thus, where Prime Minister Howard became arguably President George W. Bush's staunchest ally in the "war on terror," placing his nation in a strong posi-

tion to receive help from the U.S. in the event of any foreign threat of aggression, the new prime minister has committed himself to doing the opposite.

The wisdom in such a move is highly questionable. The high that Australians are enjoying thanks to the boom in China and greater Asia may well be a fool's paradise. Massive changes are reordering the balance of power in the Pacific. Two powers presently eye each other as prospective replacements for ebbing U.S. power there: Japan—possessing a blue water navy second only to that of America—and China, possessor of most of the Pacific's major sea ports. Both nations carry a huge amount of U.S. debt at present. And watching the foreign policies of these two nations are India, which is rapidly building its own naval force, and Russia, which is revitalizing its rusting Soviet-era hulks and adding new naval hardware to its nuclear fleet.

There's one other factor in the Pacific equation. It involves a power that is firmly entrenched in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean regions—a power that has quietly established a bridgehead in Australia as a launching platform for investment in the great Asian market. The European Union, largely thanks to German investment, is becoming a powerful player in the Pacific. As America's influence in the Pacific shrinks, watch for competition and alliances to build between the main Asian nations and the EU in an effort to fill the vacuum.

Where does all this leave Australia? The simple fact is, without the military strength of the U.S. in the Pacific, the land Down Under could be up for grabs by any alliance of powers to its north. At this crucial time of global political disorder, Aussies can ill afford to turn inward and sacrifice national vigilance for the hedonistic way of life their economy presently enables. Any erosion of American influence in the Pacific region could prove extremely dangerous to Australia—witness World War II.

But the old soldiers who remember past conflicts that were fought over access to raw

materials have almost all now gone to the grave. Australians may still put on a great show of remembering their fallen every Anzac Day, but few remain who remember the circumstances that led to the last great global conflict and its terrifying results.

These are enormous issues to remain

In addition, Howard's "humiliating defeat" may be an early warning signal of which direction the political winds might blow this November on the other side of the Pacific. As in Australia, major U.S. media outlets are pressing hard for a shift toward a more liberal administration.



SECURITY BLANKET
The U.S. Navy in the Pacific

Without the military strength of the U.S. in the Pacific, Australia could be up for grabs by any alliance of powers to its north.

attuned to in the time ahead. Prime Minister Rudd's first year in office will be crucial. Watch, in particular, for any change in the Australia-U.S. alliance that could tip the balance of power in the Pacific against this—up to now—most "Lucky Country."

The Setting Sun

The stands that John Howard took on these matters—foremost among them his alliances with Britain and America, manifested in his commitment to retaining the monarchy and supporting the "war on terror"—became more and more unpopular, and in the end surely contributed in part to his political downfall.

We would do well to remember that. Because the time will come, probably sooner rather than later, when Australia's departure from those positions will become great enough to start having a noticeably adverse effect on Australia's fortunes. As is often the case in politics, what are advertised as the cures for the nation's ills are guaranteed to make them many times worse.

After Australia's election, the *New York Times* gleefully noted that "Mr. Howard's defeat, after 11 years in power, follows that of José María Aznar of Spain, who also backed the United States-led invasion of Iraq, and political setbacks for Tony Blair, who stepped down as Britain's prime minister in June" (Nov. 25, 2007). This sentiment echoes that of so many who are eager to see the Bush administration and its policies go down in flames.

What they don't seem to realize, however, is that we are witnessing the demise of far more than just a single policy or prime-ministership. We are also witnessing the fracturing of a vital trans-Pacific alliance, which will leave both America and Australia the weaker for it. We are, in fact, witnessing the sunset of the Anglo-American age that has characterized our world for two centuries. The Bible is clear in its prophecy of the gathering night that will follow, when other powers rise up to dominate, compete and wage war in the closing days of the age of man. ■

TODAY YOU CAN TRAVEL AROUND the world faster than it took Benjamin Franklin to get from New York to Philadelphia. Ah—*technology*. What a time-saver! But it has its drawbacks too. There are far too many distractions that waste all the time we should be *saving* with modern technology: television, movies, music, concerts, sports events, video games, the Internet. The average American reads *half* a book per year. That's right. Not even one whole book!

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln walked miles just to borrow a good book. He regularly studied the Bible and Shakespeare's best plays. As an American, he felt it essential to study the life of George Washington. He also studied law and eventually became a lawyer. Yet Lincoln never received a formal education. Late in life, he offered this advice to one young man eager to be a lawyer: "It is only to get the books and to read and study them carefully. Work, work, work is the main thing."

Education is more than a college degree. It is a life-long pursuit! As an adult, don't be fooled into thinking everything worth reading should be read before graduation. And as a parent, don't mortgage the future of your children by allowing them to waste their most critical years of development on trivialities. Create a reader-friendly environment in the home. To do so, here are a few helpful hints.

DEVELOP A LIBRARY. Did you know that about half of U.S. households will not invest in one single book this year? It certainly is not for lack of spending power. In 2005, teens alone spent \$159 billion. Not on books, but on snacks, concerts, clothes, video games, movies and CDs mostly. Most people are just not interested in developing a library, because they think reading is boring. They don't

realize that developing a good library is like storing up fine gold.

BE SELECTIVE. Robert Hutchins, former editor of *Encyclopedia Britannica*'s "Great Books" series, said that time is short, but education is long. We only have 25,000 days (on average) in this brief life. Some of us have already spent half or more of our allotted time. Ask yourself, What have I spent my time on reading thus far? Being a *Trumpet* reader already places you in a unique group: one that reads a magazine explaining the true meaning of world events.

Beyond the *Trumpet*, what do you read? What sections of the newspaper do you spend most of your time on? And what about books? With only 86,400 seconds to work with daily, we *do not have time for trash*. French philosopher Ernest Dimnet once said, "Do not read good books—life is too short for that—only read the best." He recommended a personal library of 20 or 30 volumes that you regularly study and refer to.

DON'T JUST READ—STUDY. What good is an extensive library that fills the shelf but not the mind? Study a work so that it becomes part of you. If your book's cover is well-worn, its corners dog-eared and its pages marked like a test you failed in high school, that's the surest sign that you not only got through the book—the book *got through to you*.

The classics—the really deep things of life—will never be *completely* understood. That is why we can read, study and then repeat the process periodically, rethinking things through—feeling it all over again.

Such study is like cracking a tough nut—you apply pressure to the softest spot. At least then you can get inside. Don't worry about understanding every word, even if that is

how you were taught to read in school. Pay attention instead to what you *do* understand—and if that's only 30 percent of the work, that's 30 percent more than you'd have understood by not reading it. Then, when you go through the work *again*, you will be more familiar with the material and will assuredly get more out of it.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, the Apostle Paul encouraged families to develop a lifestyle of peace, quiet and productivity. That's hard to do in today's hurried, noisy society. But it is possible. In verse 10, he encourages us to "increase more and more." Education never stops. Notice verses 11-12: "Also, endeavor to live quietly, attend to your own business, and—as we charged you—work with your hands, so that your life may be self-supporting" (Moffatt). That is not a boring lifestyle. It's efficient and productive. And it allows for reading and studying.

In a way, it's hard not to be a little envious of Benjamin Franklin or Abraham Lincoln. They read and studied great works of literature, history and philosophy, not having to contend with as many time-wasters as we do. On the other hand, they weren't able to benefit from the advancements of modern technology, which puts us in an enviable position too.

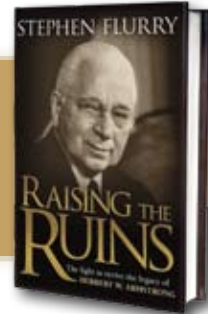
In a way, we can experience the best of both worlds. We can use technology to do greater things in shorter periods of time—and then devote extra leisure time to do more reading. ■

Best of Both Worlds

Finding time to read in the information age.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

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 14th chapter.



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

First Sip of a Bitter Cup

“I believe the church disfellowshipped me unjustly. Mr. Tkach didn’t even talk to me, even when this was the weightiest of all decisions affecting my fate in this church.”

— Gerald Flurry, Letter to Ralph Helge, Dec. 21, 1989

THOUGH I DIDN’T KNOW IT AT THE TIME OF the groundbreaking ceremony on that rainy afternoon, my father and Mr. Amos were en route to Pasadena. Tkach Jr. had called the house that morning, December 7, demanding that my father and Mr. Amos be on a plane to California that very day if they had any hope of retaining their jobs.

After arriving in Los Angeles late in the afternoon on December 7, they checked in at Holiday Inn Pasadena. That night, for over four hours, they went round and round with Joseph Tkach Jr. and Michael Fezell. During that meeting, my father came to see that the situation inside the Worldwide Church of God was actually far worse than he had realized.

My father complained about *Mystery of the Ages* being discontinued and the TV program getting weaker. “So let me see if I understand what you are saying,” Tkach said, dissecting my dad’s comments. “You’re saying that you can run the church better than my father can.” They kept turning it into a personality thing because debating the real issues only exposed their true intentions. But my father stayed on point, persistently asking why *Mystery of the Ages* had been removed, which led to Joe Jr.’s astonishing “riddled with error” outburst.

Suffice it to say, there was no compromise on either side that night. Shortly before midnight, Joseph Tkach Jr.—a man who had been employed by the church for three years—fired and excommunicated my father and John Amos. At his deposition, Tkach Jr. acknowledged that it was entirely his decision to fire these two long-time ministers on the spot. His father, the pastor general of the church, was not aware of the firings until after they had already happened.

Upon leaving Tkach Jr.’s office that night, my father prophetically warned Tkach, “This is the first sip of a very bitter cup you are going to have to drink.” Quite a parting shot from a man who had just been fired! My father also assured

Mr. Tkach that he would be one of the first ones to receive the manuscript, as soon as it was completed and printed.

■ LIKE NO OTHER HUMAN

On the disfellowship notice filed the next day, Tkach Jr. wrote that he fired my father for “heretical doctrinal differences.” (The same reason he gave for disfellowshipping my mother.) At his deposition in 1998, in trying to explain what this meant, he said my father “was meeting with church members and asking them to give donations to him ...” This wasn’t true at all.

Later, he attributed this preposterous assertion to my father: “He claimed that he was being used by God in a unique way, different from any other human ever to have lived ...” As bizarre as that statement is, Tkach repeated it two more times at his deposition. Later, when asked if Mr. Flurry was disfellowshipped for engaging in heresy, Tkach answered, “Well, when someone tells you that they are being used by God in a way that no other human who has ever lived is being used, I would consider that to be a bit on the heresy side.” And later, “Claims that you are uniquely used by God in a role historically different from any other human in all of history, I considered pretty heretical.”

This was Joe Jr., the psychologist, at his best. Of course, my father never said anything like that during their meeting. But this was Mr. Tkach’s *interpretation* of what my dad said. After all, Gerald Flurry criticized the pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God. He wrote a paper in which he set out to explain *why*, from a biblical perspective, the changes were happening. He believed God inspired his paper. *Therefore, he must think he’s the most important man to have ever lived on this Earth!* How ridiculous.

The irony is that Mr. Tkach Jr. has taken great pride in trumpeting the WCG’s transformation out of “Armstrongism” as something that is “unprecedented” in the history of religion. There

has never been an instance in the history of religion where an unorthodox religious sect has transformed itself from a “cult” to a mainstream Christian denomination. Where would the Worldwide Church of God—in fact, *Christianity*—be today without the heroic and historically unique courage of Tkachism?

■ OKLAHOMA CITY CONGREGATION

The same day my father and Mr. Amos traveled to Pasadena for their meeting with Joe Jr., Arnold Clauson, the previous pastor in Oklahoma City, was en route from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Oklahoma City to announce the firing before my father’s congregations. (He actually left for Oklahoma City before my dad even arrived to Joe Jr.’s office.)

On Friday evening, December 8, Mr. Clauson arranged to meet with all the elders and their wives as well as one deacon from my dad’s territory.

On Saturday, Mr. Clauson read the announcement about the excommunication before the Oklahoma City and Enid congregations. According to Clauson, the brethren were “totally shocked” by the news. “[M]ost had no idea anything of this nature was going on,” he wrote to Mr. Tkach Jr. This squares with what Dean Blackwell, sent from Pasadena to Oklahoma City the following week, also admitted—that my dad’s congregations were left in stable condition.

Mr. Clauson did note these two areas of concern that some members had picked up in conversing with my dad and Mr. Amos: “1) Questioning Mr. Armstrong’s literature being dropped from circulation and/or being updated, and 2) the weakness of the *World Tomorrow* telecast.” Later, he wrote that my dad and Mr. Amos “apparently asked several members, especially those who came to counsel about this and that, to go back and re-read *Mystery of the Ages*, *The Incredible Human Potential*, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*, and the *Autobiography*, and then get back to them with comments.”

Imagine that—recommending members read Mr. Armstrong’s most important and effective book. How telling Clauson’s report is. In many ways, the church had already been transformed.

■ RALPH HELGE’S FIRST SIP

On the day of the firing, Ralph Helge wrote my father and demanded that he return any church member mailing lists he may have acquired over the years as a field minister. “Should you fail to abide by the demands contained in this letter within five (5) days, we will have no alternative but to consider filing suit against you and all other persons involved in the removal and misuse of these confidential materials and to seek an injunction against your continued possession and use of these materials, as well as all other appropriate relief, including an award of punitive damages.”

This type of language from Helge is something we became quite familiar with years later in our *Mystery of the Ages* lawsuit.

On Dec. 11, 1989, Mr. Tkach Jr. followed up Helge’s threat by sending my dad a proposed “assistance agreement and release.” He wrote, “As you understand, Mr. Flurry, late last week you were dismissed from your employment as a minister of the

church, disfellowshipped as a member, and your ministerial credentials revoked, because of what the church considers as your adherence to heretical convictions, spreading of the same among members of the church and your refusal to repent thereof. ...

“As you know, your employment was for no set term and terminable ‘at will’ at any time, by either you or the employer with or without cause. According to the practice of the employer, your termination does not entitle you to any type of severance pay or other post-employment benefits.

“As a matter of Christian love, however, the employer is desirous of helping you now that your employment with the employer has ended.”

But before he could receive the “Christian love” offering of \$6,160, my father had to sign off on five conditions. For instance, the WCG wanted written release from any and all possible liability, like wrongful termination. They also expected him to return church stationery and business cards, ministerial manuals, his ordination certificate, all church equipment and furniture, and any written or computer-generated records that pertained to church membership.

On Dec. 21, 1989, my dad informed Mr. Helge that he had decided to reject the \$6,160 “assistance.” He nevertheless agreed to return everything except his computer and his ordination certificate. The computer, he wrote, “will help me in getting future employment.” Regarding the certificate, he said the church had no right to take it. “I believe the church disfellowshipped me unjustly,” he wrote. “Mr. Tkach [Sr.] didn’t even talk to me, even when this was the weightiest of all decisions affecting my fate in this church.”

Mr. Helge responded one week later and said he would discuss the matter with Mr. Tkach Jr. On Jan. 23, 1990, Tkach Jr. sent my dad another release form, only this time, “as a matter of Christian love,” they offered my dad a computer in return for his signature! It was virtually the same form, with much of the same language, only instead of offering the \$6,160 in love, they offered an IBM-compatible computer. My dad decided to keep the computer and the ordination certificate and not sign the release. The WCG did not pursue the matter any further.

It is interesting, looking back, that Mr. Tkach Sr. never once communicated with my dad during this whole ordeal. For the most part, Tkach Jr. and Helge handled the situation. And seven years later, when the WCG filed suit against us over printing *Mystery of the Ages*, Tkach Sr. would again be missing from the equation, having died of cancer in 1995. The two principle players, without question, in the case brought against us in 1997, were Joseph Tkach Jr. and Ralph Helge.

Neither of them would have admitted back in 1989 that the situation they were dealing with was only the first sip of a bitter cup they would have to drink.

■ SMALL BEGINNING

My sister quit her job at Church Administration in Pasadena the day my dad was fired. She flew home the next day, using my father’s plane ticket. My father, in turn, drove home in my sister’s yellow pickup (which had now become the family car). He needed that three-day drive, halfway across country, to sort things out in his mind. So much had happened so fast. There were times when he just parked the car alongside the road so he could get out and walk for a while. On the one hand, he had

never been more discouraged. The Tkaches were ruining the church he had devoted his life to. But he also believed that God had revealed the answer to why these things had happened. It was found within a manuscript that only a handful of people had even seen.

I was at the house the day my dad arrived—Sunday, December 10. (I came home for the weekend from college in Big Sandy after hearing that he was fired.) In waiting for him to arrive, I remember fretting over what I would say and how I could encourage him. When he walked in the door that afternoon, we were prepared to uplift him, as best we could, knowing he had just endured the most difficult trial of his life. Yet it was the other way around: It was actually *my dad* who lifted our spirits. My mom and I, at that point, were technically still associated with the WCG. (My sister severed her ties the day he was fired.) And yet, here was this fired former minister of the WCG encouraging us!

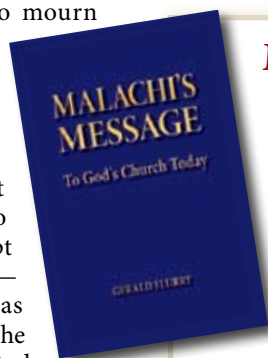
My father, though tired and emotionally drained, had had three days to mourn

the sad state of the Worldwide Church of God. He was now firm in his resolve to do something about the problem—to get his manuscript ready for printing—to warn as many as would listen that the church had drifted

into the Laodicean era. This

realization gave him a great sense of purpose and hope, motivated by relaxed faith—a firm belief that he was doing the right thing.

I left for Big Sandy that night as excited as I've ever been. I was beginning to see that God would not stand idly by and watch His Church fade into nothingness. God always warns in love. And if that warning had to be delivered through my dad, better him than no one.



My father was now firm in his resolve to do something about the problem—to get his manuscript ready for printing—to warn as many as would listen that the church had drifted into the Laodicean era.

■ THE FIRST PRINTING

Two other families who had no prior knowledge of the manuscript immediately offered their support for my father and Mr. Amos. Together, these four families—just 12 people—met for the Philadelphia Church of God's first service on December 16.

On Wednesday, December 20, with the help of two other church members, Tim and Melody Thompson, the PCG became an incorporated entity. Back in Big Sandy, I clearly remember my surprised reaction to the news that the church was incorporated. *They only have 12 people*, I thought to myself. *How could they already consider themselves to be an official church?* At the time, I was planning to leave school at the end of the semester. But I hadn't yet fully committed to the PCG.

When I got home on Thursday, December 28, I could see that this little group of people had been working at a breakneck pace—especially my dad and Tim Thompson. Mr. Thompson entered my dad's typewritten manuscript into a word processor. He, my father and Mr. Amos then worked to proofread, edit and lay out a final version.

I started working my old high school job at Kinko's. Sometime during the second week of January 1990, I took a finished printout of *Malachi's Message* with me to work. Mr. Amos and my dad had accumulated over 900 addresses of WCG ministers and members—the bulk of which were from the areas around Oklahoma City and Columbus, Ohio (Mr. Amos's previous pastoral assignment).

We made 1,000 copies of that first version of *Malachi's Message*—spiral bound, with a brown cardstock cover. Though few would have considered it a book, it was at least a good-quality manuscript. Meanwhile, my dad prepared a personal letter to be included with the books sent to those in his former congregations: "Dear Oklahoma City and Enid Brethren," he wrote.

"So much has been distorted about what I said and did, that I felt this letter was necessary. I feel it isn't asking too much of you to allow me to set the record straight. I hope you will read what I actually said and did.

"Mr. Arnold Clauson was sent here by Mr. Joe Tkach Jr. Arnold had a meeting with the deacons and elders on Friday night, the 8th of December. He related some statements that Mr. Tkach Jr. said about me. (Mr. Clauson did not contact me while he was in Oklahoma City.)

"Here is some of what I was supposed to have said in the December 7 meeting in Pasadena with Mr. Tkach Jr.: 1)

Gerald Flurry is supposed to have said he could 'run the work better than Mr. Tkach does.' Actually, I have never made such a statement in my life. Has any one of you ever heard me say anything like that? 2) Supposedly, I told Mr. Tkach Jr. to 'shut up and listen to me.' The truth is I have never told even a deacon or local elder to 'shut up'—much less one of my superiors. I did not say anything even close to those statements in that meeting. 3) Also, he said that when I send in magazine articles, I demand that they be printed because people must read what I have to say. The truth is I haven't submitted an article in about six or seven years. And I have never demanded that any articles be printed. Why should this even be mentioned now, after such a long time? What is the motive?

"Any of you can verify what was said about me by asking your deacons and elders. But you have probably already heard about these comments I was supposed to have said. The sad part is, these distorted statements filter down into the congregation. I ask you, brethren, in my almost five years of service here in Oklahoma, have statements like that ever been made by me? Did I ever conduct myself in that fashion?

"Mr. John Amos knows those statements about me are not true. So does Jesus Christ . . .

"Would you please read the enclosed, finished message of Malachi. Then you can evaluate me by what I say—not what people think I said. Obviously, I don't want a stained reputation if it can be avoided.

"The Oklahoma City and Enid churches went through terrible turmoil in the 1970s—more than most churches. I desperately wanted to avoid causing you any more problems. But trouble now could mean far less difficulty in the future. I hope

that serving almost five years in this area has revealed my love for all of you.

“The decision to take a stand on the issues presented in the message of Malachi was not taken lightly. Mr. John Amos and I have given up almost any physical security we had. It’s hard on our whole families. As you know, my wife has had serious heart problems for years. Why would we decide to take such a stand?

“Hopefully, no one will think I’m doing this for money. The church offered me \$6,000 ‘assistance’ or severance pay if I met several conditions, and also took my only car (I don’t have a ‘second car’). I do not qualify to receive social security or unemployment compensation. Headquarters called the \$6,000 a ‘love offering.’ That view was not shared by me, so the money was rejected.

“None of this is mentioned for sympathy. I say it only to help you see my true motive. Jesus Christ has promised to provide our needs—so we don’t worry about money (and believe me, we have very little).

“You may think I have a government problem. If you will read the Malachi message—you will see that loyalty to government is my motive for doing this! Then you will also understand the real reason why I was fired.

“Please search the Scriptures as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11) and prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Then pray for God to guide your every step. I believe Mr. Amos and I would die—if we had to—for what is written in the message of Malachi. We desperately want you to make up your own mind—and not let others do it for you. That is a very biblical approach. ...

“[P]lease don’t believe me or any man—believe the Bible.

“Love always, Gerald Flurry.”

With me now added to the original group, 13 of us gathered at the Thompson home Wednesday night, January 10. We packaged 921 copies of *Malachi’s Message*, several hundred of which included the above letter. No one could possibly gauge what kind of response there would be to that first mailing. But we all knew that this was the beginning of something special. Finally, members of the Worldwide Church of God could understand what was happening to their church.

We delivered the bundles to the post office the next day, Thursday. Many of those books from the first mailing landed in mailboxes on or just before Jan. 16, 1990—four years, to the day, after Herbert W. Armstrong died. ■

lationship helped forge the existence of a new *Jewish* state. Early on, according to Martin Gilbert, the Israelis even expressed a desire to join the British Commonwealth. In 1955, Churchill wrote, “Israel is a force in the world and a *link* with the USA.” In 1962, President John F. Kennedy told Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, “The United States has a special relationship with Israel in the Middle East really comparable only to what it has *with Britain* over a wide range of affairs.”

This brotherhood among three peoples—the Americans, the British and the Israelis—has been especially close the last two centuries because of the historical ties that are rooted in the very first book of the Old Testament—and because of *God’s hand in establishing these end-time nations* and RAISING THEM TO UNPRECEDENTED HEIGHTS OF WORLD POWER.

Yet, even those who don’t follow the *Trumpet* can see from the headlines that these three nations are, even now, in the midst of an astonishing free fall from their former positions of world dominance. That’s because, just as God prophesied of our rise to power, He also prophesied of our simultaneous fall.

Notice Hosea 5:5: “And the *pride of Israel* [America] doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and *Ephraim* [Britain] fall in their iniquity; *Judah* [Jewish Israel today] also *shall fall with them*.” America, Britain and Judah *all fall together*.

Immediately prior to this event, the Jewish state—because of a “wound” brought about by the “peace” process—will turn to *Germany* for help (verse 13). And why would Israel, in this end-time crisis, turn to its historic and most notorious enemy instead of to America? It’s because, by that point, *America’s weakened state will be even worse than its own*.

It’s *also* because the historical tie that once bound these brothers together is prophesied to completely unravel. God says in Zechariah 11:14, “Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might *break the brotherhood* between *Judah* and *Israel*.” That has happened. That’s why this magazine asked nearly four years ago, “As the U.S. war against terrorism continues to yield high bills, a steady body count and a booming crop of anti-Americanism worldwide, is it possible that Americans will begin to think, *Why are we making ourselves such a target over that little country* [Israel]?” (March-April 2004).

God has broken the pride that Israel and Judah once had in their power (Le-

viticus 26:19). He has severed the ties between these long-time brothers to the point where we have become more wary of our friends than of our enemies. In the end, as it did anciently, this deep division will end in the loss of our land and captivity for our peoples.

A New State of Israel

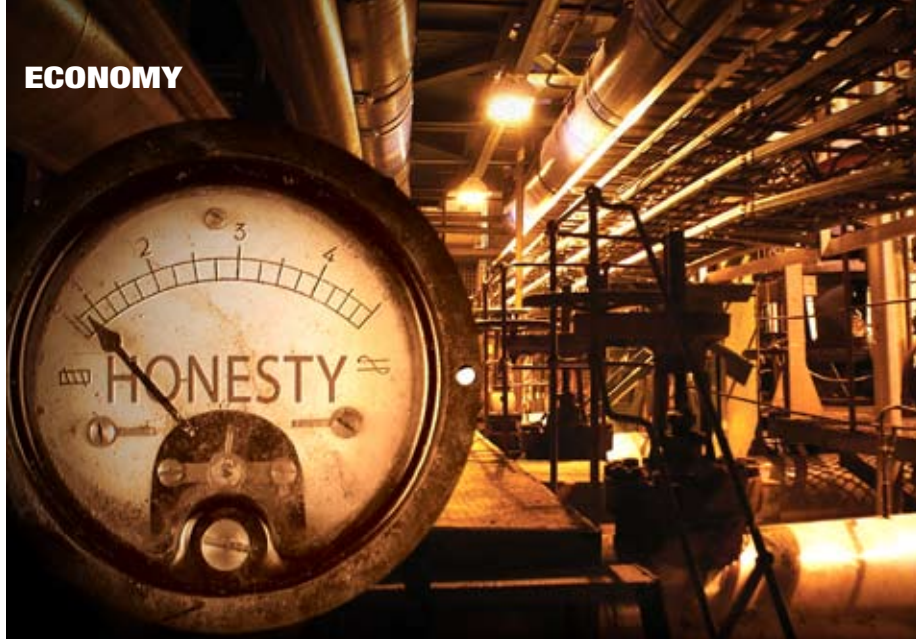
After that, God prophesies of a new state to be established in the land of Israel that will include even those tribes that became “lost” in the midst of Assyrian captivity.

The Prophet Jeremiah, who warned the nation of JUDAH long *after* ancient Israel had gone into captivity, wrote, “At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of *all the families of Israel*, and they shall be my people. ... Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jeremiah 31:1, 10). The prophet also wrote, “My people hath been lost sheep,” but in the latter days, “the *children of Israel* shall come, they and the *children of Judah* TOGETHER, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God” (Jeremiah 50:4, 6).

By this point, the whole world will understand why the historic relationship between these brother nations, until recently, was so special and unique. All will know that while the Jews were indeed Israelites, most Israelites were not Jews. More important still, everyone will know who the other Israelitish tribes are!

Many are familiar with the biblical account of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers and how he later became prime minister of Egypt, next in line under pharaoh. During seven years of prosperity and plenty in Egypt, Joseph responsibly planned ahead, storing large quantities of grain and other foodstuffs to be used during seven years of famine. During the drought, his brothers traveled to Egypt in search of food, where they encountered Joseph—not recognizing him at first. After inducing his brothers to bring Benjamin to Egypt, even against his father Jacob’s wishes, the story culminates in the dramatic revelation of Joseph’s true identity, which prompted the brothers to spontaneously erupt in tears of joy and celebration.

How prophetic this was, Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. “As we shall see, Joseph, in his descendents, shall soon once again have his true identity revealed to his brothers—and to the world.” ■



Our Economy's Boiler Room

Most statistics are just thermometers measuring current conditions. To predict the economy's future temperature, check the boiler room. BY ROBERT MORLEY

AT THE HEIGHT OF A WAVE OF postwar prosperity in January 1920, well-known statistician Roger Babson predicted that America was about to enter “the worst business depression that our generation has ever experienced.”

The late Herbert W. Armstrong, who attended the meeting as a member of the Association of Commerce, related how many of the leading bankers and business executives of Chicago in attendance smirked at the suggestion. Times were good. Through the next few months, business activity continued its boom. But before the end of 1920, the crash Roger Babson predicted did strike—with sudden and intense fury.

How did Babson know a crash was on the way? In his own words, he looked past the oft-quoted economic “thermometers” that measure current conditions, and focused on the fundamental source which determines the future temperature of the economy—what he termed the “boiler room.”

Judging by the housing industry, America's boiler room is losing steam fast.

Disconnect

Last October, new home construction fell 16 percent from a year earlier. New building permits: down 24.5 percent. New home sales: down 23.3 percent. Existing home sales: down 19 percent.

On the East Coast, New York suffered foreclosure rates 51 percent higher last October than in October 2006. On the West Coast, conditions may be even worse. In California, foreclosure rates were up an astounding 213 percent from 2006.

Nationally, the number of unsold homes sitting on the market hovers at its highest level since data has been collected.

Yet amazingly, according to the National Association of Realtors (and its statistical thermometer), “The vast majority of metropolitan areas showed rising or stable home prices in the third quarter with most experiencing modest gains compared with a year earlier” (Nov. 21, 2007).

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) points to national *median* existing single-family home prices as evidence. NAR statistics indicate the national median home price during the third quarter of 2007 was down just a slight 2 percent from a year earlier. The NAR also reports that during this period, 93 out of 150 metropolitan statistical areas showed *increases* in median home prices.

Lawrence Yun, a NAR senior economist, said in an earlier press release that the price trends are encouraging. “Although home prices are relatively flat, more metro areas are showing price gains with general improvement,” he said. “Recent mortgage disruptions will hold back sales temporarily, but the fundamental momentum clearly suggests stabilizing price trends in many local markets” (Aug. 15, 2007).

There certainly seems to be a disconnect between the NAR assessment and the reality on the ground for homeowners across America. Home sales are plummeting, unsold homes inventory is near record levels, banks are tightening borrowing requirements, foreclosures are skyrocketing, and President Bush is organizing a massive homeowner bailout. But the NAR says that home prices are about as low as they're going to go and that most areas are beginning to show price gains.

With so many other statistics pointing to a crashing housing market, how can the NAR remain so optimistic?

The Misleading Median

The NAR isn't alone in painting a confusing picture. Most news sources report a litany of problems facing the housing market, then go on to quote median prices as the indicator that home prices have remained relatively stable.

But prospective home buyers beware: *Median* home prices can be misleading.

The median price means the middle price. By definition, half the houses sold are higher-priced than the median, and half the homes sold are lower-priced.

Relying on simple median values to create a national housing picture means that houses that *don't sell* are excluded from median sale price data. If

the homes that are not selling happen to be mostly lower-priced homes, then the national median price becomes skewed because it becomes the middle number of

GOING DOWN

Housing outlook in October

New home construction **16% ↓**

New building permits **25% ↓**

New home sales **23% ↓**

Existing home sales **19% ↓**

the higher-priced homes that *do* sell. Thus, even if prices fall for most of the houses on the market, the overall median price for houses sold can actually *increase*.

Growing inventories of unsold lower-priced homes in relation to higher-priced homes could be masking the price decline as shown by the *median* price—which is plausible since poorer people usually feel the effects of a slowing economy first, have the most difficulty qualifying for loans, and typically purchase lower-priced homes.

But there are two other big reasons property values are probably much lower than reported.

Phony Property Appraisals

David Nunn, a certified general appraiser based in the Southern Indiana area, gives two examples of how many home prices could be “just plain phony and no one is addressing it.”

One of the houses Nunn recently observed was financed by the Federal Housing Administration and sold for \$106,000 with no concessions reported. This seemed odd, since the house had been on the market for six months and listed for only \$100,000. Nunn e-mailed the house’s listing agent, and found that the seller paid \$1,500 toward the buyer’s cost, meaning that the house sold for \$98,500. How did it get reported as a \$106,000 sale?

Because the *appraisal* came in at \$106,000, the loan agent, with the agreement of the buyer, kicked the loan up to create equity. That was reported as the selling price. The *real* selling price should have been reported as either \$98,500 or \$100,000 with \$1,500 in seller’s concessions.

As a result of such reporting, housing prices are inflated, the market appears to be appreciating, and future buyers pay inflated prices.

Another deceptive factor is concealed false appreciation. For example, a single-wide mobile home on 74 acres was reported sold for \$132,000.

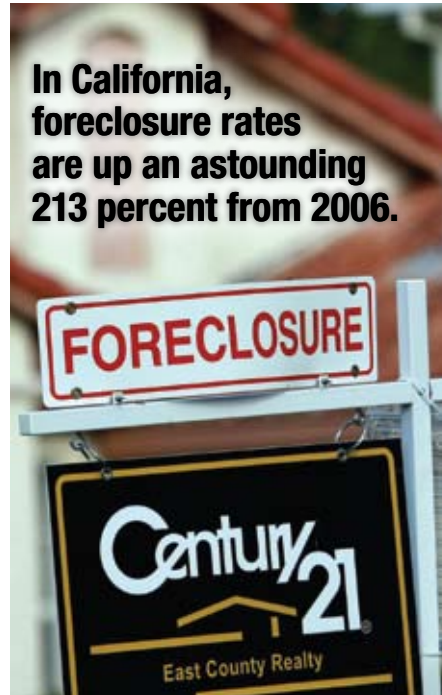
When meeting the seller, Nunn found that the sale included unreported personal property along with the land, including a pickup, a saw mill, a camper, a tractor and more—at least \$25,000 worth of personal property. This was not reported in either the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) figure or sales disclosure statements.

Without the extra goodies, the 74 acres probably would have sold for closer to \$107,000.

As with the first example, these types of transactions can completely distort the values uninformed appraisers place

on similar properties, and consequently the housing market can look more robust than it is in reality.

“The industry has long been guilty of collectively concealing [such] information from ... appraisers,” Nunn said, “and quite frankly, many appraisers act as if they don’t want to know. I discussed the above with an appraiser and he said that as long as the ‘signed’ sales disclosure



In California, foreclosure rates are up an astounding 213 percent from 2006.

statement was in his file, to protect him, he didn’t care.”

In a national survey conducted in October, 90 percent of appraisers said they had felt “uncomfortable pressure” to adjust property values. Although mortgage brokers were named as the leading offenders, real-estate agents, consumers, lenders and appraisal management companies were also indicted. The pressure was much higher than in a similar survey conducted in 2003, when 55 percent of appraisers reported feeling pressured.

In fact, according to Nunn, the whole home purchasing methodology is biased to falsely inflate home values. Home sellers certainly want the highest price they can get. Loan brokers and real-estate agents receive higher commissions on larger sales, and the banks make more money on larger mortgages. “No one in the pipeline has any incentive to want an honest evaluation,” says Nunn. “So the end result is that many appraisers roll over and forget their ethics.”

Here are all the elements—including casual disregard for truth and honesty—

for an approaching housing write-down of huge proportions. Average home values are lower and are falling faster than the oft-quoted statistics suggest.

Examine the Boiler Room

If you want to know the direction of the housing market and the economy in general, look at the underlying fundamentals. That is how Babson knew a crash was on the way!

Mr. Armstrong related what Babson said at a later conference, after the crash, when his opinion carried considerably more weight.

“It is now mid-winter. If I want to know what the temperature is, now, in this room, I go to the wall and look at the thermometer. If I want to know what it has been, up to now, and the existing trend as of the moment, I look at a recording thermometer. But if I want to know what the temperature in this room is going to be, an hour from now, I go to the source which determines future temperatures—I go down to the boiler room and see what is happening down there.

“You gentlemen looked at bank clearings, indexes of business activity, stock car loadings, stock market quotations—you looked at the thermometers on the wall; I looked at the way people as a whole were dealing with one another. I looked to the source which determines future conditions. I have found that that source may be defined in terms of ‘righteousness.’

“When 51 percent or more of the whole people are reasonably ‘righteous’ in their dealings with one another, we are heading into increasing prosperity. When 51 percent of the people become ‘unrighteous’ in their business dealings with their fellows, then we are headed for bad times economically!”

America is facing deteriorating economic conditions, and much of it has to do with dishonesty—homebuyers inflating income statements, realtors pushing sales, lenders abrogating lending standards, credit ratings agencies knowingly overvaluing risky subprime mortgages, and banks marketing overvalued subprime mortgages as safe investments to unsuspecting investors. America’s boiler room is running on the fumes of fraud and greed, and you can’t run on fumes for long.

The National Association of Realtors’ thermometer still indicates that everything is fine, the worst is over, and America has nothing to worry about. But should you rely on what a thermometer is telling you, or what is happening in the boiler room? ■

pleaded ignorance on whether Iran ever restarted it. Israeli intelligence and Iranian dissident sources claim the program only stopped for a short time. Sheer logic argues against the notion that not a single lab in that huge country has moved a muscle toward building weapons in over four years. Iran wants to dominate the Mideast; becoming a nuclear power would do much to advance that goal. *Imagine* how it would bring neighboring states into submission, how it would rally the Muslim extremist faithful, how it would restructure the region's fragile balance of power in Tehran's favor in a swoop! If you want to talk in terms of "cost-benefit" calculations, to Iran's mullahs, *that's a lot of benefits.*

Still, as of now, official U.S. doctrine is that Iran is not a nuclear threat. Thus, expect increased reconciliation between the two nations. Watch for Iran's influence in Iraq to grow—a scenario the *Trumpet* has forecasted for over a decade. In the end, as the U.S. shrinks from its role as a check on Iran, Iran grows in its power as king of the Middle East.

And we shouldn't be *too* surprised if, sometime soon, Iran forces another reputation-crushing reassessment by the intelligence community when it suddenly tests its first nuclear weapon.

But if you read on in Daniel's prophecy, you will see the quick end that will come to this Middle Eastern firebrand. The king of the south appears in end-time prophecy for only a blip—not so much as a power in its own right but more as a catalyst to the rise of a far more formidable power, the king of the north. The king of the south is simply not a superpower that will dominate the world, or even the region, for a generation or better. It is going to be a loud, pushy, violent entity that will create enough havoc and stir up enough alarm that it provokes a real superpower to rise up and wipe it out. When the moment comes that it faces a determined and ruthless enemy, it will be crushed—soundly, swiftly and decisively.

Though the demise of the delusional zealotry of Iran and its allies will introduce a brutal period of world domination by that European superpower, even that empire will meet its end after only a few years. All of these events presage the imminent introduction of a King whose empire will never be destroyed—Jesus Christ, the King of kings! ■



UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am

Arizona, Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

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 WBXT 9:30 am, Sun; WTXL 7:30 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 WCIU 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 WPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KPFX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirkville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KWBR 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

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

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



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, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
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; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFWS 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFWS 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 KQWT 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 KWB 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 WPRR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL 12:00 pm, 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 KWYP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
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 WVVB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVVB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Parkersburg WBWP 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 KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
Alberta, Calgary CICT 12:30 am, Mon
Alberta, Edmonton CITV 12:30 am, Mon
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg CKND 12:30 am, Mon
Maritimes CIHF 12:30 am, Mon
Ontario CIII 12:30 am, Mon
Quebec, Montreal CKMI 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Regina CFRE 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 6:00 pm, Tue

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 WBGP 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 WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
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 KWHB 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 KWVB 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPNX 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 WGXP 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

New stations are added often.

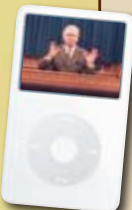
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Nehemiah's Wall Found

I APPLAUD DR. MAZAR'S RESEARCH ("Nehemiah's Wall Found," January). I have stood on what they believe was the site of King David's terrace and walked through the excavation area ... this year. I also walked through Hezekiah's water tunnel—which took me to the Pool of Siloam. What a privilege it is to walk through the history of the people of Israel that I descend from. ... [Dr. Mazar] must know how many of us appreciate her skills and her desire for the truth of the land to be unveiled. Do not listen to the scoffers, Dr. Mazar! ...



Shoshana

Transgender Rights

IT DOES NOT SURPRISE ME THAT SOCIETY is giving rights to these people ("Is Sex Meaningless?," January). ... I find it ironic governments and people force their beliefs on you and demand that you accept it, and yet, if you don't go with the flow, you're deemed intolerant and ignorant. I find it ironic that society is intolerant of Christians and moral-thinking non-Christians, but we Christians are not allowed to be intolerant of godless lifestyles! What a bunch of hypocrites! They say one thing and do another. This is truly a very sick world It makes me wonder how far God will allow things to go before He puts His foot down and says, "Enough already!" ...

Craig—CANADA

WE (THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY) ARE not looking to subvert the norms of society. We are merely looking to make a place for ourselves in society. Each of us has a right to express ourselves as individuals. To say that we haven't the right to live our lives by crossing gender boundaries says also that there should be a line drawn between the two sexes in general. The old-school way of thinking has always drawn a very defined line between the two sexes. ... Bringing the issue of "God" and "religion" into the issue of gender identity is no more than a cheap shot—designed to further close the minds of people who already have very narrow views of the real world. In this article, you state that people with gender identity disorders claim that their birth sex is a mistake, but God doesn't make mistakes. Exactly right! God doesn't make mistakes! Each of us were born for a reason and, in my view, God

put people like myself on this Earth to try and teach those close-minded individuals that God's intentions are for us to live, love and overlook the things that makes each of God's creatures unique. Stop using "Christian dogma" to try and make a point. God teaches us love and acceptance of one another, and the only thing Christian dogma has ever accomplished is creating more reasons to look down your noses at anything you don't understand.

Jennifer—ALABAMA

Subprime Con

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A STORY THAT would put the [subprime mortgage] crisis in perspective and I could find none. But your story ("The Con That Turned the World Against America," November-December 2007) did it. It's the best I have seen that simply and convincingly explains what happened. I knew something was afoot—since the Bellwether gold was climbing and topped \$800. And you might know that greed was behind it all. Also, the average American does not realize that it is the moral principles taught in the Bible that actually keep our economy running smoothly and honestly. Take away biblical virtues of honesty, trust and hard work and there will be no U.S. economy. We will be just a Third World nation—probably worse. That is why the moral collapse in America is so dangerous. ...

I know that you are carrying on the legacy of Herbert W. Armstrong. I remember listening to him in the late 1950s on my car radio as I drove the lonely roads of the nation as a salesman. I did not agree with everything that he said, but I knew that morally speaking he was right on—and, of course, his interpretation of biblical prophecies as they pertain to Europe have proven true. Of course, you know the Bible says you can prove someone is a prophet by just simply seeing if their predictions come true. ...

David A. Farrell—PICAYUNE, MISS.

IT IS A REAL SHAME HOW AMERICA—from members of the government to the neighborhood plumber—has irreversibly sold their soul to the dollar sign—to the devil! Greed, corruption and cynicism have gripped the whole country. ... [T]he American people (with their uncontrollable greed) running after illusory quick riches ... have all contributed to

the future demise of our once-great, poor country. Only the stubbornly blind will disagree with the *Trumpet* when you keep saying that America is marked for insignificance if we all don't stop adoring the dollar sign and start adoring God.

Fifelio Tarzia—CALIFORNIA

Go After Your Family

I ENJOYED THIS ARTICLE ("GO AFTER Your Family," November-December 2007) with advice to fathers so much I just had to drop you a note. A particular question caught my attention: "Are our wives and children living up to their potential?" After having to raise my children on my own, I'd like to question if the fathers and husbands of this world are living up to their potential. Just because you chose not to marry (or are no longer married to) your children's mother does not mean that you can stop being a father. The responsibility and the love for your children should be unconditional. To all fathers out there, I say ... if you share in bringing a child into this world, you need to exploit your potential. Step up to the plate—or be prepared for your child to become one more sad statistic.

Delma Rodriguez—MIAMI, FLA.

I HAVE BEEN READING THE *TRUMPET* FOR over seven years, and I have found your articles to be timely, well-researched, accurate—and some, astoundingly prophetic. ... Several years ago, I wrote a final paper for a college world history class. My instructor was retired from the CIA and was quite knowledgeable on the subject I had chosen. When I told him my topic was about the growth of the EU and the impact this would have on the U.S. economy, he told me: "Don't bite off more than you can chew." After having already read your magazine [for] several years, I felt well versed in the subject and received an A-minus. I was also chosen as the best student in the class (I was then 50 years old) and given a picture of Air Force One from when he had served with President Reagan. This is a testament to your accuracy. Thank you for making this wonderful magazine available to your many readers.

TAHLEQUAH, OKLA.

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
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Edmond, OK 73083

Can Joe Biden Save the World?

American politics suffers from a raging epidemic of braggadocio. BY JOEL HILLIKER

POSSIBLY USED TO BE A BAD THING, DIDN'T IT? IN America today it seems prerequisite to sustaining any kind of public image. Humility, apparently, is for wimps.

Modern political campaigns have a way of showcasing this ugliness. Under the garish glow of the news media, candidates elbow each other as they promote themselves, shamelessly advertising their own prodigious talents as being the singular key to averting national suicide.

In a recent interview on CNN's *Election Express*, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said, "[M]y party has the chance to nominate someone to save the world. Literally. *Save the world*. The direction this world is going in is an absolute disaster. *Disaster*. And four more years of this may be irreversible."

The interviewer, Candy Crowley, asked bluntly, "Can Joe Biden save the world?"

"Yes," Biden deadpanned. Without a nanosecond of hesitation.

Rewind. *Save the world?* What leads a man in his position ever to provide safe lodgment in the recesses of his mind for such audacious, unadulterated conceit?

I think it's the system. This is only one example—a single sneeze on the subway—borne of a political system, responding to an entire culture, suffering from a raging epidemic of braggadocio.

How many people even blink at a politician proffering himself as the nation's new messiah? That idea really isn't all that unusual in a society that has made a religion out of self-love. Swagger saturates our courts as much as it does our sports arenas; ego fills our boardrooms as well as our "reality" television. And little wonder: Pride is the orthodox instruction in our educational system. We coddle and praise our students from kindergarten to college simply for being uniquely themselves.

The best statesmen, by contrast, have always had a sense of modesty. A basic understanding of their human frailness, a humility about their power to change the world, a sense of living in God's shadow—even amid the pageantry of high office.

One of America's greatest presidents was also one of its most reluctant. Why? Slow to assume his office in 1789, George Washington said he lacked "that competency of political skill, abilities and inclination which is necessary to manage the helm." Washington's honest appraisal of his own limitations didn't prevent him from excelling in his duties. Just the opposite. It graced his presidency with dignity, sincerity and reserve, and probably single-handedly prevented America's most powerful position from morphing into a kind of New World monarchy.

Such noble meekness also marked Lincoln's administration, evidenced in virtually every speech and letter he composed. "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me," he wrote to a Kentucky newspaper editor deep in the midst of the Civil War. "If God now wills the removal of a great wrong, and wills also that we of the North as well as you of the South, shall pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong, impartial history will find therein new cause to attest and

revere the justice and goodness of God."

Looking further back in history, we have the touching biblical account of wise King Solomon. Given the charge of governing the nation of Israel, he dropped to his knees in heartfelt prayer. "I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in," he said according to 1 Kings 3. "And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" Is there not something deeply comforting in the knowledge that a leader does not view himself as the ultimate repository of world-saving wisdom, but is humbly submissive to guidance and correction from a Power far greater than himself?

History provides yet another, even better example: the *actual* Messiah. He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing." That might sound like false modesty, coming from a man who healed lepers, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead and died for the sins of the world. But what it was, in fact, was a penetrating understanding of the innate, crushing limitations of the flesh.

Had Candy Crowley managed to land an interview and ask Him directly, "Can Jesus Christ save the world?" *that's* the answer she'd have gotten: "I can of mine own self do nothing."

In a modern election campaign, such a statement would be suicide. Politics punishes self-effacement and rewards arrogance.

It's worth contemplating the enormous cost of our cult of smugness. Besides being undignified and vulgar, it has a sinister side that makes it enormously dangerous.

The natural human resistance to admitting error—the single biggest obstacle to personal growth and spiritual maturity—needs very little nurturing to grow into impossible stubbornness. Truly, clinging to truth against opposition is a virtue. But our nation is plagued by problems of our own making at every level: crushing debt, economic instability, unbridled immorality, family breakdown, immigration and racial tension, an overstretched military—all amid rabid anti-Americanism and the looming existential threats of terrorism and WMD proliferation. Over a period of generations, we have amassed an Everest of evidence proving our utter inability to solve our own problems.

But who will admit it? People speak as if these problems all originated with our current president, and all we need is a suitable replacement. Every candidate for the job is preaching, at its heart, the same message: *Yes, the problems are bad. Indeed, the direction this world is going in is an absolute disaster. Disaster! That's why it's so critical that you elect ME.*

It rings so hollow. We know it's false—don't we?

Really—is this the time for self-promotion and impossible promises? Does anyone really believe we see a potential president in this lot who—forget saving the world—can successfully defuse even *one* out of the host of crises facing this nation?

Pomposity is the problem, not the solution. ■



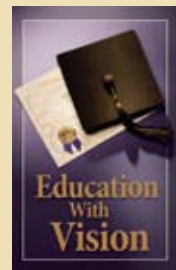
JOE BIDEN

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