



What You Didn't Know About Benazir Bhutto



Cut Your DEBT

MARCH 2008

THE PHILADELPHIA

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1948
MIRACLE
VICTORY

1967
MIRACLE
VICTORY

1973
MIRACLE
VICTORY

2006
LEBANON
DEFEAT

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Why No More Miracle Victories?



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Israel: When the Miracle Victories Ended

Israel was once a little nation filled with miracles. Why have those miracles ceased? Read a slice of history that reveals the only way to bring peace to the Middle East.

WHEN SHAH MOHAMMED REZA PAHLAVI LED IRAN, he was a strong ally of America. President Jimmy Carter virtually pushed the “corrupt” shah of Iran out of power in the late 1970s. America’s liberal press and politicians, like President Carter, thought he was too undemocratic, so they helped to drive him from power. As he was falling, America gave him little or no support.

After overthrowing the shah in 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini established Iran as the world’s number-one state sponsor of terrorism. Shortly after the ayatollah came to power, he held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. It was an extremely agonizing time for Americans. The ayatollah did this because he knew President Carter didn’t have the *will* to confront Iran, which was pathetically weak compared to the United States.

President Carter made a feeble attempt to free the hostages, but it failed miserably. The botched rescue attempt was symbolic of the entire Carter foreign policy. It was perhaps the worst four-year period ever for American foreign policy. The U.S. hostage crisis had a great deal to do with President Carter losing the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan. Mr. Carter and the U.S. had been humiliated by the Iran hostage crisis and other foreign-policy disasters. The voters reacted by kicking Mr. Carter out of office.

Did we learn any lessons from that wretched history? Certainly not for long. Today, Mr. Carter’s foreign policy is back.

When Khomeini died 10 years after the Islamic Revolution, Hashemi Rafsanjani intensified Iran’s international network of terrorism. At that time, many observers began to see what a terrible mistake President Carter had made in assisting in the shah’s downfall.

Back in 1994, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Iran “the world’s most significant state sponsor of terrorism.” How pathetic to make such a statement back then and do nothing about it! Just how much of a superpower is America? America has known for years who “the world’s most significant state sponsor of terrorism” is. But it lacks the *will* to deal with Iran—to hold Iran accountable for its terrorist acts of war!

In the 1990s, state-sponsored terrorism became deeply entrenched in Iran, and America’s leaders did almost nothing to combat it. And the U.S. “superpower” allows Iran to continue sponsoring violent terrorism to this day!

More than any other nation (apart from Iran itself), America was responsible for the overthrow of the shah and the ushering in of Ayatollah Khomeini. President Carter led the charge. That

weakness could prove to be the biggest foreign-policy disaster in modern times.

AMERICA’S WAR AGAINST TERRORISM HAS BEEN LOST TO IRAN.

Why did it all happen?



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When the Miracles Began

We must understand how this relates to the present situation in Iraq. General Petraeus, who commands U.S. forces in Iraq, has said that Iran is fighting a war by proxy there. The Iranians direct a powerful arm of their military in Iraq, and America doesn’t make them pay for that massive crime. This is why America can never win in Iraq. We are afraid, once again, to confront Iran.

We have adopted the Carter method of foreign policy and cannot win, and that in spite of what General Petraeus (our great leader in Iraq) is telling our political leaders.

Look at the present situation in the little nation of Israel. Here again, we find President Carter and his foreign policy in the spotlight.

When World War II ended, there were many Jewish refugees with no place to call home. Most of the world became sympathetic to these Jews.

After a bitter struggle in the United Nations, the land of Israel was declared a nation. In 1948, when Israel (biblical Judah—the

**Why did miracles save the Jewish nation?
One big reason is that the Jewish leaders
had more faith in God than they have today.**

name *Jew* is just a shortened version of Judah) was declared a nation, the Arabs attacked immediately. The Jews had no real army. They were losing the war after three weeks. Then the Arabs strangely agreed to a temporary UN-sponsored truce. This is exactly what Israel needed to re-arm and train its weary troops—many of them civilians who carried guns. Shortly thereafter the Arabs started fighting again. This time the Jews were well prepared and soon won the war.

It was a **MIRACLE** from God. Most Jews acknowledged that. They experienced many miracles in the following years.

Many biblical prophecies state that the Jews would have a nation in this end time. So it had to happen. That too was a

See **VICTORIES** page 11 ►

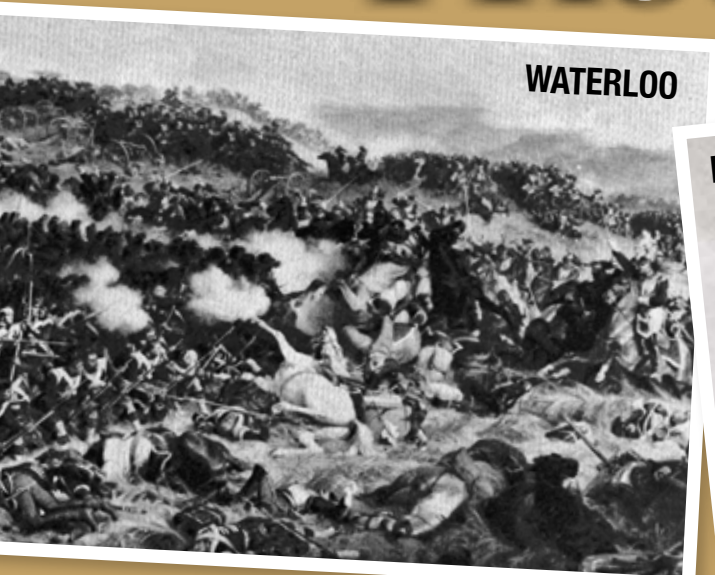


TRAFALGAR

GETTY IMAGES (4)



Inspiring The History of Brita



WATERLOO



EL ALAMEIN



NO NATION OUTSIDE OF ANCIENT Israel has experienced more cases of divine intervention than Great Britain. Just try to find one. And not just little everyday miracles either—although there have been plenty of those too—but history-altering events. Events that have no explanation but that of divine intervention. Miracles without which the nation would have ceased to exist.

Britain is turning its back on those miracles. Its people have forgotten, and some of its politicians are preparing to sign away the sovereignty of a nation that is only independent and free today *because of those many miracles.*

Against the Odds

Remember the “Invincible Armada.” 1588: Only England stood in the way of Philip of Spain and his domination of Europe and the New World. The Spanish Armada was termed “invincible” for a reason: It was the most powerful military force in the world. Philip had 149 ships of the line. Britain had 80 ships total, of which 50 were volunteer vessels and some not much bigger than yachts. Even of the Queen’s 30 warships, only four were equal in tonnage to the smallest Spanish galleons.

Against these overwhelming odds, the British fleet desperately engaged the Spaniards in an attempt to prevent a landing on the English coast. During the first major engagement at Calais, with the tide and wind in its favor, the British fleet performed amazingly. Three Spanish galleons sank and three others helplessly grounded on the French coast. The victory, however, came at a cost: The bulk of the Spanish fleet remained intact and the British were out of ammunition. The Brits had to return home for reinforcements; the Channel was clear for the Spanish attack.

But the Channel crossing and attack did not come. Just six measly kilome-

ters separated Britain from the Spanish invasion, but a work of destruction came from a force *far greater* than Britain’s navy could provide. Severe wind and storm suddenly materialized, scattering and wrecking the Spanish ships. By the time the retreating Spaniards made it back to Spain, only 50 ships carrying a few thousand sick and disease-stricken men remained. The Spanish threat to Britain was over, and so was Spain’s era as a global power.

Remember Quiberon Bay. 1759: The French fleet was marshaled to invade England and the British fleet again was forced to sail to its defense. The battle began and again a heavy gale erupted. Some French ships were driven onto the shoals, others were sunk and captured, and the French Navy was massively defeated. Britain was saved once more.

Remember Napoleon. “Fifteen million [Britons] must give way to 40 millions,” Napoleon uttered in frustration. He assembled a massive fleet of transports and an army of 100,000 soldiers at Boulogne. Over 100,000 troops were readied elsewhere. “Let us be masters of the Channel for six hours and we are masters of the world,” he declared. But the date of inva-



BATTLE OF BRITAIN

CORBIS RF

Britain’s history of miracles made it great. The Lisbon Treaty represents a shift in faith away from God and toward Europe. BY ROBERT MORLEY

in Should Never Forget



D-DAY INVASION

CORBIS RF



DUNKIRK EVACUATION

sion was delayed by the death of the admiral chosen to lead it, postponing departure just enough so that on Oct. 21, 1805, Nelson gained his astounding naval victory at Trafalgar against staggering odds—utterly shattering Napoleon’s plans for invasion.

“The Force Which Is Above Man”

Remember Waterloo. Author Victor Hugo observed that “the shadow of a mighty right hand is cast over Waterloo; it is the day of destiny, and the *force which is above man* produced that day.” “If it had not rained the night between the 17th and 18th of June,” noted Hugo, “the future of Europe would have been changed.” A little rain, during a time when rain was not expected, and an empire was overthrown.

Remember the miraculous appearance of the “White Cavalry” at Mons in 1918 that turned a rout into a victory.

Remember the national days of prayer on Aug. 4, 1918, and May 26, 1940, during the times of Britain’s greatest need.

Remember the miracle at Dunkirk and how, after a national day of prayer invoked by King George VI, the impossible happened. Surrounded and trapped between the Channel and German troops, the retreating Allies prepared to be slaughtered; meanwhile, Hitler commanded his Panzer tank divisions to hold off so that the Luftwaffe could have the honor of attacking the withdrawing Brits. But again, intervening weather including violent rain and wind grounded the German air force while wondrously leaving the Channel calm until the evacuation was complete. The water, uncannily smooth, allowed even small motor boats to rescue stranded soldiers. In Winston Churchill’s words, 335,000 British troops were delivered “out of the jaws of death and shame.”

Remember Operation Sea Lion and how, when Britain had an army without arms, it was protected from invasion.

Remember the Battle of Britain and how Hitler boasted he would “erase” British cities. More than a thousand German bombers and fighters pounded London during one night alone. The Royal Air Force was outnumbered by more than two to one, yet shot down more German planes.

Remember the sinking of the Bismarck.

Remember how Britain received its most bountiful harvests in 1942, when it faced shortages due to wartime interference with its offshore supply lines. R.S. Hudson, minister of agriculture, said, “Some power has wrought a miracle in the English harvest fields this summer, for in this, our year of greatest need, the land

has given us bread in greater abundance than we have ever known before.”

Remember the epic defense of Malta, Britain’s military base in the Mediterranean, and how that tiny island nation survived 2,000 bombing attacks over two years, holding out against all Europe and enabling the defeat of Rommel’s Desert Corps in the process.

Remember the miracle at El Alamein in Egypt, a time when, according to historian W.B. Grant, “all Islam and Christendom held its breath.” Churchill called the last-ditch stand at El Alamein a “moment in the presence of a recession of our hopes and prospects in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean *unequaled since the fall of France.*” But Rommel stopped just a few miles from defenseless Alexandria. Why? His water and fuel ran out. Had he reached El Alamein two days later, he would have found a completed water pipeline filled with fresh water. Instead he found the newly constructed water pipeline being tested with salt water; his men died of thirst. “Before El Alamein we never had a victory,” said Churchill. “After El Alamein we never had a defeat.”

Remember the miracle of D-Day and how, at the last possible moment during the windiest month in Normandy for 20 years, a break in the weather occurred that allowed the Allies to launch the invasion of Europe—and how, against fierce opposition, General Eisenhower took the risk. Had he delayed, as he was vehemently encouraged to do, the next launch window would have been June 18. June 18 began as a beautiful calm day, but ended in a storm so fierce that the invasion force could easily have been wrecked. Because of the predicted stormy weather on D-Day, the Germans were caught off guard.

“This day eight years ago, I made the most agonizing decision of my life,” Eisenhower later recalled. “If there were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an almighty and merciful God, the events of the next 24 hours did it The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred the next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed, with losses far below those we had anticipated”

Turning Their Back

There is much to remember.

No modern nation has had as many life-preserving miracles as Great Britain. British history is filled with irrefutable examples of God-given deliverance and preservation. It should be so clear that even the blind can’t help but see.

Yet today, British politicians have turned their back on that history and the countless miracles that have preserved their nation’s freedom.

On Dec. 13, 2007, Prime Minister Gordon Brown signed the constitutional Lisbon Treaty—a treaty that, in fact and in law, consolidates the transfer of British sovereignty to the European Union that was embedded in the earlier Maastricht Treaty. Contrary to what some British politicians have claimed, many of the British “opt-outs” are little more than footnotes, having little if any legal weight.

All that remains is for the Labor-dominated British Parliament to ratify the treaty. Sadly, in what amounts to a treasonous act—at least by the spirit of the law if not the letter—UK politicians plan to sign away British sovereignty without even permitting a national referendum on the issue!

Will Britain ever remember its history?

The British people are now entering the most critical phase in their history. Stripped of empire, devoid of much of its material power, plagued by economic problems, its place as a great power lost—Britain, instead of looking to the God who miraculously ensured its freedom so many times throughout history, is looking to Europe for safety and security.

Yet if Britain would only look to its history and see the miracles—and then obey the Author of those miracles—He would perform great marvels again. Churchill believed that; Montgomery and Eisenhower believed it, the *Sunday Times* in 1945 believed it, as did the *Daily Sketch* in 1946, and the *Daily Telegraph* in 1947; so did untold thousands of British soldiers who experienced the miracles firsthand.

The *Telegraph* wrote on April 7, 1947: “And miracles happen still. How many of them have we not seen enacted before our very eyes in these past few years. The history of them is now in the writing”

Wake up, Britain! The Lisbon Treaty is the most recent in a litany of treaties on European Union designed to end your national sovereignty. Remember your history, or British freedom will disappear along with the miracles.

We have only touched the surface. Britain’s entire history, from Bodecea to the battle for the Falklands, is peppered with such miracles. Remember the Battle of Agincourt, when 6,000 defeated 30,000 Remember the Battle of Rorke’s Drift, when 200 stood against 5,000 Remember the Battle of Assaye and how 6,500 routed 40,000 Remember the list that goes on and on. ■



What You Didn't Know About This Woman

The plan to stabilize Pakistan with **BENAZIR BHUTTO** abruptly ended with her assassination. But the plan was fantastically flawed to begin with. BY JOEL HILLIKER

AMERICAN LEADERS CONTINUE to fantasize about a world where radical Islamists are “rational actors”—people who, deep down, think just like us. Odds are, the Dec. 27, 2007, murder of Benazir Bhutto won't wake them up.

Pakistan is a nuclear-armed incubator of Islamism. Of its four provinces, the two bordering Afghanistan—Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province—are out-and-out ruled independently by Islamists. Passionate anti-Americanism is virtually the state religion, faithfully practiced by both politician and peasant. The intelligence services employ fundamentalist militants in proxy wars against foreign governments, including that of

U.S.-backed Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan. Even the vaunted military—the only guarantor of stability in this dangerously unstable country—includes a long-standing and growing contingent of Taliban sympathizers and Islamists.

Pakistan has plenty of problems—but a lack of democratic representation hardly ranks high on the list: Among Pakistanis, Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda win popularity polls over President Pervez Musharraf.

The nation's greatest need—for the safety of the world—is leadership strong enough to keep a lid on the nuclear cauldron.

Inexplicably—and frighteningly—that's not the way many U.S. leaders see it. Washington's elite have pushed for an

end to Musharraf's military rule and a strengthening of Pakistani democracy. It's difficult to understand just how they expect this to achieve something other than the handing of more power and possibly nuclear bombs to Islamists.

“One of Us”

Benazir Bhutto was a glamorous symbol of this wishful thinking. Beautiful, elegant, Harvard- and Oxford-educated, long loved in the West, she always appeared a welcome contrast to the gruff, bearded, turban-headed leaders that populate the neighborhood. She looked like “one of us.”

In reality, though, her status as an icon of freedom and democracy was an illusion.

“[H]er two periods in office as prime minister (1988-90 and 1993-96) were marked by economic collapse, suppression of the press, human rights abuses and appalling corruption,” wrote the *National Review* (Sept. 20, 2007). Her first administration was accused of “having one of the world's worst records of custodial deaths, killings and torture,” said the *Observer* (Dec. 30, 2007).

During her second term, Transparency International called Pakistan the second-most corrupt country in the world. Four countries have launched criminal investigations into the various bank accounts maintained by Bhutto and her husband (nicknamed “Mr. 10 Percent” after how much he routinely skimmed off government contracts—amounting to somewhere around \$1.5 billion). Strong evidence points to her having ordered the highly suspicious murder of her brother in 1996 after he challenged her leadership of the Pakistan People's Party, of which she had declared herself “president for life.”

Oh, and one more thing: Under her leadership, Islamism flourished. Underfunded state schools opened the door for the rise of radical religious schools. Islamists milked their favorite recruiting tool for all they could: offering a feisty alternative to the corrupt, ultra-rich, rarified leaders that dominate the region—Bhutto included. Meanwhile, Bhutto's government sent troops to help install the Taliban in Afghanistan; Pakistan became one of only three nations in the world to recognize that bloody terrorist regime.

On top of all that, it was during Bhutto's time in office that national hero Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, began selling nuclear expertise and technology worldwide.

This is the woman the State Department pressured to return home from exile to re-

claim power. This is who the U.S. dropped into the cauldron of Pakistan in hopes that she would stabilize the situation.

This is what American policy has descended to regarding one of the world's most explosive states—and most critical fronts in the global “war on terror.”

A Playground for Extremists

It is absolutely remarkable to consider the state of the Middle East and South Asia—the birthplace and breeding ground of violent Islamism—after more than six years of the world's mightiest military waging a determined, multi-front war against “terrorism.” Israel is in far graver danger than it was six years ago. The Taliban has virtually returned to full strength in Afghanistan. The Palestinian territories are far more radicalized; the Gaza Strip is a Hamas terrorist stronghold. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is much stronger. The notion of Lebanon existing independent of Syrian and Iranian meddling is dead; Hezbollah has all but taken over. A dictator in Iraq is gone, yes—but the power vacuum there has enabled the world's top terrorist-sponsoring state to rise to unmatched regional prominence. The Islamic Republic of Iran is enriching uranium that could quickly transform this extremist state into a nuclear threat. And these are the areas the U.S. has undertaken significant effort to secure.

Now, instability in Pakistan is enabling the most radical elements to gain ground, adding to the substantial real estate they already control. In the aftermath of Bhutto's assassination, angry rioters killed at least 58 people and burned hundreds of banks, shops, gasoline pumps, train cars and vehicles; they destroyed telecommunications lines, ransacked factories and police stations, torched election offices and destroyed polling materials at voting stations across the country. Bolstering the argument that Islamists are taking advantage of the situation, if not orchestrating it, was the increase in suicide attacks in the months leading up to the assassination. At least 20 suicide bombers killed 400 people in a three-month period at the end of 2007—numbers more common in Afghanistan, and the worst since Musharraf allied with President Bush after 9/11.

Islamists may well be behind another destabilizing trend as well: a steep increase in anger toward the one institution in the country that has enjoyed popular support for decades: the military. Hostility is so bad that officers have been advised not to wear their uniforms in crowds for fear of being attacked. “The interests of the peo-

ple of Pakistan are now totally at odds with those of the army,” the head of Pakistan's Human Rights Commission said (*Sunday Times*, January 13).

A big reason for this explosive emotion revolves around Benazir Bhutto. Aside from the provocative accusations that the military or intelligence services played a part in her assassination, it seems her injection into the political situation did much to increase the appetite of the Pakistani people—including its many radicals—for having democratic representation. The military is increasingly viewed not for what it is—the nation's only real insurance against the most dangerous forms of radicalism—but as an obstacle to freedom. The *Times* reported that even the military generals themselves are now arguing that, “*if the country is to stay together, power must go back into the hands of the politicians, however corrupt or inept*” (ibid.).

The idea of healing divisions with corrupt, inept leaders—which, in essence, has become conventional wisdom in American politics and the press—is dangerously wrong. So wrong, in fact, that it would be worth tracing its pedigree. It is almost surely the Islamists themselves—who in many other nations have proven their savvy in creating propaganda that convinces liberals of the righteousness of their violent cause—that are most vociferously promoting the virtues of democracy in Pakistan.

If—or when—the “freedom agenda” takes hold in this country, it will mark the world lurching notably closer to nuclear Armageddon.

Some observers warn that neighboring Iran is sure to take advantage of the volatility, and may even be fomenting the chaos in order to, at the very least, strengthen its own hold in Afghanistan—and possibly gain control of any loose nuclear technology it can get its hands on.

Bottom line: The weaker the military and the wilder the chaos, the greater the freedom for violent radicals. As Bhutto's own niece wrote in the *Los Angeles Times* back in November last year, “The Islamists are waiting at the gate.”

A Drift From Reality

This is not exactly what the U.S. had in mind when it encouraged Bhutto's trip home. But that's what a failed—if not backfired—strategy looks like. America's banking on Benazir Bhutto exposes its shocking inability to effect anything close to a desired outcome in Pakistan.

But it exposes far more. It exposes America's marriage to an idea that continues to

underpin the “war on terror” long after it has been proven to be disastrously false.

That idea is the “rational actor” fallacy—the same idea that informed the recent National Intelligence Estimate regarding Iran's nuclear program. It overestimates the power of Western reasoning and underestimates the potency of Islamist fanaticism. It believes democracy is a magic wand that transforms tribal, violent cultures into peaceful, freedom-loving civilizations. It thinks that once people experience the power of the ballot, they will naturally want their leaders to patch up local potholes rather than pursue ambitions to Islamicize the world.

The idea that everyone is a “rational actor” sees only *good* deep down in the human heart—with *good* meaning whatever is in *our own* heart: things like the commitment to solving conflicts non-violently, or the desire to have a nice house and fill it with nice stuff.


It does not comprehend—it will not acknowledge—the unshakable, convicted-to-the-core mindset of the individual willing to go all the way—even to the point of detonating himself—for the cause. And thus, lacking comprehension, it is certain, just *certain*, the extremist can be coddled and coaxed out of his extremism. Perhaps by a beautiful, elegant Harvard graduate.

“When the confident expectations of our leaders and opinion makers turn out to be so dreadfully off the mark, this is a signal that either they have drifted away from reality, or reality has drifted away from them,” Lee Harris wrote in *The Suicide of Reason*. “It is also a warning sign that those who are shaping our destiny may be the victims of their own wishful thinking and ideological enthusiasms, in which case we have just cause for alarm.”

America allowed itself to be bewitched by a corrupt, power-hungry robber baron—so much so that it pinned its Pakistan policy on her—simply because she liked to shop and go to the theater, had a Harvard degree and knew how to talk democracy. That is a profound drift from reality. That is some fantastical wishful thinking.

That her broken body now lies entombed in the blood-soaked soil of her troubled homeland *should* be a loud wake-up call for America's leaders. But the odds are against it.

To learn the root cause and ultimate solution of the nuclear problem as prophesied in the Bible, request our booklet “We Have Had Our Last Chance.”





Credit card bills weighing you down? You are not alone. Here is how to become debt-free. BY ROBERT MORLEY

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HOCKED their financial future this past holiday shopping season. They put almost \$150 billion on credit cards over just a couple of months—about \$15 billion more than the year before. An astounding one in six Americans carry balances of more than \$10,000, and one in six families only make the minimum monthly payments.

If your financial house is not in order, it is time to take action. Getting out of credit card debt is imperative for your financial well-being. With the economy slowing, the housing market souring, and the latest unemployment report showing deteriorating conditions, the need to put yourself in the clear has never been greater.

You can be debt-free! Don't wait for the bills to arrive. Start putting these seven steps into action today.

1. Create a Budget

Most people who have money problems don't have a financial plan. If you want to get out of debt and stay out of debt, the first thing you need to do is understand your financial condition. Start by listing

all your expenses on a monthly basis. Be thorough and accurate. The point is to find out how much you *need* to spend. Next, total your sources of income.

The simple fact is, if your outflow exceeds your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall. In other words, if your balance sheet doesn't add up, you must increase your earnings or reduce your standard of living. Focus on keeping the "needs" and cutting the "wants."

One way to keep from overspending is to place cash into envelopes and label them for each category of monthly spending. If you go out for dinner, take the "dining out" or "entertainment" envelope with you and keep track of how much remains in the envelope. When the envelope is empty, that is it—no "borrowing" from other envelopes.

2. Quit Using Those Cards

Think of your cards as a tool, not a license to spend. And don't get distracted by points or rewards. Remember, the reason credit card companies entice borrowers with all the rewards and points is because they make money off users (it is not out of the goodness of their hearts).

If you have a binge-spending problem, as one adviser suggests, "freeze" your accounts. Literally. Put your cards in a Ziploc bag filled with water and then toss them in the freezer. That way you won't easily be able to use them. Another strategy would be to simply cut them up.

3. Prioritize

Find out how much you owe on each card and what interest rate you are paying. Go online or call your credit card companies to get a current tally of your bills and the annual rate you are being charged.

In most cases, it makes sense to pay off the card with the highest interest rate first. If you are making minimum payments on multiple cards, do not stop paying one card to focus on the others. Make the minimum payments on all cards, but use additional funds to pay off the higher-rate cards.

4. Pay More Than the Minimum

Making just the minimum payment will cost you thousands of dollars over time. For example, if you are 20 years old and owe \$5,000 on a credit card that has an interest rate of 18 percent and you just pay the minimum of 4 percent each month, you will be 32 years old before you have dug yourself out of that hole. By then you will have wasted almost \$3,000 in interest—and that is if you don't add any additional debt to the card, miss any payments or get hit with any other fees. If your credit card charges 30 percent interest, as many cards do, it would take you almost 20 years to pay it off, and you will pay more than \$8,000 in interest.

Think of all the extra money you will have after paying all those bills—or better yet, money you will save by not getting into debt again in the future.

5. Transfer High-Interest Debt Onto Lower-Interest Credit Cards

If you are paying 20 percent on one card, but you can transfer it to a card that only charges 11 percent, do so. It could save you thousands over the length of the loan.

However, be careful: Many cards have penalties and fees associated with balance transfers. Some cards also have low teaser interest rates to entice borrowers. With that in mind, make sure you talk to the credit card company and read all the fine print before transferring balances between cards.

Also, pay attention to the interest rate on *each* monthly statement. Credit card companies are allowed to change the rate of interest at any time, regardless of payment history. If you miss a payment on one card,

See **DEBT** page 34 ►



The Holy Roman Empire Is Back

BY GERALD FLURRY

WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR in Italian politics is going to shock this world—if not now, then very soon. The pope humbled and even humiliated Prime Minister Romano Prodi. It was the kind of humiliation that has been common throughout the Vatican's history. The pope's action was only the tip of a politico-religious iceberg, and the American Titanic is sailing right toward it. Nothing in politics and religion is more important for you to understand.

From A.D. 554 to the present, there have been six Holy Roman Empires. They have been the bloodiest church-state empires ever on Earth! These Holy Roman Empires have been comprised mainly of Germany and the Vatican (which is why the empires are called "holy").

Now the seventh Holy Roman Empire

is rising fast. It is destined to be the bloodiest one of all!

A Clash With the Vatican

In May 2007, the *Trumpet* reported, "On February 19, a number of senior Italian government officials met at the Vatican for a closed-door session with some of the pope's senior advisers. The topic under discussion was a burning issue on which Pope Benedict XVI had publicly declared his stance at extreme odds with Italy's Prime Minister Romano Prodi: the matter of state recognition of unwed and homosexual couples.

"In numerous public declarations, both the pope and senior Vatican sources had declared vehement opposition to the Prodi government's attempt to ram legislation through the Italian parliament that would allow for the official recognition by the

government of such civil unions. If passed, this legislation would allow for those involved in such unions to receive certain government benefits currently available only to those engaged in the traditional institution of marriage between man and woman as endorsed by the church.

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

"Two days later, Prodi resigned his post."

What would have caused the prime minister of Italy to resign? To the public it looked like it was over Italy's role in the NATO-led force in Afghanistan. But that was only the superficial view.

Here is what we learned by some in-depth research: "Our news bureau combed

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

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

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

"Now that is intriguing!

"The foreign minister made *no* reference to the Afghanistan issue, which is what was originally touted as the reason for Prodi's resignation! The main issue highlighted in this statement, alluding to the prospect of the Prodi coalition being able to come together to re-form a government, was THE REMOVAL OF THE REQUIREMENT TO PUSH THE CIVIL-UNION BILL THROUGH PARLIAMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE POPE'S POWERFUL STAND AGAINST IT!" (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

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

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

"So who rules now in Italy?"

"It would seem that this victory for the papacy has significantly strengthened not only the Roman Catholic vote in the Italian parliament, but especially Pope Benedict's own political authority and hence that of the Vatican State. IT IS A NOTABLE VICTORY FOR THE POPE IN HIS AGGRESSIVE ENDEAVORS TO CLAIM THE MORAL HIGH GROUND FOR THE VATICAN IN ITS QUEST TO TURN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF SECULARISM, back to that which he calls 'Europe's traditional roots': its *Roman Catholic* roots!"

Europe's traditional roots, of course, refers to the Holy Roman Empire.

Does the pope believe in *democracy*? No, he does not. The Vatican never has. Look at how he is involved in politics—exerting so much pressure over the leader of Italy.

But it goes much deeper.

At the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome held in Berlin last year, a document on European unity was signed called the Berlin Declaration. The pope was invited to attend. He knew that there was to be no mention of God in the declaration—so he scorned the meeting!

Later, the pope was invited to speak to the European Parliament and help solve the problem—created by his not attending in the first place.

Nothing in politics and religion is more important for you to understand.

YOU CAN BEGIN TO SEE THE POWER THE VATICAN HAS OVER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT—THE NUCLEUS OF THE COMING HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, THE WORLD'S NEXT GREAT SUPERPOWER! People don't have a clue as to where Europe is headed and the impact it will have on this world.

Reuters reported on March 24, 2007, "In a speech to European bishops on Saturday, POPE BENEDICT ACCUSED THE EU OF APOSTASY FOR REFUSING TO MENTION CHRISTIANITY IN THE BERLIN DECLARATION." By "Christianity," he really means Catholicism. "Asking how leaders could hope to get closer to their citizens if they denied such an essential part of European identity, the head of the Roman Catholic Church said: 'Does not this unique form of apostasy of itself, even before God, lead it (Europe) to doubt *its very identity*?'"

This religious leader, with 1 billion followers, is condemning many of the European leaders as *apostate*. That means they

have fallen away from God! The strongest kind of condemnation. This is disturbing power from the religious side of the Holy Roman Empire.

The pope says this apostasy is causing Europe "to doubt its very identity." What *identity* is that? The Holy Roman Empire. If you fail to embrace this bloody and evil past of forced conversions, he labels you apostate. Extremely alarming words.

Charlemagne began his rule over the Holy Roman Empire in A.D. 800. He is Europe's greatest hero, it seems. And yet, it is common knowledge that he waded through a sea of blood to convert people to Catholicism. This is the *identity* the pope is promoting! So beware!

The pope is whipping Europe into the Catholic Holy Roman Empire. And the worst is yet to come. The world is going to be shocked beyond description very soon.

THIS NEWS OVERSHADOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET. THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA ARE TOO ABSORBED IN THEIR PLEASURES AND LUSTS TO EVEN NOTICE.

Germany's Economic and Military Power

Here is another alarming example of the growing power of this rising European empire. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote on Oct. 26, 2007, "Microsoft waved the white flag this week by dropping all appeals of the European Union's 2004 ruling against the software giant. SUCH DEFEATS ARE A FAMILIAR SIGHT, AND NOT ONLY IN ANTITRUST. EUROPE WRITES THE RULES FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS TODAY ACROSS THE BOARD—UNAPOLOGETICALLY TO THE BENEFIT OF ITS OWN INDUSTRY. AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE LEARNING THEY HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO OBEY.

"For the past half century, Europe was supposed to be building a free market. But old habits die hard, and many Continental politicians think more and better regulation is the route to prosperity. Their control over access to a consumer market of 500 million lets them try to force the rest of the world, IN PARTICULAR THAT ECONOMIC GIANT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, to play by its cumbersome rules. This is Europe's way of staying competitive.

"THE RESULT IS A QUIET BUT CONCERTED WAR ON AMERICAN COMMERCE. ANTI-TRUST POLICY IN BRUSSELS, PARTICULARLY HIGH-TECH FIRMS, IS A BATTLEFIELD. Mario Monti, the former EU competition czar who issued the ruling against Microsoft's 'bundling' of software on its operating system, told Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* last month that putting that company

and other American giants in their place was ‘the true strength of a united Europe.’ His successor, Neelie Kroes, celebrated an EU appeals court decision last month upholding his decision by musing about how low she’d like Microsoft’s market share to fall under the weight of regulatory pressure. Next in her sights are Intel, Qualcomm, Apple and Google, among others. ... In effect, Brussels wants to force its ... standards on the U.S. by saying—do things our way, or your goods won’t be sold here.”

A vicious trade war is coming. America is going to be the tragic victim. The *Wall Street Journal* sees the “concerted war on American commerce.” However, American politicians are too divided to fight back. They just surrender. That is, if they even see the problem.

Germany has been the European power that has most resisted the U.S. policy against Iran, especially the trade sanctions. That country is the real power behind this commerce war. A little recent history should illustrate this point. Germany caused the early-1990s Yugoslavian civil war and benefited most by its outcome.

A *New York Times* article at the time, titled “UN Yields to Plans by Germany to Recognize Yugoslav Republics,” stated this: “The Security Council backed away from a confrontation with Germany over Yugoslavia today after Germany’s European allies on the Council decided that THEY DID NOT WANT A MAJOR CLASH WITH BONN” (Dec. 16, 1991).

Why did the United Nations decide not to fight against Germany’s decision? Because Germany’s European allies “did not want a major clash with Bonn.” That means Germany won this battle against the whole world!

THE HISTORICAL PLAN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WAS TO CONTROL A DANGEROUS GERMANY. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT GERMANY IS CONTROLLING THE EU! This is the political side of the Holy Roman Empire.

The *New York Times* article continued: “The incident underscored Germany’s growing political power within the 12-nation European Community, diplomats said. Some added that it marked the SINGLE MOST VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THAT POWER since reunification of the two Germans” in 1990.

The article continued, “Moreover, in its unusual assertiveness in moving ahead with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Germany has STIRRED TROUBLING HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS Nazi Germany DOMINATED the

two Yugoslav regions during World War II, absorbing Slovenia into the Third Reich and CREATING A PUPPET REGIME IN CROATIA” (ibid.). That was the sixth head of the Holy Roman Empire. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for a full explanation of this history.)

“Germany has stirred troubling historical associations.” But just how troubled



The Fourth Reich is rising!



And the Bible said it would happen. *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* explains Germany’s legacy—and its onrushing future.

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See back cover for ordering information.

are we today? Even the *New York Times* doesn’t seem troubled anymore. I hear almost no discussion of that troubling history—or, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE FUTURE! That is why it is so troubling. (Read “Misreporting Kosovo” on page 14 of this issue.)

Are we afraid to face this frightening truth? America should be troubled enough to even risk a military clash with Germany. But such U.S. superpower actions are past history. After all, Germany could easily be stopped now if we had the will to use our power. But we are dangerously weak. SO GERMANY’S POWER (WITH THE EU) WILL GROW UNTIL WE CAN’T STOP IT.

A Warning Unheeded

In 1996, a shocking World War II intelligence document was made public. The document, detailing an August 1944 meeting between top German industrialists, reveals a secret postwar plan to restore the Nazis to power. Several of Germany’s elite industries were represented, including Messerschmitt and Volkswagenwerks. These companies, the document asserts, were to “prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party which would be forced to go underground.”

When the U.S. declassified this document, it received only sparse news coverage. Yet even more disturbing than the deep stupor of the media is the fact that THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT MAKE IT PUBLIC UNTIL 1996—over 50 years later! (Request our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.)

The Nazis said repeatedly after World War II that America would be their number-one target next time. Why? Because our abundant resources led to their defeat in World Wars I and II. Both of those wars were started by Germany.

Do you know who helped Nazis escape after World War II more than any other institution? The Vatican! Mark Aarons and John Loftus, in their book *Unholy Trinity*, thoroughly documented the fact that the Vatican sponsored and engineered the infamous “Ratlines”—used to help many Nazi leaders escape from the Allies at the end of World War II. Aarons and Loftus based their 1991 book on intelligence documents that had just been released. Those documents had been classified for nearly 50 years. (That massive and diabolical cover-up is another tragic story in itself.)

When World War II concluded, it ended the sixth head of the Holy Roman Empire. But the EMPIRE did not die—it went underground. This world was warned about what was happening, but only a few people heeded. Herbert W. Armstrong warned of Germany’s postwar rise. Here is an excerpt from a radio broadcast given May 9, 1945: “We don’t understand German thoroughness. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically planned, in such eventuality, the third round—World War III! Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over. And the Nazis have now gone underground. In France and Norway they learned how effectively an organized underground can hamper occupation and control of a country. Paris was liberated by the French underground—and Allied armies. Now a Nazi underground is methodically planned. They plan to COME BACK and to win on the third try.”

How could Herbert W. Armstrong have known that Germany would rise to power again? It is a terrifying story, but with the most exhilarating ending you could imagine. You need to read the wonderfully good news in his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. The bad news, followed by the good news of Jesus Christ’s return, will soon impact every person on this planet! ■

MIRACLE. But Judaism and Christianity are almost silent about this towering miracle. Why?

The Jews were determined fighters. This was their first sovereign nation in 2,000 years. Only death could make them surrender their new and only homeland.

Problems continued between Jews and Arabs. They became so intense in 1967 that almost every nation in the world believed the Arabs were about to attack Israel again.

The Soviet Union was strongly urging Egypt to attack. Egyptian troops poured into the Sinai and ordered the UN forces out. War was imminent. Egypt, Jordan and Syria were allied to start a war. So the Jews felt compelled to strike first. Jewish war planes flew into Egypt and destroyed 300 Egyptian combat fighters in three hours. The Jews then captured all of the Sinai, the Suez Canal, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights in just six days.

Again, a series of MIRACLES by God saved the Jewish nation. Why? One big reason is that the Jewish leaders had more faith in God than they have today.

Tourists poured into Israel. The state became prosperous—and complacent. The Jews were lulled into a false sense of security.

In late 1973, the Jewish military ignored serious intelligence reports that the Arabs were again going to attack. The attack occurred on October 6—during the solemn Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. The Jews won the war in three weeks, with much aid from the Americans. Egypt was beaten, but not humiliated. Once again biblical Judah had been MIRACULOUSLY saved.

When the Miracles Stopped

Soon after, something dramatic changed in Israel. Menachem Begin was elected prime minister in 1977. President Carter persuaded him to give the Sinai back to Egypt in the late 1970s. THIS IS WHEN THE MIRACLES BEGAN TO FADE! That was the great turning point in Israel's history. And there was President Carter, once again working his destructive magic! This was the beginning of the Israeli-Arab peace process. The Jews gave up land for a piece of paper. This was also the beginning of the Jews' downward slide—a slide that will end in oblivion unless they wake up!

When the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt, that might have included Mount Sinai, where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. THIS FIERY MOUNTAIN SPECTACLE GAVE BIRTH TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL! The Sinai area was where the children of Israel wandered for 40 YEARS as they rebelled against God's law.

Again, the biblical name for the modern nation called Israel is *Judah*. But the modern descendants of the ancient Israelites include many nations—primarily the U.S. (biblical *Manasseh*) and Britain (biblical *Ephraim*). In other words, biblical Judah is only a small part of Israel today. The American and British peoples are also Israel. The prophecies about end-time Israel are primarily focused on those three nations. (For proof, read our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The United States and Britain were both instrumental in pressuring Judah to give the Sinai back to Egypt, even though our ancestry was also a part of Israel when God's law was given on Mount Sinai. Why are these three nations in such serious trouble today? GIVING THE SINAI BACK TO EGYPT IS AT THE HEART OF THEIR PROBLEMS! Those three nations are looking to men for peace and not to the great God of Mount Sinai. THEIR HISTORY WITH GOD IS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS!

THE JEWISH NATION WAS BORN AND SUSTAINED BY GODLY MIRACLES. BUT IT STILL REFUSES TO TRUST GOD! Its leaders have more faith in terrorists!

Today, in spite of the fact that the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt—an unparalleled gift—Egypt is fast becoming one of Israel's most hostile neighbors. That should give us some idea of how giving land away does not buy peace.

Nevertheless, Israel has taken on the same mentality of weakness and trusting in men in its dealings with the

Palestinians living in Israel. The Jews continue to give land for empty promises of peace. And the miracles have ended. It started in 1993 on the White House lawn with a handshake between the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat—the number-one terrorist in the world at that time! There Israel surrendered bits of that hard-won, strategically important land in hopes that the Arabs could be simply bargained into giving up their goal of destroying Israel.

The Jews have also given Gaza, Jericho, Bethlehem and other West Bank areas back to the Palestinians. It seems the world has forgotten that those areas were won in a war where the Arabs were trying to annihilate the Jews. This land-for-peace process is almost unheard of in history, except perhaps for what happened in South Africa.

The Jews have given back many biblical sites to the Arabs. America and Britain have strongly urged them to do so. We fail to realize that such a lack of faith is why all the adults of ancient Israel had to die in the Sinai wilderness.

Throughout this terribly misnamed “peace” process—Israel giving up land and seeing no appreciable drop in violence—Palestinian leaders have consistently told politicians and media that they want peaceful coexistence with Israel while simultaneously promising to their own people that they will destroy Israel.


Now, after years of gambling with its own soil, Israel finds itself depleted of property and will, sapped and bloodied by a policy that has publicized, for all to see, the fatal weariness of this tiny nation.

The delusion of President Carter was that Middle East peace can be achieved by negotiation. The whole Middle East peace process is a *deadly delusion*. Why? Because we are *negotiating* with people who want to wipe Israel off the map. These people don't want peace—they want to rule the Middle East.

We have already gone far beyond the time for negotiation. President Carter showed us how that policy fails. For more information about the Middle East in Bible prophecy, read our free booklets *The King of the South* and *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. ■



EXTRAORDINARY
Israeli forces carve through the Sinai desert during the Six Day War.



HE IS RISEN! The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, where Jesus Christ is believed to have been buried

The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday

BY MARK JENKINS

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF JESUS Christ was the Messiah?

In Jesus's day, the Pharisees asked Him for proof that He really was the Messiah, and this was His response: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39-40).

That was it—Jesus Christ only offered ONE SIGN: that, like Jonah (see Jonah 1:17), He would remain in the grave for three days and three nights.

Ever since, mankind has struggled with second-grade math, trying to squeeze three days and three nights into a barely 36-hour period between Friday evening and Sunday morning.

There were no eyewitnesses to Christ's resurrection, and there is only one historical record: the Holy Bible. Jesus Christ's proof of His messiahship was singular: not some spectacular miracle He would perform, or proofs that only the disciples were privy to, or even the fact of His resurrection. *The only proof was the length of time He would be in the ground.*

On this point, there can be no contention—they are the words of Christ Him-

self. Why, then, would anyone believe He died on Good Friday in the evening and rose on Sunday morning? Do other portions of the Bible reveal exactly when He died and was resurrected? And what does the truth about Christ's resurrection mean for your observance of Easter?

Seventy-Two Hours

There is no real dispute as to the meaning of Christ's words in Matthew 12. Certainly He knew how long a day was and how long a night was (12 hours each): "Are there not twelve hours in the day? ... But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth," He said in John 11:9-10.

Hebrew scholars agree that the expression "three days and three nights" in Jonah 1:17 refers to a 72-hour period. The division of the day and night was clearly established in the very first book of the Bible: "... and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. ... And the evening and the morning were the second day. ... And the evening and the morning were the third day" (Genesis 1:4-13). Notice it: God even spells out how long three days and nights would take: three periods of light, and three periods of darkness.

Four other scriptures confirm the period of time Christ was in the grave: Read

Mark 8:31, Mark 9:31, Matthew 27:63 and John 2:19-21. All confirm the duration. If we reject that singular proof, we reject the sign that Christ Himself gave of His being the Messiah.

When Did Christ Die?

Realizing that the common belief has no connection to the scriptural record, can we ascertain which day Christ died—and which day He was resurrected? Absolutely yes!

One reason so many believe Christ died on Friday is actually quite sensible. The Bible explicitly says the day of the crucifixion was called "the preparation" (e.g. Luke 23:54). This means the next day was a sabbath. Everyone knows the Jews keep a Saturday Sabbath, so they naturally assume this "preparation" day was a Friday.

But the Apostle John was even more specific. The Jews intended to break Christ's legs, which would have violated the prophecy that a "bone of him shall not be broken" (John 19:36; Psalm 34:20). Why would the Jews do this? Because "it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (*for that sabbath day was an high day*)" (John 14:31).

Note that. That expression "high day" does not denote the weekly Sabbath; rather, it was one of the annual holy days listed in Leviticus 23—specifically, the first day

of Unleavened Bread. If His legs were broken, Christ would die in time to be buried before the holy day arrived. But, the Scriptures show, He was already dead when the soldiers arrived.

Matthew 26 makes this timing clear: “And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified” (verses 1-2). Jesus Christ died on Passover—the same day that the Passover lamb was killed throughout biblical history! The Passover was the day before, and therefore the preparation day for, the first annual holy day.

These annual holy days can fall on any day of the week, not necessarily on Saturday. In 2002, 2003 and 2006, for example, the Passover was on Wednesday—just as it was in 31 A.D., the year of Christ’s death (as the Hebrew calendar shows). The first annual holy day was on Thursday. Rather than dying on “Good Friday,” Christ died on Wednesday, the Passover, just as the Jewish people had typified with the slaughter of a lamb for thousands of years before.

So when was He resurrected?

Knowing that this was exactly a 72-hour period, we should immediately realize that Christ’s resurrection took place at the same time of day or night as His burial.

The preparation day would end at sunset (a day ends at sunset according to the Bible; see Leviticus 23:32), and law required that the dead be buried prior to the Sabbath. Christ “cried with a loud voice” at “about the ninth hour”—an expression referring to the ninth hour after dawn—or around 3 o’clock in the afternoon (Matthew 27:46). We know then, from the scriptural record, that Christ died in the late afternoon on Wednesday (verse 50), was buried before sunset, and was resurrected on the Sabbath—Saturday—at the same time. That is

What does



have to do with Jesus Christ?

Why do millions celebrate Christ using strange traditions? Are those His instructions? What does the Bible say, anyway? To find out, read

Pagan Holidays—or God’s Holy Days—Which?

Request your *free* copy today. See back cover for ordering information.

the fulfillment of the only sign Christ gave: the sign of the Prophet Jonah.

The Apostle Paul agreed that Christ fulfilled the Scriptures—and specifically that sign: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Misunderstood Scripture

A few other, related scriptures have been commonly misunderstood—most notably Mark 16:9. We read clearly that Mary Magdalene came to anoint Christ on “the first day of the week ... at the rising of the sun” (verse 2). She found that the stone of His sepulcher was rolled away (verse 4). Verse 9 confirms that He had already been

resurrected: “Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week ...” Notice carefully though: It doesn’t say He “did rise” or “rose on the first day.” It says He *was risen*. He had done so, as the Scriptures so clearly show, on late Saturday afternoon.

That expression—*was risen*—is the sole basis for the idea that Christ was resurrected on Sunday morning—yet it says nothing of the sort! Instead, it simply confirms that Christ had already been resurrected and emerged from the tomb by the time Mary arrived.

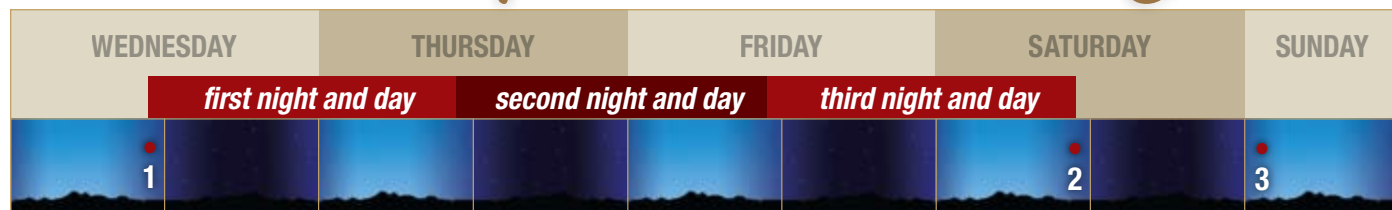
So you have a choice: You can believe the common tradition, the minister down the street and most of your neighbors—or you can believe the only sign Jesus gave, the historical record found in your Bible, and an elementary mathematical calculation.

As for Easter and its traditional Sunday “sunrise service,” there is no biblical basis for its observance. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* frankly admits that “the apostolic fathers do not mention it” (article “Easter”).

That’s right: The word *Easter* is never even mentioned in the Bible. Although “Easter” is found once in the King James translation, scholars agree that the Greek word translated “Easter” (*pascha*) in Acts 12:4 should be translated “Passover.” In his commentary, Adam Clarke says about this word, “Perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in our text.”

The pagan origins of Easter and how it became entrenched in our culture are facts of history, easily uncovered. For more information, request our reprint article “What’s So Sacred About Easter?” Then, to gain an understanding of God’s holy days—the same days that Jesus Christ observed and that true Christians observe today—request Herbert W. Armstrong’s classic booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God’s Holy Days—Which?*

Three Days and Three Nights



• **1** At about 3 p.m., Christ died. He was carried to the tomb just before sunset on Nisan 14, marking the beginning of the three days and three nights (Matthew 27:57-60; Luke 23:52-54; John 19:42).

• **2** As He promised, Christ spent exactly three days and three nights “in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40). He rose late Saturday afternoon, prior to sunset.

• **3** On Sunday morning, when Mary Magdalene came, Christ had *already* risen (Mark 16:9).

Misreporting Kosovo

HEADLINER Hashim Thaci, leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo and elected prime minister in January, aims to lead Kosovo to independence.



How the mainstream press has missed the most important angle on events in the Balkans. BY BRAD MACDONALD

ON BACK-TO-BACK DAYS IN DECEMBER 1991, the *New York Times* published articles highlighting Germany's alarming and audacious decision to recognize and legitimize the efforts of Slovenia and Croatia to break away from Yugoslavia. Both articles were refreshingly honest and held little back in their analysis of Germany's seminal role in the violent fragmentation of Yugoslavia.

In the second of those two articles, Paul Lewis cited European diplomats who warned that Germany's decision to support Croatia and Slovenia, despite opposition from virtually the rest of the world, "underscored Germany's growing political power in the 12-nation European Community." Germany's incursion into the Balkans, wrote Lewis, "has worried many in Europe who see it as an attempt to re-exert traditional Germanic influences over this area of the Balkans" (Dec. 16, 1991; emphasis mine throughout).

Lewis exhibited little reticence in exposing the *German* undercurrent in what was unfolding in Yugoslavia, even when it meant connecting Germany's decision to recognize Croatia and Slovenia in 1991 to its sordid history with these entities during World War II. He wrote, "[I]n its unusual assertiveness in moving ahead with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, *Germany has stirred*

troubling historical associations Nazi Germany dominated the two Yugoslav regions during World War II, absorbing Slovenia into the Third Reich and creating a puppet regime in Croatia."

A month later, the *Times* wrote this: "Germany's decision to press for quick recognition of the two republics, *disregarding appeals from the United States and the United Nations, marked a new assertiveness that some Europeans find disconcerting*" (Jan. 16, 1992).

The point?

Just 16 years ago, a mainstream news organ like the *New York Times* was not afraid to report the reality that Germany was manipulating the Balkans in an effort to "re-exert traditional Germanic influences" over the region. A willingness to analyze the Balkans through the German prism was plainly evident.

How times have changed.

Missing a Blockbuster Angle

On Dec. 10, 2007, the deadline for a mutual solution to the Kosovo dilemma expired, and Kosovo Albanians, led by former terrorist leader Hashim Thaci, said they would immediately start finalizing their declaration of independence from Serbia.

The subject of Kosovo's independence does not lack coverage. What it lacks is the kind of fresh, up-front, in-depth reporting practiced by the likes of the *New York*

Times when it covered Yugoslavia's dissolution in 1991-92. When Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia broke away from Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, the *Times* didn't hesitate to declare Germany's pivotal and alarming role in the crises (though later, when the U.S. and British governments switched sides, so too did the *Times*).

Now Kosovo may well be on the verge of erupting again, and few people, certainly not the mainstream press, are talking about Germany's fundamental role in this crisis!

Why not? It's a blockbuster angle!

What's happening in Kosovo is covered with German fingerprints. It was Germany (and the Vatican) that first legitimized the dissolution of the state formerly called Yugoslavia. The day Bonn threw its weight behind Croatia's and Slovenia's decision to break away in 1991 signaled the beginning of the breakup of the whole Republic of Yugoslavia and the inevitable takeover of the strategic Balkan Peninsula by the European Union.

This was the signal that the ex-Soviet state of Albania needed to stimulate its efforts to gain the enclave of Kosovo—something it had long felt was its right.

This intimate involvement with Kosovo by Germany, one of Albania's most important and long-standing supporters, has manifested itself in very practical—and dangerous—ways. The German government has been closely linked to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), an Albanian terrorist organization that during the early-to-mid-1990s was linked to the Albanian mafia in Kosovo and other Islamic terrorists in the region.

In 1996, the German foreign intelligence service (BND) established a major outpost in the Albanian city of Tirana, where KLA terrorists were trained to fight against Serbian authorities. According to *Le Monde Diplomatique*, "special forces in Berlin provided the operational training and supplied arms and transmission equipment from ex-East German Stasi stocks as well as black uniforms" (May 1999).

Germany also gave financial support to the KLA. BBC News reported that Kosovo's "internationally unrecognized government-in-exile" was collecting taxes, and that its prime minister, *based in Germany*, "has repeatedly denied that the money is used to buy arms—he says that it's spent on running the health and education services" (Aug. 5, 1998). Did anybody believe that? Here's what *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote about that in July 2002: "Kosovo's 'internationally UNRECOGNIZED government-in-exile' had a PRIME

MINISTER WHO WAS BASED IN GERMANY and operated freely with the blessing (perhaps even the direction) of the German government! So Germany recognized Kosovo's government-in-exile when nobody else did. But the international community submissively followed Germany's lead.

"THE KLA GUERRILLAS DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN. THEY WERE ESSENTIALLY RAISED UP AND DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY GERMANY—THE POWERHOUSE OF EUROPE."

How many analysts, when they consider Kosovo's independence today, are factoring in Germany's central role in the growth and expansion of the KLA? How many wonder *why* Germany would be so interested in, and go to such great lengths to secure, Kosovo's independence from Serbia? What's in it for Germany?

These questions lie at the heart of analysis on Kosovo—but few are asking them!

Fracturing Yugoslavia

The *Trumpet* has explained how, under the umbrella of NATO, Germany and Europe have, since 1991, dramatically increased their influence in the Balkans. By employing a subtle diplomatic divide-and-conquer policy, Germany has precipitated the systematic and violent fracturing of Yugoslavia. It was Germany that, in 1999, through cunning use of exaggerated and inaccurate claims and emotive language, stirred NATO, predominantly comprised of U.S. troops, to bomb Serbia.

In March of that year, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said in a television interview on ZDF that "genocide is starting" in Serbia. His alarmist vocabulary helped turn the collective Western mindset against Serbia. The *Australian* reported on April 1, 1999, "With thousands of refugees continuing to stream out of the war-torn province, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping claimed in Bonn last night that evidence had emerged of concentration camps being set up by Serb forces."

"People watched television and saw the streams of Albanian refugees," wrote Gerald Flurry at the time. "Then they totally blamed the Serbs. *Most knew very little about Kosovo*, yet spoke of 'genocide'—the deliberate and systematic destruction of a race. Then came talk about 'concentration camps.' *Genocide* and *concentration camps*—words introduced by the GERMAN defense minister" (*The Rising Beast*—request a free copy of this booklet).

Are Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic's supposed atrocities against Albanians the real reason America and NATO bombed Belgrade into submission? During the

1990s, *actual* genocides were occurring in Rwanda and Sierra Leone—not to mention the slaughter of Serbs by Croats and the Kosovo Albanians themselves—and the Clinton government did little to intervene. Why was America prepared to bomb Serbia into submission, but not the evil forces killing hundreds of thousands of innocent victims in Rwanda or Sierra Leone? Because America was *pressured* into bombing Serbia! A German-led European Union convinced all of NATO to fight for its Balkan cause!

From the very beginning, a heavily German-influenced EU has been determined to conquer the Balkans, by a deft combination of force and diplomatic maneuvers.

In 2003, EU Commission President Romano Prodi promised that all Balkan countries—if they danced to the EU's tune of course—could "become members of the EU one day." While they might not necessarily become members on the same day, and each would have to follow its own course, he said, nonetheless, "in the long run, [the] *Balkans belong strictly to the EU*" (EUobserver, Jan. 10, 2003).

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!

This is why Germany wanted Serbia, its historical enemy and counterweight in the region, neutralized by NATO. Germany and the EU believe the Balkans belong "strictly to the EU." Without the pesky Slobodan Milosevic around to interrupt their plans, Germany and Europe could more easily conquer the Balkans!

Any in-depth analysis of the events unfolding in Kosovo must account for this history.

A "Fast and Decisive" Europe

The *International Herald Tribune* reported on Dec. 12, 2007, about a plan concocted by Slovenia (which now holds the EU presidency) by which the European Union will embrace Kosovo when it declares statehood. The EU is prepping itself for action in Kosovo.

The *Tribune* quoted one diplomat who said that if violence breaks out in Kosovo, Europe's response must be "*fast and decisive because the EU is showing it's boss in its own courtyard*. We want to show we don't need Washington or Moscow to tell us what to do."

Considering the history we just covered, against whom do you think Germany and the EU will take action?

Wolfgang Ischinger, the German diplomat representing the EU in the group of three international mediators (Russia,

the United States and the EU) in the situation, has said that when Kosovo declares its independence, "It will be a state entity which will continue to be under broad international observation. The NATO troops will continue to be deployed there. A further international presence of the UN and, *consequently, of EU, will be ensured*" (Itar-Tass, Dec. 10, 2007).

Germany and the EU are making plans to cement their control of Kosovo via the UN and NATO! The EU is assembling an 1,800-strong police and judiciary mission to deploy if the UN requests it. A 17,000-strong NATO-led international force is already on the ground in Kosovo, operating under the UN, which has run Kosovo ever since Serbian troops were forced out by the 1999 NATO bombing campaign.

An Expensive Mistake

In 1991, both Germany and Europe as a whole were significantly weaker, less unified and less defined than they are today. Germany was a newly united, largely inward-focused state in the early stages of resurrecting itself as the leader of Europe. Europe was much more amorphous than it appears today.

But these factors didn't stop a major newspaper from ringing alarm bells when Germany boldly announced it would support Croatia and Slovenia in their quest for independence, a decision many knew would set a dangerous precedent and likely cause Yugoslavia's dissolution. At that time, even a mainstream news source analyzed the breakdown of Yugoslavia in the context of German ambition in the Balkans.

Today, we see few such pointed analyses in the news media. Germany and the EU are widely embraced as legitimate and influential global powers with a formidable economic, military and geopolitical imprint. Europe, with Germany as its vanguard, has become a respected and increasingly powerful geopolitical force motivated by lofty ambitions of becoming a united superpower.

The mainstream media refuse to analyze the Balkans in the context of what's happening in Europe, and of Germany's history with the region. This is the most dangerous and ominous angle of the story, and the most underreported one!

In time, this shameful ignorance will prove to be an expensive mistake. ■

For more on this topic,
request our free booklet
THE RISING BEAST



WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

INTegration and expansion have been the themes on the Continent.

Borders throughout Europe were thrown open in December as nine countries, most from the former Soviet sphere of Central and Eastern Europe, officially joined Europe's passport-free, open-border Schengen zone.

The European Union further cemented its control in the south when, on January 1, **Malta** and **Cyprus** officially adopted the euro, coming more firmly inside the EU's sphere of influence. EU leaders are well aware that the two islands are key to the control of the Mediterranean, Southern Europe and Northern Africa.

In the energy sector, Europe and Russia found themselves at odds when a price dispute in Central Asia spilled over into the EU. **Turkmenistan** cut gas supplies to Iran during one of the Islamic Republic's most severe winters. Out of self-preservation, Iran then cut its supplies to **Turkey**, and Turkey cut supplies to **Greece**. Europe imports gas from these regions to decrease its dependency on Russia, but it is now forced to question how reliable its non-Russian sources are and whether extra intervention will be needed to guarantee a steady supply.

Russia gained another energy advantage over the EU in January as it signed a contract with Turkmenistan to build a pipeline connecting the two nations. The EU had hoped that Turkmenistan would choose Europe as its main partner. Instability in the Caucasus could upset Europe's energy plans. Currently all gas coming from this area must travel through the small but vital nation of **Georgia**. Recent



controversial elections there have caused unrest. Russia has also threatened to recognize the independence of two Georgian breakaway provinces.

All of these conflicts are driving the EU to consolidate more quickly. In addition, we can expect Europe to seek to temporarily resolve the Russian problem as it has done in the past: with a new treaty—another Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Germany's new vice chancellor, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, is a great Rusophile—perhaps just the man for the job. Watch, once this pact is signed, for both blocs to project their power elsewhere, at least until, as in the past, the treaty breaks down and war between the two erupts.

MIDEAST

VOLATILITY IN THE MIDDLE East continues to increase despite Western efforts in the region. **U.S. President George W. Bush wrapped up an eight-day tour of the region** on January 16 (see article, page 20). He had little success in what appeared to be the main two

goals of the trip: to create peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and to build an anti-Iran alliance among Gulf states.

In the case of the peace process, the problem is that President Bush is using the same land-for-peace strategy used for the past 14 years—which has only ever made things worse. In the wake of his visit to **Israel**, Gaza erupted in violence and an Israeli political party resigned from the government. The foreign minister of **Slovenia** (which took over the EU's rotating presidency at the beginning of this year) promised on January 9 that the EU would resume a key role in the negotiations if U.S.-sponsored talks failed.

President Bush's lack of success in convincing Gulf Arab states to take a stronger stance against **Iran** has more to do with his lack of credibility—and Iran's heightened standing in the region. Despite Bush's offering a range of incentives to members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, these states were more worried about not getting on Iran's bad side. These Arab states aren't overly fond of

U.S. President George W. Bush speaks in Ramallah on his eight-day tour of the Middle East in January.

Iran—the motivation is more a fear of the Islamic Republic.

President Bush's rhetoric about Iran during his trip was particularly strong following a January 6 incident in which three U.S. ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz were harassed by five vessels believed to be from Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy. Still, while Washington may talk tough, its response to that act of aggression was muted, fitting a pattern of appeasement.

Tehran's confidence continued to build following the U.S.'s **NIE** capitulation, with Russia delivering its first shipment of nuclear fuel to Iran on December 17. Russia's assistance is likewise not motivated by love for Iran, but by a desire to undermine U.S. influence in the Middle East.



Meanwhile, a new Pentagon report provides evidence that Iran is still aiding Shiite militias in **Iraq**, and **Canada** has charged that Iran is allowing weapons and bomb-making equipment across its border with **Afghanistan** to the Taliban.

As Iran increases in power, some of its neighbors are becoming keener to cement ties with it. The developing entente between **Egypt** and Iran progressed with a visit to Egypt by Iranian official Ali Larijani at the beginning of January (see article, page 31). Libya is another nation Iran is getting friendly with. On December 27, the Iranian vice president visited **Libya** in the first such high-level trip in 25 years. The two countries signed 10 memoranda of understandings on mutual cooperation. The *Trumpet* has long written that Libya would ally with Iran. Also, Iran and **Pakistan** are increasing cooperation in the energy sector, with talks occurring in January on a gas pipeline project that will link



the two countries.

On January 12, Iraqi lawmakers passed a law that would allow former Baathists, once employed by Saddam Hussein's government, to be integrated back into the civil service and military. Whether this law will ever be implemented, however, is another matter, with Iran and its Shiite allies doing their best to stop it.

The growing divide between Israel and Egypt was exposed with a spat between the two countries at the end of December over the issue of smuggling across the Egyptian border. Then, at the beginning of January, Egypt allowed 2,000 Palestinian pilgrims back into the Gaza Strip through the Hamas-controlled

Rafah border crossing instead of at a crossing controlled by Israelis as previously agreed. The group included more than 20 senior Hamas members carrying money, weapons and terrorist-training material.

Egypt is also indicating its unwillingness to cooperate with the U.S., saying in December that it will reject any conditions set on it as part of the U.S.'s 2008 financial aid package.

The political stalemate in **Lebanon** continues, with the government having postponed its parliamentary presidential election over a dozen times. Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said at the beginning of January that no presidential election would

take place unless Hezbollah received veto power in the future government.

In an escalation of the Turkish-Kurd conflict, Turkey conducted several airstrikes against Kurdistan

Workers' Party targets in northern Iraq in December. Apart from the limited value of the strikes in fighting Kurdish separatism, Turkey's motivation was geopolitical: to complicate U.S.-Kurdish relations.

And throwing Pakistan into political turmoil and a firestorm of violence at the end of December was **the assassination of Benazir Bhutto**, the country's primary opposition leader. The murder triggered a wave of nationwide riots, and the Pakistani general election, originally scheduled for January 8, was put off till February 18. Bhutto's death epitomized the futility of U.S. efforts in the entire region (see article, page 5).



ASIA

ASIA WITNESSED A HISTORICAL surge in friendship between the world's two most populous nations—**India** and **China**. These two Asian giants started their first-ever joint war games on December 19; a second round will be scheduled for later this year.

After these war games broke the ice covering Sino-Indian relations since their 1962 border war, **Indian Prime**

nations of Asia, together with Russia, would cooperate to eventually form a gargantuan new superpower.

India is not the only Asian power that wants closer ties with China. On December 27, Yasuo Fukuda made his first visit to China as prime minister of **Japan**. His goal was to strengthen historically weak Sino-Japanese relations. "I truly feel that the spring of China-Japan relations has arrived," said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.



Minister Manmohan Singh met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to sign a friendship treaty outlining India and China's joint vision for the 21st century. This document, signed January 14, creates a basis for Sino-Indian cooperation on Asian integration, nuclear energy, trade, and military training.

The past 15 years have seen Sino-Indian ties go from cold to hot with trade between the two nations increasing 3,800 percent. "India has been striving to strengthen relations with its Asian partners who are gathered under the umbrella of the East Asian summit," said Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. "We believed such cooperation is economically logical and will help make this century, the century of Asia." *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong forecast for over 40 years that the

Yet, as Japan moves closer to China, it will eventually have to face the fact that tensions between China and America are growing. So far, Japan has tried to please both friends. This may change. Fukuda's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is facing massive opposition from its rival Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the Japanese parliament. On January 17, following DPJ calls for an early general election, **Fukuda said his LPD party is facing the biggest crisis in its history**. If the DPJ triumphs, Japanese-American relations may worsen.

Even **Taiwan** seems set to start improving ties with China as its relation-

ship with the United States grows more tense. Taiwan underwent a major change as its Kuomintang party gained a 72 percent majority in the legislative Yuan on January 13. Kuomintang is known for its commitment to improving ties with mainland China. In the midst of U.S. opposition to a proposed Taiwanese referendum on UN membership, the Taiwanese are realizing that they cannot rely on the U.S. to protect them. Taiwan will form closer ties with China under its new, pro-Chinese government. Watch as an imperialistic Beijing reaches out to conquer Taiwan.

All these Asian states are increasingly looking to each other as their relationships with the West start to falter.

LATIN AMERICA

THE EU AND MERCOSUR, the South American common market, will resume free-trade negotiations early this year, EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia announced December 16, just before the 34th Mercosur summit. The EU and Mercosur started free-trade negotiations in 1999, but the talks stalled. To revitalize negotiations, Almunia signed a deal with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Gargano on the sidelines of the summit. In the deal, the EU



will donate €50 million to the Latin American trade bloc in order to boost technical standards among Mercosur members and to promote Mercosur to the public. The EU

is Mercosur's largest trade partner, buying €36 billion in Mercosur exports in 2006. The *Plain Truth* forecasted in 1962, "[T]he United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce." Expect EU-Mercosur relations to continue to improve.

Michael Shifter, vice president of policy at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, has warned that recent military spending and purchases in Latin America could lead to an arms race: "There is a real risk of it escalating and it could become very dangerous." Countries topping the list include **Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador** and **Brazil**.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez arranged to retrieve



two hostages from Colombia, a move that Associated Press said demonstrates "the guerrillas' affinity for the socialist leader." The hostage situation has been a point of contention between President Chavez and the U.S.-allied Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. Now, after having told Chavez to back off, Uribe finds himself saying the mission was authorized and thanking President Chavez for his efforts. The rebels hold several hundred hostages; Colombia will find itself looking to Venezuela for direction rather than its own president.

AFRICA

Former President of **Liberia** Charles Taylor once again found himself in a war crimes trial on January 7. Taylor, who brokered an exile deal in 2003, will likely spend a long time in prison. However, as Stratfor observed, his trial also sends a strong message to other African leaders “that their only true security guarantee is to remain in absolute power.”

Militants killed 12 people in **Nigeria** on January 8, causing the price of oil to spike to \$99 a barrel; Nigeria produces the most oil of any African country, and experts fear that oil supplies to the U.S. will decline as a result of the instability.

On January 9, EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel said the European Union would form a partnership with China regarding Africa. European concerns about growing Chinese influence in Africa will be alleviated if China’s investment benefits Europe. Michel said he has “the impression that [the] idyllic relation between Africa and China is inevitably going to end.” It appears Europe intends to be there to break the fall—and to gather any resources that may be left lying around.

The EU is expected to send equipment and 3,500-plus troops to **Chad** in February to protect 400,000 refugees from Darfur. This continues the trend of increased military involvement from Europe as the world looks there for guidance rather than to the United States.

Kenya erupted with ethnic violence that has killed more than 700 people and displaced 250,000 others after the results of the disputed Dec. 27, 2007, presidential election were tallied. The incumbent president, Mwai Kibaki, is suspected of



rigging the election—the most hotly contested in Kenyan history—in order to stay in power for a second five-year term and defeat Raila Odinga, his chief opponent. Kibaki has largely fallen into the same patterns of corruption practiced by his predecessor, despite being voted in as a reformer. After being in power just five years, he is seen as just another Big Man of Africa—another chapter in a litany of failures on the continent, which democracy has proven unable to reverse.

ANGLO-AMERICA

FINANCIAL NEWS DOMINATED American airwaves in late 2007 and early 2008. For the fourth quarter, **America’s** largest bank and its largest brokerage house, Citigroup and Merrill Lynch & Co., combined for \$25 billion in losses. For the first time in its 84-year history, storied investment bank Bear Stearns reported a quarterly loss: a \$1.9 billion battering. Investors stuck with Bear overall, however, since it did not seek a foreign-financed bailout like Citigroup,

Morgan Stanley, and Merrill Lynch have. One wonders how bad it is when not only do the nation’s biggest banks have to be bailed out, but few U.S. companies are willing or able to do the bailing.

Many analysts think 2008 will be the year America’s gigantic economy succumbs to its many symptoms, including soaring energy and food prices, the home price index at a six-year low, and corporate profits already in recession due to slower sales and higher costs. Federal Census Bureau statistics say new home sales fell 9 points from October to November, down a huge 34.4 percent from a year earlier. Building permits and housing starts are both down approximately 25 percent.

Americans are becoming consumed by their own credit card debt. The value of credit card accounts that were at least 30 days overdue jumped 26 percent to more than \$17 billion in October 2007 from a year



earlier at the nation’s biggest card issuers. Defaults surged 18 percent and are approaching \$1 billion. Ninety-day delinquencies increased by 50 percent or more.

In **Britain**, conservative members of the Anglican Communion who oppose its more liberal elements have organized

a competing summit to the Lambeth Conference, saying the 80-million-strong Anglican Communion is divided and ready to split. More than 30 million Anglicans support the new conservative movement. The trend could lead to a closer alignment of millions of Anglicans with the Catholic Church.

En route to Britain, an estimated 1,000,000 sub-Saharan migrants have massed in Libya to smuggle themselves into Europe, particularly England.

In January, **Australia was barraged by torrential rains and floods**, along with massive fires that shut down the main road connecting the east coast to Western Australia. The storms unleashed the worst floods in 20 years, cutting off access to entire communities. Officials declared multiple areas natural disaster zones. Cyclone Helen ravaged the Northern Territory with flooding and widespread damage. More than two thirds of Queensland has been declared flooded, causing an estimated \$1 billion worth of losses state-wide.

Meanwhile, in the global importing/exporting market, grain inventories are hitting record lows, wheat, soybean and corn prices are setting record highs, and export sales of U.S. wheat are “beginning to look like panic buying,” according to some analysts.

PARTNERS Bush with Abbas in Ramallah



Advancing the “Freedom” Agenda

Did President Bush’s recent tour through the Mideast lay a foundation for peace, or war? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

TWO DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT BUSH left for his Middle East freedom tour in January, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps sent five speedboats to “buzz” three U.S. Navy warships in the Strait of Hormuz. As the speedboats maneuvered aggressively around the American fleet, two of them dropped mysterious objects into the water. Minutes later, someone radioed a threat to the Navy men aboard the ships: “I am coming to you—you will explode in a few minutes.” The provocation ended moments later, after the Iranian boats abruptly turned and fled the scene unscathed.

A few days after the incident, the Pentagon admitted the U.S. had no way of knowing whether the threatening signal came from the speedboats or from a prankster on shore. But in flinching during a game of chicken with five Iranian motorboats, the United States of America transmitted an unmistakably clear signal throughout the Middle East: American *might* is no match for Tehran’s *will*.

The U.S. Navy’s reluctance to confront an openly hostile enemy in order to keep the waters “calm” in the Persian Gulf on January 6 is emblematic of President Bush’s newly revised policy *for peace* in the Middle East, as evidenced by his eight-day tour through the region.

Give Them a State—Then Deal With Terrorists

The twofold purpose of the president’s trip was to build a united Arab front against Iran and to breathe new life into Israel’s peace negotiations with the Palestinians. On the issue of Palestinian statehood, the “road map” the president laid out in 2002 stipulated that the U.S. would not support an independent Arab state *until* Palestinian leaders engaged in a sustained fight to “dismantle” terrorist infrastructures. The Bush administration now views that condition as an *obstacle*, rather than a stepping stone, to peace.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice explained this policy reversal to a group of reporters aboard Air Force One on January 11: “[T]he reason that we haven’t really been able to move forward on the peace process for a number of years is that we were stuck in the sequentiality of the road map. So you had to do the first phase of the road map before you moved on to the third phase of the road map, which was the actual negotiations of final status.

“What Annapolis did was to break that tight sequentiality and to say, you can do these in parallel....”

President Bush also stressed the importance of working simultaneously on establishing a state while confronting the problem of terrorism. At Israeli Prime

Minister Ehud Olmert’s residence on January 9, Bush said, “The goal is for there to be a clear vision of what a state would look like, so that, for example, reasonable Palestinian leadership can say, here’s your choice: You can have the vision of Hamas, which is dangerous and will lead to war and violence, or you can have the vision of a state, which should be hopeful.”

But making painful concessions in the hope that terrorists will *choose* freedom and justice didn’t work in 2005 when Israel handed Gaza to the Palestinians. Local Gazans, remember, freely elected Hamas into a majority in 2006, leading to Hamas’s military coup in 2007.

“The establishment of the state of Palestine is long overdue,” the president said on January 10. “The Palestinian people deserve it. And it will enhance the stability of the region, and it will *contribute to the security of the people of Israel*.”

The truth is exactly the opposite. Establishing a Palestinian state without dismantling terrorist networks will threaten Israel’s continued existence. Less than six years ago, the president blasted the Palestinian leadership for being corrupt and for encouraging, not opposing, terrorism.

Today, with the situation on the ground having deteriorated significantly, the Bush administration has somehow deluded itself into thinking Palestinian statehood will *improve* Israel’s security.

Abbas’s Platform for Peace

During his press conference with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on January 10, President Bush heaped praise on his Arab counterpart, saying Abbas was elected after campaigning on a platform of peace.

The president spoke about the clear *difference* between the “vision of Hamas in Gaza” and the vision of Mahmoud Abbas’s team in Ramallah. Abbas added to President Bush’s comments by calling the Hamas takeover a coup and insisting that they must “retreat.”

Yet, even a cursory review of the facts on the ground will reveal how Abbas’s vision for peace is aligned more closely with Hamas than it is with Israel. A year ago, in a speech commemorating the 42nd anniversary of Fatah, the Palestinian peacemaker said, “We should put our internal fighting aside and raise our rifles only against the Israeli occupation.”

And yet, even as Abbas works *openly* to heal the breach between Fatah and Hamas, President Bush turns a blind eye to the obvious, claiming that Abbas “*knows* that a

handful of people want to dash the aspirations of the Palestinian people by creating chaos and violence.” You would think he knows that, especially after last summer, when Hamas terrorists in Gaza hurled screaming Fatah officials off the tops of tall buildings.

Since booting Fatah from Gaza, Hamas has bombarded southern Israel with daily Kassam rocket attacks. The day before President Bush ended his Mideast tour, Hamas launched 28 rockets at the Israeli city of Sderot, one of them hitting a home where a mother and daughter were injured. That same day, Hamas claimed responsibility for murdering a volunteer from Ecuador who was working in a kibbutz near the Gaza border.

Israel responded to the attacks with a large-scale incursion into central Gaza to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, killing 18 Palestinians, including the son of a top Hamas official who helped mastermind last summer’s takeover of Gaza.

And how did Mahmoud Abbas respond to the terrorist attack? He ignored it—focusing instead on Israel’s retaliation. He called it an Israeli “massacre” and accused the Jews of “ugly crimes,” saying it was a slap in the face of President Bush’s peacemaking efforts.

The U.S. State Department defended Israel’s right to act in self-defense. Meanwhile, Mahmoud Abbas—President Bush’s partner in peace—threatened to resign if Israel’s “military escalation and daily killings” continued, according to a top PA official.

The day after Israel retaliated, Abbas phoned Hamas thug Mahmoud al-Zahar to offer his condolences to the senior Hamas official whose son, a *gunman*, was killed during the Israeli raid.

Olmert and Netanyahu

Prior to his Middle East tour, President Bush intended to snub any Israeli leader who opposed the Annapolis process, including Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Shortly before the president left for the Middle East, Netanyahu angrily blamed Ehud Olmert’s office for blocking a possible meeting with the president. In the end, President Bush changed his mind and decided to meet with the opposition leader, indicating that Washington is at least preparing for the possibility of working with an Israeli government that opposes the Annapolis process.

During his 45-minute session with President Bush on the morning of January 10, Netanyahu said, “Jerusalem belongs to the

Jewish people and will remain under Israeli sovereignty for eternity.” He also presented the president with a 2,000-year-old coin bearing a Hebrew inscription, revealing the depth of Jewish roots in Jerusalem.

After concluding his meeting with Netanyahu, President Bush wasted little time

worries me is, how can you have two states side by side in peace if one of the partners does not recognize the other state’s right to exist? ... I assured the prime minister that our position is steady and strong, that Hamas must change.”

Now, it appears, President Bush is more



in revealing his strong opposition to the policies of Likud. At an afternoon press conference, the president said, “I know Jerusalem is a tough issue. ... I fully understand that finding a solution to this issue will be one of the most difficult challenges on the road to peace, *but that is the road we have chosen to walk.*”

Quite unlike the Likud leader, President Bush is willing to divide Jerusalem, which is why he staunchly supports Ehud Olmert. At a dinner hosted by the prime minister the same day the president met with Netanyahu, President Bush referred to Olmert as a “strong leader.” This, of course, is the same Ehud Olmert who in June 2005 said, “We are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous, we are tired of winning, we are tired of defeating our enemies.”

Prior to being elected prime minister in March 2006, Olmert campaigned on a promise to remove tens of thousands of Jews from settlements in Judea and Samaria.

Mr. Olmert presented his plan for West Bank withdrawal to President Bush at the White House in May 2006. At a press conference on May 23, the president expressed concern about creating a state for a people who reject Israel’s right to exist. “The only thing that worries me about the plan,” Bush said, “is that Hamas has said they want to destroy Israel. And the reason that

concerned that Benjamin Netanyahu might return to power than he is about the State of Israel existing side by side with a state that denies Israel’s right to exist and foments terrorist acts against Jews. At the dinner with Olmert and his coalition partners, President Bush had lengthy discussions with the right-wing leaders of the coalition—Israel Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman and Shas Chairman Eli Yishai. Before leaving, Bush urged the coalition partners to take care of Olmert “so he will stay in power.” The *Jerusalem Post* referred to the president’s remarks as a blatant attempt to intervene in Israeli politics.

Bush’s meddling, however, may have backfired. Within a week of the meeting, Lieberman’s party withdrew from the coalition, leaving Olmert with a slim majority in the Knesset. Lieberman’s decision to break the alliance came the day after a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators over the division of Jerusalem.

In response to the split, Olmert’s office said there would be no policy change from the land-for-peace map laid out at Annapolis.

But there may be a change in government. And the damage done by the Annapolis process and President Bush’s visit to Israel appears to be hastening that transformation.

Keynote Address

Presidential aides referred to Bush's speech in Abu Dhabi on January 13 as the centerpiece of his eight-day trip. In it, the president outlined his strategy for fighting against the state sponsors of terror. He aimed his harshest criticism at Iran, calling it the "world's leading state sponsor of terror." He said, "The fight against the forces of extremism is the great ideological struggle of our time. And in this fight, our nations have a weapon more powerful than bombs or bullets. It is the desire for freedom and justice written into our hearts by Almighty God—and no terrorist or tyrant can take that away."

He pointed to Mahmoud Abbas as proof that this idealistic strategy works, saying Abbas was "committed to peace and reconciliation."

Then, with several statements that must have alienated even the most moderate Arab leaders, the president celebrated America's system of governance.

... the damage done by Bush's visit to Israel is incalculable as a signal of surrender to the whole Arab and Muslim world ... MELANIE PHILLIPS

"We know that democracy is the only form of government that treats individuals with the dignity and equality that is their right." He continued further, "We know from experience that democracy is the only system of government that yields lasting peace and stability."

In reference to Japan's democratic transformation after World War II, the president stated proudly, "This transformation would not have been possible without America's presence and perseverance over many decades."

Not that you would expect him to denounce the U.S. form of governance, but with all the problems America is facing at home, surely the president's speechwriters could have drafted something more circumspect. Even after World War II, as democracy's influence around the world reached its high-water mark, Winston Churchill acknowledged its obvious limitations with this famous remark: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

Groveling Before the Saudis

The day before his scheduled return to the States, President Bush's peacemaking policy hit another low mark during his stop in Saudi Arabia. In an interview with reporters about his meeting with Saudi King Abdullah, the president said, "My point to His Majesty is going to be, when consumers

have less purchasing power because of high prices of gasoline—in other words, when it affects their families, it could cause this economy to slow down." And a slowdown for America's economy, the president continued, means less barrels of oil purchased. It would be helpful, Bush said, if OPEC would increase its level of production in order to drive down the cost of oil.

The Saudi oil minister rebuffed the leader of the free world with this snippy response: "We will raise production when the market justifies it." Adding to Bush's humiliation, according to *Investor's Business Daily* (IBD), just hours before the president asked the world's largest oil supplier for help, he promised the Saudis a \$20 billion arms sale package, though it hasn't yet been approved by Congress. "All the begging and bribing only proved Saudi Arabia still has us over a barrel of oil—and in the crosshairs of Islamic extremists," wrote the IBD. "Despite rhetoric about our so-

called ally's cooperation in the war on terror, it's still teaching anti-Western hatred in its textbooks and schools, still spreading radical Wahhabism to our shores, still freeing terrorists, still giving immunity to al Qaeda financiers such as Yasin Kadi, and still allowing clerics to rally Saudi's sons to join the al Qaeda insurgents in Iraq" (January 15).

Three Hours With Mubarak

The day before President Bush arrived in Sharm el-Sheikh for the last leg of his journey, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned the U.S. in a news conference that if Iran developed a nuclear arsenal, the threat must be dealt with *peacefully*. "There is no need for the use of force. Use of force will lead to very serious consequences in the region and the world," Mubarak said.

Apart from Israel, Egypt has been the second-leading recipient of U.S. aid over the past three decades. During that time, Egypt has been a cornerstone on which Washington often established its policy for peace in the Middle East. In recent months, however, Egypt's relationship with the United States and Israel has cooled considerably. The U.S. and Israel have both criticized Egypt for not doing enough to restrict the flow of arms across its border with Gaza. Conversely, according to Cairo newspapers, Egyptian officials weren't happy with President Bush's Abu Dhabi speech. In praising certain Arab states for

their democratic reforms, the president conspicuously left Egypt off the list.

Bush's meeting with Mubarak on January 16 was cordial, but the fact that he spent just three hours with the Egyptian leader at the tail end of an eight-day, six-nation tour is a sign in itself of weakening ties between the two nations. According to the *New York Times*, their joint appearance at Sharm el-Sheikh wasn't even agreed upon by both sides until the last minute.

Adding to this strain is the thaw in relations between Egypt and Iran, a development that is prophesied in the Bible (see article, page 31). This reconciliation, Stratfor wrote on January 2, has substantial implications. "Egypt is the center of gravity of the Arab world, and certainly one of the major centers of the Sunni world. Iran is the center of the Shiite world. Until now, there has been a struggle over the future relationship between Iran and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. An opening between Egypt and Iran changes the entire dynamic of the Islamic world. Until recently, Egypt has played an extremely quiet role. If it opens ties with Iran, it is certainly a signal that it is prepared to play a more active, important and unpredictable role."

Despite all this, the president returned home convinced that the forces for good are winning the great ideological struggle of our time, as he called it in Abu Dhabi. "The truth of the matter," he told a reporter toward the end of his trip, "is that freedom is advancing quite amazingly in the Middle East."

In actual fact, it's the policies of *appeasement* that are advancing with breathtaking speed.

This is exactly the way God said it would be in the latter days. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety," the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "then SUDDEN destruction comes upon them." Recent history teaches this same lesson. What we know, Melanie Phillips wrote in her blog at the *Spectator* on January 13, "because history tells us this over and over again, is that appeasement invariably brings not peace but war; and that when the world favors aggressors and further victimizes their victims, countless more foot soldiers are recruited to the cause of violence.

"In that known context, the damage done by Bush's visit to Israel is incalculable as a signal of surrender to the whole Arab and Muslim world, which understands what it means better than the Americans do themselves; and just off-stage, Iran is waiting, watching and preparing." ■

Through Your Daughter's Eyes

A note to fathers BY JOEL HILLIKER

“A NOTE TO DADDY,” READ the little paper on my nightstand. “Daddy, will you take me on a date on Thursday, please? Love, Zoe.”

The heart melts.

That note reinforced something I learned recently—something I thought I already knew, but the full truth of which is more powerful and exciting than I had realized: that is, just *how potent* a father's influence is.

It hit me with greater force thanks to a book I heartily endorse as a must-read for every man with a daughter: *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters* by Meg Meeker. (This book is available in bookstores.)

Meeker's decades of experience practicing pediatric and adolescent medicine, as well as counseling teens and parents, are clearly rooted in a basic respect for the biblical, father-centric model of family. In clear, frank language, she gives us a new, breathtaking perspective: seeing ourselves through our daughters' eyes.

“Dads, you are far more powerful than you think you are,” she writes. You are nothing less than the epicenter of that little girl's world.

“Daughters are never lukewarm in the presence of their fathers,” she writes. “They watch you intensely. They hang on your words. They hope for your attention, and they wait for it in frustration—or in despair. They need a gesture of approval, a nod of encouragement, or even simple eye contact to let them know you care and are willing to help.

“When she's in your company, your daughter tries harder to excel. When you teach her, she learns more rapidly. When you guide her, she gains confidence. If you fully understood just how profoundly you can influence your daughter's life, you would be terrified, overwhelmed, or both.”

I have weighed

these words against my interactions with my own daughters and found them to be true. I was simply not aware enough of just how focused my girls are on trying to gain my attention, to win my affections. I did not see how sensitive they are to my words, my deeds, my touch.

You are your daughter's hero. She craves your awareness, your love; she needs your protection, your security; she values your convictions, your stability. Far more than you think.

Even your teenage daughter who is pouting or shouting and pushing you away is actually testing your commitment to her. A father must be man enough—his love must be tough enough—to tear down those obstacles and prove that he cares.

Our daughters need our masculinity, our ability to confront and solve problems, our logic, our firmness. “Let me tell you a secret about daughters of all ages,”

Meeker writes. “[T]hey love to boast about how tough their dads are—not just physically, but how strict and demanding they are. Why? Because this allows daughters to ‘show off’ how much their fathers love them. If only you could be privy to the private conversations of girlfriends.”

It is from you that your daughter learns what it means to be loved—what proper, respectful male attention looks and feels like. It is from her interactions with you that she gains the sense of self-respect so necessary to resisting inappropriate male advances.

Our world is full of toxic influences. Pressures on our daughters to look and act in ungodly ways. Assaults on modesty, decency, virtue. This world tries to make them self-centered, beauty-obsessed and materialistic. Meeker does a superb job of giving the reader an unblinking look at this ugly reality—exposing the sexualized messages being pushed in public schools, within teenage and even pre-pubescent relationships, throughout the media. “While you want the world to be cautious and gentle with her,” she writes, “it is cruel beyond imagination—even before she is a teen.” The truth is shocking, and saddening, and enraging—but a failure to recognize it makes a father ill-equipped to battle it with sufficient firepower.

You, with God's help, are your daughter's number-one protection. You need to stand between her and those satanic poisons, and give her a chance to grow up with her innocence preserved and her dignity intact. Be a shining knight with a lion's heart, carrying God's banner in her life.

This book fanned the flames of my devotion to my daughters. It swelled my appreciation for how God designed the female mind to embrace fatherly authority. It increased my desire to take advantage of the limited time I have in their fleeting childhood to exercise that influence for good.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a date to go on. ■



Don't Expect Jacob Zuma to Fix South Africa



Once the jewel of Africa, this nation is now going the way of the rest of the continent. The new leader of the ruling party won't help matters. BY JOEL HILLIKER

SOUTH AFRICA IS IN TROUBLE. AT one time one of the most prosperous nations in Africa, today it finds itself in the jaws of the very problems that are swallowing nearly every other African state: rampant crime, corruption, unemployment, poverty and disease. This trend is doubly tragic because of the heights from which it has descended to this condition—and the speed.

Evaluating the trend, one is forced to come to an undeniable, politically incorrigible conclusion: that this descent is largely the regrettable creation of the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

Fierce criticism of the white, apartheid-era rulers from which the ANC took control in 1994 has been widely publicized. That criticism, however, does not change this fact: Whatever problems existed under that much-reviled system, they are simply being dwarfed by those multiplying under Marxist ANC rule.

And now, they are about to get worse.

The Problem With Mbeki

Dec. 18, 2007, in an electoral rout, the ANC replaced its leader, Thabo Mbeki, with Zulu populist Jacob Zuma. It also awarded all six executive positions in the party and almost all of the national executive posts to members of Zuma's team.

The result is a complex political mess that will put solutions to South Africa's endemic ills even further out of reach.

Many prominent South Africans are furious with the unpopular Mbeki for not stepping aside in favor of a more electable candidate, thus opening the door for the well-liked but problematic Zuma to ride the anti-Mbeki wave. The *Pretoria News* described his electoral loss this way: "An out-of-touch leadership faced a mutiny" (Dec. 24, 2007). Now, awkwardly, Mbeki is due to remain the nation's lame-duck president until his term ends next year—a situation that has gravely divided the ANC and will handicap the national government.

Mbeki's failings are clear. His leadership is widely criticized for being cloistered, exclusive, aloof, vindictive toward critics and aggressive against dissenters. *Prospect's* Andrew Feinstein calls him a "detached, autocratic technocrat" who transformed the ANC "from a broad church of vibrant, internal debate" into "a closed shop in which a small clique of trusted allies makes decisions" (Dec. 20, 2007).

Though Mbeki's economic policies are credited with creating a boom, they have helped chase a million whites from

the country in the past decade and left many blacks in the dust of poverty. While a small black middle class is growing, as is a clutch of superwealthy, politically well-connected black oligarchs, *one quarter* of the nation is currently unemployed—*40 percent*, if you include those no longer looking for work. Eleven percent of South Africans live on less than a dollar a day, double the number of those in poverty when the ANC took power in 1994.

Under Mbeki, the nation has also suffered from one of the worst crime rates in the world. It has eight times as many murders as the average country—nine times as many as the United States. It has more assaults, rapes and murders with firearms per capita than anywhere in the world. Over eight in 10 South African businesses are affected by crime—not missing Post-it notes, but violent crime and burglary.

Even in “quiet” neighborhoods—which are routinely protected by security companies, closed-circuit cameras, palisade fencing, electronic gates, razor wire and alarm systems—burglaries and armed robberies are distressingly common.

Child protection services estimate that one third of girls and one fifth of boys in the country are sexually exploited; a child goes missing on average every six hours.

And the reality is probably worse than the stats suggest: The government is widely thought to fudge the numbers down so as not to highlight its failures. Mbeki has staunchly supported his police commissioner despite his links to organized crime. The minister of safety and security has told people to stop complaining about the crime or leave the country.

It is easy to see why so many were eager for a change in leadership.

At the same time, it is equally clear that Jacob Zuma does not represent a step forward for South Africa. Serious questions regarding his character, experience and policies dog him—and, sometime this year, could even land him in jail.

“100 Percent Zulu Boy”

In classic African Big Man style, the larger-than-life Zuma dresses in leopard skins, poses for pictures wearing a loincloth and holding a Zulu shield, calls himself “100 Percent Zulu Boy,” and uses the anti-apartheid Zulu anthem “Bring Me My Machine Gun” as his theme song. He prides himself on his lack of formal education; some say he’s barely literate. A polygamist, he has fathered 20 children by nine different women. He was once tried for rape; he said the woman—the 31-year-old daughter of an

ANC comrade—had asked for it. Though he was acquitted, he admitted to knowingly having unprotected sex with this HIV-positive woman—then taking a shower to prevent contracting the virus himself. This despite the fact that he had served as chairman of the National AIDS Council.

After his own father died when he was a child, Zuma was brought up on the Soviet-era Communist ideals of the ANC and joined its terrorist wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (“Spear of the Nation”), at age 16. Soon after, he was arrested and spent a decade in prison. After his release, he worked in the ANC’s underground; later he served as the armed movement’s intelligence chief, the ANC’s deputy president, and then

This is the man that the ruling party in South Africa has turned to in order to address the nation’s crushing internal crises.

the deputy president of South Africa.

Though he touts himself as a man of the people and defender of the poor, Zuma himself enjoys substantial wealth and a lavish lifestyle. During his tenure as the nation’s deputy president, his own financial adviser was sentenced to 15 years in jail for corruption, after which Mbeki fired Zuma himself. Zuma is still under investigation for his part in a shady arms deal during that period; he has already lost two appeals trying to bury certain damning evidence and is likely to be re-tried this year.

This is the man that the ruling party in South Africa has turned to in order to address the nation’s crushing internal crises.

Zuma is simply not up to the job.

Revolutionary Roots

Economically, as much as he may talk about helping South Africa’s poor, Jacob Zuma’s allegiances lie elsewhere.

Some believe that he will do very little to change the reforms made under Mbeki’s rulership simply because of his accountability to the nation’s influential white businessmen. But there is tension over the fact that Zuma owes his electoral victory to the ANC’s powerful allies in COSATU—the Congress of South African Trade Unions—and the South African Communist Party, both of which strongly oppose anything resembling free-market reforms.

According to the *Sunday Times*, after the Zuma victory “both the rand and the stock market look vulnerable. While Zuma is keen to disavow any appetite for radical change, business is uneasily eyeing his need to pay off his Communist party and union backers” (Dec. 23, 2007). Among

the likely payoffs is the Communist-demanded nationalization of the country’s energy and mining conglomerate Sasol and the largest steel producer in Africa, Mittal Steel. If Zuma begins to make such ideologically motivated moves, watch for the economy to fall off the rails. As Dawie Roodt, chief economist at the Efficient Group, says of Zuma, “I’ve never heard him say anything about the economy, but I know he owes COSATU and I know what COSATU’s policies are. They are essentially calling for more redistribution”—that is, stripping land and other economic assets from whites and giving them to blacks (*Cape Argus*, Dec. 15, 2007).

This is the most vivid example of how

the ANC—now helmed by Jacob Zuma—is increasingly flirting with the policies that have already turned Zimbabwe into one of the most disastrous shipwrecks in the history of the nation-state.

True to its revolutionary roots, the ANC is proving itself increasingly driven by dangerous and shallow ideology rather than by what will best serve the country.

In clear contrast to the National Party that preceded it, the ANC is anti-West at its heart. From its earliest post-apartheid days under Nelson Mandela, it has routinely fostered relationships with dictators the world over, from Cuba to Libya to Iran. In the United Nations—within which it is in the midst of a two-year stint on the Security Council—it has consistently sided with Arab and Muslim entities and against American and Israeli interests. High ANC officials have publicly warned that South Africa must protect itself against possible invasion from the United States, of all things.

Zuma represents a further move in this anti-West direction. Already South Africa’s designs on cementing its position as the dominant power in Africa have put it at odds with outside powers—particularly the Pentagon, which has proposed establishing a new command center in Africa. Such friction could well increase if Zuma’s power grows.

Going the Way of Africa

Watch South Africa. In state after state on this aged continent, the transfer of power from colonialists to local rule, hailed as a victory for black Africans, has produced devastating results. The pattern that has

been repeatedly followed is one of the new governing elite seizing the reins of power and driving their nations into the ground while making themselves criminally wealthy—often largely off international aid that never reaches the people for whom it is intended. The continent's history of tribalism has simply overwhelmed democratic instruments and bestowed the unparalleled power of the modern nation-state on men who are essentially tribal chiefs.

South Africa has been a notable exception to this rule for several decades since becoming an independent republic. But now, that is changing—and rapidly. The true cause for this change is rooted in South Africa's historical connection to the British Empire and the throne of England. Biblical prophecy describes and explains the curses South Africa increasingly finds itself under—curses that are destined to grow worse in the time ahead. A vital warning to the peoples of South Africa is contained in our booklet *South Africa in Prophecy*. Though written a decade ago, its prescient forecasts are even truer today, in the era of Zuma.

In short, by all appearances the new leadership represents, at best, a continuation of the problems that have plagued ANC rule, if not their intensification. Add to that the complications associated with the friction between the ANC leadership and the national presidency, as well as the possibility that Zuma gets entangled in a corruption trial.

Andrew Feinstein concludes that, should Zuma be found guilty and imprisoned, rendering him constitutionally unable to run for the nation's presidency, both he and Mbeki will have to vacate the scene before South Africa has a chance to recuperate. While this is probably true, the reality is that, once the nation suffers the blast furnace of trouble that awaits under such corrupt and crippled leadership, the chances for real recuperation are virtually nil. South Africa's direction, in this unhappy present world, appears chiseled in stone. ■

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Go online to read our booklet *South Africa in Prophecy*. It will give you a vivid overview of how this nation's past and present are leading to its biblically prophesied future. It shows how today's unhappy headlines will be overtaken in the near future, and how South Africa will be restored to peace and prosperity.

The Sick Man of Europe?

Britain has been branded the sickliest nation in Europe. But the nation has far worse problems than mere physical ailments. **BY RON FRASER**

OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, a phenomenon has become prevalent in Western society unique in mankind's history. It is a situation that was prophesied millennia ago to be particularly prevalent within British society.

One of the glories of the British Empire was the wonder of self-reliant, brave young men holding lonely colonial outposts administering huge swaths of territory containing multitudes of tribal people. The fact that these young colonial administrators were able to maintain relative order, by imposing the rule of law, and build a foundation for the civilization of millions was a feat never witnessed in all recorded history to that time nor since.

Two great world wars in the 20th century largely robbed the British of the cream of the crop of that courageous breed of imperial manhood. There followed the baby boom postwar years, with America's population growing rapidly and feeding its economy till the nation soon became a global superpower. In the meantime, Britain, its economy largely broken by the ravages of war, struggled back onto its feet. These were the years of the great postwar migration of many British subjects to the old colonies, a process that helped build the postwar economies of its dominions, in particular Canada, Australia and New Zealand—but further depleted Britain of much trained and experienced manpower during the vital reconstruction years.

The 1960s brought huge social change. "England swings" became the catchcry as the old country turned hedonistic, engorging itself on a rock-pop cultural binge that sapped the energy of the nation at a time when it was greatly needed to vitalize the nation's industry. The standard of British workmanship, once the envy of the world, dropped markedly. In the 1960s and 1970s, a strike-prone, slow-

growing Britain was labeled "the sick man of Europe." The seeds of Britain's moral illnesses were thus sown.

In 1967, Britain legalized abortion.

One of the great elements of national power is population. Insufficient manpower to develop and utilize a nation's fundamental assets can cripple that nation's economy. On the other hand, should a nation's population exceed its ability to maintain itself, this can also be detrimental to national growth.

Britain's imperial strength came from its rich and widespread resources, an advanced industrial base at home, a diverse Commonwealth providing a plentiful supply of labor, and the unifying power of the Crown. The combination of decolonization and Britain's joining the European Common Market in the 1970s diminished much of the nation's rich source of supply of raw materials and labor from its former colonies. Britain has since largely sold off its industry to foreign buyers and underwritten the importation of millions of souls from its old colonies who have come to the shores of the British Isles seeking the standard of life they once had under colonial rule—a standard substantially destroyed in many of their home countries by a combination of petty dictators and faulty administration so prevalent in the wake of decolonization. This admixture of races and cultures has severely weakened the fabric of traditional British society, including its standards, virtues and values.

Recently Britain again came to be called by its old disparaging title, this time literally applied to the physical health of its population. The *Telegraph* reported in October, "Britain has been branded 'the sick man of Europe' after a government report revealed a nation blighted by record levels of obesity, alcohol abuse, diabetes and smoking-related deaths. The rate of obesity in British adults is the worst in Europe and,

in some areas, [is] now above the national average of the United States.... The report from the Department of Health also revealed England as the only European country with rising alcohol consumption and an increase in alcohol-related deaths, particularly amongst women" (Oct. 24, 2007).

This is the outcome of the hedonistic postwar "swinging England." This is the end result of the pursuit of "self-fulfillment," peddled by the social engineers of the latter 20th century.

And it gets worse, much worse. For beyond the mere physical, there is the *spiritual* health of the nation, suffering increasingly, and increasingly more rapidly, from the unraveling of its traditional moral fiber.

The following equation highlights a deeply distressing phenomenon in Britain.

The *Telegraph* reported last December 7, "In total there were 722,500 babies born in Britain in 2005—the latest year for which figures are available."

Now, compare that with the following: "In the 40 years since abortion has been legal in Britain, the number of terminations taking place each year has increased from 22,000 to almost 200,000" (BBC News, Oct. 27, 2007). Taken from the year when abortion was legalized in Britain, this amounts to the staggering total of 6.7 million legal abortions having been performed in Britain since 1967! That is a *tenth* of the current total British population. Even allowing for the fact that London is an abortion mecca for women from Europe, the overwhelming reality is that Britain's population could be over 6 million souls richer than it is today had not the floodgates for slaughter in the womb been opened in that nation by its legalizing abortion in 1967.

But here is a remarkable fact.

The Eternal God, claimed as the God of a more lawful, morally upright Britain in better times, prophesied over 2,700 years ago that Britain would become a center for the slaughter of human life in the womb. Through the Prophet Hosea, God declares, "As for Ephraim [the British covenant peoples], their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception. ... Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer" (Hosea 9:11, 13).

But that is not all. There is a flip side to this. In addition to killing off so many of their children before they are even born, the British are becoming increasingly *infertile*.

The *Telegraph* reported, "One in 64 babies is born after IVF [in vitro fertilization], figures released today show, as more British couples seek fertility treatment.... More than 32,000 women had IVF treat-

the beloved fruit of their womb."

In the latter respect, the following is worthy of note: "Only a handful of European countries suffer more stillbirths than Britain. Almost 4,000 babies' deaths occurred last year—10 a day in England and Wales—and the levels have stayed roughly the same for a decade" (*Telegraph*, Sept. 24, 2007).

Britain may well be labeled the "sick man of Europe" due to declining health standards of its population in general, but it is the deep *moral* sickness that has corrupted the very heart and core of postwar British society that is the greater national problem by far. Rampant immorality in Britain, spawned in the swinging '60s, is a major cause of the twin curses of abortion and infertility!

How sad to see the glory that was once Britain slide into such a seemingly hopeless moral morass.

So what is the answer to the present sad state of "the sick man of Europe"?

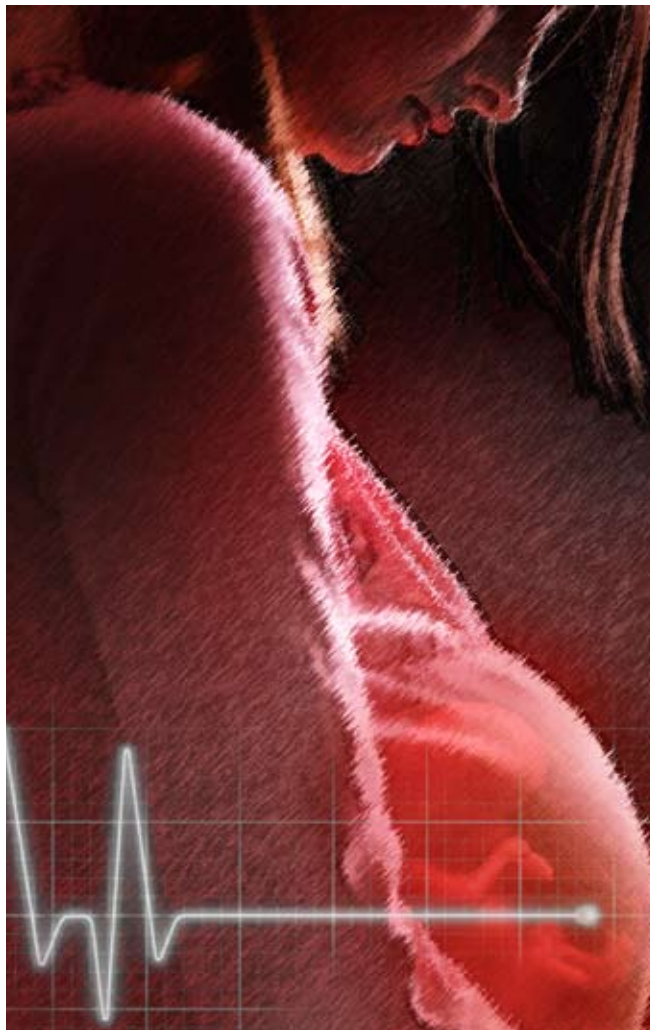
What the British need is a new vision of *hope*. A hope that carries itself far beyond the former glory days of empire. The British people need to capture the vision of the very throne that to this day yet resides in their land. It's a vision that reaches far beyond the physical, stretching the mind on into the grandest vision of all—the vision of the great and glorious *universal* human potential, which is not conditional upon any specific nationality! It's a potential that embraces *ALL* mankind, re-

gardless of race, creed or color!

To begin discovering that great vision of ultimate hope, request your own copy, gratis, of our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. No matter what your nationality, this book will begin to open up your mind to vistas of an untold potential, a future of which you never dreamed! It's a potential that thousands around the world from many nations are even now working excitedly to achieve.

And the signs are that its realization for many is most imminent.

Request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* today and begin working *immediately* on fulfilling your very own God-given destiny! ■

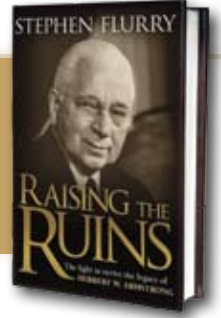


ment in 2005, up 6 percent on the previous year. ... Almost 6,000 women over the age of 40 underwent IVF treatment in 2005.... In total there were 722,500 babies born in Britain in 2005 ... 11,262 of which were a result of IVF" (Dec. 7, 2007).

The fact is that for most of these lives born as a result of IVF, at least one partner in the relationship would probably be infertile.

This evidence of rising infertility in the British population brings to mind another startling prophecy for these times: "Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit ..." (verse 16). Yet even to the fertile, the Eternal God underscores, "yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even

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 15th chapter.



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

Peanut Shell

“I can’t believe that anyone would think that ... Christ built this worldwide work through Mr. Armstrong and then blew it all. He didn’t choose the right one! He should have gotten someone that’s long-standing and that’s going to last in a stable manner forever like a ‘snow flurry.’”

— Gerald Waterhouse, *Sermon*, Jan. 25, 1992

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED MY dad’s firing on page 6 of the Dec. 19, 1989, *Pastor General’s Report*: “It is our unpleasant duty at this time to notify you that Gerald Flurry and John Amos, former pastor and associate of the Oklahoma City and Enid, Oklahoma, congregations, and Laura Flurry, a former Church Administration employee, have been disfellowshipped.”

At the time, outside of Oklahoma, this announcement was not big news in the church. Even on the day it was announced, most congregations also received news of the possible headquarters move to Big Sandy, which largely overshadowed the fact that two unknown ministers from the Midwest had been disfellowshipped.

After our initial mailing of *Malachi’s Message* on January 11, the WCG made this comment to the ministry: “Many of you have called to advise us of the receipt of a manuscript written by Gerald Flurry. It appears that he mailed it to most church pastors, to many members where he and John Amos previously served and to some people in neighboring areas. We thank you for your diligence in keeping us informed and in protecting the flock from heresy.

“As always, we encourage your prayers to ask for God’s protection over His people as well as to grant repentance to those who have deceived themselves into thinking their righteousness is greater than what God gives to the church.”

This was the extent of the WCG’s response (or lack thereof) to the PCG in those early days. Nothing specific is said about the content of *Malachi’s Message*—only that it was “heresy” and its proponents are self-righteous. In fact, the church would not address any specific content in the book for another year and a half. During that time, they largely ignored *Malachi’s Message* and the PCG.

At the local level, however, the church did work quickly

to troubleshoot isolated areas affected by PCG mailings. After Arnold Clauson announced the firings in Oklahoma City the weekend of December 9, Pasadena sent Dean Blackwell in for a week to help smooth the transition to its next pastor, Don Lawson, transferring in from Salt Lake City. Mr. Blackwell gave a sermon December 16 in which he tried to address some of the points raised in *Malachi’s Message*, but he hadn’t even read the book. He told the congregation that my dad had gotten a wealthy man to help him raise up the church, which was not true.

In the months that followed, Mr. Blackwell became the WCG’s unofficial troubleshooter for areas affected by *Malachi’s Message*—often ridiculing and belittling my father and the PCG because of how small it was and the fact that it was started by two unknown ministers.

But with every handful of people that responded positively to *Malachi’s Message*, we received more new names and addresses. And as the message spread, the WCG gradually broadened its attack against the PCG—first in an indirect way, and then later, head on.

■ FIRST SIP OF BEING EXPOSED

When Mr. Tkach Sr. announced in September 1990 that the *Plain Truth* and *World Tomorrow* would adopt a more “religious” tone, he made it sound like times were changing and that their audience had changed, but in fact, the only thing that changed was the church’s message. They no longer felt obligated to deliver the warning message of the gospel to the largest audience possible. Their focus had turned inward.

When Mr. Tkach elaborated on this change in the Nov. 14, 1990, *Pastor General’s Report*, he left little doubt about them now proclaiming a different message: “First, the telecast is definitely not to copy the overly emotional character of certain other religious programs. On the other hand, it is also not

to become confrontational, degrading others' sincerely held beliefs, condemning, nor filled with hyperbole about specific prophetic fulfillments."

Mr. Tkach prefaced this major change by pointing out obvious flaws in two opposite extremes. Then he stressed that they were only seeking to find a proper balance between the two. It was another attempt to obscure the fact that they were making a dramatic change.

"Prophecy programs will present a balanced, overall perspective of the purpose and value of prophecy, instead of attempting to interpret specific prophecies," he continued. "Prophecy programs will not lose sight of the gospel message by trading the true gospel for a '10-nation/save-your-skin' gospel"—an unmistakable smear against Mr. Armstrong's teachings.

Of course, the television program and the *Plain Truth* had already been watered down significantly, as my father had told Mr. Tkach Jr. a year earlier. Arnold Clauson, you will remember, even noted in his report to Tkach Jr. that my father felt that the TV program was too weak. And now, a year later, Mr. Tkach Sr. finally came forward and at least explained why the program had changed.

The Philadelphia Church of God, as small as it might have been in 1990, had already begun to expose the WCG's deceitful transformation. The more our message spread, the more it forced WCG leaders to put forward some sort of response.

■ "SELF-RIGHTEOUS" MINISTERS

Not long after explaining the new format for the TV program and the *Plain Truth*, Mr. Tkach Sr. complained about the attitudes of certain members and ministers who had been put out of the church. Some of the more vocal ones, he wrote in the PGR, believe "[e]very word of *Mystery of the Ages*, along with every word of every article and booklet Mr. Armstrong wrote, except those they are personally aware that he specifically changed himself." He went on to say that these dissidents bolster their argument by saying the WCG had "gone from Philadelphian to Laodicean." He then mentioned how upsetting it was to find out how some of these former ministers were treating their brethren: "The minister places himself on a pedestal, usually along with his closest elders and deacons. Some people are afraid to counsel with him because he is harsh and intimidating rather than considerate and approachable. Members who become close to the pastor in this little clique pull out all stops in their efforts to get and stay 'in good' with the pastor. Many become men-pleasers in their attitudes toward the leaders who are in the 'in' group. A certain smug attitude develops among those who are in this 'righteous' group toward those who are trying to be faithful to the church. Confidentiality becomes a problem, because things discussed with the ministers may be shared in this clique.

"Let me stop right here to say that these things are abominable in the sight of God! They are the result of an arrogant, smug, deeply self-righteous and superior attitude that is the opposite of all that Jesus Christ taught and stands for! And all this sin-filled abuse of ministerial authority is cleverly disguised in a pious smoke-screen of somehow being 'loyal' to Mr. Armstrong and teaching the real truth!"

Strong words those! And since only a handful of ministers had left (or been fired by) the church at that time, that rebuke was aimed primarily at the "self-righteous" ministers in the Philadelphia Church of God.

■ "CHURCHES THAT SPLINTER"

On May 4, 1991, Dean Blackwell gave a sermon in Columbus, Ohio, during which he went through a list of 23 "splinter" groups that had left the Worldwide Church of God over the years. His main point was to show how all these groups had come to nothing. Of course, the PCG was his main target in that sermon. "Do you think a little group of 135 people is going to grow big enough to preach the gospel of the Kingdom around the world for a witness when they say 'Christ is coming back soon—Christ's coming is imminent'?"

Actually, the PCG had between 200 and 300 members at the time of Blackwell's sermon. Still, he wasn't impressed. Blackwell said, "To me, one of the greatest blessings I've had in my job has been to go out into troubled areas when something like this happens and see if I can shut the door in the wolf's face. I hate to see God's people blinded and duped and deceived and hoodwinked and led off into a little fly-by-night peanut shell floating on a big ocean going nowhere doing nothing."

He criticized the PCG—which began with 12 people and had only been around for 16 months—for not being on television or radio. "You're going to know the church by the work it's doing," he later said. Yes, and we have said much the same for over a decade, as the PCG's work has continued growing, whereas the WCG stopped doing a work long ago.

Mr. Blackwell also made some astonishing statements regarding Ambassador College. "People said Mr. Armstrong said we should never have accreditation. That's not so. I've been in on every ministerial meeting ever held since 1955, and I've got that big, fat, thick notebook where I took notes vigorously and I can stick your nose in that book and show you right in the notes."

And yet, Mr. Armstrong wrote this to the ENTIRE CHURCH: "We could now qualify for accreditation both at Pasadena and Big Sandy—but we shall not, because the government of the colleges would have to be according to that which is in force in this world's educational institutions—God's government would have to go. We already have the highest accreditation of all—that of Almighty God!"

Later, Mr. Blackwell said, "They said we moved the college to Big Sandy and Mr. Armstrong said to close it. That is ridiculous. Mr. Armstrong didn't do any such thing. I don't know how these people 3,000 miles away supposedly know what Mr. Armstrong said and I've been out there [in Pasadena] 13 years. I ought to know what he said. I've been in on all the meetings, the board of directors, and he didn't say any such thing."

Of course, we knew what Mr. Armstrong said because he wrote it in a letter he sent to all church members and co-workers.

■ MALACHI'S MESSAGE FINALLY REFERRED TO

Not long after Mr. Blackwell's sermon in Columbus, the WCG finally mentioned my dad by name in one of its publications—the *Worldwide News*. The PCG had only begun just 18 months earlier—and with just 12 people. During that first year and a half, we had only mailed 4,000 copies of *Malachi's Message* to WCG members. But the message in the book had apparently sent enough shock waves through WCG congregations that Pasadena felt compelled to address the subject directly.

In June 1991, Mr. Tkach criticized former ministers who had resisted changes as being only interested in gaining a following for themselves. “One dissident says I am destroying everything Mr. Armstrong did,” he wrote. “In fact, I am doing exactly the same thing Mr. Armstrong did—putting the Word of God first.”

Mr. Tkach again chose not to mention my dad by name. He left that to David Hunsberger, who wrote an article on page 4 of the issue, titled, “What the church teaches about Malachi and his message.” Mr. Hunsberger wrote, “In this article we will examine the claims of one critic of the church to show how his teachings contradict God’s Word and how the attitude displayed in his writing is an affront to the Holy Spirit and contrary to Christian principles.

“The subject for this study is a book titled *Malachi’s Message to God’s Church Today* © 1990 by Gerald R. Flurry.”

Mr. Hunsberger continued, “Mr. Flurry contends that since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong the church has changed ‘away from the Philadelphia standard’ and has become the Laodicean era.” Thereafter, he offers a response to some of the points raised in *Malachi’s Message*. To his credit, at least Mr. Hunsberger attempted to address some of the content in *Malachi’s Message*. Most ministers, like Dean Blackwell, simply ignored the content and focused instead on ridiculing Gerald Flurry.

■ “SNOW FLURRY”

For many years, Gerald Waterhouse was known in the WCG as the “traveling evangelist.” He traveled the world visiting hundreds of congregations, helping keep the brethren focused on headquarters. He played a lead role in stirring up zealous support for Mr. Armstrong in the years following the 1970s crisis.

He tried to drum up similar enthusiasm for Mr. Tkach’s leadership, but he lost much of his credibility when he found himself defending the very things he had condemned a decade earlier.

He had much to say about my dad in a sermon he gave in Tallahassee, Florida, on Jan. 25, 1992: “I can’t believe that anyone would think that Christ, who said ‘I will build my church,’ and ‘I will never leave nor forsake it,’ and people come now and think that Christ built this worldwide work through Mr. Armstrong and then blew it all. He didn’t choose the right one! He should have gotten someone that’s long-standing and that’s going to last in a stable manner forever like a ‘snow flurry.’ You ever notice how long they last? They come down and, ‘Well, where was it? There was a flurry, I saw it right here.’

“Brethren, I want to make a strong point here. You need to grasp what people are hoodwinked by Satan the devil on. I know Gerald Flurry very well. I thought I did. I didn’t know some of the things he was doing behind the scenes. But he was never around Mr. Armstrong’s feet to be trained there. I was with Wayne Cole. We sent him up to [Washington] when I was with Wayne Cole in 1975. When the decision was made to send him, he was serving not in Pasadena, he was serving in [Norwalk]. We sent him up to Washington to handle those four churches: Yakima, Quincy, Tonasket and Pasco. That’s where he was for about 10 or 11 years. Then he went over to Oklahoma City.

“How could he carry on for Mr. Armstrong? He wasn’t even trained around him, much less at his feet. Wasn’t even trained

close to him. Wasn’t even trained at his coattail. Wasn’t trained within arm’s reach. He was miles away for about 13 or 14 years. Whom did God appoint to carry on for Moses? One trained at his feet: Joshua. That’s the smart way to do it.”

First of all, Christ did say He would build His Church, but He did not say He would never leave the Church! He said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” Church history proves just the opposite of what Mr. Waterhouse said. God doesn’t leave His people, but His people can leave Him! Read Revelation 2 and 3. Then read Revelation 2:5 and Ezekiel 8:6 where it shows God will forsake a church that forsakes Him.

According to Mr. Waterhouse, Gerald Flurry couldn’t carry on for Mr. Armstrong because he wasn’t at Mr. Armstrong’s feet like Garner Ted Armstrong, David Antion, Albert Portune, Wayne Cole and Stanley Rader. Or what about David Jon Hill or Charles Hunting? Those men were all trained at Mr. Armstrong’s feet. But does being so trained guarantee someone will remain faithful to the teacher? Judas Iscariot was trained at Jesus Christ’s feet. Lucifer was trained at God’s feet.

Mr. Tkach was indeed trained at Mr. Armstrong’s feet. At a special service the day Mr. Armstrong died, Mr. Tkach said, “[W]e are a product of [Mr. Armstrong’s] dedication and service. ... We can appreciate having the opportunity of being able to support and hold up the arms of the late Mr. Armstrong.” At that time Mr. Tkach promised to stay on the path Mr. Armstrong had established. He said, “And the admonishment is now for those of us still living who now have a task that is set before them, a course that has already been charted by God’s apostle. We need to maintain that course and not deviate from it one iota.”

Then, during the final prayer at Mr. Armstrong’s funeral, Mr. Tkach said, “We readily admit and acknowledge that there is no man who can fill his shoes, but, Father, we aim to follow in his footsteps.”

Following on the “coattail” of Mr. Armstrong did not prevent Mr. Tkach from changing every major doctrine Mr. Armstrong established, even after Mr. Tkach said that the course had “already been charted,” and that we were not to “deviate from it one iota.”

■ MELTING AWAY

You get an idea of how the WCG reacted to *Malachi’s Message* and Gerald Flurry those first few years. They ridiculed the Philadelphia Church of God, calling it a “peanut shell” or “snow flurry,” because they thought—or at least they hoped—it would just go away.

But it didn’t. Our work kept growing.

Ironically, it’s the Worldwide Church of God that has been slowly melting away. Its income has plummeted. Its leaders have sold off all the property. There is no work being done. Even many of its leading men have died, including Tkach Sr. on Sept. 23, 1995. Earlier that year, while operating on Tkach Sr.’s gall bladder, doctors discovered widespread cancer.

Yet, Mr. Tkach’s physical demise is nothing compared to the spiritual disease he brought into the Worldwide Church of God. And those under him, instead of fighting against the cancer, actually helped it spread. As Mike Fezell said in his book, the church Mr. Armstrong devoted his life to building “had slowly ceased to exist.” ■



A Nightmare Alliance

The warming Iran-Egypt relationship could become Israel's greatest security threat. BY BRAD MACDONALD

FOR THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES, CONFRONTATION was a routine fact of life. Oftentimes they were a friendless and despised people with more enemies than friends. Among the crowd of enemies, there was one people—fearsome in demeanor, brutal in war and equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry—that consistently terrified the Israelites.

The Philistines were the archenemy of the Hebrews and the top national security threat for about 400 years. Beyond their penchant for conflict and advanced technologies, which included the ability to smelt bronze, the Philistines possessed another critical advantage over the Israelites: *They dominated the southern coastal plains adjacent to the Israelites.*

Rugged mountains and thick forests in the northern and eastern parts of Israelite territory equipped the Hebrews with a geographic advantage when war broke out in these regions. But on the soft, undulating plains of the Levant, the Israelites were at a serious geographic disadvantage to the Philistines.

This geographic reality continues today: *The national security of the Jewish state depends largely on the entity that controls and dominates the southern Levant and eastern Mediterranean.*

The week after Hamas overran the Gaza Strip in June 2007, Dr. George Fried-

man from Stratfor wrote: “The only thing that could threaten the survival of Israel, apart from a nuclear barrage, would be a shift in position of neighboring states. ...

“The single most important neighbor Israel has is Egypt” (June 19, 2007; emphasis mine throughout).

Even modern history proves this true. Israel's national security was dangerously precarious in the 1950s and 1960s, for example, when Egypt under President Gamal Abdul Nasser was at the vanguard of Arab hostility toward Israel. This suddenly changed in the late 1970s, when President Anwar Sadat reversed Nasser's strategy with the Camp David Accords and made a “peace” treaty with Israel.

The Israel-Egypt peace treaty has been the backbone of the national security equation of the Jewish state for nearly 30 years.

The Iranian Factor

Since the late 1970s, Egypt's comparatively warm overtures toward Israel have, to a significant extent, been a function of Cairo's political and ideological divorce from Tehran, which occurred after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and was sealed by the Iranian-orchestrated assassination of President Sadat in 1981. When ties disintegrated between the two, the Egyptian government erased its name and number from Tehran's little black book and essen-

tially severed itself as a friend of the Iranian regime.

To say this pleased the Israelis is to put it mildly. Egypt's antipathy toward Iran has been a pillar of Israel's national security equation and a tremendous source of national confidence. The belief that Egyptian-Iranian relations are non-existent has enabled Israeli security officials to sleep at night. *Tehran might have Gaza, Lebanon and Syria, they think as they nod off, but we've got Egypt. We'll be fine.*

Now those peaceful dreams are being replaced with a horrifying new reality: A major geopolitical realignment is unfolding between Iran and Egypt, and these countries are edging toward resuming a full-blown friendship.

Few things could gut the national security policy of the Jewish state more completely and painfully than a strong Iranian-Egyptian alliance!

Last December was a productive month for the Iranian-Egypt relationship. At the beginning of the month, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Derar made the first official visit by an Egyptian official to Iran since diplomatic ties between the two countries were severed in 1979. During his trip, Derar met with Iran's foreign minister in Tehran to discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and Iran as well as other regional and international issues.

But the relationship was thawing even before these high-level discussions. In May 2007, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tehran was ready to restore ties with Egypt and even open an Iranian embassy in Cairo. On September 18, Iranian delegates met with Egyptian officials in Cairo, and both sides officially agreed to resume dialogue. Then in November, Iran's Minister of Industry and Mines Ali Akbar Mehrabian told reporters, as he was about to depart for Egypt, that *“this is a turning point in Iran-Egypt relations.”*

The day before Derar's visit to Tehran on December 12, Ahmadinejad stressed that “Iran and Egypt are two brotherly nations,” hinting that now that Egypt and Iran are enjoying a cultural and economic relationship, only full political ties have to be restored to “pave the grounds for massive cooperation.”

The diplomatic embrace that occurred between Tehran and Cairo in 2007 was capped off on December 24, when Ali Larjani, a member of the National Security Council and close aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, began a two-week tour of Egypt, during which he visited with sundry high-ranking Egyptian officials.

During his trip, Larijani praised the warming occurring between Iran and Egypt and reportedly offered Egypt much-needed wheat at lower prices. Most significantly, he said that Iran is willing to lend Egypt a hand developing its nuclear program. Now Ahmadinejad himself has expressed his desire to visit Egypt as soon as full diplomatic ties are restored.

All this activity tells us that it's only a matter of time before full ties are restored between Iran and Egypt. It could easily happen this year!

Cooling Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Concurrent with the strengthening Egyptian-Iranian nexus, there has been a distinct cooling of the Egyptian-Israeli relationship. Consider the increased unhindered flow of terrorists and weapons in and out of Gaza via the Egyptian border. Despite multiple agreements and promises to Israel, the Egyptian government is doing little to curb these activities.

Egypt even played a significant role in Hamas's shocking success in taking over Gaza last June. According to Israeli Maj. Gen. Yom Tov Samia, the Palestinians have smuggled into Gaza more than 30,000 rifles in the past two years, more than 6 million rounds of ammunition, more than 230 tons of explosives and a multitude of anti-tank missiles. General Samia said this build-up has happened because "the Egyptian police and army have not yet received a clear order to block infiltration or smuggling from Sinai into Gaza" (*Jerusalem Issue Brief*, Dec. 19, 2007).

Clearly, the Egyptian government is more loyal to the terrorist cause than it is to keeping its promises to Israel!

In fact, Cairo's support of Hamas runs so deep, even Palestinian Authority leaders are worried. "Alarmed by the apparent rapprochement between Egypt and Hamas, Palestinian Authority security officials in Ramallah ... criticized the Egyptian authorities for failing to take 'real action' to halt the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip," reported the *Jerusalem Post* (Dec. 18, 2007). Palestinian leaders are accusing Egyptian soldiers and army officers of involvement in the smuggling business, and are complaining that Egypt's support of Hamas goes against its "declared policy of opposing Hamas's violent takeover of the Gaza Strip last June" (*ibid.*). The Israelis even have video footage of Egyptian officials helping smugglers.

Egypt's penchant for the terrorist enterprise of Hamas (which is financed and supported by Iran) resonates across the

spectrum of Egyptian society—a fact unsurprising considering that Hamas was conceived by Egypt's Islamist Muslim Brotherhood in the 1980s.

Then, in a gloomy twist of irony, when Israel called Egypt on the carpet for breaching its agreements, Egypt dismissed the accusations, *blamed* the tension on Israel and even threatened *action* against what it claimed was Israeli belligerence. If Israel "continues to push and affect U.S.-Egyptian relations and harm Egyptian interests, for sure Egypt will re-



Egyptian President
HOSNI MUBARAK

Egypt's changing relations with Iran and Israel are happening under a "moderate" Egyptian government. Imagine what would happen if a more pro-Islamist leadership took over the country!

taliate and will harm their interests," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Egyptian television in December. "We have claws capable of retaliating in all directions, and through diplomacy" (*Jerusalem Post*, January 2).

In 1981, peace-loving Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat called the Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini a "lunatic" for giving birth to Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism in the 1979 Iranian Revolution. You can be sure Sadat's powerful remark had a reassuring effect on Israel—even though Sadat was assassinated soon after.

We don't hear this kind of language coming from Egypt today. To the contrary, Egypt has become an *indirect backer* of Iranian-sponsored terrorism against the Jews. Israel's relationship with Egypt is fracturing just as Iran's relationship with Egypt is strengthening—this reality should strike fear into the mind of every Israeli!

Strategic Implications

A new strategic equation is emerging in the Middle East. "The possibility of some sort of reconciliation between Iran and Egypt has substantial implications. ... An

opening between Egypt and Iran changes the entire dynamic of the Islamic world. Until recently, Egypt has played an extremely quiet role. *If it opens ties with Iran, it is certainly a signal that it is prepared to play a more active, important and unpredictable role*" (Stratfor, January 2).

Egypt as a "more active, important and unpredictable" player stands to revolutionize Middle Eastern politics!

Stratfor continued: "Egypt and Iran gain by flirting with each other. However, the United States and Israel do not want to see any sort of reconciliation between the two ... Iran, meanwhile, knows that Egypt will use the opening to extract concessions [from the U.S. and Israel]. Assuming that Egypt gets what it wants—which is likely to happen—*what are the Iranians expecting as a reward for shilling for Egypt?*"

Just glance at a map of the Middle East—or take a moment to consider the Philistines' geographic position in relation to the Israelites. Iran wants a presence on Israel's doorstep!

It gets more alarming: Egypt's changing relations with Iran and Israel are happening under a "moderate" Egyptian government. Imagine what would happen if a more pro-Islamist leadership took over the country!

"Soon, the [Muslim Brotherhood] could gain control of Egypt," we wrote in December 2005. "President Mubarak is in his 70s and his health is ailing; clearly, he won't be on the scene forever. ... As the MB grows more popular and powerful, it will strengthen its ties with Islamic powers throughout the region—especially Iran. ... Should the MB ever take control, Iran and Egypt would cement a strong alliance. Such a relationship would prove deadly for American hopes for peace in the Middle East. Together, Iran and Egypt would establish Islamic control over the whole of the region."

This could happen at any time. If the "moderate" Mubarak government is prepared to improve ties with the Jew-hating government of President Ahmadinejad, how much more eager would an Islamist administration be to jump in bed with Iran?

Over the past decade, Israel has been ambushed by an arc of Islamic hatred that begins in Syria and Lebanon, extends through Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and culminates with Hamas in Gaza. The fact that Egypt has not been closely aligned with these states has been a rare source of encouragement for Israel.

The restoration of ties between Egypt and Iran will fill out the arc of Islamic hatred surrounding Israel! ■

Iran-Egypt Alliance **Prophesied**

Why we've been saying for 13 years that this would happen **BY GERALD FLURRY**

FARS NEWS AGENCY LABELS ITSELF A LEADING INDEPENDENT news agency in Iran. It has three times the Internet traffic as the *Jerusalem Post*, so it's a popular site in the Middle East. Fars recently used most of an article we posted on our website, theTrumpet.com, titled "Egypt and

sions around the world; it bitterly divided Egypt and Iran.

In spite of all these events, the book of Daniel prophesies that Egypt and Iran would become very close allies in this end time. This prophecy is for "the time of the end"—right now! The king of the south is pushing and pushing, the way a king often does when he wants to gain control of a region. That's what its foreign policy is all about. This is the *king* of the south. Iran wants to gain control of the entire Middle East. It is prophesied to push at yet another power—not the U.S., but a European power, the king of the north.

Daniel says this king of the north is going to come against the king of the south like a *whirlwind* and conquer it.

Egypt happens to be one of the allies of the king of the south, and that forebodes a lot of bad news for the Egyptians. Notice: "He [the European power] shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and *the land of Egypt shall not escape*" (verse 42). Why would this European power want to conquer Egypt or at least have virtual control over it? Why would that be necessary when it goes into the Middle East—*unless* Egypt was allied with the king of the south, or Iran? Just a little reading between the lines here makes it pretty obvious what this scripture means.

So for 13 years we have prophesied that there would be a radical change in Egyptian politics. That prophecy is now coming to pass!

The moderate government in Egypt is being threatened by a popular and growing Iranian-aligned, anti-American, radical Islamist movement. In fact, we expect the most radical elements within Egypt to assume control and directly ally themselves with Iran. This worst-case scenario for the U.S. is just what the Bible prophesied will occur soon.

Already Iranian President Ahmadinejad has said, "We are determined to pursue normalization of relations with Egypt, and if the Egyptian government declares its readiness, before the working hour is over today, we are willing to open Iran's embassy in Cairo." The head of Iran's National Security Council said Iran was willing to help Egypt produce *nuclear* energy. Events are moving at a greatly accelerated pace!

If the Fars News Agency is interested and curious about what the Bible prophesies for the Middle East and the whole world, shouldn't you be? These are prophecies in your Bible that are being fulfilled *right now*.

We know the radical Islamic movement in Egypt will certainly have *a lot of influence* in Egyptian politics; and it's going to swing that nation toward Iran. Ultimately, that means bad news for Egypt because of the final outcome.

Daniel was written over 2,500 years ago. God knew Egypt would retain the same name it had almost from the beginning and that it would ally itself with Iran! That's something to get excited about, because one of the foundational proofs of the Bible being God's Word is *fulfilled prophecy!*

■



THE BROTHERHOOD The radical Muslim Brotherhood—here at an anti-government protest in Cairo—is thriving in Egypt despite being officially banned.

Iran Stride Toward Full Diplomatic Ties." I thought it was interesting that it included this portion of our article: "Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has predicted for over 13 years that Iran would be the king of the Middle East, and that we would witness an alliance take place between Iran and Egypt. 'Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. ... This prophecy indicates that there would be a radical change in Egyptian politics'" (Dec. 17, 2001).

We have prophesied for over 13 years that Iran would head up the "king of the south." We have also prophesied that the Iranian power would ally with Egypt. How did we know that? Because God *said so* in His Bible—something you can prove.

There has been a radical change in Egyptian politics. The book of Daniel talks about that change. Daniel spoke of a "king of the south" (Daniel 11:40). He prophesied that king of the south would ally himself with Egypt in this end time. (Request our free booklet *The King of the South* for proof.)

In the 1970s, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was leading the whole Middle East toward peace with the West. He even made an appearance in the Israeli Knesset, which shocked the whole world—especially the Arab world. That act *enraged* a lot of the Arab people, which led the radical Islamic movement to assassinate Sadat. Many authorities will tell you Iran engineered the assassination. This shocking event had repercus-

it can affect all your cards.

Some people with credit card debt choose to borrow against their homes at lower interest rates to pay off high-rate cards. Although this may make sense in certain situations and may help you pay off your bills quicker, it also puts your home on the hook as collateral. If you don't pay a credit card bill, no one is going to come and kick you out of your house. But if you use a home equity line of credit to pay off the cards and then get in more trouble, you and your family could be out on the street.

6. Seek Advice, But Beware of "Debt Negotiation" Schemes

If you have extreme credit card problems, you may need to seek professional advice. But be very choosy about who you turn to because your credit rating is on the line. Some organizations have been accused of claiming to help debtors while doing little but charging fees.

However, a non-profit debt-help organization can provide much-needed expert counsel. Information on reputable counseling services can be found at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies.

7. If You Can't Make a Payment, Let Your Card Company Know Right Away

There is a good chance it will be able to work with you by taking a partial payment or deferring your payments, especially if you have a good payment history. Also, some cards come with built-in insurance against job loss or other events.

So get to work.

Start by returning any unused and unneeded recent purchases.

Remember, the underlying problem is a spending problem. Make a plan and get control of your budget, then the rest will begin to fall into place.

Credit card debt is surmountable. It takes hard work and determination, but now is the time to do it. Your financial future and your peace of mind depend on it. ■

For more detailed information on how to financially prepare for deteriorating economic conditions, to get control of your life, and to learn the most important law of financial success, read *The Seven Laws of Success* by Herbert W. Armstrong, and "Storm-Proof Your Financial House" from our April 2007 issue.



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 WBAN 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed
Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon
Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue
Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, 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 K SXF 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 WBXP 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun



North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WBFQ 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFQ 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 WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KQAW 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 KWBB 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 KQAW 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 WBFA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; 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 WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 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

AUSTRALIA

Southern New South Wales WIN 5:30 am, Sun
New South Wales, Griffith WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Queensland WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Tasmania WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Victoria WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Victoria, Mildura WIN 5:30 am, Sun
Regional Western Australia WIN 5:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KQWE 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 KWHa 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
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun

New stations are added often.

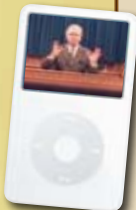
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Handing Middle East to Iran

THIS WHOLE WORLD IS STANDING AT THE brink and doesn't even know it ("Handing the Middle East to Iran," February). Some want us to pull out of Iraq. Some want us to invade Iran. Listening to the nightly news proves that neither of these options will solve anything. America has been vilified for attacking Iraq. How much more would have been said of this country had we also gone to war with Iran? There is now only one solution. The very same hand that brought the great Flood must intervene in this world's affairs one final time: the Word of God.

David

John Howard

HOWARD WAS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE BECAUSE Australians wanted more of something for nothing ("Meet Australia's New Prime Minister," February). Democracy is often described as simply mob rule with justice being trampled on.

Susan Kelly—VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

CONTRARY TO THE ERRONEOUS OUTLOOK in this article, most people here voted out a government who paid the price for hubris via alienating and betraying an accumulation of people and the ideals of Australians over time. Endless lies, bullying and trying to remake Australia into a servile replica of little America eventually put off enough people that when a credible rival appeared, there were people waiting to punish the coalition government on the veranda with cricket bats—hence, they were voted out with relish. [O]n defense, Australia does not need huge forces as we are not intent on world domination I look forward to peaceful and fruitful trade and cooperation with Asia (including China) and especially our maligned friends in Europe who have been right all along regarding Iraq, the war on terror, etc. ... Moreover, Australia can defend itself, if needed, without the U.S. if necessary.

Clive Berry—AUSTRALIA

Correction

The article "When Britain Leaves Europe" (January 2008) referred to Hungary as a Slavic state, which it is not. *The Trumpet* regrets the error.

Economy's Boiler Room

I'VE BEEN A COACH IN REAL-ESTATE INVESTMENT since 2002, as well as a realtor and an investor since 1982. I agree 200 percent with your article ("Our Economy's Boiler Room," February). At least someone is honest enough to "spill out the beans." Thank you for this great article.

Catherine—UTAH



THIS IS TRULY AN EXCELLENT ARTICLE. You have distilled pages of technical writing to

the crux of the problem: lack of honesty. There are two kinds of lies. In our society, we only look at one side of lying—lies of commission. But the other side of lying—lies of omission—is how the bankers, realtors, mortgage brokers, appraisers and politicians make potentially huge profits. But, alas, we all have to get along. When one financial sector is harmed by cheating, we are all harmed. This is not something taught in the university, but it the most important lesson of life. When you cheat, you end up cheating not only others, but also yourself.

Sandra—CALIFORNIA

Pakistan and the Shah

I AM A NEW SUBSCRIBER OF THE *TRUMPET* magazine. This magazine is rich in social, political and religious issues as well as current and future perspectives of world affairs. I have read your commentary about my country "Pakistan and the Shah of Iran" (January) and fully agree with the author. The terrorists make their full efforts to gain control over the country, as recently they had also assassinated our former Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, who represents the terrorists' worst fears because she was a woman and against al Qaeda and the Taliban. She was fighting for basic human rights and freedom for her people. She took many risks to appear among the people, and it cost her her life. President Pervez Musharraf has also the same views

Syed Imran Haider—KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Close to Armageddon

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR reminding the world of the light at the end of the tunnel ("Close to Armageddon," November-December 2007). It's hard to look around at all the pain and destruction without getting depressed. But thankfully, you all remind us of our purpose in life and to keep close to God

(through keeping His commandments), and we will be safe.

Jillian Coppola—WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y.

Israel

THERE IS NO WAY TO MAKE PEACE WITH terrorists ("Can This Man Save Israel?," November-December 2007). If Israel gives up, Hamas will escalate violence until Israel is completely destroyed. They want the entire land—not just part of it. Israel has to recover all its lands as soon as possible.

Roger McLaren

theTrumpet.com

READING YOUR FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES recently (theTrumpet.com), it seems like I'm getting ready to watch a wrestling or boxing match. Literally, the story lines are building and culminating into a main event. The countdown has begun for the big match, and the opponents around the world have entered the ring already. It's scary! And you were mentioning these situations since the mid-'90s when I first started to read the *Trumpet* (about 12 years now). God is certainly with you in this work ... more and more, it is so evident in every project you do. And when you don't even hear of any of these issues in your local news broadcast or newspaper and then read them on theTrumpet.com when you arrive home from work ... were the day's events and worries really worth it? There's got to be much more out there than the day-to-day grind of the rat race. God speed the World Tomorrow, but the process in getting there doesn't look pretty.

T.E.—UNITED KINGDOM

Countless Evidences

I USED TO BE AN IGNORANT ATHEIST UNTIL I started reading about God's truth. I just got done reading "Nehemiah's Wall Found" (January 2008). It's sad to note that although countless evidences toward the accuracy of the Bible exist, few people grasp these truths. I've also met many people who claim to be religious, but their "religion" is only a couple of hours long and only on one day out of the week. If Peter or Paul were alive today, they would have a heart attack at the sight of what goes on in this "Christian generation."

Salvador Covarrubias—WASCO, CALIF.

Comments?

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Yearning for Discipline

British children leave the island to regain a lost British virtue. **BY RON FRASER**

HOW THE WHEEL TURNS. The British brought a civilized system of disciplined education, health services and the rule of law within an orderly administration of government to many largely uncivilized quarters of the globe that simply lacked such discipline prior to colonization. Then, in the middle of the last century, the British packed up and left. In too many of their old colonies, health services immediately declined, law and order became corrupted, responsible administration of government yielded to dictators and tyrants.

But in most instances, one great blessing of British rule remained: its civilized system of disciplined education.

Having visited many of the nations that gained independence from former British colonial rule, I have always been amazed at the orderly conduct of schoolchildren and the extremely high level of commitment of teachers in these countries.

The first thing that stands out is the uniform. Often patterned after the school uniforms of British public schools—many featuring the tartans of Scotland—these uniforms serve as a great leveler to children. Absent is the competition to wear the latest high-flying brands of young fashion, a competition we see too often at Western schools, especially in America. Whatever the social or economic status of the parents, the children are all dressed in standard school uniform, creating a community cohesion and definite school spirit. It's a type of community pride that engenders a delight in achievement for one's school. It's a great preparation for solid citizenship in adulthood.

But there's another, even greater blessing that British education gave to its colonial children during the time of the empire's greatness: *discipline*. The kind of imposed community discipline in the formative years of childhood and youth that, in turn, contributes to an individual *self-discipline* which creates an orderly citizenry within a nation.

That discipline, in more recent times, has been largely legislated out of society within Britain and its old dominions.

So it is that in this 21st century, with Britain having long trashed the virtues upon which it built the greatest empire in man's history, the grandchildren of many of the colonized offspring of the empire, their parents having migrated to Britain, are *returning to Africa* and parts beyond to receive a type of education which, though a product of British imperialism, is increasingly unavailable within the mother country.

The *Sunday Times* reported, "Scores of British schoolchildren are being sent away to take their GCSEs in Ghana, exchanging truancy and gang culture for traditional teaching and strong disci-

pline, including the cane. ... For the parents it is a chance to save their children from the thuggery that has seen 21 teenagers shot or stabbed to death in London alone this year" (Nov. 4, 2007).

The *Times* gave the example of the Faith Montessori boarding school in Accra, Ghana's capital. "According to Oswald Amoo-Gottfried, the school's founder and director, the key to the success of pupils ... is the kind of discipline that has long since fallen out of fashion in Britain. 'I believe in caning,' he declared. 'I tell the parents: If you don't want your child punished, then your child doesn't belong here. ... Children must be taught. You don't sit down and discuss directions with a child—you tell them where to go.'"

The result is hardly surprising, given the constancy of the underlying principle (Proverbs 22:6) that the school's director espouses: "His school is quiet, the atmosphere studious. ... They remain silent until asked a question" (*ibid.*).

Our libertine, hedonistic ways have decimated the family unit. The greatest lack in so many of our homes is that of a good, strong, masculine, kindly father role model—a loving, yet authoritative disciplinarian. That's what these children of African parents have found lacking within the very country that, in colonial times, established such a system in the nations of their ethnic origin.

To its great shame, the quality of education that the British nation established within its vast Commonwealth

is no longer widely available within its own home nation! And it's not only people from the African continent who have discovered this after migrating to Britain. Citing Amoo-Gottfried, the *Times* reported, "He puts the troubles of the British pupils down to a lack of good role models—a reason many West Indian families cite for sending their children to school back home."

The paradox is that the British peoples, bloated with the false wealth that easy credit has brought to their domestic economies, seemingly so "rich, and increased with goods" (Revelation 3:17), remain largely ignorant of the reality that in fact they are "poor, and blind, and naked" when it comes to the virtues of the well-disciplined system of education that produced their great leaders of the past. That was the system that civilized the uncivilized, that brought discipline to the undisciplined within the nations that formed the once vast British Commonwealth and Empire.

So the wheel turns full circle.

Those who fled their native homelands to embrace the blessings of living in Britain now reject the simpering ways of its current education system, a system gutted of what made it great, as its rebellious people increasingly embrace the indiscipline of the uncivilized. ■

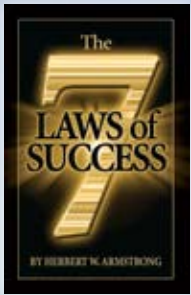


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