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for the End of the World?

**The New
Gold Rush**



JANUARY 2010

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Can America
REVERSE
Its Decline?





22



2



12



15



24

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR
**Why It Is Named
Herbert W.
Armstrong
College**
- 16 WORLDWATCH
- 26 SOCIETYWATCH
- 32 TELEVISION LOG
The Key of David
- 36 LETTERS
- 37 COMMENTARY
**A Night to
Remember**

WORLD

- 2 **The Church That
Swallowed a Church**
- 4 How This Is an Attack on Britain
- 7 Is Jerusalem About to Explode?
- 12 Ditching Friends,
Courting Enemies
- 22 **Can America Reverse Its Decline?**
- 34 The Real Significance of
Angela Merkel's Speech
- 35 The Fall That Changed the World

LIVING

- 8 How to Get Out of Debt
- 10 Let Kids Be Kids
- 20 **Are You Ready for
the End of the World?**

ECONOMY

- 15 **The Stampede to Gold**

RELIGION

- 24 We Are Not Animals
- 28 What Do You Mean,
"Born Again?"

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Why It Is Named Herbert W. Armstrong College



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE ORGANIZATION THAT SPONSORS THIS MAGAZINE also sponsors a private liberal arts college. Why is our college named Herbert W. Armstrong College? We had many different names to choose from, and spent a considerable amount of time searching for the right name.

Herbert W. Armstrong was one of the most prominent religious leaders of the 20th century. He was watched, read and followed by millions of people worldwide. At the time of his death in 1986, the newsmagazine he founded, the *Plain Truth*, was being produced in seven languages; global circulation peaked at 8.4 million. (By comparison, *Time* magazine's circulation that year was 5.9 million.)

The name Herbert W. Armstrong College reminds us that there was a powerful work on Earth that God Himself established. It was a work that fulfilled Jesus Christ's promise to send an individual who would "restore all things"—every foundational doctrine—in preparation for His Second Coming, as John the Baptist did before His first coming (Matthew 17:11; request a free copy of our book *Malachi's Message* for more explanation).

The *Trumpet* aims to pick up where the *Plain Truth* left off after Mr. Armstrong died. His successors attacked his impressive legacy of Bible-based humanitarianism and destroyed all he had built.

The name of our college helps us remember what became of that work because people didn't value it.

In Revelation 10:11, God gave one of His servants a commission to "prophesy *again*." That command, if you understand the context, reveals the *need* for the work we are doing today. Mr. Armstrong had a strong work of prophesying. But then that work

The name reminds us that there was a powerful work on Earth that God Himself established.

was tragically dismantled—and God had to raise up *another* work to do that work *again*. Our work is grounded in what God taught through Mr. Armstrong and what He is teaching today. We are carrying on the traditions Mr. Armstrong established. We follow what he did, building on the understanding he had.

Herbert W. Armstrong founded three of the most beautiful colleges in the world. He taught about the "missing dimension in education"—the spiritual foundation that most educators ignore.

Incidentally, Mr. Armstrong himself never went to college. The same is true of so many of the most successful men and women. That in itself tells you something about the state of most formal education today.

Frank Lloyd Wright, whom I believe was America's greatest architect ever, never studied architecture in college. "We know that the *interpretation of life* is the true function of the architect," he wrote, "because buildings are made for *life*, to be lived in, and to be lived in happily, designed to contribute to that living joy and living beauty. Now looking backward at the old order, it comes to this, does it not, that instead of going to the fountainhead for inspiration, instead of going to the nature principal by the way of our trust in life and love of life, going there

for inspiration and for knowledge, where have we been going? Going to the armchairs of universities, going to their halloved, musty books, going to the famous armchair men who were tutored by armchair men themselves, famous offsprings of the armchair." That's a reasonable definition of education as a whole: musty armchair knowledge.

Mr. Armstrong aimed to achieve something altogether different at Ambassador College. "Very soon, today's decadent education will be replaced by the educational system of the **WORLD TOMORROW**. This already has been introduced in Ambassador College," he wrote. "Ambassador College knows, and teaches, the **PURPOSE** and true meaning of life—the **TRUE VALUES** that pay off—and **THE WAY** to peace, happiness, and abundant well-being. How do we know? We don't guess, or theorize or express unfounded opinions—we have it on **AUTHORITY!** The Bible is that authority, and it is **PROVED** to be the revelation of the almighty living God to humankind" (*Plain Truth*, September 1978).

Mr. Armstrong knew that a successful character-building institution needed buildings and grounds of exceptional character. Under his direction, the three campuses of Ambassador College became internationally recognized for their exquisite quality.

In this way his attitude also mirrored Wright's. Wright knew there was a *spirit* in architecture. He said architecture should be beautiful and uplifting, a "festival for the eye." He talked about architecture enriching life, making people happy and delighted to be inside a building. And he took his inspiration from God's creation.

That is what we are striving to achieve on this campus: to make it a small foretaste of the wonderful World Tomorrow. We are finishing construction on the crown jewel of our campus, Armstrong Auditorium. It will have beautiful Austrian Schwartz crystal chandeliers. It will house onyx and candelabras from Iran. It will display a swan sculpture created by Sir David Wynne from England. It sits beside a lovely spring-fed lake, and will be adorned with beautiful flowerbeds and landscaping. And within the auditorium, people will hear some of the world's greatest performers playing some of history's finest music. It will bring all the arts together. Entering Armstrong Auditorium will be a real festival for all the senses. It is all orchestrated to lift the spirit of man.

The physical and the spiritual all tie together in harmony. When you bring it all together, nothing else stirs your spirit and imagination quite like it. It was *all* created by God!

The most exciting project on our campus, however, is the lives of the people who live and work here. What would happen if you removed all the students and instructors? All you would have are *things* that would deteriorate and waste away. The greatest architecture at Herbert W. Armstrong College is *the people!* That's the real art, the real architecture, the real *hope*. The physical things simply create the environment for their spirits to soar, to be happy.

The greatest architecture of all is what God creates in man. But He can only do that if man cooperates. If you submit to Him, then He can undertake that inspiring spiritual creation in *you!* ■

The Church That Swallowed a Church

Pope Benedict's aggressive move to garner the wayward Anglican daughter of the church back into Rome's fold advances the Vatican's strategy to dominate global Christianity.

BY RON FRASER AND RICHARD PALMER



CATHOLIC The universal church's capital building could literally fit Westminster Abbey inside its walls. It is already on its way to swallowing its congregants.

“PROTESTANTISM WILL BE ABSORBED INTO THE ‘mother’ church—and totally abolished” (*Plain Truth*, October 1961). Herbert W. Armstrong—the founder of the *Trumpet*’s predecessor, the *Plain Truth*—made that bold prediction 48 years ago. On Oct. 20, 2009, the Vatican unveiled plans to do just that.

In a press conference at the Vatican, Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, announced that the Catholic Church would offer a free ticket to Rome for all Anglicans who choose to reject the policies of their liberalized hierarchy. He offered membership of the Church of Rome to those who choose to convert, with the historic concessions that they may keep their Anglican practices and that married clergy may be accepted as priests in a newly established Catholic/Anglican community.

The move was bold, as swift and as sudden as a blitzkrieg frontal attack. With it, Pope Benedict XVI struck at Anglo-Saxon Protestantism’s leading light, the Anglican Church, blindsiding a weakened and divided Anglican community.

“Rome has parked its tanks on the archbishop of Canterbury’s lawn,” proclaimed Britain’s *Times* newspaper (Oct. 21, 2009).

“This is a mortal blow to Anglicanism which will inevitably lead to disestablishment as the church shrinks yet further and become[s] increasingly irrelevant,” said the National Secular Society.

This brilliant attack—orchestrated by the pope himself—will leave the Church of England mortally wounded. The Catholic Church will now divide and conquer.

Mary’s Dowry

There’s a long-held tradition in traditional Catholic circles that England is “Mary’s dowry.” The tradition holds that the Godhead gave England to Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a gift in all perpetuity as the mother of the church. Based on that tradition, the Vatican has sought to reclaim the dowry since King Henry VIII severed the relationship between the church in England and the Church of Rome in 1536.

The whole ecumenical movement of the latter half of the 20th century has been stimulated by the Vatican seeking to garner its wayward Protestant daughters back into its fold. Chief of these daughters of Rome within Western Christendom is the Anglican Church.

In recent years, many Anglicans have been angered by their church’s liberal stance on issues such as the ordination

of female clergy and homosexual priests. Now, thanks to the pope’s directive, they may flock to the Catholic Church.

John Broadhurst, bishop of Fulham and chairman of the group Forward in Faith, formed to oppose the ordination of women bishops, said that up to 1,000 clergymen in England alone could move to Catholicism. Entire parishes or dioceses could make the switch.

In fact, defections to Catholicism are already beginning.

The Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC)—a group of around 400,000 conservative Anglican churches that broke away from the Anglican Communion in 1990 to protest the liberalism—announced that the process toward full unity with Rome “would begin at once.” The primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion, Archbishop John Hepworth, declared, “We are profoundly moved by the generosity of ... Pope Benedict XVI. ... He has dedicated his pontificate to the cause of unity” (*Catholic World News*, Oct. 21, 2009). Before October was out, the English members of TAC had voted to accept the pope’s invitation.

UP TO 1,000 CLERGYMEN IN ENGLAND ALONE COULD MOVE TO CATHOLICISM. ENTIRE PARISHES OR DIOCESES COULD MAKE THE SWITCH.

Catholic Archbishop Joseph Augustine Di Noia of the Congregation for Divine Worship said that hundreds of Anglicans had expressed a desire to return to Catholicism, including 50 bishops. Colin Blakely, editor of the Church of England newspaper, said that “The Anglo-Catholics have been waiting for this for decades” (*Deutsche Welle*, Oct. 20, 2009).

Already in the UK more Catholics than Anglicans attend church services regularly. If many Anglican congregations were to switch, then Catholicism would become by far the most dominant religion in Britain.

The Vatican’s attack will continue to create waves within Protestantism’s ranks for months to come, not to mention the impact it will have on British politics and the Crown itself.

A Sneak Attack

Like any good offensive, this was a surprise attack. The Catholic Church deliberately kept its plan secret from the Church of England for as long as possible. Usually proposals like these are debated

for months ahead of time, but Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the most senior bishop in the Church of England, only found out about it two weeks before the announcement.

Reporting from Rome, Robert Moynihan observed unusual phenomena attached to what appeared to be a rushed announcement of this invitation to Anglicans by Pope Benedict: “But I must say that today’s press conference was among the strangest I have ever attended at the Vatican,” he wrote in *Inside the Vatican* magazine. “Why? Because many things either didn’t make sense, or were not explained” (Oct. 20, 2009).

Among those things, Moynihan wrote, was “the strange haste to hold this press conference.” Whereas the Vatican ordinarily gives a week’s notice before a major press conference, “today’s conference was announced via a cell phone text message from Press Director Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, sent to journalists’ cell phones at only 5 p.m. yesterday—just 18 hours before the event, less than one day.” Such short notice for an announcement over a document—rather

than an obvious emergency—raised several eyebrows among the press corps.

Moynihan noted another “oddy” that was quite intriguing: “[I]t seemed quite odd that the text of the document that the press conference was held to present was ... not presented!” Though it was announced, “no copies were given out, and so no one knows yet what it really will say because ... it isn’t finished—even though officials as recently as yesterday evening thought that it would be finished for today!” Journalists were told that “some questions of canon law need still to be clarified,” but given no further details.

In another break from general practice, the move was not handled by the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission as matters regarding the Anglican Church usually are. This time, the pope went above these groups’ heads. Either out of frustration for lack of progress, or to prevent the Anglicans from discovering his plans, the pope entrusted the task of formulating the constitution to his

old department, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

William Joseph Levada, current head of the Congregation, worked under Benedict back when he headed the body as Cardinal Ratzinger. When Ratzinger became pope, he personally appointed Levada to succeed him. So it seems Benedict wanted to commit the task of drawing up the new constitution to someone he could trust.

Let there be no doubt—this coup was directly orchestrated by the man at the head in the Vatican.

Place this remarkable event in the context of the biblical prophecy highlighted for years by Herbert Armstrong. This perspective reveals that the invitation to the Anglican Church is but one victory within a grand strategy.

Seven years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Mr. Armstrong reiterated what he'd maintained for years. In a letter to his supporters, he observed, "The uprising against Soviet domination in Poland can easily lead to Poland, and such Eastern European nations as Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and even Greece, joining in a union with Roman Catholic nations in Western Europe. The Eastern

Orthodox Church could join with the Roman Catholic. The 10 nations of Revelation 17 will be Catholic" (May 20, 1982).

Those nations Herbert Armstrong referred to are already firmly embedded within the EU. Rome has now formally invited Anglicans to return to its bosom. Many Anglican communities are now preparing to return to the fold.

Watch now for Pope Benedict to move to the next stage of his ecumenical project: the drawing in of the *Orthodox community* to the realm of mother Rome.

A Return to Tradition

The Anglican community, tremendously weakened by the aggressive penetration of its ranks by rabid feminists, homosexuals and lesbians since the breakdown triggered by the social revolt of the 1960s, was always going to be easier meat for Vatican takeover than Rome's eastern daughters. The Vatican just had to take the moral high ground and hold it. The great pedophile purge within the priesthood has a lot to do with that strategy.

However, Benedict is working on another angle to woo the Orthodox, who split from Rome in 1054, back to Rome.

The strength of tradition and ceremony attached to the Eastern Rite is something Benedict has been carefully playing to his ecumenical advantage.

Chiesa reported on October 20: "The ecumenism of Pope Ratzinger appears increasingly influenced by fidelity to tradition. That's the way it is with the Lefebvrists"—that is, members of the Society of St. Pius x, a group of Catholic traditionalists. "And even more so with the Eastern Orthodox churches.

"And also attached to the grand tradition are the Orthodox churches which seem to be having more productive encounters with the current pontiff. From October 16-23 in Cyprus, the second round of dialogue—the first was in Ravenna, in 2007—is being held between Catholics and Orthodox on the question of papal primacy, in the light of how it was lived during the first millennium. Today, more than ever, with Joseph Ratzinger as pope, the ecumenical journey seems not a pursuit of modernity, but a return to the terrain of tradition."

That emphasis on tradition was underscored two days before the pope's dramatic ecumenical announcement. It was the kind of event St. Peter's has not witnessed

How This Is an Attack on BRITAIN

BRITAIN'S skies light up with fireworks and the glow of bonfires and burning effigies every November 5, when millions of English celebrate Guy Fawkes Night. It marks the anniversary of the Catholic plot to annihilate the English government by blowing up the Houses of Parliament—filled at the time with politicians, including King James I and most of the Anglican aristocracy—in their opening session in 1605.

Although the attack was thwarted, and the Catholic assassins were rounded up, prosecuted, then hanged, drawn and quartered, the date continued as an annual celebration. A celebration of Britain's indomitable independence from Europe. Of the miraculous fortitude of the English monarchy. And, most significantly, of the failed attempt by Catholics to conquer Anglican England.

This past year, despite the festivities, it was a night of sobering irony. Why?

For years, the Vatican has stashed gunpowder under the rotting floorboards of the Church of England. (Lambeth Palace, via its self-damaging liberalism, has helped facilitate its own demise.) In October, the Vatican lit the fuse when it announced that it had created a path by which disgruntled Anglicans might return to the Catholic fold. The pope, as A.N. Wilson put it in the *New York Times*, "parked his tanks on the Church of England's lawn" (Oct. 24, 2009).

But that's not all he did.

Pope Benedict XVI has essentially succeeded where Guy Fawkes failed: He's inflicted a deathblow on the institution largely responsible for defining British sovereignty, empowering Britain's historic independence from Europe and forging Britain as a global power. In other words, he attacked Britain.

This is no exaggeration. "The Church of England has been the

religious expression of [Britain's] independent national identity which signaled the rise of Britain as a significant world power," observed Wilson, a British liberal whose revisionist skew on history underpins his praise of Benedict's assault on the Church of England. "It will formally bring to an end the idea of the Established Church, and of the monarchy as that Establishment's symbol and head" (Oct. 24, 2009; emphasis mine throughout).

Wilson—despite his reveling in what he sees as an attack on the Church of England, the British monarchy and the institution at the heart of Britain's "independent national identity"—recognizes the central and historic role of the Anglican Church in British history. Even revisionist liberals don't deny this history; Britain's existence as a sovereign state and global power is inextricably linked to the Anglican Church.

THE CHURCH AT BRITAIN'S HEART

It is generally known that the Church of England was born, with Henry VIII acting as its midwife, in the mid-16th century. Less widely known, however, is that it was conceived in the 5th century. "One of the reasons why the Reformation was successful in England," writes British historian Paul Johnson, "was that there was absolutely nothing new about it. All its elements—anti-clericalism, anti-papalism, the exaltation of the Crown in spiritual matters, the envy of clerical property, even the yearning for doctrinal reform—were deeply rooted in the English past" (*The Offshore Islanders*).

Even from its conception, "British Christianity," with its spirit of independence, played a central role in the establishment of Britain as an independent power distinct in many features from its Catholic neighbors on the Continent. Early British leaders, explains Johnson, wielded English Christianity as a force for legitimizing decisions, enforcing law and establishing the credibility of government. "The church

for over 40 years.

Again reporting on location, Robert Moynihan observed, “As rain fell in St. Peter’s Square, a solemn high mass according to the old rite was celebrated this morning in Latin in St. Peter’s Basilica It was the first time a solemn high mass according to the old rite has been celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica since 1969, 40 years ago.” Moynihan noted that “Many low old rite masses have been celebrated in different chapels of the basilica ... especially in the past two years since the promulgation on July 7, 2007, of *Summorum Pontificum*, Pope Benedict’s *motu proprio* calling for wider celebration of the old mass” (op. cit., Oct. 18, 2009).

The celebration of that historic mass—redolent with a symbolism connoting “a return to the terrain of tradition”—would

not have been lost on either the Traditional Anglicans nor the Eastern Orthodox, timed as it was to set the scene for the pope’s dramatic announcement two days later.

Then, at that press conference announcing the invitation to the Anglicans, came another clue as to the Vatican’s intentions toward the Orthodox Church. Moynihan observed that the press conference had a “missing person”: German Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Council for Christian Unity. He “has for many years been nominally in charge of the decades-long Catholic-Anglican dialogue,” wrote Moynihan. “According to all usual protocol, Kasper should have been at this conference, but was not (he is in Cyprus for a few days carrying on a dialogue with the Orthodox)” (ibid., Oct. 20, 2009).

Note that detail. Did Benedict’s seeming

undue haste to make this announcement perhaps relate to why the German cardinal was in Cyprus? Was it timed to send a signal to the Eastern Orthodox hierarchy with whom Kasper was meeting that the pope is ready to make similar concessions to the Orthodox community if it capitulates to Rome? After all, Kasper was right on the spot to assess its reaction to this dramatic announcement; he could then report that reaction firsthand to Benedict upon his return to Rome. As it was, Kasper left Cyprus with both Orthodox and Roman representatives affirming the continuance of their ecumenical dialogue.

Look at the Context

This dramatic move by the Vatican is but the latest manifestation of powerful biblical prophecies destined for fulfillment in our time.

Herbert W. Armstrong often forecast that Rome would gather its daughter churches back into its fold immediately before Christ returned. The fact that Pope Benedict has made this move now—at this juncture in unfolding world



DEFIANCE Catholicism considers England its rightful dowry. As Guy Fawkes celebrations indicate, England begs to differ. But that is changing.

became the principle instrument of civil government; the bishops were the king’s chief advisers, his chapel servants as well as spiritual ministers. The church codified the law, and put it in writing. Even before the church came, English society was developing a definite structure: But the church supplied the literate manpower and expertise to build a state machine” (ibid.).

The contributions of “British Christianity” went beyond the fundamental yet stoic establishment of English law and government. Britain’s distinct breed of Christianity infused Englishmen,

on an emotional and religious level, with a profound, enduring sense of national identity. After the Act of Appeals in 1533 established the monarch as the titular head of the church, the sworn “defender of *the* faith,” English kings and queens enjoyed the loyalty of English men, women and children whose “Christian” devotion inspired a willingness to sacrifice blood, sweat and tears for “God, king and country.”

“The Anglican Communion is one of the *last vestiges of the old British Empire*,” observed the *Wall Street Journal*. “Faith followed

trade and the flag, planting the Anglican Church in far-flung places such as Singapore, Tanzania, Canada and South Africa” (Oct. 22, 2009). It would be hard to overstate the impact of the Church of England on Britain’s history—not only its distinct religious and moral existence, but even the establishment and evolution of its laws and government, and Britain’s expansion as a global empire.

The significance of the Vatican’s announcement is magnified profoundly when considered in this context.

RE-EMBRACING CATHOLICISM

When the pope struck at the institution at the heart of British sovereignty and power, the institution largely responsible for shaping English national character and for empowering the inhabitants of the diminutive little isle with an indomitable spirit of independence, he didn’t merely park his tanks on the lawn at Lambeth Palace.

He parked his tanks on Downing Street, and on the grounds of Buckingham Palace!

Two years ago, when it was leaked that the Vatican was working on a way to reunite with Anglicans, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: “Britain suffered some of its worst nightmares when the Catholic Church reigned over it. However, the people have forgotten that oppressive history. Now, *they are about to embrace the Catholic Church again*” (May 2007).

Guy Fawkes Night celebrates a failure to annihilate the English government more than 400 years ago. In October, Pope Benedict XVI succeeded where Guy Fawkes failed. **BRAD MACDONALD**

events—places it in true prophetic perspective. Consider its timing relative to several other recent events:

- the ongoing failure of the global financial system
- the consolidation of the EU power bloc under the Lisbon Treaty/European Constitution
- the proposed imposition of global financial and economic regulation by the EU
- the moves to establish a pan-European military force under Germanic leadership
- the rapidly aggressive rise of Islamic power via Iran, a prospective nuclear power
- the German-Russian nexus replacing the Atlantic alliance
- the latest move of East Asian powers to coalesce in an EU-type community
- an appeasing, increasingly isolationist U.S. presidency

Viewed in this context, Pope Benedict's shock move to garner Rome's wayward daughters back into the Vatican's fold is but one more massive sign of the times—the biblical “times of the gentiles” prophesied to immediately precede the return of Jesus Christ to rule this Earth (Luke 21:24).

The precision and accuracy of Mr. Armstrong's analyses continue to fit the

“AT A CERTAIN POINT, THE MOTHER CHURCH WILL REVERT TO THE AGE-OLD METHOD OF PRESERVING ‘CHRISTIAN’ UNITY BY EXERTING PHYSICAL FORCE.”

facts of present-day reality. Much of what he prophesied has, since his death 24 years ago, been fulfilled and since become part of unfolding history. It is because of that tremendous foundation of Bible prophecy, built by Christ in over half a century of working through the ministry of Herbert Armstrong, that we are able to bring to you each month—and even *daily*, via theTrumpet.com—clear and concise proof of just where this world is headed, and predict events of the immediate future before they happen. One such event we have continually pointed to is the imminence of the Vatican's move to gather back to Rome its Protestant and Orthodox daughters.

“The final—albeit short-lived—triumph of Catholicism is recorded in literally dozens of Bible prophecies,” said the November 1963 *Plain Truth*. “Right now—whether we want to believe it or not—the stage is being set for the greatest revolution in religion the world has witnessed The mighty

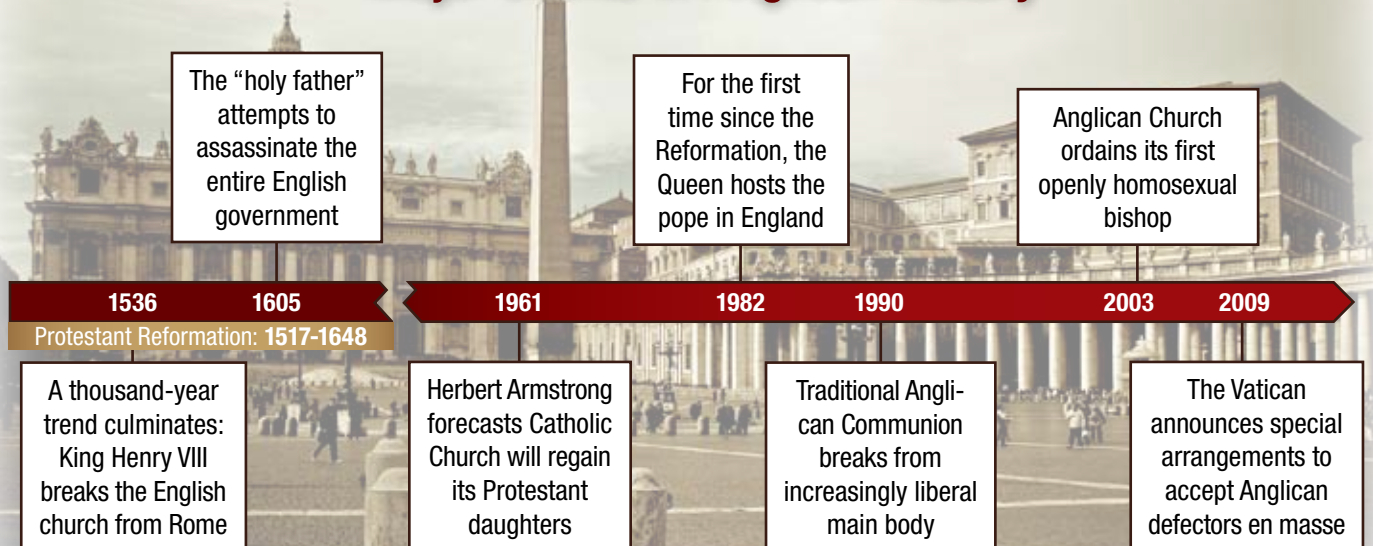
problem of achieving unity is two-fold. First, it involves reconciliation of the Orthodox Schism that officially commenced in 1054 and divided the churches in the East Second, it involves restoration to the Roman Communion all Protestantism which developed from 1517 onward.”

For now, the Catholic Church is willing to compromise to draw in Anglicans. But that won't always be so. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in May 2007, “Indeed, biblical prophecy indicates that full unity will not be achieved purely voluntarily. At a certain point, the mother church will abandon its efforts to woo her daughters back by flatteries and instead revert to the age-old method of preserving ‘Christian’ unity by exerting physical force.”

Now you are watching this prophecy being fulfilled before your eyes. The Catholics are gathering in whomever they can. They are content to use diplomacy at present—but soon the force will come. ■

All Roads Lead to Rome

Major events in Anglican history





SMOLDERING Palestinians accuse Israel of “occupying” their territory like an illegal invader. The American president happens to agree.

Is Jerusalem About to Explode?

New round of violence erupts on the Temple Mount. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

DURING HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE United Nations General Assembly in September, President Barack Obama called on the State of Israel to end the “occupation” that began in 1967—using the same term many of Israel’s enemies rely on to denounce any Jewish presence in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Since then, Arab-Israeli tensions have escalated noticeably, particularly around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

On Oct. 25, 2009, for example, a wall of Israeli riot police clashed with Palestinian protesters near the al-Aqsa Mosque, after Muslim authorities and Arab media outlets called on Palestinians to defend the compound against “Jewish conquest.” An Arab-Israeli *Knesset* member has even hinted that Israel is using archaeological excavations to sabotage the Temple Mount so Jews might eventually build a synagogue where the al-Aqsa Mosque has been standing for 1,400 years.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu angrily dismissed these accusations as

baseless “lies” that were aimed at fomenting violence and division.

An eerily similar storyline played out in September 2000 soon after the peace process collapsed at Camp David. In that version, Yasser Arafat used Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s visit to the Temple Mount as grounds for a Palestinian uprising that became known as the *second intifada*. Arafat, however, called his war the *al-Aqsa intifada* in hopes of rallying Arab forces to capture Jerusalem.

In this chapter, Arafat’s successor Mahmoud Abbas has warned of a “religious war” unless Israel stops all “provocative” acts. In a speech on October 28, Abbas said “the fanning of flames by Israeli extremists has caused the dangerous situation which currently prevails in Jerusalem.”

On this issue, Abbas’s fiery rhetoric falls right in line with his Palestinian enemies in Gaza. Nothing unites Palestinians quite like Jewish “provocations.”

“The Israelis want to divide al-Aqsa Mosque,” the Damascus-based Hamas

leader Khaled Mashaal said in late October. “They want to hold their religious ceremonies in the mosque ... in preparation for demolishing it and building their temple there.” Jerusalem’s fate, Mashaal predicted, will be determined by “confrontation,” not negotiation.

On that last point, he happens to be right. For the day is coming, the Prophet Zechariah warned, that half the city of Jerusalem “shall go forth into captivity” by some kind of violent struggle (see Zechariah 14:1-2).

Ever since the Camp David accords, Israel has negotiated one peace proposal after another that has *included* giving the Palestinians half of Jerusalem for free. But because of Zechariah’s prophecy, for the past several years, we have been preparing our readers for Israel’s government to swing to the right regarding Jerusalem. That, of course, happened last year with the election of Benjamin Netanyahu, who campaigned on the promise of keeping Jerusalem united.

“With a right-wing coalition now in power in Israel,” we wrote on our website, “that brings us one giant prophetic leap closer to the inevitable clash over Jerusalem” (theTrumpet.com, April 3, 2009). Now, it appears, the Arab-Israeli peace process is on the verge of collapsing.

Of course, there’s always the chance that the latest round of violence over Jerusalem may be a strategic maneuver ordered by Iran in hopes of diverting attention away from its nuclear program.

Either way, it’s building toward an inevitable explosion in Jerusalem. Whether it’s a momentary diversion or the beginning of another intifada, this eruption of violence outside the al-Aqsa Mosque, as the *Times* of London wrote, “has repercussions that go far beyond Israeli-Palestinian relations” (Oct. 26, 2009).

Even though sparked by conspiracy theories on the Arab street, and then inflamed by Palestinian stone-throwers on the Temple Mount, still, as the *Times* intoned, “From Cairo to Jakarta, Muslims will be enraged by the sight of Israeli security forces imposing authority at Islam’s third-holiest site” (emphasis mine).

Whatever the cause, Israel’s riot police firing rubber bullets at Palestinian youths on the Temple Mount will eliminate what little support remains for Israel across the region.

The Zechariah 14:2 explosion is coming.

You can learn more on this subject from our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



DEBT YEARS ARE DEPRESSING years. You want to travel to help educate your children, but you can't. You want to send your friend something special to encourage her, but you can't. You want to buy something nice for your spouse, but you can't. You desperately need to purchase a functional appliance for your family, but you can't. The list of financial can'ts reaches into every part of your day-to-day life, it seems. Family arguments result from the financial strain. Life is too precious and too short to grind under the financial and mental burden of unmanageable debt. If you are in debt, get ready to get out!

1

Okay, what do I need to do *right now*?

Scrutinize every aspect of your life where you spend money. Look for ways to make emergency cuts. The goal: live far below your present income. What expenses can you cut out entirely? Remember, the more you sacrifice now, the sooner you'll be debt-free. If you are serious, you have already stopped making impulse purchases and buying on credit and have budgeted for payments that will gradually pay off all your previous debts. If you haven't already done this, start right now!

2

How do I budget?

Really sacrifice! When the going gets tough, remember: The more you sacrifice now, the sooner you'll be out of debt. To do this, you will need to look at every single aspect of your life where you spend money.



**AN
EMERGENCY
CRASH
COURSE!**

How to Get Out of DEBT

BY ROBERT MORLEY



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY HOME?

Your residence is probably your largest expenditure. Remember, drastic times call for drastic measures. You need to consider moving. You might be able to move to an area closer to your job and/or near a store you could walk to for shopping. You could cut your expenditures by hundreds of dollars per month if you rent a less-expensive house. Paint and elbow grease are not very expensive. Dirty, dingy rooms can be made very livable and attractive with a little cleaning, paint and inexpensive curtains. If it's an option, consider the dreaded "moving back in with mom and dad" strategy. The bit of rent you will pay your parents could help them with their bills too. Conversely, if an aged parent can no longer take care of themselves and you have the ability to care for them, consider taking them into your home, as opposed to paying for them to live in assisted living.



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CAR?

Perhaps your second-biggest expense is your vehicle. Ask yourself if you could possibly get along completely without it. A car can cost as much as it costs to support an extra family member. Seriously consider getting rid of your car altogether, if possible. Perhaps for a few dollars a month, you can carpool to work or ride the bus. Maybe you can even walk or bicycle. The money you receive for your car—plus the amount you save in insurance, gasoline, licensing and maintenance costs—will help you get out of debt far sooner. At the very least, if you drive an expensive car, consider selling it in favor of something more modest. If you drive your vehicle "into the ground," instead of trading it in every few years, you will save yourself thousands more and take a big bite out of your debt.

3

What strategies do I need?

“Are you willing to get another job and work a few 80-hour weeks?” asks debt consultant Dave Ramsey. “If you think that it is too hard, you will never get out of the debt that you brought upon yourself.” This is the approach you need.

When it comes to tackling debt, to get the most bang for your buck, you should pay off the debt with the highest interest rate first and maintain minimum payments on all your other debt. But if you need of a psychological boost, you can use the snowball method. Pay off the loan with the smallest principle. Once that debt is paid off, use those payments to help pay off your next-smallest debt. Whichever method you choose, keep moving forward.

Be sure not to waste hard-earned dollars on gambling or lotteries. And remember, the only people that get rich quick with get-rich-quick-schemes are the schemers—not the desperate suckers who fall for them. Act with integrity and honesty. Follow the law and stay away from unethical businesses and practices (Proverbs 22:16; 28:6; Romans 13:1, 7). “A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. . . . He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him” (Proverbs 28:20, 22).

4

But I’m still in debt!

It will take some austere living to get completely out—determine to stick with it! Rejoice in your progress. Seeing your debts melt away will be worth the sacrifice. Proverbs 24:10 says if you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Be strong! People often quit when just a few more steps would reveal rays of light on the horizon. It may seem overwhelming. Do not give in. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to run our spiritual race patiently, intelligently, casting off impediments. The same principle applies in our financial “race.”

Seek God’s guidance. See your employer. See your creditor. Talk your situation over with them. Don’t procrastinate. Keep thinking. Keep planning. Keep working. How badly do you want it?

Remember: God wants us to prosper. He wants us to be able to live the debt-free way of life and experience the blessings that come as a result of obeying His financial laws. So keep working, get creative in finding ways to save money, and persevere. You can do it! The results will be well worth your efforts. ■



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY GROCERIES?

As you look over your food bill, you might be surprised by this advice: *Do not skimp on your health!* Doing that will cost you more later on—in more ways than one. While you must provide for adequate nutrition, you can accomplish it using less money than you think. Eliminate all food expenditures not essential to maintaining good health. Buy food on sale—and in bulk when possible. Learn how to shop wisely. Cheaper cuts of meat do just as well as more expensive cuts. If you are able, purchase and butcher an entire animal yourself; this saves you dollars per pound. Baking your own bread and planting a garden can also be huge money-savers and improve your health. A \$1 tomato plant can produce many dollars’ worth of tomatoes. Also, if a member of your family has the time, clip coupons for savings.



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY STUFF?

Now, meticulously look at your other expenses and possessions. Cell phones, MP3s, cable, Internet: these are all expendable expenditures. You can survive without! Pets are another area where some people spend thousands of dollars per year. Difficult though it might be, maybe it’s time to find another home for them. Go cheaper with recreation expenses. A family dinner at a restaurant can become a family picnic at a nearby park. A trip to a major-league ballpark can become a nine-inning nail-biter at the local high school field. An excursion to the movies can become games and family conversation at home. Saving money doesn’t have to dent your quality of life—it can actually improve it!



WHERE ELSE CAN I SAVE MONEY?

Think about where you keep your money: the bank. Eliminate overdraft, bank account and ATM fees. Banks often to charge overdraft fees of \$35 or more if you overspend. Additionally, the bank charges you interest on the money you’ve borrowed to cover your purchase. Link your savings and checking accounts so you can borrow from yourself, not from the bank. By opting out of overdraft protection (many banks enroll you automatically), your account may be denied if you have insufficient funds, but at least it’s not as costly a one. Additionally, make sure that your bank accounts are free. Many banks now charge maintenance fees and fees on accounts below certain minimum balances. If this is the case, consider finding a new bank. Also, to avoid ATM charges, only withdraw money from networks that are free to use.

Let Ki

Be

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, AN artist named Marla Olmstead caught the modern art world by the tail. Critics said she had the talent of Picasso. Her popularity exploded, and with it, so did the price tags on her paintings.

The funny part is, she was 4 years old.

The 2007 documentary *My Kid Could Paint That* showed intellectual grown-ups reading profound adult meanings into these works. They spoke of this child as though she possessed some mythic, eternal wisdom. In truth, she just liked pretty colors.

This girl's unbecoming treatment at the hands of the adults around her is playing out, writ large, all around us. We are pushing our children into adulthood at breakneck pace. We are instilling in them adult habits of consumerism, trusting them with adult decision-making capacity, feeding them on adult entertainment, and encouraging them in adult sexual behavior.

In the process, we are robbing them of something precious and wonderful: childhood.

Who Is Wooing Our Children?

The panoply of forces driving this trend is vast and relentless. Determined parents, however, can do much to still the storm. It starts by recognizing it.

Many of us seem to have bought the notion that children should not be controlled. Parents give them open access to television, the Internet, movies and music of their own choosing, let them select their own friends indiscriminately, and so on. Many apparently believe that demarcating boundaries for young people impairs them—that they are naturally entitled to all the privileges and freedoms of adulthood. But what are the results of such thinking? Bad, bad, bad all around.

Consider for a moment just *who* is making a play for their minds. At the top of the list, marketers are eager to woo the next generation of customers. Without regard for their intellectual, social or spiritual well-being, these merchants only seek our children's attention, en route to claiming their dollars. Thus, they appeal to youth's strongest, most immediate and even base desires—self-gratification and vanity—all the while hurrying them toward unrestrained consumerism. Themes of kid-empowerment and anti-adultism are pervasive.

Facing such unprincipled influences, children simply haven't developed enough discrimination to resist. Thus, they are taught to fixate on how much life "owes them" and on what they "deserve." "[I]

n the absence of experience, children will always choose the same thing, the thing that is most immediately attractive or gratifying to them," wrote Theodore Dalrymple. "A young child, constantly consulted over his likes and dislikes, learns that life is, and ought to be, ruled by his likes and dislikes" (*In Praise of Prejudice*). Encouraged to exercise their freedom of choice based on their simplest whims, they fail to learn several crucial values in life: reasoned judgment, hard work, patience and self-sacrifice, among others.

Consumerist messages aside, even an afternoon of children's programming on public television is a minefield of other shady material to shape their thinking: bad attitudes; knee-jerk disrespect for authority; scatological, "gross-out" humor; feminist or other politically correct messages; demonism, witchcraft or other pagan spiritual content.

Astoundingly, though, even mainstream sources of parental advice warn against being too concerned—after all, you don't want to seem "out of touch" to your children. But that is bad advice, pure and simple.



Ki

There's
we as parents
in our

Eavesdropping on Adults

More and more, though, it's not just kids' shows our children are watching. Only 14 percent of the networks' scheduling is devoted to youth-oriented programming, so young people often end up watching adult programs. A 2005 survey showed the most popular TV show among

ds



ds

something wonderful
need to protect
children. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

9-to-12-year-olds was *Desperate Housewives*. For family movie night, parents are unwilling to sit through an innocuous cartoon—and are thus exposing their children to sterner fare. Bit by bit, our young people grow desensitized and come to expect more mature material in their entertainment. In effect, they are “eaves-

dropping” on the adult world. But it’s not the *real* adult world—it’s a world far more violent, sexual, rude and crass.

Violence is increasingly marketed specifically to our young people in the form of television programs, movies, music and music videos, video games and toys. As Juliet Schor details in *Born to Buy*, violent action figures are being promoted to preschoolers. Gruesomely violent video games—which have become extremely realistic—are making their way into younger and younger hands. A 2000 Federal Trade Commission report found that 70 percent of all mature-rated games (for ages 18 and up) were specifically targeted at youth under age 17.

This past November, the video game *Modern Warfare 2: Call of Duty* debuted. The game consists of players controlling soldiers from a first-person point of view as they kill enemies and civilians from Afghanistan to Russia to South America to suburban Washington, D.C. Rated “mature” for profanity, drugs, blood and intense violence, this game sold almost 5 million copies in the U.S. and UK in its first 24 hours. That day, it made \$310 million, the biggest debut in history—not the history of all video games, but of all forms of *entertainment*. You can be sure that among those millions of eager customers were no small number of teenagers—and younger.

The social climate that promotes such media is the same one that inspired high school students in Chicago in September to beat a 16-year-old student to death. It is producing a steady drumbeat of incidents in the news involving younger and younger children committing unspeakable crimes.

The aggressive sexualization of our children is criminal in and of itself. “These days when you walk into a toy store, it’s not clear whether you actually made it to the store or accidentally landed in a red-light district,” wrote Wendy Shalit in her book *Girls Gone Mild*. Dolls aimed at preschool girls wear heavy makeup and provocative outfits; marketing materials speak openly about the importance of “looking hot.” Messages of female empowerment are unapologetically wedded with those of exhibitionism and splashy sexuality. Most major retailers carry thongs in their girls’ department; even “Hello Kitty” and Care Bears manufacture the item.

Shalit cited one mother of two girls who

complained, “Many girls seem to have *no childhood at all*. Once you get beyond size 12-to-18-months, the clothes begin to look trashy.” Porn has become pop culture—and young people are increasingly comfortable with it. A survey of British teenage girls showed that when asked what was a “good profession,” seven times more of them chose “lap dancer” than *teacher*.

“There is no longer any mystery or power to sex—it is just expected that everything will be sexual, and so nothing is,” lamented Shalit. “There is nothing to wait for, or to look forward to. ... [B]eing publicly sexual has become the only acceptable way for girls to demonstrate maturity.”

What a shame that we are in such a rush to rob our children of the security and simplicity of a real childhood.

How to Preserve Childhood

“Childhood is perhaps the only phase of life when innocence can flourish,” wrote Michael and Diane Medved in *Saving Childhood*. “But to allow this, parents and others responsible for children’s minds need to construct a protective shelter against the painful and frightening facets of life. They need to stand guard at its door, to let the harsher truths of reality *gradually unfold for the child*, in a way and at a pace that allows the child to maintain a positive outlook” (emphasis theirs). Good advice.

Children possess no inner compass for wisdom. As Proverbs 29:15 tells us, “[A] child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” As our children travel a world filled with harmful things, they will be naturally attracted to certain of those things. Loving parents will forbid them. As long as our children are too young to discern right from wrong, good from evil, we have the God-given responsibility to make those decisions for them. And over the years, we must morally educate them to recognize and avoid those things on their own.

The feeling of security that comes with living under the protective umbrella of parental supervision—even control—frees a child. “Only children enjoy the luxury of viewing life as unshaped, ill-defined, constantly assembling,” wrote the Medveds. “Like expressionist art, the world is vague but vibrant. Later, there’s plenty of time for the sharp definition of realism.”

Enemies of that vague and vibrant world encroach—even the art gallery trying to treat its preschool painter like Picasso. Hold them off. And give your children clear boundaries so they can cherish that simple, happy world while it lasts. Sadly, it isn’t long. ■

Ditching Friends, Courting Enemies

It's America's new way. Is it working?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

LAST JULY, 22 INTELLECTUALS AND former political leaders from Eastern and Central Europe penned an open letter to the Obama administration. Endorsed by many of the region's current leaders, it explained that Central and Eastern Europe are at a "political crossroads."

"Storm clouds are starting to gather on the foreign-policy front," the letter read. The region is afflicted with a "growing sense of nervousness." The primary source of fear is Russia, their reinvented neighbor bent on "pursuing a 19th-century agenda with 21st-century tactics and methods."

The gracious yet somber missive was a heart-to-heart plea. *America rescued us from the Cold War, was the unwritten implication. Grateful and indebted, we have for 20 years reciprocated by being dependable, trustworthy allies, both in word and in action. Our relationship must remain healthy.* Now, more than ever, the "United States and Central and Eastern Europe must reconnect around a new and forward-looking agenda," it said. *Be strong, Mr. Obama. Treasure our past, and please don't abandon us now—not at this precarious moment.*

You might remember the president's response. Two months later, on the 70th anniversary of Russia's invasion of Poland, his administration announced it was scrapping the ballistic missile defense (BMD) system slated for Poland and the Czech Republic.

It was exactly what the leaders of Central and Eastern European states feared: After 20 years of friendship, the United States was tossing them to the Russian bear.

This decision, disastrous as it was, was at least *consistent*. Over the past year, ditching long-time friends and allies in order to court enemies has become standard American foreign policy.



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
An ally abandoned

ISRAEL

THE U.S. HAS BEEN ISRAEL'S MOST ardent ally since its establishment as a state in 1948. Though the intensity of America's support has waxed and waned over the years depending on who inhabited the White House, the waning that has occurred during the Obama administration is unprecedented.

In his June address to the Muslim world in Cairo—where he declared a "new beginning" in the relationship between America and the Muslim world—President Obama essentially severed America's historic relationship with the Jewish state. As the *Trumpet* noted after that speech, by coddling the Muslims "the U.S. effectively ended its brotherly and strategically critical alliance with Israel" (August 2009).

Since then, the American-Israeli relationship has continued to fracture. In an effort to make good on its promises to the Palestinians (and Muslims in general), Washington maintains its policy of imposing outrageous, even dangerous, demands on the Jewish government.

For decades, Israel has relied heavily on its brotherly, sometimes testy, bond with the U.S.—whether it was America giving political legitimacy to Israel's sovereignty, selling hardware to Israel's military, or defending the interests of the Jewish state internationally. Mr. Obama's lofty rhetoric notwithstanding, that "unbreakable" bond is now broken.

As we explained in August, "Israel knows it has been ABANDONED BY THE UNITED STATES."

GORDON BROWN
A brother scorned



BRITAIN

THE BOND BETWEEN THE U.S. AND Britain was *the* defining relationship of the 20th century. *Together* the two countries defeated the Kaiser in World War I and the Axis powers in World War II. *Together* they formed the dual heart of the global economic system. *Together* they rebuilt postwar Europe. *Together* they confronted and eventually defeated Communist Russia. *Together* they overthrew Saddam Hussein and waged war against Islamic terrorists.

Barack Obama wasn't in office a month before he was undermining this historic relationship. "It has been said that the new president does not share the affinity for Britain of his predecessors," observed the *Telegraph* in February (Feb. 3, 2009). His disregard for Britain was evident early, when he made the decision, without consulting Downing Street, to send four Guantánamo detainees to settle in the British colony of Bermuda. "The U.S. is clearly determined to act in what it perceives as its own national interest even *riding roughshod* over what it should have done, which is spoken to the British government," stated one British member of Parliament.

The White House press secretary ditched the term "relationship" in favor of "partnership" when describing America's association with Britain. And don't forget about the infamous Churchill bust incident, or Obama's frosty reception of Prime Minister Gordon Brown in early March, which consisted of a 30-minute chat inside the White House and a gift of a DVD collection of 25 Hollywood movies. "There's nothing special about Britain," a Washington insider was reported to have said during preparations for Mr. Brown's visit. "You're just the same as the other 190 countries in the world. You shouldn't expect special treatment."

And they don't—not anymore.



KING ABDULLAH
A partner weakened

SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT

ALTHOUGH IT'S A STRETCH TO SAY SAUDI Arabia and Egypt are friends of America, the "moderates" in Cairo and Riyadh *have* definitely been counted among Washington's firmest Muslim allies. "Have" is the operative word too. Watching the president work, it's hard to imagine Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the moderate Muslim world remaining allies for long.

The president's address in Cairo redefined America's relationship with the Muslim world. It's telling then, that during that speech President Obama didn't express a shadow of interest in confronting Iran, the nation Mort Kondracke has identified as the one that "the whole Arab world is scared to death of." The president said *nothing* about dealing with Iran's sponsoring of terrorists, nor its rapidly advancing nuclear program. In fact, he made it clear that America has *no real interest* in preventing Iran from acquiring nukes.

Mr. Obama's speech was "the weakest statement on Iran and nukes in at least eight or nine years by anyone in the West," said syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer (June 5, 2009). Instead of using this watershed address to reassure America's moderate Arab allies, President Obama terrified them by making it clear he will not defend them, or Israel or the rest of the world, against Iran's ambitions.

In addition to the few moderates in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, other smaller Islamic states—including Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen—can also be counted among those tossed by Mr. Obama into the ravenous jaws of Iran. And don't forget Iraq, a fragile nation quickly falling under Iranian control as the Islamic Republic increasingly fills the void left by America's diminishing presence.

MANUEL ZELAYA
A would-be tyrant empowered



HONDURAS

IN JUNE, THE HONDURAN SUPREME Court lawfully booted the nation's president, Manuel Zelaya, after he illegally trampled on the nation's constitution in an effort to transform the country into a Venezuelan-style tyranny. The Obama administration responded by rallying to the *defense* of Zelaya, erroneously calling the Supreme Court's decision a coup d'etat.

Although Washington subsequently shied away from calling the impeachment a coup, and later helped hammer out an accord (which failed) between Zelaya and de facto leader Roberto Micheletti, its initial reaction and subsequent dithering and refusal to support democracy and the Honduran Constitution exposed its dangerous lack of moral clarity.

As we wrote on our website, "While punishing those who are struggling to uphold freedom, democracy and the rule of law, [America is] actively aiding and abetting the cause of murderous thugs who hate what America stands for and wish to destroy us" (Sept. 11., 2009).

While punishing those who are struggling to uphold freedom, democracy and the rule of law, America is actively aiding and abetting the cause of murderous thugs who hate what America stands for and wish to destroy us.



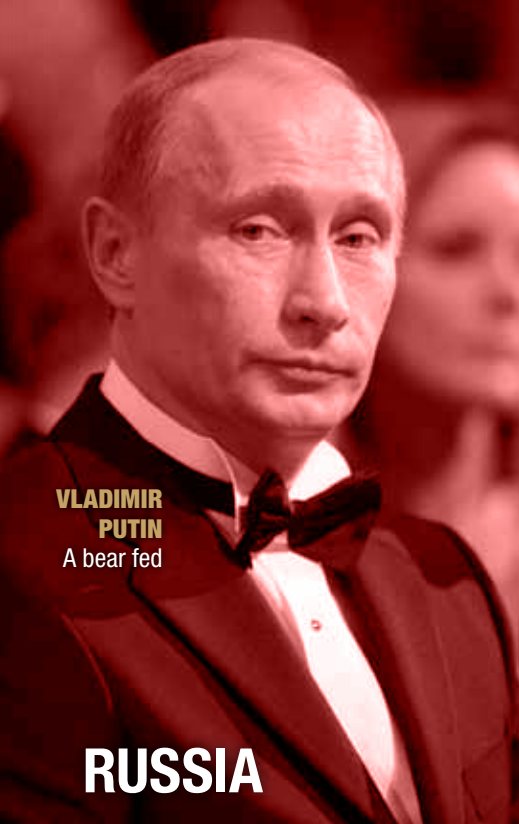
KIM JONG IL
A madman coddled

NORTH KOREA

SINCE MR. OBAMA TOOK OFFICE, North Korea has tested a nuclear weapon and a long-range missile, withdrawn from the 1953 armistice agreement with South Korea, and declared that

it will weaponize its plutonium stocks. How did the Obama administration respond to these belligerent acts? It showered Pyongyang with concessions, among which was the decision to agree to Kim Jong Il's demand for bilateral talks.

Washington's impotence in the face of North Korea has been noted in Japan, South Korea and to a lesser extent the Philippines, all important allies of America over the past 65 years. Each of these nations is worried and has started to position itself for a future in which North Korea has nukes.



VLADIMIR PUTIN
A bear fed

RUSSIA

WITH ALL THESE PRECEDENTS, THE BETRAYAL of Eastern and Central Europe was almost expected. Yet it was no less tragic. America's planned BMD system in Poland and the Czech Republic was a symbolic gesture of America's commitment to that region. It was a sign of Washington's willingness to invest in European affairs, confronting Russian ambitions on Europe's periphery and checking Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The decision to scrap the BMD plan caused a political earthquake in Central and Eastern Europe. "By trading the loyalty of Poland and the Czech Republic to satisfy Russia's security concerns, *the United States is signaling that it no longer contests Moscow's right to assert its interests in Eastern Europe,*" wrote the Times Online (Sept. 17, 2009; emphasis mine throughout). America's other allies in the region felt the tremors too. Ukraine and Georgia are currently being squeezed by the Kremlin. Washington has already abandoned Georgia, and Obama's capitulation over Poland and the Czech Republic was a sure sign that it ultimately plans to abandon Ukraine as well.

"Putin ... sees this as a triumph of his will over Obama's weak, retreating U.S.," wrote Ralph Peters. "And he's right." Now we can "add Poland and the Czech Republic to the list of allies, such as Israel and Honduras, that we've thrown to the wolves" (*New York Post*, Sept. 19, 2009).



ALL FOR NOTHING
President Obama's foreign policy is failing to improve global perception of the U.S.

Coddling Enemies

President Obama hopes that by tossing friends and allies to the wolves he might satisfy the appetite of America's enemies. That hasn't happened, not even a little. In fact, the wolves are circling America closer than ever, and, having digested the food thrown to them, are now stronger than ever.

Take the Muslim world, for example. Citing a number of surveys, including a large Pew survey performed in June, in the wake of Mr. Obama's speech in Cairo, Joseph Loconte, a senior research fellow at King's College in New York City, explained how America's reputation remains unfavorable among Muslims throughout the Middle East.

"[M]ost Islamic countries distrust the United States under the leadership of President Obama about as much as they did under President George W. Bush," noted Loconte. "Yes, majorities of the Muslim populations interviewed still believe that America plays a mostly destructive role in the world. Most view the United States as 'an enemy' and 'a military threat' to their own country. Most disapprove of the American-led effort to combat terrorism. *Large numbers, in fact, voice strong support for terrorism and Osama bin Laden.* ... In other words, anti-Americanism is alive and well in the age of Obama" (*The American*, Sept. 16, 2009).

Think about that. Under Barack Obama the United States has tried to tone down or draw down its commitment and involvement in virtually every major point of friction between America and the Islamic world, from supporting the Jewish state, to Iraq, to Afghanistan, to the "war on terror." For what?

Much of the Muslim world dislikes the United States as much today as it did when George Bush was president. The same goes for America's other competitors, like

Russia and China. There's one important distinction however: While America's enemies remain unmoved in their hatred, its traditional friends and allies are dazed and disconcerted—and a whole lot less willing to ride to America's rescue.

A Spent Superpower

After Mr. Obama delivered his speech to the Muslim world last June, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "President Obama's speech is a great turning point in this world." He also identified it as a "SIGNAL TO THE WORLD THAT AMERICA THE SUPERPOWER IS DEAD!" (August 2009).

Clearly that was no exaggeration. The accuracy of that statement was rooted in Bible prophecy as much as it was present reality.

In Deuteronomy 28, for example, God explains the curses He would send upon the United States and other modern nations of biblical Israel. Verses 65 and 66 state: "Among those nations you shall find no ease, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and a languishing spirit. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; night and day you shall dread, with no assurance of your life" (Revised Standard Version).

We are witnesses to this gut-wrenching prophecy. The U.S. is transforming from world superpower to global vagabond. Look at the American government: Its heart is skittish, its head is sick. Its leaders are naive and weak in the face of tyranny. They've embraced a foreign policy of abandoning friends and courting enemies. It's a policy of entrapment, and one that can only end in destruction.

As prophecy states, the United States will very soon find itself entirely friendless—isolated in a terrifying world drunk on hatred of America! ■

The Stampede to Gold



In a cloud of dollar dust, India trumpets an exodus from the greenback. BY ROBERT MORLEY

TWO HUNDRED METRIC TONS OF gold—the largest gold purchase in history. Think 44 Asian elephants. The buyer's motive was clear: to get away from the dollar. But why did America's leaders give the okay for the International Monetary Fund to sell America's gold?

During October, the Central Bank of India bought 200 metric tons of gold from the IMF. It is the biggest signal yet that Asian countries are moving away from the dollar, the *Financial Times* inferred. As he swapped his country's dollars for hard assets, India's finance minister was blunt: The economies of the U.S. and Europe have "collapsed." India was doing what it could to prepare for the coming meltdown.

As the news hit the market, currency and commodity traders thundered into action. Demand for the yellow metal surged as investors wondered if central banks from China, Europe and elsewhere would join the stampede. Which would be the next central bank to trample the greenback? As traders speculated, the price for a single ounce of the precious metal blew past all previous records and hit above \$1,100.

The real importance is this: When nations buy gold, it is a not-so-subtle stomp on the dollar.

Back in the Post-Golden Days

Since the collapse of the Bretton Woods

monetary agreement, the world has conducted its trade and paid its bills in dollars—not gold. This decision was largely based upon the fact that America had a strong economy, was a major creditor nation with low debts, and that America had a reputation for fighting inflation and defending the dollar's value.

For years, this experiment worked well. Having the world's reserve currency meant that the world needed to hold dollars to conduct trade. All this foreign demand for dollars pushed up the value of the greenback. This made foreign imports less expensive. Flush with extra purchasing power, U.S. consumers embarked upon the greatest multi-decade spending binge ever. Standards of living surged.

The U.S. government liked this arrangement too. Whenever the economy slowed down, or the government needed a little more money, it just printed up some more dollars or issued a few more treasury bonds. The world's dollar demand sopped up the extra money, so America didn't have to deal with the normally expected side effects of soaring inflation and rising interest rates.

Yet all was not well. As America encouraged the world to collect dollars (the new reserve currency) and dump gold (the old reserve currency), an unforeseen, dramatic reaction occurred.

An overvalued dollar meant that foreign

importers began to replace American industry. U.S. manufacturers were forced out of business or they relocated overseas. The U.S. economy radically changed. America's economy rapidly evolved from being production-based to consumption-based. The nation went from being the world's creditor to being its largest debtor.

These imbalances took their toll. Over just the past decade, the dollar has lost *one third of its value*.

So now the world is speeding up its search for a way out from underneath its piles and piles of depreciating dollars. India's purchase is "a landmark trade," said Barclays Capital gold specialist Jonathan Spall. It is "a sign for other central banks and sovereign wealth funds." The dollar exodus is set in motion.

Don't Forget This Picture

A shift is on—and it is going to completely blindside Washington.

Many people don't realize that the bullion the IMF sold included U.S. gold. Many times over the last decade, the IMF has sought to sell its gold and spend the money, but Washington consistently vetoed it—that is, until this last year when the current administration gave the go-ahead.

U.S. politicians don't understand history. During this, America's worst time of crisis since the 1930s, as confidence in the dollar is failing, America should be repatriating its gold from the IMF—not selling it.

American politicians may have deluded themselves into believing the dollar is better than gold, but the world obviously isn't convinced. Both China and Russia are very vocal about their desire to increase their gold holdings and move away from the U.S. dollar. But when America's *allies*—like India—announce their desire to diversify away from the dollar, America should wake up.

Meanwhile, back at the bank, the IMF has announced it will sell another 200 tons. Will Russia, or China—or Europe—get this chunk of American gold?

India's gold purchase should be a warning to America. Usually *Second World nations* have to put up *their* gold as collateral for loans from the First World. Now developing nations are the ones with the gold, and it is America that is relinquishing control.

India now has some mammoth gold reserves—and \$6.7 billion less paper money. This bold move is a clear sign that the world is abandoning the dollar and that America's days as an economic superpower are ending. India's stampede into gold is a picture we shouldn't forget. ■

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

EUROPE HAS RATIFIED THE Lisbon Treaty. On October 2, the Irish public voted for the second time in a referendum on the treaty. Under pressure from the European Union, 67 percent voted for, and 33 percent against. On October 10, Polish President Lech Kaczynski signed the treaty. Czech President Vaclav Klaus held out against Lisbon's ratification for a while, but finally gave in; having secured an opt-out for the **Czech Republic** from the EU human rights charter, Klaus went ahead and signed the treaty into law. On November 3, ratification was complete. The Lisbon Treaty will help the EU make much faster decisions, and make it more difficult for individual nations to hold up its progress. With the treaty signed, watch for Europe's growth in power to accelerate.

Now all eyes are turning to the two powerful positions the treaty creates: the EU president and EU foreign minister. The job description for the EU president is largely unwritten, meaning that the job will be shaped by the personality appointed to perform it. Filled by the right individuals, these positions could greatly increase the EU's global clout.

Angela Merkel was sworn in for a second term as **Germany's** chancellor on October 28. Her Christian Democratic Party (CDU) won the national elections in Germany on September 27 amid exceptionally low turnout. Her coalition partners are the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, and the Free Democrats. Even before Merkel was sworn in, however, serious disagreements had arisen. "Never before has



Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg meets with German soldiers in Afghanistan.

a new government torn into their own coalition agreement to such a degree before it was even signed," wrote Germany's *Die Tageszeitung*. This begs the question: How long can this coalition last?

The election also brought about the promotion of the rising star in German politics, Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, who is Germany's new defense minister. Guttenberg recently surpassed Chancellor Merkel as the most popular politician in Germany. Hailing from the entrenched Bavarian-Frankish, Catholic aristocracy, Guttenberg was a bright young leader during the long reign of Edmund Stoiber as Bavaria's prime minister. Already Guttenberg—an ex-soldier—is popular with the military. He is the first German politician to have referred to the **Afghanistan** campaign as a war.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi may be facing serious trouble. On Oc-

tober 7, **Italy's** constitutional court ruled that a law passed in 2008 granting the prime minister immunity from prosecution was invalid. Now he faces three court cases against him—one being a serious allegation of corruption. Berlusconi is losing popularity due to numerous sex scandals. The Vatican—the real powerbroker in Italy—has also indicated that it is not happy with his antics. Without Vatican support, Berlusconi will soon be gone.

Sweden and **Finland** agreed November 5 to allow a pipeline to be constructed under the Baltic Sea from **Russia** to Germany. **Denmark** agreed almost three weeks earlier. The long-awaited project should finally get off the ground early in 2010. This is an important project for Germany—and bad news for Eastern Europe. Russia has already used gas as a weapon against Eastern Europe. Once the Baltic pipeline is complete, Russia will be able to stop gas deliveries to indi-

vidual Eastern European countries while only minimally affecting Germany, **France** and the other downstream Western European states. The Nord Stream pipeline will give Germany similar energy leverage over much of Western Europe. It is German, not Russian, ambitions that Western European nations should fear most.

MIDEAST

Iran AGREED TO A MULTINATIONAL nuclear deal October 1 whereby its stockpile of enriched uranium would be sent out of the country temporarily, but then it backpedaled. Although Tehran has not rejected the deal outright, it appears to be buying time for its nuclear program yet again.

Iran has smuggled rockets with a range of 37 miles to Hamas, **Israel's** head of military intelligence says. Security

U.S.

Venezuela
Colombia
Ecuador
Brazil
Chile



sources say Hezbollah has the same missiles in southern **Lebanon**. In early November, the **Israeli Navy discovered hundreds of tons of arms on a ship near Cyprus**, en route from Iran to Hezbollah. A shipment of Iranian armaments was also intercepted in October in the Gulf of Suez en route to either **Syria** or Hezbollah.

The *New York Post* reported October 12 that Iran is conducting an all-out election bid to determine the future of **Iraq** in the lead-up to its scheduled January 15 general election. It appears **former Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafaari** is Iran's candidate for prime minister. Among other moves, Iran has been pouring huge amounts of money into Iraq, using front companies, and pressuring Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali-Muhammad Sistani to endorse the pro-Iranian Iraqi National Alliance bloc.

Two government build-

ings in Iraq were struck on October 25 by vehicle bombs, killing 153 people. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the bombings, though it evidently had the support of local Sunnis. Through attacks such as these, the Sunnis are reminding America of what could go wrong in Iraq as the U.S. draws down its troops in that country. The Sunnis know that in the absence of the Americans, they will be subject to Iranian domination.



Lebanon's unity government convened for the first time November 10, one day after the majority U.S.-backed bloc and its rivals in the Syria- and Iran-backed minority coalition finally agreed on a new power-sharing cabinet. Lebanon had been without a government since the June parliamen-



tary elections. Hezbollah was given key positions in the new government and rigged the makeup of the cabinet to be in its favor, with the ruling coalition not having a big enough majority to make large decisions on its own. Hezbollah also pushed for control of Lebanon's telecommunications system. "Saad Hariri, son of the murdered former prime minister and leader of the ruling coalition, initially balked at Hezbollah's terms, but eventually had no choice but to give in," *Time* wrote November 11.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai became the de facto winner of the runoff election slated for November 7 after presidential candidate Abdul-

lah Abdullah decided to boycott it. Abdullah dropped out of the race in the face of likely defeat, given that Karzai had a slight lead in the polls and that the Independent Election Commission is stacked with Karzai supporters. The U.S. is now forced to rebrand Karzai as a credible U.S. partner despite blatant election fraud.

Turkey scrapped a joint military drill planned for October with Israel, the U.S., Italy and NATO because of its newfound unwillingness to cooperate with the Jewish state. The move revived fears that Israel is losing its most valuable ally in the region.

The United Nations Human Rights Council voted overwhelmingly October 16

to endorse the recommendations of the Goldstone Report, the biased anti-Israel report on the Gaza war mandated by the UNHRC. The report concluded that Israel's 2008-2009 military operation against Hamas was actually aimed at Gaza residents as a whole and was an illegitimate exercise of "collective punishment." The *Wall Street Journal* noted that "by attempting to criminalize Israel's strategy of crippling Hamas, the report in effect declared the entire antiter-

send 70 billion cubic meters of natural gas from west Siberia to China. This amount would vault China to being Russia's single biggest natural gas customer. Underscoring the unprecedented strategic mutual trust, Moscow and Beijing also signed a pact to notify each other of any ballistic missile or carrier rocket launches.

During a summit of 16 Asian nations in **Thailand** October 24 to 25, a solid base was created for a future trade bloc among Asian nations. The As-

and Russia are looking to secure their shared border so they can pursue their imperialistic aims elsewhere.

Capitalism and democracy are losing favor in the former Soviet states of Eastern and Central Europe, according to a poll published on November 2. Most respondents reported a stronger feeling of economic comfort under communism. The poll shows that the Kremlin's efforts to pry Kiev away from the West and toward Russia are paying off: Ukrainians in the survey gave capitalism the lowest approval rating of any country, with only 36 percent saying they approved.

China sent the clearest signal yet that it might scale back lending to the U.S. when on November 11 the Chinese Central Bank indicated it would consider allowing the dollar to fall against the yuan. The change in policy—at a time when America is running the largest deficits in world his-

tory—could have major ramifications for the U.S., sending interest rates soaring and the dollar plummeting.

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

CONTINUING ITS INCURSION into Latin America, in October Russia signed a \$22 million agreement with **Ecuador**, covering energy, trade and military equipment. This followed Ecuador's \$1 billion cash-for-oil deal with China. Russia's march into Latin America continues as the U.S. loses its foothold.

Colombia agreed on October 30 to give the U.S. military access to bases, the ability to use major international civilian airports, and diplomatic immunity for its personnel and defense contractors for the next 10 years. A leading opposition senator in Colombia said the deal amounted to U.S. occupation of his country. Fidel Castro said it was Washington's annexation of Colombia. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, who was already upset with Bogotá over a decreased supply of natural gas, broke off diplomatic relations, saying Colombia could be used as a platform for U.S. attacks against **Venezuela**; he then put 15,000 troops on the border. **Chile** and **Brazil** also expressed concern.

The U.S.-brokered deal for exiled Honduran President Manuel Zelaya to return home did not materialize. It required that the Congress and Supreme Court approve President Zelaya's reinstatement, which both had already rejected once.

Ethiopia requested emergency food aid for 6.2 million people on October 22 due to a prolonged drought. This comes 25 years after a famine aggravated by Communist policies killed 1 million people. Eighty percent of Ethiopia's population lives off the land, and agriculture makes up most of the country's exports.

After a three-week boycott, on November 5, the Movement for Democratic Change renewed its participation in the unity government in

Zimbabwe—or, as **Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai** put it, "suspended our disengagement." The unity government remains as unstable as ever, however, with President



rorism campaign to be a war crime" (Oct. 19, 2009).

ASIA

FOLLOWING RUSSIAN PRIME Minister Vladimir Putin's three-day visit to Beijing in mid-October, the future of Russia-**China** relations looks bright. The trip included the 14th regular **Chinese-Russian prime ministers' meeting between Putin and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao**, which saw the signing of 12 agreements on such issues as natural oil, aerospace, nuclear energy and customs clearance. "China-Russia relations have reached a historic high and are marching towards a higher level," Wen said. The leaders also forged a framework for a mammoth energy deal to

sociation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) declared that it agrees in principle to creating a free economic zone on the continent. The free-trade area would be called the East Asia Free Trade Area and include ASEAN and its neighbors. The goal set by ASEAN is economic integration by 2015. Asia sees Europe uniting and is responding in like manner to counter Europe's rise.

An EU-sponsored report on the **Georgia** war was presented to senior EU diplomats and the Russian and Georgian ambassadors to the Union on September 30. The study concluded that Georgia, not Russia, started the 2008 war. The report supplies further evidence that a deal was likely struck between Germany and Russia over Georgia and Eastern Europe. Both Germany



Robert Mugabe wielding the only real power in the country.

ANGLO AMERICA

ARISING TREND OF DOMESTIC terrorism is evident in the **United States**. In September, Michael Finton of small-town Illinois, a red-haired convert to Islam and fan of American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh, attempted to blow up a federal building in Springfield. On October 21 a defiant Tarek Mehanna, of upscale Sudbury, Massachusetts, appeared in federal court, charged with plotting a “holy war” of murdering shoppers in American malls, assassinating two prominent politicians, and killing troops in Iraq. A week later, in Dearborn, Michigan, federal agents shot and killed radical Ummah Islamist leader Luqman Abdullah at a warehouse as he and his followers were resisting arrest for illegal possession and sale of firearms and stolen goods.

In early November, Najibullah Zazi of New York was arrested and indicted in an al Qaeda bombing plot; Betim Kazium of Brooklyn was arrested and accused of plotting with al Qaeda to kill American soldiers in Afghanistan; and Hosam Maher Hussein Smadi of Dallas attempted to car-bomb an office building. Earlier in the year, a former Boy Scout and army veteran confessed that he had fed information about Long Island’s railroads and subways to al Qaeda; three illegal immigrants from Macedonia were convicted of conspiring to murder soldiers in Fort Dix, New Jersey, back in 2007; and three Americans were indicted of plotting to explode two synagogues in the Bronx.

This domestic terrorism



Soldiers mourn in the aftermath of the Fort Hood attack.

trend exploded in a bloody massacre on November 5, when **Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan murdered 14 (including an unborn child) and wounded more than 30 more in seven minutes at Fort Hood, Texas**, the largest U.S. military base in the world. The killer was a Muslim who had numerous Islamist extremist ties.

Thanks to the indebted U.S. government spending more than a trillion dollars to ward off the effects of the financial crisis, the U.S. economy technically came out of recession in the third quarter of 2009 with 3.5 percent growth. However, home prices dropped unexpectedly, the dollar continued to plunge in value, and the official national unemployment rate hovered at a 26-year high—above 10 percent—as millions of Americans received extended and then re-extended unemployment benefits lasting up to 73 additional weeks. Meanwhile, the U.S. chalked up a \$176 billion budget deficit to start its 2010 fiscal year in October and the Associated Press reported on October 20 that one in six Americans lives below the poverty line.

But perhaps the most important economic indicator—honesty—dove in October as it was revealed that Americans were defrauding the programs meant to stabilize the economy. About 100,000 applications to the first-time homebuyers tax credit were

suspect, with thousands of people filing for credit for homes they had not yet purchased, thousands more filing even though they owned homes, and hundreds of applicants under age 18—and as young as 4. Fraudulent claims may have been made for half a billion dollars of the credit.

In late September, President Barack Obama effectively surrendered America’s economic sovereignty at the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh, according to columnist Dick Morris. Participating nations agreed to subject their economic policies and programs to the International Monetary Fund, where the U.S. has only one vote—as opposed to Europe’s five.

The Obama administration and its political party also came under fire for reportedly using access to the White House and top officials as rewards for campaign donors and fundraisers. However, the practice is nothing new. “Every time, they say it’s going to be different,” a top aide in one of the former administrations said. “It’s never different.”

The *Washington Times* reported in mid-October that the Obama White House had relaxed control over missile and space technology sales to China, canning the 1999 Defense Authorization Act. The act had required the president to oversee and sign off on certain technology exports to China. The now-defunct prac-

tice was instituted after China had surreptitiously obtained American technology that improved its long-range missiles.

On October 10, the president delivered a keynote speech to homosexuals. Tens of thousands of activists traveled to the capital for a pro-homosexual march the day before Obama headlined a fundraising dinner for the movement’s largest activist group, the so-called Human Rights Campaign. Many homosexuals at the march were upset Obama has not done more to promote their special interest. Homosexuals at the march demanded that the president do more for them, including repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, allow them to serve openly in the military, and legalize homosexual unions.

While America nominally came out of recession in late 2009, the UK could not even claim that token victory. London, which has printed and spent huge sums to keep its indebted economy afloat, announced in November it would spend almost £40 billion (US\$67 billion) in a second bailout of two of the nation’s biggest banks and that it would increase its bond-purchase plan by £50 billion (US\$84 billion). In spite of desperate measures and the Bank of England printing up £175 billion (US\$292 billion), Britain continues to experience its longest recession on record.

Are You Ready for the End of the World?

Anticipating the end of life as we know it **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

IN THE LAST 100 YEARS, LIFE IN THE First World has gotten a whole lot easier. We've built an impressive infrastructure to mass produce and distribute food, water, electricity and anything else we can dream up.

In the process, we have become extraordinarily dependent on "the grid." Every aspect of modern life hinges on the smooth-flowing, uninterrupted operation of a number of intricate and interrelated systems.

This labyrinthine complexity makes our high-tech civilization extremely vulnerable to disruption.

What would you eat if the grocery stores and restaurants were empty? Today, less than 2 percent of the First World population is feeding the other 98 percent. Most of us get our food from hundreds or thousands of miles away, and have about a week's worth of groceries in the pantry.

What would you do if your town lost power? In most places, drinking water would soon dry up; plumbing would stop. Sanitation would quickly deteriorate, particularly within cities. Communications would fail; phone systems would shut down within a week.

Considering the number and variety of possible events that could create such conditions, it would be irrational to ignore their likelihood. And the probability of several of them happening is high and growing. A disease pandemic. An energy embargo. Terrorist strikes or an attack by another country. The unleashing of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. Weather disasters, earthquakes or other natural phenomena destroying infrastructure or wiping out food production. Deepening economic depression. A collapse in the value of money, through deflation,

hyperinflation, or monetary manipulation.

Most of us simply don't seriously consider such scenarios. We enjoy them for summer popcorn movie fare—then continue to depend on the grid as if it will keep clicking in well-oiled perfection forever. But is that realistic? Not even a little bit.

Brace Yourself for TEOTWAWKI

A growing number of people are concerned. A swelling minority are proactively bracing for the worst. They recognize the signs, and believe their best defense is physical preparedness.

Popular survivalist expert James Wesley Rawles, a former U.S. Army Intelligence officer, advocates creating a survival retreat at least 300 miles from the nearest city. In his books and on his website, he gives detailed information on increasing your self-sufficiency in matters such as water retrieval and purification, food production and storage, security and self-defense and so on—in anticipation of what he calls TEOTWAWKI: the end of the world as we know it.

To give a colorful single example, in assembling "first-aid/minor surgery" supplies for your retreat, Rawles advises, "[C]onsider your neighborhood going for many months without power, extensive use of open flames, and sentries standing picket shifts exposed to the elements. Then consider axes, chain saws, and tractors being wielded by newbies, and a greater likelihood of gunshot wounds. With all of this, add the possibility of no access to doctors or high-tech medical diagnostic equipment" (*How to Survive the End of the World As We Know It*).

Survivalist thinking is often associated with paramilitary activities, racism and religious extremism. But as global stability

deteriorates and threats to civilization increase, it is becoming more mainstream. For his part, Rawles is avowedly anti-racist, and apparently moderate in his religion. He emphasizes preparing in a way that enables a person to fulfill the "moral imperative" of charity, giving to the needy in times of crisis.

There is something to be admired in the clear-eyed pragmatism of those taking steps to face calamity. Unlike the far more common head-in-the-sand approach, it acknowledges the seriousness of the times, and recognizes the need to *do* something—to work while it is day, since the night is coming.

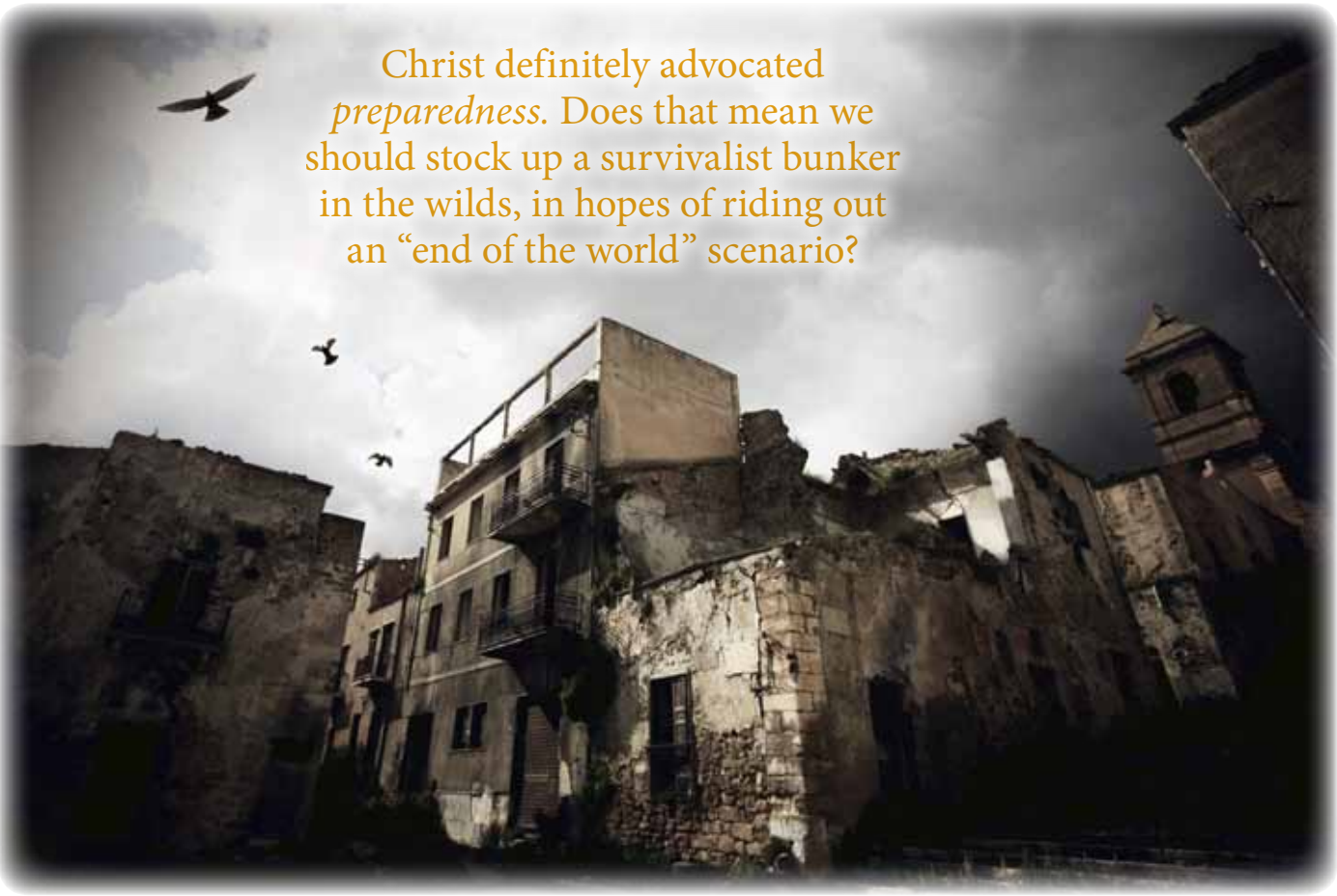
"Take Heed to Yourselves"

Watching global conditions, the Bible's detailed descriptions of "great tribulation" to befall the world just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ are unmistakably increasing in relevance and urgency. In fact, the disasters for which some few are bracing themselves aren't just likely scenarios based on current trends—they are specifically prophesied in Scripture to claim the lives of an *enormous* number of people in the developed world and beyond.

We need to condition our minds for catastrophes, because they *are* coming.

It is because of the human tendency to ignore such realities that Jesus Christ warned, "[T]ake heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so *that day*"—that is, the period of destruction just ahead of us—"come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:34-35).

Heeding this warning will ensure that day *won't* come on us unawares. Christ



Christ definitely advocated *preparedness*. Does that mean we should stock up a survivalist bunker in the wilds, in hopes of riding out an “end of the world” scenario?

definitely advocated *preparedness*.

Does that mean we should stock up a survivalist bunker in the wilds, in hopes of riding out an “end of the world” scenario?

Is that why Jesus gave us this prophecy? Is that why He warned in advance of the terrifying and tumultuous events that are beginning to unfold in this modern age? So we could invest our time, treasure, energy and hearts into stockpiling food and ammunition within physical fortresses?

How to Prepare

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal,” Christ instructed. “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

In this and several other passages, the preparedness Christ urged was *spiritual*.

God’s challenge with each one of us is to teach us to put our trust and confidence in *Him* rather than in ourselves or any other human being (e.g. Psalm 118:8; Jeremiah 17:5-7). He supernaturally fed the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness to

teach them *faith*—that man doesn’t live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3).

Jesus supported this principle. He taught that we should pray each day for “our *daily bread*,” and warned against faithless anxiety and fretting over tomorrow’s problems (Matthew 6:11, 25, 31-34). He was not an advocate of hoarding food. “For whosoever will save his life [or seek to maintain his physical life at all costs] shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it,” He said (Luke 9:24).

God actually wants us to recognize and *overcome* our tendency to trust ourselves. He is measuring the coming destruction of America and other nations because of our sin, our faithlessness, our self-reliance, our ignorance of Him and our belittling of His power. And if you understand the Bible’s prophecies about the severity of that destruction, you realize that no private bunker will be safe for long. No one is going to escape the coming tribulation—descending on America and other nations because of God’s wrath—through survivalist moxie.

Those who plan to weather the coming storms through their own foresight and ingenuity are underestimating the

savagery of the time ahead. More importantly, they are *misplacing their faith*.

In a 1966 article, “DON’T Store Up Large Quantities of Food,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “DO NOT spend extra money on foodstuffs above your *normal* supplies and perhaps some FEW ‘staples’ which could carry you through a TEMPORARY food shortage ON A VASTLY CURTAILED AND REDUCED DIET, IN A SEVERE AND TEMPORARY EMERGENCY, FOR ONLY A FEW WEEKS! ... If you ever store more food than the normal laying up in summer for winter—you’re HOARDING, and God Almighty may well withdraw His protection from you!”

Above all, God seeks *repentance*. And to those who turn to Him with supple hearts, He offers individual protection—*escape*—from the worst of the coming storms (e.g. Luke 21:36). That is the only sure place to invest our faith. ■

Are you ready for the end of the world? You need to start preparing by repenting before God. Request a free copy of our booklet *Repentance Toward God* to help you in this life-saving process.



Can America Reverse Its Decline?

Yes, decline is a choice. But it is also something more. BY STEPHEN FLURRY



BRITAIN'S *INDEPENDENT* CALLED IT the "most profound financial change in recent Middle East history." Arab states, in collusion with Russia, China, Japan and France, had secretly agreed to a plan that would eventually abandon the U.S. dollar as the currency used in oil trading.

While Arab nations were quick to dismiss the Oct. 6, 2009, report, it had a ring of truth to it considering the many international voices now calling for the dollar to be replaced as world currency. In September, for example, the head of the World Bank warned that the dollar might soon relinquish its position as the world's favored reserve currency. The euro, he said, offers a "respectable alternative if the dollar is weak."

Between March and October of 2009, the value of the U.S. dollar *depreciated by 14 percent*. The price of gold is at a record high. Oil is now over \$80 per barrel.

But rather than panic, those controlling the purse strings in Washington continue spending "money" like they just won the lottery. The Obama administration is now hard at work trying to pass health-care reform that would cost over \$1 trillion. This year's federal budget deficit, an incomprehensible \$1.42 *trillion*, is nearly as large as Canada's *ENTIRE* economy—and *three times* bigger than any previous U.S. deficit.

Incredibly, President Obama has pledged to reduce deficit spending only *after* the recession ends. *The worse it gets,*

the more we spend!

The impact of such fiscal insanity, which has been the status quo for decades, is now beginning to hit home. And as Charles Krauthammer wrote in October, it "could ultimately lead to a *CATASTROPHIC COLLAPSE* and/or hyperinflation" (*Weekly Standard*, Oct. 19, 2009; emphasis mine throughout).

The *Trumpet* has been forecasting this for decades. Dollar devaluation, the collapse in America's banking system, the housing bubble burst, astronomical debt and out-of-control spending—these are all signs that the U.S. economy is now well past the point of no return.

Losing Iraq—Helping Iran

In the war against radical Islam, the once-feared United States has humbly accepted surrender and defeat on nearly every battlefield. Upon becoming president, Barack Obama immediately announced, presumably with a straight face, that the "global war on terror" would be renamed an "overseas contingency operation." During his much-ballyhooed Cairo speech in June 2009, he never even mentioned the word *terrorism*.

In Iraq, the U.S. footprint has been steadily shrinking. In his October meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, President Obama reiterated his vow to remove all American combat troops from the region by August. Iraq, Charles Krauthammer wrote, is a prize "of great stra-

tegic significance that the administration seems to have no intention of exploiting in its determination to execute a full and final exit" (*ibid.*).

And when America surrenders Iraq, Iran will waste little time devouring the spoils of war.

January 16 marks Iraq's first national election since 2005. Iran signaled its plan to dominate that election back in August. Its leaders, including Ayatollah Khamenei, convinced its main political allies in Iraq to form a single coalition, known as "the party of Iran." The electoral success of this bloc, the Iraqi National Alliance (INA), would broaden Tehran's influence in Iraq just as the U.S. begins to pull out. The INA is headed by former Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, who appears to be Iran's candidate for prime minister. Jaafari's political stance is clear from a statement he made in October while visiting Khamenei and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran: "The American era is ending. We must prepare for a new era in which Islamic forces set the agenda."

Iraqis can see the writing on the wall. As Ahmadinejad says, America is a "sunset" (*ofuli*) power—Iran is a sunrise (*tolu'ee*) one. Iraqi politicians who have campaigned on building the alliance with Washington look like fools. Even Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's present prime minister, is distancing himself from the U.S., largely for political reasons. "If Obama wants to run away, no Iraqi can afford to appear

more pro-American than the U.S. president,” said a political adviser to Maliki. Sadly, that’s not very pro-American.

Last August, the *Washington Post*’s David Ignatius quoted an Iraqi intelligence source saying what his country would look like, without American help, in five years. His words: “Iraq will be a colony of Iran.”

As for Iran’s quest for nuclear weapons and its repeated threats to destroy Israel, here again, appeasement is Washington’s policy of choice. Judging by his words and deeds since the inauguration, President Obama is far more concerned about dismantling America’s nuclear arsenal than he is with preventing a madman from acquiring one.

Pull Back, Blame Others

Afghanistan, until this past August, had been the left wing’s baby—the *real* battlefront in the “overseas contingency operation.” But over the last few months, the Obama administration has backedpedaled away from what used to be the “war of necessity.”

After receiving much criticism for its indecisiveness regarding Gen. Stanley McChrystal’s request for additional troops, the Obama administration lashed out at its predecessor in the White House. In October, the president’s chief of staff said the new administration is asking tough questions about Afghanistan “that have never been asked on the civilian side, the political side, the military side and the strategic side.”

In an October speech at the Center for Security Policy, former Vice President Dick Cheney offered this stinging retort: “In the fall of 2008, fully aware of the need to meet new challenges being posed by the Taliban, we dug into every aspect of Afghanistan policy, assembling a team that repeatedly went into the country, reviewing options and recommendations, and briefing President-elect Obama’s team. They asked us not to announce our findings publicly, and we agreed, giving them the benefit of our work and the benefit of the doubt. The new strategy they embraced in March, with a focus on counterinsurgency and an increase in the numbers of troops, bears a striking resemblance to the strategy we passed to them. They made a decision—a good one, I think—and sent a commander into the field to implement it.

“Now they seem to be pulling back and blaming others for their failure to implement the strategy they embraced.”

Pull back and blame others. These are

choices that have “set us on a course for decline,” Charles Krauthammer argued in his essay.

But since decline is a choice, he wrote, “*We can reverse the slide.*”

On that point, he misses the mark.

Why America Won’t Reverse the Slide

Krauthammer believes that Washington’s radical swing left has SET the United States “on course for decline.” The reality is that, while this radical administration is helping to accelerate America’s demise as a world power, the United States has been on this course for some time now—*long* before President Obama moved into the White House.

Why is that? Because *God* is against America. “*Behold, I, even I, am against thee,*” God wrote through His prophet Ezekiel, “and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations” (Ezekiel 5:8).

Many cannot conceive of a God *who actually sends curses*. But look at what He says. Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 outline the blessings that the modern-day nations descending from ancient Israel would receive, and the *curses* that God would send if they rebelled against Him (request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to understand these prophecies).

“[A]ll these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee,” God says in Deuteronomy 28:15, going on to outline all manner of economic, weather, military and social curses. “*I also will do this unto you,*” God says in Leviticus 26:16-19, “I will even appoint over you terror *And I will set my face against you,* and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. ... *And I will break the pride of your power ...*”

That the most affluent and militarily-strong nation on Earth today can be on the back foot in so many arenas, and declining so rapidly, is evidence of these curses from God.

The World’s Next Superpower

America’s current leaders are vigorously pursuing a dream of a much weaker, less dominant America that plays on a level field with every other nation. This abandonment of international primacy abroad perfectly complements the massive expansion of Euro-style domestic programs at home. “At a time when hundreds of billions of dollars are being lavished on

stimulus and other appropriations in an endless array of domestic programs, the defense budget is practically frozen,” Krauthammer wrote.

The Europeans, on the other hand, “made the choice long ago to devote their resources to a vast welfare state.” They’ve been able to afford their social democracies, Krauthammer explains, so long as America has been able to police the world.

But who will stand guard for America if we abandon our military might in favor of massive domestic expenditures, Krauthammer wonders.

Of equal concern: What will *Europe*—the world’s largest economy—do once it realizes that America no longer has its back? The void left by Washington’s abandonment of its role internationally will surely be filled *somehow*.

The United States has been on this course for some time now—long before President Obama moved into the White House.

Prophecy tells! Europe will—for a brief, chaotic moment in history—come together to replace America as the world’s greatest superpower!

Already the new EU constitution creates the obligation for the Union to host a combined military force. Those who scoff at the thought of Europe’s disparate group of social democracies ever becoming the world’s next superpower fail to realize that this is EXACTLY how God said it would happen. Daniel 2 describes this final resurrection of the ancient Roman Empire as being an unstable mixture of *iron* and *clay*. And we are now in the early stages of economic emergency that will bring these many nations together as the world’s next superpower. The Bible says they will receive their power for “one hour with the beast”—a period that only lasts for about two years. Though short-lived, this awakening beast will display all of the iron-like strength and force of its Roman predecessors.

The Bible shows how God will actually use this European power to *correct* America! It will usher in a violent—but thankfully brief—tribulation that represents the dismal culmination of America’s current slide. Our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* provides a thorough scriptural explanation of these soon-coming events.

Yes, America’s decline is a choice—but it is also a curse. And these curses are prophesied to intensify, all for one end: to bring about the repentance of our peoples. ■

SCIENCE IS EXPOSING A SHOCKING new truth, columnist Mark Morford declared this past summer: “In the wilds of nature, to *not* have some level of homosexual/bisexual behavior in a given species is turning out to be the exception, not the rule” (*San Francisco Chronicle*, July 1, 2009; emphasis his).

You know where he’s going with this. “[E]ither humankind is part of nature and the wanton animal kingdom, a full participant in the messy inexplicable glories of the flesh and spirit and gender play, or *we* are the aberrant mistake, the ones who are lagging far behind the rest of the kingdom ...”

Morford’s in-your-face arrogance is maddening. But he *appears* to have science on his side. “[A]s many as 1,500 species of

wild and captive animals have been observed engaging in homosexual activity,” noted *Scientific American* in June 2008. “Researchers have seen such same-sex goings-on in both male and female, old and young, and social and solitary creatures and on branches of the evolutionary tree ranging from insects to mammals.”

Science, according to Morford and his ilk, has solved the contentious question of homosexual behavior in humans: Homosexuality is a *scientifically proven*, therefore irrevocable, *fact of life*. To oppose it is to oppose nature itself.

The truth, however, is not that simple. This argument—which is patent liberalism masquerading as objective science—is riddled with flaws.

Animal or Human?

Morford’s reasoning is premised on one of the most pernicious errors ever peddled by science. Canonized into scientific lore long ago, then pumped relentlessly by modern education into believing minds, this lie has been sold as undeniable fact, an irrefragable law of science. What is it?

THAT MAN IS AN ANIMAL.

Check any modern biology textbook—they all say the same thing. Humans, *Homo sapiens*, are classified as members of the animal kingdom. Scientists classify man this way because of similarities between the physical characteristics and workings of some animals and the physical characteristics and workings of humans.

What about the gargantuan—and, at least to scientists, *inexplicable*—mental differences? Animals don’t think or reason, write, read, listen to music (let alone compose it or perform it), drive cars, or understand mathematics and chemistry. They lack the mental capacity to do any of these beyond even the most rudimentary level.

Aren’t the *extreme differences* between the mind of animals and the human mind greater than the *meager similarities* between the physical makeup of humans and some animals? Of course. Yet rather than give us our own kingdom, scientists lob humans into the animal kingdom.

A Slippery Slope

The unqualified classification of man as an animal is founded on an error and ends in moral confusion, and, ultimately, social breakdown.

We Are Not Animals

An error in science is leading to some uncivilized conclusions. BY BRAD MACDONALD



Consider Morford's reasoning, borne of this error. Many scientists and intellectuals like Morford, using this as their premise, have moved far beyond merely studying the physical similarities between humans and animals. Today we have "advanced" to the point of actually studying the behavior of animals to determine what is normal and abnormal behavior for humans. Since, Morford says, animals the world over supposedly engage in homosexual behavior, he reasons it's neither unnatural nor abnormal for humans to practice homosexuality.

Such reasoning is more pervasive than you might imagine. Regarding such human proclivities as promiscuous sex, single motherhood, even child rearing, leading scientists and intellectuals are actually looking to animals to determine what is normal behavior and what is not.

Tragically, this "progression" has resulted in the sweeping acceptance, even promotion, of ANIMALISTIC BEHAVIOR IN HUMAN SOCIETY!

Where does it end? Many animals practice cannibalism—does this mean human cannibalism is all right? Animals fight and kill each other all the time—does this justify fighting and murder among humans? *Of course not*, reasonable people would reply. Yet scientists and radical liberals use precisely this logic to justify homosexuality.

Increasingly, this reasoning is being used to undermine the traditional family. A growing contingent of anti-family, anti-traditional radicals argue that since no other animals possess the marriage institution, why should humans? Some, in an effort to undermine the traditional role of the human male, argue that while male animals are generally involved in conception, most never stick around to protect, provide for and educate their progeny—so why should men be any different?

Such pitiful reasoning exposes the absolute degeneracy of the human mind today.

Humans laud themselves for being smart and progressive. We can easily recognize the vast gap that separates us from other living creatures—the uniqueness of our intelligence, our culture, our ability to think and reason, and our countless impressive achievements. Yet despite these magnificently unique qualities, we willfully lump ourselves in with the dumb animals.

We possess the most powerful instrument on the planet: the human mind. It sets us miles apart from every other life form. Yet we look to animals—creatures devoid of any ability to think or reason, creatures

driven by basic instinct—as a means of determining human morality and conduct, and establishing societal norms.

There is an explanation for such thinking: Mankind has been deceived into rejecting DIVINE REVELATION from God!

We Have Been Deceived!

The classification of humans as animals, and the resulting justification of animalistic behavior among humans, goes beyond being illogical and perverted.

At its core, it is motivated by an evil spirit being who is determined to undermine and destroy the existence of God, the traditional "Christian" beliefs, morals and institutions that underpin many Western societies, and, most importantly, the incredible potential God has created within every human being.

Unsurprisingly, Morford, like many of the scientific surveys, failed to define how "homosexual behavior" was classified among animals. Animals do not have the varied and complex emotional make-up of human beings. Just because two bottlenose dolphins are seen briefly mounting each other, this does not make them homosexual. Did two squirrels wrestling make them homosexual? If the definition of "homosexual behavior" is as broad as it appears, then it's no surprise the figures are so high.

And *if* animals are exhibiting homosexual tendencies, we would strongly challenge the notion that God made them to do so. God created this planet flawless, meaning it was created within the boundaries of His law. This is why, after six days of labor, God looked back on His handiwork and said it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Just look at the way animals behaved in the Garden of Eden, before the curses associated with man's sin entered the world (e.g. Genesis 2:19). Then look at the prophecies of how they will behave again once God's Kingdom is established and those curses are removed (e.g. Isaiah 11:6-9). God did not make the animals wild, violent and bloodthirsty. They exhibit those qualities—as man does, sadly—because they are in the thrall of this world ruled by the devil (e.g. 2 Corinthians 4:4).

So not only are scientists stupidly looking to the creature rather than the Creator for their instruction in how to live (e.g. Romans 1:25), but they are studying and exalting a Satan-inspired *perversion* of the behaviors God intended animals to exhibit! "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (verse 22).

We ought to be looking up to the majestic throne room of God and gleaning

instruction on how to live from the Being infinitely superior to us in morality, character and conduct. But this evil spirit, using science and other instruments, encourages man instead to turn our gaze downward into the world of brute animals—be they homosexual scarab beetles, or promiscuous dogs, or filthy baboons—for insight and instruction into human behavior.

Instead of relying on God's Word, mankind relies on his own materialistic observations and classifies himself as little more than a brute beast aimlessly walking this Earth. Can't we recognize the absurdity of such thinking?

The God Kind

The Bible explains in detail why God made man. It reveals our purpose for existence. It provides instruction on ideal human conduct. It shows our ultimate potential.

Consider God's instruction in Genesis 1:26-27. "And God said, Let us make man in OUR IMAGE, after OUR LIKENESS: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth So GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them."

Did you notice how clearly God delineates the human kingdom from the animal kingdom?

We're just scratching the surface. In verse 25, God explained how He made each species of animal after its own kind, the "cattle after their kind," and "every winged fowl after his kind." But read verses 26-27 again: God made man after the GOD KIND!

He didn't just create humans as a separate kingdom higher than that of the animals; He created humans AFTER THE GOD KIND, with a colossal potential that no animal can ever have. Notice what the late Herbert Armstrong wrote about this potential: "This revealed knowledge of God's purpose for mankind—of man's incredible awesome potential—*staggeres the imagination*. Science knows nothing of it—no religion reveals it ... and certainly higher education is in utter ignorance of it" (*Incredible Human Potential*).

If you're weary of science and education forcing your gaze downward, it's not too late to begin casting your gaze upward, into the realm of hope and truth, the realm overflowing with divine instruction and guidance. If you'd like some help, request, then study, our free book *The Incredible Human Potential*. ■



SOCIETYWATCH



Call of Duty

TALK ABOUT A CASH COW. When the video game *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* was released last November, it sold 4.7 million copies and raked in more than \$300 million—on its first day. Even Hollywood was left shell-shocked, and no doubt slightly jealous. The largest opening in movie history was *The Dark Knight*, which grossed a paltry \$158 million over three days.

Filled with graphic violence, including a controversial five-minute scene where the protagonist slaughters scores of innocent people in a crowded airport, *Call of Duty* was advertised as an “emotional journey” into the darkest corners of human behavior. Although it’s rated for “mature” audiences, *Call of Duty*, like the incredibly popular *Grand Theft Auto*, has a special appeal to male teens and children, and will assuredly fall into their hands.

Over the years, more than 3,500 scientific studies have

investigated the relationship between media violence and violent behavior. Of these studies, noted Northern Illinois University Prof. Mary Larson, only 18 “failed to find a relationship between the two” (*Watch it! What Parents Need to Know to Raise Media-Smart Kids*).

Call of Duty’s extreme success clearly shows that the scientific evidence proving a correlation between violent media and violent behavior has fallen on deaf ears.

Global Shoplifting Spree

RATHER THAN GO WITH-OUT, a growing number of affluent shoppers are resorting to shoplifting to obtain the luxury items they can no longer afford to buy.

“The global recession isn’t just making jobs scarce and tightening spending—it’s also turning more people into thieves,” reported *Time*. “A growing number of new shoplifters are outwardly reputable,

middle-class people who are walking off with French cheeses, quality meats, cosmetics, mobile phones, clothing and other goodies that they feel they need to maintain a quality of life they can no longer afford” (Nov. 11, 2009).

The results of the global survey, documented by the Britain-based Center for Retail Research in its annual *Global Retail Theft Barometer*, revealed that shoplifting, or product “shrinkage,” jumped almost 6 percent in the past year. Historically, the increase has been around 1.5 percent per year. “Though

the problem was documented across all regions,” *Time* noted, “the steepest increases occurred in North America (8.1 percent), the Middle East (7.5 percent) and Europe (4.7 percent). In terms of total losses, retailers in North America topped the charts at \$46 billion, followed by Europe’s \$44 billion and \$17.9 billion in the Asia-Pacific region.”

Beyond the obvious economic impact of this trend lies a broader, more ominous reality: The moral compass of a growing segment of the middle class is severely skewed. These shoplifters aren’t stealing out of “necessity,” to feed their families. They’re not homeless, nor are they organized criminals stealing for resale. These are middle-class people with money in their wallets, cars in their driveways and kids at home.

Without moral integrity guiding our actions, there is nothing humans won’t do. History shows that for a society to be stable, its citizens must respect law. Rules must be followed, or lawlessness and ultimately chaos prevail.

Where will this global shoplifting spree end? If a person has no qualms about stealing cheese, or a few clothes, what else is he unafraid to do? Moreover, if large numbers of people see no problem with shoplifting when they have money and the shelves are



stocked, what will they resort to when times really get tough, when the shelves run dry and the money runs out? Sadly, this increase globally in shoplifting by affluent people is merely a harbinger of more lawlessness and chaos just ahead.



Long-Term Relationships Lead to Healthier Babies

RESEARCHERS AT AUCKLAND University in New Zealand have found that women in long-term relationships have healthier pregnancies and babies. The scientists found that women who had been with the same partner for at least six months had fewer undersized babies and a lower rate of preeclampsia, or pregnancy-induced hypertension.

According to the *Telegraph* in Britain, the “experts believe that the reason for the healthier birth is long-term exposure to the biological father’s sperm which boosts the immune system” (Nov. 13, 2009).

Sex Education Compulsory

LAST NOVEMBER, THE BRITISH government announced that beginning in 2011 sex education will be compulsory for students who reach age 15. Under the new laws, parents will lose the right to withdraw their children from sex education classes. Even private schools run by religious organizations will not be allowed an opt-out.

The new laws will also affect

younger children. “Under the new curriculum,” reported the *Times* in Britain, “pupils as young as 7 will learn about puberty and the facts of life, and 5-year-olds will be taught about parts of the body, relationships and the effects of drugs on the body” (Nov. 5, 2009).

The notion of educating children about sex and the human body is not wrong. But a morally bankrupt educational system usurping parental rights and responsibilities is! That parents will be forced by law to send their children to government-sponsored sex education is diabolical. In *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, the late Herbert Armstrong wrote, “One of the greatest sins, crimes, tragedies of this world’s society, is that great sin of *omission*—the neglect of parents to teach their children. Not only about sex. Most parents neglect to teach their children—period!” This law will only exacerbate this problem.

Ideally, sex education belongs primarily in the home, meted out by responsible parents over time, in a manner commensurate with the developing maturity of the child. “It is the God-required duty of every parent ... to properly teach and inform their children of the facts of sex,” wrote Mr. Armstrong.

Before parents can educate their children on this subject, however, they must themselves have a proper understanding of family and



specifically the purposes for sex, and its pivotal role inside marriage. To gain this understanding, and if you’d like assistance in fulfilling your role as your child’s primary teacher about sex, request your free copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

Youth Unemployment, a Social Time Bomb

BRITAIN HAS BECOME INFAMOUS for its problem with hoodlumism among young people. British newspapers are replete with stories of drunken “ladettes,” brawling gangs, beatings, knifings, and a general spiraling rise in thuggish, uncivilized behavior. And it could get worse.

Last fall, the government released figures showing youth unemployment is worsening. The rate of unemployment among 16-to-24-year-olds reached a record 19.8 percent in November, with the number of youths drawing government benefits nearing 1 million. Britain’s youth

unemployment rate is the worst in Europe.

“Having so many young people idle is a social, as well as an economic, problem of critical proportions,” noted the

Telegraph (Nov. 11, 2009). A “social time bomb” is about to explode in Britain, noted *Telegraph* columnist Edmund Conway in a separate article. “Study after study has shown that youngsters who cannot find work are far more likely to enter permanent joblessness than someone who has already been in the labor market” (Oct. 29, 2009).

An idle mind is a playground for trouble. Lacking purpose and the means of expending their energy productively, these young people have plenty of time (and a reasonable amount of money, thanks to government handouts) for pursuing selfish, carnal interests. Many drink, party and revel; others get together and roam the streets, rankling families and the elderly with their boorish, often dangerous behavior. Crime rates rise. Incidents of violence increase.

Wise King Solomon wrote, “He who cultivates his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless people and pursuits will have poverty” (Proverbs 28:19, Amplified Version).

Young people are a valuable resource in any nation. Every family’s responsibility—and even a task of a responsible government—is to cultivate the next generation of men and women into productive members of society. British families and leaders are failing in this area. The result, as the proverb says, will be *poverty*—economically, morally and socially.





What Do You Mean, “Born Again?”

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

WHY DIDN'T THE PHARISEE Nicodemus understand when Jesus said to him: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”?

Why do people not understand those words today? How many know, today, that Jesus's gospel was a sensational, never-before-proclaimed NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT?

Jesus Was a Newscaster

Those in Judea knew—or should have known—Malachi's prophecy concerning this. It was the gospel of God—and the word “gospel” means GOOD NEWS!

Jesus was a NEWSCASTER. His news was something absolutely NEW—never before proclaimed to mankind. It was the most wonderful NEWS ever reported, actually almost too wonderful for humans to believe. It was news of the utterly transcendent potential of man.

The tremendous message that Jesus brought was not a report of past events. It was ADVANCE news of an almost unbelievable UTOPIAN WORLD TOMORROW! It was news of life after death. And it was news that we may be BORN AGAIN! Yet almost nobody understands it!

Why has it never been recognized by the world as the stupendous NEWS that it

actually was?

Because first-century enemies of the gospel SUPPRESSED IT!

The Church of God, on the foundation of the original apostles and Christ, was founded on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. About two decades later, when the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the churches of Galatia, it had already been suppressed, and false ministers had turned the people to a DIFFERENT GOSPEL. Paul wrote, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel*: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and *would pervert the gospel of Christ*” (Galatians 1:6-7). Again, in Romans 1:18: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness *suppress the truth*” (Revised Standard Version). And in 2 Corinthians 11 Paul speaks of false apostles of Satan (verses 13-15) who *come preaching* “another gospel” (verses 4, 13, 15).

The time was at hand, when Jesus preached, for this message to be announced! The time is at hand, today, for its true MEANING to be made so PLAIN that people may UNDERSTAND IT! (Matthew 24:14).

IT WILL BE, in this article. And it is a

crucial CHALLENGE to you who now read it! And you have to UNDERSTAND what was that news announcement, or you can never UNDERSTAND what Jesus meant about being “born again.”

What Was the News?

Notice, briefly, first, what that astonishing NEWS message was! The preannouncement, in Malachi's prophecy, says: “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek [the Messiah], shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant ...” (Malachi 3:1).

Now notice the beginning of the MESSENGER's proclamation of the MESSAGE. It is recorded in Mark's gospel, chapter 1: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets ...” Then follows the citation from Malachi, written above. That is followed by the account of John the Baptist, preparing the way before the messenger.

Then, verses 14-15: “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”—that is, BELIEVE the good news!

What IS the Kingdom of God?

What did He mean—the Kingdom of God? Jesus’s whole message—His gospel—was about the KINGDOM OF GOD! Yet few know anything about it, today.

A kingdom is (a) a NATION composed of people, and (b) the GOVERNMENT of the nation.

In some cases, the people of a nation are the descendants—the children—of one man. The nation of Turkey was descended from ancient Esau, the twin brother of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. He was the father of the nation Israel. Before the twins were born, God said to their mother, Rebekah, “Two nations are in thy womb ...” (Genesis 25:23).

Now Jesus the Messiah was to come as “the messenger of the COVENANT.” The “Old Covenant” had established the human children of Israel as a NATION or KINGDOM of humans, called the KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. Jesus came as the Messenger—heralding the message of the NEW Covenant that shall set up the Spirit-composed children of GOD as the Kingdom of God!

As the ancient kingdom of Israel was composed of the human FAMILY of the human man Israel, so the Kingdom of God will be composed of the *divine* Family of the divine God!

And what does this have to do with life after death? It has *everything* to do with it!

WHY Jewish Rulers Rejected the Message

The Jewish rulers of Jesus’s day thought He was proclaiming a government to be set up immediately—to overthrow the Roman Empire, then ruling Judea as a vassal state.

One of these prominent Jews was a man named Nicodemus, mentioned earlier. He was a Pharisee, and the Pharisees were hostile to Jesus because of this new gospel. Nicodemus, however, wanted to meet this astonishing messenger and discuss it with him. To avoid criticism from his colleagues, he came to Jesus by night.

“We know,” he said, “that you are a teacher come from God.”

The “we” implies that the divine identity of the Messenger and the source of His message was known to the Pharisees. But they were “NOW” people, concerned with protecting their status as rulers under the Roman government, not with receiving revelations from God.

Jesus perceived the import of Nicodemus’s first words. His message was the good news of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT of GOD—that is, the KINGDOM OF GOD, which shall rule all nations with the GOVERNMENT of God.

These Jewish rulers feared that message. Jesus was of their race—a Jew. If they did not oppose Him, they feared being shorn of their power and perhaps put to death as subversives threatening the overthrow of the Roman government. And the Pharisees thought Jesus proclaimed the *immediate* takeover of that rule!

Not of This Age

Therefore Jesus did not waste words. He struck straight through to the crux point—the Kingdom of God is *not of this* world—this time, this age—but of the WORLD TOMORROW—a different and a following AGE. Not composed of humans, but of immortals—the GOD FAMILY!

So Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

Being “born again” has a vital connection with the Kingdom of God—with THE FACT that it is not of this time—this age.

Notice carefully that being “born again” has a vital connection with the Kingdom of God—with THE FACT that it is not of this time—this age.

But Jesus’s abrupt opening statement left Nicodemus confused. The religious leaders and the hundreds of denominations and sects professing Christianity today are confused and deceived! Today’s religionists put a different twist on it than did Nicodemus, however.

Nicodemus *did* understand clearly what is meant by being *born*. He knew it meant being delivered from his mother’s womb. It meant being delivered into the WORLD! Today’s religious leaders read into it a different meaning! What Nicodemus could not understand was *how*—in what manner—anyone could be born AGAIN! And of course, being carnal-minded, he could only conceive of a second *physical* birth. But he *knew* what being *born* meant!

Born Human a Second Time?

Puzzled, he asked, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (verse 4). He was not confused about what is meant by being BORN. What Nicodemus could not understand was a

second birth. He thought Jesus was talking about a second *human* birth.

He was unable to conceive of any but a second *physical* birth. His mind could not *grasp* spiritual things.

Now Jesus had made clear that the Kingdom of God is something that can be seen—but not until or UNLESS one is “born again.” Not during his physical *life-time*! Also, verse 5, the Kingdom of God is something a man may *enter into*—but not until after he is born AGAIN—another and entirely different birth.

Here is the crux point that explains it all: Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is *spirit*” (verse 6).

Man is now flesh—human. He is MATERIAL SUBSTANCE. “[D]ust thou art,” said God to Adam, “and unto dust shalt thou return.” Again, “And the [Eternal] God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 3:19; 2:7).

Those Born Again to BE Spirit

But, said Jesus plainly, when one is born of the Spirit HE WILL BE SPIRIT! Look at it! Read it in your own Bible.

The Kingdom of God will be composed of SPIRIT BEINGS—not of humans!

At birth of human flesh, one is delivered from his mother’s womb into *this* world. When born of the Spirit, one will be delivered from the CHURCH of God (physical)—the mother of begotten Christians—into the KINGDOM of God (a Kingdom of SPIRIT BEINGS).

Man is now COMPOSED of flesh—material substance—matter. When BORN AGAIN he will BE spirit—a SPIRIT BEING, no longer human. He will be COMPOSED of spirit—of spirit composition—with life inherent—with self-containing life—not then existing by the breath of air and the circulation of blood.

Of the next age when the Kingdom of God will rule the world—the life after death—the next LIFE—Jesus said, “They neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are *as* the angels of God ...” (Matthew 22:30). Marriage is a physical, fleshly union. In the age of God’s Kingdom, when “born again” we shall BE spirit, not flesh. Born of God as SPIRIT BEINGS, no longer human. Angels are spirits—composed of spirit (Hebrews 1:7). Jesus did not say we shall then *be* angels—but AS the angels—sexless and composed of SPIRIT. Angels are spirit beings—created as such—but not begotten and BORN of God as God’s

own born children. We therefore shall be greater than angels!

Jesus explained this further to Nicodemus: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

You cannot see wind. Wind is compared to spirit. It is INVISIBLE. That’s why mortal FLESH, as we now are, cannot SEE the Kingdom of God. Those who inherit it will *be* spirit—normally invisible to eyes still human.

Not While Flesh and Blood

The Apostle Paul made clear that the Kingdom of God is something a human may INHERIT, but not in THIS AGE—not while he is composed of material flesh.

“The first man is of the earth, earthy [human]: the second man is the Lord from heaven [a divine God Being]” (1 Corinthians 15:47).

This is what Jesus was saying to Nicodemus. He was of the earth, earthy—human. He was flesh, not spirit. He was born of the flesh, so that’s what he was—FLESH. When one is born of the Spirit, he will BE Spirit. Paul is here explaining the same truth.

But we cannot BE spirit in this present age.

THERE IS A TIME ELEMENT CONCERNED WITH BEING BORN AGAIN INTO GOD’S KINGDOM.

Continue, now, in 1 Corinthians 15:49: “And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall [future—resurrection] also bear the image of the heavenly” (verse 49). As we are now flesh, we shall be SPIRIT—at the resurrection, that is, when we shall be “BORN AGAIN”—when we shall *see*, enter into, the Kingdom of God—when we *are* spirit—at the resurrection!

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [be dead], but we shall all be *changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we [the then living] shall be *changed*” (verses 50-52). *There is the TIME when we may be born again—when we may see, enter into, and inherit the Kingdom—when “BORN AGAIN,” and NOT BEFORE!*

How shall we be changed? The next words answer! “For this corruptible [flesh, as we now are] must put on incorruption [spirit—that which is born of God *is*

spirit], and this mortal must put on immortality”—be changed from material flesh to spirit!

Until born again, we cannot *see* the Kingdom of God—Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:3.

Until born again, we cannot *enter into* the Kingdom of God—Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:5.

Until no longer flesh, but *changed* into SPIRIT, we cannot enter into the Kingdom of God—Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:6-8.

While still flesh and blood (as Nicodemus was and we are) we cannot *inherit* the Kingdom of God—Paul to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 15:50.

Until the resurrection, at Christ’s coming, we shall not be changed from corruptible flesh into incorruptible SPIRIT—Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 and verses 22-23.

**Until the resurrection,
therefore, we cannot see,
enter into, or inherit the
Kingdom of God! We
cannot be born again until
the resurrection!**

Until the resurrection, therefore, we cannot *see*, *enter into*, or *inherit* the Kingdom of God. We CANNOT BE BORN AGAIN UNTIL THE RESURRECTION!

Now Heirs—Not Yet Inheritors

While in our present status, born of the flesh and composed of flesh, we cannot see, enter into, or inherit the Kingdom of God. Notice, now, the status of the truly converted Christian, in this life—this world: “... Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9). Unless one has received the Holy Spirit, and this Spirit is dwelling in him, he is not a Christian. Joining a church does not make one a Christian. Receiving and following God’s Spirit does!

Spiritual Birth Process Compares to Physical

But now see how God’s Spirit entering and dwelling in one compares to the physical sperm impregnating the ovum—the imparting of eternal SPIRIT life, later to produce a SPIRIT PERSON! A fertilized ovum—an embryo—is NOT a *born* human person. Life from the father has been imparted to it. He has begotten it, but neither embryo nor fetus is YET a *born* person. In

the same manner the Spirit-begotten human is not, *yet*, a SPIRIT PERSON OR BEING, as Jesus said he shall be *when* born again!

Continue: “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (verse 11).

UNDERSTAND THIS! There is a direct comparison between having been born of the flesh and being born AGAIN of God. Jesus said that which is born of the flesh *is* flesh—a born *human*. That which is born of the Spirit (God) *is* spirit—a born SPIRIT PERSON!

A mortal human life *starts* when a sperm cell from the body of the father impregnates—imparts physical LIFE to—an ovum (egg cell) in the mother. At this point the father begets, sires. He does not “bring forth.” The mother does that, later. His part in the PROCESS leading to final birth is then *done*. BUT THERE IS A TIME ELEMENT. At the TIME of begetting, birth (parturition) has not YET occurred.

It is necessary to give this explanation, at this point, because the popular deception of a deceived traditional “Christianity” is to claim that when one “receives Christ,” “accepts Christ,” “professes Christ,” or first receives God’s Holy Spirit to dwell in him, he is already “BORN AGAIN.”

First, then, notice the physical type and comparison.

The TIME Element

In human physical reproduction, there is a TIME ELEMENT. From impregnation—*begetting* on the part of the father—having *conceived* on the part of the mother—to BIRTH, or *parturition*, or being delivered from the mother’s womb is a TIME ELEMENT of nine months.

That nine-month period is called *gestation*. Upon conception, the now-fertilized *ovum* is called an *embryo*. A few months later, it is called a fetus. But *during* this nine-month period of *gestation*, we do not speak of the embryo-fetus as having been *born*. It is in the PROCESS toward birth. It is the child of its parents. But it is then the *unborn* child of its parents. The father has already begotten it—sired it. But the mother has not yet given *birth* to it. Yet it is, during the gestation period, the *unborn* child of its parents.

Now in being “born again,” the PROCESS of this birth begins when GOD’S divine SPIRIT-LIFE is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit, from His very PERSON, entering to dwell within us. Repeat, from Romans 8: “But if the Spirit of him that raised

up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [change to immortal spirit] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (verse 11). This is describing the very same thing explained in 1 Corinthians 15:50-53, the resurrection.

I want to make this crystal clear. Millions of sincere professing Christians believe that when they profess Christ (or receive His Holy Spirit) they are “born again.” What actually happens is this:

When one, after repentance, faith, and baptism receives the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God puts him into—baptizes him into—God’s Church. The Church is called the Body of Christ. So we read: “By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The Church Our Mother

Again, the Church is called “Jerusalem above” or “the heavenly Jerusalem” (Hebrews 12:22-23). Now notice, in Galatians 4:26: “But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

The analogy is this: When begotten by God the Father by receiving His Holy Spirit, we are put into the Church, which during this gestation period is our MOTHER.

The human mother of the fetus within her womb serves the function of feeding her unborn child with physical food, so that it may develop and grow physically. And also she carries it where she may best protect it from physical injury or harm, until parturition—delivery from her womb.

The spiritual mother—the Church—is commissioned to “feed the flock” (1 Peter 5:2) through the ministry which God has set in the Church “[f]or the perfecting of the saints ... for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man ...” (Ephesians 4:11-13). Just as the human fetus develops and grows physically during the PRE-birth gestation period, so WE, after begetting by God’s Spirit, develop and grow SPIRITUALLY in PRE-birth state.

Human life *starts* with what the Bible terms “corruptible seed”—physical male sperm. Divine life *starts* with that which is incorruptible—the Holy Spirit of God entering the human person. But as the human embryo must GROW till it becomes a fetus, which must GROW to the point of being born into the human family, so the Christian in whom divine life has been started by the gift of God’s *incorruptible* Spirit must GROW toward perfection to be

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born into the GOD Family. He will *then* be perfect, unable to sin.

But—that perfection of holy righteous CHARACTER must be developed (with God’s help and the in-filling of His Spirit during this *human* life—the spiritual “gestation” stage).

But not only is the Church to feed the members on the Word of God—spiritual food—but also to protect these conceived but yet unborn children of God from spiritual harm, as the very next verse shows: “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive ...” (Ephesians 4:14).

Then, at the time of the resurrection, we in the Church—the spiritual mother—shall be DELIVERED from her, and born into—brought forth into—the Kingdom, the spirit-composed FAMILY of God.

Sons of God NOW

Now, further: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). The unborn child in his mother’s womb is the child of his father and mother, though not *yet* born—delivered from the womb. So are we, if God’s Spirit dwells in us—if we are being led by God’s Spirit—children of God. Yet, at *this time*, we are in the *gestation* state, not yet *parturition*. And only HEIRS, not inheritors!

Continue: “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be [future—at resurrection] also glorified together” (verse 17).

Now see how this passage designates the resurrection into GLORY, when we shall BE spirit, as a BIRTH!

“For the earnest expectation of the [creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God”—that is *the time* of Christ’s coming to REIGN and of the resurrection to SPIRIT composition—“... because the [creation] itself also *shall be delivered [a birth]* from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and *travaileth in pain* together until now” (verses 19-22).

Here is another comparison. We shall be delivered from *this world* (the Church is *in*, though not *of* this world) into the glorious WORLD TOMORROW and the Kingdom which shall rule it.

The CREATION is waiting for this time of Christ’s coming, the resurrection, and the Kingdom of God, because the creation *shall be DELIVERED* from the bondage of corruption or deteriorated decay. It is not now delivered. It SHALL BE—at the resurrection. Although this is not referring directly to *our* being born again, it is a direct comparison to the BIRTH of a child being DELIVERED from its mother’s womb.

The resurrection—the time when we are changed to BE spirit and to INHERIT the Kingdom—will be a time of DELIVERY FROM the bondage of corruptible flesh and from this world of SIN—A REAL BIRTH!

Christ Born a Second Time by the Resurrection

Continue in Romans 8: “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren” (verse 29).

Now compare with Romans 1:3-4: “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of



David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead."

Jesus was, in the human flesh—His first birth—a descendant of David. But, by the resurrection from the dead (born AGAIN), Jesus became the born Son of God, now no longer human, but composed of SPIRIT—a Spirit Being. He thus became the FIRST SO BORN of many brethren who shall be BORN AGAIN at the time of the resurrection of those who are Christ's.

Of course we understand, and so did Paul in writing the above, that Jesus was also the Son of God while in the human flesh. Though *born of a human woman*, He was sired by God. But this is comparing the two births: the one from the human Mary, as descended from the human David, and the other, by His resurrection to glory, as Son of God.

Emphatically this does NOT imply that Jesus was a sinner needing salvation. He was the Pioneer, setting us the example, that we, too, may be BORN of God.

When Born Again What Shall We Be Like?

When we are born again, what shall we be like? The Bible gives us the answer: "For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; *from whence* also we look for the saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall *change* our vile body [FLESH], that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body ..." (Philippians 3:20-21).

Now notice a scripture in the third chapter of 1 John. Here it plainly says that "WE"—meaning begotten, converted Christians—are now, already, the sons of God, as was explained earlier. Next, this scripture reveals that "it doth not yet appear WHAT WE SHALL BE" (1 John 3:2). We are, later, to be something different. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus, we SHALL BE immortal spirit. That is what we shall later be.

"[B]ut," this scripture continues—read it—understand this WONDERFUL TRUTH—"we know that, when he [Christ] shall appear [at His Second Coming to Earth] WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM" We shall look like Christ!

What does the GLORIFIED Christ look like? His eyes blaze forth like flames of fire! His feet glow like finely burnished brass. His face shines like the SUN, in FULL STRENGTH—so bright it would blind your eyes if He were visible to you now! (Revelation 1:14-16; 19:12-13; Matthew 17:2).

And THAT is the way YOU and I shall look if and when we are finally BORN of GOD! ■

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Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 am ET, Fri

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Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

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Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

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California, Los Angeles KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

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

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

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

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

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

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

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

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Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

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

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

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

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



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

North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
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Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
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Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
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Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
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Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
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Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle-KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
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Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

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Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
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TRANSLATION Media pundits focused on a climate comment. They missed something big.

The Real Significance of Angela Merkel's Speech

BY RON FRASER

FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME SINCE World War II, a German chancellor addressed the U.S. Congress. Amazingly, the commentators from the popular press ignored the most momentous of Angela Merkel's statements and zeroed in on a topic that the most astute of climate scientists are increasingly rejecting—the global warming hoax!

Manipulators of public opinion have had a field day using the global warming fear as a smokescreen behind which to hide their true globalist political agenda. This is a reality to which the mass media remain largely blinded.

It's time to face up to reality. The real meat was in the main body of Merkel's speech, not in the global warming smokescreen tagged on the end, though this got the most applause from the Democratic side of the House.

A Historic Occasion

Chancellor Merkel's address on Nov. 3, 2009, came at a crucial time in transatlantic relations. The U.S. is in decline politically, economically and financially. The European Union, with its constitution ratified, stands on the brink of becoming a giant imperial power overnight. In fact, it is becoming the very power that will fill the increasing economic, political and military vacuum being created in the world through America's decline.

The nation that stands in the lead of

the European empire is Germany.

Given that context, the address by the German chancellor was a most historic—not to mention prophetic—occasion. Yet few in that audience, reading between the lines of the chancellor's speech, would have garnered the truth of the reality America faces.

The number of EU summits hit a peak in 2009. It seems no sooner was one summit over before we were hearing of the imminent scheduling of another.

Why all the chat in this whirlwind of EU summitry? It's simple. It is *time!* It's time for the grand EU design to emerge from behind its facade and finally reveal its true reason for being. And the movers and shakers, the powerfully influential elites who have driven this postwar grand design for Europe thus far, want their enterprise to finally emerge as a powerful global player, not only economically, but politically and, believe it or not, militarily.

The frequency of EU summitry has hinged on the progressive building of a German-dominated imperial power, not by military aggression, but by treaty. Step by step, the European elites have constructed this rising empire by a series of treaties. Each treaty was designed to build upon its predecessor in a process that has taken a simple agreement on access to coal and steel (the treaty of Paris, 1951, which created the European Coal and Steel Community) to rebuild postwar European industry, to its inevitable outcome: a treaty enabling

the launching of a powerful pan-European military industry underpinning a powerful imperial military force of global reach.

That old master of international relations, Hans Morgenthau, pointed to industrial capacity as being one of the most important factors underpinning the status of a world power. "[T]he competition among nations for power transforms itself largely into competition for the production of bigger, better and more implements of war," he wrote in *Politics Among Nations*. Extrapolating the point, Morgenthau went on to state the logical outcome of this competition for global power. "[A] change in industrial rank, for better or for worse, should be accompanied or followed by a corresponding change in the hierarchy of power."

The transfer of power that has followed the transfer of industrial capacity, changing the West into major *consumers* and the East into major *producers* of goods, is now witnessing a subsequent reduction in power of the previously dominant industrial nations, significantly the Anglo-Saxons, and the rise to power of the world's major producers, in particular China, Japan, India and a resurrecting Russia.

Perhaps the least understood of all rising industrial powers is the European Union.

The Resurrecting Empire

People will believe what they choose to believe, regardless of reality. Most choose to believe what is fed to them by the popular press. It has thus played to the huge advantage of the rising European imperial power that it is largely ignored by a poorly educated and largely blind U.S. media machine. While the press and mass media dance to the tune of the liberal socialists' views on such high-profile stories as the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan, economic "recovery," and the ever-present, nauseating "celebrity" personalities of the day, the behemoth rises across the Atlantic.

So well-masked has been this resurrection of old "Holy" Roman/Teutonic power that when its reality hits, it will send a massive shock wave through North America in particular. Britain—being much closer geographically to Europe, and now beginning to stand aghast at the degree to which its economy and its political and judicial system have been wrecked by membership in the European Union—at least has an increasing number of sensibly aware voices clamoring for their nation to extricate itself from Brussels/Berlin. Sadly, it's too late for even such action to have a positive bearing on the state of the British nation.

So drastic is Britain's economic state (the United Kingdom now being Germany's largest EU creditor) that its prime minister has announced the fire sale of prime national assets.

Pope Benedict XVI in his recent encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" called for a global order to address the world's 21st-century challenges. Chancellor Merkel added her voice to that call in her speech, declaring to the joint houses of Congress that the solution to the world's problems was a "global order ... under global law," and calling for the institution of a "global economic order" under "global law." Merkel's request was especially timely, considering the rise of the EU as a globalist imperial power established by the Lisbon Treaty's ratification.

Germany and the Vatican have a history of operating in tandem under the facade of the European Union to advance their imperialist agenda for universal government. The ratification of the Lisbon Treaty—in essence an imperialist European Constitution—will accelerate that trend.

Europe's Next Initiative

Now that the European Union stands revealed for that which it was always destined to become—a global power—Chancellor Merkel gave more than a strong hint as to what will become the new pretense under which Berlin and Rome will aggressively move forward in the drive for global economic order. She encouraged the U.S. to join the EU in using the G-20 to achieve this end, a reality that has leaped into focus since the G-20 began imposing its globalist EU-driven agenda on the world after the great Wall Street crash of September 2008.

The EU constitution establishes the new positions of EU high representative and EU foreign minister, and implements the EU diplomatic service, on Jan. 1, 2010. These steps forward are certain to accelerate the development of the European military force—the most dramatic and dangerous of all the institutions the new EU constitution embraces.

The world would do well to take warning that Chancellor Merkel's call for a global order under global regulation is

about to become a reality—under initiatives to be enforced by the very nation from which she hails!

As you watch this rapid-fire propulsion of the European empire to global power status, remember the words of Herbert W. Armstrong: "Watch for developments suddenly to speed toward European POLITICAL and MILITARY union, through religious union! ... [I]n very few years at most, it must start. And when it does, events will flash by with a lightning speed that will ASTOUND THE WORLD ... This sudden blitz toward UNION ... once triggered will move so swiftly the whole world will be caught by surprise. Yes indeed! They shall WONDER in amazement!" (*Plain Truth*, November 1965). ■

Read our booklet ***Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*** for an in-depth understanding of the history that has led to this moment, and for the great hope it portends for the future.



The Fall That Changed the World

THE fall of the Berlin Wall, Nov. 9, 1989, catalyzed world events into an unprecedented fast pace. It brought massive geopolitical changes as few could have envisioned during the waning years of the Cold War.

As one commentator put it, "The world has been in furious flux since the fall of the Berlin Wall. A host of factors has driven it into this ever accelerating 'fast-forward mode'" (*Europe's World*, Autumn 2009).

Madeleine Albright, describing the effect of the fracturing of the Berlin Wall, declared that on that fateful day, "in the space of a historical eyewink, everything changed" (*Parade*, Nov. 8, 2009).

Change it certainly did, each change seemingly stimulating yet another. The resulting battery of accelerating changes occurring within just two decades took Germany from being a divided nation—symbolized by the ugly bulk of a concrete barrier fracturing its wartime capital city—to being the most powerful economic and political force dominating a new imperialist global power, the European Union.

Even more significant, that first crack in the Berlin Wall was a harbinger of the fracturing of the relationship that had held together the Western powers in a grand alliance for over 40 years following World War II.

The fall of the Berlin Wall triggered the beginning of a realignment of German international relations. Germany's Cold War transatlantic orientation has become an increasingly Eurasian alignment.

German-Foreign-Policy.com reported, "The close economic alliance with the USA had characterized the years of the confrontation between the two systems. Since the upheavals between 1989 and 1991, German business has been eastward-oriented to a growing degree. Today, the trade volume between Germany and Eastern Europe is reaching €307 billion annually, constituting 17 percent of German foreign trade, while the German-U.S. trade volume sank to €117.5 billion, a mere 6.5 percent. Germany has its eyes particularly focused on Russian energy resources, to which German companies have obtained direct access in the meantime. For

some time, Berlin has been using again this shift in economic weights for its traditional seesaw policy between East and West. And anti-American forces are openly proposing an alliance with Russia" (Oct. 29, 2009).

But it's not only the breaching of the Atlantic alliance that the fall of the Berlin Wall triggered. Within scarcely a year of Germany uniting, its first foreign-policy initiative as a united nation was to fracture in turn the whole Yugoslav Republic by its recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as separate nation-states apart from the greater Yugoslav federation. This triggered the illegal Balkan wars. These wars have progressively garnered the Balkan nations into the German-dominated EU as that imperialist Union's first colonies.

One further result of the Balkan wars was the relaunching of the German Luftwaffe into combat, with ready Anglo-American assent. Since then, the German navy has drawn blood off the coast of Somalia. Most recently, the German military force in Afghanistan engaged Taliban forces in active combat.

Then, just days before the anniversary of the event that catalyzed Germany's reunification, the nation's defense minister, Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, broke a longstanding taboo by affirming that Germany was in reality at "war" in Afghanistan. It's the first time the term *war* has been used to describe postwar German combat roles.

That the fall of the Berlin Wall produced vast changes in the global order is now a matter of recorded history. Yet, no one could have forecast that these events would become today's reality when Germany lay in ashes over 65 years ago. Except—one man did.

There was one man, a voice crying out amid the confusion in the postwar world, who tenaciously pointed not only to the inevitability of the fall of the Berlin Wall, but who so precisely *prophesied* the events that have followed—and he died nearly four years *before* the wall fell. His name was Herbert W. Armstrong.

RON FRASER

U.S. Constitution

I WRITE REGARDING YOUR OUTSTANDING “From the Editor” article titled “The War Against the U. S. Constitution” in the November-December issue. Sir, you are 100 percent correct in your assessment! I am an Arizona delegate scheduled to attend the Continental Congress November 11-24 at the Pheasant Run Conference Center in St. Charles, Illinois, and I assure you that your words will resound there and then, for I share them with you in my heart. ... Thank you again for your concise observations. *Ed Vallejo—ARIZONA*



THIS ARTICLE ILLUSTRATES PRESIDENT Obama’s tragic disdain for history and for LAW. The Founding Fathers risked all to create a nation free from tyranny. A despot had illegally taken their rights away such as due process and legislative representation. The colonists broke from England to establish a nation governed by the rule of law. The head of all laws is the Constitution. It limits government to protect the citizenry from evil rulers. The founders intended changes should only be made to better reflect the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence. One such ideal is that man’s laws should harmonize with the laws of man’s Creator, the supreme Judge of the world. That is America’s inspired beginning. Upon taking office, President Obama promised to uphold the Constitution. The fact that the legal underpinning of the nation is being dismantled by the very man who should be its chief protector is akin to a mother destroying the unborn child she carries, when she should be defending it with her life.

K.S.A.—CALIFORNIA

Digital Drug

I HAVE WONDERED WHETHER OUR FUTURE generations will stand up to real life challenges or pretend they do not exist through their virtual reality video games! (“Youth and the Digital Drug,” November-December 2009). *Pranay Sherke—ONTARIO*

I IMMENSELY ENJOY POSTING FACEBOOK comments, but have to admit it does rob me of valuable time when I should be reading, especially the Bible. I also am dumbfounded at what the digital drug and cable TV overload is doing to my co-

workers. Young adult, mid-aged and older Americans also act like schoolchildren themselves. The “workplace” has become a carnival-laced arena filled with frequent spats of game-playing cliquishness, where it’s getting harder to get straight answers and responses out of people. And folks seem to prefer to mimic their favorite actors, “American idols” and reality-show goons to being real, sober, mature and down to earth! *Howard—TENNESSEE*

THIS IS TRULY AN ADDICTIVE “drug.” It comes between relationships and destroys any hope of physical communication with the user, not to mention interfering with tasks and reading. The smartest thing a parent can do is block texting from the teen’s phone and Facebook-type sites on the computer. I know whereof I speak; I have a teenage granddaughter. *Vicki Flickinger—KANSAS*

Surrendering to Iran

THIS TYPE OF THINKING REMINDS ME OF the mother who constantly counts, re-counts, and restarts her counts before she ever actually punishes the child for its deliberate defiance and disobedience (“Surrendering to Iran,” November-December 2009). She then wonders who created this monster. *Sonja—UNITED STATES*

Britain’s Iron Lady

BRITAIN AND THE U.S. BLEW IT! (“Britain’s Iron Lady Was Right,” November-December 2009). Margaret Thatcher had the potential to be a modern-day Winston Churchill, a person with uncanny political insight. Too bad liberal-minded, asinine scholars and politicians never supported her. Today Islamism, liberalism and an anti-Judeo-Christian mentality is tearing the once proud Anglo-Saxon world apart. Soon revived fascism will totally obliterate Britain/U.S. *Peter Thomas—SARAWAK, MALAYSIA*

End of London

YOUR INSIGHT INTO INTERNATIONAL power politics is commendable, since you have diagnosed the anti-Britain strategic policy of the EU long before reports like this one from Berlin came out (“Europe’s Plans Will Destroy London,” November-December 2009). I would like to add however, that some of your conclusions appear doubtful. In my view, the move by EU regulatory boards to tighten rules

on financial markets to prevent economic collapse still appears—more or less—honest policy. I don’t think it necessarily reveals a malicious agenda, one certainly not held by spineless bureaucrats, to smash Britain’s global influence. Of course, it will do so. But why shouldn’t mainland Europeans and especially Germans, who have many of their savings in banks that have been partly ruined by Anglo-Saxon hedge funds and other private gambling clubs, have a legitimate interest in “destroying” the dominance of UK’s financial hub? The days of Britain as an economic superpower are long gone; it is now one of many powers, and it would thus be appropriate to have its potential incorporated into a transnational body like the EU. ... If Britain were willing to relinquish its grand power claim, it could have a bright future in the EU. However, if it totally blocks all initiatives Berlin, Paris and Brussels propose and puts the welfare of 60 million people before that of several hundred, then one can rightfully ask: Why did it choose to become part of the EU in the first place? ...

F. Schirner—NUREMBERG, GERMANY

One True Religion

THANK YOU FOR WRITING THE MOST wonderful article “Is There One True Religion?” (November-December 2009). It is so informative and should be handed out to all ministers around the world for people to hear and to read.

Betty Zednick—NASH, TEX.

I USED TO READ YOUR MAGAZINE BY Herbert Armstrong back in the early ’70s. I read it for years, and then it just disappeared. I really enjoyed reading it. Surfing the net, I have found your site. I look forward to continuing my education that was interrupted years ago. I am glad I found you again. ... It is nice to hear the truth in this deceptive and deceived world today. Thanks for being there again. *David Lowery—MOBILE, ALA.*

WHERE I LIVE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT YOU are the only godly news source on the face of the planet. It’s such a wonderful thing to hear of the happenings of this world in light of His Word.

Debbie Amis—WAVERLY, TENN.

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A Night to Remember

Even for an 11-year-old on the bottom of the planet **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

NOV. 9, 1989, WAS A LONG NIGHT. I WAS 11. THE DETAILS are dim. But I remember the atmosphere in our house being *electric*. That night the TV blared for hours, spitting out a constant stream of images from a foreign land of a foreign people speaking a foreign language. I hadn't the foggiest idea of what they were saying. But they were ecstatic.

I remember the giant wall, its gray, pocked face splashed with tattered posters and bright graffiti. It was ugly and unpractical, and needed to go. Men with pickaxes picked; others with sledgehammers slugged. Electric grinders, sparks flying, chewed into the wall like angry mosquitoes attacking an elephant.

Powered by emotion more than muscle, the mob worked fast. Eventually, a large section of the wall began swaying, back and forth, back and forth—like a baby tooth not fully severed from the gum—slow and gentle at first, then more violently. Finally the wall crashed to the ground, giving way to a stampede of rapturous East Germans.



In my house, halfway around the world in Australia, the excitement had overpowered nightly bedtime rituals. Obviously something major was unfolding. But it was happening thousands of miles away on another continent. I didn't understand. My parents were nearly as excited as those we were watching on TV. By now the phone had jumped into the noisy fray. My parents were darting between the phone and the television. *Are you watching this? This is it!* they told friends. *This is what we've been waiting for.*

As the wall fell, my parents' attention didn't remain solely on Berlin. They also cast an anxious gaze toward Pasadena, California, the location of the headquarters of the Worldwide Church of God. While the collapse of the Berlin Wall was a watershed event for Germany and Europe and the future of international affairs, it came with an added dimension for those in the WCG. For decades, the founder and pastor general, Herbert W. Armstrong, had forecast the unification of Germany.

On Nov. 9, 1989, WCG members watched that forecast come true.

You can imagine what many church members were thinking: *What is headquarters going to say about this?* Not surprisingly, some outside of the WCG were wondering the same thing. Mr. Armstrong was a global personality. Under his stewardship, the work of the WCG—via television, radio, the printing press, personal appearances and various humanitarian activities—had touched the lives of tens of millions. In terms of world news, the unification of Germany, and eventually Europe, was Mr. Armstrong's keynote prophecy.

That's why in hindsight it is strange that church officials were caught off guard when the director of a Seattle-based news program “unexpectedly” contacted them after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Recalling their conversation with the news director, WCG officials wrote: “The news director was well aware of the *World*

Tomorrow program and the fact that for more than 40 years the church [more specifically, Mr. Armstrong] had been predicting the reunification of Europe in some form. He asked for on-air comments about whether the church believed the opening of the wall was the commencement of end-time prophetic events” (*Pastor General's Report*, Nov. 21, 1989).

What an opportunity! The world had just witnessed an event of historic importance. And this news director, without solicitation, was requesting that Worldwide officials weigh in on it.

Their response? “*We responded that it was premature to make statements like that . . .*”

It was impotent and deflating. The Berlin Wall had just collapsed, Germany was uniting for the first time since World War II, the map of Europe was being redrawn and the Soviet Union was on its last legs. *The world was entering a new era.* And the best Worldwide officials could muster was to say that it was “premature” to comment on the prophetic implications of these events.

Church officials recalled that the news director was “*disappointed*” by their response. Of course he was! Under Mr. Armstrong, the WCG provided the world with accurate, *definitive* and clear understanding of world news and Bible prophecy. Now those who inherited his legacy wouldn't even comment on *one of the most important events of the century!*

Too bad the news director didn't have my parents' number. They might have been tucked 9,000 miles away, but they—like many other WCG members at that time—could have talked for hours about this power-packed, *prophetically significant* event!

The Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961, after the Berlin crisis between the USSR and Western forces. Here's what the *Plain Truth*, the news magazine established and run by Herbert Armstrong, wrote in September 1961: “Americans and Britons do not seem to fathom that Germany is once again a POWER TO BE RECKONED WITH! Make no mistake! NUCLEAR WAR WILL NOT COME OVER THE BERLIN CRISIS! BUT OUT OF IT ALL—in a very short times—A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE WILL!”

Impressive, isn't it? Even as the Berlin Wall was going up, the *Plain Truth* was forecasting that it would precipitate the emergence of a German-led “United States of Europe.” If you think that's impressive, consider what Mr. Armstrong wrote in the October 1985 issue: “Do not discount the possibility that this resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire may START by some *arrangement to reunite East and West Germany FIRST*” (emphasis mine).

Not only did Mr. Armstrong forecast the unification of East and West Germany, he said that event would mark the *starting point* of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. No wonder so many in the WCG were electrified the night of Nov. 9, 1989! ■

What is the purpose of human life?

The psalmist was inspired to write, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers ... what is man, that thou art mindful of him?”

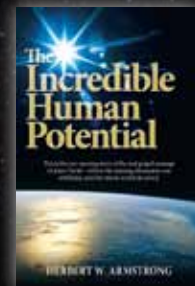
The answer to that piercing question has remained undiscovered by science. No religion has revealed it. Higher education has never taught it.

Is it possible the whole world has been deceived—regarding the awesome *purpose* of human life? And could it be true that the real gospel message Christ brought from heaven *revealed* this mystery—but was suppressed?

The very word “gospel” means “good news.” That message, when fully understood, reveals a human potential so stupendous—so awesome—it appears at first to be totally beyond belief, yet it has been suppressed from the world until now.

Our free book *The Incredible Human Potential* is the eye-opening story of the real gospel message of Jesus Christ—of how this missing dimension was withheld, and the whole world deceived.

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