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#### FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY



### The Fourth Reich Is Here

ERE ARE TWO OF THE MOST ALARMING HEADLINES THAT have been printed since World War II. The first appeared in the Telegraph Online on July 21: "The euro crisis will give Germany the empire it's always dreamed of." The second was in the Mail Online on August 17: "Rise of the Fourth Reich, how Germany is using the financial crisis to conquer Europe."

These headlines are from major mainstream media outlets. What is remarkable is that they are almost identical to headlines Herbert W. Armstrong wrote immediately after World War II. For 65 years, we continued to prophesy and explain these headlines when nobody else was. Now several other voices are writing similar headlines.

How do you explain that? How could we have known? And what does this mean for you? These events are going to reach into your life, so you need to understand them.

#### **Trigger for the Apocalypse**

The financial crises we are now experiencing were forecast by Herbert Armstrong back in 1984. "A massive banking crisis in America could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.," he wrote. "That, in turn, could bring on the Great Tribulation suddenly! And that will lead quickly to the Second Coming of Christ and the end of this world as we know it."

Mr. Armstrong prophesied that a financial crisis could trigger a chain of events leading right up to the return of Jesus Christ. Is this what we are now experiencing?

The United States and Britain did the very opposite of what they said they would do! They set out to make sure that Germany never rearmed, and then lo and behold—America itself rearmed Germany in an effort to stop the Soviets! This was a fatally unwise move.

On Sept. 21, 2008, the New York Times wrote, "The nation is gripped by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression." It called the situation "potentially apocalyptic." This was alluding to the book of Revelation, saying this event really could signal the start of the Apocalypse. Germany's Der Spiegel wrote, "It really does look as if the foundations of U.S. capitalism have shattered."

The news media now recognize that the American fi-NANCIAL SYSTEM IS CRUMBLING BEFORE OUR EYES. MR. ARM-STRONG SAID IT WAS THIS VERY EVENT THAT COULD TRIGGER THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE'S NATIONS INTO THE FINAL RESUR-RECTION OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

The heart of this prophecy is found in Revelation 17:10: "And

there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space."

Those first five that "are fallen" are the first five Holy Roman Empires resurrected under the successive leadership of Justinian (A.D. 554); Charlemagne (A.D. 800); Otto the Great (A.D. 962); Charles v, commencing the Habsburg dynasty (1530); and Napoleon, who crowned himself emperor in 1804.

In the 1930s came the Hitler-and-Mussolini head—the sixth head, the one that "is." God's apostle, Mr. Armstrong, arrived on the scene at the same time to explain these successive resurrections of the Roman Empire. The sixth head was in power at the same time Mr. Armstrong was prophesying. God had to have somebody here to explain what was happening in all those intervening years from World War II until 1986, when Mr. Armstrong died.

#### **Rearming Germany**

Toward the end of World War II, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill came together to declare, "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to disarm and disband all German armed forces, break up for all time the German General Staff that has repeatedly contrived the resurgence of German militarism ...."

Western resolve looked strong. Yet Herbert Armstrong, at that time and throughout his ministry, warned that it would fail, and that Germany would rise again to dominate Europe. It wasn't long at all before his warnings began to prove accurate.

In the Plain Truth in 1952, he wrote, "The United States is determined now to let nothing stand in the way of building up a rearmed, independent Germany. This will be the heart and core of the United Europe that will revive the Roman Empire."

A year later, he wrote, "The peoples of Europe as a whole want a united Europe, and yet, without Germany, such a federation of nations is impossible." This is precisely the conclusion that a consensus of European nations is drawing today.

In the November-December 1954 Plain Truth he wrote, "Behold, the spectacle of Washington and London making every possible diplomatic effort backed by American dollars to do two things—create a United States of Europe, and to rearm Germany."

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN DID THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD DO! They set out to make sure that Germany NEVER rearmed, and then lo and behold—America itself rearmed Germany in an effort to stop the Soviets! This was a fatally unwise move.

#### The Coming Führer

In that same 1954 article, Mr. Armstrong spoke about another prophecy we expect to come to pass shortly. "All Europe is actually ready, just waiting for the confidence-inspiring leader," he wrote. "That man is there somewhere." 1 He made that statement because of several biblical

prophecies. That leader is on the scene *now* and will come into power in an amazing way.

In 1956, Mr. Armstrong elaborated on that point. He wrote that the Europeans were thinking more and more about the coming United States of Europe. "They are going to unite against us! And now Europe is about ready for it. The stage is all set! All that's lacking now is the strong *LEADER*, the coming *FÜHRER*." All Europe needed then was a strong man, and that is all Europe needs now. I believe we know who this man is. He is already on the scene and could take over that empire as early as this coming year!

Angela Merkel, the current chancellor of Germany, is facing a dramatic loss of confidence within her own party, and there are still two more years before elections are to be held.

I believe this strong man could engineer a kind of collapse of the government *before* the general elections take place.

Daniel 11:21 says this man is going to come in by flatteries—not be voted into office. I don't know the timing for certain, but I'm making these statements based on Bible prophecy, the same way that Mr. Armstrong could make all those statements half a century before they came to pass.



#### Ten Kings

In the *Plain Truth* of March 1973, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Biblical prophecy revealed that this empire would start as an economic movement, that it would bring an era of unusual prosperity to Europe. It *DID* start in March 1957, when six European countries—West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg—signed the Treaty of Rome creating the European Economic Community. ... How did I know as far back as 1927 that this coming United States of Europe would spring up in our time? I knew because I saw it clearly revealed in biblical prophecy."

In 1983, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The very first issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine appeared February 1934, just 50 years ago lacking about six months. The article starting on the cover page warned of a coming sudden appearance of a resurrected Holy Roman Empire in Europe, a union of 10 nations in Europe under one government with one united military force."

So there are going to be 10 nations or 10 kings. Right now there are 27 nations in the EU, but is that about to change? Are they about to reduce that number rather violently to just 10? I have been telling you that is going to happen for years!

The *Economist* wrote on September 10, "All of a sudden, though, Berlin is abuzz with talk of remaking the European Union" (emphasis added). With all the crises hitting the EU, German elites are seriously talking about *reshaping* it. They want to restructure it in a way that would reduce it considerably to core nations that Germany knows it can control.

Now you watch! They are going to remake the European Union into 10 kings. So says your Bible (Revelation 17:12-13).

#### 'Welcome to the Fourth Reich'

In that article "Rise of the Fourth Reich, how Germany is using the financial crisis to conquer Europe," Simon Heffer wrote this: "Greece, Ireland and Portugal are economic basket cases. We have heard more and more about the trouble in Spain, where unemployment is over 20 percent.

"Italy is tottering—the figures for 2010 show it has debts of 116 percent of GDP, making the country second only to Greece at around 143 percent. ...

"Germany lay in ruins in 1945, but it then invested in manufacturing plants, developed first-class education, innovated, raised its productivity and competed on quality not price.

"Over the next 60 years it won the peace as comprehensively

as it lost the war. ...

"[Ble in no doubt what fiscal union means: It is one economic policy, one taxation system, one social security system, one debt, one economy, one finance minister. And all of the above would be German. ... That means a complete fiscal union in which Germany, as the EU's most powerful economy and principal paymaster, makes the rules and makes them unbreakable. ... It is a high-risk strategy ..., for if such a plan succeeded

IT WOULD MAKE EUROPE EFFECTIVELY A GERMAN EMPIRE, with non-eurozone countries such as Britain on the sidelines. ... This would entail a loss of sovereignty not seen in those countries since many were under the jackboot of the Third Reich 70 years ago."

Heffer concluded his article by saying, "Where Hitler failed by military means to conquer Europe, modern Germans are succeeding through trade and financial discipline. Welcome to the Fourth Reich" (emphasis added).

"Welcome to the Fourth Reich"! We have told you about the coming Fourth Reich for 65 years! How do you explain that? And what does it mean? It means that WE MUST BELIEVE GOD! Things always come to pass *exactly* as He says!

#### **Greatest News in History**

The resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire that Revelation 17:10 says "is" was there during Mr. Armstrong's ministry. *Now*, the empire that "is not yet come," *IS COME!* A man is about to unify that power and restore the final head of the Holy Roman Empire!

What does this mean for you? It means that these prophecies are being fulfilled, and Jesus Christ is about to return to this Earth! This is the news of the century! It is the greatest news in human history. What could be more alarming than this? And yet what could be more wonderful, when you realize it's all tied to the Second Coming?

Once Jesus Christ returns, He will fight that destructive empire and conquer it. And all those who have given themselves to God in this age—all those who are willing to give up their lives today and support God—are going to help Him. They will be

right beside Christ to help Him put down all rebellion and to usher in the wonderful World Tomorrow. What an exhilarating truth that is!

## **Triumph of the Small-Minded Bureaucrats**

America is regulating itself to death. BY JOEL HILLIKER

the wrists and ankles with red tape.
He is a doctor with a successful practice who likes wine—
enough that he decided a few years ago to turn his hobby into a side business and open Oklahoma City's one and only commercial vineyard.

By doing so, he walked straight into a blizzard: a disorienting, frustrating maelstrom of city, county and state bureaucracy. But it wasn't random like weather. It was calculated—and it seemed directly aimed at shutting him down.

As this man hosted a tasting of his various wines for my friends and me, he told his harrowing tale: his endless trips into the city to pacify officials; their continual demands that he make pricey renovations to meet various codes; the volcano of paperwork he had to repeatedly fill out with expensive expert help.

As he spoke, recent stories came to mind of enterprising youths who, in time-honored American tradition, set up lemonade stands—only to be closed down and fined for lacking proper licenses and permits. This in the name of "protecting the safety of people," who presumably don't appreciate the risk of drinking a product concocted in the wilds of a domestic kitchen.

With America's unemployment over 9 percent and the economy stagnant, one can't help but wonder how much this kind of senseless hyper-regulation is to blame. How many budding businesses are being suffocated by bureaucratic micromanagement? How many jobs are failing to materialize because of regulatory overreach? How much are America's once legendary productive energies being sucked dry over mere nonsense?

#### **The Regulation Business Is Booming**

The day a new businessman hires a single employee, he becomes subject to at least 10 federal regulations. That number swells as the business succeeds. To comply with such requirements, small businesses have to shell out \$10,585 for every employee they hire, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Regulations cost each American firm an average of \$161,000—and that

doesn't count the costs it passes down to consumers. American manufacturers are hit worst: They pay an average of \$688,944



per firm. If the government is trying to stifle economic growth, this is a superb way.

Companies generally may be hurting because of it, but one business is clearly booming: the manufacture of *still more regulations*. In his 2011 report "Ten Thousand Commandments: An Annual Snapshot of the Federal Regulatory State," Clyde Wayne Crews named 845 rules and regulations proposed *just last year* that are expected to affect small businesses. The year before had

#### **REGULATION NATION**

The high cost of doing business in America

If you would like to hire an employee, how much will it cost you per year to comply with federal regulations?

\$10,585

What should the average business budget for keeping up with regulations each year?

**S161,000** 

How much did federal regulatory compliance cost in 2005?

\$1.13 trillion

758; the year before that, 753. Who can keep up? Someone opening a restaurant in New York City, for example, "may have to con-

tend with as many as 11 city agencies, often with conflicting requirements; secure 30 permits, registrations, licenses and certificates; and pass 23 inspections," the *New York Times* reveals.

While the rest of the economy is stuck or shrinking, government just grows and grows. As Mark Steyn brings out in his book *After America*, "In the '50s, 1 in 20 members of the workforce needed government permission in order to do his job. Today, it's one in three." And it's a self-feeding monster. Federal regulatory compliance cost an outrageous \$1.13 trillion in 2005—nearly 10 percent of GDP. That doesn't even count the cost of state and local red tape. Surely this money could be put to better use than rescuing unsuspecting consum-

ers from unlicensed lemonade.

Supposedly all this fussy superintendence is aimed at keeping us safe. It is the ultramagnified version of the mommy who keeps her soft son "safe" at a video game console rather than risk letting him explore the dangerous woods. And the effect is the same. At one time the nation built great railroads and dams, won world wars, and sent men to the moon. But, as Prof. Bruce Charlton of the University of Buckingham in England wrote, around the 1970s "the human spirit began to be overwhelmed by bureaucracy." "Now we have dull and docile committee members," he wrote, "whose major priority is not to do the job but to avoid personal responsibility and prevent side-effects ... all of whom are hemmed-about by regulations such thatwhatever they do do, or do not do-they will be in breach of some rule or another.'

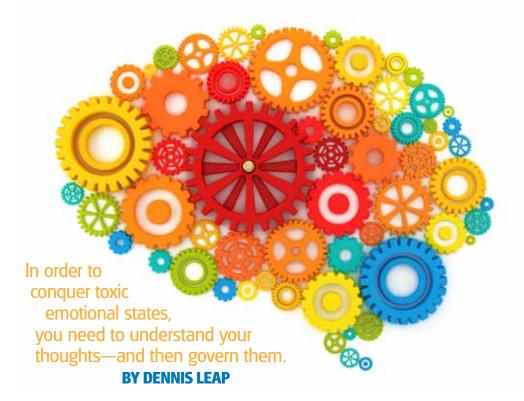
What have we done to ourselves? Where's the common sense?

#### **Keeping Everyone Safe?**

The shift of influence from visionary, ambitious leaders to today's myopic kidbusting administrators parallels America's loss of national power.

While America busies itself with

# Defeat Depression— MASTER YOUR MASTER YOUR



thinking is the major cause of suffering for people flattened by depression. Those who have experienced a major depressive episode feel locked onto a painfully negative mental and emotional tilt-owhirl—a cruel carnival ride stuck on GO!

Abraham Lincoln, one of America's greatest presidents, endured a lifelong battle with the scourge called depression. He observed its effects in himself, studied it in others—and learned how to master it. He also wrote about it in order to help others

conquer this powerful personal enemy.

Mr. Lincoln recognized that depression's strong grip on a person was generated by self-destructive, negative thinking. In *Lincoln's Melancholy*, Joshua Shenk tells us, "Lincoln clearly knew the peculiar thought habits that are characteristic of depression. In 1842, called upon to comfort a friend [Joshua Speed] in the midst of a severe depression, Lincoln wrote [in a personal letter] of 'that *intensity* of thought, which will some times wear the sweetest idea thread-bare and turn it to the bitterness of death."

In his book *Darkness Visible*, Pulitzer prize-winning American author William Styron described his own bout with

depression as "a veritable howling tempest in the brain." Shenk tells us that Styron experienced that destructive mental storm "punctuated by a thunder of self-critical, fearful, despairing thoughts—one clap following another in an endless night."

Mental health experts recognize that depression sufferers often resort to suicide "to achieve a peace of mindlessness." Most seriously depressed people struggle to find the words to describe their mental torture. It is just as difficult for the non-depressed to relate to descriptions of it.

However, David Burns, M.D., gives a good description of the typical train of thought of a depressed patient: "[W]hen you are feeling depressed, your thoughts

are dominated by a pervasive negativity. You perceive not only yourself but the entire world in dark, gloomy terms. What is even worse—you'll come to believe things *really are* as bad as you imagine them to be.

"If you are substantially depressed, you will even begin to believe that things always have been and always will be negative. As you look into your past, you remember all the bad things that happened to you. As you try to imagine your future, you see only emptiness or unending problems and anguish. This bleak vision creates a sense of hopelessness. This feeling is absolutely illogical, but it seems so real that you have convinced yourself that your inadequacy will go on forever" (Feeling Good).

Solomon, the wisest man of his day, said, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). How well do you control your thinking? *All* human beings can become better masters of their thinking process.

In order to conquer anxiety, depression, fear and worry, you must come to know how the human brain, empowered by the human spirit, works. You must learn how to properly operate your mind. In addition, you must come to face the truth about your human nature.

#### **Paradox in Human Thinking**

You have been lied to. You have been told that you are an immortal soul and that your nature is innately good. Here is the truth: You are magnificently fashioned dust with an incredible non-physical—spiritual—component placed inside you. However, it is not an immortal soul. Your body *is* your soul. That soul is mortal—it is going to *die*.

Yet, don't be dismayed. The fact that you can think, reason, make decisions, invent things, and create beautiful art, inspiring literature and stirring music—all products of a God-type mind—should tell you that you are different and created significantly above all other fleshly life. You have been created for a stunning purpose! Your soul, made from clay, has been created with a human spirit that gives you the power of intellect and an awesome potential not made available to the animal kingdom. In fact, your incredible human potential is far greater than the potential of angels!

Herbert W. Armstrong, the great theologian of the 20th century, understood special knowledge about the human mind. He saw an incredible paradox in human thinking. In a small but powerful booklet, What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind, he wrote: "Why cannot the greatest minds solve world problems? Scientists have said, 'Given sufficient knowledge, and we shall solve all human

problems and cure all our evils.' However, as the world's fund of knowledge rapidly increases, so too do humanity's evils. Why?" You need this booklet—not just to read, but to study and apply diligently. We will send you a free copy upon request.

Are you able to see this paradox about the human mind? Think about what gifted human minds have invented technologically in the last decade: cell phones with minicomputers inside them; power-packed, micro-thin laptop computers; and scads of other work-saving gadgets for the home and office. We even have cars that park themselves! Yet at the same time, our world is drowning in depression and other tragic human problems like child abuse, divorce and family breakdown, genocide, life-snuffing epidemic illnesses, murder and suicide, theft, racial hatred, terrorism—and war.

"Is something wrong with the human mind? Is something missing?" Herbert Armstrong asked. These are vital questions that must be answered for all humanity—especially for the depressed and downtrodden.

"There most certainly is a missing dimension in human knowledge.... The most perfect mechanism ever designed and made is the marvelous mind and body that is MAN. And it is only natural that our Maker sent along His instruction Manual—revealing for our good what we Are, why we are, where we are going, and what is the way." That instruction book is the Holy Bible. This book, maligned by scholars and the intellectual elite, reveals man's incredible human potential and "How to operate this human mechanism of mind and body to live happily in peace and to achieve that awesome potential."

Think about it. The human brain has been dissected, studied and theorized about, yet not one educator, minister, philosopher, scholar or scientist can even begin to explain why man's brain output is so vastly different from that of animal brain, which for all practical purposes is of the same quality as a man's. What educator, minister or scientist has ever explained why humans have the mental ability to send men into outer space and return them back to Earth, yet have little capacity to solve our impossibly difficult human problems? There is only one: Herbert W. Armstrong.

Here is great news. The paradox of the human mind has been solved! There is a right way to think—the means to provide for human material needs and to solve our human problems.

#### **Not an Emotional Disorder**

Because so many depressed patients complain about their dark and negative

feelings, most psychiatrists have worked to alleviate those feelings. The trend to *get in touch with your feelings* comes from that kind of psychiatric reasoning. This approach has also given rise to the feel-good and anti-depressant drug industry. Sophisticated advertising specialists have helped make anti-depressant drugs *big* business.

Yet a different school of psychiatrists, known as cognitive therapists, do not believe depression is caused by mood. They believe the cause of depression is *thinking disorder*.

"Depression is not an emotional disorder at all!" David Burns states. "Every bad feeling you have is the result of your distorted negative thinking. Illogical, pessimistic attitudes play the central role in the development and continuation of all your symptoms" (op. cit.). To recover from depression, people must learn that every depressed feeling has its corresponding distorted or illogical thought. That negative thought came before and created the depressed feeling. If you are depressed, you must isolate, examine and replace all your illogical thinking with thought that is based on true facts.

Yes, it requires hard work. Yet, unless a depressed person *changes* the way he thinks, his suffering will continue and may lead to suicide. Even those psychiatrists who advocate the use of antidepressant drugs know that drugs work only for a short time; a *change in thinking* is required to sustain lasting relief.

Abraham Lincoln fought depression by getting control of his emotions. How? He mastered his thinking. Those close to Mr. Lincoln spoke and wrote about his "blue spells"—times when he would sit alone in a private place appearing to be in a trance. Discussing those down times, Shenk suggests that "while in one sense an indication of melancholy, [they] may also have represented a response to it. Paradoxically, such obvious suffering may actually have been the visible side of Lincoln's effort to contain his dark feelings and thoughts—to wrestle privately with his moods until they passed or lightened."

Shenk tells us that "Lincoln also worked assiduously to develop his mind, carrying with him around the circuit, in the early 1850s, the first six books of Euclid's *Elements*, which move from definitions to postulates to axioms to proofs. In Lincoln's time, this text represented the apex of logical rigor." Lincoln studied the logic of geometry to know how to restructure his own illogical thinking. He was a man ahead of his time!

David Burns's book Feeling Good is a self-help manual

teaching people how to restructure their disastrous negative thinking. This book has successfully helped many people. However, Dr. Burns does not reveal the vital mystery of how the human mind was created to work at its peak potential.

The human mind is a powerful tool. Its power can be harnessed to do incredible good, yet it is also capable of creating appalling evil.

On a purely physical level, you can learn to govern your thinking. However, there is even more amazing knowledge to be gained about the human mind that can bring you lasting freedom from negative thinking.

#### **Human Mind—Not All There**

The Bible reveals that man is wholly physical. This sacred book states clearly—with authority—that God made man out of the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). When a man dies, his flesh—all that he was—decays back into dust. At the time God sentenced Adam and Eve for their sin of disobedience, God said, "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19, English Standard Version). It was Satan the devil who told Eve she was an immortal soul (verse 4). Satan has used men to promote this lie, and many have believed it since our very beginning.

Yet, man is not an animal! God created within man a spiritual component that gives men, women and children the power of intellect—a mind that can think, reason and make decisions; a mind that can create, design and invent things using materials taken out of the earth.

"So let us understand! Man is flesh and blood—composed wholly of matter—and that living matter is a living soul," Mr. Armstrong wrote (op. cit.). We are made of physical matter like animals. Yet, we are amazingly different from animals. Science keeps looking for the missing link between man and apes. Do you realize that they are looking in the wrong direction? Instead of looking down to a lower form of life, science should be looking up. To put it very simply, man was made after the God kind—the highest form of life!

"I have explained that human brain is almost identical to animal brain. But man was made in the form and shape of God [Genesis 1:26-27], to have a special relationship with God—to have the potential of being born into the Family of God. And God is spirit (John 4:24). To make it possible to bridge the gap—or to make the transition of Mankind, composed wholly of Matter, into spirit beings in God's Kingdom, then

to be composed wholly of spirit, and at the same time to give MAN a MIND like God's—God put a

spirit in each human" (ibid).

This is majestic understanding. The *spirit* put inside man is not an immortal soul; it is spirit essence—like air and water are essence on Earth. To distinguish this spirit from God's Holy Spirit, Mr. Armstrong called it the *human spirit*. Since this spirit is non-physical, it can never be discovered by science. Its existence must be *revealed* by its Creator. In Job 32:8, we read, "[T]here is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." This is an awesome truth, understood by only a very few!

How does the human spirit work with human brain? The human spirit cannot see; the human brain sees through the eyes. The human spirit cannot hear; the brain hears through the ears. The human spirit cannot think; the brain thinks—yet it is *powered* to think by the human spirit. Animals, not made to have a special relationship with God, do not have this spirit essence and cannot think and reason like a man except in a very simple way (article, page 28). This human spirit enables man to acquire knowledge and understanding of the material world around him. It is truly awesome what mankind has been able to do with matter taken from the earth. No animal is capable of accomplishing such material progress.

Yet, the human mind is not complete. Even with the human spirit in place, man's mind is "not all there." God has provided a way to complete and make all human minds fully sound.

#### **Let Us Reason Together**

The Apostle Paul explained how the human spirit works with the human brain. He stated, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Think on this wisdom. Men have come to understand and apply the laws of chemistry and physics. As a result, they have built skyscrapers, constructed bridges and manufactured automobiles out of the earth's materials. Animals have no such capacity. Men can do all these things because of their intellect made possible by the human spirit. Yet, there is knowledge man can never gain through his five senses—spiritual knowledge!

Mr. Armstrong made it plain for us: "Yet this human mind is limited to knowledge of the physical. It cannot know—comprehend—the spiritual things of God. Why? Because even the human mind only can know, naturally, what knowledge comes to it through the senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling" (ibid). Why is this so?

"[E]ven so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). To understand spiritual knowledge—the product of *God's* mind man must also have God's Holy Spirit mixed with his human spirit!

This is reality. Men and women who do not have God's Holy Spirit are not *complete* mentally.

Hence the paradox! The great minds of this time can do miraculous things with matter—yet they cannot solve their human problems. Why? Because human problems are *spiritual* in nature!

God offered Adam and Eve free access to His Holy Spirit, yet they refused God's offer. How did God make His offer to them? Recognize that God explains deep spiritual matters in parables or symbols to hide His knowledge from the smug, worldly wise scoffers (Matthew 11:25; 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Adam and Eve were offered God's Spirit symbolized by the tree of life (Genesis 2:9). The two trees of Genesis 2 have been made fun of and ridiculed. Yet their simple imagery carries serious meaning for all mankind. Discussing Adam's fatal rejection of God's offer, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The spirit of man was in him—but not the Spirit of God. God offered him freely the fruit of the TREE OF LIFE—which symbolized God's Holy Spirit" (ibid).

What was the result of Adam's rejection of that tree? Our suffering world full of nearly unsolvable evils!

Realize that God wants to share His mind and knowledge with every human being. God tells everyone willing to listen, "Come now, and let us reason together ..." (Isaiah 1:18). Are you willing to let God instruct you, counsel you and direct your life? Adam and Eve were not, and most men and women today are not. The tragic result is that the number and severity of our personal problems—including depression—are mounting and are ready to destroy us. We desperately need God and His mind to give us solutions to our catastrophic personal problems.

What does all this knowledge have to do with depression? Absolutely everything!

#### **Develop Right Character**

As David Burns tells us, depression—that dark and personally debilitating mood—is brought on by self-destructive negative thoughts that trigger negative emotions. In reality, depression can be best described as emotional immaturity gone haywire! An emotionally immature person cannot *control* his or her moods.

Mr. Armstrong explained, "More and more I am impressed that one of the most

On a purely physical level, you can learn to govern your thinking. However, there is even more amazing knowledge to be gained about the human mind that can bring you

lasting freedom from negative thinking.

important truths we humans overlook is that human beings are not equipped with instinct, like dumb animals, to guide us into the proper course .... God endowed man, in His own image, with MIND. Man must first learn and acquire knowledge. He is endowed, also, with capacity to reason from that knowledge—to think, to plan, to arrive at conclusions, to make decisions. God intended man's mind to direct his actions. But man must learn to do this, and he can never achieve God's purpose in placing him on this Earth until he does" (Good News, March 1985). You must get this vital teaching. The number one human need is right education! Each of us must learn how to think rightly. If we don't think correctly, our lives are sure to be filled with continuous disaster!

"The development of right CHARACTER is the purpose of human life. And character is ability to come to right knowledge and wisdom and then to direct the mind and body into this right course. But we poor humans act as though we believed man to be merely the highest of the dumb brutes—as if man were equipped with instinct, and the purpose of life were merely to enjoy such feelings, sensations, emotions and moods as impulse attracts us to, without thinking or mental direction!" (ibid). Our world is full of people and nations that are acting like dumb animals.

So how should we define emotional maturity? It is "the technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments .... One author defines emotional maturity as development from the state of taking to the state of giving. Taking is the way of Satan. Giving is the way of God, and the principle of His law. Love is giving" (ibid).

Do you get it? Living by the Ten Commandments is essential education this world needs. These 10 simple laws define right thinking.

You must admit this next fact: Modern Christianity does not provide such education! In fact, most ministers and other Christian leaders teach that God's law has been done away. People are not taught to practice the only way of life that produces true happiness—the way outlined by the Ten Commandments.

#### **Securing Sound Mindedness**

To truly solve our mental and emotional problems, which are all spiritual in nature, we must have the spiritual knowledge that can only come from God through His Holy Spirit. Yet the Bible states emphatically that God will only give the Holy Spirit to those willing to obey Him (Acts 5:32). Realize also that the Holy Spirit, actively living in a human mind, is sound mindedness (2 Timothy 1:7). A soundminded person is in control of his thinking, emotions and moods.

Here are some tough questions you must ask yourself. Is God's Holy Spirit residing in me? How do I know for sure that I am obeying God? The answer to both of those questions is found in the practice of the Ten Commandments. If you are not actively keeping all of God's Ten Commandments, you can be certain that the Holy Spirit is not actively leading, instructing and helping you. If you are depressed—meaning you have lost control of your thinking, emotions and moods then look at your life. Where are you disobeying God? Study His Ten Commandments to find the answer.

When it comes to obeying God, here is one vital issue you must face. If God's Holy Spirit is not in you, then the Bible says you are operating with the natural mind only. This puts you at a severe disadvantage. Why? This natural or carnal mind is antagonistic to God's way of living (Romans 8:7). The carnal mind refuses to yield to and obey God in all things. The natural human mind is heavily influenced by Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2-3). Satan's top goal is to control your mind.

Satan's broadcasts—the nearly irresistible bombardment of evil thoughts, emotions, moods and impulses on human minds—influence our minds and actually become what is known as human nature. The truth is that human nature is Satan's

own nature, which embraces a sinful way of life. This way of life is graphically discussed in Galatians 5:19-21 (read these verses in the ESV or Revised Standard Version). The Apostle Paul shows us that the natural mind is capable of pursuing a life filled with shocking sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy and drunkenness. You must understand that from these sins and negative emotions grow anxiety, depression, fear and worry, and even poor health (Proverbs 17:22).

Do emotions such as anger, envy, jealousy and rivalry dominate your mind? There is a different and better way to live.

#### **Repentance Means Growth**

Paul also tells us the advantages of the spiritual mind: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace [including peace of mind], patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23, ESV). Which way do you want to live for the rest of your life? Most people struggling with depression can't see a way out—yet there is a way out.

God actually created man out of clay so we can change our thinking and life direction. The Bible calls this kind of change in thinking repentance. Simply put, repentance is turning to the opposite direction one is presently going. To turn from a life of sin means to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth produces the joy and happiness that all men, women and children desire.

God offers you a sure and *lasting* way to control your emotions, thinking and life—with eternal rewards. Realize that it is God's purpose for you to have the ability to think as positively, powerfully and creatively as He does (Matthew 5:48).

The point is, you can change! Of all things, get control of your emotions by changing your thinking. Doing so will open up for you a better, brighter and more positive outlook that will arm you to face any and all challenges ahead.

### Breaking Down the Wall

Recent events have not just weakened Israel—they have empowered its enemy.

**BY BRAD MACDONALD** 

NE COULD SEE IT COMING—BUT it was still breathtaking to watch. Thousands of angry demonstrators descended on Israel's embassy in Cairo on the evening of September 9, terrifying the 80 some people inside. Sometime after midnight, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, his family and most of the embassy personnel were forced to evacuate to Cairo's airport, where they were whisked away by Israeli military jets.

Six Israeli intelligence officers remained, charged with the unenviable task of protecting the embassy. Fearing for their lives, they barricaded themselves in the embassy strong room. The mob outside had demolished the 8-foot concrete wall surrounding the compound and were walking around embassy facilities, tossing papers out windows and burning the Israeli flag. Locked inside the strong room, the officers listened as the hammers beat down the doors that separated them from certain death. When the mob began beating the last door, three of the officers stood and aimed their weapons toward the door.

Meanwhile, the commanding officer was on the phone with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He asked for backup, and that his prime minister would deliver news of his capture or death to his parents in person rather than over the phone.

Thankfully, the officers were rescued. Reading about these events, one is struck by the broader parallel: Israel's em-

bassy crisis is a microcosm of the dilemma now facing the entire Jewish nation.



#### First Egypt ...

By now even the most ardent peaceniks are realizing that the now-forming post-Mubarak Egypt will not be a pro-Israel state

When Israel's embassy was besieged, it wasn't just anti-Israel protesters who were hostile. It took the president of the U.S. calling and threatening retaliation before Egypt's military rulers would dispatch commandos to rescue the trapped Israelis. Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces could easily have prevented the demonstrators from breaching the embassy. It chose not to. The demonstration got out of hand, Stratfor reported, because there "was an order from the top to allow the situation to become a near crisis before intervening to stop it" (September 13).

This was a manufactured crisis, one that could very easily have turned out much differently.

This is an epic shift from what has been the status quo in the region for over three decades. Since 1979, when Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, that peace agreement has underpinned Middle East stability and prevented a massive military confrontation between Jews and Arabs. "It is the foundation both of Israel's security doctrine and the Jewish state's transformation from an economic basket case into a First World economic

power. It has made possible every hopeful move toward Arab-Israeli peace for the past generation," wrote Washington Institute executive director Robert Satloff. "AND IT—THE EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY—IS HANGING ON BY A THREAD" (*The Jerusalem Report*, September 26; emphasis added throughout).

What does the crumpling of that treaty mean for Israel?

Following the embassy invasion, Ethan Bronner, the *New York Times* Jerusalem bureau chief, wrote that the "growing hostility from Egypt could require *a radical rethinking of Israel's defense doctrine* which, for the past three decades, counted on peace on its southern border" (September 10). The uptick of violence against Israel in the Sinai and the now routine outbursts of public hatred for Israel in Egypt have "military strategists ... examining how to beef up protection of the south, including by the building of an anti-infiltration wall in the Sinai," Bronner said.

Jerusalem Post columnist Caroline Glick endorsed similar measures. Israel "must prepare for the possibility of war," she warned. "It must increase the size of the IDF by adding a division to the Southern Command. It must train for desert warfare. It must expand the Navy" (September 12).

To be sure, fortifying the military wall that protects Israel from attack is a rational



step to take in light of recent events. But the reality is, such measures would essentially be the same as the 8-foot concrete barrier erected to protect Israel's embassy in Cairo: that is, a wall that creates a false sense of security and that will collapse under the weight of overwhelming force.

This may seem like a hopeless and pessimistic point to make, but it is the truth. Israel needs more than military muscle—it needs an act of God.

#### ... Then Turkey

Next to Egypt, the moderate government in Turkey has been Israel's most important regional ally for decades, and a pillar of Israel's national security. In recent years, however, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey has undergone a quiet revolution, one that has involved Ankara increasingly sabotaging its relationship with the Jewish state in an effort to bolster its reputation among Muslim states (article, page 22).

Lately, especially since the "Arab Spring" dawned on the Middle East and North Africa, Turkey has become ever more combative with Israel. In the first two weeks of September, Ankara suspended military ties with Israel, kicked out Israel's ambassador and began persecuting Israelis who were visiting Turkey. In what was an interesting coincidence, Turkey's prime minister

visited Egypt two days after the sacking of Israel's embassy. During his visit, Erdoğan concentrated on strengthening Turkey's relationship with Egypt's new government, framing his comments with belligerent statements about the Jewish state.

The loss of Turkey as a more moderate Arab state and Ankara's growing animosity toward Israel is deeply concerning for the Jews. As Caroline Glick wrote, "[W]e need to recognize that what we are experiencing now is the beginning, not the end, of Turkey's slide into the enemy camp. Erdoğan is openly taking steps to transform Turkey into an Islamic state along the lines of Iran. And the further he goes down his chosen path, the more harshly and aggressively he will lash out at Israel" (ibid, September 5).

Israel's situation is painfully grim. As a European envoy in Jerusalem put it the week after the storming of the embassy in Cairo, "WITHIN A WEEK Israel has found itself two friends down and about to face a so-called diplomatic tsunami with the Palestinians."

In fact, the situation is markedly worse than that: Israel hasn't simply lost Egypt and Turkey as regional allies—IT has gained both as enemies.

#### **Gaining Enemies**

Cairo and Ankara are not severing relations with Israel and repositioning themselves as moderate, neutral states. They are not simply resigning from Israel's team, choosing instead to sit as passive spectators on the sidelines. Rather, as they discard their alliances with Israel, both are willfully, VIGOROUSLY throwing their support behind Israel's number one enemy.

The peril is less that Israel's position is being weakened, and more that Iran and its radical Islamic proxies are being dramatically strengthened!

In a televised address following the emergency rescue of Israel's ambassador, Prime Minister Netanyahu said the Middle East is "NOW UNDERGOING A POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS." There are so many events of extreme significance in this world it's easy to overlook how extraordinary, how historic and how dangerous for Israel the changes in Egypt and Turkey are.

The fate of nations, even entire regions, turns on moments like this.

Mr. Netanyahu sees that right now vast tracts of the Middle East, territorially, politically and strategically, belong to Iran and radical Islam. Soon, this Iran-led radical Islamic mob will descend on Israel with overwhelming numbers and force.

Like its embassy in Cairo before the raid, the Jewish state has a defensive wall—a top-notch military, crack intelligence and state-of-the-art anti-missile defense systems. That wall might hold for a while longer. But with each passing month, its ability to protect and defend will diminish, one missile, one terrorist attack at a time.

Like its embassy in Cairo, Israel is outnumbered, a tiny speck in a region seething with hatred for the Jewish state. Like the embassy, Israel's national security depends largely on others, be they regional allies or the United States. And much like embassy officials experienced firsthand on September 9, the willingness of Israel's traditional allies to defend Jewish sovereignty is rapidly shrinking. In some instances, these allies are even *creating* crises, like Egypt's military rulers did at the embassy.

Soon, perhaps in a few months or maybe next year or the year after, the weight of the Islamic mob will cause the wall to crumble and collapse. What will happen then?

Bible prophecy tells us that just as a full-scale incursion and takeover of Israel by radical Islam is occurring, Israel will make a phone call. Not to the White House, or to the United Nations. Rather, prophecy reveals that Israel's leaders, barricaded behind a crumbling wall, will turn to *Europe*. At the last minute, a German-led European army will swoop in to rescue the Jewish state and obliterate the forces of radical Islam. However, prophecy is clear that this invading army will prove to be a counterfeit peacemaker, and will turn against the Jews in a shockingly cruel double cross.

Maybe that sounds fanciful. But think for a moment—to many, so did our forecasts nearly 20 years ago that Egypt would fall to radical Islam and align with Iran; that Turkey would eventually turn on Israel; and that Iran would emerge as the king of Islamic terrorism. Today, each one of these Bible-based forecasts is reality.

It's true that the loss of Egypt and Turkey as regional allies is a disaster for Israel. But the real catastrophe is that the actions of Cairo and Ankara have not simply weakened Israel, THEY HAVE EMPOWERED ISRAEL'S ENEMY!

The stage is set for Israel to be besieged. It is practically friendless in the world and former allies are now enemies—the situation is ripe for Israel to turn to Europe for help!

Although we can see it coming, this too will be breathtaking to watch.

# The Steep Costs of Cheap Food

In seeking to produce as much as possible at the lowest price, the modern food industry is trampling on some important truths. BY JOEL HILLIKER



spicy pasta dish—a pizza loaded with toppings—a fresh mixed salad—a towering cheesecake. Aren't you glad you can enjoy good food? All living things need nourishment to survive, but we humans make our meals an *art*.

Ever considered *why* that is so? The reason is profound: Humans alone are meant to develop *character*, and food gives us an excellent means of doing so.

#### Plowing Under the Garden of Eden

Think about it: This is why man's original home was a *garden*.

When God made the idyllic Garden of Eden, He designed it to require careful management—intelligent human effort—to achieve its full potential. He placed Adam and Eve there and instructed them "to dress it and to keep it"—to work it and take care of it. He gave them dominion over the plants and animals and taught them how to care for them—and to use them for food (e.g. Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-20).

Having created all these things for man's use, God intended them to provide invaluable lessons in responsible, humane stewardship. The growing, producing, preserving and eating of food was meant to build *character*. Human beings were *created* to have to make decisions about how we produce and acquire our nourishment.

God helped in this undertaking by giving several laws governing agriculture and animal husbandry. Among them were commands enjoining kind treatment of animals (e.g. Deuteronomy 22:6-7, 10, 4; 25:4; 14:21; Leviticus 22:27-28). God expected livestock to receive proper care and attention so as to be in good health (e.g. Leviticus 1:3; 22:19-24; Deuteronomy 17:1). He commanded that the land be rested every seven years, to allow animals to roam on it and fertilize it in order to rebuild the nutrients of the soil (Leviticus 25:3-7).

This system is simple, natural and character-building. It functions in perfect accordance with the overarching principle of God's law of love: that we should treat others as we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). When God's laws are respected, not only do things naturally work as they were designed to, but God also gives extra blessings such as favorable weather and more abundant harvests (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:4-5, 8, 12). Everyone enjoys nutritional food, a pleasant environment and vigorous health.

Now let's shift our focus back to today: the grocery store you visited yesterday; the restaurant you dined in last week. How does this food get to your fork, anyway?

In modern industrial agriculture, God is no longer God—efficiency is. The system is built to produce as much food on as little land for as little money as possible. There is nothing inherently wrong with that goal—but it has been aggressively pursued in near-total ignorance of, if not contempt for, those laws of God.

"The industrial food system is always

looking for greater efficiency, but each new step in efficiency leads to problems," said author Michael Pollan. "The industry's approach is—when it has a systematic problem ...—not to go back and see what's wrong with the system; it's to come up with some high-tech fixes that allow the system to survive." Think about that. What that is saying is, it is all aimed at *circumventing* the curses caused by our sins.

Pollan is among a group of journalists, authors and filmmakers that, in the last few years, have done much to pull back the curtain on the heretofore little understood world of industrial food production. In bestselling books like *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and mass-release films like *Food, Inc.*, the inner workings of this awesome system have been laid bare for public scrutiny.

The problems are legion. Let's quickly survey some of the worst of them.

#### Solar Power vs. Oil Power

Conventional farming as God meticulously designed it is powered by the sun. All work is done by people and animals, which are fueled by other animals and by plants, which get their energy from soils fertilized by the animals and from sunlight via photosynthesis.

Industrial farming, by stark contrast, is powered by fossil fuels. The fertilizer comes from natural gas and petroleum-powered mining operations. The pesticides are products of industrial chemical

manufacturing. The tractors and other equipment needed to sow, harvest and process the plants run on diesel fuel. All told, it takes at least 75 gallons of oil to grow an acre of corn, for example. On top of that, the trucks and trains that transport the food from farm to processing plant to supermarket also require petroleum-based fuel. And the typical item of food in the industrial food supply chain travels 1,500 miles before being consumed.

Besides producing far more pollution, this means that any disruptions in oil, coal or gas supplies will directly affect our food supplies. "We eat a lot of oil without knowing it," said Pollan in the film *Food, Inc.* "To bring a steer to slaughter, it's like 75 gallons of oil. So what we're seeing is that this highly efficient machine does not have the resilience to deal with shocks, such as the spike in oil prices."

Fertilizers are a classic study in the law of unintended consequences. They have been one of the biggest drivers of increased agricultural efficiency. They are chief among the innovations that have enabled today's farmers to squeeze, for example, 200 bushels of corn or more out of every acre rather than the mere 20 bushels their greatgrandparents got. "It has been estimated that more than 2 billion people would not be alive today were it not for the invention of the industrial process for making nitrogen fertilizer," writes author Julian Cribb in his book *The Coming Famine*. "Indeed, fertilizers have been branded the principle cause of the human population explosion."

In the singular pursuit of profit, however, food producers have used these artificial soil stimulants to get everything they possibly can out of the ground without respecting the command to *dress* and *keep* the land. The soil *never*, *ever* rests: As it gets sucked dry of nutrients, more chemicals are added to ensure that bumper crops keep coming, no matter how nutritionally depleted. Farmers use the fertilizer in enormous quantities, far more than they need—as "insurance" to guarantee the yields they need in order to make ends meet.

These chemicals can acidify farm soils and may have harmful health reactions in consumers. The excess fertilizer has quite a ripple effect: It ends up evaporating and polluting the skies; seeping into the soil and polluting ground water; and running into the rivers, traveling downstream and polluting the oceans. The excess nitrogen encourages algae growth in the seas, sucking up oxygen and effectively smothering other marine life. Nitrogen runoff out of the Mississippi River has created a "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico the size of New Jersey.

Beyond that, our dependence on fertilizer means we really cannot afford any major interference in its supply if we are to sustain current food production. The fact that it requires enormous amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture doesn't bode well for its remaining indefinitely in cheap, continuous supply.

#### **Corn Is King**

Genetic engineering is another example of efficiency-oriented science with inadvertent aftereffects. Seed companies in the 1930s increased yields by breeding corn seed, for example, to grow thicker, stronger and faster. Today, companies go even further by genetically modifying corn with genes from bacteria or other organisms. This practice apparently contravenes the law by which God intended to preserve the natural state in which He

crops, controlled by fewer and larger multinational corporations. Such streamlining makes the system increasingly precarious.

Here is one concrete example: For thousands of years, farmers have planted their crops with seeds saved from the previous year's harvest. Today, in order to stay competitive (and because of corporate bullying), farmers largely have no choice but to buy new, high-producing but non-replicating, genetically modified seed direct from the seed companies each year. Thus a natural, functional, self-perpetuating process is broken, and the system is made susceptible to breakdowns.

As crop diversity has been sacrificed on the altar of efficiency, the food that has emerged the biggest winner is corn. Corn is cheap to grow in great abundance, and never cheaper than it is today, thanks to farm industrialization, bioengineering,



created such elements: "[T]hou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed" (Leviticus 19:19). Interestingly, most genetic modifications are intended to circumvent problems caused by breaking God's law in the first place: They help plants better survive drought, flooding, heat, disease and pests—all *curses* that God promises to inflict us with when we disobey Him (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:23-24, 38-39).

As a result of artificial bioengineering, not only do we have higher crop yields, but also fewer but larger farms, growing enormous amounts of only a few types of fertilizers and pesticides. Additionally, the government has weighted the scales in its favor by subsidizing corn production—paying farmers to grow more of it. Thus, believe it or not, corn usually costs less to buy than to grow. To stay afloat financially, farmers must then grow still more of it (it doesn't pay to use land for anything else), which drives the price down even further.

Food scientists have found a virtually unlimited number of uses for this

plentiful cash crop: oil for frying; wax coating on fruits and vegetables; flour; modified starches; food coloring; preservatives; sweeteners; and so on. You'll find it in most processed foods, often in several different forms (maltodextrin, ascorbic acid, xanthan gum, monosodium glutamate, et cetera ad nauseam). Highfructose corn syrup—now the number one source of sweetness in the American diet at 58 pounds per person per year—is used in most soft drinks and condiments. Corn even has a number of industrial, non-food uses, including within antibiotics, pharmaceuticals, glues, soaps, insecticides, fiberglass and explosives. There is a strong push to make corn ethanol an alternative to oil as a source of fuel.

Thanks to government subsidies, a lot of processed and fast food is artificially cheap. These foods tend to be very sweet and high in unhealthy fats, pleasing to the palate but with little nutritive value. Healthier foods are pricier. Unsurprisingly, people are consuming more of the cheap stuff than ever before. For people with lower incomes, there can be little alternative but to fuel up on the processed foods that end up exacerbating health problems like obesity and heart disease, which are becoming epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control now estimates that Type II diabetes (what used to be called "adult-onset" diabetes) will affect a staggering one third of American children born in the year 2000. This is just one example of the enormous costs of "cheap" processed food.

#### The Life of Our Beasts

Another major use of cheap corn is as animal feed. God designed cows to roam large pastures ruminating on grass (e.g. Isaiah 30:23-24), fertilizing the soil naturally. But this natural, self-sustaining system is far too inefficient and unprofitable for today's food companies. Instead they pack cows by the thousands into feedlots, where they stand ankle deep in their own manure and fatten up as quickly as possible at a feeding trough. And instead of grass, we're forcing them—as well as chickens and even fish—to eat corn. Corn-fed cattle get fat quickly, and their meat gets the "marbled" white fat that makes it tastier. But this unnatural diet also creates a lot of problems. For one, corn makes cows sick. It causes their ruminating stomach to bloat and can give them acidosis, a

kind of heartburn that leads to other major problems. In order to keep the sick cows alive long enough to get big enough to earn the most dollars at slaughter (no more than 150 days), feedlot operators pump them full of antibiotics. Ordinarily, cow manure makes excellent fertilizer—but the manure from feedlots is so full of toxins that it *kills* crops.

This all tramples on the biblical wisdom of Proverbs 12:10: "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." Industrial meat production only seeks a bigger bottom line regardless of whatever horrific abuses are inflicted upon the animals—not to mention the workers who process them.

This profit-reigns approach that has driven cattle from small farms to feedlots has had the same effect on the processing of meat and other food. For example, instead of the thousands of slaughterhouses in the U.S. just a generation ago, today only 13 plants process the majority of the beef sold in the U.S. This ultra-efficient systematization has a serious side effect: It drastically increases the likelihood of dangerous pathogens making their way into our food supply. Thus, headlines about deadly outbreaks of E. coli and other bacteria have grown distressingly common.

#### **Good Trees Produce Good Fruit**

It would be a mistake to applaud the abundance of food that our industrialized system is able to generate without considering these chilling effects. As Jesus said in Matthew 7:16-17, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. ... [E] very good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."

What fruits do we see from today's food production system? Literally, we see them infused with fish genes, stripped of their ability to reproduce, increasingly tasteless, coated with wax (made from corn) and sprayed with bug poison, grown in a tortured process hundreds of miles away. We see small farms swallowed up by mega-farms. We see almost all food production and supply handled by gargantuan, multinational corporations that are unconcerned with the high hidden costs of the cheap food they produce. We see disease outbreaks, diabetes, obesity and failing health.

What if, recognizing these problems, we *didn't* just keep coming up with yet more high-tech fixes that allow the system to survive? What if, instead of trying to continually patch over and prop up our fatally flawed modern food production, we returned to the Garden of Eden, its laws, and its God?

#### ➤ **BUREAUCRATS** from page 3

keeping everyone safe, the rest of the world screams past.

The world's most ambitious construction is taking place on foreign shores: the world's largest power station, the Three Gorges Dam, in China; the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, in the United Arab Emirates. Such projects would never pass environmental impact requirements in America. America's infrastructure is ranked well behind that of every other major advanced economy at number 23 in the world. In 2009, Japan overtook the U.S. as the world's largest auto manufacturer.

In 2010, Europe's Airbus eclipsed America's Boeing to become the world's largest commercial aircraft producer. America has fallen behind China as the world's lead high-technology exporter. In July, China sent its most advanced deep-sea submersible to over 5,000 meters, deeper than the U.S. can go; America had already fallen behind Japan and Russia in this commercially, scientifically and militarily important technology. China, after having virtually no live surveillance capability a decade ago, has since caught up with America. It has already put men in space, and India is shooting to do so in 2016. Meanwhile, this summer marked the end of America's space shuttle program.

Last year, America fell behind Brazil, China and India as the preferred place to invest, according to a Bloomberg survey. Until 2008, the U.S. was the world's most competitive economy, according to the World Economic Forum. In September it was announced America has slipped to fifth place behind Switzerland, Singapore, Sweden and Finland.

Such headlines have become routine. They are unmistakable marks of a collapsing empire. Believe it or not, this shrinkage in superpower was prophesied to occur just before the end of this age. God warned of a time when sound judgment would be far from us, when we would grope and stumble in broad daylight like blind men (Isaiah 59:9-10). He told America—the descendants of ancient Israel that because of our sins, He would remove the nation's mighty, honorable, capable, wise, eloquent and grand-thinking leaders and allow selfish, small-minded children to take their places (Isaiah 3:1-4). This prophecy stands fulfilled.

We'll soon see how "safe" we are in the long run.





#### Archeology tells an amazing account of Middle Eastern and biblical history. BY ROBERT MORLEY

HO WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE in a land so green, with soil so rich, a climate so conducive to agriculture, that prosperity was guaranteed?

Such a land existed. This was Mesopotamia, the Fertile Crescent, during

its earliest days.

People lived as families. Families founded villages, which grew into cities. Food was plentiful and easy to come by. The population blossomed. There was no need for conflict.

Yet one man, born into this idyllic setting, changed everything forever.

About 4,300 years ago, a mighty tyrant forced the peoples of this region to bow to his rule. His armies marched from the giant cosmopolitan metropolises of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, to the agricultural exporting centers in northern Syria, all the way to the Mediter-

ranean enclaves of present-day Lebanon. City after city allied itself with him—or succumbed to his advancing armies.

The world's first dictator and empire was born. He was the king of the Akkadians.

The Akkadians were an aggressive and expansive people who assimilated the Sumerians and were known for starting wars with neighboring territories. At their height, they held sway over the entire region encompassing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the region north and west into modern-day Syria, and the area south into the Jordan Valley and modern-day Israel. Famous cities such as those listed in Genesis 10:10 (Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh) all belonged to the Akkadians.

MESOPOTAMIA
TIGRIS

FERTILE CRESCENT

The success of this empire marked a huge turning point in the history of mankind. And it holds a lesson for today that is more relevant than ever.

#### A Treasure Trove From Antiquity

The ancient city of Tel Qarqur in northwest Syria is currently ground zero for archeological discovery from this age of man. For the past three decades, archeologists have been excavating what looks like a giant pile of dirt there. That mound of rubble is a unique treasure trove. It is a window into the past.

Tel Qarqur has an astounding history. For instance, in 1861, at a site in Turkey, archeologists unearthed the now-famous

Kurkh monolith. The large stone monument describes Tel Qarqur as the site of a great battle between Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, and an alliance of 12 coastal kings. Included on the list of kings was Ben Hadad of Damascus and "Ahab the Israelite," both of biblical fame. According to the stone's text, King Ahab's force of 2,000 chariots and 10,000 soldiers was the second-largest contingent within the resistance opposing the Assyrians.

Although this specific battle is not recorded in the Bible, Ahab's association with Ben Hadad is. In 1 Kings 20, the Bible describes

how God miraculously intervened to help Ahab completely destroy two of Ben Hadad's larger invading armies. After Ben Hadad humbly begged Ahab to spare his life, Ahab made a treaty with him and set him free. It was most likely then that the two kings joined forces to fight the Assyrians.

But the ancient city of Tel Qarqur is also famous for its earlier, even more intriguing history.

#### **Ancient Civilization Collapse**

Over the years at this Syrian dig site, archeologists have discovered large fortifications, a temple complex, baths, small decorative figurines and various types of pottery. Today, using ground-penetrating radar, scientists are documenting the existence of large, sprawling residential and other structures surrounding the city center.

Such finds are not altogether unusual. But what makes them so unique at the excavation in Tel Qarqur is the fact that they are dated to 4,200 years ago.

Forty-two hundred years ago is an interesting date for three reasons. First, scientists note that 4,200 years ago, ancient civilizations across virtually the entire Middle East experienced sudden, dramatic collapse. It was a time of depopulation and great mass migrations, as people headed out in just about any direction they could.

"There was widespread abandonment of many of the largest archaeological sites and ancient cities in the region and also large numbers of smaller sites," says Jesse Casana, professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas. Harvey Weiss, professor of Near Eastern Archeology at Yale, goes even further, stating, "Abandonments are evident at almost all excavated sites of this period across the Habor and Assyrian plains."

It was shortly after this time that the Akkadian Empire disintegrated.

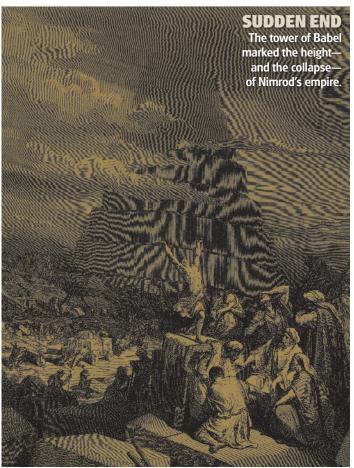
Only 4,300 years ago, the fertile Mesopotamian region was dominated by the Akkadians. However, a hundred years later, "the region's new urbanites abruptly left their homes and fled south, abandoning the cities for centuries to come" (*Discover*, March 1998).

So, for around 100 years, the Akkadian Empire flourished. Then it mysteriously and suddenly collapsed, and the cities were abandoned.

Tel Qarqur, for some reason, was an exception to the rule, growing and even expanding.

For many years, scientists have been puzzled over the collapse of the Akkadian Empire. Some have attributed it to politi-

cal disintegration or incompetent administrators. Others have credited invasion by hostile tribes or



disruptions in trade routes. But for the most part, scientists have never really understood what caused this rapidly growing empire to experience such a dramatic population decline, and why it led to the wholesale abandonment of previously prosperous cities throughout the whole region.

Today, some scientists have another theory as to why the Akkadian Empire collapsed so quickly. This is the second reason 4,200 years ago is an interesting date.

#### Scientists' Theory

Scientists are now discovering that about 4,200 years ago, the Middle East was suddenly rocked by widespread drought—one that sent people fleeing an onslaught of hot wind and dust storms. Drought-like conditions lasted for about 300 years.

Weiss claims that "4,200 years ago, there was an abrupt climate change, and abrupt drying, and abrupt deflection of the Mediterranean westerly winds that transport humid air into the eastern Mediterranean region." Rainfalls were reduced by somewhere between 30 and 50 percent.

At Tell Leilan, an ancient city in northern Iraq, archeologists have dug up dramatic evidence of this massive drought.

Forty-three hundred years ago, Tell Leilan was a thriving city. Its population was expanding and its influence in the agricultural north growing. Then sometime over the next hundred years, something very interesting took place, not only in Tell Leilan, but also in Nineveh and many other cities across the Fertile Crescent: The first city walls were built.

The Akkadians were known for constructing city walls. And at Tell Leilan, the perimeter walls were huge. There were inner and outer walls, each 8 meters thick—large enough for two horse-drawn carts to drive side by side on the top.

These giant walls were a sign not only of economic prosperity, abundant crop yields and burgeoning populations—but also of political stratification and the threat of warfare.

Yet as big as Tell Leilan's walls were, they could do nothing to protect it from drought.

Sometime around 4,200 years ago, Tell Leilan was abruptly and completely abandoned and its large walls covered in dirt. But not just any

dirt: Archeologists note that city structures, including the walls, are covered in 3 feet of extremely fine, wind-blown dirt. And the layers of earth contain no traces of human habitation for the next few centuries. Much of the dirt also holds little or no evidence of earthworm activity. Both factors point to a period of severe water limitation.

"These data define the effects of an abrupt climatic change at approximately 2200 B.C., namely imperial collapse, regional desertion, and large-scale population dislocation," says Wiess.

It was this drying trend that caused the Akkadians' rain-based agricultural society to collapse, argues Weiss. And even cities like Ur, which practiced irrigation-based agriculture, would have been affected, because their large populations made them dependent on food imports from northern allied cities like Nineveh.

With falling food production, populations were forced to migrate elsewhere. This is why widespread archeological evidence shows cities across the region being abandoned and depopulated for the next 300 years.

This drought is documented in Genesis 12, where Abraham is said to have left the land of Canaan and traveled into Egypt because "the famine was grievous in the land."

#### Once again, archeology confirms the biblical account of history. Nimrod, the scattering of the people, and thus the authenticity of the Bible are being confirmed by science—even if most scientists don't realize it.

Some scientists, however, are not convinced that climate change was the main cause for the collapse of cities in the Middle East. Conventional wisdom dictates that these civilizations, with their large grain storage structures, advanced trade systems and institutions of government and taxation would be immune or at least highly resistant to natural disaster. And besides, if drought were the primary cause, why would all these cities have collapsed so abruptly?

#### The Bible's Answer

What these scientists, and even Harvey Weiss, don't understand is that there was another, perhaps even greater force that caused people to abandon the cities of Akkadia 4,200 years ago.

Bible scholars know that something else dramatic and sudden occurred right about that time.

Not long after the Flood, a man named Nimrod became the world's first emperor and its first dictator. The exact date of Nimrod's rule was preserved by Roman historians. Velleius Paterculus cites an earlier source in his book Roman History, saying, "Between this time [the time when Rome conquered Philip, king of Macedon] and the beginning of the reign of Ninus [another name for Nimrod] king of the Assyrians, who was the first to hold world power, lies an interval of 1,995 years" (emphasis added).

Assyrians was the Roman name for the people ruling over northern Syria and Iraq—the same people that scholars today call the Akkadians.

Since Philip was conquered around 197 B.C. (at the battle of Cynoscephalae), Nimrod probably began his reign sometime around 2192 B.C., or a little over 4,200 years ago. But as the Compendium of World History by Herman L. Hoeh brings out, Nimrod was really ruling even earlier, in conjunction with his father, Cush.

The Bible records how this first emperor gained his power, too. The land of the Fertile Crescent was very productive, but as Genesis records, wild animals were causing problems. Because the people's weapons at the time were so primitive, and some larger species of animals were alive that have since become extinct, there was a great danger to life.

Nimrod, a renowned hunter, organized the people together for protection against the ferocious beasts.

However, Nimrod decided there was a better way to protect the people from the roaming wild animals than by constantly fighting them: It was to build defensive walls around their cities. Thus the people were protected, and Nimrod was able to rule over them. This arrangement was agreeable to the people: "They said ... let us build us a city and ... make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad" (Genesis 11:4).

"The people not only protected themselves from the wild animals by building a walled city, but also established authority of their own—'let us make us a name," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his book Mystery of the Ages. "This was to be a central place of mankind's authority—the necessity of their obedience to God was not going to be recognized! Nimrod was their leader. Also they built a tower whose top was to 'reach unto heaven.' With a tower this high, they could do as they wished-disobey God and still be safe from His punishment which had drowned the inhabitants of the Earth before. This was mankind's first act of open rebellion against God after the Flood—they thought they had placed themselves out of God's reach if they wished to disobey Him. They, like Satan, thought that if they could 'ascend above the heights of the clouds,' they could 'be like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:14).

Why, then, does the Bible say the Akkadian Empire—which was actually Nimrod's empire—collapsed so suddenly?

#### **Confirming the Bible's Account**

During Nimrod's day, everyone spoke the same language (Genesis 11:1). Thus society and technology were advancing at a rapid pace—but they were not good advances. Verse 6 says, "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

So what did God do? "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth" (vers-

As the Bible reveals, God was behind the scattering of the Akkadians. God changed the people's languages in order to cause them to migrate away from many city centers in the Fertile Crescent. God wanted to slow down human advancement lest mankind too quickly reach the point where, if Christ didn't directly intervene, all life would be destroyed (Matthew 24:22).

In a situation in which languages are suddenly changed, it is not hard to envision social, political and economic institutions quickly breaking down. Cities would have quickly become unmanageable. An onset of a drought would only have hastened the exodus and prevented the return.

Once again, archeology confirms the biblical account of history. Nimrod, the scattering of the people, and thus the authenticity of the Bible are being confirmed by science—even if most scientists don't realize it.

But if the Bible is a confirmed and verified historical document, shouldn't we pay attention to what it says? Shouldn't we learn from the lesson of Nimrod?

Today, science and technology are making huge advances. But society's evils are increasing at an even faster rate. Science has given us the Hubble telescope, with which we can see the universe, which, the Bible reveals, holds incredible promise for the future of mankind (request our free booklet Our Awesome Universe Potential)—but at the same time, science has also given us the nuclear bomb.

Nimrod knew that disobedience eventually leads to Flood-like destruction. In his misguided thinking, he sought to avoid the consequences of sin by building a tower so tall that water would never be able to cover it.

Forty-two hundred years after Nimrod, mankind still hasn't learned its lesson—and is once again facing worldwide destruction.

#### WORLDWATCH

**EUROPE** 



#### Planning for Greece to default

HE GERMAN FINANCE MINISTER IS PREPARING TO DEAL with a Greek default, Der Spiegel reported September 12. Wolfgang Schäuble "no longer believes that the Greeks will be able to fulfill the stipulated conditions," it wrote. German Economy Minister Philip Rösler wrote in Die Welt that an orderly default should be considered for Greece. A chorus of German politicians have warned that Greece could even leave the eurozone. "We have never been so close to EMU rupture," warned the Telegraph on September 11. The eurozone is heading rapidly for a crisis—a crisis that will change Europe forever.

#### 1 | NETHERLANDS

#### Indebted states must give up control of budgets

Eurozone nations that consistently break budgetary rules should be forced to surrender control over their budgets to a European commissioner or else leave the eurozone, said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager on September 7. They called for the creation of a commissioner for budgetary disciple with "clear powers to set requirements for the budgetary policy of countries that run excessive deficits." If a country fails to meet those requirements, the commissioner could force it to take firmer measures, even raising taxes, wrote Rutte and de Jager. The nation would also face escalating sanctions from the EU. "The final stage will involve preventive supervision, and the budget will have to be approved by the commissioner before it can be presented to parliament," they said. Expect the economic crisis to take more power away from debtor nations and give it to creditor nations.

#### 2 | FRANCE

#### Europe must step up!

The European Union will in future play a bigger role compared to America in the Middle East and North Africa, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said at an ambassadors' conference on August 31. "The world is changing," he said. In Libya, "Europeans have shown for the first time that they are capable of intervention in a decisive way, with their allies, in an open conflict on their doorstep." He said the EU should be more involved in the Mideast peace process and warned Iran that its nuclear program could provoke a war. The *Trumpet* has long forecast that Europe will intervene by confronting Iran and sending troops to Israel. Its role in Libya has put Europe on this path.



SARKOZY

#### If eurozone breaks up, brace yourself

The Swiss bank UBS has warned that a breakup of the euro could have dire political costs. In a September 6 report, it said that past monetary union breakups have produced one of two results: "Either there was a more authoritarian government response to contain or repress the social disorder (a scenario that tended to require a change from democratic to authoritarian or military government), or alternatively, the social disorder worked with existing fault lines in society to divide the country, spilling over into civil war." Poland's finance minister agreed, quoting the head of a major bank who told him, "You know, after all these political shocks, economic shocks, it is very rare indeed that in the next 10

years we could avoid a war." Many politicians see the eurozone must change radically, but the needed economic changes require even bigger political changes.



#### 3 | GERMANY

#### Court: 'Yes, but' to bailouts

Germany's Constitutional Court said on September 7 that past eurozone bailouts do not violate Germany's basic law but imposed conditions on future bailouts. Parliament's budget committee, it ruled, must approve all such dispersals of funds in the future. This gives the budget committee a veto over how the money in Europe's European Financial Stability Facility is used. Germany cannot be expected to foot the bill for another nation's debt as long as that other nation remains in control of its own budget, according to the court ruling. Economic analyst for think tank Open Europe, Raoul Ruparel, noted: "[T]he wording used by the court ... seems to suggest that joint debt in the eurozone could be constitutionally allowed if it involved a stronger German say over other member states' fiscal policies" (September 7). The court decision throws a spanner in the works and at the same time hints that Germany may be able to fix the mess if it is allowed to dictate the budgets of those countries needing the bailouts.

#### Merkel coalition takes a hit

Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and her coalition partner the Free Democratic Party (FDP) both did badly in a state election in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania on September 4. The CDU's percentage of votes fell from 28.8 percent to 23.1. The FDP did even worse, falling from 9.6 to 2.7 percent of votes, meaning it will not have any seats in the state parliament—something even the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party managed to do. The FDP also suffered in elections in the city-state of Berlin. Although the CDU's share of the vote rose from 21.3 to 23.4 percent, the FDP once again lacked the votes necessary for a seat in the state parliament. This undermining of Merkel's authority is making it harder for her to deal with the economic crisis.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said he may help the eurozone but implied that, in return, he wants Europe to raise China's status in the World Trade Organization. China will try to "prevent the further spread of the sovereign debt crisis," Wen said at the World Economic Forum in September. He implied that if China was to prop up Europe, Europe must open its markets to more Chinese goods. The Trumpet has forecast a closer China-EU trade relationship. The euro crisis may help bring this about.



WEN

#### 'Liquidate' U.S. debt ASAP!

China will sell its U.S. government debt as soon as it can safely do so, top adviser to China's central bank Li Daokui told the World **Economic Forum** in September. "Once the U.S. treasury market stabilizes we can liquidate more of our holdings of treasuries," Li said. When China stops buying America's debt, it will mean the end of cheap credit for the cash-strapped U.S. government.

# President Aguino III (right) visits Beijing.

#### **5 | PHILIPPINES Softening its resistance**

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III began his first-ever state visit to China on August 30. Beforehand, Manila had

softened its previous criticisms of Beijing's assertive behavior, hoping to garner more Chinese investment during an economic slowdown in the Philippines. Manila has traditionally played the U.S. and China off one another, securing the benefits of economic relations with Beijing while protecting itself with Washington's security assurances. But China hopes to use Manila's growing desire for Chinese investment in order to boost its economic leverage over the Philippines and thus shape Manila's behavior. The Trumpet has pointed out that even though Manila has decried China's rise in the past, it will eventually succumb to China.



#### 6 RUSSIA How to win an election

USSIA'S STRONGMAN, PRIME MINISTER VLADIMIR PUTIN, is set to return to the president's chair in elections next year. Putin announced on September 24 at the annual conference of the ruling United Russia party that he will run for president next March, accepting a proposal by President Dmitry Medvedev and confirming what was widely expected. Putin proposed Medvedev's candidacy as prime minister, which he accepted, meaning the two will be simply switching jobs.

Putin was president from 2000 to 2008, but was unable to run for a third consecutive four-year term due to constitutional restraints. Medvedey, whom he endorsed as his successor, was little more than a puppet: Putin remained Russia's most powerful political leader by becoming prime minister and chairman of United Russia. In the meantime, with Putin's enhanced control of the legislature, the constitution was amended at the end of 2008 to allow for six-year presidential terms instead of four-year. Thus, the way is now open for Putin to stay in power another 12 years.

Putin indicated that the arrangement had been agreed between the two leaders right back in 2007: "[W]e actually discussed this variant of events while we were first forming our comradely alliance," he said. As the Trumpet has long been saying, democracy in Russia is a farce. "Putin has marshaled the return of Russia to great-power status, and he is not about to become hands-off," we wrote on the Trumpet.com on Nov. 12, 2008. "Bible prophecy shows that Russia's resurgence will be a catalyst for the emergence of a unified European superstate—and subsequently contribute to an enormously destructive world war."



#### 7 | UKRAINE 8 | BELARUS On the line between continents

From September 16 to 22, a Ukrainian combat team participated jointly for the first time in a major training drill with Russian and Belarusian forces. "It is time for us to take our cooperation to a new level," Russian Army Chief of Staff Nikolai Makarov said of Ukraine's decision to join in the annual exercise. The military exercise involved 12,000 soldiers, 50 aircraft and 100 tanks from the three former Soviet Union nations. Kiev's participation sends a strong signal that Ukraine is heading toward the Russian camp, thereby sketching an eastern border for the EU. Watch for Ukraine to become the dividing line between the eastward-expanding EU and the westward expansion of a regenerated imperialist Russia. When that border is established, the basis for a non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia will be in place, and Germany will be free to tend to its expansionist aims elsewhere.



#### 9 | JAPAN

#### **Beijing: We should be closer**

China called on Yoshihiko Noda, Japan's new prime minister, to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations on August 30. In a statement congratulating Noda on his election, Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said he hoped both sides would work together to enhance bilateral "strategic and mutually beneficial relations." Expect ties between these Asian 17

powers to continue to grow.



#### 1 | EGYPT 2 | LIBYA

### The great Islamic awakening

IX WEEKS AFTER THE MUBARAK REgime collapsed in early February, the *New York Times* realized what was actually happening in Egypt. *Religion* had emerged as the most powerful political force, the *Times* wrote on March 24.

In Libya, Muammar Qadhafi had been gone for just three weeks, and the *liberal democracy, secular, moderate* disguise that covered the uprising early on had already been stripped away.

Libya could fall into the hands of Islamic extremists, said NATO's secretary general September 11. NATO, of course, was largely responsible for ousting Qadhafi. It is *Western military might* that now enables Libyan rebels to draw up legislation based on sharia law.

On September 14, the *New York Times* printed a revealing article under this front-page headline: "Islamists' Growing Sway Raises Questions for Libya." According to the article, the most powerful military man in new Libya is Abdel Hakim Belhaj, an Islamic extremist with ties to al Qaeda. Libya's most influential politician is an Islamic scholar named Ali Sallabi.

"It is the people's revolution, and all the people are Muslims, Islamists," Sallabi candidly told the *Times*.

Fathi Ben Issa is also featured in the *Times* piece. He was one of the first representatives on the Tripoli council, but he left this governing body dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood after learning that it intended to ban the arts and issue a fatwa that would bar Libyan women from driving automobiles.

But according to the *Times*, "The United States and Libya's new leaders say the Islamists, a well-organized group in a mostly moderate country, are sending signals that they are dedicated to democratic pluralism. They say there is no reason to doubt the Islamists' sincerity."

Sallabi told the *Times*, presumably with a straight face, that he hopes Libya will find a leader like America's first president, George Washington.

Ben Issa, who has received death threats for cutting ties with Libya's Islamic council, said Sallabi is only trying to mask his true intentions. "He says one thing to the BBC and another to Al Jazeera," Ben Issa said. "If you believe him, you don't know the Muslim Brothers."

But to the sleeping giant in Washington, there is "no reason" to doubt Sallabi's commitment to spreading democracy.

On that point, even the *New York Times* seemed skeptical. "[A]s in Egypt and Tunisia, the latest upheaval of the Arab Spring deposed a dictator who had suppressed hard-core Islamists, and there are some worrisome signs about what kind of government will follow."

Trumpet readers know exactly what kind of government will follow: one that perfectly serves the interests of Iran, the top state sponsor of radical Islam, and the prophesied king of the south (Daniel 11:40).

In Western political discourse, it might be fashionable to call the latest uprisings and revolts an "Arab Spring," but on the Arab street and in Tehran—and more importantly, in the pages of your Bible—it's seen as a great Islamic awakening. And it's building toward a spectacular clash that will soon trigger World War III!

#### **WORLDWATCH MIDDLE EAST**



#### 3 | ISRAEL

#### Terrorists gain hold on Sinai

Egypt's Sinai has become a center of operation for several Islamist terrorist groups, including al Qaeda, over recent months. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's counterterrorism czar told an Israelihosted security conference in September that Egypt's political entropy had helped reinforce and arm the Sinai terrorists. "If you want to buy, today, a mortar or a machine gun or even a MANPAD (anti-aircraft missile), all you need is a few dollars and you get it," Nitzan Nuriel said. "The level of the threat is much more dramatic than it was a year ago." DEBKAfile reported that the Egyptian government's appeasement of the Muslim Brotherhood has resulted in it actually doing deals with the terrorists in the Sinai, leaving them in control of the area, instead of confronting them.



#### **Attack in Tel Aviv**

On August 29, a Palestinian from the West Bank wounded eight Israelis when he hijacked a taxi in Tel Aviv, stabbed the driver, ran over police officers at a checkpoint outside a nightclub, and then got out of the car and stabbed several bystanders. A police spokeswoman said the man declared "God is great!" in Arabic as he struggled with police as they arrested him. Israel has been on an increased level of alert for possible attacks since the August 18 gun attack that killed eight Israelis, and fears the possibility of a third intifada.

#### **4 | AFGHANISTAN**

#### **Taliban siege in Kabul**

Taliban fighters fired rockets at the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul on September 13-14 and carried out three suicide attacks in other parts of the city in the biggest assault the terrorists have mounted on the Afghan capital. The siege in Kabul's diplomatic enclave lasted 20 hours, with as many as 10 insurgents, armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers, AK-47 assault rifles and suicide bomb vests, occupying and launching their attack from a nearby part-built multi-story building.

Gen. John R. Allen, the commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said the raid, with its hours of explosions and fierce gun battles, was a propaganda victory for the Taliban. The insurgents were able to carry out the attack in one of the most protected areas of the capital.

The raid took place as U.S. and other NATO forces prepare to hand over security responsibilities in Afghanistan to Afghan troops. Violence is now at its worst level in the country since the Taliban government was toppled in 2001.

Then, on September 20, Burhanuddin Rabbani, former Afghan president and head of the government's High Peace Council, was killed by a Taliban suicide bomber in another dramatic demonstration of the Taliban's reach. The bomb was detonated while two men posing as Taliban peace emissaries were meeting with Rabbani at his home.

Meanwhile, Washington-approved negotiations continue between Taliban representatives and the Peace Council. It is now accepted as being inevitable that the Taliban, being the largest political force in Afghanistan, will become part of a future Afghan government. This, after a decade of the U.S. fighting the Taliban, is a precise fulfillment of the prophecy that this nation's "strength [would] be spent in vain" (Leviticus 26:20).



"The huge amount of evidence included in the lawsuit comes together to form a fascinating charge: Starting in the 1990s, Iran and Hezbollah helped Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri create a new terror organization from scratch .... Iran trained group members, equipped them with advanced technological means, enabled them to move freely and provided them with plenty of terror-related expertise and experience accumulated by Hezbollah in its operations against Israel and the United States."

RONEN BERGMAN SENIOR POLITICAL AND MILITARY ANALYST FOR YEDIOTH AHRONOTH



### 5 IRAN Did Iran help plan 9/11?

T'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE 9/11. THIS YEAR, FAMILIES OF VICTIMS of that act of war have filed two lawsuits—one in May, the other in September—against an unusual defendant: *the Islamic Republic of Iran*. This legal team is convinced—based on years of research interviewing intelligence officials, CIA agents, Iranian defectors and others—it can prove that the terrorists who plotted and carried out the 9/11 attacks were *backed by Iran*.

"Put simply: The Islamic Republic of Iran helped design the 9/11 plot," wrote Kenneth Timmerman, who helped in the effort (FrontPageMag.com, September 9). Iran also "provided intelligence support to identify and train the operatives who carried it out." Further, it helped the hijackers skirt U.S. and Pakistani surveillance—even on the fateful trip where bin Laden gave them final instructions—"by escorting them through Iranian borders without passport stamps."

It's earth-shattering stuff, but don't expect Washington to do anything. This information has been available for years, but the government is not interested. In addition, proof abounds of Iran waging *direct war* against U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq—arming and training insurgents and so on. It doesn't matter; America keeps pretending Iran isn't involved. In July, the Treasury Department labeled Iran "a critical transit point for funding to support al Qaeda's activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan" and called it "the core pipeline through which al Qaeda moves money, facilitators and operatives." So what did it do? It forbade Americans from having commercial or financial dealings with *six specific al Qaeda agents*.

Iran has been waging war against America for 10 years. It helped kill 3,000 Americans on 9/11. It has helped in killing thousands more on the battlefield since. It is bloodying America's nose, trashing its reputation, burning its honor, and draining its treasury. And America does nothing.

#### 3 | ISRAEL

### Risk of losing space edge

Israel is in danger of losing its qualitative military edge in space, the outgoing chief of Israel's military space program warned September 1. Brig. Gen. Hayim Eshed, who founded Israel's Defense Ministry Space Division 30 years ago, said, "Today, we have a relative edge over the rest of the region and parts of the world in certain space capabilities, some of which other countries are trying to copy. If, however, we do not increase our investments in the next two years we stand the risk of losing our

#### 1 | BRAZIL

#### Brazil looks to aid eurozone

Brazilian Finance Minister Guido Mantega said on September 13 that his country may work with China, India and Russia in putting together a monetary aid package for ailing eurozone nations. "We're going to see what we can do to help the European Union get through this situation," he said. Brazil may purchase mostly symbolic amounts of European bonds in a highly public way in an effort to boost investor confidence in European bonds markets. Some are starting to joke about the strange turn of affairs that allows Brazil to help out its former colonial master Portugal. Don't let the jokes fool you. Herbert Armstrong long prophesied that the alliance between Europe and South America would grow strong, but it won't be a union of equals: The Latin American countries will again become vassal states to Europe.

#### 2 | CUBA

#### Dissidents to church: Help!

A Cuban dissident group met with an aide to Catholic Cardinal Jaime Ortega on August 30 to lay out its concerns over a recent government crackdown on its supporters. "Our principal worry is to stop the beat-

ings and harassment against the Ladies in White in all of Cuba, but also that there's been too much violence against other peaceful opposition activists," said Ladies in White



spokeswoman Berta Soler. Ortega interceded on behalf of the Ladies in White last spring, when government-organized mobs attacked the group as it marched after Sunday mass in Havana, and the harassment quickly stopped. Watch for initiatives from Vatican City to consolidate the church's power by winning the loyalty of

its Cuban parishioners.

#### **WORLDWATCH** LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

#### 3 | SOUTH AFRICA Hints of an exodus

Mining firms Anglo American PLC and Rio Tinto PLC announced on September 5 plans to sell their stake in South Africa's largest copper producer, Palabora Mining Co. Both said the decision was based on a desire to focus on larger, longer-life assets. Analysts note, however, that several companies have been selling smaller assets in South Africa as political risks increase. Such moves should offer a warning to South Africa's ruling party, which is currently debating how to reform the mining industry and the option of nationalization. Many investors feel a policy of nationalization will transform South Africa into a second Zimbabwe.



#### The rising risk of genocide

HE INDEPENDENT WATCHDOG ORGANIZATION GENOCIDE Watch has upgraded the genocide warning for the white population in South Africa from a level five to a level six. According to Genocide Watch president Gregory Stanton, risk level six is the level just before mass exterminations commence.

Genocide Watch raised the level on August 20 largely because of the alarming rate at which native blacks have been killing Afrikaner farmers. Since the end of apartheid, over 3,000 white farmers have been murdered, according to some reports. This figure amounts to almost 7 percent of the total population of white farmers in South Africa.

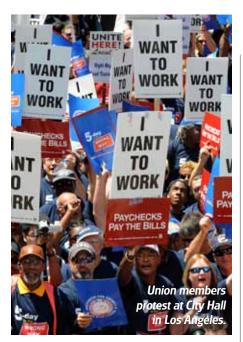
The upgrade was also made in light of calls by Julius Malema, the firebrand youth leader of the African National Congress (ANC), to seize, without compensation, white-owned farms and businesses. Many political observers believe that such property seizures could spark violent racial clashes. Malema and other prominent ANC politicians have done little to allay such fears by routinely singing such xenophobic songs as the Zulu militaristic anthem "Dubuli 'Bhunu" ("Shoot the Boer").

Genocide risk level six is labeled "Preparation," the stage just before level-seven "Extermination." Clearly, South Africa is a nation bubbling over with racial tension and is swiftly proceeding down the road toward Zimbabwe-style politics. Sadly, if the warnings coming from Genocide Watch are valid, the same road could lead to Rwanda-style genocide.

#### 4 | BENIN

#### Pirates seek safer waters

Armed pirates commandeered a fuel tanker off the West African nation of Benin on September 14 and took its 23 crew members hostage. This hijacking was the most recent in a series of pirate attacks in a coastal region of Africa that had been considered relatively safe until this year. The target was a Cyprus-flagged tanker shipping oil; the vessel was trying to transfer some cargo to a Norwegianflagged vessel. The pirates also boarded the second vessel, but that crew locked itself in the engine room, and the pirates left. Cyrus Mody, manager of the International Maritime Bureau in London, an international pirating monitoring group, attributed the rise in Gulf of Guinea piracy to a crackdown on fuel thieves in Nigeria, a leading oil exporter. The EU is already fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia, and the German military recently renewed its ties with oil-rich Nigeria. Nigeria's fate largely determines the stability of the oil-rich nations surrounding the Gulf of Guinea. This fact is not lost on Germany. Expect German military involvement on the African continent to increase in the months to come.



#### A heap of people out of work

The U.S. Department of Labor's August employment report wasn't pretty. Economists estimate America's economy needs to create 150,000 jobs per month just to keep up with population growth. In August, it created 17,000, which, out of a workforce of 153 million, is statistically zero. This leaves the official unemployment rate at 9.1 percent, approximately where it was in April. However, this measure does not include discouraged workers who have given up looking for work, or those who are working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment. Include these individuals, and the government says unemployment is really 16.2 percent.

Economist John Williams at Shadow-Stats.com, however, says the real unemployment rate is even higher. If the government calculated the numbers the way it did before 1994, it would show unemployment above 22 percent, "the highest level seen in the current, protracted economic downturn."

The unemployment report also indicated that wages are falling. The average salary for a private sector worker dropped by 3 cents to \$23.09 per hour. The number of hours that employees worked also fell.

"Americans are enduring painful long-term joblessness," said an official from Congressman Ron Paul's office.
"They're witnessing their savings disappear due to lost income. They're seeing their personal debt rise due to lost income. And they gaze despairingly upon their retirement plans as these arrangements are tabled or upended entirely." It is just a small taste of what is to come. An economic "mega-storm" is on the way.

ANGLO-AMERICA

#### Irene leaves mark after all

After strong forewarnings were criticized for being too severe, Hurricane Irene still ended up being one of the 10 costliest natural disasters in American history. Estimates put the cost of damages from the storm that hit America's Eastern Seaboard between \$7 and \$10 billion. Deadly flooding caused havoc in upstate New York and Vermont; cotton and tobacco crops perished in North Carolina; commuters couldn't get to work in New York City; tourists had to stay off Atlantic beaches in the peak of summer. The increase in natural disasters will hasten America's economic decline.



# At last, Britain promotes marriage ... oh wait

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INTRODUCE HOMOsexual "marriages" before the next election in 2015, Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone announced at the Liberal Democratic Party annual conference September 17. Homosexuals in Britain have been able to form civil partnerships since December 2005, which gives them similar rights to married couples. The government also plans to allow homosexuals to hold civil partnership ceremonies in churches.

Prime Minister David Cameron personally intervened to promote the new proposals. That a Conservative prime minister is

pushing for same-sex "marriage" shows how radically left-wing Britain has become. Cameron has often supported homosexuals; he apologized for legislation introduced by former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that banned homosexual propaganda from schools. Cameron says he supports marriage and family, and that strong families make a strong society because they



involve responsibility and commitment; but he argues that homosexual "marriages" are good for society for the same reasons.

The prime minister misses the fact that God created marriage and family as the only stable way to build a society and to teach man about his relationship with his spiritual Father. God designed marriage for an awesome purpose—something a homosexual relationship can never fulfill.

#### Britain not invited to the EU party

Foreign ministers from France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain called on EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton on September 2 to set up a military headquarters as a "matter of urgency," according to the *Daily Telegraph*. The letter instructs Ashton to use a new legal mechanism in the Lisbon Treaty to bypass Britain's veto. This shows that the major EU powers are determined to work toward a common military despite Britain's objections.

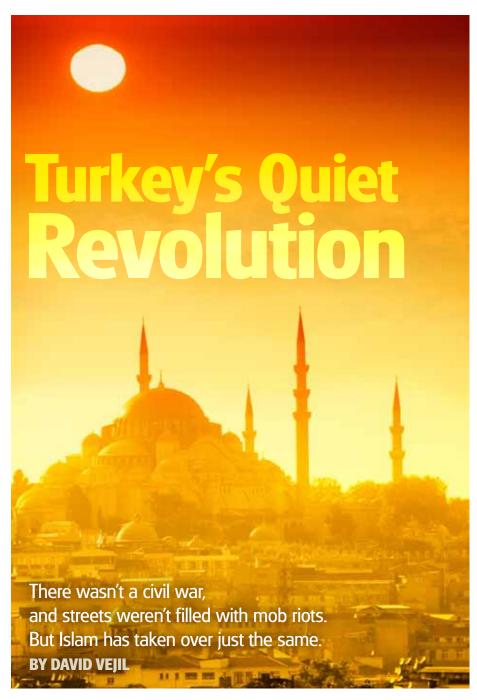
#### New reality for 2.6 million more Americans

Another 2.6 million Americans slipped into poverty last year, the Census Bureau reported September 13. Minorities are being hit the hardest: Blacks have the highest poverty rate at 27.4 percent; Hispanics are right behind at 26.6 percent. Asians and whites are impoverished at rates of 12.1 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively. The report said the percentage of Americans living below the official poverty line last year, 15.1, was the highest since 1993. (The poverty line in 2010 for a family of four was \$22,314.) The number of Americans in that category is now 46.2 million, the most since the bureau began publishing figures 52 years ago. Rising unemployment, an overloaded social welfare system, mass discontent, loss of faith in leadership, disdain for law and morality—all these problems are fueling tensions between blacks and whites, rich and poor, Democrats and Republicans.



"We think of America as a place where every generation is doing better, but we're looking at a period when the median family is in worse shape than it was in the late 1990s."

LAWRENCE KATZ HARVARD ECONOM-ICS PROFESSOR



dominated by revolutions across the Arab world. In this "Arab Spring," mass protests erupted all over North Africa and the Middle East. But instead of producing the budding Western-style democracies hoped for by the United States and Europe, a host of countries are transforming into radical Islamic satellites of Iran.

While these sudden, raucous revolutions were rocking the Arab world, a quieter, slower revolution was unfolding in Turkey. There were no mass protests or brutal crackdowns; media agencies didn't

rush reporters in to give breaking news. The nation hardly seemed ripe for revolt: Turkey's

economy was growing; its GDP per capita was double Egypt's; its government was already a functional democracy. Only a decade ago, Turkey was begging to become a member of the European Union. This predominantly Muslim nation hoped to be accepted by the Christian democracies of the West as one of them. It joined NATO, allied with Israel and partnered with the U.S. in the war on terror.

But all that has changed. Turkey has experienced an Islamic takeover. The monumental consequences are shaking up the Middle East.

#### 'A Massive Shift'

On June 12, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Islamist prime minister from Turkey's

ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), was elected in a landslide for a third term. Since 2002, when he was first elected, the AKP has successfully turned the secular, military-dominated republic toward its Islamic roots.

This historic change was demonstrated by the one form of protest Turkey did see. The once dominant General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces mounted a lawsuit to outlaw the AKP for undermining Turkey's secular foundations. The courts narrowly overthrew the case, and on July 29, four top generals resigned, attempting to throw the civilian government into a crisis. But there was hardly even a reaction. The AKP government accepted the resignations and simply replaced the generals, signaling "a massive shift in the balance of power within the Turkish political system" (Stratfor, July 30).

Thus, the General Staff, which had mounted coups and outlawed parties to keep military power strong in the past, accepted defeat in the battle against the AKP for government control. After being dominated by



its secularist military for over 50 years, Turkey finally fell to the control of a civilian political party—one populated by proud, card-carrying Islamists.

The resignations were far quieter than the raging mobs of Egyptians in Tahrir Square, but the effect was just as monumental: Another longtime U.S. and Israeli ally, a nation key to stability in the Middle East, succumbed to an Islamic takeover.

#### **Behold the Change**

Since these events, Turkey's transformation has been even more dramatic. Just look at its new foreign policy.

Ever since it became the first Muslim-majority country to recognize Israel in 1949, Turkey has had a strong relationship with the Jewish state. If Egypt and its 1979 peace treaty with Israel was the foundation for Middle East stability and Israel's defense, Turkey's alliance was the capstone. But all of that has been turned upside down by Erdoğan and the AKP.

Turkey has abandoned this alliance. The split began to appear last year when it challenged Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip—a blockade the UN declared legal this September—by sending an "aid flotilla" to Gaza. When Israel took action to uphold its blockade, several Turks were killed. In response to Israel's refusal

to apologize for those deaths, Turkey expelled the Israeli ambassador and suspended its military ties with Israel on September 2. Still insisting that the blockade was illegal, Erdoğan then reportedly said Turkey would send three frigates to the Mediterranean to escort any aid ships to Gaza in future, suggesting further provocations.

This move dangerously escalates tensions between the two nations. Before, Turkey's weapon was just fiery rhetoric. Now it is *deploying military vessels*.

The Middle East is quickly moving toward war, and Israel's existence is at stake!

#### **Why Turkey Is Different**

But just as Turkey's revolution differed from the Arab countries, its result will also be different. Turkey is no Egypt or Libya. It is a rich nation with the power to challenge Iran, the kingpin of the region and the seat of radical Islamic power.

This can be seen in its vocal criticism of Syria, Iran's closest ally in the area. Turkey even gave Syrian President Bashar al-Assad an ultimatum to implement long-promised political reforms and stop suppressing protesters—or else face a Turkish intervention. In September, Erdoğan undertook a tour of Muslim nations in a bid to strengthen Turkey's standing in the Arab world.

Why the sudden transformation from a key ally to the U.S. and Israel into a hostile enemy? Where is this power struggle leading? Only biblical prophecy can give the answers.

Turkey is identified in prophecy as *Edom* (next article). The Bible foretold that Turkey would eventually betray Israel, and that is beginning to be fulfilled right now. This will be, in part, the result of the quiet revolution that has occurred in Turkey over the last decade. However, while Ankara's recent actions against Israel reveal where its heart lies, biblical prophecy also suggests that the form of Turkey's alliance with Israel will remain, though not the substance. This will set Israel up for the betrayal prophesied in the biblical book of Obadiah.

Psalm 83 foretells that Turkey will join an alliance to destroy the tiny nation of Judah (modern *Israel*) and the end-time Israelite birthright nations (the U.S. and Britain). (More information on this can be found in our free booklet *The King of the South.*) Psalm 83 shows that Turkey's coming alliance will not be with radical Iran or Egypt; it will be with Germany!

#### **ORIGIN OF NATIONS, PART 7**

# **East, West or Neither?**

The future of a nation with an identity crisis BY DAVID VEJIL

tity crisis. It encompasses a land bridge that connects Europe with the Middle East, and its inhabitants have always been torn between identifying with its eastern Muslim neighbors and western trading partners.

Until recently, this predominantly Muslim nation leaned west. It allied with Israel; it joined NATO; it sought membership in the European Union; it became an important partner of the United States in the then-called war on terror.

Now, though, that has all changed. Since 2002, when the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power under Islamist Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, this once secular republic has turned to its Islamic roots.

When Erdoğan was elected to a third term by a landslide in June, Barry Rubin, director of the Global Research in International Affairs Center, said that the nation's future is certain: "[N]ow Turkey is set on a path that is ending the republic established by Kemal Ataturk in the 1920s. The Turkey of secularism and Western orientation is finished. ... In short, the AKP is entrenched in power, and can now proceed with the fundamental transformation of Turkey" (Jerusalem Post, June 13).

Is Rubin correct? Is Turkey ready to abandon its connection to Europe and its friendship with the U.S. to cozy up to its Muslim neighbors?

Turkey, the core of a great empire that once ruled the biblical Promised Land for 400 years, is a regional power that profoundly affects Israel. Therefore the Bible, a book that prominently features Israel and its relations with major nations, must not be silent about Turkey. In fact, the Bible has many thunderous prophecies about Turkey, and the only way to understand them is by knowing where this nation is identified in those

prophecies.

So who is Turkey in biblical prophecy? For the answer, we must look at its ancient and modern history.

#### **A Brief History**

Though Asia Minor was populated from immediate post-Flood times by numerous nations, the first great empire to truly dominate this territory hailed from the east: the Persians. Following their rule, the Persians were replaced by even greater empires from the West, the Greco-Macedonian and Roman empires. The collapse of the Roman Empire in the west led to its continuation in the east as the Byzantine Empire, whose capital, Constantinople, located on the strategic Bosporus Strait and now called Istanbul, was the center for the Eastern Orthodox Church.

After the Byzantines' thousand-year dominance of the region, their decline led to invasion by the Seljuk Turks. They ruled from Anatolia to northern India between the 11th and 14th centuries. Weakened by the Crusades of Rome and by Mongol invasions, the Seljuks were succeeded by the Ottomans in the 15th century.

Thus a new empire was born from within Anatolia: the Ottoman Empire. This Turkic empire grew to encompass North Africa east to the Euphrates River and north into central Europe. During their rise, the Ottomans obtained the title of *caliph*, the spiritual head of all Islam. The empire lasted for 600 years, until the Allied powers dissolved it at the end of World War I.

Out of the Ottoman ashes, Mustafa Kemal established the Republic of Turkey in 1923 and was given the name Kemal Ataturk, meaning the "father of the Turks." He pursued a policy of Westernization and secularization, abandoning Islamic law, religious courts and even the Arabic script for the Ottoman Turkish language.



The extent of settlement of Turkish speaking people stretches from modern-day Turkey to Mongolia. These people are divided into the western, largely Caucasoid, group in Turkey and northwestern Iran and an eastern, largely Mongoloid, group in Central Asia to the Mongolian border.

Though the empire was lost, Ataturk managed to hold on to the strategic sea gate of the Bosporus and Dardanelles straits. For the last century his successors have built Turkey into a strong regional power, a counterbalance in the Middle East to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

So who are these Turks who once ruled the Middle East?

Of all the people who have migrated in and out of Turkey, it is the migration of the Turkic people from Central Asia, starting with the Seljuks in the seventh century and culminating in the rise of the Ottomans, that matters most in determining the biblical identity of Turkey.

#### What an Encyclopedia Will Tell You

According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the Turks are "any of various peoples whose members speak languages belonging to the Turkic subfamily of the Altaic family of languages." The other identifying factor for these various peoples, it says, is their religion: "they are all Muslim." As for Turkic history, the encyclopedia writes, "[L]ittle is known about the origins of the Turkic peoples, and much of their history even up to the time of the Mongol conquests in the 10th to 13th centuries is shrouded in obscurity."

In other words, *Britannica* has no idea about the Turks' origins. It sees them as a "great variety of ethnic types" of unknown ancestry that happen to share the same language and religion.

Two main groups of Turks are widely acknowledged: the western branch, which has settled in modern-day Turkey, and the eastern branch, which still lives in Central Asia. "Ethnologically, the Anatolian Turks

differ greatly from their kin in Turkestan and other Turkish areas in Asia and Eastern Europe," writes Charles Hostler in *The Turks of Central Asia*. "According to the clearest source, the Anatolian Turks are a people whose physique shows not the slightest trace of the Turkish type."

But how could millions of migrating Turks, including the Ottomans, not impact the gene pool of Asia Minor when most of the inhabitants of Asia Minor claim descent from them? The reality is the classification of "Turk" does not help in identifying the people of Turkey in biblical prophecy.

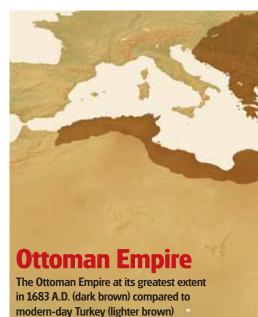
Scholars assume that the western and eastern branches of the Turks are related from their time spent together in Central Asia and that the absence of Mongoloid features in Turkey is a result of the Turks mixing with the indigenous population of Anatolia. But when the assumption is removed, the identity of these Turks can be understood.

The western branch of Turks is a different people than the eastern branch, not because of population mixing, but because they have different ancestors. The eastern branch of Turks, found in Central Asia today, descend from Japheth and are Mongoloid. Those in the west descended from a different lineage than Japheth and are Caucasoid.

Where, then, did the Ottomans come from? There is a reason these western Turks migrated west while the other Turks stayed in Central Asia! The truth is quite contrary to what most encyclopedic sources claim. We must go to the source of all true knowledge, the Word of God, for verification of the patriarchy of the western Turk.

#### **Bible Identifies the Western Turks**

The key to their identity and their origins lies in their name, *Ottoman*. This name actually appears in biblical prophecy. Remarkably, the nation with this name was



prophesied to be near Israel, in control of a major gateway, and to be a great empire in control of the Promised Land for a time.

This name is *Teman*—a grandson of Esau, grandson of the patriarch Abraham.

Genesis 36 gives the genealogy of Esau, the son of Isaac and brother of Jacob. It lists the rulers of the nation he founded and even the rulers of those with whom his descendants dwelt and intermarried. This genealogy, in a book primarily concerned with Israel, was recorded because the children of Esau were a prominent people at the time and would continue to play an important role in Israel's future.

Esau was also named *Edom* (Genesis 25:30). Three times in this chapter, the Israelites are reminded that the Edomites are in fact their cousins—almost as if they could hardly believe it. Indeed, it is much harder for Israel to believe what the Bible has to say today!

In verses 11 and 15, the Bible records that Teman was a grandson of Esau through his firstborn, Eliphaz. Teman's prominence is demonstrated in Obadiah, which prophesies about Edom and mentions Teman specifically in verse 9.

When Genesis 36 was recorded, the bulk of the Edomites lived at Mt. Seir, southeast of Palestine. There the kingdom of Edom was established. But the Edomites did not stay there. The chapter shows that their leaders ruled territory much greater than Edom proper.

Verse 37 states that the Edomites ruled land that reached all the way to the Euphrates River. In addition to Edom, they dwelt in what the Bible calls the land of Temani. This land is located near Persia and Central Asia, as Dr. Herman Hoeh proved in his *Compendium of World* 



History, Volume 2, by connecting the Husham in the land of Temani found in verse 34 with the Persian ruler Hushang. Hushang was a descendant of Teman who ruled over the Persians and Edomites.

The early kings of Persia ruled not just Persia, but Central Asia too. "In the vast stretches north of Persia live a medley of peoples," Dr. Hoeh wrote. "Mongols, Tatars, Turks, Turkomen and Persians, among many others. The history of this area is intimately connected with ancient Persia." The Bible shows that certain Edomites migrated northeast into Central Asia and Persia and lived among all those different people.

Eventually one Persian king, Alphidun, also known as Feridoun, split his kingdom among his sons, giving Turkestan in Central Asia to one son named Tur, and giving Persia to another son from a different mother. From Tur, the Temanite inhabitants took on the name of Turk, which they hold to this day. From then on, the Persians and Turks fought each other off and on.

This history can be found in several of the Persians' and Turks' own histories, such as History of the Early Kings of Persia, translated by David Shea, and A General History of the Turks, Moguls and Tatars, translated from a Tartar manuscript. However, anti-biblical scholars reject these accounts and relegate them to legend. They conclude that the origins of the Turks are obscure because they won't accept the provable records of these people.

While myth and legend have no doubt been added to the Persians' and Turks' own historical accounts, there is much truth to these histories, mainly the names of rulers and the accounts of their reigns and conquests.

Later, the Babylonians, led by

Nebuchadnezzar, conquered Edom. Many of the Edomites continued to migrate to Central Asia, out of reach of the powerful empires emerging from Mesopotamia. "From the days of Nebuchadnezzar, who carried them captive, they disappear for 1,000 years from history," Dr. Hoeh wrote in a Plain Truth article. "Then suddenly we find Amalek the name of a city in Turkestan in Central Asia (from Paul Herrmann's Sieben vorbei und Act Verweht, page 451). [Amalek was a grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12).] The Egyptians used to call the Amalekites Amu. In Turkestan is the River Amu today! In Bible times the Edomites inhabited Mt. Seir (Genesis 32:4). In Turkestan is the Syr Darya—the River of Syr or Seir" (July 1957).

There they inhabited the same land as the Mongoloid Turks-descendants of Japheth—and picked up their language. When the Turks rose to power, they migrated back toward the same general direction they had come from into Asia Minor. There they once again rose to prominence as the Ottoman Empire.

That is not to say that all the Turks migrating into Asia Minor in the seventh century were descendents of Esau, but it is clear from the names and the history available that the bulk of the Turks in Turkey, especially the Ottomans, are Edomites.

This must be why a king of the Khazars, a different Turkic people who converted to Judaism and created a kingdom north of the Black Sea, referred to the Byzantines as the "kingdom of Edom" in a late-10th-century letter to the Jewish chief minister of the Caliph of Cordoba in Spain, just at the time of the greatest Turkic migrations into Asia Minor.

#### **Greatest Proof in Biblical Prophecy**

Here is what Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in The United States and Britain in Prophecy concerning Esau: "In Isaac's dying prophecy, he foretold that Esau's descendants would come to a time when they should have dominion, and then break the yoke of the Israelites from off their necks. That has happened. The children of Israel, through sin, were driven out of the Promised Land that belonged with the birthright. The Turks came to power and dominion and for many centuries possessed that land. Those descendants, the Turkish people, occupied Palestine 400 years before Britain took it in 1917. Esau's descendants always have lusted for that land, central promise of the birthright! The Turks have truly lived by the sword!"

This prophecy is recorded in Genesis 27:39-41. There are more prophecies concerning Edom, and specifically Teman, in Obadiah. In verses 11 and 13, the Bible prophesies that the descendants of Edom would control an important gate. Another prophecy in Psalm 83 indicates that Edom would also be located in close proximity to Moab and the Ammonites, which is modern-day Jordan, and also close to the Ishmaelites, modern-day Saudi Arabia. The only country that can fulfill these prophecies, and therefore be the descendants of Edom, is Turkey!

Turkey is located close to all these countries and controls an important gate, the Bosporus and Dardanelles straits. All other sea gates in that area are controlled by countries whose peoples are definitely not Edomite, such as Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Edom can only be Turkey!

It is in the same prophecy found in Psalm 83 that we are told whether or not Turkey will completely end its friendship with the West in the near future.

#### **Turkey in Prophecy**

Psalm 83 contains an important prophecy of a future alliance against Israel that is soon to be fulfilled. "For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them" (verses 5-8).

This prophecy declares that Assur, the father of the Assyrians, whose descendants are now the nation of Germany, will ally with several Middle East nations, including Turkey, in an effort to destroy the descendants of Israel, which consist of the Anglo-Saxon nations of America and Britain as well as the Jewish nation of Israel. (For more information on the identity of these people in Psalm 83, request our free booklets The King of the South and Germany and the Holy Roman Empire. Request The United States and Britain in *Prophecy* for a detailed proof of who the descendants of Israel are.) Such an alliance has never formed in history, so this is an *end-time prophecy* yet to be fulfilled!

These names have been listed so we can know who they are and how this prophecy would unfold today.

Turkey plays a major part in this prophecy. In many ways, this prophecy is a repeat of history. The Ottoman Empire

See **TURKEY** page 36 ➤



# Two Views of Je

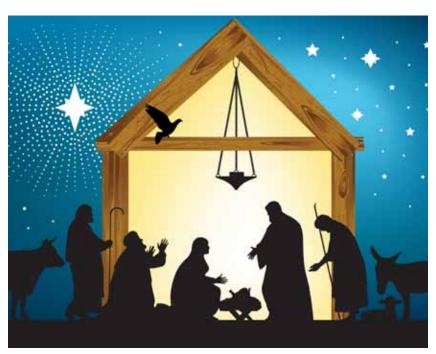
RECENTLY READ a remarkable book about Jesus Christ. It is called The Law of the Offerings, by Andrew Jukes. Written over a century ago, it demonstrates how the five tabernacle offerings described in the first seven chapters of the book of Leviticus symbolically portrayed, in advance, the life and death of the Messiah.

Of Christ's wholehearted devotion to His Father—typified by the burnt offering—Jukes wrote, "As a man, His thoughts were human thoughts;

His affections human affections. But how much of these did He reserve for self, for His own ease, or credit, or pleasure? What one act recorded of Him was for His own advancement? What one word which was not in entire devotedness to His Father? ... Such was 'the whole burnt-offering': the entire surrender of self to God in everything." Then, the follow-up statement, to prick the heart: "With us how many thoughts are there for self; for our ease, our pleasure, our interests. How much of our walk, how much of our affections, is consumed on anything rather than the altar!"

Of Christ's total fulfillment of the second tablet of the Decalogue, enjoining love toward fellow man and typified by the meal offering, Jukes explained, "[R]ejected when He would minister blessing; misunderstood when He gave instruction ... He goes forward without the slightest faltering; He never stops for a moment in His devoted service to all around Him. To the very end of His course, as at the beginning, He is the meat of all who need and will accept Him." Then, again, the challenge to compare ourselves to that example: "We think there must be a limit to our self-sacrifice. ... We think when our kindness is rejected we need not re-

peat it; we think our times of rest and relaxation are our own. Oh, how unlike to us in all was our



blessed, lowly Master!"

I found this book deeply moving for a number of reasons. In explaining the significance of these ancient rituals, it illuminates the seamless cohesion—indicating the singularity of divine authorship—between the Old and New Testaments of Scripture. It confirms that the God of the Bible does everything with purpose and design, even what most "Bible believers" would dismiss as irrelevant.

Above all, though, it shines a searchlight on details and facets of the life of the most important man ever to walk the Earth—details that both intensify the reader's love for Him and challenge the reader to better emulate Him.

The reason I relay all this is to highlight a profound contrast that has come force-fully to my mind. That is, the contrast between this penetrating view of the life and death of Jesus Christ—and the image of a helpless baby born in an animal's manger that is fixated on each year around this time, in those increasingly rare instances where Jesus is mentioned at all.

#### The Reason for the Season?

For the apparently dwindling number of those who still view Christmas as a religious holiday rather than merely a secular custom or a marketing gimmick, the diminishing role of the figure after whom it has been named causes no small amount of consternation. Every year it seems, amid the noise of commercialism, materialism and excess, some few endeavor to remind everyone that this holiday is actually supposed to be about the Son of God. He is, they say, "the reason for the season."

But is He really? Have you ever looked it up? If you just scratch the surface of any of the traditions associated with Christmas, you immediately start finding some rather grotesque things.

That December 25 isn't Christ's birthday is easy to prove. According

to ChristianHistory.net (a service of *Christianity Today*), it was the day of the Roman "birth of the unconquered sun" and the birthday of the Iranian "Sun of Righteousness," Mithras. The *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* says that the pagan celebrations of Saturnalia and Brumalia were popularly held on that date. Further into antiquity, the Egyptians marked December 25 to celebrate the birth of the son of Isis.

So "Christmas" celebrations preceded Christ's birth by centuries. And somewhere around three centuries after Jesus's death, church leaders decided to preserve the celebration but affix Christ's name to it. "The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner," says Schaff-Herzog.

This didn't sit well with many pious believers at the time. Nowhere does Scripture advocate celebrating Christ's birthday—or any birthday, for that matter. Unsurprisingly, then, as *Christian History* explains, many believed "it would be wrong to honor Christ in the same way Pharaoh and Herod were honored. Birthdays were for pagan gods." *Schaff-Herzog* further says, "Christian preachers of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was

# SUS Christmas season

### Christmas season BY JOEL HILLIKER

celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival." If only they could see how "Christ's birthday" is celebrated today.

Christian History says, "The pagan origins of the Christmas date, as well as pagan origins for many Christmas customs (giftgiving and merrymaking from Roman Saturnalia; greenery, lights and charity from the Roman New Year; Yule logs and various foods from Teutonic feasts)"and to this list we could add Santa Claus, an import from Nordic mythology-

"have always fueled arguments against the holiday. 'It's just paganism wrapped with a Christian bow,' naysayers argue."

Count me among the naysayers.

#### **Risky Assumptions**

What is astonishing to me is how, for the Christian History writer and, evidently, many other churchgoing types who have learned of this background, the pagan roots of this mid-winter celebration are nothing to be concerned about. Here is how Christian History concludes: "But while kowtowing to worldliness must always be a concern for Christians, the church has generally viewed efforts to reshape culture—including holidays—positively. As a theologian asserted in 320, 'We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."

And just like that, the appropriation of a whole closetful of pagan customs moves from "kowtowing to worldliness" to "efforts to reshape culture."

They assume God smiles on such efforts. But notice Jeremiah 10:2-4: "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen .... For the customs of the people are vain [or falsel: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." Given this



clear biblical directive, why would anyone cut down a tree, fasten it down in his home, and decorate it in order to celebrate anything, let alone a holiday supposedly intended to celebrate the Jesus of the Bible?

Doesn't God have the right to tell us how and how not He wants to be worshiped?

"We hold this day holy," this anonymous theologian said of Christmas. On whose authority? It was not holy to begin with. And human beings cannot make anything holy. The best we can do is to keep holy what God has made holy—as He commanded men to do with His Sabbath day (Exodus 20:8).

#### **Two Very Different Celebrations**

Though Scripture does not say when Christ was born and does not enjoin the celebration of His birth, it does command the annual remembrance of His deaththe death that made possible the forgiveness of sin and the reconciliation of man and God. Just as the tabernacle offerings that God required of the Hebrews foreshadowed the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, so too did the annual celebration of the Passover—on which each family killed an unblemished lamb-foreshadow the crucifixion of the Lamb of God (Exodus 12:1-6; John 1:29). Jesus instructed His disciples to continue this annual memorial, not with an animal sacrifice but with new symbols of His broken body and shed blood (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

In Christmas—a humanly devised holiday—a Christian must overlook a profane pedigree, accept a host of quirky pagan customs, and excuse the gross profiteering and material excesses that becloud the whole season, simply to get a view of a newborn baby.

In Passover-a Godordained memorial—a Christian remembers the history of a people of promise, reflects on miraculous protection from death and

redemption from sin (not just Israel's but also his own), and sees the culmination of the perfect life of the Son of God, lived in service to God and man, offered willingly as substitutionary payment for the sins of humanity—the greatest-ever act of love.

But Passover is only the first of seven biblically mandated festivals that collectively tell the story of God's entire master plan, past, present and future. In stark contrast to Christmas and other holidays with origins in paganism, the deeper one studies into these holy days, the more divine beauty and perfection one beholds. They, too, demonstrate seamless cohesion between the Old and New Testaments and confirm that the God of the Bible does everything with purpose and design.

And what purpose He has for the plan that began with the perfect offering of Jesus Christ-the life and death of the Messiah! It is far, far greater, much more inspiring, than is generally realized. If you would like to learn more about it, and how it is presented in glorious symbol through God's annual holy days, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's wonder-

> ful booklet on the subject, Pagan Holidays-or God's Holy Days—Which?



#### **INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ**



# What Makes Man Unique?

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

HY IS THERE SUCH A VAST DIFFERENCE BEtween animal brain and human mind, and what could possibly account for it? The Bible reveals the answer!

There is a great, impassable gulf between animal brain and human mind. The evolutionary theory assumes that humans are animals. But one thing evolution can never explain is the vast difference between animal brain—equipped with instinct—and the human mind, with its creative reasoning powers of intellect.

Some animals have physical brains as large or larger than man's brain, and with similar cerebral cortex complexity—but none has the powers of intellect, logic, self-consciousness and creativity that man does.

The physical brain of a dolphin, whale or elephant is larger than the human brain, while a walrus's is slightly smaller. Qualitatively the human brain may be very slightly superior, but not enough to remotely account for its vastly superior intelligence and output. The output of the human brain is indescribably greater. Let's understand why.

#### The Difference Between Man and Animals

1. Were animals created in God's image—or was each created after its own kind? Genesis 1:21, 24-25. Who was created in the "image" and "likeness" of God? Verses 26-27.

**COMMENT:** In God's pattern for physical life, like reproduces like. And just as each plant or animal reproduces after its own kind, so humans reproduce humans. But unlike any of the animals, man was created in *God's likeness*.

Each animal was created with a brain suited for its particular animal kind. But animals do not have the potential of mind that God gave only to man. No animal was ever given the gift of mind power—the ability to think, to reason, to make choices and decisions—as was man! God's purpose in making mortal man after His own image demanded mind power in man patterned after God's own mind.

It is this very special attribute of mind and character that separates men from animals.

Animals do not have reasoning, self-conscious minds. They possess *instinct*: God has "programmed" their brains with particular instinctive aptitudes to live and perform in a certain way. They follow instinctive habit patterns in their feeding, nesting, migration and reproduction. Thus, beavers build dams, birds build nests, and so on. These aptitudes are inherited—they are not the result of logical, cognitive or thinking processes.

For example, millions of birds flock south each year as winter approaches in the Northern Hemisphere. They don't stop to reason why, they don't ask themselves whether they should, they don't plan an itinerary for the trip. At a given internal signal—like the preset alarm of a clock—they leave their summer feeding grounds in the north and travel hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles south. Scientists don't fully understand how or why—they merely observe the operation of this amazing animal instinct.

Each species, or kind, of bird builds a different type of nest and feeds on different foods; many migrate at different times to different places. But none of these actions is planned by the birds. They merely have the capability and proclivity to do what Almighty God built into the instinct of each at creation.

Man's mind, by contrast, is vastly different. Man is able to devise various ways to do any one thing or to achieve a predetermined goal. Man can acquire knowledge and can reason from it. He is able to draw conclusions, make decisions, and will to act according to a thought-out plan.

Each man can design and build a different type of house, using a different design and different building materials than other people. Men also eat different foods, prepared in many different ways. They may live entirely different lifestyles from one another. And if a man wants to change his way of life—he can!

Man can choose: He has free moral agency. He can devise codes of conduct and exercise self-discipline. He can originate ideas and evaluate knowledge. And all because he has a mind that is patterned after God's own mind! Man can devise, plan, and bring his plans to fruition because he has been given some of the very creative powers of God!

Man alone can wonder, "Why was I born? What is life? What is death? Is there a purpose in human existence?" Man, unlike the animals, not only "knows" how to do certain things, but he also knows that he knows—that is, he is aware that he has "knowledge." He is self-conscious, aware of his own existence as a unique being.

These attributes of mind and character make man God's unique physical creation. God has shared some of His own qualities with man. And God expects man to develop and become conformed to the spiritual "image" of His perfect mind and holy character (Matthew 5:48)—just as man now is formed in the physical "image" of God.

#### Man Created in God's Likeness

Only man, of all God's physical creatures, has the





ability to think, reason, plan, design and come to conclusions based on acquired knowledge. Only man was created to have a very special relationship with God.

What is it, then, that gives humankind this Godplane power of intellect, utterly nonexistent with animals? What separates man from the animal kingdom?

It all boils down to a nonphysical component in the human brain that does not exist in animal brain. It is what makes man truly unique!

1. Unlike God, who is composed of spirit (John 4:24), is man a physical being, subject to death? Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 18:20 (first part). Nevertheless, does the Bible speak of a "spirit in man"? Job 32:8, 18; Zechariah 12:1; 1 Corinthians 2:11.

**COMMENT:** The physical man is a mortal soul that can die. However, many passages of Scripture show that there is a "spirit" in man! This spirit is not the man—it is spirit essence that is IN the man. Joined with the physical brain of the man, it forms the human mind. It imparts to man's brain his unique powers of intellect and personality—the ability to think rationally and make free-will decisions. It imparts the ability to learn mathematics, languages or other types of knowledge, such as music, art, carpentry and flying.

But that is all. The spirit that is in man has no consciousness of itself. It is not an "immortal soul."

2. Is this "spirit in man" clearly distinguished from the Holy Spirit of God? 1 Corinthians 2:11.

**COMMENT:** The spirit that is in man can be called "human" spirit, for it is in each human, even though it is spirit essence and not matter. It is not a "ghost," spirit being, or the Holy Spirit. This nonphysical component in the human brain does not exist in the brain of animals.

Thus animals, like humans, see, hear, smell, taste and feel, but they have no spirit to cause the physical brain to function in the process of thinking, reasoning and acquiring knowledge. Animals can be trained to perform actions based on rewards—but even then they are acting on the instinctual desire for food or safety. Mankind, on the other hand, has imagination and creative mind power far above that of any animal. Man can compose and produce music and fine art, build phenomenal skyscrapers and construct magnificent telescopes that peer into the depths of the universe. The human spirit makes this possible.

#### A Second Spirit Needed

It is true that mankind, compared to animals, has astounding intellectual capacity. Yet, he has also proved over thousands of years that he cannot solve this world's evils, like war and poverty. Why is this so? Because this world's problems are spiritual in nature, and the natural man simply cannot come to grips with spiritual problems. In producing a computer or in flying to the moon, he is dealing with physical matter that he can comprehend because of the human spirit within him. But he cannot solve problems with fellow humans because this involves knowledge,

understanding and application of spiritual principles he cannot truly grasp or implement without the addition of another spiritual element to his mind!

1. Can the human mind—having only the human spirit—understand the spiritual things of God? 1 Corinthians 2:9-11. What must be added before a man can really comprehend spiritually revealed knowledge? Verse 11, last part; verse 14.

COMMENT: Man was made to need another spirit—the Holy Spirit of God! Just as a human could not know the things of human knowledge except by the human spirit within him, so he cannot know the things of God-spiritual knowledge-except by the addition of the Spirit of God (article, page 4).

Just as surely as no animal brain—such as that of a cow, for example—can comprehend or understand human affairs without the human spirit, so no human mind can fathom spiritual truths on the divine plane without the Holy Spirit!

When fully understood, the fact that man was created in the image and likeness of God, with a spirit component within him, reveals that mankind's potential is staggering beyond belief. To learn more, request our free booklet What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind.



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert** W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence **Course.** Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

# **Let God Fight Your Battles!**

#### BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

From the Good News March 1985

HE WORLD YOU LIVE IN TODAY IS A very *troubled* world. You not only have your own *personal* problems, but you also suffer from the deliberate opposition and antagonism of the world around you.

It is time you considered how to conquer these troubles—how to be free from them—how to let God fight your battles instead!

#### One Lesson Not Yet Learned

First, understand this: If the WORLD today is not happy—if world conditions are in a chaotic state, if lives are empty and purposeless, if minds are filled with fears and worries, bodies wracked with sickness and disease—THERE IS A REASON!

Conditions are exactly what we make them!

Mortal Humans, groping in the darkness of confusion, have made conditions what they are. Humanity is REAPING what it has sown! Only the direct and all-powerful supernatural intervention of Almighty God can deliver this world from *all* its troubles.

What the world doesn't know is that God will not cause its present ways of wrong living to bring any human utopia. Rather, God Almighty will soon have to step in and RULE over the world—bringing it into the WAYS of His just laws, which alone can produce this happy tomorrow!

We, too, as God's people, have lessons to learn. Even though stubborn and rebellious mankind brings upon the world even darker days in the immediate future, remember—it's darkest just before dawn. Take hope in the sure knowledge that the *new* world of God's making and ruling—is very near today!

But in the meantime, what about you and your own private life and problems?

Let us consider some of *your own private*, personal TROUBLES. I know that you have them! And I want to *tell* you something—I want to tell you GOOD news. You

are carrying a lot of worries and fears and troubles *that you don't* need to carry!

Life is simply filled with private, personal battles. We have to battle fears and worries. Sometimes it seems we have to battle PEOPLE who appear to be enemies—often it's a husband, a wife or a mother-in-law—and whether you realize it or not, you also have to battle *YOURSELF!* 

It is like having to fight a host of ENE-MIES—all these TROUBLES, these CIRCUM-STANCES, these adverse CONDITIONS, these TEMPTATIONS! But there is a way you may FREE yourself from these troubles that confront you. There is a WAY OUT! YOU can be FREE from fighting all of these enemies except just ONE—your own self—and you can receive a lot of HELP and KNOWL-EDGE and POWER in doing that!

Here's where that help can be found!

#### **Jesus Christ Is the Deliverer**

The Eternal Creator-Ruler of the universe—the God who gives you the very air you breathe—sent His own begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into this world more than 1,900 years ago to Bring you the Way of Deliverance from all your trials, your worries, your problems.

Why, then, do some of you not listen to the way He taught us? And why do so many people think of Him as a dead Christ hanging on a cross? God Almighty raised Him from the Dead!

Jesus Christ is our LIVING Savior and High Priest, just as the Creator is a LIVING *RULER* OF ALL THE UNIVERSE!

Do you realize that Jesus Christ, the living, resurrected Christ, to whom is given *ALL POWER*, has a *PRESENT* mission to perform? Do you realize that His present mission is to fight your battles for you—to deliver you—to free you from all your fears, your troubles and even the circumstances that beset you?

Thousands of you would come to me for help in your troubles if I had time to see and talk to you—you'd come with husband-and-wife troubles, funeral troubles—every kind of trouble. Yes, you'd come to me because I'm human—one you can see—whose voice you hear.

But because I'm only human, I have

not the ability, the strength nor the TIME to render such a personal ministry to so many in different parts of the world.

Now think this over carefully, and Answer this! Why do you fight your *own* battles, when He—the LIVING Savior—is living in ALL POWER to fight them for you?

He's REAL. He's DIVINE. WHY do some of you go on worrying, when He is right there in all the power of the divine Creator to free you from all your worries?

Why? There is one of two reasons, Either you have not fully known of this great, all-encompassing divine source of power that you can call on at will—you have not realized what all-conquering help you can have—or else you have, through lack of faith or neglect, failed to call on that supernatural help in your times of need!

CAN I open your eyes to see that God is a God of Love—that God in all His supreme power wills above all things for you to prosper and be in health and to find the way to the happy, full, abundant life? That Jesus Christ is a living Savior, to whom you can go at all times—a Savior to save you from your present everyday fears and worries, adverse circumstances, troubles, sicknesses and trials, as well as to save you from eternal death at the end?

Notice what Scripture commands: "Let us therefore *come boldly* to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find *grace to help in time of need*" (Hebrews 4:16).

#### **God Is Interested in Your Life Now**

God's salvation is not something you collect *only* after you die. It is a practical, commonsense, useful salvation that starts in your everyday life right here and now!

What *needless* pains some have been suffering. What NEEDLESS fears and worries *you* may have been carrying around. What WONDERFUL TIMES—what HAPPINESS you may have cheated yourself out of, just because you have not REALIZED and taken advantage of the very PRESENT and all-powerful HELP of your *LIVING Savior!* 

Actually what is happening is that you may have found yourself faced with foes far more powerful than you. These foes may come in forms of troubles, of unforeseen circumstances, of worries, of sicknesses or even of other persons. These foes NEED not make your life unhappy.

#### **Old Testament Illustration**

Did you ever really think through the full meaning of 1 Corinthians 10:11 that the incidents in the lives of God's people of Old Testament times were written into the Bible for *OUR* LEARNING AND HELP?

I want now to turn to the experience of a man who lived in that time. This man found that he could RELY on the Almighty God. This man was faced with a far more terrifying trouble than has ever beset you. He found the happy solution. His experience will show you what you can do, this very day!

Once you understand, you will have to learn to take God at His word—to call upon God in prayer—you will have to ask God for what you need—and you may have to learn how to pray.

GOD ALMIGHTY will actually *intervene in your life* and help you and fight YOUR battles for you. Remember, God is no respecter of persons. He will not do more for one than another. He will do as much for you as for any person who ever lived. He will do as much for *you*—if you obey Him and *rely* on Him—as for any ancient king of Israel or Judah!

You may have a problem that completely overwhelms you. You may be at your wit's end—you may not know where to turn or what to do! It may be a family problem, a personal problem, a financial

#### **God Intervenes for a Man**

The vast armies of Assyria were marching westward and southward to invade Judah. The Jews were greatly outnumbered. They had no army or power to stand up against such a powerful foe.

They were HELPLESS. They faced certain defeat—just as you may feel HELPLESS in the face of your troubles today.

If some of *you* try to solve *your* problem or overcome your bad habits or resist sin in nothing more than your *OWN* power and strength, you, too, will find yourself outnumbered, overpowered and doomed to defeat!

You must learn, as this ancient king did, that GoD stands ready and willing to fight your battles for you.

Read his experience in 2 Chronicles 32, from the Moffatt translation: "It was after this, after all this loyal service, that Sancherib king of Assyria invaded Judah, besieging the fortified towns and meaning to seize them. When Hezekiah saw that Sancherib had come determined to attack Jerusalem, he and his nobles and his chiefs agreed to stop the water of the fountains outside the town. ...

"Then, appointing officers over the citizens, he gathered them in the open space at the gate of the city, and encouraged them. 'Be firm,' he said, 'be brave, be not daunted nor dismayed for the king of Assyria or for all his host; we have with us One greater than all he has; he has a mortal force, but we have with us the Eternal our God, to help us and to fight our battles'" (verses 1-3, 6-8).

know exactly How God would intervene. But they knew God would ACT! Here's what happened: "[T]hen the Eternal sent an angel who swept off all the gallant fighters, the leaders, and captains, in the camp of the king of Assyria, till he had to go home in disgrace. He [later] went into the temple of his god, and there his own offspring murdered him with their swords. So the Eternal rescued Hezekiah and the citizens of Jerusalem from Sancherib the king of Assyria as well as from all other foes, *protecting them on every side*" (verses 21-22).

That experience was written into the very Word of God for *your* learning and to show you the way today! Perhaps you are faced with a foe more powerful than you. It may be some temptation. It may be some circumstance or condition or trouble. Some serious worky.

Then let me ask you, WHAT ARE *YOU* RELYING ON to withstand the siege of this trouble—to deliver you from it?

#### **Rely on God and His Power**

What do some of you do when some fear, worry, trouble comes up against you? Do you not first FEAR AND WORRY, and then either try to RUN FROM this trouble or else try to meet it in your *own* power and strength—with your *own* thinking and planning and doing?

Do you ever search your *own* heart and life to see if it is your *fault?* In almost every in-law or marital trouble, for example, both are at fault.

Did you never realize that the very Cre-ATOR who caused you to be born—who

# If you try to solve your problem or overcome your bad habits or resist sin in nothing more than your own power and strength, you will find yourself outnumbered, overpowered and doomed to defeat!

problem, a problem of sickness or disease.

But let me tell you now as Jesus Christ's apostle of a man who came upon a situation probably far more terrifying than yours—one that would throw fright and terror into the stoutest heart.

The solution this man used will solve YOUR problems—put an END to *your* troubles. The same God who heard and delivered him will hear and deliver you—IF you will obey Him and trust Him.

The fact that this man was an ancient king makes no difference. God is no respecter of persons—He will do as much for you. God is the SAME today and tomorrow as He was yesterday.

This man was King Hezekiah of the ancient kingdom of Judah. He was an ordinary human mortal, the same as you today.

Continuing: "His officers said even worse things against God the Eternal and his servant Hezekiah. (Sancherib also wrote letters, insulting the Eternal the God of Israel and attacking him thus: 'As the gods of the nations elsewhere in the world have failed to save their folk from me, so shall Hezekiah's God fail to save his folk.') The officers shouted aloud in Hebrew to the citizens of Jerusalem on the walls, to terrify them and scare them, that they might capture the city. They talked about the God of Jerusalem as one of the gods of the nations on earth, mere handmade idols!" (verses 16-19).

Now notice what the king of Judah did: "King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz *PRAYED* over this and cried to heaven" (verse 20).

They PRAYED for help. They did not

gives you the life you have—who called you into His truth—is able and anxious to fight all these battles for *you* just as He did Hezekiah's—if you will only turn to Him and ask Him for wisdom and guidance, RELY on Him and TRUST Him with the result?

#### Two Examples

I know of a lady who, when in her middle 20s, had a problem that was most serious in her life. Three times this girl had been disappointed in love. She had at last been tempted to marry a man she had no right to marry. She brought her problem to me, as God's representative. I found she was looking only at physical appearances.

She reasoned that, so far as she could

see, if she obeyed God and refused to marry this man, she might *never* be married.

I counseled her to obey God—to stop looking at the material circumstances and using human reason to disobey God. I counseled her to do, first of all, what God instructs in the Bible, and then to trust Him for the outcome.

But that girl did not RELY ON GOD—she relied on her human reason. She obeyed impulse and temptation and married the man. He left her to commit adultery with another woman on their very wedding night. Her life became miserable, terribly unhappy.

Then at another time, another similar case was brought to me. This young woman rejected the temptation—she obeyed

TO GOD IN PRAYER AND FASTING!

And as he continued to ask God for help, he said: "O Eternal, the God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven, and ruler of all realms on earth? Such power and might is thine that no one can resist thee. O our God, didst not thou evict the natives of this land before thy people Israel, giving the land to the offspring of Abraham thy friend, for all time? And they settled in it, they have built a sanctuary in it to thine honour, thinking that if evil befell them, the sword in judgment, or pestilence, or famine, they would stand in front of this temple and before thee (for in this temple is thy presence) and cry to thee in their distress, till thou didst hear and save them.

into the open country round Tekoa. As they advanced, Jehoshaphat stood and said, 'Listen, men of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! Take hold of the Eternal your God and you will keep hold of life; hold by his prophets, and you will prosper.'

"After this counsel to the nation, he appointed the Eternal's singers to praise him in sacred vestments, marching in front of the army and chanting, Give thanks to the Eternal, for his kindness never fails.

"As they began to sing and praise him, the Eternal set men in ambush against the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the folk from mount Seir, who had attacked Judah, and they were routed. The Ammonites and the Moabites turned on the

# If you will let God have His way in your life, then you will have begun to learn how to let Him fight your battles, solve your problems and deliver you from so many troubles you are suffering.

God and RELIED ON THE ETERNAL to work out circumstances—she *trusted* Him with the result. Her faith was tried and tested. God did not answer AT ONCE—but in due time, just the RIGHT man came into her life, they fell in love, they were married and God has blessed their marriage with supreme happiness.

#### The Experience of King Jehoshaphat

Now I want to bring you one more case history—a REMARKABLE experience that will show you the way out of *all your difficulties* and troubles.

If you will let God have His way in your life, then you will have begun to learn how to let Him fight your battles, solve your problems and deliver you from so many troubles you are suffering.

Now, notice the experience written for OUR learning and help today: "It was after this that the Moabites and Ammonites, with some of the Meunim, made war on Jehoshaphat. Word came to Jehoshaphat that a huge host was moving against him from Edom, over the Dead Sea, and that they were already at Hazazon-tamar (or Engedi). Jehoshaphat was afraid" (2 Chronicles 20:1-3; Moffatt).

Is fear your usual reaction, too? But observe what the king of Judah did.

"He resolved to have recourse to the Eternal, and proclaimed *a fast* all over Judah. So Judah assembled to seek help from the Eternal; people came from every town in Judah to worship the Eternal" (verses 3-4).

Jehoshaphat did exactly what God wants *you* to do today when faced with any temptation or trouble—не тоок іт

"Now here are the Ammonites and Moabites and folk from mount Seir, whom thou didst not allow Israel to invade, when Israel came out of the land of Egypt—no, Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them!" (verses 6-10).

There was no reason for these neighbors to be enemies. Sometimes your own neighbors become your enemies, too, don't they?

But notice what the king said to God: "Look how they reward us, coming to eject us from thy very own country which thou hast given us to be ours. O our God, wilt thou not deal with them? We are helpless against this mighty host that is attacking us; we know not what to do, but we look to thee" (verses 11-12).

#### **God Answers Prayer**

Now I want you to notice! Jehoshaphat cried out for God to come to their aid. Here is God's answer: "Jehaziel ... was inspired by the spirit of the Eternal in the midst of the gathering to cry, 'Listen, all ye men of Judah, ye citizens of Jerusalem, and you, O king Jehoshaphat; the Eternal's message to you is this: "Fear not, falter not before this vast army; it is for God, not for you, to fight them. March down against them to-morrow; they coming up by the ascent of Haziz, and you will come upon them at the end of the ravine in front of the desert of Jeruel. You will not need to do any fighting; take your position, stand still, and watch the victory of the Eternal, who is on your side, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not, falter not. Move out against them tomorrow, for the Eternal is on your side"" (verses 14-17).

And notice that Jehoshaphat *obeyed* after God instructed him. Verses 20-23 declare: "Next morning they rose and moved

natives of mount Seir, determined to wipe them out."

They turned against one another! That is how God answered Jehoshaphat. "[A]nd then, after destroying the natives of Seir, they all helped to kill one another. So when the men of Judah reached their post of attack looking over the open country, they saw the host were so many corpses stretched upon the ground; not a man had escaped" (verses 23-24).

Jehoshaphat did not merely leave this trouble with God and then do nothing about it himself. First, he prayed and asked for wisdom, guidance and HELP. Then he DID WHAT GOD SAID. He had to do HIS PART but the BATTLE WAS GOD'S, and Jehoshaphat did not try to fight God's battle. He merely did *his own* part. But he BELIEVED God, and RELIED on God.

The point I want you to REMEMBER is that YOUR battles are not really yours, but God's. If you look to Him, He makes them His battles, and He fights them for you. How futile for you to try to fight God's battles for Him.

God says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19).

In the New Testament we read, "By GRACE are ye saved through FAITH" (Ephesians 2:8; Authorized Version). Yes, but the FAITH that saves us is *a living* faith that is practical—it works—it really RELIES on God! SO PUT IT TO PRACTICE!

God does not promise us an EASY time during this life in this world. But He does promise to fight our battles for us to deliver us from EVERY trouble and affliction.

WILL YOU LET HIM DO IT, AND LEARN HOW HAPPY YOUR LIFE MAY BECOME? GOD HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND!

#### **PRINCIPLES OF LIVING** STEPHEN FLURRY



# You Can Conquer Discouragement!

God gives us the means.

T'S OFTEN SAID THAT LIFE IS FILLED WITH PEAKS AND VALleys. The Prophet Elijah found himself on the highest of spiritual peaks in 1 Kings 18, when he, with God's backing, took out the entire priesthood of Baal with one miraculous blow. After calling fire down from heaven, Elijah had the false prophets destroyed, crushing the pagan religious system of Ahab and Jezebel.

Immediately afterward, Elijah sprinted 15 to 20 miles across the valley of Jezreel (1 Kings 18:45-46). Here again, with miraculous help from God, he actually outran Ahab's *chariot*.

As exhilarating as this must have been, Elijah must have been *physically* exhausted. And after battling the entire priesthood of Baal, he was surely drained *mentally* and *emotionally* as well.

When Ahab returned home, he told his wife Jezebel all that had transpired. Seething with rage, she sentenced Elijah to be executed within 24 hours (1 Kings 19:1-2).

Notice how this great prophet responded: "And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (verses 3-4).

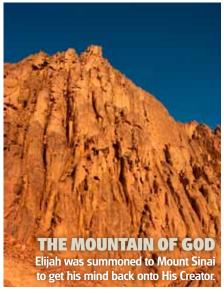
Elijah became so despondent that he wanted to die! It's almost hard to believe the mighty prophet of 1 Kings 17 and 18 is the same as the man in chapter 19, wallowing in weariness and self-pity.

What happened? He had been worn down, yes. But the big problem was that he got his mind off THE WORK and onto Jezebel's license to kill. As soon as Elijah lost his spiritual focus, everything went downhill—and fast!

What a lesson for us! We might win a number of battles, but until we win the war, we must keep fighting *every day*. We must keep our focus on the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

Jesus said, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). The way of a Christian is not the "easy way"—the popular, broad

Elijah was still wrestling with his woe is me attitude (verse 10). Jezebel had undoubtedly killed off the remaining prophets of God, which must have added to his worries.



God had just used Elijah to wipe out Jezebel's pagan religion as well—but Elijah had practically forgotten. He got his mind on himself and lapsed into faithlessness. How easy it is, even after obtaining our greatest victories, for us to focus on the negative.

And so God proceeded to help Elijah get his mind back on God's power and might (verse 11). God reveals Himself in a variety of ways. He'll use His awesome power when necessary, but He generally comes with a "still small voice" (verse 12).

Even when there are no obvious, visible miracles, God is still God! That's what God wanted Elijah to realize. You must get your relationship with Me back to the way it should be, God told him. Get your mind off the trial and back onto Me!

When you face discouragement, don't let your mind dwell on the *Jezebel obstacle* in front of you. Get your mind on God and His work.

When Elijah slipped into the worst discouragement of his life, God strengthened him with food, drink and rest. He let Elijah express why he was discouraged. Though Elijah's thinking was off, God listened and empathized. Elijah also did his part: He started a fast. Even as he vented, he had to have known that his attitude was negative and selfish. He turned to God for help.

And after all this interaction with God, what did God instruct him to do? *Get back to work.* From here, Elijah went on to ordain Elisha, whom God would use to finish the work Elijah began (verses 15-17).

The key to overcoming discouragement is to get our minds off

Even when there are no obvious, visible miracles, God is still God! That's what God wanted Elijah to realize. You must get your relationship with Me back to the way it should be, God told him. Get your mind off the trial and back onto Me!

road. *That* road, Jesus said, actually leads to destruction. The road we tread is oftentimes narrow, rutty, bumpy and difficult. Few have been willing to travel it—but it leads to success, usefulness, happiness and eternal life.

God mercifully, lovingly prodded Elijah to realign his spiritual focus. He sent an angel to supernaturally provide him physical sustenance (1 Kings 19:5-8). After the meal, Elijah started a 40-day fast, during which God directed him back to Mount Horeb, where Israel's history began.

He came to a cave, and God spoke to him there, saying, What is the cause of your trouble? What is bothering you? (verse 9). God let Elijah express himself and explain what he was discouraged about. God listened to Elijah, just like He listens to us.

with Me back to the mility, with prayer and fasting. Then get back to work. Concentrate on serving God and doing God's work.

Proverbs 24:16 says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and

ourselves and onto the power and

Proverbs 24:16 says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again ...." It's easy to think that only the unjust or unrighteous trip up and become despondent and negative. Here God says the JUST MAN falls seven times!

But he also gets up—he doesn't give in to Satan. *He keeps bat-tling! He never gives up!* 

The ability to overcome negativity and discouragement is something God wants us to master. Life is full of trouble. That's because this life is a training ground! God is preparing us for eternal life in His ever expanding royal Family!

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time," Paul wrote, "are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

#### **LETTERS**

#### The only voice

Thank you for telling the plain truth! ("Egypt and Libya to Join Iran's Terror Network," October). You are the ONLY VOICE crying out in this political wilderness! Thanks for this strong warning: "History shows that lack of real leadership will cause

the world to pay a bloody price!" —Netherlands

I read this article with a heavy heart. Upon careful analysis of this story, my spirit tells me that the end time is really near. May the eyes of the saints be opened. Please keep up the good work you are doing. I am highly grateful to you for this big revelation, Gerald Flurry.

Frank Akutey—GHANA

IN THE BAG

#### Alcohol, cocaine or death?

Robert Morley, I love your articles. However, I believe ... \$\$\$ junkies is more what this looks like ("America Gets Sent to the AA Club," October). Alcoholic death is often long-it kills you while hurting all you touch. I believe what happened in this case is Uncle Sam, after gulping a six pack, went out an alley and used [crack] ....

Richard Binda—CANADA

Your analogy regarding the politicians in Washington being addicted to debt and in denial like a chemically induced addiction is apropos. Our leaders in Washington will see us hit rock bottom before they acknowledge the reality in which they find themselves. Drunk, high, deluded, in denial and playing the blame game ... yep, sounds like an addict!

Kurt-Kansas

Out of a vast amount of coverage on this problem, the *Trumpet* is the only one that seems to understand the situation. I think the U.S. media and politicians, unlike an alcoholic in denial, are more in the five stages of death: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and finally acceptance. Right now the U.S. is in denial, and I dread the next three stages. B.Posch—Canada

Thanks for putting into words the feelings I had when hearing Mr. Obama's statement that the U.S. will "always be a AAA country." The nation sure is drunk with delusion! As you have said before,

imagine running our personal finances like that.

N.M.—AUSTRALIA

#### A lesson in faith

Thank you Mr. Flurry, a very timely message indeed ("The Evidence of Faith," October). In this very materialistic and technology-driven world we live in today, faith in God would probably be THE big-

gest challenge, hence why Jesus Christ asked the question "... when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the Earth?" (Luke 18:8). Ian Ng—Fiji

Our loving God truly does want to answer our prayers in His own time! He allowed us to wait a few years before conceiving our child, and then a few more on top of that with our second. He knows the desires of our heart and will bless our obedience!

—QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

A very awesome article, and extremely humbling. What struck me so deeply about this article were the Scripture references Hebrews 11:13—"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were PERSUADED of them, and EMBRACED them, and CONFESSED that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth"—and verses 33-39. Those men and women are a witness to what real faith is through their steadfastness in the face of horrendous sufferings and their unwavering vision of the promises. It is also a measure of how very little I know, and how far I still have to go in the way of God. Very humbling. Thank you for this precious gift. Christi-Texas

Three good whacks

Very interesting article ("The First Commandment With Promise," October). Every other week, I attend a group counseling session with other women, and one of them in her early 60s has shared with us an incident where she was with her grandson, who's now 18, when he was just a toddler of 3 years old. They were at an amusement park. She offered him something and he didn't want it. He wanted more and threw a tantrum. That didn't sit well with his grandmother. Her daughter (his mother) told him to behave himself, but his grandmother took him and spanked him three times on his rear end. The result? After that incident, he

never got out of line again. Not with his parents, not with his grandmother, not with law enforcers. That boy is now in his second year of college, and it took just three good whacks to his rear end to keep him on the right path. If parents take the time to be the law enforcers in their homes, there wouldn't be the delinquents -New York that exist today.

"Honor thy father and mother" is good, provided you have a father. I assure you that the majority of the youths that are perpetrating these violent acts do not have a father at home, which is the real problem in most inner-city families. Also, how many of these young people that have fathers at home have irresponsible parents raising them? Young motherhood, fatherless children, irresponsible parents and weak political leadership are at catastrophic proportions in our innercities today. In the latter days, it says in the Bible, "the children shall oppress them." Looks like this prophecy is in full force! Having been raised in the innercity without a father myself, I remember reading in the Bible, "I will be a father to the fatherless." As a young adult, I took Him up on that promise and He has not failed me. Pray and seek your Father in heaven, young people, and He will be your Father and guide your life!

Orlando Forrest—Illinois

Wonderful article! It is really sad when children behave in this manner; however, children are a product of their environment, and they only know what they have been taught. When I was a child growing up in my parents' home, disobedience was not an option. I was intelligent enough to know at a young age that as long as I obeyed my parents, they would trust me. It worked! I am an adult and I still obey, love, and take care of my par-—Indiana ents.

#### Can't believe they're free

Thank you so much for the free literature. I've ordered all of the books and can't believe they are free of charge! What a beautiful blessing from God Himself! I'm currently reading The Incredible Human Potential, and can't believe how many questions I had that are being answered. I'm just thrilled to learn so much that I didn't know. Wow. Again, thanks to all the co-workers and others who give donations to the *Trumpet* and the Philadelphia Church of God. Without you, this rare knowledge wouldn't reach people like me who really need it.

Iesha Ousley—Missouri

# Do You Realize How Soon the World Could End?

Events are moving far faster than most people grasp.

OOK AT THIS PICTURE. THERE, LEFT TO RIGHT, ARE FOUR smiling Middle Eastern luminaries—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak—gathered with other regional leaders at the Afro-Arab summit in Libya.

The photo was taken in October of 2010. Only a year ago.

What a year. Within three months of that portrait being snapped, Ben Ali was booted from power. Another month later, Mubarak was gone. Now Qadhafi is also out. Saleh is the only one still in office, and he has been under intense pressure to vacate all year. It's all so stunning and revolutionary—and yet, it has practically become commonplace in our world. Momentous, once-in-ageneration-type events are happening about every week.

Major events in the Levant just this past summer amount to a *great lurch forward* in the fulfillment of what the *Trumpet* has told readers for years to expect in that region. These are the trends and events the Bible says will signal *the end of the age*. The *Trumpet* has written about it for decades, and now we are watching that biblical model lining up, step by extraordinary step! Given the nature and pace of current events, it is not at all difficult to imagine the remaining few steps occurring rapidly—putting us *quite suddenly into the midst of what the Bible terms* "great tribulation," an apocalyptic end-of-the-world nightmare.

The Middle East, though, is only *one* area where you see this pattern: The rest of the world has been just as volatile—and

Momentous, oncein-a-generation-type events are happening about every week. just as significant in terms of falling in line with scriptural end-time scenarios.

For years, the *Trumpet* has drawn attention to four major geopolitical power blocs that dominate end-time prophecies, and the major trend to

watch for in each. The first is the rise of Iran and radical Islam. The other three are: the rise of a German-led European empire; the coalescing of an Asian bloc under Chinese and Russian leadership; and the fall of Anglo-America. Again, in each of these three areas, this past summer witnessed *breathtaking* advancements! Europe is in the midst of a continent-shaking economic crisis; radical transformation is imminent. In Asia, this summer China cemented both its future at the center of Asia and its relationship with Russia; the makings of a mammoth Asian superalliance are in place. And with America and Britain hammered by curse after curse, the declivitous fall of the Anglo-American nations visibly accelerated this past summer.

In each of these areas, events are happening *so quickly*. Circumstances are now poised to *rapidly* fulfill the most dramatic of end-time prophecies!



The human tendency is to "put far away the evil day." In Jesus Christ's pivotal prophecy, describing the signs that would precede His Second Coming, He warned against complacency—so common to our human nature (Matthew 24:36-39). "Watch therefore," He continued: "be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (verses 42, 44).

Looking at present conditions, we need to realize just *how quickly* the evil day could be upon us. Several factors suggest everything could unfold with shocking rapidity.

Biblical prophecy shows that the *entire period* of the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord will last a mere 3½ years. Study those prophecies, and you realize that those 42 months will witness an absolute blur of violent clashing among volatile and unstable empires and would-be empires. How strong, how coalesced, do these powers really have to be before bam!—we are right in the middle of these fearsome fireworks? Prophetically speaking, the "king of the south" is only strong enough to rouse its enemy to wipe it out. As impressive as the European empire is going to be (read Revelation 17 and 18), it will be a power of "iron and miry clay" (Daniel 2:40-41) that dominates for only about 30 months; under the right leadership, such an insecure entity could rise up with startling speed. For Asia, the stage is well and truly set. Surely the "kings of the east" wouldn't have to be much more associated than they already are—particularly considering how much Europe's rise will hasten that process—before stepping into their biblically prophesied role.

Perhaps you've mulled some of those prophecies for years. Do you realize just *how soon* they could be full-blown reality?

Are you ready? "[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 come upon you unawares," Christ warned. "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:34-35). WoE to those caught in that snare! And though Christ said it would entrap the vast majority, He gave this warning so you could be among the few who escape it (verse 36).

Remarkably, though, once that snare snaps shut—then just 3½ years later comes this: "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (verse 27). It will be the longest, most excruciating 3½ years in human history—but still: In the big picture, 3½ years is a mere blink in time.

Take a snapshot of the world as it is today. People remain confident in their own power; they smile, secure in their minds in the illusion of permanence. Meanwhile, forces outside the frame and beyond their understanding conspire to topple them.

Very soon, we will be able to look back at that snapshot—and marvel over how quickly everything changed.

allied itself with Germany and the Central Powers against the Anglo-Saxons in World War I. In World War II, many of the Muslim nations were allied with Germany or at least sympathized with Hitler's goal of destroying the Jews.

Ataturk's program of westernization, however, could never rewrite a thousand years of culture. In its struggle to find a balance between its Islamic roots and its Western outlook—and with its economy booming and its entry into the EU perpetually delayed—Turkey has been losing its desire to be seen as Western.

However, the Ottoman Empire knew its prosperity was tied to Europe. That is why the Ottomans first conquered southwest Europe before acquiring the much less valuable lands in the Middle East. Psalm 83 shows that Turkey will not completely cut its ties with Europe.

However, the increasing Islamization of Turkey, and its steady rejection of Western values and secularism, play an important part in this prophecy as well. Though historically Turkey has had a strong relationship with the Jewish nation of Israel, its latest moves have cemented Turkey's direction toward the Muslim camp and will lead to a widening split between Turkey and Israel (article, page 22). This trend, however, will not overcome Turkey's need for economic opportunities. In the end, Turkey will continue to look to Europe for prosperity, eventually allying again with Germany in its prophesied destruction of the nations of Israel!

So while biblical prophecy indicates that Turkey will not align itself with the radical Islamic states of Iran and Egypt, it will still be in an alliance to overthrow Israel.

Turkey's friendship with the U.S. and Israel is all but over, but its European orientation is not finished!

Once we know the Turks' origins, we can trace their history. This history has certain repeated patterns of behavior that will reemerge in our day. Thus, with biblical prophecy as our guide, we can predict their future with a degree of certainty.

This advance forecast can only be known by believing what the Bible has to say about the Edomites in the past and what it prophesies about them for the future. With the Bible as our foundation, and certain of the more reliable histories written by their prominent leaders, the history of today's Anatolian Turks can be known!

#### **TELEVISION LOG**

# THE KEY OF DAVID

All times are a.m. local time unless otherwise noted.

#### **UNITED STATES**

Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

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

**Direct TV DBS** ION Ch. 305 6:00 FT Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 FT. Fri

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00. Fri

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30. Sun Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun **Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun California, Bakersfield KGET-DT

9:30, Sun Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KESO/KCWO-DT 9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri Salinas KION 9:30. Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun Connecticut, Hartford WHPX

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXI-LP 6:00 Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri Orlando WOPX 6:00. Fri Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00. Fri Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun Macon WBMN 9:30. Sun

Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9-30 Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/ Akakıı

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPIF 10:30, Sun Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30. Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30. Sun

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

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2 9-30 Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun Kirksville KWOT 8:30. Sun Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8-30 Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30. Sun

El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30. Sun Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WRLC 8:30 Sun New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Presque Isle WBPO 9:30, Sun Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT

9:30, Sun

Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00. Sun

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superi-

or WDLH 8:30, Sun Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC

8:30. Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSD/ KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30,

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30. Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBI-DT 8:30. Sun Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

St. Joseph WBIO 8:30, Sun Montana, Billings KTVO-DT 8:30, Sun

Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun

Glendive KW7B 10:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun **Helena** KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun

**Nebraska**, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun

Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT

9:30, Sun New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri **Binghamton** WBXI 9:30, Sun

Buffalo WPXI 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00. Sun Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun

New York City WPXN 6:00, Fri; WLNY 10:00 Sun

Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WBU 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun North Carolina, Durham WRPX

6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri

Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-

DT 9:30, Sun

Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri

Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on **The Key of David** explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at **keyofdavid.com**.

The Key of David is now available to 110 million homes throughout Europe and the Middle East via CNBC at 11 a.m. Central European Time.

New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun

North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun

Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun

Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun

Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri

Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri

Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri

**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00, Fri **South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD-DT

9:30, Sun

Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun

South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun

Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00 Fri

Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun

Arillo KVII-DT/KVIH-/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun

Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun

Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri

Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun

Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri

Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KVOS 8:30, Sun

Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick

KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun

Bluefield KVVA-DT 930, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 930, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 930, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 930, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 930, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 930, Sun

Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun

La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8.30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8.30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8.30, Sun

Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun Riverton 10:30, Sun

#### **EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST**

Pan-European satellite Astra 1L (free to air) 19.2°E transponder 26 11.597V 220000 (DVB); Astra 1KR 19.2°E transponder 50 10.729V (analogue) 11 am Central European Time, Sun

**Belgium** TV Vlaanderem channel 62 11:00 am, Sun

Germany KDG channel 840 11:00 am, Sun; TalkTalk TV channel 510 11:00 am. Sun

Ireland Sky channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; UPC channel 204; 10:00 am, Sun

**Italy** Sky Italia channel 518 11:00 am, Sun; Tiscali TV channel 518 11:00 am, Sun

#### Mediterranean

Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time **Middle East** Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun

Netherlands Ziggio channel 505 11:00 am, Sun Poland Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun

Portugal ZonTVCabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun Romania UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun Spain Hispastat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun Switzerland Nakoo channel 63; Cablecom

channel 151 11:00 am, Sun

United Kingdom Sky: Channel 505 10:00
am, Sun; Freestat channel 210 10:00
am, Sun; Virgin Media channel 613
10:00 am, Sun

#### **CANADA**

#### Nationwide satellite

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

#### Nationwide cable

WGN 8:00 ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun.

#### **British Columbia, Vancouver**

KVOS 8:30, Sun; CHEK 9:00 Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun Maritime Provinces CIHF 7:30, Sun Ontario, Toronto

WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun

Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00, Sun

#### **LATIN AMERICA**

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun Mexico WGN 7:00, Sun Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

#### **CARIBBEAN**

#### **Regional satellite**

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

Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun Bahamas WGN 8:00, Sun Belize WGN 7:00, Sun Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun

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