TROUBLEMAKER

Which nation is behind the West's thorniest problems?

CALL TO ARMS

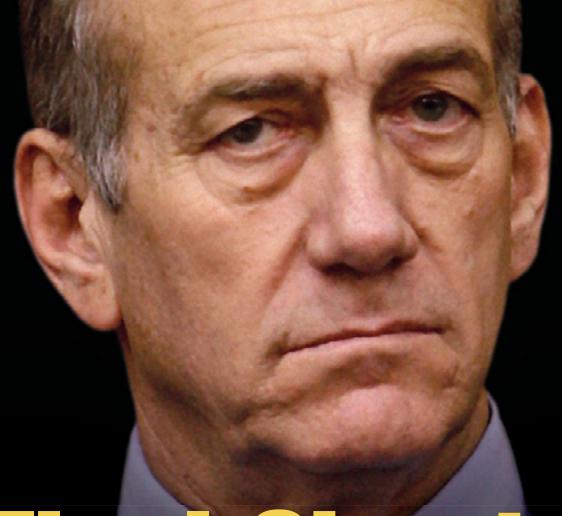
An Italian politician called on the pope to start a crusade against Islam. What does the pope think about it?

GREAT JOB!

Is it possible to praise our children too much?

MAY 2006

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Final Chapter

Amid gathering storms, EHUD OLMERT vows to bring the Arab-Jew conflict to a close



COVER

6 Israel's Final Chapter

The votes are in for embattled Israel. Where will the people's choice lead?

9 Israel's Friendly New **Negotiation Partners**

12 From Hero to Outcast

How did Israel transform in the world's eyes from a David into a Philistine pariah?

15 Jerusalem and the Last Crusade

Watch Israel. Watch the Palestinians. But don't forget to watch the Vatican.





WORLD

1 From the Editor: Libya Sees the Deadly Holy Roman Empire

An Italian politician calls on the pope to start a new crusade against Islam. What does the pope think about it?

2 "Revive Your Roots"

4 "A Dictatorship in No Time"

Former Russian dissident Vladimir Bukovsky reveals the plan for a federal European state.

17 Iran Is King

You can decode the Middle East mess if you understand this key concept.

18 Exposing Iran's Lies

UNITED STATES

22 The Coming Siege

Every major sea gate worldwide once sat under American and British lock and key. Times have changed.

26 WORLDWATCH

EUROPE Putting Muslims to the Test ■ Right-Wingers Making Waves ■ EU to Ask, What Is Europe? ■ ASIA "Irreversible Relationship" Forms ■ WEATHER U.S. Drought Likely to Persist **ECONOMY** Bank Calls for Global Overhaul

RELIGION

30 Let Us Introduce ... Jesus Christ!

The real Iesus Christ—from your Bible!

SOCIETY

35 Overpraised Children

The fallacy in feeding our youth's self-esteem.

DEPARTMENTS

34 Letters

36 Key of David Television Log

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Ehud Olmert.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Libya Sees the Deadly Holy Roman Empire

UST A FEW WORDS CAN BE SO revealing. The words I refer to reveal an imminent war, which will trigger world

What we see, most people don't see because they don't know the *history* of the Holy Roman Empire. We have written about the coming of this dreadful empire for about 70 years. Now it is almost risen.

Referring to Europe's response to the Muslim violence over the Mohammad cartoons in February, a report from the German Spiegel Online stated: "There were some [Catholic] voices on the other end of the spectrum. The Italian right called for a crusade. Roberto Calderoli, a minister in Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet, called in all seriousness for Pope Benedict xvI to lead the Christian world against the 'threat of Islam' just as his predecessors did in the 16th and 17th centuries. Just as a major reaction was necessary then to beat back the Turks

from the gates of Vienna, Calderoli said, countermeasures are necessary" (February 14).

Roberto Calderoli made this comment "in all seriousness." There was an immediate outcry. He has since resigned from his exalted office in Berlusconi's cabinet.

Perhaps he could have survived politically if he had discussed "the threat of radical Islam" instead of just Islam in general.

We have written about one last prophesied crusade. (Request our free booklet The King of the South.) A crusade is coming, just as Calderoli said. Pope Benedict xvI in all likelihood will lead "the Christian world"—mainly Roman Catholics—in that crusade.

The pope doesn't have an army. Though the military will be guided by the Vatican, it will be led by Germany.

Calderoli could have been more careful with his words about a crusade. But let's not forget what Benedict and John



Paul II have said repeatedly to European Catholics: "FIND YOUR ROOTS." Those roots just happen to be the Holy Roman Empire—mainly Germany and the Vatican.

Those are the same roots that Calderoli discussed. And those empires have a history of being far more aggressive than what he was discussing!

There have been six of those bloody empires already. The seventh is almost fully formed. What Calderoli proclaimed is precisely what is going to happen! (Also write for our booklet Germany and the Holy Roman Empire. All of our literature is free.) Just because his statement was considered politically incorrect doesn't mean people aren't discussing it!

Calderoli knows more about the Holy Roman Empire's history than most of the American and British peoples do. Our refusal to understand that history is going to force us to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Spiegel Online continued:

"Calderoli didn't have to wait long for a response. 'Berlusconi must fire his minister and ask Islam for forgiveness,' demanded Seif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. Otherwise, al-Gaddafi threatened, 'Libya, the Arabic world, and Islam would be forced to react."

Ironically, Libya is going to be a victim of the Holy Roman Empire. Libya has the same name in Bible prophecy as it has today (Daniel 11:40, 43). This prophecy in Daniel 11 is about a clash between the Holy Roman Empire (king of the north) and radical Islam led by Iran (king of the south). Radical Islam will lose.

Look for Libya to become more aligned with Iran in the near future. It gave up its weapons of mass destruction, as it leaned toward the West. But that foreign policy is going to change. Perhaps it has already begun.

The Bible is a living book. We have been proclaiming for about 70 years that the Holy Roman Empire would rise one more time. For many of those years, there was little or no evidence of such an empire. Now anybody with an open mind can see it.

FREE UPON

REQUEST

How astonishing!

We must remember that Calderoli would not make such a statement if the European Union didn't already have the *power* to act on those words. That tells us how close the Holy Roman Empire is to being fully created.

German Power

"A former defense minister has provoked outrage and broken a major taboo by suggesting that Germany should have its own *nuclear arsenal*.

"Rupert Scholz argued that Berlin needed to embrace the idea of a nuclear deterrent in the light of threats from terrorists and the Middle East. 'We need to ask ourselves how we could react in an appropriate manner to a nuclear threat from a terror state, and if needs be, even by using our own nuclear weapons,' he said.

"Mr. Scholz, 68, who was the defense minister in Helmut Kohl's government in 1988 and 1989, said he doubted whether other nations' guarantees, made during the Cold War, to keep Germany safe in the face of a nuclear threat, could still be trusted.

"Without the appropriate guarantees of protection by our partners, the question of our own nuclear deterrent needs to

be discussed openly,' he said.

"I am aware that I am addressing a *taboo*. But in the light of the dangers that weapons of mass destruction could end up in the hands of terrorists, this is a question which deserves serious debate.'

"Germany agreed not to develop nuclear weapons after the Second World War in return for protection from the United States and NATO.

"Mr. Scholz's comments came under attack yesterday. The security spokesman for the opposition Free Democrats, Rainer Stinner, accused him of 'throwing oil on the fire' of the tension between Iran and the West" (*Telegraph*, January 27; emphasis mine throughout).

This former defense minister broke a *taboo*—that word means he's talking about something *prohibited* or *forbidden*.

Why is his plea for a nuclear arsenal a taboo?

Germany started World Wars I and II. After Germany's defeat in World War II, America and Britain wanted to end the German military threat forever.

In a signed document about American-British-Soviet policy on Germany in February 1945, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill said, "It is our inflexible pur-

pose to DESTROY German militarism and Nazism and to ENSURE that Germany will NEVER AGAIN be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to dis-



ope Benedict XVI would like to see Europe rediscover its roots. Recently, he co-wrote a book, titled Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam, in which, with his co-author, president of the Italian Senate and philosopher Marcello Pera, he explores European secularism, its effects, and the real roots of the European identity: Roman Catholicism. This book outlines Benedict's vision for a united Catholic Europe.

Benedict inherited the job of trying to evangelize Europe from his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. As John Paul II repeatedly called for Europe to rediscover its roots, so too has Pope Benedict. July 24 last year, Benedict directly quoted John Paul in his weekly address, stating, "I, bishop of Rome and pastor of the universal church, from Santiago, send to you, age-old Europe, a cry full of love: Return to yourself. Be yourself. Discover your origins. Revive your roots. Revive those authentic values that made your history glorious and your presence beneficial among the other continents" (Zenit, July 24, 2005).

"With that address, Benedict XVI explained, Pope John Paul II launched 'the project of a Europe conscious of its own spiritual unity, based on the foundation of Christian [Roman Catholic] values" (ibid.).

Pope John Paul II worked toward that goal by facilitating the demise of the Communist regime and laying a new foundation for Catholic values in Europe. The demise of the Soviet Union allowed Catholicism, as a religion, to reassert itself in the Eastern European countries following its suppression under the Communist regime. Most of those nations are now members of the European Union. Now Benedict has taken up the job of bringing all of Europe to the heel of Catholicism.

For Benedict, this goal is paramount. Europe has been the historical stomping ground of the Roman Catholic Church.

Throughout the history of Europe and the Middle East, whenever Muslims and Catholics have clashed, a European power, usually Germany, has stepped up to protect the Vatican and the Catholic faith from destruction. Today, we see Islam and Catholicism beginning to clash, and if history be our guide, the fireworks haven't even started yet. Benedict can see the Muslim threat and is urgent to turn secular Western Europe back to its "holy" Roman roots and to reunite with the Vatican's historical protectors.

In his new book, Benedict makes his argument for the Catholic conquest of Europe. He argues that a secular



arm and disband all German armed forces, break up for all time the German General Staff that has *repeatedly* contrived the resurgence of German militarism [not just before and during the two world wars]; remove or destroy all German mili-

tary equipment; eliminate or control all German industry that could be used for military production It is not our purpose to destroy the people of Germany, but ONLY WHEN NAZISM AND MILITARISM HAVE BEEN EXTIRPATED will there be hope for a decent life for Germans and a place for them in the comity of nations."

I would encourage you to read those words again. Now, Germany is about to build a nuclear arsenal!

Even Konrad Adenauer, who later became German chancellor, said it was a "calculated risk" to rearm Germany. What a dangerous risk it was! The Germans are the most powerful nation in Europe. And now they are talking about getting nuclear bombs!

Let the world beware.

Here is a dangerous warning from

history. But history is virtually ignored in our universities today. Many people are ignorant of this bloody history. That ignorance is going to cost the British and American peoples as never before, if they don't wake up!

Benedict argues that a

secular Europe, dominated

by tolerance and

acceptance of other

religions and cultures, is

corroding European values.

Europe, dominated by tolerance and acceptance of other religions and cultures, is corroding European values: In short, European tolerance is killing what it means to be European.

Benedict argues that Roman Catholicism gave Europe its values—absolute values. The book states that Europe is "paralyzed because it does not believe that there are good reasons to say it is better than Islam. And it is paralyzed because it believes that, if such reasons do indeed exist, then the West would have to fight Islam." Benedict argues that Roman Catholicism is the antidote; rejection of Europe's Catholic roots and acceptance of relativist secularism and multiculturalism has left it helpless. For Europe to survive, it must make the distinction between a secularism that will compromise to the point of Europe's destruction and one that acknowledges its roots in Roman Catholic values.

The problem is, Europe, in particular France, has prided itself on its secularism since the 18th-century "Enlightenment."

Multiculturalism is a more recent phenomenon. Increasingly since the great displacement of refugees that occurred following World War II, high immigration has been predicated partly, if not mostly, on the need for labor since Europe's fertility rates, coupled with easy access to abortion, have not met economic demand to support an aging population. Millions of Muslims have migrated to Europe over the past 50 years, motivated by a desire for the

freedom from societal oppression and economic depression imposed upon them by medieval-style regimes in their home countries. Differing from the postwar refugee movements, these Islamic immigrants have tended not to adopt the tra-

ditions of their new home countries.

Benedict sees a threat in this. Addressing the Vatican diplomatic corps, he said that the "advance of Islam" is once again a threat to the European concept. "Benedict said that 'attention has rightly been drawn to the danger of a clash of civilizations. ... Its causes are many and complex, not least to do with political ideology, combined with aberrant religious ideas'" (ibid.).

As yet, Western Europe has not overtly responded to John Paul's or Benedict's calls to rediscover its roots. The Vatican's efforts to have a reference to Roman Catholic values inserted into the preamble of the European Constitu-

tion seem to have temporarily failed. Even an Italian diplomat was refused a key post in the European Union because he was viewed as too Catholic. However, this intransigence will not

continue. Europe and the Vatican have a historical relationship that belies current perceptions. One of Italian Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet ministers recently calling on the pope to lead a 16th-century-style crusade against Muslims

provides evidence of that fact.

As radical Islam, led by Iran, continues to push its extremist policies on Europe, expect more European politicians to begin to show their true colors and turn for guidance to Europe's spiritual leader: Pope Benedict xvi.

The Bible indicates that the Catholic Church will conquer European secularism and, once again, become the Continent's spiritual guide. Watch for Benedict to strengthen his relations with Europe—and especially look for one European, close to the Catholic Church, to step forward and lead Europe politically to world domination.

TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP

Former Soviet Dissident Warns:

"A Dictatorship in No Time"

With rare access to classified documents, VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY recognizes the EU's dangerous direction.

TRUMPET STAFF

HE LIFE OF VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY HAS THE MAKINGS of a bestselling political thriller. He is regarded by some as one of the heroes of the 20th century alongside other Soviet dissidents such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn. In 1971, he was the first to expose psychiatric abuse against political prisoners in the USSR. He spent 12 years of his early adulthood in and out of Soviet jails, labor camps and psychiatric institutions. Bukovsky was expelled in 1976 by Soviet authorities to the West in exchange for Chilean communist leader Luis Corvalán, and he has lived in England ever since.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Bukovsky was invited back to Russia to testify as an expert witness at the 1992 trial against the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This is where the story gets even more interesting. To help Bukovsky prepare for his testimony, the Yeltsin administration gave him unprecedented access to top-secret documents of the Politburo and Central Committee—documents still classified today.

Poring over these documents, which he secretly scanned, Bukovsky not only uncovered condemning facts about the USSR, but also about the European Union. Bukovsky discov-

ered that a handful of politicians had structured the European Union to become the totalitarian regime that the *Trumpet* magazine has been warning its readers about since our first edition 16 years ago.

In the past year, the 63-yearold Soviet dissident has used his findings to warn about the structure and direction of the EU as he sees it resembling the former USSR.

The *Trumpet* shares Bukovsky's concerns. Indeed, as the EU absorbed Eastern European states that were once satellites of the Soviet regime, we warned that these nations had only left one dictatorship to find themselves ensnared by another.

Bukovsky made his warnings public in EUSSR: Soviet Roots of European Integration, a book he published in Europe last year, and then in a February 23 speech in Brussels, which was published in the February 27 Brussels Journal.

Western Europe is experiencing a perestroika, changing its structures [A] new modern federal state will emerge in Western Europe. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING

Former Soviet Dissident

Prior to 1985,
according to Bukovsky's

according to Bukovsky's speech, the Soviets opposed European integration because they viewed the project as an obstacle to socialist goals. In 1985-86, Italian Communists and German Socialist Democrats came to visit then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev with the idea to combat capitalism and "save their political hides" by collaboration: Together, the Soviets and left-wing Europe would hijack the European project and turn it into a federal state.

To support his views, Bukovsky cited in his speech a 1989 meeting between Gorbachev and a delegation of the Trilateral Commission. During the meeting, as chronicled in Bukovsky's book, Valery Giscard d'Estaing said to

Gorbachev, "Nowadays Western Europe is experiencing a *perestroika*, changing its structures. It is difficult to say exactly when this will happen: 5, 10 or 20 years later. But a new modern federal state will emerge in Western Europe. That is where we are going, and the USSR should be prepared to communicate with a large single state of Western Europe." Keep in mind, it

was Giscard d'Estaing who authored the European Constitution 13 years later, in 2002-03.

The original idea, said Bukovsky in his Brussels speech, was for "convergency." The Soviet Union would "mellow" and become more social-democratic; Europe would become more social-democratic and socialist. Then the structures would fit together—converge. "This is why the structures of the European Union were initially built with the purpose of fitting into the Soviet structure," said Bukovsky. "This is why they are so similar in functioning and in structure." Bukovsky's February 23 speech drew attention to the close parallels between organi-

zations within the EU and those of the former USSR.

The European Parliament reminds him of the Supreme Soviet, he says, "because it was designed like it."

The European Commission looks like the Politburo: Though its members differ in number, they are, like those in the Politburo, *unelected and unaccountable to anyone*.

The European Union, with its 80,000 pages of regulations, looks like Gosplan, "an organization which was planning everything in the economy, to the last nut and bolt, five years in advance." Even the type of corruption found within EU entities resembles that of the Soviets, "going from top to bottom rather than going from bottom to top."

The EU is only a milder version of the USSR, says Bukovsky. There's no Gulag, no KGB yet—but he's watching Europol. "That really worries me a lot because this organization will probably have powers bigger than those of the KGB. They will have diplomatic immunity. Can you imagine a KGB with

diplomatic immunity? They will have to po-

lice us on 32 kinds of crimes—two of which are particularly worrying: one is called racism, another is called xenophobia" (ibid.).

The *Trumpet* notes a key difference, however, between the two empires, which Bukovsky does not point out: The EU's Soviet-style structure will not be run by atheistic communism, but staunch Roman Catholicism, in a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

Note Bukovsky's impressions, given his unique perspective. Even as some in the United States are (misguidedly) touting the expansion of democracy in several Middle Eastern nations as representing the infancy

of a new era of freedom, Bukovsky is watching the quiet revolution taking place within Europe and coming to an entirely different conclusion: "IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE LIVING IN A PERIOD OF RAPID, SYSTEMATIC AND VERY CONSISTENT DISMANTLEMENT OF DEMOCRACY" (emphasis ours throughout).

Bukovsky makes this alarming statement based on his skepticism toward several trends in European politics: enabling unelected ministers to introduce new laws without telling elected parliamentarians; curtailing freedom of the press; expanding governmental emergency powers; suspending civil liberties. "This can make a dictatorship

OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY IN NO TIME," he concluded.

This perspective is very different from how most people view the emergence of this united Europe. Generally it is seen as a champion of democracy, freedom and human rights. But that is a diabolical deception!

We said in our March/April 2005 issue: "The cheers for democracy's spread to once-tyrannized states will soon be overtaken by alarm of outright *totalitarianism* now taking hold on the Continent." Examples include such initiatives as Germany cracking down on the right of assembly, and "information campaigns" across the Continent to "educate" Europeans on the benefits of the EU Constitution and further integration.

In a *Brussels Journal* interview after the February 23 speech, Bukovsky contested the idea that the integration European members are presently engaged in is *voluntary*.

Denmark voted against the Maastricht Treaty and the euro. Ireland voted against the Nice Treaty. "The people have to vote in referendums until the people

> vote the way that is wanted. Then they have to stop voting," he said.

At the end of his speech, Bukovsky recommended the EU be stopped before it becomes a fullblown totalitarian entity. "Today it is still simple. If 1 million people march on Brussels today these guys will run away to the Bahamas. ... But I do not know what the situation will be tomorrow with a fully fledged Europol staffed by former Stasi or Securitate officers. Anything may happen."

The whole world would do well to heed Bukovsky's warnings.

The truth is, we don't

need Bukovsky's high-level access to see what is happening in Europe. Bible prophecy foretells of this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It will be a dreadful beast that will soon take peace from this Earth.

Of course, to most people, the Bible is as inaccessible to understanding as classified Soviet documents. But it need not remain that way! For a deeper understanding on this subject, request our free, full-color booklet *Germany* and the Holy Roman Empire.





ISRAEL'S FINAL CHAPTER

The Israelis elected a prime minister who vows to bring the Arab-Jew impasse to an end by 2010.

Will his radical plan work? BY JOEL HILLIKER

SRAEL ALWAYS TURNS TOUGH in a crisis.

Born in controversy, raised on war, steeled by terrorism, reviled by the world, the Jewish state has suffered more than its share of trials. It aches for peace, it honors its diplomats, but it turns to its warriors when war is required.

Until now.

"The Koran is our constitution, Muhammad is our prophet, *jihad* is our path and dying as martyrs for the sake of Allah is our biggest wish!" This chilling pronouncement tripped off the lips of a Palestinian Authority legislator after the PA's parliament rubber-stamped

the government's new cabinet on March 28. It shouldn't come as a shock: In January, Palestinians awarded a strong majority of parliamentary seats to the terrorist group Hamas. Hamas

was founded in 1987 for the express purpose of destroying Israel, and since joining politics has staunchly, publicly clung to that goal. *It denies Israel's right to be.* It considers all previously signed agreements with Israel void. The new PA prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, plans (as a first step) to drive Israel back to 1967 borders and establish an Arab state with Jerusalem as its capital. His cabinet brims with hardline terrorists who have been jailed or targeted for assassination by Israel.

For Israel, this is a time of crisis. War is on the cards. But rather than appealing to its warriors, in its latest election *Israel embraced its defeatists*.

A Shocking Choice

On March 28—the same day the PA confirmed its terrorist credentials by approving its hardline cabinet—Israeli voters crowned *Ehud Olmert* their new prime minister.

Olmert is a professional politician, not a fighter. Last June, to the Israel Policy Forum in New York, he said, "We are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous, WE ARE TIRED OF WINNING, WE ARE TIRED OF DEFEATING OUR ENEMIES" (emphasis mine throughout). It's impossible to comprehend how Olmert could be tired of winning and defeating enemies, when 33 years have passed since Israel won anything.

Perhaps Olmert confuses the litany of losses, retreats, terrorist violence and

global derision his nation has suffered during that time with winning. But by taking *that stance* precisely as Hamas takes over the PA, he guarantees that his people will soon learn *how much quicker* they grow tired of being CONQUERED.

Olmert campaigned on a pledge to extract tens of thousands of Jews from West Bank settlements. In what amounted to his victory speech, he spoke directly to the Palestinian leaders: "We are ready to compromise, to give up parts of the beloved land of Israel ... and evacuate, under great pain, Jews living there, in order to create the conditions that will enable you to fulfill your dream and live alongside us" (BBC News, March 29). ISRAELIS HAVE JUST ELECTED A PRIME

MINISTER WHO WANTS TO ENABLE HAMAS TO FULFILL ITS DREAMS.

This man fantasizes about HAMAS TERROR-ISTS dreaming of living alongside Jews—and calls that fantasy a for-

eign policy. By comparison, Neville Chamberlain looks like a lion.

Ehud Olmert symbolizes the abject collapse of Israel's national will. And he is now the most powerful man in Israel. This is the man Israelis elected to lead them in their most perilous hour.

Chapters

FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS

An Orthodox Jew examines his

ballot at a Jerusalem polling

station during Israeli

elections March 28.

Since the Jewish State of Israel began as a nation, its story has had two very different chapters.

Chapter One: War. The defining characteristic of the period became clear the day Israel was born—May 14, 1948—when a collection of neighboring Arab states attacked en masse, and the Jews fought back for the survival of their day-old nation. Though they succeeded in repulsing the assault, for a generation the Jews never enjoyed peace for long: Major wars occurred every seven years or so. Through this period, the Jewish state had to grow up quickly into a tough, battle-hardened power.

Chapter Two: Concessions. The first pages of this chapter began in 1977, when Israel hosted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Jerusalem to begin discussing the possibility of a land-for-peace deal between their two states. These talks led to the formal treaty of 1979 in which Israel handed Egypt a lovely little gift called the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for a promise of peace. This deal set the stage for concessions to the Palestinian Liberation

Organization that began in Oslo in 1993.

Now, Israel looks back on this second chapter with sadness and regret. The negotiations that were intended to end violence—to help carve out the cancer of terrorism—only spread its malignance. The willingness to compromise that Israel considered courage (Olmert's term), the terrorists reckoned as cowardice-interpreting each concession as a victory that vindicated the effectiveness of bloodshed. Fruits show the peace process was a farce: After protracted diplomatic efforts, Israel has nothing close to the peaceful, neighboring Palestinian state it hoped for. Instead, it has 80 percent of Palestinian Arabs denying the Jewish state's right to exist, governed by a terrorist regime whose official policy is to pitch the Jews into the sea. Its people weep dry tears over the shattered promise of a *negotiated peace*.

Today, the world is looking at the start of a third—very different—chapter in Israel's history. Under Olmert's helmsmanship, ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY IS ABOUT TO RADICALLY CHANGE.

Unilateralism

What drove the Jews to elect Ehud Olmert? Why did conservatives fare so poorly? Essentially, the vote reveals a battle-fatigued, deeply ambivalent, directionless people. *Tired of fighting, tired of being courageous*—yet acceding the unreliability of negotiation—they grasped at a thin promise of something different: a *third way*.

Consider what led to this decision.

Israel's Chapter Two reached its nadir with the prime-ministership of Labor leader Ehud Barak, when Barak offered a breathtakingly deep basket of concessions to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in 2000. Arafat refused the offer, and Barak's government fell apart.

That's when Ariel Sharon stepped in. Sharon embodied Chapter One—a warrior-general who had fought in every one of Israel's wars and, despite being dogged by controversy, remained a popular figure with the Israeli public. In 2001 elections, he trounced the floundering Barak to become prime minister on a platform of toughness against terrorism. Once in office, he got straight to work: Retaliating against Palestinian terrorist attacks, Sharon's government killed over 3,500 Palestinians, including several high-profile terrorist leaders.

But international pressure on Sharon to reignite the peace process grew. Sharon joined various discussions about the issue, and even granted certain negotiated concessions such as releasing Arab prisoners from Israeli jails.

In retrospect, however, it appears the old warrior was only trying to keep outsiders off his back: He never believed peace with the Arabs could be bought. He realized negotiations would be fruitless. At some point, Ariel Sharon decided that, rather than fighting or bargaining, the problem demanded a wholly different approach: just up and solving it.

That is when Israel's security barrier started going up, and the Gaza Strip evacuation was blueprinted.

As Sharon pushed these unilateralist strategies, friends and allies began to peel away from him—yet he survived several no-confidence motions and repeatedly cobbled together the parliamentary support he needed in order to carry on Sl

he needed in order to carry on. Sharon became increasingly convinced of the necessity of a unilateralist strategy—one that would define Israeli borders without Palestinian cooperation. He sought first to pull Israelis out of areas already heavily populated by Arabs—therefore hard to defend; then to fortify the portions of Israel that remained; then to finish the security wall and call whatever lay on the other side a Palestinian "state."

Members of his own party weren't so convinced. So finally, Sharon scorched the political landscape to the ground by leaving Likud and founding a new party, *Kadima*.

In Hebrew it means "forward." In reality in means *reckless*.

Sharon's indomitability and sheer gravitational pull drew into the new party prominent politicians from across the spectrum—as well as a substantial swath of voters desperate for a solution and willing to embrace the unknown.

This was a truly remarkable example of *people's need for leadership*, of whatever stripe, as long as it's STRONG. Because the droves flocking to Kadima had to IGNORE the COMPLETE FAILURE of its central, revolutionary policy when it was demonstrated to them—in flesh-and-blood reality, in one of the most spectacular disasters in Israeli history—only three months before.

Retreat

Sharon pitched the idea of pulling 9,000 Jews out of their settlements in the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank as a strong strategic decision intended to bolster Israel's security and secure Jewish demographic superiority.

Palestinians saw it differently: as *a* towering victory for terrorism.

A joint Israeli-Palestinian public opinion poll showed 71 percent of Palestinians calling Israel's Gaza withdrawal a triumph of their armed struggle. To the Arabs, 400 attacks in Gaza over the past five years had paid off.

Were they wrong? Does anyone believe Israel would have given up conquered territory to its enemy if 1,200 of its people hadn't been killed in the previous four years?

In Hamas's words, on a banner in downtown Gaza City at one of the many

Though it apparently took the Gaza retreat to prove this, it isn't exactly rocket science: When Israel retreats, extremists advance.

rallies and victory parades surrounding the withdrawal, "Four years of sacrifice beat 10 years of negotiations."

Truly, Hamas won big in Gaza. It garnered most of the credit, in Palestinian minds, for securing Israel's retreat. Gaza was Hamas's greatest campaign coup—perhaps the biggest single factor propelling it to superstardom in Palestinian elections just four months later.

"Now, after the victory in the Gaza Strip, we will transfer the struggle to the West Bank and later to Jerusalem," Hamas's leader in the Gaza Strip, Mahmoud Zahar, said at the time. "Neither the liberation of the Gaza Strip, nor the liberation of the West Bank or even Jerusalem will suffice us. Hamas will pursue the armed struggle until the liberation of all our lands. We don't recognize the State of Israel or its right to hold on to one inch of Palestine. Palestine is an Islamic land belonging to all the Muslims" (Jerusalem Post, Aug. 17, 2005).

As much as the Gaza pullout enflamed extremist sentiment among Palestinians, it also came with strategic benefits. With all Israeli military installations dismantled and troops gone from the Gaza Strip, terrorists took the opportunity to flood the area from neighboring Egypt—and to bring their weapons along, including hundreds of anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank rockets and bomb components. They immediately began using the Strip as a launching ground for rocket attacks, which have continued at a steady pace ever since. (Israel's military says this isn't a problem since 90-plus percent of them don't hit Jewish targets. Evidently it considers the

remaining percentage "acceptable risk" for the benefit of enabling Hamas to fulfill its dream to live alongside Jews.)

Though it apparently took the Gaza retreat to prove this, it isn't exactly rocket science: When Israel retreats, extremists advance.

The whole fiasco put the lie to another statement Olmert made at that New York speech last June (the one where he declared his weariness with "winning"): that withdrawing from Gaza "will bring more security, greater safety, much more prosperity, and a lot of joy for all the people that live in the Middle East." The facts

proved precisely the opposite. Withdrawing brought the Jews not a shred more security, nor safety. Instead, it tore the heart out of the Jews it displaced, who had dedicated

their lives to defending their homeland. It did appear to bring the tens of thousands of Arabs who danced in the streets shouting "Today Gaza, tomorrow Jerusalem" some joy—but that might not have been exactly what Olmert had in mind.

It was with this gut-wrenching history behind them that the Israelis flocked to Kadima—the party committed to going "forward" by unilaterally dismantling whatever ruins remain of Israel's will to survive.

Backward

The first point of Kadima's national agenda, released last November, is: "The Israeli nation has a national and historic right to the whole of Israel. *However*, in order to maintain a Jewish majority, part of the land of Israel must be given up to maintain a Jewish and democratic state." From its inception, this party reflected a spirit of compromise and defeatism—and Israelis embraced it.

Then Sharon suffered a devastating stroke, plunging him into a coma he has yet to emerge from, and Olmert became acting prime minister. Still, Kadima's shift in leader from former warrior to defeatist politician didn't substantially shrink the party ranks.

Soon after came Hamas's shocking landslide win in Palestinian elections, which suddenly produced a terrorist-controlled Palestinian Authority. Even still, there was no Jewish response—no swing right—no outcry for strong leadership with firm policies to ensure Israel's security.

Olmert doggedly stuck to his West Bank eviction plan—preferably, he said,

with Hamas's support, but, if necessary, without it. "We will try to achieve this [setting Israel's final borders] in an agreement with the Palestinians," he said. (It's hard to see how borders of a country can be agreed upon with a negotiating partner that does not believe that country should even exist.) He even put forward a deadline for completing his plan: 2010. And still, his countrymen clung to him.

In fact, on March 28, voters handed Israel's conservatives their worst defeat ever. Likud—Israel's main conservative party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu—came in fourth with just 12 seats (in 2003 elections, it won 38). Kadima won 29 seats; center-left Labor pulled in 19. These two parties are expected to ally with a couple of other like-minded parties to push Olmert's plan "forward." Stratfor analyst Peter Zeihan said, "Israeli voters appear

to have elected the most authoritative government the country has seen since the 1973 Yom Kippur war" (March 28). By "authoritative," Zeihan doesn't mean a strong, against-all-odds, Chapter Onestyle government. He simply means that its easy parliamentary majority will enable it to *authoritatively, decisively* proceed with a defeatist program.

Some commentators interpreted the election result as Israelis simply turning their back on a peace process they recognize as a failure, demanding the government focus on "more pressing" domestic issues like fighting poverty and improving education. If that is so, then Israelis' read on the peace process is correct—however, by turning to a government whose plan will embolden terrorists and endanger Jews even more, they shouldn't expect great improve-

ments on the domestic front.

Haaretz gave this assessment: "The people have spoken: The land will be divided. ... It's the end of the controversial legitimacy of the separation maneuver. From now on, the question is not if, but when, to where, and how. The Greater Land of Israel is over and done with" (March 30).

Fantasies

In the fantasy world of Olmert and those who voted for him, a *smaller* Israel is a *more defensible* Israel. *Shrinking* borders equal *stronger* borders.

In Olmert's world, reducing Israeli military oversight in Palestinian areas makes for happier Arabs who are less likely to attack.

In Olmert's world, "Hamas is not a strategic threat." These were his words

<u> Israel's Friendly New Negotiation Partners</u>

he West naturally believes in the best of motives—at least, when it comes to terrorists. Terrorists really are reasonable people, the thinking goes. They are just trying to get their voice heard in the only way they are able. Given the chance—Western media seem to believe—terrorists will lay down their arms and become reasonable negotiating partners.

This has been the response, though somewhat tentative, in much of the media and diplomatic world to the terrorist group Hamas's takeover of Palestinian politics in January. Just give them a chance; perhaps they will renounce terrorism and embrace politics as a means to their end. (Never mind that that "end" is the destruction of an entire people.)

The facts show, however, that Hamas's political success has not moderated it. but emboldened it.

Hamas still refuses to acknowledge Israel's right to exist, denounce the use of terrorism or give up its arms. And to confirm that its goal—the destruction of Israel—has not changed, Hamas has filled its cabinet top to bottom with actual, literal terrorists.

"[D]efying international pressure and confounding hopes that it would moderate its extremist stance," the victorious Islamist group "nominated a cabinet whose senior members have all been jailed, deported and escaped Israeli assassination [for their roles in terrorist strikes against Israelis]" (*Times*, March 21).

The new cabinet was installed March 29 after being handily approved by the Palestinian Parliament the previous day. Of the 24 cabinet members, 19 represent Hamas—and it is not much of a stretch to presume the remaining five have considerable Hamas sympathies, having agreed to join the cabinet.

The new prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, was the face of Hamas during its election campaign. Haniyeh has been imprisoned twice, the target of at least one assassination attempt by Israel, and expelled from the Palestinian territories for his role in terrorist attacks. "Haniyeh has always favored violence over diplomacy, and said the Hamas wins in the municipal elections in 2005 were proof that the majority of Palestinians support terrorism against Israel" (Jewish Virtual Library). And this is the man who is meant to give a more acceptable image to Hamas.

Three other senior positions within the cabinet have been given to even more virulent hardliners. Mahmoud Zahar, Hamas's leader in Gaza, is a firebrand hardliner known for his hostility to Israel and the United States. It was he who declared last year that the armed



Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh sits with members of his newly appointed cabinet.

conflict that resulted in Israel's "defeat" in Gaza will continue until Jews leave not just the West Bank, but *all of Israel*. This man is the Palestinians' foreign minister.

The interior minister's post has gone to Said Siyam, jailed four times by Israelis during the first Palestinian *intifada*—this individual is now in charge of Palestinian security services.

The new finance minister is Omar Abdel-Razeq, also jailed by Israelis—released (conveniently) the most recent time less than two weeks before being nominated for this post. Abdel-Razeq plans to commence a tour of Arab nations to secure alternative funding to fill the gap should Western donors cut off funding.

And these are the "politicians" that still give some people hope in democracy. Does this sound like a Hamas wanting to make peace with Israel?

WORLD MIDDLE EAST

to the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee in February. In Olmert's world, the key to pressuring the Palestinians—he told the committee—is through diplomacy rather than military action (ABC, February 22).

However, in the REAL WORLD—within which Israel has managed to survive for the past six decades—all those utopian notions have repeatedly been proven dead wrong.

No previous Israeli leader, no matter how entangled in negotiation he became, ever embraced such erroneous thinking so wholeheartedly. Every one of them proceeded "forward" with a measure of caution, making concessions contingent upon at least a pretense of peace efforts by the Arabs.

Not so Olmert.

Israel's new prime minister essentially promises to give Hamas what it wants—or at least a good part of it: the West Bank—regardless of how Hamas behaves. At times he speaks of this move as being defiant against terrorism. Of course, it is precisely the reverse. In the final analysis, any territory Israel withdraws from simply becomes, in effect, a Hamas state.

Certainly, as Kadima finds its legs as a political party, Olmert needs allies. He may have his biggest ally in Hamas. That group is more eager for Israeli withdrawals than any Jews could be. After all, its main goal right now, like Olmert's, is to get Israel out of the West Bank. It is even possible Hamas could regulate itselfsoften its public rhetoric, put its suicide bombers on a leash—in order to encourage Israel to expend its money and military manpower on destroying and deserting Jewish settlements. After all, the Gaza withdrawal cost Israel an estimated \$2 billion, requiring 42,000 policemen and soldiers to relocate 8,000 Jews; the West Bank move would be seven times bigger. Columnist Hillel Halkin estimates that, in addition to requiring Israel to mobilize all its military reserves and commit one sixth of its national budget, it would be far more confrontational than the Gaza pullout was, since it is the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria, and its settlers are even more ideologically hardcore than the Gaza Jews. Witnessing the inevitable brouhaha of a West Bank withdrawal would give Hamas cause for victory parades for years to come.

The *colossal difference*, however, as Stratfor put it, is that Olmert would view the West Bank pullout as the *end* of

Israel's concessions, whereas Hamas would view it as the *beginning*—allowing it to "carry the battle to Israel proper" (March 10).

Israel is tired of fighting. *Hamas hasn't even started.*

The unfortunate truth is that, if your enemy is determined to fight you to the death, he denies your peaceful options. Barring intervention from God, your choices are drastically limited: fight to win, or be destroyed.

Israel is making no faithful appeal for protection from God. And it has declared its unwillingness to fight. How could this path lead to anything but the death of Israel?

Broken

Uglytruth: Terrorism works against Jews. Olmert's victory proves it.

Like the weary man they have placed at the helm of their state, a majority of Israelis are tired of fighting, tired of being courageous. They are tired of *intifada* and *jihad*, tired of Arabs shouting their hatred to the heavens, tired of Arabs blowing themselves up on buses, in cafes and discos. As Stratfor wrote, "Militant

attacks might inflame the Israeli right, but they leave most of the rest of the Israeli political spectrum weary of contact with the Palestinians" (ibid.).

Yes, Israelis have a "national and historic RIGHT to the whole of Israel," they say. But what good is that? It only brings trouble. They just want the struggle to end. They want to withdraw to safety. Build a big wall and duck behind it. Shut up any Jews who provoke Arabs. Whatever it takes.

Whatever it takes, that is, except a fight.

Because, you see, they tried that for years and, well, it just didn't work.

No—the only way "forward," a slight majority of Israeli voters say, is *retreat*.

Even clear-headed Western minds should recognize *surrender* when we see it. But to minds inflamed with the intoxicating Jew-hatred of Islamist extremism—minds convinced that Allah will ensure Islam's ultimate victory over the poisonous scourge of Zionism—Is-



JEW VS. JEW Israeli policemen evacuate Jews from a West Bank outpost in May 2004 on orders from Sharon. rael's commitment to retreat is more than mere surrender. It is providential justice. It is a step—yes, *only* a step, but a beautiful step—toward the realization of the Muslim kingdom of God. A kingdom in which the Jews are gone forever.

That is what Hamas *really* dreams about.

If the Israelis ever had faith in God—which many of them view as thin stuff on which to base a foreign policy—then that has been replaced by *faith in Hamas*. By any measure, that is even thinner stuff. Every ounce of that kind of faith, and each shred of concession Israel makes to Hamas, will shortly prove to have only expedited the fall of the Jewish state.

You don't have to believe God has blessed and protected the Jewish state in the past—an idea most of its citizens once espoused—to recognize how much stronger a nation committed to defending itself based on that belief is than one unwilling to defend itself at all. But whether you believe it or not, there is a spiritual reality underpinning the transformation of Israel from the lion of Judah into the bunker state it is becoming.

That reality is that the Jews are suffering a curse from God for their lack of faith and their disobedience to His laws.



"And I will break the pride of your power" God warned (Leviticus 26:19). Though Israel is by far the region's strongest state in *power*, it has also become the weakest state in *will*. Israeli pride in its power has been supernaturally BROKEN.

Olmert proposes to bring the Arab-Jew impasse to a conclusion by 2010. But God is not in his solutions, and they will end in ruin. Israel's leaders do not know the WAY TO PEACE (Isaiah 59:8). God only wants them to *acknowledge* their failure, repent of their stubbornness and humbly TURN TO HIM for protection!

EXPLAIN THIS

How ambivalent are the Jews regarding the peace process?

A study conducted by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies looked at the Jewish public's attitude toward the idea of redividing Jerusalem. It showed that 63 PERCENT of Israelis are willing to make concessions on Jerusalem's borders in exchange for "real peace" with the Palestinians.

75 PERCENT of those open to such concessions admitted they don't believe real peace with Palestinians is possible.

Source: Jerusalem Post, March 21

The Wound

Sharon's unilateralism: Kadima's rise: Olmert's campaign strategy; Israel's election result; pledges of a West Bank withdrawal-these all reflect Israel's broken will, manifested in naivety and fantasy. However, underpinning all these elements is one basic realization grounded in reality: that the Jews' chances of negotiating a two-state solution with the Arabs are next to nil.

That realization—though Olmert's current rhetoric indicates that he hasn't completely come to terms with it yet—marks Israel's transition from

Chapter Two into the next, and final, chapter of its modern history.

As we wrote last month, Israel's realization of the peace process being a fraud and a trap was specifically prophesied in your Bible. The prophecy is recorded in Hosea 5:13: "When ... Judah [the biblical name for today's Jewish State of Israel] SAW HIS WOUND, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian"

Longtime *Trumpet* readers know that editor in chief Gerald Flurry has pointed to Judah's "wound" being the peace process ever since the Oslo talks in 1993.

Chapter Two: Concessions did worse than fail to bring Israel peace—it sapped Israel's strength, depleted Israel's land, and exhausted Israel's will to fight and survive. Hosea's prophecy reveals a moment when Israel sees its deadly wound—it recognizes the utter fruitlessness of that terribly misnamed "peace" process.

That realization, according to the prophecy, sparks a radical change in Israeli policy.

It tilts the Jewish state into Chapter Three: *Desperation*.

Final Chapter

Olmert's plans already reflect a certain amount of Israeli desperation. But these are just the opening pages of this final chapter—what is prophesied to become an increasingly wilder period of Jewish decision making.

Hosea 5:13 shows that Israel, recognizing its dismal state, will cry out for help from "the *Assyrian*." That is referring to the presently unifying power of Europe, with *Germany* at its head.

Yes—seeing its wound, Israel, rather than turning to God, will seek salvation from the very nation that notoriously sought to snuff out Jews in World War II.

Considering this prophetic eventuality, we can expect to see Germany increasingly making overtures to Israel, presenting itself as a trustworthy ally of the Jews. Signs of this development are already appearing. After a Hamas delegation visited Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in March, for example, German Chancellor Angela Merkel scolded Putin over the phone, reminding him of Germany's demand that Hamas renounce violence and recognize Israel. About the same time, Germany's defense minister, after joining Israel's defense minister at a Holocaust memorial service in Berlin, said his nation would support Israel in dealing with Hamas that, in fact, Germany was "completely on the side of Israel" on the issue (Expatica, March 8). Such gestures are bound to increase, drawing Israel into a trusting relationship with its former foe.

Then, when the unilateralism fails and the security situation becomes truly desperate, Israel will turn to Germany. Several prophecies show that, of all its dangers and threats, *this* move will prove to be Israel's undoing. What will appear at first to be a sincere European effort to establish security in the Holy City will end up being a grisly repetition of the Crusades! Our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* explains this in depth.

Bible prophecy shows that, ultimately, Israel's worst enemy is not a Hamasled Palestinian people—but Germany! The failure of the peace process, and the catastrophe of unilateralism, will lead Israel right into the jaws of that enemy.

It is a trap *God* has set for a sinful nation!

This is Israel's most perilous hour. Its enemies wax strong while it grows weak. Now, the Israeli electorate has thrown its support behind a policy of recklessness and desperation unprecedented in its nation's short history.

Judging by the speed of events, Olmert's goal of bringing the situation to an end by 2010 may well come to pass. But that end will look very different from the one in his dreams.



EVER A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT the tiny, struggling Jewish nation of Israel being negatively headlined somewhere in the mass media. The decades of fruitless "peace" processes—mounted by geopolitical movers and shakers despite constant attacks on Israel by those who have publicly declared their intentions to wipe that country off the map—have ensured that one of the smallest nations on Earth currently has the highest of media profiles.

What is glaringly apparent to the careful observer of the Israeli-Palestinian scenario is that it is extremely hard to obtain a truly balanced view of its reality. In particular, it's difficult to grasp how, in little less than 40 years, the nation of Israel has gone from widely acknowledged *hero* status, following its overwhelming victory in the Six Days' War of 1967, to being a global *outcast*.

In the Beginning

Following the victory of the Allied military forces of the British Empire in the Middle Eastern campaigns of World War I, General Edmund Allenby marched his triumphant troops into Jerusalem. This

was preceded, on Nov. 2, 1917, by a communiqué from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Anglo-Jewish financier Lord Rothschild, who was considered the representative of the Jewish people. The text of the letter, known as the Balfour Declaration, read: "I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the cabinet.

"His Majesty's government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

Following his defeat of the Ottomans in Palestine, General Allenby led his triumphant troops through the Jaffa Gate into Jerusalem on Dec. 11, 1917.

After Allied victory in World War I, the League of Nations assigned Palestine to the United Kingdom as a mandated territory. The Palestinian mandate was based on the terms of the Balfour Declaration, which promised the creation of a national Jewish homeland within the mandated territory. Initially, Arab leaders were prepared to give Palestine to the Jews if the rest of the Arab lands in the Middle East remained free. However, the mixed tribes of Arabs living in Palestine strenuously opposed Jewish immigration into the territory and the idea of the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This local resistance began to morph into a movement to create a Palestinian nation out of these disparate, stateless Arabs. Thus the early seeds of that which was to become Palestinian terrorism were sown.

Evolution of a Nation

During World War II, due to immigration controls, many Jews who tried to flee Nazi Germany were turned back at the borders of free countries they tried to enter. Returned to Germany, masses of them were systematically murdered in Nazi death camps.

After the war, when the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed, this catalyzed the need for a homeland for displaced lews.

WORLD MIDDLE EAST



Unable to come up with a solution that would satisfy either Arabs or Jews, the British handed the problem over to the newly founded United Nations. The UN ratified a partition plan in 1947 separating Palestine into Jewish and Arab regions. With expiration of the British

mandate on May 14, 1948, British troops pulled out. The Jews promptly declared the creation of the State of Israel, gaining immediate recognition by a number of Western nations.

The Arab nations surrounding Israel reacted

by initiating a year-long war. Undermanned, ill-equipped and largely unprepared, the gallant, fledgling Jewish nation held out, not only gaining eventual victory, but also gaining additional territory in the process.

World opinion, recognizing the brave survival of Israel, generally looked with favor on its struggles for survival, still being caught up in the wave of sympathy for the Jews that swept the world in the wake of the Holocaust.

As global reconstruction efforts continued through the mid-1940s on

into the 1950s and early 1960s, the mass media were still under the influence of factual reporting in the tradition of America's Edward R. Murrow. Thus, the nation of Israel generally gained a fair hearing in the eyes of an earlier generation of journalists familiar with its interwar and immediate postwar history. In fact, world opinion regarding Israel was so high that it readily embraced the best-selling historical novels of Leon Uris documenting the trials and tribulations of the exodus of much of Jewry from persecution in Russia and Europe to establish a new homeland in Palestine, surrounded by the Islamic enemy.

This positive opinion of the nation of Israel was even strengthened as a result of the famous Six Days' War in June 1967. In that brief and triumphant defense of Israel, once again facing overwhelming odds, the Jews were seen as the heroes, vastly outnumbered, gallantly staving off the surrounding enemy nations and throwing them clear back beyond their prior borders.

Devolution of an Image

Now, less than 40 years later, the once plucky little Israel, wearied and worn out by decades of sacrificing Jewish lives to protect its now diminishing borders, is regarded as the *enemy*, its *persecutors* as the *heroes* struggling to claim a homeland.

But what happened? How has this brave little nation of Davidic peoples lost out so powerfully to fickle world opinion that now casts it in the role of pariah, and its mortal enemies, intent

on its elimination, as the heroes? What changed the *public image* of Israel?

Much of the blame must be laid at the feet of those whom American societal commentator Alvin Toffler once described as the "opinion shapers" of

society—whom we now call the "spin doctors"—those who possess the power of the press and mass media and who spin events in order to further their own self-interest. Journalists and their media masters are largely at fault here.

But no less culpable is the gullible public—the people who nightly gawk at a screen in their living rooms, allowing the transfer of thought from their media of choice into their largely unquestioning, underexercised minds.

News, as interpreted by the mass media, has morphed from its origins in the

factual field-reporting of actual events to become not much more than another "reality" program, edited, spliced and embellished, replete with sound bites designed to titillate the senses and cater to the baser drives of humanity in an effort to entertain the masses of the ignorant. If it sells, then keep it going.

But occasionally a flash of reality shines across the screen from the mind of a genuine seeker after truth. Recently one such flash, streaking across the horizon of mass confusion, emanated from New York-based writer Stephanie Gutmann.

Gutmann's recently released book, The Other War, is a brilliant exposé of the media manipulation that has successfully changed postwar public opinion from being overwhelmingly sympathetic to the Jews, to a position where, in the public's eye, tiny Israel has become the pariah hell-bent on the destruction of the "unfortunate" Palestinians. Gutmann cites a poll taken in 2004 in which 68 percent of Germans agreed that Israel now conducts a "war of extermination" against Palestinians; this despite the fact that there are 10 times more Palestinians today than there were in 1920, but fewer Jews. Coming as it does from people who once supported a regime that was wholly responsible for the mass reduction of the global Jewish population, that's a bit hard to swallow. But how did the collective German mind change from one of public penance for the crime of genocide against the Jew to a mindset accusing the victim of the Holocaust of the very sin of its perpetrator?

Media Manipulation

Gutmann, in her unique and beautifully politically incorrect style, goes for the jugular on just how the media has manipulated the Middle East scenario to present an overwhelmingly negative view of Israel. It is her contention that Israel, though having a history of success in its military campaigns, has simply been, over time, largely defeated on the media front.

It is a fact that, by dint of it being an open society, Israel may well be saddled with the world's highest per capita concentration of reporters. One reviewer of Gutmann's book observed that she highlights the fact that "This obsessive attention necessarily distorts, by casting the Israel-Palestinian war in a theatric, world-historical light" (*Claremont Review of Books*, Winter 2005-06). Gutmann's case for the media distortion of the situation in Israel is dramatized most

IN FOCUS

A video camera casts a shadow as it aims at Israeli citizens, the most heavily reported-on people in the world. effectively with a simple comparison of statistics: fatalities in other current international crises over the past decade, compared to those in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Consider: The first Russo-Chechen war—50,000 fatalities in two years. The Darfur genocide—300,000 in three years. The second Congolese civil war—3.5 million in five years.

Compare these with Israeli-Palestinian fighting—4,500 fatalities over the past six years.

The world sees the nightly images beamed in from Israel, while remaining largely ignorant of the effects of other major crises on the world scene which, by

comparison, pale the skirmishes in Israel into relative insignificance. This is due in large part to the inability of news services to establish themselves within the extreme-level danger zones of these other largely closed societies. So images of the gruesomeness of these major crises never reach the living rooms of the masses.

But there is another element to this media distortion of the situation in Israel. It's the element of often deliberately choreographed events on the ground, funneled through generally leftist reporters "dumped on the ground with little prior knowledge ... forced to condense and 'package' terribly complex and crucial events," which are then deliberately constructed to reflect the bias of media moguls by "producers sitting in carpeted, climate-controlled studios in New York and London" who are "making war their subject" (Gutmann, op. cit.).

When we consider that 80 percent of news images are provided to the news media by just three agencies—Associated Press, Reuters and Agence France Presse, all of which have liberal left-leaning agendas—it's no wonder the public has so little chance of gaining a balanced view of any major current event. Add to this the fact that these agencies must rely on hired locals who speak the native language and who decide where to drive, what to show or not show, and what to translate or not translate for the field journalist-and the extent to which any story can be manipulated on the ground to benefit one or another interest group becomes most apparent.

Blocking the Truth

One of the more chilling examples given by Gutmann of the extent to which certain groups will go to block the truth relates to reaction of the Palestinians to the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington. Gutmann relates how Palestinians took to the streets to publicly celebrate al Qaeda's attack, with an estimated 3,000 celebrating in Nablus alone. An AP photographer filmed the celebrating masses in that city and forwarded his footage to his bureau in Jerusalem. The footage never made it to air. "Just as AP was about to put the footage on their wire, ... bureau staffers got a phone call from their photographer in the field. He was standing in the office of Nablus's governor; gunmen on each side of him held guns against his skull and had been ordered to shoot him if the video of

The world sees images beamed in from Israel, while remaining largely ignorant of the effects of other major crises on the world scene which, by comparison, pale the skirmishes in Israel into relative insignificance.

the demonstration went on the wire." Palestinian Authority officials told AP that if its reporters and photographers were not "more careful," the PA "could not guarantee their safety" in the future (ibid.).

Another case Gutmann exposes is that of two Israeli reservists who made a wrong turn when driving home and found themselves arrested by Palestinian police. Taken to the local police station, the two were then mob-lynched, their bodies brutally battered and set on fire. Again, this instance was witnessed by two press representatives, the one having his camera torn from his grasp and smashed by the mob, the other managing to capture a now infamous image of one of the murderers of the two Israelis holding his bloody hands aloft to the cheering of the crowd. Death threats from the Palestinians quickly followed to those who manned the bureau for which the cameraman operated. This forced the flight of the bureau chief for his own protection.

In a piece published in the January 1-8 edition of *Weekly Standard*, Gutmann observed, "[R]ather than jeopardize their already tenuous access to the Palestinian territories or endanger their employees by appearing to collaborate with the enemy, many of the media covering the intifada adjust by simply 'not seeing' things or by finding elaborate justifications for ignoring stories that would displease their hosts in the territories."

In her book, Gutmann lists a whole

series of such instances, including deliberately choreographed scenes that occurred at a time when Palestinians were seeking to increase the photo-ops of Palestinian deaths at Israeli hands. She describes one scene caught on camera by an Israeli drone flying above a Palestinian funeral procession in the city of Jenin in April 2002. The "corpse" was filmed falling off its bier then hopping back on. This instance became tragicomical when it was repeated, frightening the daylights out of bystanders, fleeing at the sight of a "corpse" having come back to life!

However, these grand deceits have a deeply serious side to them. And their

most serious side is represented by that German poll quoted earlier. For it is the backlash in Europe against those Israelis caught in the turmoil of the Palestinian crisis that is most disconcerting. Indeed, it is the increasingly prevalent anti-Semitic reaction across this continent, known through its

20th-century history for the prevalence of gross persecution of the Jew, which is deeply troubling. In her conclusion, Stephanie Gutmann sums up this phenomenon: "Looking at the virulent, vituperative tone of European coverage, and particularly at how openly jeering it grows when Israel tries to defend itself in the media war, it is hard to imagine that any Israeli public relations staff with any amount of resources at its disposal could have an impact in Europe."

Given its history, such a collective mood building within Europe simply spells grave danger for the future of the Continent and imminent crisis for the nation of Israel. That this magazine has, for the past 16 years, been predicting such a mood swing against the nation of the Jews will be obvious to many of our long-time subscribers. What may not be so obvious to our more recent readers is why we could be so accurate with this prediction, even spelling out in detail where it is heading, and its ultimate ending.

Write now for your free copy of our startling booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. It is an eye-opening account that goes far beyond Stephanie Gutmann's exposé of the massive media manipulation surrounding Israel. It is a stirring analysis that really gets to the heart and core, the true *cause*, the impending dramatic *effect* and the final, ultimate *solution* to this rapidly reviving phenomenon of *anti-Semitism!*

JERUSALEM and the LAST CRUSADE

The world waits to see whether Jews or Arabs will control the Holy Land. But is anyone watching the Vatican? BY MARK JENKINS

F ANY PLACE HAS A history of blood, it is the "city of peace." Jerusalem is famous because it contains the holiest sites on the planet, sites that have ignited the most protracted wars ever. Some might even say the war for Jerusalem has never ended since the time of the Crusades.

Observers mostly focus on the Arab Palestinians and the nation of Israel—and

understandably so.
Right now, with
a newly elected
Hamas running the
Palestinian government, and a new Israeli
administration bent on
forcing the situation to a
solution by 2010, the battle
for Jerusalem is about to
become active again.
But what about the instigator of the

ligious behemoth that fought for hundreds of years for Jerusalem? Has that power simply given up on reclaiming the Holy Land? Will it stand idly by while Jerusalem is fractured between Arab and Jew? Quite the contrary. In

original Crusades-the re-

fact, the Vatican believes it still holds claim to Jerusalem even to this very day.

Glorifying the Crusades

During the year 2000 millennial celebrations, Pope John Paul II asked the world for "pardon" for the Crusades. He also apologized for past "errors of the church": the Inquisition and anti-Semitism. This effort to rehabilitate Muslim-Christian relations irritated many Vatican conservatives—including, according to some, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

In stark contrast to John Paul's apology, the Vatican has now sponsored a conference that "portrays the Crusades as wars fought with the 'noble aim' of regaining the Holy Land for Christianity"

(Times, London, March 20). One speaker at the mid-March symposium held at a pontifical university in Rome asserted that the crusaders were "inflamed by an ardor for charity and a love of God" (ANSA, March 20).

Although the gory conflicts in the Middle Ages between European Christians and Mid-

dle Eastern Muslims are often labeled the "Christian Crusades," we should understand that they were uniquely Roman Catholic. These "noble" Catholic wars were among the bloodiest imaginable: In taking Jerusalem in July 1099, the Catholics killed an estimated 70,000 Jews and Arabs. Every Muslim sheltering in the al-Aqsa Mosque was slaughtered. The Jews fled to their main synagogue, and the Crusaders set the building on fire, killing every man, woman and child. Over the course of 200 years of Catholic crusading, somewhere between several hundred thousand and several million people had their blood spilled on holy land.

It is important to understand the Vatican's view of these Crusades for two reasons: 1) The Crusades showed the Catholic desire to control Christianity as a whole. 2) The Crusades showed this

SYMBOLIC

A statue of the coat of arms of a pope, a symbol associated through the ages with war and blood.

Catholic-branded form of Christianity's desire to rule the world *from Jerusalem*.

In the book *Crusades*, Terry Jones and Alan Ereira wrote, "By summoning an army under the banner of the cross, the pope was extending the church's mantle over all Christendom. This was the idea at the very heart of the revolutionary papacy; in place of separate local churches at the center of discreet communities, there was to be one overarching church, ruled by one overarching pope. The Crusade was to be its expression and its instrument."

At the heart of the Crusade-era papacy was the desire to control every Christian church—a sentiment the new pope shares. As Cardinal Ratzinger, he pointed out in a Vatican document that all non-Catholic religions were in "a gravely deficient situ-

ation in comparison with those who, in the [Catholic] Church, have the fullness of the means of salvation."

Since becoming pope, Benedict xvI has spent much of his time talking about church unity. He believes that he alone speaks for all Christians.

lieves that he alone speaks for all Christians—even the "gravely deficient" variety. It's important that we understand this—especially when discussing the Crusades and Jerusalem. After all, during those Crusades, the Catholic Church converted others by the sword in its quest to become synonymous with Christianity.

When the Catholic Church today talks about the nobility of the Crusades, remember what the goal really was: to rule the world from Jerusalem.

Continuing in *Crusades*: "[Pope] Urban's army would also rescue Jerusalem, the spiritual (and therefore the physical) center of the universe. He hoped that the redeemed Jerusalem would be directly ruled by the church."

That goal has not changed. The argument that the Crusades show the Catholic desire to control Jerusalem is a *historically* strong one, but recent action by the Vatican shows that Catholic sights are clearly *still* set on Jerusalem, even after centuries of failure to maintain a foothold there.

The Vatican and Jerusalem Today

High Vatican officials have been announcing the church's stance on Jerusalem for several months now. Cardinal Ignace Moussa Daoud, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Eastern Churches, sent a letter to all of the bishops of the world March 14 saying, "The presence of Christians in the Holy Land

is now, more than ever, necessary to ensure a peaceful future to that area, and for the sake of the universal church, which must have communities championing the faith in the gospel" (AGI).

More than simply pursuing a "peaceful future" though, the Vatican has specific aims in the region. For seven years, the Catholic Church has been trying to acquire various sites and buildings in Israel that it claims it used to control.

Last year, Christian publications around the world—including the official Vatican newspaper *El Messagero*—reported that an agreement would be signed transferring sovereignty of parts of Jerusalem's Mount Zion to the Vatican. Specifically, as IsraelNationalNews.com reported in October, the proposed contract would give the Catholic Church

When the Catholic Church today talks about the nobility of the Crusades, remember what the goal really was: to rule the world from Jerusalem.

control over what it claims is the location of the Last Supper (a room actually built by the crusaders in the 14th century)—one of Catholicism's most sacred sites. Currently, a Jewish religious school is located there, which Jews believe sits atop King David's tomb.

"Final details on a long-delayed accord on the status of Roman Catholic properties in the Holy Land are expected to be agreed during the visit, marking a new era of reconciliation between Christians and Jews," reported the *Times* of London (Oct. 14, 2005). Israel's Foreign Ministry confirmed that it had received a blueprint of the proposed agreement from the Vatican.

The discussions culminated last November, when Israeli President Moshe Katsav met with Pope Benedict xvI in what first official visit by an Israeli head of state to the Vatican.

In the end, the agreement was not concluded during the November visit—possibly due to pressure from Jewish groups to hold on to the territory. It appears Israel is dragging its feet on this issue. The Vatican, no doubt becoming impatient after years of negotiations, may have been attempting to pressure Israel by publicizing the possibility of this agreement.

Now, with little progress made in that round, the Vatican is becoming even more direct in its statements on the Jerusalem issue. The Vatican's chief legal adviser in the negotiations to secure holy sites within Israel, David Jaeger, was especially straightforward, saying on January 3 that the "issue of Jerusalem is too important to be left in the hands of the Israelis and Palestinians" (IsraelNationalNews.com). At a Jewish-Muslim-Christian conference at the University of Haifa, he said that Jerusalem is considered a "corpus separatum" according to the Nov. 29, 1947, UN resolution and therefore belongs to neither the Palestinian or Jewish state. According to international law, argued Jaeger, Israel has no legal authority over Jerusalem (*Haaretz*, January 19).

To put it simply, in the Vatican view, Israel cannot give any of Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority because Jerusalem does not belong to Israel.

One has to ask: If the Vatican now says Jerusalem does not belong to the Jews or

the Palestinians, whose city is it? If Jews shouldn't administrate the Holy Land, who should?

The Vatican did not recognize the State of Is-

rael at all until the pope established diplomatic relations in 1993—only to form a similar relationship with the Palestinians a year later. We shouldn't be too surprised that the Israeli government has only tenuous support from the Vatican. After all, the Jews are living where the Vatican yearns to be: *Jerusalem!*

A Prophecy Realized

Zechariah 14:2 discusses an imminent, turbulent conflict between Israel and the Palestinians (see our March 2006 cover story), but consider another prophecy about Jerusalem in Zechariah 12:3: "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Jerusalem means "city of peace," but it is going to be a burden for everyone that comes into contact with it—including the Vatican.

Although the Arab people will take half of Jerusalem, Bible prophecy also tells us their rule will be short-lived. The Islamic people will unite in what Bible prophecy calls the "king of the south." Daniel 11:40 tells us that king will push against a fully revived Holy Roman Empire in Europe—the king of the north. That "push" will cause the Catholics to rally against the Muslims again—just like in the Crusades. That European king of the north will respond like a whirlwind, overthrowing

See JERUSALEM page 37 ▶

Many of the world's most foreboding troubles are rooted in the Middle East. Western efforts to solve these issues, bogged down in complexity, bureaucracy and political correctness, are failing. Why?

Iran Is King

BY BRAD MACDONALD

HE QUESTION OF WHAT TO do with the Middle East surely haunts the dreams of many a Western politician. The region is the epicenter of many of the Western world's most urgent and dangerous troubles: the radicalization of Islam; the war on terror; nuclear proliferation; the war in Iraq; the absence of peace in Israel.

Western leaders know these issues are deadly serious. They are well aware that the problems that beset the Middle East are not local issues—that, unless they are solved, they pose a threat to global peace.

Take radical Islam, for example. Its

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seekers"

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rally in

"Martyrdom

heart lies in the Middle East, but its pulsations verberate across the globe, stirring controversy

in Europe, Asia, Africa and the U.S. The same principle applies to the war on terror, nuclear proliferation and oil supply volatility. Acutely aware of the ramifications of these distinctly Middle Eastern issues, Western nations-most especially the U.S.-dedicate a lot of attention in their foreign policies to dealing with that region, allocating enormous amounts of money and manpower to address its problems.

As serious as the troubles are, the question of how to solve them has become one of the most complicated and divisive issues in international politics. Nations are divided on how to handle the radicalization of Islam. Nations are divided in their support of the war in Iraq. Nations are divided on how to best handle Iran's nuclear program. Nations are divided on how to ensure a steady flow of oil from the region. Nations are divided on the solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Nations are divided on how to prevail in the war on terror-or whether such a war should even be waged. The issues are viewed as complex and convoluted. Western politicians are operating in a system weighed down with bureaucracy

and political correctness.

Nations that act unilaterally on an issue are condemned, yet it is virtually impossible for nations to act as a unified force.

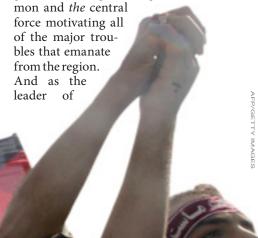
World leaders know these issues must be solved, but they are at their wits' end as to effective solutions.

This is because there is a reality they refuse to deal with, or even recognize.

Radical Islam; the war on terror; nuclear proliferation; the war in Iraq; peace in Israel—one common thread links every one of these Middle Eastern issues.

What is that thread? Every major trouble in the Middle East is rooted in Iran.

Iran is king of the Middle East. Its influence permeates the governments and politics of every nation in the region. It is the regional hege-



REUTERS

the region that receives the most attention from Western nations, Iran has successfully gained a *massive* amount of influence in international affairs.

The ascension of Iran as the leader of the Islamic Middle East—and the paralysis of the West in solving the problems this has spawned—is hugely significant. This scenario fulfills two major Bible prophecies.

King of Global Terrorism

Plenty of evidence proves Iran's involvement with the world's most dangerous Islamic terrorist groups. Note a recent statement on this subject from Congressman Brad Sherman, the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations subcommittee on terrorism and nuclear proliferation. Referring to Iran, Mr. Sherman stated, "Key operatives of the most successful terrorist organization in history [al Qaeda] are spending their time in the number-one state sponsor of terrorism" (Los Angeles Times, March 21). Many of al Qaeda's key leaders live in Iran-including Saif al-Adel, "believed to be one of the highest-ranking members of al Qaeda, behind Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri" (ibid.).

In 2005, safe behind Iranian borders, Adel posted on the Internet a lengthy dispatch about al Qaeda's activities in Iran and Iraq. In it he mentioned that he and Abu Musab Zarqawi planned to make Iraq the new battleground against America from various safe havens in Iran. The L.A. Times noted that U.S. intelligence officials believe, based on satellite feeds and telephone eavesdropping, that Iran hosts "much of al Qaeda's remaining brain trust" and allows al Qaeda leaders the freedom to communicate and plan terrorist operations (emphasis mine throughout). Too many American bullets are flying in Afghanistan and Pakistan apparently, so al Qaeda's leaders have packed their bags and relocated to a more peaceful environment-Iran. There, in safety, al Qaeda operatives plan attacks against America and the West.

U.S. intelligence officials also contend that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is forging an alliance with al Qaeda as a way to expand Iran's influence in the region. Some observers coun-



Peace in our time." That phrase was coined by Britain's prime minister upon signing a peace treaty with Hitler. At the time, the majority of the West believed Hitler had peaceful intentions. Today, we know Hitler was a bald-faced liar. Duplicity was one of his greatest weapons in the lead-up to the Second World War.

Today, Iran, like Germany prior to World War II, is using deceit as a weapon to gain what it wants from the international community. Consider.

Recent revelations confirm that Iran has long been lying about the nature and status of its nuclear program. In a speech to high-ranking Islamic clerics and academics, former Iranian nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani detailed how Iran worked to deceive European counterparts about the nature and status of its nuclear program in order to play for time to complete equipment installations at its Isfahan nuclear site.

According to Mohammad Mohaddessin of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

ter this claim, saying that because Iran is Shiite Muslim and al Qaeda is Sunni Muslim, religious differences mean it's unlikely that the two could ever work together successfully. This is untrue. Both groups are Muslim and share a mutual desire for the death of America and the West. U.S. officials firmly believe there is a history of cooperation between Iran and some Sunni militant groups, including al Qaeda. Iran nurtures such ties, they say, "to enhance its regional influence and punish Arab political foes through intimidation and violence" (ibid.).

There is no mistaking the connection between Iran and al Qaeda. The highest authorities in Iran, including the president, unapologetically embrace this most notorious terrorist group in the world.

Of course, Iran's support of terrorism isn't confined to al Qaeda; the nation also embraces and actively supports the activities of Egyptian and Palestinian groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the list goes on.

In January this year, just days before Palestinian elections, a virtual who's who

of the terrorist world met together in Damascus with Ahmadinejad. In the meetings, aptly called "a summit for terror" by Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, the Iranian leadership "stress[ed] the need for full coordination of the four leading [Palestinian] terrorist groups and their role in assisting Iran and Syria" (www.geostrategy-direct.com, March 22).

Israel's *Arutz Sheva* stated that President Ahmadinejad made the trip to Syria "to be sure that the terrorism against Israel would not slow down for a moment, and would even increase" (January 22).

This is the most frightening aspect of Hamas's electoral victory earlier this year. It wasn't simply a victory for the terrorist group Hamas; it was a colossal victory for Iran—augmenting the Islamic Republic's presence in Israel.

After the election win, Hamas's leader, Khaled Mashaal, met with Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. At the meeting, according to the *Jerusalem Post*, Mashaal embraced Tehran's involvement with his organization and told the Iranian ayatollah that his "regime will have an ex-

an opposition group that was first responsible for publishing details of Iran's secret atomic program, "Rowhani's remarks show that the mullahs wanted to deceive the international community from the onset of negotiations with EU3—and that the mullahs were fully aware that if they were transparent, the regime's nuclear file would be referred to the UN immediately" (*Telegraph*, March 5).

Rowhani admitted to the ruse, boasting to his audience, "When we were negotiating with the Europeans in Tehran we were still installing some of the equipment at the Isfahan site. There was plenty of work to be done to complete the site and finish the work there. In reality, by creating a tame situation, we could finish Isfahan" (ibid.).

America was aware of Iran's ploy. Washington even warned its European partners that the Iranians were being less than forthright about their atomic program. In Rowhani's words, "From the outset, the Americans kept telling the Europeans, 'The Iranians are lying and deceiving you and they have not told you everything.' The

Europeans used to respond, 'We trust them'" (ibid.).

Only now, after repeated frustrations over Iran's lies, is the West exploring punitive sanctions against Iran.

That is one case of Iran's duplicity: here is another: In an intelligence brief dated March 1, Stratfor wrote that Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been allowing moderate voices to speak out against the ultraconservatives in an effort to tame Tehran's international image. In one instance, on March 1 the Iranian press published remarks made by former Iranian President Mohammed Khatami criticizing current President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (though not mentioning him by name). The same day, the Shargh, a popular Iranian newspaper, also criticized the president for his anti-Jewish and anti-Israel comments.

By allowing open criticism of Ahmadinejad in Iranian dailies, Khamenei is seeking to manipulate the West's perception of Iran to gain benefits for Tehran. The thinking goes something like: *If* we let the reformists speak out against the radicals, the West will think there is still a chance that Iran may reform itself, and that negotiations, if continued a little longer, may work—thereby making military attack less of an option. Stratfor calls this trick Iran's "strategic moderation."

Iran is going to great lengths to cloud Western understanding of its nuclear program. Middle East Newsline reported that Iran is even conducting nuclear research and development in some of its schools and universities. The article quoted Alireza Jafarzadeh, a leading member of Iran's opposition. "Given Tehran's record of lies and deceptions, using academic institutions to develop a nuclear bomb makes it even more difficult to stop Iran's secret development of a nuclear weapon" (March 26).

In all this, Iran is telling a lot of masterful lies, and, to this point, the West appears to be buying many of them. If history be our guide, we can be assured that Iran's lies will continue—and, for as long as the price of crossing Iran is considered

greater than the benefits, the West will continue to go along with those lies.

America, which at this time appears to be taking the "tougher" approach, is actually in the most compromised position. As the Trumpet has detailed previously, America is vulnerable: Iran has power to inflame the already precarious situation in Iraq through the Iran-friendly Iraqi Shiite majority; Iran has the ability to manipulate world oil supply; Iran has terrorist minions around the world at its disposal. Put these cards Tehran holds together with America's internal political division and lack of national will, and the U.S.'s freedom to act against Iran is severely diminished.

The reality is an emboldened lran will continue to push at the West until it is checked by a greater force.

For a thorough expose on the weakness of the West that led to World War II, see our booklet *Winston S. Churchill:*The Watchman.



TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP

tensive role in Palestine" (February 21).

After Hamas's victory, America and Europe threatened to cut off monetary aid to the organization if it didn't stop its terrorist activities. The Iranian president brashly countered these threats by saying that Iranian funding to the organization would dry up if Hamas *stopped* its terrorism against Israel!

Iran isn't partial in its support of Palestinian terrorist groups. In an interview with Ynet News in Tel Aviv in March, Defense Minister Mofaz claimed that Iran, in an effort to facilitate a higher number of terrorist attacks against Israel, had increased its funding of Islamic Jihad. In February alone, Tehran supported Islamic Jihad to the tune of USSI.8 million.

The infamous Hezbollah is another limb of terrorism whose origins lie firmly entrenched in Tehran. Created in 1982 by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah is an extension of Iranian influence in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. "Hezbollah—created ... to export the Islamic revolution to the Arab world—receives financial, ideological and armed

support from Iran and from the Islamic Republic's Alawite allies in Syria ..." (Stratfor, January 16).

Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad—these terrorist groups and "political" organizations form the greatest barriers preventing peace in Israel. And Iran fuels every one of them. Viewed realistically, these groups essentially serve as proxies of Iran, helping the Iranian leaders achieve their goals.

Iran is the king of global terrorism!

Islam's Radicalization

The radicalization of Islam is a disconcerting phenomenon emerging throughout the world. In Europe, Britain, America, and even Asia, Islamic believers are growing more forceful in pursuing the right to practice their religious beliefs, even if these clash with the fundamental beliefs and ideologies of the nations they live in.

The significance of this trend was brought to the fore earlier this year in the cartoon crisis that erupted in Europe. (To learn more about this issue, please read "Cartoon Jihad" in our April edition.) This crisis highlighted the fact that Islam's voice and presence in Europe—if not America, Britain and Australia—is strong, and that it will not be marginalized or relegated as unimportant.

Islamic leaders concocted the crisis in order to underscore Islam's new position in national and global affairs. Consider what the *American Spectator* said about it: "The cartoon intifada is significant because it is *entirely manufactured by Muslim governments, fueled by their radical imams* and intended to intimidate non-Muslim nations into making free speech Muslims find offensive illegal" (February 13).

Mortimer Zuckerman, editor in chief of U.S.News & World Report, recently said this of the movement: "It is important to understand that what fuels such [Islamic] fanaticism isn't just the existence of a democratic Israel or even U.S. policy. To think this is to underestimate the depth of a set of shared political and religious fantasies. Hamas's election victory, on top of advances by Islamists in Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt, has energized

and unified the radicals. This is no longer a political conflict about borders and identity. Militant Islam has declared a religious war in which the destruction of Israel is seen but as the first step in establishing a Muslim caliphate" (March 20). Islam is radicalizing because a number of radical leaders are inspiring the Muslim masses with a fantasy vision of Islam's ultimate triumph over Israel, America and the whole Western world.

Where are these radical leaders from? Mr. Zuckerman continued, "These are the omens of an evil confluence.

the empowerment of Iraq's Shiite majority, it became inevitable" (Oct. 12, 2005).

The terrorist insurgency that began immediately after Hussein was deposed in early 2003, has been stoked by Iran from day one. Iran's Revolutionary Guards have supplied weapons to Shia militias. In August last year, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld condemned the Iranian government after American forces stopped a truck filled with hightech explosives entering Iraq from Iran.

In areas free from insurgent violence, Iran is setting up shop. Last year, Britain's ligious connection with the majority of Iraqis, Iran has a dominant voice in Iraq, including Iraqi politics. Shia political parties dominate Iraq's new government, many of which have a publicly stated sympathy with the radical Iranian leadership. In other words, thanks to American efforts to remove Sunni leadership of Saddam Hussein and establish a democratic, majority-ruled (that is, Shia-dominated) government in Iraq, Iran now has a firm foothold in Iraqi politics.

But the influence of the Iranian clerics isn't confined to Iraq. As the *Telegraph*

A few phone calls from Iranian imams to their counterparts in Iraq can spark violence and unrest, or do the opposite. In other words, stability in Iraq largely swings on an Iranian hinge.

the formation of a Tehran-Damascus-Hezbollah-Gaza axis in which *Iran will fund and arm* a new front of terrorism with its *head in Iran*, its body in Iraq and Lebanon, and its feet in Gaza and the West Bank." Iran's leaders are closely connected to the rise of radical Islam throughout the region!

Analysts at Stratfor described how Iran benefited from the cartoon uproar: "As Iran moves toward a confrontation with the United States over nuclear weapons, this [cartoon crisis] helps to rally the Muslim world to its side: Iran wants to be viewed as the defender of Islam, and [other Muslim factions] ... are now seeing Iran as the leader in outrage against Europe" (February 7).

The voice of Islam is growing stronger in the West. Islam is making its presence felt. Iran is at the vanguard of these efforts to radicalize Islam!

Presence in Iraq

The war in Iraq dominates the attention of America and the West, yet the issue remains unsolved. Iran is at the heart of that failure. We have already examined proof of how Iran prevents peace in Israel by supporting Palestinian terrorist groups. *Tehran is doing the same in Iraq.*

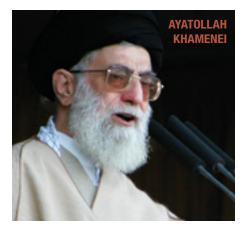
Iran's government—including its spiritual leaders—is intimately involved in the inner machinations and day-to-day operations in Iraq. A senior news analyst from United Press International noted this trend last year: "Suddenly, Iran's growing influence in Iraq is top of the national security agenda again in Britain and America. The influence is real, massive and growing. More than that, following the toppling of Saddam Hussein and

Telegraph reported that a "silent and largely undocumented social revolution has transformed the Shia-dominated south of Iraq into a virtual Islamic state in the two years since the U.S. Army invaded" (Feb. 14, 2005). Several news sources have confirmed that Basra, Iraq's main port city and oil production center, which borders Iran, is dominated by extremist Shiite Muslims and "steadily being transformed into a mini-theocracy" (New York Times, July 7, 2005). Residents of Basra, once one of the more secular of the Shia cities, "describe the changes as an Iranian-style revolution, hesitant at first but rapidly building momentum" (Telegraph, op. cit.).

The stamp of Iran is found everywhere in Iraq. Posters of the father of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, are displayed in the streets. The rhetoric is the same also: A poster of Khomeini outside the governor's office displayed the words "All the problems of Islam stem from colonialism and the Great Powers." The *Telegraph* reported that *sharia* law is now routinely used instead of civil codes in Basra's courts.

Though the Shiite takeover of southern Iraq and the imposition of the strict code of Islamic law have been underway since Saddam Hussein was deposed, the process has accelerated since Iraqi elections in January 2005. More-radical politicians are in power; Shiites have consolidated their religious rule. Numerous small religious parties—such as God's Vengeance and Master of Martyrs—enjoy the backing of major Shiite groups and are suspected of "being agents of the Iranian government" (New York Times, op. cit.).

Iran is 89 percent Shia; Iraq is 65 percent Shia and 35 Sunni. Thanks to its re-



noted, "[T]he voice of Iran's clerics also holds sway with Shia minorities and Iranian communities in Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Its capacity to destabilize the Middle East also extends to the West Bank and Gaza Strip" (March 19). Iran can effectively destabilize the entire Middle East!

With Iraq up its sleeve, Tehran has a powerful bargaining chip in its relations with America. A few phone calls from Iranian imams to their counterparts in Iraq can spark violence and unrest, or do the opposite. In other words, peace and stability in Iraq largely swing on an Iranian hinge.

Such a position doesn't bode well for the United States. The prospect of achieving a stable, Western-friendly Iraqi government depends on the maneuverings of a nation bent on the destruction of Israel, America and the West.

Earlier this year, Britain's *Spectator* wrote, "For it is now becoming all too clear that the Islamic Republic has emerged as the surprise victor from the invasion of Iraq and is *making the most of the power vacuum in the Gulf to establish itself as the new regional superpower.*

"The demise of Iraq, together with Iran's dash to nuclear capability—another development that the West has disastrously mishandled—has meant that the balance of power is changing radically in the Middle East, *with Iran firmly in the ascendancy*" (February 11).

The Spectator called Iran's premier status "an unmitigated disaster." From this position of power, Tehran is the maestro supporting and directing all of the major issues originating in the region: the collapse of peace efforts in Israel; the radicalization of Islam; the roiling insurgency in Iraq; international oil volatility. On top of its intimate involvement in all of these issues, Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons.

These stunning facts all demonstrate that a major biblical prophecy is being fulfilled. The identity of a crucial power in end-time events stands revealed!

The King of the South

In Daniel 11:40, the Bible describes two major coalitions of nations, ruled by two "kings," that will be present in the end time—our day today.

The "king of the south" mentioned in this verse is *Iran*—at the helm of the Islamic Middle East!

You can request our free *King of the South* booklet for further proof of the prophesied rise of an Iran-led Islamic coalition of nations.

The evidence proves that Iran is the definite leader of the Middle East. Terrorism; the radicalization of Islam; the war in Iraq; conflict in Israel—these are the most troubling issues facing Western nations today. And the king of the Middle East, Iran, is the driving force behind them all.

For those willing to recognize this fact, the solution to the troubles stemming from the Middle East would seem to be relatively straightforward: Decisively eliminate Iran from the equation.

Such a move would do much to solve a number of the issues plaguing the world today. Destroying Iran would cut off the head of the terrorist snake. Al Oaeda would lose a safe-house from which to plan its attacks. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah would lose their biggest supporter and contributor. It would unscramble the dilemma in Israel. Removing a dominant and influential Iran from the Middle East would send a message to radical Islam and significantly handicap its efforts to establish a global caliphate. In the long run, America's efforts in Iraq would prove much more successful. There would be no threat of an Iranian nuclear bomb or Iran giving nuclear weapons to terrorists.

Certainly the region's troubles wouldn't disappear, but they would be overwhelmingly more simple and straightforward. The immediate threat they pose would be eliminated.

And the simple truth is, Western nations have the military power to crush this Iranian threat.

Clearly, however, this isn't the approach taken by the West today. Instead, it wrestles over more complicated "solutions." It seeks to manage the effects, and fails to deal conclusively with the cause.

America can't decide on whether or not to work with Hamas in order to foster peace in Israel. Western efforts to stop the Iranian nuclear program are complicated and fruitless. America is working tirelessly in Iraq, but the nation is still far from becoming a functional, Western-friendly democracy. Iran's sabotage of the Middle East peace process, the U.S. has completely ignored.

Dealing with Iran would be the most definite course of action the United States could take in solving these problems. But the nation clearly suffers from a crushing deficit of *will* to undertake this task. *Why?*

The answer to that question is the fulfillment of a second major biblical prophecy!

America's Lack of Will

The God of the Bible *foretold* that the United States, as well as the other nations

IS ENABLING THE BIBLICALLY PROPHESIED RISE TO POWER OF THIS DEADLY DANGEROUS "KING OF THE SOUTH."

At its core, this is a *spiritual* problem. It's easy to say that the solution to the present problems stemming from the Middle East would be to deal decisively and forcefully with Iran. But, as long as the U.S. and Britain have broken willpower, this is never going to happen. And, unless those nations were to repent and turn to God in obedience and trust, that willpower will *not* be restored!

It is a challenge for most people to recognize that there is a connection between events occurring here on Earth and events discussed in the Bible. This is because God is not real in the minds of most people. Few believe that God has a real presence in global operations.

This is a relatively new trend. Even as recently as 60-70 years ago, many people believed in a divine presence in human affairs. Speaking before the U.S. Congress on Dec. 26, 1941, Winston Churchill stated that a person "must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose is being worked out here below." In Churchill's words, most people today have a blind soul when it comes to believing in God.

This is why America, Britain and the other nations of modern-day Israel are in the state they are in. These nations have largely turned their backs on God. As a result, God is allowing other

Terrorism; radicalization of Islam; war in Iraq; conflict in Israel—these are the most troubling issues facing Western nations. The king of the Middle East, Iran, is the driving force behind them all.

that comprise modern-day Israel, would suffer such a curse of willpower. In Leviticus 26:18-20, God states: "[I]f ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power ... And your strength shall be spent in vain" This monumental prophecy, as well as the identity of the nations that comprise modern-day Israel, is explained thoroughly in our free book The United States and Britain in Prophecy.

WHAT A CURSE THIS LACK OF PRIDE IS PROVING TO BE. The world has never been more dangerous and volatile—it is on the brink of World War III! Now is not an opportune time to experience such a staggering crisis of will.

But a clear-minded look at the facts shows that THE WEAKNESS OF THE WEST

nations, such as Iran, to rise up on the world stage—and to assume the dangerous role of "kings."

Just as the king of the south has risen, and just as America has lost the pride in its power—as prophesied in the Bible—so we can know that other endtime prophecies will come to pass. A king of the north will rise. Its clash with the king of the south will occur. And the modern nations of Israel will be brought down and enter a time of unprecedented national trouble, unless they repent. Though our nations refuse to even see the need to repent at this time, God gives us each, individually, the opportunity to do so. If we turn to Him now, we can be a part of the *ultimate* solution to this world's problems—when Christ's prophesied return to this Earth occurs.



factor on which the power of a nation depends.

Two thirds of the Earth's surface is ocean. Two thirds of its inhabited land embraces the great land mass

EOGRAPHY IS THE MOST STABLE

face is ocean. Two thirds of its inhabited land embraces the great land mass of Eurasia and Africa. The remainder, which we call the Western Hemisphere, is, by comparison, an island in the midst of the oceans.

Take a look at the polar map (right). Viewed from a perspective directly above the North Pole, the geography of the Earth's surface becomes quite plain to the eye. The great "World Island"—as the early 20th-century British geographer Sir Halford Mackinder described Eurasia and the conjoined landmass of Africa—dominates the planet south of the Arctic to the Indian Ocean, east to the South China Sea and west to the Atlantic.

Considering this reality, it is amazing that, despite the fact that most of the nations of the Earth dwell on this singularly massive piece of real estate, the greater part of the globe has been dominated since the 19th century by an English-speaking peoples hailing largely from island nations lying off its western perimeter. Yet, especially in the days of the dominance of the British Empire during most of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, it was the peoples on the *periphery* of this giant land mass, those of the *British Isles and its dominions*—the island nation col-

lective of Australia and New Zealand, plus Canada in the northern segment of the Americas—that generally held sway over much of Eurasia and Africa.

How could this have come about? There is a very clear strategic reality that explains this phenomenon of which most remain ignorant. This ignorance as to the reason this strategic reality was gifted to the Anglo-American peoples is placing them at great risk of its total loss!

Ray S. Cline served as deputy director of Intelligence for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1962-1966 and played a major role in the Cuba missile crisis of 1962. He died in 1996. A principal thesis of his strategic studies was based on turn-of-the-20th-century geographer Sir Halford Mackinder's concept of the globe.

Mackinder "feared a day when Eurasia and land-linked Africa might become a united base of sea power, capable of outbuilding and outmanning the island nations" (Ray S. Cline, The Power of Nations in the 1990s). This clear-thinking student of geography had the presence of mind, even during the peak of Britain's naval power, to fear the day when the ability to control traffic through the world's sea lanes would be lost to the English-speaking peoples and vested in the hands of those from the World Island, the world's largest single land and population mass.

Barely a century has passed since Mackinder wrote his essay on this subject. Britain lost its remarkable command of the high seas, together with its empire, decades ago. In more recent times, the United States gave away control of its crucial southern gateway of Panama and its northern sea gate of the Bering Strait. Mackinder's worst fears are in the process of rapidly being realized.

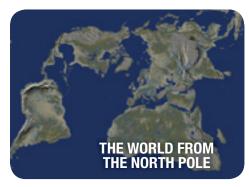
The Fight for the World Island

Over the past two centuries, four demagogues attempted to seize control of the World Island land mass. Napoleon tried and was defeated by the Russian winter in 1812. A century later, after Kaiser Wilhelm had pounded the drums of war, German general Erich Ludendorff attempted an eastern strategy, gaining a spectacular victory over the Russians at the Battle of Tannenberg in 1914, before his subsequent failure on the Western front. Hitler tried in 1941 and was repulsed by the Soviet counter-offensive. At the end of World War II, Stalin, by rolling his tanks clear on into Berlin, commenced the Soviet Union's attempts to seize control of Eurasia and Africa. The USSR then followed up with deliberate incursions into the Asian and African theaters by infiltrating those regions with insurgents and promoting conflict. Though this ultimately led to the ANC-Communist takeover of South Africa in 1994, Communist efforts in Asia stalled in Korea and Vietnam.

Despite America's natural tendency

toward isolationism—a fact allowable by a combination of its unique positioning (separated from the World Island by two great oceans) and its being blessed with abundant natural resources—earlier generations of military men certainly appreciated the reality behind Mackinder's thesis. One such was Rear Adm. Alfred Thayer Mahan, a United States Navy officer, renowned geostrategist and educator.

Admiral Mahan is still considered the world's most prominent theorist of military sea power. A contemporary and friend of Theodore Roosevelt, he authored



The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783, widely read as the definitive text on the strategic employment of naval power. Mahan's main premise was that domination of the sea through the exercise of naval power was critical to the control of seaborne commerce and thus a crucial element to obtain the advantage in war. His book became widely influential in strategic circles in his day, particularly within those nations that later found themselves engaged in World War I.

So what has happened to change the present-day military strategists' view of this fundamental principle of maintaining the power of a nation?

The Great Sea Gate Giveaway

From a purely human perspective, we may perhaps allow that Great Britain, broke and exhausted following two great wars fought in defense of its far-flung empire, might have had no choice but to yield up to its former colonies the precious territory guarding its sea gates.

Yet what excuse does the U.S. have for literally handing over its sovereign right to Panama, bought and paid for by the taxes of a previous generation? And why did the U.S., five years ago, meekly give the Russians the islands and territorial seas—including the assets and seabed—of the Bering Strait for so little in return? This sea gate embraces prime territory for radar and satellite-tracking

locations, missile-deployment systems, and missile submarine pens that would threaten the northwestern coast and interior of the U.S.

The result of these giveaways should be obvious to any child of elementaryschool age, or any player of the popular game of Risk: It simply poses the probable loss of passage to American warships through the Panama Canal and the Bering Strait should the new possessor of this sea gate choose to close it down by naval barricade! This handover of America's northwestern and southern

gateways would appear to be, based on all recognized authorities on naval strategy, akin to national suicide!

Yet geography was never the real strength of the average American. To so many Americans, isn't the United States the center of the universe? Don't we have the very best form of government? Isn't our god the God of the universe? Aren't we a really good people? Don't we have the answers to all the world's problems? Isn't Utopia our preserve? Isn't our navy so powerful that no nation would attempt to withstand it?

Well, the plain fact is, that very unhumble American mindset—of taking so much for granted—is a fairly modern phenomenon. But what hasn't changed is the gross ignorance the average American has of the geography of the planet on which he or she lives. Sixty years ago, the American people were shocked into the reality that there was, indeed, a whole wide world out there beyond the Americas, and it was largely hostile to their peace-loving populace!

After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt told his speechwriter, "I am going to ask the American people to take out their maps. I'm going to speak about strange places that many of them never heard of—places that are now the battleground of civilization." That was way back in 1942. The Americans, or at least many of them, dutifully pulled out their maps of the world from their family libraries and discovered a whole world lying beyond the shores of their own island of peculiar isolation.

Track forward 60 years to 9/11.

This time the hit is far closer to home. Not just on the outlying state of Hawaii, as in 1941, but right at the *heart* and *core* of the corporate and the political head-quarters of America—New York and Washington! That one event skewed U.S. policymakers' minds toward the enactment of a "war on terror," with its

primary focus on the Middle East.

But now, with so many minds, so many assets, and a huge portion of funds devoted to this effort, the U.S. risks failing to secure the very strategic areas where it is most vulnerable.

Loss of Isolation

The fact of its separation by the natural barriers of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans from the World Island has worked in America's favor ever since its founding as a nation. These great oceans were natural barriers to incursion by foreign foes, only twice breached by surprise air attack, in 1941 and 2001. The U.S. mainland has never suffered a successful attack on its shores by a seaborne enemy.

But, even as Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo was very much aware of in 1941, such a maritime nation as the U.S., in contrast to any landlocked country, must maintain a serviceable navy of proportions that enable adequate defense of its shorelines, in particular, its ports and harbors.

Great Britain, until recent times, was historically able to defend its island nation, and later its far-flung empire, by great naval strength, a strength that is no more. In recent years, at times Britain's vastly reduced navy has not had sufficient fuel to leave port, has not had enough shells to fire in maritime exercises and has literally had to borrow vessels from foreign countries to meet the most minimal of needs.

In contrast, U.S. naval power is overwhelmingly the greatest of any nation on Earth. Yet, what good is a navy if it is denied access to various ports of call necessary to carry out its function? Unless that navy controls or substantially influences the nations bordering the sea gates through which it must pass, it may as well stay put in its home ports. This is the very weakness in U.S. defense that strategists seem to be largely ignoring.

In the European theater, America has rested on its laurels, progressively drawing down its military presence following the grand Soviet Union implosion of the early 1990s. Especially since the conclusion of the Balkan wars, U.S. focus has swung to the Islamic crescent that arcs from northern Africa, across the Middle East to the Caucasus. This has involved concentrating military assets and strategy in Afghanistan, Iraq and in foreign countries, such as Turkey, which give ready access to this theater. But as the U.S. concentrates on this patch of the Earth's surface, and on a transient enemy that is

proving most elusive, it seems to have lost sight of the devil at its back door.

If, as Sir Winston Churchill mused, the Mediterranean is indeed the "soft underbelly" of Europe, then Latin America is that of the U.S.

The U.S. currently faces two glaring challenges to its security as a nation: surprise attack from Islamic extremists, and

See the maps below to compare the way it was when Britain and the U.S. controlled every major sea gate at the zenith of their power, and the way it is today.

China, the most populous nation on the World Island, exhibiting the fastest growth rate of any national economy in the world, is reaching out beyond its singular eastern coastline in a grand strateJapan and Russia were able to patch up the various differences they have over disputed territory and form a defensive alliance? Japan's naval might, added to the combined nuclear naval strength of China and Russia, would present a formidable force to the West.

In fact, should these three ally—even for a moment in time—with a *united Eu- rope*, with all four of

them increasingly exploiting controlling interests in various regions of Africa, the worst fears of Sir Halford Mackinder would be realized!

Such an alliance would literally present "a united base of sea power," capable of closing down inbound trade to the island nations.

The result? Siege by naval blockade! Sound crazy? Check your Bible.

The groundwork of a punishing siege against Anglo-Americans is being laid.

a continuing incursion of illegal aliens through its highly porous southern border. While America's military strategists devote substantial energies to the war on terror, a scattered, grossly undermanned band of state authorities attempt to limit the overwhelming tide of illegals daily crossing the southern borders of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. This is becoming a hot potato that is proving to be practically, economically and politically impossible for the U.S. administration to effectively handle.

Yet quite apart from these twin security headaches, the most vital challenge to U.S. security gets little press, and when it does, it gains little credence. It is simply the massive strategic potential that China has quietly and steadily gained.

China's Gain

Over the past decade, China has been buying up controlling interests in the crucial sea gates once almost totally controlled by Anglo-American interests at the time of British and American global supremacy.

gic effort to turn the tables on the Western Hemisphere to which it has played second fiddle for centuries. This grand strategy will eventually see China do more than possess most of the world's crucial sea gates—which it already does. As its naval strength gains rapidly from the present massive expenditure being devoted to it, China, allied with two other great naval powers, will ultimately be able to compete on a scale far better than equal with the U.S. naval presence in the major shipping lanes of the world. One factor that limits this potential is the present political divide between China and Japan.

Already, in step with the biblical prophecy of our times, Russia and China have been making friendly overtures to each other, even conducting joint naval exercises in the South China Sea. The combined navies of China and Russia would present a considerable force to any nation with which one or the other, or both, had a disagreement.

But consider. Japan has the second-largest navy in the world. What if China,

The Coming Siege

"Moreoverall these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee ... The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth ... And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 28:45, 49-52).



Believe it or not, *God gave* the major island land masses of the world to Britain and America—not for any goodness on their part, but in fulfillment of ancient promises to a biblical patriarch (explained in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

Neither nation has given God due credit and honor for these blessings. Instead, the Anglo-Americans have strayed far from their God; their morals lie in the pits; their greed and selfishness wax strong in the age of consumerism. Current economic "good times" are a façade, masking the uncontrollable hugeness of national and personal debt. Outsourcing might be the buzzword of the age, but, in reality, it bespeaks a nation that has handed over its once-greatly prized self-sufficiency by transferring its productive knowledge, skills and abilities offshore to nations of the World Island. In reality, we have simply transferred the ability to effectively exploit the benefits of our God-given national blessings to foreign nations, thereby strengthening them and weakening ourselves.

God will not be mocked. He will have His day—and *soon!* The writing is on the wall already for those with eyes to see it. Ezekiel's prophecy clearly predicts that the hordes of the World Island will ultimately gather together in a grand alliance (Ezekiel 38:1-7). The prophecies of Revelation 13, 17 and 18 all point to a European superpower actually ruling the world for a short time, with the *mer*-

chants, the great international corporations that traffic their wares through the world's seaways, being complicit, just as in World War II, in their support of a tyrant's regime. Such an event would need an alliance with the powers that control the world's sea gates and sea lanes at the time. That is coming, believe it or not, short though its life is destined to be.

The groundwork of a punishing siege against Anglo-Americans is being laid. It remains for the right moment to arrive when Chinese, Japanese, Russian and European economic and political will combine to mount a monetary siege against the dollar—and it will consummate in literal naval blockade of the now largely China-owned sea gates through which the bulk of Anglo-American trade must pass.

The results of this siege are prophesied to be *horrific!* Read it for yourself in Deuteronomy 28:53. In fact, read the whole chapter and realize that God declared this rising scenario fully 3,500 years ago through the Prophet Moses!

But does it all end there, with the U.S., Britain and its dominions, the great island nations of the West, enslaved by the hordes of the World Island?

Thank God it doesn't!

The Choice

The one true God is a God of great mercy and compassion, but He commands *obedience*. Why? Because the *law* He has put in motion *guarantees blessings* to be lav-

ished upon those who conform willingly to it. The same God commanded the nation of ancient Israel, from whose roots came today's Anglo-American peoples: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

We simply have a choice! Choose to submit to and obey your Creator, and gain *life* and "length of days." The consequences of *refusing* that call to obey your Creator are unfathomably painful, given the reality of the *speed* at which the prophecies of Deuteronomy 28 are racing toward fulfillment!

On the surface, it seems a simple and obvious choice: Choose *life* and *length of days* under God's protection—or choose *rebellion* against the Creator and endure the coming *siege*, and then, in *pain*, acknowledge that you and yours could have avoided the *greatest suffering yet known to man* (Matthew 24:21-22).

Our prayer is simply that you make the right choice. Our free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* may help you in making up your mind—*before* it is too late.



WORLDWATCH

A Survey of Global Events and Conditions to Keep an Eye on

EUROPE

Putting Muslims to the Test



PROFILED An imam worships at a mosque in Leipzig.

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS want to make it harder for immigrants to attain citizenship; Germany and the Netherlands lead the charge.

A set of proposed tests that would be mandatory for incoming immigrants has been criticized as anti-Muslim. The test advocated by one German state asks about a person's views on forced marriage, homosexuality and women's rights. In another state, a 100-question test asks immigrants whether "the applicant believes in Israel's right to exist and whether a woman should be allowed in public without the accompaniment of a male relative" (Deutsche Welle, March 16).

These culturally charged questions are considered mild compared with immigration procedures introduced in the Netherlands. Applicants are tested on their tolerance to homosexuality and nude sunbathing. On top of that, the preparation packet and the test itself cost €400. German politicians see the Netherlands' moves as "a model for Germany" (ibid.).

No question about it: Europeans are increasingly wary of the Muslim segments of their populations.

With the rise of radical Islam and a steady drum-

beat of high-profile cases of Islamist terrorism within EU nations, it is hard to fault the predominantly Roman Catholic continental population for getting edgy. At the same time, the global political climate is putting these two cultures more at odds: Iran is consistently defying Europe's three biggest nations, the United Nations and the United States; meanwhile radical Islamists are gaining significant political leverage in the Middle East.

That said, Europe doesn't

have the best track record of tolerating what it deems to be alien cultures living in its midst: the Serbs prior to World War I and the Jews before and during World War II are two notable and uncomfortably recent examples.

But what is most interesting is the demographic nightmare most European nations will face unless they accept massive immigration. Europeans simply aren't birthing anywhere near the 2.1 children per woman required to maintain a population. As Mark Steyn wrote in an OpinionJournal.com piece, "Germany and Austria are at 1.3, the brink of the death spiral; Russia and Italy are at 1.2; Spain 1.1, about half replacement rate. That's to say, Spain's population is halving every generation. By 2050, Italy's population will have fallen by 22 percent, Bulgaria's by 36 percent, Estonia's by 52 percent" (January 4). Germany's birthrate, in fact, was lower last year than in 1945.

And though population alone doesn't define national strength, it is a significant

factor: To grow its industry, stoke its economy and populate its military, a country simply must have a young, growing populace.

Berlin knows this. Germany and other lowbirthrate European nations will soon have to rectify the situation. And they don't consider unbridled immigration an acceptable answer.

But there is another, more sinister solution to this crisis—portended by history and suggested by Bible prophecy. Though it may seem unlikely in modern times, the Bible speaks of a European power that will compensate for its lack of native manpower by trading in "slaves, and souls of men" (Revelation 18:13)—a modern revival of a slave trade, destined to involve millions.

Watching the confluence of trends in Europe—declining birthrates and resulting economic strains, increasing xenophobia and the inevitable population crunch this will create—the prospect of this frightening prophecy springing to life is becoming more real all the time.

Right-Wingers Making Waves

THE NAZI CENSORSHIP machine is back. In the former East German border town of Halberstadt, the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) raised a fuss about a March 8 concert there. The NPD said the concert's motto-"Nazis get out of our town"-was an "unacceptable form of political campaigning for left-wing parties ahead of state elections on March 26" (Deutsche Welle, March 9). So, "[f]earing a major conflict with neo-Nazis," local authorities buckled and cancelled the event.

The rising influence of

right-wingers in Germany on the local level is sweeping across what is widely regarded as a secular, liberal-socialist Continent.

European populations are electing more right-leaning candidates: In Germany and Poland, for example, conservatives now lead their respective countries and enjoy soaring popularity levels. Conservative parties, even extreme-right groups, have gained more seats in national legislatures and the European Parliament over the past half decade. Their success encourages neo-fascist groups and even increases their political influence. One such group in



VOCAL Supporters of the right-wing NPD rally in Berlin.

Poland helped shut down a gay and lesbian demonstration last November, attacked one a year prior, and has now made headlines for compiling "black lists" of and targeting anti-Nazis (ibid., March 4).

The right's political rise is a democratic representation of a shifting psychology among Europe's citizens. Last year, the Council of Europe

EU to Ask, What Is Europe?

I DENTIFYING EUROPE ON A map might not be too difficult for anyone with a high school education. But try to identify where Europe *ends*, what its borders are, and you need an international summit.

Looming over a two-day summit of European Union leaders at the end of March in Brussels, Belgium, was the question of how big the EU can be allowed to get and who can join.

With the questions still looming, foreign ministers have scheduled an informal summit for May to assess "where Europe's future borders lie," according to the Netherlands' Ben Bot (Associated Press, March 24). Bot told reporters, "One of the many questions Europeans ask is, 'Are there no borders to the EU that should be fixed?"

A German politician, claiming to speak for public sentiment across the Continent, stated just before last week's conference that governments "must make clear where the borders of Europe are." The politician is Bayarian Premier Edmund

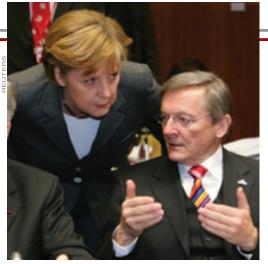
Stoiber, leader of the sister party to Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, whose career analysts pronounced dead when he rejected a seat in Merkel's cabinet.

His comments on a radio program just before the summit sparked discussion on one of the most fundamental issues facing the EU: What is Europe?

"At talks before the opening of the EU summit ... Stoiber called on EU leaders and foreign ministers to heed public opinion, which he said was against expansion to Turkey. The leading German conservative said future enlargement 'had to be accepted by the citizens'" (China Daily, March 24).

For a so-called political has-been, Stoiber is getting quite a lot of press—perhaps because he *is* speaking for public opinion.

He said that the EU, before accepting any more nations, should not just consider whether a nation is living up to the standards set by the EU but also whether the EU "has the capacity" in the first



DISCUSSION Germany's chancellor (left) speaks with her Austrian counterpart, the current EU president, at the Brussels summit March 23.

place to accept the nation.

Stoiber singled out Turkey for which, he has always believed (as does Germany's chancellor), the EU does not have the "absorption capacity" to accept as a member. That "capacity" has to do largely with *religious differences*. Does the EU have the "capacity" to accept a Muslim nation—even a moderate one with a relatively secular government—as part of Europe?

Until now, politicians have tried to politely push aside the notion of Turkish membership in the EU using politically correct rationale: Turkey's population is too

big, it has structural problems, and so on. The "cultural chasm was deliberately downplayed so the EU could avoid criticism of making decisions on racial grounds," writes Greek reporter Costas Iordanidis (Kathimerini, March 23). "But political correctness has its

limits. Politicians must take people's concerns into account."

It appears Stoiber has no qualms about shelving political correctness when it comes to sensitive cultural issues like EU enlargement and immigration. And what is becoming increasingly apparent is, his views on enlargement are resonating with EU leaders.

The European Parliament is determined to define the bloc's "absorption capacity" by the end of the year. According to a March 17 resolution, members of the European Parliament say that "defining the nature" of the EU "is fundamental to understanding the concept of absorption capacity" (EurActiv.com, March 22).

Europe has quite an issue on its hands—the one issue that strikes at the heart of what it is. Watch these discussions over the coming months, prompted by Turkish desire to join the Union.

One thing is for sure:
Turkey will never be part
of a united Europe. On that
matter, Stoiber is right. Bible
prophecy indicates that
Europe will be united by a
religious force, as a resurrection of the Holy Roman
Empire. It will be a Roman
Catholic union in which
Turkey will have no place.

found that racism and anti-Semitism have increased alarmingly in France. In Austria, racism is a part of daily life for some minority groups (press.coe.int).

Conservatism as a political ideology, in and of itself, tends to contribute toward social and moral stability and is far preferable to those that erode family and discourage industry. However, the reason skepticism is warranted over this trend within Europe is the shameful history of extremist right-wing thinking, even within living memory, on the Continent.

The *Trumpet* has warned of a rise in right-wing

European politics for some time—Germany being the key nation to watch. We do not expect the NPD or neo-Nazis to hijack the country—the stigma attached to such extremists by the majority of Europeans is simply too strong. But their increasing influence shows the growing power of their views.

Bible prophecy indicates that a strong politician will soon come to power within Germany—perhaps more of a center-right figure who appeals to the extreme right, but who is sophisticated enough to appeal to a much broader swath of a right-leaning populace.

The similar pattern being played out in other European countries only supports the idea that the rest of the Continent will one day unite behind this man with the help of the Vatican

A rise in conservative governance is reminiscent of a Europe just before World War II. A rightwing Europe will soon unite completely to meet the threats of our modern world. Watch this shift in European psychology reach the point where Germans, and Europeans as a whole, cry out for that "all-European Hitler."

ASIA

"Irreversible Relationship" Forms

A T THE END OF MARCH, Russian President
Vladimir Putin and 800
delegates signed 22 contracts in a two-day visit to Beijing.
The deals cover the gamut: installing a natural gas pipeline; exporting power to China's energy grid; contributing space, civil aviation, agriculture, labor services; anti-terrorism cooperation.

Among the Sino-Russian deals is an agreement to build two huge natural gas pipelines—one 1,800 miles long—from Russia to China. If the deal proceeds, Russia will become one of China's largest natural gas suppliers, supplying 60 to 80 billion cubic meters of gas—twice what China consumed in 2004.

The deal drew sharp criticism from European leaders. Why? "Given a lack of natural gas exploration and production in Russia to meet Russia's new commitments," UPI wrote, "European leaders fear the Kremlin's commitment to China can only be met at Europe's expense" (March 22, emphasis ours).

Europe is sensitive because of the recent Russian-Ukrainian energy feud that saw Europe's gas supply drop precariously low this past winter. For Europe, which relies on Russia for 70 percent of its natural gas supplies, the Sino-Russian deal is another blow in its drive to secure primary energy sources.

The latest figures show that for Russia to meet combined Chinese and European demand, Gazprom would have to invest \$11 billion a year in Russian infrastructure. According to Claude Mandil of the International Energy Agency, Gazprom does not have that much money at hand because of its current focus on foreign

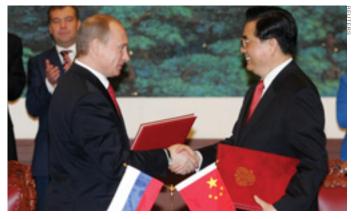
projects and acquisitions (*Financial Times*, March 21).

Russia's powerful utilities corporation, Unified Energy Systems, also signed a contract to export electricity to China's State Grid Corporation, while Gazprom and Roseneft inked deals to supply China's National Petroleum Corporation.

Other smaller deals included cooperation in space, civil aviation, agriculture, labor services and terrorism.

These sensitive and wideranging deals point to an undisputable fact: Russia and China are forging a sturdy Eastern power bloc.

Ariel Cohen of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank, was quoted in another UPI article: "This is yet another shift in the strategic balance of power in Eurasia China and Russia as strategic allies are now control-



CONTRACTS In a two-day visit to Beijing, Russia's president (left) forged numerous deals with his Chinese counterpart.

ling the Eurasian land mass from the South China Sea to the Baltic Sea" (March 22).

Cohen also suggested that these energy agreements signal Moscow's preference for a relationship with China over the United States or Europe.

Cohen's statement falls right in line with what the Bible says about an endtime Russian and Chinese partnership. According to Bible prophecy, Russia and China are to forge a powerful Eastern bloc known as

the "kings of the east."

With China, Russia's fourth-largest trading partner, and Russia, China's eighth-largest trading partner, cementing far-reaching energy and commercial deals—and a second round of joint military exercises planned—the two nations seem to have decided to lump their fortunes. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says it is an irreversible relationship (ibid.).

It is a relationship to watch.

WEATHER

U.S. Drought Likely to Persist

MERICA'S WEATHER Acurse did not stop when the hurricane season ended last year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on March 16 that Southwest and Plain states face a potentially "significant" wildfire season this year. Texas and Oklahoma have already felt the heat. Since January 1, more than 13,000 wildfires have scorched 930,000 acres of land, mainly in those two states. These numbers soar above the five-year average of only 6,363 wildfires burning 98,476 acres annually.

More wildfires are flam-

ing up this season because of severe drought in the Southwest and the southern Plains. NOAA also announced that the "drought will very likely persist or even worsen" until June.

This is taking its toll on the agriculture sector of the economy. Winter wheat crops took a heavy hit from the lack of rain. Stock ponds and pastures are drying up in the southern Plains. In the Texas Panhandle in mid-March, where thousands of people were forced to evacuate, at least 10,000 cattle and horses were killed.

From hurricanes and flooded cities to drought and wildfires, weather woes con-

tinue to hammer the United States and its economy. Last year was the most active Atlantic hurricane season on record, and now a far-aboveaverage number of wildfires are scorching the country.

Why all these recordbreaking catastrophes?

Most people ridicule any notion that God would have anything to do with these problems. Even many who would profess to believe the Bible consider such thinking hopelessly anachronistic and out-of-touch.

But the Bible is filled with promises of God blessing obedient people with favorable weather and cursing disobedient people with hostile weather. God promises the modern-day nations of Israel (for more on who these nations are, request our free ECONOMY

Bank Calls for Global Overhaul

THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC and monetary system is broken. Granted, this is not new news for regular Trumpet readers. What is new is that, in an abrupt change of stance, one of the world's top banking authorities, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), now warns of a dangerously unbalanced world economy and is calling for an "overhaul of the current global economic system" (*Telegraph*, February 20).

Furthermore, the BIS has suggested that many of the world's nations should abandon their currency and adopt one of a small number of formal currency blocs "based on the dollar, euro, and renminbi or yen" (ibid.).

For a major bank to call for such drastic action, it must recognize a big problem. That problem is *soaring debt levels*.

The BIS specifically accused the Bank of England's inflation policies for being responsible for Britain's record household debt levels, saying that by "pushing interest rates so low [the Bank of England] has encouraged the public to take on more debt" and has created dangerous imbalances (ibid.).

When a central bank keeps interest rates low, it makes money less expensive to borrow. Consequently, people are more willing to take on extra debt to fuel spending. This increased supply of easy money and the subsequent extra spending translates into increased demand for assets and results in rising asset prices—such as in the housing market.

Further enticing people to take on more debt, as pointed out by the BIS last year, is the fact that the "world's central banks ... [have held]



CONCERN Bank of International Settlements in Switzerland

interest rates at or below the rate of inflation" (ibid., June 29, 2005; emphasis ours). The BIS specifically rebuked the United States for "running a loose monetary and fiscal policy."

The European Central Bank has noted that, in Europe too, interest rates are at "historical lows" and when adjusted for inflation they are practically zero or negative—just as they are in the U.S.

When inflation-adjusted interest rates are zero or negative, it destroys people's incentive to save. For example, if you were to put \$100 into a savings account that earns 3 percent interest, after one year you would have \$103. However, if inflation is running at 4 percent, after one year (and taking into account your interest earned) your \$100 has actually become worth only \$99 in inflation-adjusted terms.

In other words, by saving money, you actually lose money.

In its recent report, the BIS noted that the debt problem went beyond Britain and was especially bad in "a number of English-speaking countries [where] a decade-long reduction in the household saving rate and a significant increase in consumption" has been occurring (op. cit.).

As reported by the *Telegraph*, the BIS highlighted the fact that the countries with the largest external deficits—the U.S., the UK, Australia and

New Zealand—also are the countries with the largest "internal imbalances," such as rising housing and other asset prices. Accordingly, rising asset prices "have led to higher perceptions of wealth, and more spending"—and more debt (ibid.).

But compounding the negative household savings rates in the English-speaking countries is that, on a federal level, these same countries are also running deficits and holding increasingly large debts—further contributing to imbalances like asset bubbles.

This is especially so in the U.S., where the current account deficit is now at a record level of almost 7 percent of the country's gross domestic product (value of all goods and services produced in one year). When other countries, such as Argentina, have approached and exceeded this percent, their currencies have experienced a marked drop in value.

So just where are all these imbalances leading? To a huge crash—the biggest ever.

What is preventing a crash for now is the fact that demand for U.S. dollars is still strong because the dollar is the world's reserve currency—a status now being challenged. Once that status deteriorates, then watch out!

As America's economic imbalances and debt build up, even its current status as the reserve currency controller will not prevent it from becoming vulnerable to currency collapse and hyperinflation.

Since raising taxes and slashing benefits and services are tantamount to political suicide, watch for government leaders to try to take the seemingly easier path out of debt—the path they have already started down—the path that might be hid for a little while longer, the inflationary path.

book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*), upon obedience to His commandments, "rain in due season"

so the "land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit" (Leviticus 26:4).

On the other hand, God also says the modern-day

nations of Israel will experience curses if they don't obey. Amos 4:7 says, "And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon,

and the piece whereupon it rained not withered." Can we see this scripture come alive in recent months?

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WILD A grass fire burns in Oklahoma January 1.

warnings we receive now are nothing compared to the far greater disasters the U.S. and the world will soon experience. Powerful forces of nature are yet to be fully unleashed (see Revelation 6:5-8 and Revelation 8:4-12). Relief from adverse weather will only come if we repent.

RELIGION

HERE IS NO DOUBT DAN Brown's mystery novel The Da Vinci Code has ignited millions' interest in Jesus Christ. Sadly, all the curiosity has little to do with the truth. Brown's book is based on teachings from heretical Gnostic gospels rejected by early Christian leaders. Its wild popularity demonstrates that millions are bored with the Bible, and that human beings prefer fiction over fact. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy: "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:4). We are living witnesses to this fact. It is happening right before our eyes.

Now religious scholars are eagerly waiting the unveiling of another Gnostic gospel—that of Judas. National Geographic, hoping to ride the Brown tidal wave, is expected to release the first translation of this ancient Egyptian Coptic text near the same time Brown's book hits movie screens.

Since it appeared in 1983, the "gospel of Judas" has been surrounded with intrigue. The fragile document has been blocked from view because of intense international negotiations. It was purportedly stolen from Egypt and then caught in decades of illicit trafficking. At one time, the manuscript was offered to collectors for \$3 million. Now scholars will finally get to see the document. Will it be as valuable religiously as it has been internationally? Some people want the gospel to be similar in style to Brown's novel—"everything you thought you knew about Jesus and Judas is wrong"for purely monetary purposes. A heavy price has been paid to obtain and translate the document. So, if the gospel of Judas is like Brown's book, there could be a rich return.

However, what is truly tragic is that some want the heretical gospel to be similar to Brown's novel to undermine the truth about Judas's reprehensible betrayal of Christ. Some scholars will not be satisfied until they fully tear apart people's faith in the divinely inspired truth about Jesus and Judas. David van Biema reported in Time about the new gospel: "[T]he rumor of its publication has stirred intriguing discussion. Queried by the newspaper La Stampa, Vatican historian Monsignor Walter Brandmuller noted that the tractate might shed light on early Christianity even if the text had been found heretical. Vittorio Messori, a layman who has co-written books with popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI

Let Us Introduce ... JESUS CHRIST!

Who was Jesus Christ? Why did He come to this Earth? What did He accomplish? Here is amazing truth about Jesus Christ. BY DENNIS LEAP



(when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger) is more effusive. 'Jesus's words about Judas ["It had been good for that man if he had not been born"] are tough,' he told *Time*. But 'Judas wasn't guilty. He was necessary. Somebody had to betray Jesus. Judas was the victim of a design bigger than himself" (February 27).

Could any religiously sane person accept that Judas was not guilty of the single greatest betrayal in human history? Shouldn't religious institutions stand up strongly against such heretical slop? The title of *Time*'s article about the Gnostic gospel was "A Kiss for Judas." How far off is modern religion when Judas is portrayed as a star and not a villain?

NOT SATISFIED WITH CHRIST You need to see that Brown's book and the media hype over the gospel of Judas

are part of a movement to shift people's focus away from the incredible truths about Jesus Christ onto meaningless and false religious fantasy. Yet, not only scholars and the media are guilty: Traditional Christianity shares the blame for the attack on the truth.

Why is traditional Christianity at fault? Many different views of Jesus Christ are taught within a much-divided Christianity. It is no wonder many throw their hands up and ask, "What is the truth?" Much falsehood is being spread about Jesus Christ within churches claiming to follow Christ. Jesus testified to this very fact in Matthew 24:4-5. He looked into our time and warned that many would teach that He was Christ—and deceive many!

So, what are the fruits of modern religion? People are skeptical about and



WHERE HE WALKED

The Sea of Galilee is one of many places where Jesus Christ walked and taught.

the Bible in his book *Mystery* of the Ages. This book clearly explains why Jesus came. You need this book. It will be sent to you free upon request.

Mr. Armstrong wrote: "Neither professing Christians nor their scholarly theologian leaders today comprehend the major PURPOSES for which Jesus Christ came!" That is a bold statement. On proof, we know Mr. Armstrong is right. What about you? Are you being taught the fascinating Bible truth about Jesus Christ? Or are you being taught about a made-up Christ, the creation of some man's limited mind? Do you know the purposes for Jesus Christ coming to this Earth? The majority do not. Shockingly, most people just have fuzzy notions. We need a clear picture about what Jesus Christ accomplished while on Earth.

WHY JESUS CAME

Why did Jesus Christ come? It is not the reason most have been taught or think. Herbert Armstrong wrote: "Jesus did not come to save Satan's world while Satan sits on the

throne deceiving them. Jesus will save the world at His Second Coming, when Satan shall be put away. Why, then, did Jesus come more than 1,900 years ago? Not to rule, not to reign over all nations, not to save the world while Satan still rules over them" (ibid.). This is certainly an unorthodox statement. The truth of the Bible is unorthodox.

If Jesus didn't come to save the world, then why did He come? There were five main purposes for Christ's *first* coming. Mr. Armstrong continued: "His human birth was the arrival of the 'second Adam.' He had come ... to qualify, where the first Adam failed, to replace the former archangel Lucifer on the THRONE OF THE EARTH, ruling with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD." This fact is foreign to most people. It appears stranger than any work of science fiction.

To fully understand this point, you must first prove the existence of the Almighty God. (Our free booklet Does God Exist? can guide you in your study.) He holds a high purpose for all mankind. Second, you must prove that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God. (You may find our free booklet Proof of the Bible of interest.) Within the pages of the Bible is incredible revelation that only God can give to man. Mr. Armstrong often referred to the Bible as a coded book. In our time, the code has been broken. The Bible is the mystery thrill-ride of all time! God will decipher it for anyone who is willing to believe and obey it.

THE SECOND ADAM

Here is what the Bible says about the creation of man. After creating all the animals after their kinds, God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

Read this verse with unbiased eyes. It is incredible. Man did not descend from animals. We are created after the God kind! Man is created in God's likeness physically. Further, God is in the process of creating man in His image spiritually, building His very righteous character in all who are willing. Why? Man was created to rule. His first dominion is Earth, as a testing ground. After Earth, man will be given the entire universe (Hebrews 2:8).

The same opportunity had been offered to angels. But God wants proof that created beings will rule under His great government and authority. Lucifer, the most powerful, capable and talented angelic being God could create, became infected with pride and vanity. He refused to rule this Earth God's way (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28). He wanted to rule his way. He led a rebellion of angels to kick God off the throne of the universe (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Lucifer became Satan, and his angels, demons. Through their rebellion, they brought Earth to ruin.

God scrubbed the plan for angels and began it again with man. Why? Because of the angelic catastrophe, God knew He could rely only on Himself to rule and preserve the universe. Now God is recreating Himself through man. This subject is covered thoroughly in *Mystery of the Ages*.

Those steeped in education based on the theory of evolution and liberal

dissatisfied with Christ. We see spiritually starved people going about seeking some new thing. The media and scholars are delivering what people want. Judas is being made to look more important than Christ. It is simply crude blasphemy to even suggest that Judas was a victim—a pawn in God's plan.

During the Passover season, people should focus on the truth about Christ and what He accomplished on Earth—not Judas! Certainly there are lessons to be learned from Judas. The number-one lesson is: Don't betray Christ. The current hubbub about *The Da Vinci Code* and gospel of Judas does just that. Any educator or minister who says either of these works contains truth is being disloyal to Christ.

Herbert W. Armstrong summarized his life's work as a passionate student of

RELIGION

Christianity view the creation of Adam as myth or allegory. Yet he was a real human being with the same intellectual faculties we enjoy today. The Bible record shows that God explained fully to Adam and Eve their transcendent purpose, and He educated them about how to achieve it. God then tested their obedience and loyalty to what He had revealed. How? He allowed Satan to get to them (Genesis 3). This fallen angel was successful in tempting Adam and Eve to disbelieve God. Appealing to their vanity, Satan was able to convince Adam and Eve to live life independently of God. Humanity has suffered terribly ever since.

When Adam and Eve failed, God did not abandon His plan for man. All along, God intended to provide the means to rescue man from the clutches of the adversary. He did this through the person and example of Jesus Christ.

When Christ came to the Earth, He had to do what the first Adam failed to do—overcome Satan. Jesus Christ's universe-shaking battle with Satan is recorded in Matthew 4. This chapter is seldom discussed in churches, yet it is pivotal to coming to a full understanding of Jesus Christ. Study this chapter thoroughly. Mr. Armstrong wrote: "This perhaps was the most important, momentous, decisive confrontation and battle ever fought in all time in the universe" (ibid.).

The battle between Christ and Satan concluded with Christ as victorious. Winning this battle over Satan not only qualified Jesus Christ to assume the throne of Earth, but by doing so He also opened the way for all mankind to rule as members of the Family of God. The Apostle Paul explains: "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). This verse is enough to make one dizzy. Jesus Christ came to make it a reality.

ANNOUNCE KINGDOM OF GOD

Just after defeating Satan, Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry. Matthew 4:17 tells us, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The two incidents are directly related. Jesus Christ could not preach the coming Kingdom of God until Satan was deposed. Mr. Armstrong stated: "Jesus Christ, the second Adam, had QUALIFIED! Never until that minute could the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD be announced to the world. Now the Son of God resisted and conquered Satan—had QUALIFIED to reestablish God's Government and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD on the Earth" (ibid.).

So the second purpose for Christ's first coming was "to announce the future establishment of the KINGDOM OF GOD and

The Kingdom of God
will be a world-ruling
kingdom. Jesus Christ
will be King over
the entire Earth. His
bride—the true Church
of God—will rule
right next to Him.

teach that prophetic good news (gospel) to His chosen future apostles" (ibid.).

Jesus Christ was simply the greatest newscaster of all time. When He walked the Earth, He literally passed on to the people at that time the shocking news headlines of today and of the world just ahead of us. The biggest story—"Jesus Christ Returns to Start New Civilization"—will be written in our generation. God had prophesied centuries before Jesus Christ was born that a Messenger would come to this Earth and bring good news directly from God (Malachi 3:1). Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, did just that (Hebrews 1:1-3). He foretold of a time when "all things" would be restored (Acts 3:21). Satan has removed the government of God from Earth and, to this point in time, has successfully suppressed the truth of God (Romans 1:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4). When Jesus Christ returns, all of Satan's evil works will be undone. The creative work of God throughout the universe will proceed uninterrupted. Man is destined to have a significant role in that wonderful future.

How real is the Kingdom of God to you? Modern Christianity does not teach about the Kingdom of God. It does

not know that the Kingdom of God is the ruling Family of God-potentially consisting of billions of sons of the stature of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:13). Recognize that the Kingdom of God will be a world-ruling kingdom. Jesus Christ will be King over the entire Earth. His bride—the true Church of God—will be ruling right next to Him. The Kingdom of God is not some spiritual sentiment. The Prophet Daniel knew what the Kingdom of God was all about. Study Daniel 2:36-45. This chapter gives the incredible history of the world-ruling empires since the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel talks about four empires ruled by men-the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman. The fifth world empire the Kingdom of God-will last forever. It is time you come to understand the true *good news* brought by Jesus Christ.

DIE FOR US

Mr. Armstrong explained Christ's third purpose on Earth: "to take on Himself, as our direct Creator, the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross—that we might share in that [future] world" (ibid.).

Many today have stripped the divinity from Jesus Christ. Many agree that Jesus was a great religious leader. Only a few know about Jesus Christ's pre-existence as the Word of God.

This astounding truth is written down clearly for us in John's Gospel. He states: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ..." (John 1:1-2, 14). Jesus was God. He had an eternal history with God before the creation of angels, the universe and man. The astounding truth is that the Word was made flesh.

Why did the Word have to be made flesh? Mr. Armstrong explained: "Why was it necessary that Jesus be actually God in the human flesh? Why was it necessary that He be God? Why was it necessary that He be human? As God, He was the Maker of all mankind. In Ephesians 3:9 it is revealed that God created all things by Jesus Christ. When Jesus was born as a human, His life as our Maker was greater than the sum total of all human lives. Since it is humans who have sinned and come under the death penalty, God's law required human death as the penalty for human sin. But, as our Maker, Jesus was the only human whose death could pay the penalty for the sins of all humans.

"In no other way could the Creator God have redeemed a vast humanity condemned to the penalty of death" (ibid.). As our Maker, Jesus Christ proved His loyalty to His creation and His deep devotion to the plan of God to build a divine Family.

Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament. He revealed Himself to Moses as the "I Am" in Exodus 3:14. In Isaiah 57:15, Christ is described as the "high and lofty One." The people, upset that Christ taught with authority, essentially asked Him, "Who do you think you are?" He responded, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). Read the rest of the account. Jesus Christ told the people of His day who He was. They did not believe Him, and they tried to stone Him for revealing the truth. Yet, Christ was still willing to die for them, for us and for all humans who have ever lived or will live.

The astounding reality is, Jesus Christ's death was the death of a God. What a commitment God and Christ have made to us. Can we grasp it? Paul thoroughly explains how precious the blood of Jesus Christ is in Hebrews 9: 11-15, 26-27. Study these verses.

When we deeply meditate on all these important facts, doesn't Jesus Christ deserve our highest respect?

OPEN THE RESURRECTION

What is the reward of the saved? Most assume that it is a life of ease in heaven. Nowhere in the Bible is man promised heaven. The Bible clearly states that man's afterlife will come through a resurrection from the dead. Jesus Christ told His disciples: "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). He boldly describes the resurrection in John 5:25-29. Christ demonstrated His power and authority to resurrect the dead by bringing Lazarus back to life (John 11). The fourth purpose for Christ's first coming was to open the resurrection for mankind.

Mr. Armstrong continued, "And He had come ... to be resurrected from the dead by God, making possible ETERNAL GOD-LIFE for the people of God and after His Second Coming for all who are willing, of all humanity, who have ever lived on this Earth" (ibid.). Many speak about the resurrection from the dead in vague terms. None but the Church of God understands the full significance of this doctrine. The Bible shows that there are three resurrections. For a further explanation, please request our free reprint article "The Three Resurrections." It is

important to recognize that salvation comes through the resurrection.

According to the master plan of God, there is a time order for salvation. Paul explains: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father ..." (1 Corinthians 15:20-24). Mr. Armstrong

The astonishing truth is that Jesus Christ is the only firstborn Son in the Family of God. Multiple millions more will enter into the God Family through a resurrection.

explained: "[O]ne more supremely vital truth. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was that of a human being and the only one that could make possible the resurrection of humans, once dead, to immortal life" (ibid.). Recognize that the resurrection of the dead is all about the God Family. God intends to give men "eternal God-life."

The astonishing truth is that Jesus Christ is the only firstborn Son in the Family of God (Romans 8:29). Multiple millions more will enter into the God Family through a resurrection. After His resurrection, Jesus Christ told Mary Magdalene: "[G]o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17). Jesus Christ and God the Father are so excited to have a family.

ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH

Mr. Armstrong gave the fifth purpose for Christ's first coming: "to establish God's Church, to be trained to rule under Him" (ibid.). In *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert Armstrong discusses one of the greatest mysteries in our time: the answers to the questions what is the Church,

and *why is the Church*. Few know the answers. You must come to know. Who can answer those questions for you?

Jesus Christ promised His disciples: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus Christ promised that His Church would always exist. Where is Christ's Church today? Is it possible that the Church includes all the disagreeing sects we see around us? The Bible clearly states that God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). He works through one group of people at a time. He also states clearly that it would not be a large organization (Luke 12:32). You need to locate God's one true Church.

The purpose for the Church is directly tied to God's purpose for creating human beings. God intends to re-establish His government on Earth. Christ established the Church to train leaders to rule with Him at His Second Coming. Mr. Armstrong explained: "The Church may be called God's teachers' college to prepare rulers and teachers for the Kingdom of God when God does offer redemption and eternal life to the world as a whole.

"The Church was planned to be God's instrumentality for calling predestined human beings out of this world to be trained for positions of leadership in the World Tomorrow, when they shall teach and train others. That is why in the New Testament, the Church is called the firstfruits of God's salvation" (ibid.). Are you training to rule with Christ? The Bible states emphatically that the true people of God are kings and priests in training (Revelation 1:6; 5:10). The true Christian life is one of work, effort and study. It is similar to preparing for an exciting, challenging and rewarding career.

Paul criticized the Hebrews for falling behind in their training as teachers (Hebrews 5:12). What about you? Is your religious life a training ground, preparing you for an awesome future of accomplishment? Or is it a stale, boring, going through meaningless motions kind of existence? Your religion should be meaningful, thrilling and successful. You are responsible to take the first steps to make sure that happens. Then God will bless your efforts.

To get the full meaning of the five points discussed in this article will require much additional study. Will you devote the time? Realize that no Gnostic gospel can give you the depth of understanding that God can through the pages of His Bible.

LETTERS

Don't Forget India

BEING AN INDIAN, I APPRECIATE YOUR effort in raising your readers' understanding about India ("Don't Forget India," April). ... However, I don't agree with your conclusion that eventually India will align with China. There is very little in common between modern China and eternal India. A non-democratic, anti-religious China does not offer any coherence with democratic and religious India. ...

Sanjay Mishra—Indiana
The Trumpet bases its assessments on the prophecies of the Bible. In many cases, the prophesied outcome can appear contrary to present circumstances. But God has proven His infallibility in fulfilling His prophecies in enough cases to give us confidence that those remaining will occur as He has said.

FIRST, I HAVE JUST PICKED UP MY FIRST copy of the Trumpet and find myself embracing a magazine that speaks the truth. After many years of traveling abroad and working for this great nation, I have concluded that the politicians and military will never solve the turmoil in the world. Additionally, our religious institutions have been used ... to fuel much of the fire and resentment toward other cultures and religions. Having experienced many religions and many cultures, I can honestly say that there is truly good and bad in this world, not defined by religion or culture, but actions of individuals and groups. ... The absence of religion in America's diplomatic processes has led us down the wrong path. Let's ask ourselves how we measure our effectiveness and if we are helping solve the world's problems. ...

Todd—South Carolina

Unpopular Parenthood

I LIKE WHAT YOU SAY SOMETIMES, BUT sometimes you are very presumptuous and judgmental without having a true grasp on how it is to be a young person today, such as your article talking about population ("Unpopular Parenthood," April). I agree that abortion is wrong and that it is a contributor to this drop in population, but there are MUCH, MUCH larger problems with this issue! ... For one, it is such a cruel and evil world today, many young people today don't want to bring children into this world! If it's going to end soon and the Tribulation is

coming, why would you want to bring children into that suffering? Many of my friends and I don't have children for that reason alone. Also, the economy is not what it was when you baby-boomers were growing up! It is three times harder to raise a family financially nowadays than it was for you! That's why many people in my generation (Generation X-ers) still live with their families until later in age. Another main reason is that it is really, really hard to find a decent partner and have a good relationship nowadays! It's hard to find someone you can trust or have a family with. I appreciate what you said to a certain degree, but I have a problem with how so many churches (not just yours) don't have anyone young giving their input on what the real problems are today or any young ministers (at least 40 and below!) speaking on behalf of Generation X and the one behind us! ...

Brent Berg—Arizona We certainly sympathize with your concerns and frustrations. As evils in this world increase, so do the challenges of building godly families. However, becoming educated in God's family laws, and seeking God's guidance and protection, provides us with the tools we need to fulfill this beautiful task. Incidentally, the author of that commentary, whom you presumed to be a baby boomer, is a 33-year-old minister with a wife and two daughters. We will consider printing articles addressing the problems you raised.

I have been getting the *Trumpet* for a while now. When I read the first magazine I was hooked. I knew there was a reason for all the events that are happening in the world. I didn't know how to analyze it until I read your magazine. A lot of people do keep their heads in the ground like they don't know what is happening. But I do know that it is going to get worse before it gets better. Thanks for keeping me informed and keep up the good work. You can't reach us all but the ones you do appreciate it.

Frances Bugera—St. Pierre Jolys, Man.

Death of Manufacturing

As a former high school Industrial Education teacher 1966-72, I knew that "The Death of American Manufacturing" (February) began in the late '70s and was declared "obsolete smokestack industry" in the early '80s. The problem was the lack of an educated direct labor workforce. In the mid '60s, the nation's schools declared that an academic high

school education was for students attending college, but not for students learning to work with their hands, rather than their minds, in manual vocational skills! ... Without an educated direct labor workforce in the United States, manufacturing jobs are going overseas where there continues to exist an educated workforce capable of setting up, operating and programming Computer Numerical Control machine tools. The idea that academically deficient young people can be taught to run the machines is an academic myth!

Richard Becker—Broomfield, Colo.

I GREW UP IN LAWTON, OKLA., WENT to Okla. State, and joined the Infantry after I graduated from osu. I am now serving in the 101st here in Samarra, Iraq (where the big mosque was blown up). For years I have been reading your magazine and have been amazed and intrigued by your sage outlook on world events. Thank you so much for the wisdom and info I can only find at your website (www.theTrumpet.com). ...

Paul Gray—IRAQ

African Corruption

I have been receiving your magazine for quite sometime now [It] makes you think about what God thinks of every situation occurring in the world. I must, however, make some complaint about the impression most writers have about Africa. Although it's a known fact that most African leaders are corrupt, it's also a fact that their money is kept in banks abroad, especially in Western nations. From this it could be deduced that although the African leaders are corrupt, in a way they are assisted by the Western nations. This is not good for Africa. Secondly, Africa is not a place without hope like you say in your magazine.

Shoyoye Omotayo—LAGOS, NIGERIA The Trumpet is a message of hope. But we do not put our hope in man—whether from Africa, the West or anywhere else. Our hope is in God, whose law, properly obeyed, frees us from corruption, and who alone has the ultimate solutions to the problems plaguing every continent in this world.

Comments?

or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083

Overpraised Children

The fallacy in feeding our youth's self-esteem by Joel Hilliker

AM EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN I THOUGHT." "TODAY I will remind myself that I am a marvel." These syrupy "thoughts for the day," found in the book *Today I Am Lovable*: 365 Positive Activities for Kids, represent a myth that infects modern child rearing and education. This false idea, intended to help our children, actually damages them.

What is it? That *praise* is not just the best, but in fact the *only*, motivator for children.

This idea saturates children's programs and interactive toys and games. When a child does something right, rather than a simple "That's right!" they say, "Wow—you're really SMART!"

American schools in particular emphasize *self-esteem* as the chief virtue, divorced from achievement or even effort. Thus, children are routinely sheltered from the sting of failure—and therefore trapped in a sunny fantasy world in which bad behavior and poor performance have no negative consequences.

The kernel of truth in this myth is that children grow up and perform best in a positive environment—that an enduring climate of criticism can be withering. Of course we want our children to be confident, well-adjusted and happy. But overpraise is not the way to get them there.

In a book called *The Feel-Good Curriculum*: The Dumbing Down of America's Kids in the Name of Self-Esteem, Maureen Stout pinpoints several destructive myths that have taken root in our educational system—including: high expectations damage self-esteem; evaluation is punitive, stressful and damaging to self-esteem; discipline is bad for self-esteem; effort is more important than achievement; it is the teacher's, not the student's, responsibility to ensure learning.

Let's face facts: High self-esteem is wildly overrated. Repeated studies have proven that bloated self-worth doesn't improve a child's academic performance, strengthen his interpersonal relationships, help him avoid self-destructive behavior or translate into adult success. In fact, it often hinders a person in all these areas.

Is this any surprise? A child raised on the notion that he is a marvel—just as he is—has no motivation to improve.

Stout makes a strong case that these ideas, which infect our public schools from kindergarten through college, lead directly to narcissism (preoccupation with self), detachment from one's community, rejection of absolute truth, and cynicism. She also shows a correlation with the dumbing down of curricula, grade inflation, loss of motivation (among teachers as well as students), an unmerited sense of entitlement and the ridiculing of critical thinking skills.

Do we really want our children thinking, "I am even more amazing than I thought"? As one educator put it, who in the world wants to hang out with someone who thinks like that? Studies have shown that self-esteem can actually become self-delusion—a conviction that you are more popular, more capable, more loved, than is really the case. Such self-centered

attitudes only alienate other people. At the same time—almost paradoxically—the overpraised child can be addicted to approval from others.

Children who are taught self-worth with no link to personal achievement generally face crushing shocks when reality finally comes knocking, challenging their artificially high opinions of themselves. As we approach adulthood, praise dries up; life's trials get tougher. The overpraised child, having long been shielded from small failures, finds sudden, big failures overwhelming.

When we look at this issue spiritually, we really see its sinister side. The originator of the self-esteem movement is Satan, whose heart was lifted up because of his beauty, who was obsessed with his own brightness (Ezekiel 28:17). This spirit being, the prince

of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), pumps our carnal human nature with his egomaniacal attitudes. (Our free booklet *What Is Human Nature?* explains this truth.) In other words, our children already get enough training in *loving themselves above all others* without any prodding from misguided educators and overeager parents.

God, eminently aware of our vain proclivities, filled His Bible with warnings against flattery and insincere praise like these: "... a flattering mouth worketh ruin"—"A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet" (Proverbs 26:28; 29:5). In Psalm 49, God spells out "the fate of those who have foolish confidence" (verse 13, Revised Standard Version), and it isn't pretty.

That's not to say that praising our children is wrong, of course. We should think on what is praiseworthy and commendable (e.g. Philippians 4:8). But empty, indiscriminate praise means nothing. Children should receive *sincere*, *specific* praise *when appropriate*. When they scrawl out a crayon picture of clouds, "That's gorgeous!" is less meaningful—and

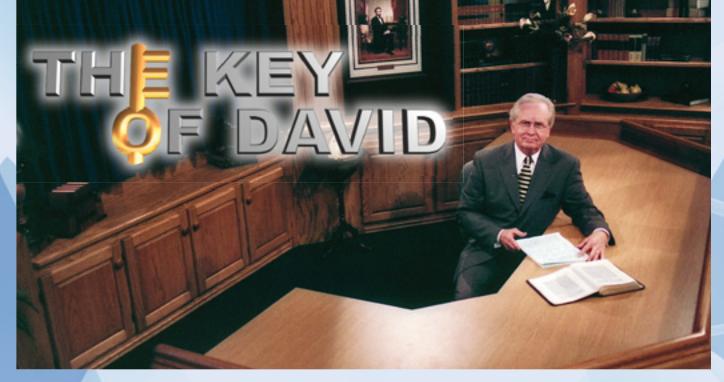
less truthful—than something along the lines of, "I like how you're using different colors," or, "Wow—you're learning how to draw on paper what you see outside."

Such conversations also lend themselves more to your giving gentle guidance on how to *improve* the next time. Handled correctly, constructive criticism won't make our children flinch. We want them to accept it as a boon to personal growth and a crucial part of life. *Loving correction, gra-*

ciously received, is one of life's greatest gifts. That is a lesson even our children can begin to understand.

Rather than trying to inject our children with self-worth, we need to help them see *reality*—the way God helps *His* children. And reality is this: *You are a child. As you strive, you grow. You have much yet to learn. But I love you, and always will—even when you fail—as long as you never give up.*

Consider: It is only when we recognize our own inadequacies that we can see the need to seek God's help to live the right way—the way that will bring happiness. As Jesus Christ told us, "Without me ye can do nothing"—clearly the OPPOSITE of *self*-worth. In the end, our children will need to recognize, deep in their heart, that, like all human beings, they can do nothing without God.



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JERUSALEM from page 16

those countries, and entering into the "glorious land"—Jerusalem!

The major cause of contention between the Arab people and Europe will be that city! One result of this battle will be the realization of the Catholic dream: The pope will finally rule from Jerusalem—however briefly. Daniel 11:45 tells us the religious head of this European superpower will "plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain" The two seas: the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean; the mountain between them: Mount Zion. This rule will be cut short; the rest of verse 45 tells us: "... yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

Do we see how critical Jerusalem is? That city is the focal point of all prophecy in this end time. There is nowhere more significant you could watch.

Most importantly, another religious figure has a profound interest in Jerusalem: Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Scripture tells us that ultimately He will reign from that city! The glory of that coming city of Jerusalem can be defined by seeing what it has been for the last several thousand years—and then imagining the opposite.

Up until now, Jerusalem has been a city of blood; when Jesus Christ rules, it will be a city of life.

Up until now, Jerusalem has been the city of religious contention and family division; in that time of peace, it will be the city of religious unity and family harmony.

Up until now, the Jews have been driven out of their homeland many times; soon, God's people will "go no more out" (Revelation 3:12).

Beyond that, God Himself will prepare a *new Jerusalem* from which He will rule the entire universe. Read Revelation 21 for an amazing description of how beautiful the new Jerusalem will be. Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt so many times that it is difficult to keep count; when God brings the new Jerusalem down from on high, it will never be destroyed again.

Jerusalem will become a shining example of perfect government and peace, not just for the Jews, not just for the Arabs—not even just for this planet—but for the entire universe.

Until that time comes, pay close attention to Vatican activity in and around Jerusalem; it is the precursor to the last crusade.

The world's flashpoint:



World news revolves around one city more than any other. Did you know that the *Holy Bible* forecasts today's headlines about Jerusalem—and with astounding accuracy? Who will control Jerusalem? Will Israelis and Palestinians achieve peace? How will the Jerusalem powder keg affect the United States, Europe and other nations? You can know!

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