

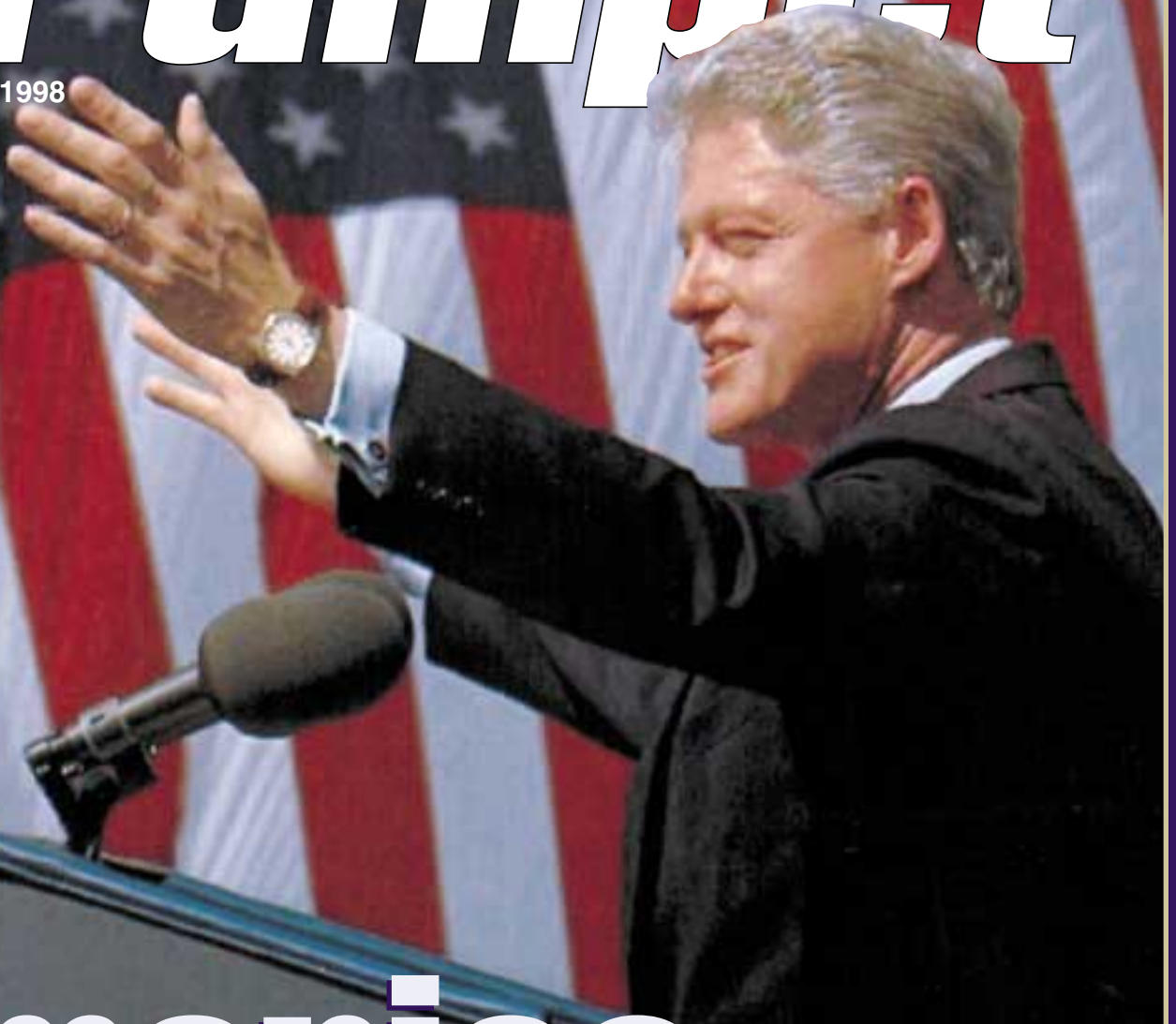
IN JAPAN WE TRUST



The Philadelphia

Trumpet

March/April 1998



America in Crisis

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Would Our
**Founding
Fathers**
Think?

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Personal...

Gerald Flury



A Titanic Lesson

Many people around the world are talking about the Titanic. They have either seen the movie, or television and newspaper reviews about the movie and the ship. As fascinated as everyone is, however, it seems to me that nobody has learned the important LESSON it teaches. And it does contain a titanic lesson and great symbolism.

The Titanic was the greatest ocean liner ever built at that time. It was called the “ship of dreams.” But on its maiden voyage the passengers’ dreams became their blackest nightmares. The reason WHY is where people should be focusing.

The Titanic was the largest single moving object in 1912, weighing 46,000 tons. It was built mostly to serve the wealthy. There was a “millionaire’s suite” and fabulous furniture and decor.

Many said the Titanic was “unsinkable.” It had been remarked by others that “even God couldn’t sink the Titanic.” These comments reveal an arrogant, God-defying attitude that led to the dramatic disaster.

There were 2200 passengers on board and 1500 of them died.

Captain Edward J. Smith was warned repeatedly about ice fields. He ignored them and went to bed two hours before the fatal collision.

It’s easy to ignore warnings. Millions—even billions—are doing it today. But we can’t ignore the icebergs!

After they struck the iceberg, it only took two hours and 40 minutes for the ship to sink. There is some very graphic film footage of the wrecked Titanic. It is two-and-a-half miles below the ocean surface. It really did sink! And 1500 people really did die.

So much for God-defying arrogance!

I’ll tell you what haunts me when I see video footage of the Titanic today. It is very emotional. I see Britain and America in a similar condition—if they fail to heed God’s warning message.

Our nations are headed for a disaster that will make people forget the Titanic tragedy, perhaps forever.

God is sending out the “ice field” warnings. But it is “a voice crying in the wilderness” (Isa. 40:1-10). That doesn’t mean the voice is out on a barren desert. But for most people it might as well be.

The voice is ignored or ridiculed by most people. They somehow think America and Britain are “unsinkable.” Like the captain of the Titanic, they ignore the warnings. They continue steaming ahead into the darkness.

God and His watchman see the iceberg hidden in the black, dark night—and warn and warn and warn. But it continues to be a voice crying in the wilderness.

After they strike the “iceberg,” then they will know that God’s watchman was in their midst (Ezek. 33:33). But then it is too late, physically.

Even if they don’t heed the message today, there is still great hope. God is calling out His very elect now. They are being trained to be captains to direct the ship of state—in the wonderful World Tomorrow. It will be a world of dreams that are fulfilled more than people can even imagine. They will be warned about the deadly icebergs and the people will heed the warning. Their dreams will be filled to the full and running over!

The greatest rewards ever to be given throughout eternity are being qualified for now. A small group is becoming God’s very elite because they hear God’s voice crying in the wilderness today. They get the glorious opportunity to be the one and only bride of Christ forever. There will never, ever be such a reward offered again.

This is the most titanic dream of all!

America in Crisis

BY GERALD FLURRY

We have seen many television and newspaper reports about the White House in crisis. But it goes much deeper than that.

The whole country is experiencing a nation-threatening crisis. You need to understand why!

SOME OF OUR LEADERS HAVE BEEN SHOCKED BY THE ALLEGED WHITE HOUSE SCANDALS. But there is another problem that is far more serious. Rick Santorum, a Pennsylvania republican, said he was “as much appalled by the reaction of the public” as by the alleged scandal itself.

The President has been given his highest approval rating by the American people, in spite of the alleged scandal. This is what should disturb us, and even frighten us, most of all. That would not have been the response of Americans even ten or twenty years ago!

This alleged White House scandal is not just about the White House. It’s about America and Americans. It’s about all of us. It’s about YOU!

The American people’s response is a frightening portent of our nation’s

future. If we fail to understand, that doesn’t make the bad news go away.

What does this radical change in America’s morals mean? And how is it going to affect you?

America’s Immoral Majority

That subtitle is the label given by The Observer of Britain, February 1, 1998. Often other people can view us more objectively than we can see ourselves. Ed Vulliamy had this to say (emphasis mine): “The more the White House and the public chastised the



President Bill Clinton's popularity has soared despite serious allegations against his character.

mass media, the more they delivered, detail upon detail. And the more they served up raunchy intrusions into the core of Clinton's, and America's, private life, SO THE TIDE BEGAN UNBELIEVABLY TO TURN.

"The notion that Clinton might survive this deafening collision in America's head between sex, God and power gained even more weight when his ratings rose to a record 68 percent on Friday night, within a few points of Ronald Reagan's best score. Even more Americans, a staggering 79 percent, told the CNN/Time poll they thought America was being well governed, an all-time record....

"Most important, the deliverance of the President from scandal would unpeel a deep tolerance among Americans that is belied by Bible-bashing

rhetoric and all-American stereotypes. It would be the victory of the saucy smile in the Country & Western joint over the severity of the preacher. For better or worse, a victory for what is practiced over what is preached....

"Bill Clinton's pastor since 1980 has been Dr. Rex Horne at the Immanuel Southern Baptist Church.... Horne spoke candidly, if in code. 'It's not a unanimous kind of thing,' he said of his flock's relationship to the President. 'But even his political opponents—who have been sowing the seeds of this scandal for years now—even they're hoping it ain't true. It's humiliating; IT AFFECTS ALL OF US.'...

"I don't think people around here are that concerned about the moral or spiritual side of all this.... THE VERY WORST THING,' he says, 'WOULD BE IF ALL OF THIS WERE TRUE, AND PEOPLE DIDN'T CARE.'...

"HORNE HAD BETTER PREPARE FOR HIS WORST-CAST SCENARIO, BECAUSE AMERICA DOES NOT CARE."

Mr. Clinton's pastor said the "VERY WORST THING would be if all of this were true, and people didn't care." Why the "very worst thing"? Because of what it means for the future of America.

What happens to nations when they reach a stage where they don't care about private morals or character?

Our Constitution was structured ONLY for a people with strong character. Our constitutional system will collapse without pure morals.

The Voice of the Forefathers

Here are a few quotes from men who wrote and built upon the Constitution. Our second President, John Adams, said, "Statesmen may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is RELIGION AND MORALITY ALONE which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand." James Madison said, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not on the power of government...[but] UPON THE

CAPACITY OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO GOVERN OURSELVES ACCORDING TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD."

What a powerful and frightening statement. James Madison knew that "the whole future of American civilization" was at stake! And if we Americans

fail to govern ourselves by the Ten Commandments, this country is going to collapse into anarchy! The same holds true for any country.

Mr. Madison gave us a wonderful definition of character and its importance. It's also his prophecy for America.

Our Founding Fathers created the Constitution. It will be perilous if we ignore their deep understanding. The Constitution was established only for a people with strong morals. But we have degenerated terribly

in this area. Without character our liberties must lead to deep division and anarchy. Only character can stop that natural flow of events.

What makes our forefathers' statements so weighty is that they agree with God!

Abraham Lincoln stated, "Unless the great God who assisted [President Washington] shall be with me and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind and Almighty arm that directed and protected him shall guide and support me, I shall not fail.... Let us pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now."

The Civil War almost destroyed America. Only the faith of Mr. Lincoln and the American people got us through that tragedy.

In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, "I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it." Our forefathers knew that DECAYING MORALS MEANT A DECAYING NATION!

Recently, Justice Stewart Potter said it was impossible to define character. But many of our forefathers knew

Our forefathers knew that decaying morals meant a decaying nation.

character meant not committing adultery and not lying. They knew that character is keeping the Ten Commandments.

Here is a quote from the Associated Press: “Ann Martin, 18, a conservative college student from Lynchburg, Va., said the public’s attitude leads her to worry about the country. ‘When we have a leader who lies, what does it say about us?’ she said. ‘When we don’t care, what does that say about our ability to choose a leader?’” (Feb. 3, 1998).

This young lady has much wisdom. If the American people don’t even care, how can we choose a strong leader? And without strong moral leaders, nations fall—especially freedom-loving democracies. As she said, when we have this attitude, it’s time to “worry about the country.”

However, while many people can see the problem, almost nobody sees the solution.

The Family Breakdown

I grew up in a family with some serious problems. Many of us have been victims of dysfunctional families. President Clinton is no exception.

Here is what Newsweek magazine wrote on February 2, 1998: “Everyone in Clinton’s immediate family suffered from some kind of compulsive disorder or addiction. His biological father, William Blythe, who died before Bill was born, was a major Lothario [womanizer] and quite possibly a bigamist. (Some therapists say dopamine levels—linked to addictions, including sex—can be inherited.) His stepfather was an alcoholic. His brother, Roger, was a cocaine addict. And until her death, his beloved mother, Virginia, had a box seat at the Hot Springs race-track” (Jonathan Alter, “Clinton on the Couch”).

Like many of us, Mr. Clinton grew up in a flawed family. And this problem is rapidly getting worse in America.

Here is what the same magazine reported about Monica Lewinsky: “At the heart of the story is a young woman’s craving for recognition and attention. Monica Lewinsky grew up pampered but possibly emotionally neglected in Beverly Hills, Calif. Her father was a cancer doctor with a busy practice; her mother was a socialite who loved to drop celebrity names. She lived in a million-dollar house; dad drove a Cadillac, mom drove a Merce-



“Children learn the meaning of morality, religion, and respect for law from the habitual fidelity of their parents to one another.”

John Adams

des; the housekeeper took Monica and her brother, Michael, to tennis lessons, Hebrew school and the orthodontist. When Monica was 15, her parents went through a nasty divorce. In court papers, mother charged father with ‘screaming obscenities’ and ‘belittling the children’ by, on ‘many occasions,’ saying ‘leave the dinner table,’ ‘go to your room,’ and ‘we don’t want your opinion.’ (Bernard Lewinsky denied the allegations.) Other court documents listing the family’s expenses included \$760 a month for psychiatrists’ bills for the children. Last week Monica’s classmates at Beverly Hills High remembered her unkindly as a girl who had ‘gone to a fat farm’ and strived to be popular.”

Surely we can see that these were not strong families. There were some serious problems.

If our families are sick, they produce sick children! The solution lies in strong, moral-building families.

Let’s look at what our first two presidents believed about the family. “In short, the founders’ generation believed that men’s and women’s interests were complementary, and they saw marriage as the divinely ordained, nat-

urally good way to organize life. George Washington had started his presidency by pointing out that public life must be grounded on private morality. His successor, John Adams, devoted husband of Abigail, was even more specific: the ‘foundation of national morality must be laid in private families.’ He went on to say that CHILDREN LEARN THE MEANING OF MORALITY, RELIGION, AND RESPECT FOR LAW FROM THE HABITUAL FIDELITY OF THEIR PARENTS TO ONE ANOTHER” (Angelo Codevilla, *The Character of Nations*, p. 221, emphasis mine).

John Adams said the “foundation of national morality must be laid in private families.” That means the family must strongly teach its children not to lie and commit adultery!

If the families are not moral, how can the nation be moral? Our forefathers laid the FOUNDATION of a great nation. They built America with God’s blessings.

Today, we are destroying America and bringing God’s curses upon ourselves.

Does God Care?

America may not care about the morality of our leaders, but what does God think? Does He really care? The answer to that question is the most disturbing of all.

“The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly” (Jer. 23:20).

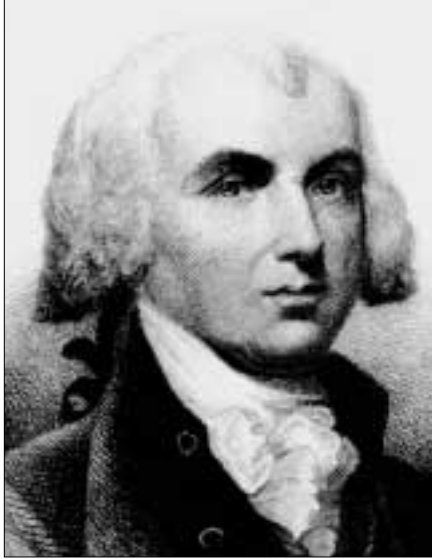
The expression “consider it perfectly” should read “understand it thoroughly.” That means these prophecies would be clearly understood in the latter days, or the end time in which we are living right now. That is because these prophecies are being fulfilled now. We see it happening all around!

How could this prophecy be any clearer?

God is full of ANGER. He is not neutral or unconcerned. This prophecy should strike fear in our hearts!

Here is why God is so angry. “I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies; they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah” (v. 14).

The leaders of the people commit



“We have staked the whole future of American civilization ... upon the capacity of each and every one of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments.”

James Madison

ADULTERY and walk in LIES. The two sins go together. Many people who commit adultery also lie about it!

Christ said in the New Testament that if a man even looks upon a woman with lust, he has already committed adultery. Christ magnified the law. He did not do away with it, as many religions teach!

But where is it all leading? It is not only the leaders who are sinning. They are “as Sodom” and the “inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.” Our leaders lead the people into the most disgusting sexual sins of all. It is the grossest kind of immorality.

That is the way lust works. A person starts with one lust. It soon fails to stimulate his evil desire. Then he twists his mind to a more disgusting lust—until we have reached Sodom and Gomorrah!

It is only logical that the “inhabitants” of a Sodom-and-Gomorrah society would not expect their leaders to have exemplary marriages and families!

God THUNDERS that our Sodom-and-Gomorrah society CONDEMNNS ALL OF US! Our nations have rebelled against our Creator, the living God.

The depth of our sins is staggering.

America spends over \$4 billion annually on pornography. That is more than we spend on professional baseball! So this is not just ghetto pornography. This cesspool material is being consumed by MAINSTREAM America.

Only a fool could fail to see how pornography rips families apart! America leads the world in producing pornography—and divorces.

Of course pornography is only one problem which helps to destroy our families. Our peoples have “sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hos. 8:7).

If we don’t stop the process, our nations become like Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19). Then God has to destroy us as He did them! “Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked” (Jer. 23:19). God is going to send a grievous whirlwind—the Great Tribulation. That is going to be the worst time of suffering ever (Dan. 12:1).

God is addressing Israel (Jer. 23:2). That is primarily America and Britain today. (Write for our free booklet, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy.*)

Disrespect for Leaders

Here is a quote from the February 3, 1998, *New York Times* (emphasis mine): “In Norman, Okla., David L. Boren, the former United States Senator who is now president of the University of Oklahoma, said that when he asked his freshman American Government class about the scandal, almost all the students said THEY BELIEVED PRESIDENT CLINTON WAS LYING, and they

but what do you expect from a politician?”

“‘To me IT’S DEEPLY DISTURBING,’ he went on, recalling the awe he felt when he saw his first President, Harry Truman.

“‘IN TIMES OF CRISIS, TIMES OF HARDSHIP,’ Mr. Boren said, ‘a level of trust between the American people and their Government, particularly their leader, is an essential element of what’s needed in the country. We have passed from anger about what’s going on in our political system to cynicism and alienation. And to me, CYNICISM AND ALIENATION ARE MORE FRIGHTENING THAN ANGER.’”

These students believe the President committed adultery and lied—and it makes no difference to them!

Mr. Boren finds this deeply disturbing. And so do I. But more importantly, so does God! As Mr. Boren said, “In times of crisis, times of hardship,” you must have a deeper trust and character to survive.

And those times of crisis are fast approaching. Do we grasp how fast our morals are declining?

“But instead of hothouse, the atmosphere surrounding the scandal might be described as funhouse, with the country awash in lewd jokes, aided by the presidential material that has become the mainstay of late-night television shows. The bawdy show is illustrative in itself. Jay Leno, host of ‘The Tonight Show,’ said he now tells jokes he could not possibly have told on the air just ten years ago” (ibid.).

We are witnessing greatly accelerated degeneration in character. MANY IN AMERICA ARE LAUGHING AT THE SCANDALS. BUT GOD ISN’T LAUGHING!

Many in America are laughing at the scandals. But God isn’t laughing!

tended to respond: ‘All politicians are crooks, very few of them tell the truth, few of them are faithful to their spouses, so why not have one who’s smart and knows how to get things done?’ he said. ‘That’s almost an exact quote. The attitude is, we really don’t respect him,

Almost nobody understands why our ancestors—biblical Israel—fell as a nation. The book of Judges is a part of the Former Prophets. That means it contains prophecy for today. History does indeed repeat itself. Here is why they fell. “In those days there was no

king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

Every man did what he thought was right. That means the people didn’t trust their press, their politicians, or their religious leaders. The big question is, why? The answer is in today’s headlines and all around us! The people were deeply degenerate and cared only for themselves. That led to their downfall. The leaders couldn’t call upon the people to make deep sacrifices in desperate times. The people didn’t trust the leaders.

God had it written in a book so we could learn from and avoid the same mistakes. It’s God’s loving concern. But it’s of no help if we don’t heed!

Any good history book would teach us that we are headed for disaster.

The Law

Douglas Cox worked in the Office of Legal Counsel for Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Here is what he stated in the Wall Street Journal, February 2 (emphasis mine): “Some may argue that perjury prosecutions arising out of civil cases are comparatively rare, as indeed they are. But the ENTIRE JUSTICE SYSTEM is predicated on the theory that witnesses will tell the truth. PERMITTING A CULTURE OF LYING TO TAKE ROOT IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WOULD ULTIMATELY DESTROY THE SYSTEM.”

He believes a lying culture would ultimately destroy our justice system! (Or has it already?) That means the nation would collapse into anarchy or worse.

Our leaders, both secular and religious, should be the chief examples and enforcers of the LAW. That is what unifies the nation. If our leaders are examples in breaking the law, our system of justice must certainly fall apart.

Can we afford not to care about adultery and lying in America? If Americans don’t care, how much longer can we stand?

If we truly believe in God, we had better act like it! Otherwise our sins are going to end in the worst possible catastrophe!

And that is going to happen whether we believe God or not!

Deceived Ministers

Who does God blame most of all for our sins? The religious leaders most of all. “My brethren, be not many mas-

ters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation” (James 3:1). The word “masters” refers to the ministers. They are going to be condemned more severely. They are supposed to represent God.

What did James teach about the Ten Commandments? “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (James 2:8). He called it the ROYAL law.

What if we break only one of those Ten Commandments? “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty” (vv. 10-12).

We are all going to be judged by the law of liberty. IT IS NOT A LAW OF BONDAGE, AS MANY RELIGIOUS LEADERS TEACH! These deceived leaders often teach that the law has been done away. Even our forefathers, who were not ministers, knew better! These ministers are going to be condemned more strictly than other people, because of the office they hold.

If we don’t keep the law, we are without works. “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (vv. 14-16). It is a law of love (I John 5:3). We must protect our neighbor, not prey on his wife or property!

James is condemning dead faith. “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (vv. 19-20). So what if we believe there is a God. Even the demons do that! That is faith without works. We must keep God’s law—the Ten Commandments—to have faith with works.

That is the only kind of faith that will save the United States from national collapse. And there isn’t much time to learn that foundational lesson. ♦



Two hundred years is not long, considering the history of most nations. But with the United States, it’s as long as it gets! A little over two hundred years ago, our forefathers set out to establish a new nation—a nation, as Lincoln said, “conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” It was an altogether new experiment on the world scene—a nation for the people, ruled by the people, but under God. The Europeans didn’t think it could work. They believed it could only end in anarchy and eventual ruin.

Were the Europeans right? Has the grand American experiment failed? Let us consider two fundamental principles upon which the United States of America was founded. Then we should ask, is America still grounded on these principles today? And if not, what will be the final outcome?

In 1787, several of the greatest minds America has ever produced gathered in Philadelphia for what became known as the Constitutional Convention. Benjamin Franklin was there. So were George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton

FOUNDED ON A ROCK

To our Founding Fathers,
character was everything.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

and Gouverneur Morris. They gathered to write a Constitution. They knew they were sailing in uncharted waters—embarking on a bold new plan to establish a federal government for the purpose of unifying the colonies under one nation. But it was a unification that would affect all nations, as Morris prophesied when he said, “The whole human race will be affected by the proceedings of this Convention.” Morris’ declaration can hardly be disputed. After the Constitution became supreme law in the U.S. on March 4, 1789, America quickly ascended to astonishing heights—becoming the most powerful and dominant nation this world has ever known.

But to what extent can that awesome development and growth be attributed to America’s humble beginning? In the Bible, God places special emphasis on starting small, and on the right foundation. Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, “Which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs...” (Matt. 13:32). And in the parable of the sower in the field (Matt. 13), He said that unless that small seed starts right, in fertile ground,

it can never develop.

As far as human government goes, the United States started about as right as any government man has ever produced. Critics today can say what they will about why it started right. But the Founding Fathers all seemed to be in perfect agreement on the issue. The country began in fertile ground because it was founded upon religion and morality. These are the two fundamental building blocks upon which America was built.

“New Israel”

The Founding Fathers may not have known that America’s earliest settlers were in fact descendants of Israel (write for The United States and Britain in Prophecy for proof), but they certainly likened America to a “New Israel.” Historians and political commentators alike recognize this fact.

William J. Bennett wrote in his latest book, *Our Sacred Honor*, “What made this country different from all others was a prevalent belief that God played a direct and active hand in founding a people. Like the Jerusalem of old, America’s ‘New Jerusalem’ was to become God’s promised land to the

oppressed—an example to all humankind” (p. 366).

New Jerusalem. Promised land. These are biblical terms. There was a tendency, Angelo Codevilla wrote in *The Character of Nations*, for “Americans to equate themselves with the children of Israel.”

Probably the first American statesman to see a parallel between the Exodus and early American history, was Benjamin Franklin. According to Milt Machlin, author of *Joshua’s Altar*, Franklin “described the independent colony on America’s shores as ‘God’s new Israel,’ and proposed that the Great Seal of the United States should depict Moses with his rod uplifted and the Egyptian armies drowning in the sea.” According to Machlin, Thomas Jefferson recommended a similar design patterned after the Exodus.

Just as the Israelites of old fled from an oppressive Egypt to settle in a new land given unto them by God, so did many of the early colonial settlers flee from

religious persecution to the shores of America—a land they claimed to be theirs by God’s divine right. This biblical concept is what Manifest Destiny was all about—a belief that it was God’s will for America to stretch from sea to shining sea—from the Atlantic all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

“Without God’s blessing,” Bennett wrote, “many of the Founders, especially Washington, believed that this country would never have come into being” (op. cit., Bennett).

Religion and Morality

Indeed, George Washington, America’s first President, championed this cause: that high morals and sincere religion had to be the fundamental building blocks of American society—if it was to succeed and prosper. In his First Inaugural Address on April 30, 1789, President Washington said, “The foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality.” What we do in the privacy of our own home does matter! For Washington, this was not a peripheral issue. It was the foundation of our NATIONAL POLICY!

At the end of his presidential oath,



“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

George Washington

Washington himself reverently added the words “so help me God.” Every president since has followed in his tradition. And according to Washington Irving, after our first President concluded his oath, he bowed down humbly and kissed the Bible. Without religion and morality, Washington knew the American “experiment” was doomed to fail.

Washington’s ideals were not unlike those of his fellow Founders. Benjamin Franklin, a self-proclaimed non-churchgoer, was nevertheless very religious. In his *Autobiography*, he listed thirteen points to follow for attaining moral perfection, the last of which was to “imitate Jesus.” During the Constitutional Convention, when the delegates arrived at an impasse, it was Franklin who offered this solution: pray for the “assistance of Heaven.” That from a non-churchgoer!

Even Thomas Jefferson, considered an atheist by many, demanded this of the American people in his *Notes on the State of Virginia*: “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?”

Study a bit of American history for

yourself. See what priority our forefathers placed upon religion and morality. It was the chief cornerstone upon which the country was built.

Notice what George Washington said during his famous Farewell Address in 1796: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” Washington said they are indispensable. To him, religion and morality were not optional. They were essential, at least if the United States was to experience success, prosperity, and peace.

For the Founding Fathers, adherence to this doctrine was essential for the American experiment to succeed.

Washington continued, “In vain would that man claim tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.” Those who worked to subvert these indispensable pillars, religion and morality, would be working in vain! So says George Washington. How many Americans would fall into this category today?

If the Founding Fathers were right, our greatness and success depend on how moral and religious we are. Let us now shift our attention from the Founding Fathers to the American people in the late 18th-century. What good, if any, did the God-fearing, highly moral leadership have on American society?

Early American Life

It should be noted that America, like any other nation at that time, had its share of brothels and philanderers. But those lewd, immoral practices were not nearly as prevalent in the mainstream as they are today.

For the most part, early America was deeply religious. We were a people who read our Bibles and took the instruction more literally than Americans do today. Unlike the showy services you see on TV, a church service back then was more like a classroom, where the teacher gave a lesson. That’s where they studied and learned about a higher law—a code of ethics. That’s where they learned the Ten Commandments; the same commandments, according to James Madison, upon which “we have staked the whole future of American civilization.” It was at

Character does affect leadership

The Bible reveals that character and effective leadership are as inseparable as hydrogen and oxygen in water. Joseph began his illustrious political career after his brothers sold him into slavery. Potiphar bought the rights to Joseph and very quickly entrusted him with everything in his house. Consider the character of this great man of God—Joseph. After Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him, Joseph refused, saying, “How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” Joseph then sprinted out of the house while she was ripping off his clothes!

Potiphar’s wife then lied to her husband and said Joseph tried to seduce her. Seething with wrath, Potiphar cast him into prison. But God was with Joseph because of his upright character. After he was freed from prison, he ascended to the second highest political position in Egypt—just below Pharaoh! (Gen. 41:41). And Joseph was an Israelite.

Joseph was a man of upstanding character. Egypt prospered under his direction. In fact, when a dreadful famine struck the region, surrounding

church services across the land where so many Americans learned about the children of Israel. “Nowhere else in Christendom,” writes Angelo Codevilla, “was the Old Testament read so much and the notion of God as law-giver so widespread.” Codevilla goes on to say that the tendency for Americans to liken themselves to the children of Israel was so common that it even spread among the Negro slaves. He said sincere religion and high morality were “something immediately obvious to visitors” (op. cit., Codevilla, p. 227).

The effect religion had on America was widespread. It influenced America from within, Codevilla said. Early American society was one built around the biblical sanctity of marriage and

nations came to Joseph for help because he saved the excess during prosperous times. He didn't lavishly spend more than he had. He didn't borrow from others to pay off mounting debts. He had no debts. He saved for the future. He exercised self-control in his own life, as evidenced by how he handled Potiphar's wife and Egyptian wealth. All of Egypt and the surrounding nations benefited!

When the people of Egypt cried out to Pharaoh because of the famine, even he knew where to turn in the moment of crisis. "Go unto Joseph; what he says to you, DO" (Gen. 41:55). What an example! Joseph lived right. Pharaoh knew that. And when things got tough, he turned the people to the one who had his own life in order and said, "Listen to what he says, and then DO it!"

During the famine, Joseph tearfully reunited with the brothers who sold him into slavery. The famine was so bad that eventually Joseph's entire family moved to Goshen, the choicest property in Egypt. The Israelites found favor with the Egyptians and prospered. But after Joseph died, a new king arose in Egypt who knew not Joseph (Exod. 1:8). He was concerned about the rising power of the Israelites. He grew to despise them. To weaken the tremendous power and wealth of the Israelites, the king made slaves of them.

For over 400 years, the Israelites were subjugated to their Egyptian taskmasters. God then raised up a man of character—a leader of fine, upstanding morals who feared God and obeyed His commands. His name was Moses.

Through this man, God delivered His Ten Commandments in codified form to the Israelites. Thou shalt have no

Uphold the law:

Moses governed Israel by the Ten Commandments.



other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honour thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not lie. Thou shalt not covet. Imagine how much better this world would be if leaders and subjects alike followed these commands, even by the strict letter! (When Christ came, He actually magnified—made bigger—those laws to include their spiritual intent. Not only is it sin to commit adultery, it's a sin to even think about it! See Matthew 5:27-28.)

Under the leadership of Moses, the Israelites again prospered. God led them out of Egypt and they became the nation of Israel. Soon, the executive responsibilities of Moses' job were too much for him to handle alone. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, offered this advice: "Moreover choose able men from all the people, such as fear God, men who are trustworthy and who hate a bribe; and place such men over the people..." (Exod. 18:21, RSV). They had to fear God first, and then they had to be honest and trustworthy—in their own personal lives. Otherwise Moses would not have selected them to lead.

In Deuteronomy 1, it says Moses chose wise men from the people who judged righteously; who didn't respect persons in judgment. He chose leaders who were fair, who did not dish out political favors to the prettiest people—or to those with the most money.

When Moses died, God offered this

family. "Since the founders had no doubt that popular government is possible only among virtuous people, they revered marriage as few people before or since" (op. cit., Codevilla, p. 220).

The 18th-century American family was organized with each member fulfilling his or her natural role, as defined in Scripture. The father was the head of the family, the provider and protector. Wives respected their husbands' authority and faithfully supported their men. They took pride in their role as "help meets" and enjoyed managing the household. The Founders viewed the wife's role as complementary to the husband's. Together, a husband and wife were a complete team: a well-organized family by which children could

be raised properly.

At the same time, our nation's leaders enacted laws designed to protect marriage and family. Husbands were obliged by law to support their wives; to pay off all debts they incurred. In some communities, dead-beat dads were sentenced to hard labor while in confinement. Divorce was illegal except in the rarest of cases. In the early 1800s, there were only a few hundred divorces in the whole country.

Clearly, the ideals and character of the Founding Fathers did filter down to individual families. And that's the way those great men wanted it. Six years before the Constitution was enacted, George Washington's objective for the country could not have been more

clear: "We have now a national character to establish." If a fledgling America was to get off the ground as a nation, it had to begin in each home.

Our second U.S. President, John Adams, himself a devoted husband, said the "foundation of national morality must be laid in private families." As leaders, Adams and his fellow-statesmen knew the linchpin for developing a prosperous, free society was religion and morality. As "founders" and great leaders, they were obliged to lead the way by example. This is a biblical principle. The scriptures say Jesus came to set us an example that we might follow in His steps.

Nothing can be more basic when evaluating the success or failure of

astounding promise to his successor, Joshua: “This book of the LAW shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to DO according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way PROSPEROUS, and then thou shalt have good success” (Josh. 1:8). Look how God-fearing character relates to prosperity and good success. God said if you are careful to observe what is written in the law and then DO it, you WILL prosper and be successful.

God blessed Joshua and the Israelites because of their willingness to obey the same laws God recorded for Moses on tablets of stone (Josh. 8:35). Joshua lived it. He taught it to his followers. And as the nation submitted to God’s will, they prospered and enjoyed much success.

After Joshua died, however, Israel endured much instability as a nation—mostly because of its immoral leadership. The book of Judges, more than any other book in the Bible, graphically illustrates this fact. That book clearly shows how the character of a leader does affect the people.

The first judge, Othniel, feared God and kept His commandments. Consequently, the “land had rest forty years” (Judges 3:11). As soon as Othniel died, the children of Israel did evil in God’s sight.

Living in sin, the Israelites did not prosper. Neither were they successful. It got so bad they finally cried out for God’s help. In His mercy, God raised up Ehud to deliver them from the

Moabites. Israel had rest for 80 years. After Ehud died, they again sank into the depths of evil and despair.

And on, and on, and on the cycle goes. Gideon, another God-fearing leader, tried to tell the people to obey God whether they had a righteous leader or not. But they wouldn’t listen. In the end, there was no king in Israel, and “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). By that point, it didn’t much matter what their leaders were doing. Nobody really cared! Everyone just did their own thing. Sound familiar?

In addition to the many outstanding strengths of God-fearing leaders recorded in the Bible, God also recorded many of their weaknesses. King David was an adulterer, a liar, and a murderer, and yet God called him a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22). Does that mean David was able to get away with his sin and still be an effective leader? Let’s see what the scriptures say.

When God confronted David with his sin, David realized that no matter how much he bamboozled the people into believing he was a righteous leader, he could not fool God. David was overwhelmed with shame. He replied sorrowfully, “I have sinned against the Lord” (II Sam. 12:13). David repented—deeply (Psalm 51). He changed from his wicked ways. And guess what? God forgave David!

Nevertheless, the aftermath of David’s lustful interlude with sin was not pretty. He suffered. And so did the

nation. Even though he repented, God told him the sword would never pass from his house. While David was alive, Israel was always at war.

God also told David, “I will raise up evil against you out of thine own house.” David’s son Absalom tried to kill his father. During Absalom’s rebellion, Israel erupted into civil war, during which tens of thousands of David’s own countrymen were slaughtered. Adonijah, another son of David, also rebelled against his father.

On top of all that, God sentenced to death the child Bathsheba conceived in adultery.

This was the chain of events triggered by David’s sin. And it would have been far worse had he not repented!

God will forgive our sins the moment we truly repent and change our ways. But what a tangled web we weave when we compound one sin, like adultery, with many more, such as lying and murder. The consequences, for the sinner, and for the people he leads, are disastrous.

God inspired writers of the Bible to record the character flaws and sins of leaders so we might vividly see HOW SIN DESTROYS! It destroys individuals. It destroys nations. Destruction may not come immediately. In fact, on the outside, things may look pretty good. But when the “famine” sets in, as it did in Joseph’s day, who will the people turn to? Will they look to immoral leaders who are only concerned about serving themselves? Of course not! They’ll be looking for a “Joseph.” But this time around, they won’t find him.

nations through man’s 6,000-year history: character does affect how leaders lead; and the character of a leader, whether good or bad, does greatly influence the people. As Codevilla wrote, “What the great do in a grand way, lesser folks do as they may.”

Why Religion and Morality?

In 1776, the year Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his cousin, “It is religion and morality ALONE, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.” There it is again. Why did the Founding Fathers keep pointing back to these fundamental building blocks? Adams himself answered that question in 1798,

while serving as President: “Our Constitution was made only for a MORAL and RELIGIOUS people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

There’s the answer! They kept referring to religion and morality because, as Adams said, our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people! Now the question is, WHY? Why was the Constitution written only for moral and religious people? Why was it inadequate to the government of any other?

Alexis de Tocqueville’s 19th-century observations on the American republic answer this critical question. After touring America for two years in the early 1830s, he returned home to

France and wrote his political classic *Democracy in America*. Like the Founding Fathers, De Tocqueville acknowledged that religion and morality were indispensable to the maintenance of the American republic. Why indispensable? He said that while the constitutional law of liberty allowed Americans complete freedom to do as they please, religion PREVENTED them from DOING THAT WHICH IS IMMORAL AND UNJUST. In short, De Tocqueville surmised, liberty could not be governed apart from religious faith, lest there be anarchy.

Without the moral restrictions of a higher spiritual law, the liberty afforded Americans in the Constitution WOULD BE ABUSED. George Washington knew

that! So did the rest of the Founding Fathers. That's why they kept harping on religion and morality. They did not want to see the United States of America self-destruct.

Today, Americans have departed from the ideals of our forefathers. We reason that religion and morality are nice, but certainly not necessary for the overall well-being of the nation. We have been led to falsely assume that private morality and public duty are separate issues. George Washington would have been appalled by such reasoning. And he was the father of our nation. Abraham Lincoln would have been appalled. And he saved the nation from ruin during the Civil War.

Times have certainly changed in the United States of America. Imagine a fornicator or adulterer being publicly ridiculed because of his sin. For that matter, imagine a public official even calling those acts sinful. Does it seem old-fashioned? It wasn't two hundred years ago.

Consider the changes in America over the past two hundred years. When Americans go from proclaiming that a free society can only exist when founded on private morality to thinking that character just doesn't matter, it is time to ask some hard questions about the future of this nation.

The Final Outcome

Because our forefathers likened the fledgling nation of America to the children of Israel, it seems fitting to conclude this article by summarizing the story of that ancient biblical nation, chosen by God.

God delivered the ancient Israelites out of Egypt by the hand of one of their forefathers, Moses. At long last, freed from religious persecution and the oppression of slavery, they departed with shouts of joy, singing praises to God.

At Mt. Sinai, God delivered His moral code of ethics to Moses on two stone tablets. When Moses returned to the people, he told them all that God had said, and what God expected of them in morality and religion. If they agreed to abide by this strict moral standard, in return, they could have absolute freedom and abundant prosperity. Very quickly the people answered in unison, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

But they didn't. Shortly into their



"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?"

Thomas Jefferson

journey, the Israelites became more concerned about their own desires and lusts than they were about what was right for the nation—what was right in God's eyes. And so they wandered around in the wilderness for forty years, prohibited by God from entering the Promised Land.

After their generation died, a new one matured which trusted in the words of Joshua, Moses' successor. With a high hand, they crossed the Jordan River, routed the walled-city of Jericho and settled in the Promised Land—a prosperous land flowing with milk and honey. Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua. And they prospered and had good success.

But when Joshua died, Israel lost an extraordinary leader. They also lost their passion for serving God and for subjecting themselves to an exalted moral standard. They turned to other religions. Their morality deteriorated. Their families divided. The nation suffered. Occasionally, while in the midst of a sore trial, the people would cry out to God for deliverance, and God would

respond. He would send a leader who feared Him and kept His commandments; a leader who was a man of truth; who wasn't led away by his own lusts. And that upright statesman would lead the Israelites out of the hole they had dug for themselves.

But when that judge died, they again forgot their God. Finally, it says in Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

And so what was the end result of their miraculous deliverance from the oppression of Egypt? Anarchy. There was no common standard or purpose. There was no real political authority. Everyone just did what seemed right in their own eyes. And the final outcome of their anarchy? The great nation of Israel was eventually ripped apart and separated into two nations—the northern kingdom of Israel, and the southern kingdom of Judah. For many generations, God pleaded with both kingdoms to return back to that high moral standard which, at one time in their history, had afforded them much success and prosperity. But they rejected God's pleas and His law—to their own shame.

In 721 B.C., the people of the northern kingdom of Israel were uprooted out of their own land by a ruthless and cruel Assyrian nation, thrust into slavery, and lost from world view to this day. Judah didn't fare much better. They were overrun by the Babylonian Empire and made slaves in 604 B.C.

After such a promising start, the ancient nation of Israel rejected God and His moral standard, turned to anarchy, became divided, and eventually went into captivity.

Today, "New Israel" is on course to follow in that same path. We have forsaken our God and the ideals of our forefathers. Every man does what is right in his own eyes. No one seems to care about the character of our leaders. How could we, when we don't care about our own character?

As Alexis de Tocqueville said, any free society founded on liberty, yet without a sacred moral code to govern the actions of individuals, cannot stand. It can only end in anarchy. Because America has forsaken the ideals of our Founding Fathers, because we have forsaken our God—that is where we are headed. As it turns out, the Europeans were right. The grand American experiment has failed. ♦

DIVORCE IS NO LONGER A BAD WORD. Here is what I mean. I grew up in the 50s. You seldom heard the word “divorce” spoken then. When it was spoken, it always carried the connotation of shame or failure. Not today. Divorce is now a very common thing. It is the popular theme in country songs. What afternoon TV “soap” would seem normal without it? Divorce has become a casual part of conversations. We often hear: “When did she divorce?” or “When did he divorce?” Today, divorce is accepted as a normal part of life.

According to Melvin Belli and Mel Krantzler, authors of *The Complete Guide for Men and Women Divorcing*, “Divorce is now widely seen as a normal though painful life event, since one out of every two marriages end in divorce. Each year, two and a half million American men and women get divorced, which signifies that every person you meet has been touched by divorce—if not their own, then that of someone in their families or among their friends, co-workers, or acquaintances” (p. 59).

Is divorce normal? Should it be so widely accepted?

Marriage-for-life is an endangered species. Recent statistics show that for every ten marriages, six will end in divorce. That is an unbelievably high number. This means six out of ten marriages will fail. This fact represents a sobering national tragedy: in America, divorce is becoming more common than marriage. Yet, this is not just an American tragedy. High divorce rates are also evident in other Western countries. The survival of marriage as an institution is now seriously threatened. All should be alarmed. Too few are.

What is a Family?

Experts agree, society is a reflection of its families. Stable families produce stable societies. Does our world have stable societies? The truth is, our prosperous societies are not stable. They are down-spiraling out of control and our family life is the center of the vortex. Many seem to be asleep to this fact. Divorce is a painful sickness in our modern families and the sickness has spread into society. It appears that few

Rampant Divorce

National Suicide

Is there a connection between America's tragic divorce rate and other growing national problems?

BY DENNIS LEAP

are now able to stop our spiral downward. And each day our society grows more sick and more violent.

Man is proving that he cannot solve his own problems. Instead of correcting the problem, often we allow the problems to change us. This is true with divorce. A recent newspaper article proves this point. It was titled, “France asks ‘What is a Family?’” Here is an excerpt: “The French are breaking new legal ground in dealing with changing notions of the family.

“Divorce is on the rise, as is the number of single-parent families. More unmarried couples are living together, and more people approve.

“The result is a radically different society than from a generation ago, a change the French government is acknowledging with new legislation that would give unprecedented legal rights and benefits to unmarried couples. But the plan has provoked strong resistance from some, who feel it would weaken France’s social fabric. It has also raised difficult questions about who and what constitutes a family.

“‘The nature of family is changing,’ says sociologist Eric Fassin. ‘When you have a revolution of gender relations as massive as it’s been in this country and others—contraception,

women in the workplace—it’s not surprising’” (Gaoutte, *The Christian Science Monitor*, Nov. 28, 1997). There are some shocking statements made in this article. It tells us much about our modern world.

As a society, we are changing our notions and beliefs about marriage and the family. But why? Change can be either positive or negative. Are these new notions good? The family used to be viewed as a rock-solid, well-established, long-standing institution. Should the institution be changed? We must ask, are our changing beliefs improving the institution, or tearing it apart?

Similar to the United States, the author shows that the divorce rate is rising in France. In addition, so is the number of single-parent French families. (We would naturally expect the two to rise together: a divorce with children involved leaves behind single-parent families.) Notice that the author also shows that there is an increasing number of couples living together outside of marriage. Couples no longer recognize the need to get married. And, as the author states, more people approve. This is the most alarming point.

Divorce is on the rise, and more

people approve. Single-parent families are on the rise, and more people approve. Couples are living together outside of marriage, and more people approve. Now the government of France wants to give more approval by giving new legal rights to unmarried couples. French conservatives are upset, and rightly so. The new French law is written so openly that homosexual or lesbian couples could qualify for government protection. In other words, homosexual and lesbian couples could be defined as a family.

Isn't the above article a warning that we are succumbing to tragic problems instead of solving them?

Isn't this all a sad statement about our modern society? We can't solve our family problems, so we redefine the family. And our society simply grows ever more sick.

If There Is No God

Experts admit our society has radically changed. But it is not for the better. Society's problems are growing worse, especially in our families. As one example, look at the problems with our youth. Children are neglected and abandoned. Teen pregnancies are at an all-time high. Youth violence and crime are on the rise. A 1996 National Teen Violence Survey shows that even teens recognize they live in a violent world. Teens know that the further they move from their homes, the more violent their situation becomes. Many fear to go to school. Some carry a weapon for protection, yet this only increases the violence. Young people are killing each other. Something must be done—quickly! We cannot just look at these problems as if in a stupor. We cannot stand on the sidelines and say, "Yes, society is getting worse." How do we SOLVE these terrible problems? What is the root cause of our youths' problems? Can't we see that it is our broken family life? To resolve these problems, we must fix the family. Fixing the family begins by fixing failed marriages.

As a nation, we must begin to see our rising divorce rate as a huge failure. Divorce is not the solution to solving marriage problems. When a marriage is in trouble, it is easier to end the marriage than to work at solving the problems. Fixing marriage and family problems takes time and much hard work. Divorce is often used as the easy way out. However, does divorce really end

problems? Often it creates more problems. We must motivate ourselves to stop the tragedy of divorce.

Where do we gain our motivation to stop divorce? Certainly not from this world's educators. Our modern education system has wholeheartedly accepted the theory of evolution as its foundation. This theory conveniently gives us a creation without a creator. Since man "evolved," the theory reveals no purpose for man. Educators reason that if man is in a continual state of evolution, so are his institutions such as marriage and family; all change is just a part of the process. Why has divorce become so rampant and so accepted? Let's be honest—God has been left completely out of the picture. If there is no God, then divorce is a viable option. But if there is a great Creator God, then the picture of divorce changes completely.

If God created man, there must be a purpose for man. What is that purpose? If we recognize that God created man, we must also recognize that God created marriage. There must also be a purpose for marriage. If we are going to stop divorce, we must get God's view on the subject.

In God's Likeness

What does God say about divorce? Can we know what God thinks? Yes we can. God reveals His thoughts on divorce in His book, the Bible. What is God's view of divorce? He hates divorce. "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: For one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously" (Mal. 2:16). The phrase "putting away" is one of the Bible terms for our modern word "divorce." God views divorce as a violent and treacherous act. God warns that we should take heed to not be involved with divorce. Why? It deeply hurts all involved. Many experts recognize the serious negative emotional and financial affect divorce has on women and children.

But divorce also adversely affects men. Ellie Wymard discusses this in her book, *Men on Divorce*. Here is a quote from this landmark book: "Michael's face grew red and he began to cry.... 'I still love what she once was. I could have accepted her death because death is a part of life. When you're in love and married, you fear and dread death

for yourself and your spouse. But you know it's inevitable. I hurt every minute and wanted it all to be just a nightmare. I was exhausted because I could never sleep. Yet I could never get out of bed in the morning. I would sit and stare out the window. I did nothing. My sister and brother would stop by every morning just to get me on my feet'" (p. 9). Divorce is a cruel destroyer.

In addition, divorce flies in the face of God's ultimate purpose for man. Why did God create man on this earth? What is God's purpose? "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:26-27). The book of Genesis is viewed as myth to the highly educated of this world. But in this book, God reveals His purpose for the creation of man! This book contains vital knowledge. If every human being fully understood this book, what a different world we would have.

God reveals here that man was created flesh. However, man is not an animal. Man was specially created after the God kind. Man—male and female—has been molded into the form and shape of God. Man is flesh, but God is a spirit (John 4:24). God's spirit body has a head, hair, eyes, a voice, hands and feet. Study Revelation 1:14-16 as proof. These verses describe Jesus Christ in His glorified form. In our flesh we share God's likeness. And God intends that we also share in his image or character. This means that God put man on this earth so that we might grow to be like Him spiritually as well. Man was put on this earth to develop God's character. Yet, there is even more that must be understood.

God Is a Family

To fully understand God's purpose for man, we must understand who and what is God. God reveals much about Himself in Genesis 1 by giving us His name as Elohim. Herbert W. Armstrong understood God better than any other religious leader in our time. He fully explains the meaning of God's name in his final book, *Mystery of the Ages*. "Now once again in Genesis 1:1:

‘In the beginning God....’ This was written by Moses as God inspired him. Moses wrote in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated ‘God’ is Elohim—a noun or name, plural in form, but normally singular in grammatical usage. It is the same sort of word as family, church, group—one family consisting of two or more members—one church composed of many members—one group of several persons.

“It is referring to precisely the same Persons, making up or composing the one God, as we found in John 1:1—the Word and God—and each of those two Persons is God.

“IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS NOW A FAMILY of Persons, composed so far of only the TWO—God the Father and Christ the Son. But IF the Holy Spirit of God dwells in someone, and he is being led by God’s Spirit (Rom. 8:14), then he is a begotten son of God. But, at the time of Christ’s return to earth in supreme power and glory to set up the kingdom of God, restoring the government of God abolished by Lucifer, then all being filled and led by God’s Spirit shall become born sons of God. The GOD FAMILY will then RULE ALL NATIONS with the government of God restored!” (pp. 50-51). God is a family. God’s ultimate purpose for man is to be born again as spirit beings into the God family. Eventually all saved human beings will look exactly like Christ does today (I John 3:2).

Only when human beings grasp this knowledge can they understand why divorce is so wrong. God is a family. Man was made after the God kind. So man was also created to be family. The non-provable theory of evolution hides these vital facts.

God Created Marriage

At the creation of man, God also created marriage. Marriage is not an institution that evolved with man. It was created for the benefit of man. “And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18). Adam was not created complete in himself. So God created the perfect complement to him—Eve. Then God married them. After presenting Eve to Adam God said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). This is the history of the first marriage ceremony

in its briefest details. But there is still a great lesson here, if we are willing to learn.

Herbert Armstrong wrote, “The MARRIAGE and FAMILY relationship is a God-plane relationship—higher than even an angel-plane relationship. And God bestowed it on man because man is being now prepared for the MARRIAGE and FAMILY relationship forever in the God family!

“Think of it! Of all life forms—whether plant, animal, human or angel, in all that God created, MAN ALONE was created for MARRIAGE and FAMILY life!

“In the Kingdom of God—in the God family—there will be MARRIAGE and FAMILY relationship—BUT NO DIVORCE!” (Marriage and Divorce, p. 20). God intended mankind to experience family life on earth, to prepare us for family life in the future as members of the God family.

In God’s Kingdom there will be marriage and family. Jesus Christ plans to marry the Church at His return (Rev. 19:7). At this point in time, the Church is being fashioned into a fit bride for Christ, just as God fashioned Eve for Adam (Eph. 5:30-32). We marry now so we can learn how to be married to Jesus Christ in the future. We have family life now so that we can learn to be a part of God’s family in the future.

Can we begin to see why God hates divorce? Divorce destroys the safety and security God intended there to be in families. Divorce will not exist in the future family of God.

From the Beginning

But didn’t Moses allow divorce? Yes, Moses did allow divorce. But God never intended it to be that way. In fact, Jesus Christ corrected what Moses had allowed. The religious people of Christ’s day had a liberal attitude toward divorce. “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:3-6). Jesus Christ always spoke with authority. He



False advertising: Divorce is easy to come by—but hard to live down.

spoke with authority against divorce. The Pharisees were always challenging Christ. Here they tried to trick Him into speaking against Moses.

To answer their question on divorce, Christ went back to Genesis, to the creation of man and marriage. Christ relied on the authority of the Bible. God made man male and female and then bound them in marriage. No man can legally separate what God has joined together. These religious leaders should have been able to answer their own question. Even here they rejected Christ’s answer. They continued, “Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?” (v. 7). Christ gave them an authoritative answer: “Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning IT WAS NOT SO” (v. 8). Christ explained that Moses allowed divorce because the people had carnal hearts. But notice that Christ said, “From the beginning it was not so.” God intended for a man or a woman only to have one wife or one husband until death. God never intended for anyone to have multiple living wives or



husbands.

God's Laws Protect Family

God put into effect the Ten Commandments to ensure that man would enjoy a happy and successful life. Three of these commandments were specifically designed to protect the family. The fifth commandment, Honor your father and mother, ensures respect for parents (Exod. 20:12). This commandment also establishes authority in the home. Children must obey their parents. The seventh commandment, You shall not commit adultery, preserves the marriage bond (Exod. 20:14). This commandment was designed to prevent sexual infidelity. It was also designed to prevent premarital sex and sexual perversion. Few people, married or unmarried, follow this commandment today. The tenth commandment, Thou shall not covet, preserved a neighbor's possessions (Exod. 20:17). The phrase "Thou shall not covet your neighbor's wife" was designed to prevent remarriage while a spouse was still living. Statistics show that those who divorce and remarry are more likely to divorce and remarry again. Today it is normal for divorced people to be remarried two or three times. This is not only emotionally wrenching, it becomes total confusion

when children are born into the separate marriages. Many children grow up with multiple step-parents and step-siblings. All of this shows the vital importance God places on the family and marriage. If we truly desire to fix our marriage and family problems, we need to get back to and obey these commandments.

America as a nation is at a serious crossroads. Our President's alleged sexual infidelity is the topic of nearly every newspaper and news program worldwide. Yes, there is a crisis in the White House. But there is a far greater crisis in the nation. Most people do not care even if the President did commit infidelity. WHY? If we look at our high divorce rate, we can easily assume that many, many people in this country are also COMMITTING SOME FORM OF SEXUAL INFIDELITY! The moral fabric of our nation has seriously deteriorated. We have great economic prosperity—but we also have a high divorce rate. We have broken families. We have gangster youth. No wonder we are plagued with crime upon crime.

There is a great living God who deeply cares about our nation. We are the latter day children of the ancient nation of Israel. Mr. Armstrong proved this fact in his book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. (You can have a copy of this book, free upon request.) The prophets of old warned ancient Israel about their many sins. But the majority of these warnings were intended for the people of our time, in our nation.

Land Full of Adultery

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God says, "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right" (Jer. 23:10). God says it all very clearly—our land is full of adulterers. This means our marriages are not right. Americans are marrying and divorcing and remarrying. But do we care? In this verse, God says there is a direct connection between our national divorce rate and our growing national problems. The phrase "their course is evil" implies that we are aggressively running after our evil ways like runners in a race. We are a nation that has lost sight of the purpose for marriage and family. The results are going to be dis-

astrous. Our nation is going to suffer dire consequences. God will punish us for our sins.

Jeremiah says our land will mourn and the pleasant places will be ruined. The United States has been suffering intense natural disasters for the past five years. Our food crops and cattle have been seriously affected. Now El Niño has struck both the east and west coasts—in both Florida and California. Many in this country would consider these two states as very pleasant places. These states thrive on tourism. And they produce most of our vegetable and fruit crops. People hardest hit in California can't take much more. But there will be more to come unless we repent individually and as a nation.

The phrase "their force is not right" implies a failure in military action. The Hebrew word for "force" means valor, victory, mastery, might, mighty (act, power), power, strength. It's a military word. God warns us that our national sins are destroying our military might.

God states in the book of Leviticus, "And if 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 I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (Lev. 26:18-20). Does God want to see our nation fall? No! God simply wants us to repent of our sins and return to Him. God wants us to start living His way. God would stop all of the evil that is prophesied to come upon us, if we would repent.

Is it too late to stop our national downside? If we would listen and turn, and turn quickly, the answer is no. However, time is running out. As a people, we need to get back on track in our marriages and in our families. Our high divorce rate should wake us up. Herbert Armstrong wrote, "The very foundation of any nation's solidarity, strength and power is a solid and stable family structure. When a nation's family life is breaking down, that nation is disintegrating—committing national suicide!" (Marriage and Divorce, p. 9). Let's heed these wise words. As a nation, let's examine ourselves and correct our troubled family lives. Let's not commit national suicide. ♦

"In God we trust"

has become an empty slogan on U.S. money. America no longer relies on God, but instead looks to foreigners to keep its economy afloat.



TSUNEO NAKAMURA/INDEX STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Ginza, Tokyo, Japan at night

“THE UNITED STATES HAD been dealt history’s finest hand. Even as late as 1980 it had a far richer endowment in natural resources, human abilities, and inherited wealth than any country EVER. [Yet] this endowment had been squandered....” So wrote author R. Taggart Murphy on page 223 of his book *The Weight of the Yen* (emphasis mine).

Today, there are those trying to “talk up” America with a show of unmerited confidence so that the present “bubble” economy and over-valued stock market will continue an unabated upward climb. Yet it is obvious to any right-thinking person that the United States is in an ever-deepening spiral of decline. America’s economy only appears healthy.

In the years between 1980 and 1987, America transformed itself from the world’s greatest creditor nation into the world’s greatest debtor, with a humiliating national debt now in excess of 5.4 trillion dollars. Truly, America’s great prosperity has been squandered! To understand how America lost that prosperity, we must understand the source of the “natural resources, human abilities and inherited wealth.” How did the United States of America receive “history’s finest hand”?

The Blessings of Abraham

The late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote on page 9 of his 1980 version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, “It may not be generally realized—but neither Britain nor the United States became great world powers until the nineteenth century. Suddenly, in the very beginning of the nineteenth century, these two—until then small, minor countries—suddenly spurted to national power and great-

In Japan We

ness among nations, as no nations had ever grown and multiplied in wealth, resources and power before.

"By 1804 London had become the financial hub of the world. The United States had exploded out of its swaddling clothes of the 13 original states and had acquired the expansive Louisiana Purchase. It was fast sprouting up to become the mightiest nation of all time. But Britain burst forth to greatness first, and until the World Wars had become the greatest empire, or commonwealth of nations, in all history.

"Between them the British and the American peoples had acquired more than two-thirds—almost three-fourths—of all the cultivated physical resources and wealth of the world. All other nations combined possessed barely more than a fourth." (If you have not already done so, please write for your free copy of United States and Britain in Prophecy.)

All of this happened because God promised in Genesis 12:1-2 that He would make a "GREAT NATION" out of the descendants of Abraham. That nation was ancient Israel, and America and the commonwealth nations of Britain are its primary descendants. Many other scriptures support Genesis 12:1-3—for example, Genesis 17:1-8; 22:16-18; 24:60; 26:1-5; 27:26-29; 28:13-14; and 35:11. The modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, in particular America and the British nations, were GIVEN national prosperity, in payment of God's promise, through a superabundance of natural resources, human abilities and inherited wealth. And America went on to become the greatest single nation in world history. How then did this vast national treasure of resources, abilities and wealth come to be SQUANDERED?

Borrow Your Way to Prosperity?

In the preface of *The Weight of the Yen*, a clear understanding by the author is evidenced early-on about the heart and core of a problem which will ultimately lead to America's demise. Mr. Murphy, an American investment banker who spent 15 years working in Japan, wrote on page 15, "As bankers [in Tokyo during 1983] we were sitting in the midst—often as middlemen—of the greatest transfer of wealth in history. Matters had gone far beyond temporary [Japanese] trade surpluses, slowly strengthening currencies, and a few uncompetitive American companies whining about foreign competition. Japanese companies had achieved a superior cost position in almost any key manufacturing industry one cared to mention. Thanks to this position, the companies were inevitably accumulating vast cash hordes, and those cash hordes in turn were swelling the vaults of Japan's banks and insurance companies. But Japan's financial system had not been designed to handle cash in those quantities.

"[U.S. President] Ronald Reagan provided a solution. Just as the Japanese emerged with large quantities of excess cash [in the early 1980s], the American government enacted a series of laws that suppressed taxes, did little to control aggregate [or total] spending, and made only token gestures to raise the savings rate [of citizens]. The predictable result: a BALLOONING FEDERAL DEFICIT [resulting in America's present national debt]. Doomsayers expected a crash, but the U.S. Treasury [Department] found a brand-new source of funds with hundreds of billions of dollars to lend: Japan."

Instead of following godly financial laws with prudence and conservatism,

America turned to Japan for help in a humanly devised scheme based upon a continuation of over-spending and ever-increasing debt, ignoring the plain instructions of man's Creator. But such a scheme is doomed from the beginning because man cannot trust himself or other humans!

Jeremiah 10:23 warns mankind that

"The way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his [own] steps." Further, the prophet Jeremiah tells us in chapter 17 verse 5, "Thus saith the Lord: CURSED BE THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN MAN, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." Psalm 118:8 tells us, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." And in Psalm 146:3, "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." In Proverbs 3:5-6 we are clearly instructed to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." And finally, there is plain instruction regarding the pitfalls of indebtedness in Proverbs 22:7 which admonishes, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

But in spite of these and other such clear instructions from our Maker, man turned to man in absolute financial folly. And in the case of America and Japan, after a few years of this financial "marriage," they found that their goals and ways of thinking are light-years apart.

Different Mind-Sets

As we look around today, it is easy to see that America's industrial and manufacturing base has almost vanished as one U.S. business after another has closed its doors due to Japanese competition. To understand why, one has to understand the difference between the Japanese approach to business and the approach of American-style capitalism. Had these differences been understood and appreciated even as late as the mid-1980s, it is possible that many of today's economic problems could have been avoided.

To Americans, Japanese companies do business at prices which seem to make no sense. As one IBM executive was quoted in *The Weight of the Yen*, the Japanese have "no understanding of the need for profit." This is exactly opposite to the way American businessmen think; probably 99 percent of Americans still do not fathom this fundamental and extremely important difference.

Mr. Murphy continues on page 81 of his book, "[Japanese] bureaucracies, on the one hand, and private [American] companies in market economies,

Trust

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

on the other, measure themselves by different criteria and behave differently as institutions. One cares about profits and making money; the other, about status and influence. Profits come from making things or performing services that are worth more to consumers than the cost to the provider of making those things or performing those services. The [well-being] of the consumer is irrelevant as long as he or she can pay for the product or the service. Status and influence, however, come from fulfilling expectations—particularly the expectations of those in positions of greater power and authority—and thus in turn from acquiring the ability to demand that other groups live up to expectations. Large Japanese companies have not been very good at making money, but then they were not set up to do that. They performed exceptionally well at their PRIMARY TASKS of providing stable employment and income for middle-class male heads of households and of building productive capacity in those industries deemed by the most powerful people in Japan to have strategic significance.”

Simply put, the American and Japanese people think differently! America put itself in direct competition with a country which is driven only slightly by profits—a country which wants primarily to dominate an industry in order to receive status and influence and to provide its people life-long employment and stability. For greed-driven America, to take Japan as a “lover” amounted to fiscal insanity!

Savings and Loan

In discussing the Japanese mindset, Mr. Murphy goes into great detail on pages 88 to 109 to explain one of the most amazing differences between Americans and the Japanese: the “household savings rate, [which is] among the world’s highest and a rate that since 1960 has never dipped below 15 percent of household income” (compared with America’s 3.8 percent in 1997). This traditional Japanese frugality, called “holy poverty” by some, provided surplus cash at home for loans instead of using foreign money to finance the economic miracle of Japan’s phenomenal industrial growth which began about 1953, on up through the 80s boom and into the recession which followed. As Mr. Murphy put it on pages 90-91, Japan

mobilized “household savings to leverage the entire economy.

“The concept of leverage...is a simple notion: Borrow a lot of money in order to grow as fast as possible and in turn rapid growth must occur in order to service [make payments on] the debt. When it works, leverage permits much higher growth rates than other financing methods—waiting to accumulate reserves, for example, or selling pieces of the enterprise to others (called welcoming foreign investment in a national context). But it is also risky. Any slowdown can make it impossible to service the debt.

“The linchpin of the strategy for Japan was the continuous transfer of wealth from households to industrial corporations.... Virtually every aspect of Japanese economic life is structured so as to boost savings and extract wealth from consumers.... Land for housing is kept deliberately scarce [so

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“Japanese bureaucracies and private American companies measure themselves by different criteria. One cares about profits and making money; the other, about status and influence.”

that] people will be forced to save in order to secure this expensive but essential good. Those savings are available for use [meaning loans] by Japanese industry.... Education is another essential good that helps squeeze savings out of households... whether one goes the public or private route, securing a future for one’s children means saving money....

“Until the 1980s Japanese households had effectively no option for financing major expenditures except for savings. Credit cards, installment plan financing for consumer durables,

and other forms of consumer credit all were stymied in order to encourage savings at every point....”

After the end of World War II, the enormous amounts going into such institutions as Japan’s Postal Savings System (the world’s largest bank), provided Japanese administrators with much-needed cash and low-cost financing for the economic miracle. But because of changes in the Japanese economy during the 1980s, a massive cash surplus developed, to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars both at the personal and corporate level. It is at this point in history that the Reagan Revolution in America entered the picture with a seemingly unlimited appetite for borrowed money.

The Rise and Fall of Modern Israel

Thirty-seven years earlier, in 1944, a new international monetary regime was designed at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, and was subsequently called the Bretton Woods System. As *The Weight of the Yen* explains on page 111, the principal architect of Bretton Woods, John Maynard Keynes, along with other world leaders, chose the United States to lead that system as “the hegemon, the great power that sits at the center of the global economy. A hegemonic power supplies a universal currency or something close to it, it provides an open market in which foreign countries can earn that currency, and its central bank functions as a kind of global central bank, acting as lender of last resort and intervening to head off global banking and currency crises. Britain had played this role in the Victorian era. Now the United States would assume the mantle of hegemony [meaning superpower status]....

“But in one of history’s ironies, the American delegation to Bretton Woods overruled Keynes’ attempts to build in provisions that would force surplus countries into sharing adjustment burdens for payment imbalances [meaning that if an out-of-balance condition developed between trading countries due to one selling more to the other than it bought, the one having the surplus would bear the costs of bringing down its surplus]. The Americans believed the United States would be a surplus country as far into the future as they could imagine, and they did not want it stuck with the bill for profligate [recklessly extravagant] policies in

deficit countries. A quarter century later, however, the United States had itself become the leading deficit country, pleading helplessly with the world's other major economies that they reduce their [trade] surpluses."

America set itself up for failure by limiting its ability as the world leader (hegemon) to control and adjust its own trade imbalances with the rest of the world. Because America is a consumer society which fuels the rest of the world by buying their products with its "universal currency," it was inevitable that dollars would end up in the hands of foreigners through trade deficits. After all, part of the definition given above for a hegemon is that "it provides an open market in which foreign countries can earn that [universal] currency." Eventually, America's trade deficits became so severe that massive amounts of dollars flowed into Japanese hands. And because America lacked the power to force Japan to lower its surpluses, Japan then LOANED the dollars back to America to pay the interest on the swelling national debt, caused in large measure by the deficits. To the shame of America, Japan began using the U.S. dollar as its de facto second currency, thus exerting fundamental control over the fiscal policies of the United States.

The pride of America's power was broken, just as God said it would be! (Lev. 26:19). America found itself "pleading helplessly," even though it was the most powerful country in human history! The unmitigated arrogance of the American delegation at Bretton Woods set the United States up for a fall by thinking the U.S. would never experience deficits. Without doubt, Proverbs 16:18 is a true statement about America: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." And fall America will, along with the rest of the nations of Israel! Hosea 5:5 prophesies, "And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them."

The Trap Was Set

The Weight of the Yen states on page 145, "Japanese institutional investors early in the 1980s found U.S. treasuries [bonds, T-bills, etc.] irresistible. An institutional investor such as an insurance company has two principal concerns: safety and income....

What does the future hold?

◆ Japan

For Japan, the immediate future looks bleak. Japan suffered an asset value loss of close to \$10 trillion during the first half of the 1990s and has accumulated a national debt of \$3.7 trillion. This astronomical debt gives Japan, like the United States, very little maneuvering room; it is like attaching a 50-pound lead weight to a long-distance swimmer—eventually it will drag them under.

Oil tensions in the world, particularly with the latest defiance by Saddam Hussein, exposes Japan to further uncontrolled deficit spending due to Japan's almost total dependence upon imported oil, which could double or triple in price during a crisis.

In 1997, Japan saw the highest number of bankruptcies in over a decade as 16,365 businesses closed shop. Unemployment will soon surge to post-World War high as millions of Japanese workers lose their jobs. The Wall Street Journal of January 20, 1998, reported that "another wave of bankruptcies is likely to sweep the [Japanese] nation in coming months because lenders are growing increasingly reluctant to approve badly needed business loans. Japanese banks are still trying to clean up their own books, sullied by bad real-estate loans earlier in the decade." The \$600 billion bad-loan problem in Japan will only grow worse due to loss of revenue, as its exports to Asia, formerly 40 percent of its total, dry up like seaweed cast upon a rocky shore.

With the recent shakeup at Japan's Ministry of Finance (MOF), it is clear that things are happening in the Japanese governmental structure, but will it be enough? Two top career MOF bureaucrats resigned on January 29, two others committed suicide and another two were arrested on suspicion they took bribes in return for warning banks of coming inspections. The February 4 Wall Street Journal ran an editorial which makes an important point: "As Japan teeters on the brink of disaster...time is running out for Japan, and unless [Japanese Prime Minister] Hashimoto acts soon he risks being remembered as the man who presided over the decline of the world's second largest economy."



Going down: Hashimoto struggles with a depressive economy.

TATSUO UMI MATSUOKA/AP WIDEWORLD

U.S. treasuries in the early 1980s offered both.... Who could believe that the United States, the greatest and most powerful country in the world, would ever default [or not repay lenders] on its own securities?"

With all the currency fluctuations which have occurred since the early 1980s hurting the value of U.S. treasuries, Mr. Murphy writes, "Japanese institutional investors found themselves trapped: unable to move out of treasuries lest they destroy the global financial system."

Ronald Reagan's "Republicans had

captured the White House with a simplistic platform and a simplistic leader. They pretended to the American people that they were solving the country's problems when what they were doing was BORROWING MONEY. Borrowing money made it possible for Americans to spend more than they had earned, and they spent it on Toyotas and Panasonic VCRs. The Japanese could then lend the money back to the Americans [by buying treasuries] so that the party could keep going. Political elites in both countries pretended that the party could last forever,

◆ **United States**

The Washington Times of February 1, 1998, reported, “The United States is starting to take a hit from Asia’s deepening financial crisis, with American manufacturing reporting weakened demand, the Federal Reserve reported January 21.... Asia’s economic woes are expected to wash up on U.S. shores this spring. U.S. producers are braced for a flood of cheap cars, computers, semiconductors and other products from South Korea and the rest of Asia.... Economists predict the 1998 trade deficit to more than double from current levels, hitting between \$250 billion and \$300 billion.” In that same issue, another article quoted Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, as saying, “If Japan tries to export its way out of this economic slowdown while keeping its markets effectively closed to competitive American products, then there’s going to be...a very severe reaction in the United States.”

In December 1997, factory orders in the United States took their sharpest monthly drop since 1991. Commodity prices on items such as oil, agricultural products, gold and aluminum “have plunged at a startling rate since last summer [1997], when the Asian turmoil began,” states the February 5 Wall Street Journal. “Damage is mounting fast in this economic sector that is often likened to a canary in a coal mine: an early-warning system for hazards that could eventually endanger the entire economy.”

As usual in American politics, a great deception is occurring about the supposed “balanced budget” touted for the U.S. government’s next fiscal year. In spite of “balancing” the budget, the national debt is projected to grow from its present bloated size of \$5.4 trillion to an even-worse \$6.3 trillion in 2003. The reason is because the budget will NOT truly be



Hurricane alert: Greenspan predicts stormier waters ahead.

balanced! Next year, just as in years past, the government will borrow an extra \$184 billion from trust funds like Social Security to pay current bills! This gives the appearance that the U.S. economy is healthier than it is. The truth is that the budget is NOT balanced and America is continuing its rapid descent into deeper and deeper debt!

And then there is always the threat of foreign-selling of U.S. treasuries, which began in mid-1997 and accelerated in December. By the end of 1997, about \$50 billion worth of foreign-held treasuries had been sold. The Weekly Standard of January 26 says ominously, “How much further the process [of selling U.S. treasuries] goes depends not only on the Fed, but on those foreign central bankers who still have the most policy discretion.” That means foreigners are in the driver’s seat regarding this biggest of the potential threats to the U.S. financial system!

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, testifying before the Senate Budget Committee on January 29, appeared to be warning that events could still spin unpredictably out of control when he said, “We have as yet

experienced only the peripheral winds of the Asian crisis. A continuation of the Asian crisis should give us pause in assuming that our economy will remain robust indefinitely.” Many other economists agree with Mr. Greenspan about the financial dangers now rippling ashore in what may well turn out to be a financial tidal wave, of gargantuan proportions.

Nick Guarino, in his Samurai Gold Forecaster newsletter of January 27, 1998, summed up the danger America is facing when he wrote, “The gun on the U.S. stock market is cocked. It’s just a question of which of three major events will pull the trigger: the continuing Asian crisis; the gross overvaluation of U.S. stocks; or the destruction of the Clinton presidency [due to scandal]. Anyway, one or more of these events is about to shoot the U.S. stock market down.”

and neither elite was honest about the price that would eventually be exacted.”

The Trap Snaps Shut!

November 25, 1997, John Crudele wrote an important article in the New York Post entitled “Secret U.S.-Japan Pact Comes Back to Haunt Us.” In that article, Mr. Crudele explained how America had once again been outsmarted by the Japanese. He wrote, “Back in September 1995, the United States came to an agreement with Japan that then seemed of little consequence.

Washington agreed that it would purchase [buy back] U.S. government debt [U.S. Treasury bonds and securities] held by Tokyo in the event the Japanese had to sell.

“Two years ago the Japanese were experiencing economic problems but nothing like the obstacles faced by that country today. The failure of Yamaichi Securities this week [Nov. 1997] has caused the Japanese to do the unthinkable—take the U.S. up on its offer to buy [back] those bonds.

“It was unclear yesterday just how much of the \$200 billion to \$300 billion

worth of bonds held by the Japanese government and its financial institutions will have to be unloaded. But if Tokyo must cash in any significant amount, it would be very bad news for the U.S. financial markets.... Problems encountered by the Japanese could cause serious consequences in this country.... The U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve must now print billions of dollars in extra currency to ship to Japan in exchange for their bonds.

“But let’s not understate the effects. Japan’s financial crisis, which has easily slipped across oceans in our

For Europe, hard times are coming as well. The Intelligence Digest of January 16, 1998, states that "Some European banks have exposures in the [Asian] region as high as 10 percent, or even 15 percent. The combination of debt rescheduling and bad debt provision could easily run as high as 20 percent of the Asian loan book, spread over three or four years," meaning that potentially as much as 20 percent of the European loans to Asia will not be repaid.

An editorial by William Rees-Mogg in the January 22 London Times states, "The United States and Europe will lose exports and take in imports. Continental Europe will suffer the worst. The United States and Britain are now close to the limit of their expansion, but in Europe unemployment is already very high, at 12.5 percent in France and Italy, close to 10 percent in the former West Germany, and at 20 percent in eastern Germany and Spain. Europe does not have the high technology of the United States, which gives some American exports a monopoly power.... We [Europeans] must now expect the Asian exporters to get up off the canvas and land a heavy blow on the grey stubble of Europe's chin."

Europe also offers a real threat to America as well due to the impending competition against the American dollar by Europe's new currency, the euro, which goes into full effect on January 1, 1999, less than ten months away. The Washington Post of January 26 says, "Economist Lester Thurow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology predicts that, after a break-in period, the new euro will bring down the cur-

newfound global economy, is now at our doorstep...with Japan essentially too broke to keep loaning its yen to Washington."

The Wall Street Journal of December 18, 1997, stated "Treasuries then fell further on widely circulated reports that the Federal Reserve was selling treasuries of five years and shorter in maturity on the Bank of Japan's behalf."

Not only is there a great threat from continuing repatriation (selling back) of foreign-held U.S. treasuries, but also the double-threat of no longer financing the interest payments on

◆ Europe

tain on the era of American financial [superiority]. Within a decade, Thurow predicts a bipolar world in which jet airplanes and oil, now priced exclusively in dollars, will have two price tags and central banks around the world will divide their reserves between dollar and euro-based assets." William Cline, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance was then quoted as saying, "Sooner or later, people around the world will have less need for holding [U.S.] dollars."

The failing of America in its role as hegemon will drive a united Europe and its new currency up over America and the dollar. Many prophecies of your Bible deal directly with the rise of this new German-led, religion-driven, economic superpower known as the "beast." See Revelation 13 and 18, and Habakkuk 1:6-11.

The City News of London, in its electronic telegraph of January 17, quotes Renato Ruggiero, the director-general of the World Trade Organization as saying, "While financial crises can rise and fall quickly, trade crises can have a more lasting and damaging impact. What must be avoided above all is a vicious circle of economic reactions and counter reactions leading to wider and deeper distress." The article then says,

America's \$5.4 trillion national debt. The Christian Science Monitor of February 3, 1998, reports that "interest payments alone [on the national debt] consume 16 percent of all [U.S.] federal outlays or \$1 out of every \$6 in federal spending. That means interest payments consume \$5,000 in taxes each year from the average family of four. The \$240 billion in interest payments each year on the national debt is nearly as much as is allocated for defense spending." America can forget about paying the \$5.4 trillion principal owed on the national debt. But if the United

"The trade body is concerned that the collapse in Asian countries' currencies will cause other nations [like China] to devalue [their currencies] to remain competitive, or will encourage governments to erect trade barriers to counter the increased price of imports." Mr. Ruggiero is then further quoted as saying, "The current situation is bad enough, but the greater danger is that



War over money: Ruggiero warns that bad policy decisions now could lead to the ultimate conflict.

we will make policy errors in response to these events which could prolong the crisis and even extend the difficulties. Turning inward in the 1930s in response to financial crisis helped drive the world into economic depression and, ultimately, WORLD WAR."

States cannot at least pay the \$240 billion per year interest on the debt, then the loans will be considered in default and non-performing, meaning the loans will not be repaid. Such a failure on the part of the United States will bring down the entire HOUSE OF CARDS that constitutes the global economic system.

Mr. Murphy continued on page 175 of his book by summarizing: "The prospect of a hollowed-out, de-industrialized America genuinely dismayed [Japan's elite officials]. They were profoundly disturbed by what the United

States was doing to itself. Japan's administrators regarded manufacturing as the sine qua non [Latin: an indispensable thing] of national wealth. They were obsessively concerned with international competitiveness. They viewed deficits and loose fiscal policies as CANCERS that sapped vitality from a country and destroyed economic discipline. From their perspective, the United States had embarked on SLOW-MOTION SUICIDE."

Importance of the Asian Financial Meltdown

Unbeknownst to the world, Japan could foresee the impending economic collapse of the United States and was trying to "get out of bed" with its American lover, but those plans came crashing down in 1997.

The Weight of the Yen continues on page 306, "As the buying power of the United States dwindled, measured by the relentless rise of the yen, Japan would need markets elsewhere to keep its economic methods going. Only one plausible substitute for the American market existed: the great arc that stretches from Korea and Taiwan through the coastal provinces of China to the ASEAN countries [Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand]. If the trends of the last 15 years continued [which they did not], by early in the next century some 600 million people in this arc would enjoy living standards and buying power comparable to those in southern Europe and portions of the United States. Japanese institutions already dominated much of this arc."

But now that market has collapsed in the Asian Financial Meltdown of 1997. Prior to that collapse, Japan was playing a waiting game. Mr. Murphy wrote on page 307 that Japan's "heroic efforts to forestall a serious American trade policy could best be understood as delaying tactics. Japan was said to need the United States for a few years longer until it [Japan] had achieved the necessary critical mass in Asia and would no longer be dependent for a continuation of its methods on the United States."

Japan wants out of this relationship with the United States! But as Japan knows, extracting itself will DESTROY THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

The crash of Southeast Asia's

economies has slammed the door shut on Japan's plan to replace America, but that will not stop Japan from abandoning America. Jeremiah 30:14 says of America, "All thy lovers have forgotten thee: they seek thee not." This abandonment will be the slamming shut of the trap as the United States falls from its lofty perch as hegemon to the world. And AMERICA DID IT TO HERSELF!

Destruction and Slavery Await

Proverbs 22:7, quoted above, tells us that "the borrower is servant to the lender." The Hebrew word translated as "servant" can also be rendered "slave," and that is exactly the end result of all this massive indebtedness. Bible prophecy makes it very clear that in the near future American citizens are going to be taken into captivity!

Why is this going to happen? Because America is going to default on her national debt! In the December 1983 Plain Truth is a startling quote which reads, "One economist equates a national declaration of default with an ACT OF WAR." When, not if, the United States defaults on its national debt, it will be the same thing as DECLARING WAR on the other nations of the earth! And because of this, America is going to be desolated and then occupied by its enemies and the American people taken out of their country and into slavery as REPAYMENT for that colossal debt.

In the parable of the unmerciful servant, found in Matthew 18:23-35, the human tendency to sell people into slavery, as well as selling everything they own in order to satisfy a debt, is clearly seen when it says, "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made" (New King James Version). Do Americans think they are too "good" for this to happen? Article after article in the news is telling America that the world HATES her arrogance and dominance! Selling people and their possessions has happened throughout man's history, and that is exactly what is coming on the nations of biblical Israel very soon!

In Leviticus 26:23-25, God warns the nations of Israel, and especially America, "And if by this discipline you are not turned to me, but walk contrary to me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will smite you seven-fold for your sins. And I will bring a

sword upon you...and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy" (Revised Standard Version). SLAVERY IS COMING UPON ISRAEL AGAIN! The individual and national sins of America, especially the sins of her leaders, will bring a "sword," meaning WAR, onto American soil! And because Americans refuse to learn these lessons now, those who survive that war will be taken into CAPTIVITY and SLAVERY! Your Bible says so!

God continues in Leviticus 26:31-39, "And I will lay your cities waste.... And I will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it [foreign powers occupying America!] shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter YOU among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you; and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste...while you are in your enemies' land.... And as for those of you that are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; the sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues. They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues; and you shall have no power to stand before your enemies. And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. And those of you that are left shall pine [or waste] away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity; and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall pine away like them" (RSV).

America and the other nations of biblical Israel are going into the worst time of trouble ever in mankind's history! (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). Yet the good news in Jeremiah 30:7 and 10 is that, after the lessons are learned and Christ has returned to this earth to restore peace and prosperity, then America and the other nations of Israel, as well as all humanity, will be saved out of all this grief and trouble. But this will only transpire after experiencing the horrible suffering which mankind brought upon itself!

In typical human arrogance, a Washington D.C. economic consultant was quoted by the December 15, 1997 Christian Science Monitor as saying, "It is not beyond the capability of man to manage this crisis...." How much better it would have been to have said, "In God we trust." ◆

Since the close of World War II, two great economic systems have dominated the world politically and economically—capitalism and communism.

Communism has clearly failed.
Rampant capitalism has produced
a great financial meltdown in Asia.

The world's foremost religious leader
is promoting an alternative.

The Third Way

BY RON FRASER

During his first visit to the Baltic Republic of Latvia in 1993, Pope John Paul II declared that the collapse of communism “had something of the miraculous, in which it is difficult not to see the hand of God...in a constant and mysterious dialogue with human freedom.” Yet, in his papal encyclical *Centesimus Annus* (the centenary), which he delivered but two years earlier, Karol Wojtyla (the Pope) had frowned upon communism’s arch-enemy, capitalism. He stated that this was not a time for the West to gloat, inferring that what he termed a “radical capitalist ideology” was not the appropriate response to the failure of Marxism. “It is unacceptable to say that the defeat of so-called ‘real socialism’ leaves capitalism as the only model of economic organization,” theorized the Pope in the encyclical. Referring to “the good things achieved by communism...the struggle against unemployment, the concern for the poor,” he stated that socialism had “some seeds of truth” that should not be eliminated.

Are these mixed messages from this most political papal personage? Certainly not, based on the history of his past communications. The Catholic Church has long held the view that its own social doctrine offers a better way for the world to order its affairs.

This Pope chooses his words carefully. Expert in numerous tongues, he is only too aware that the content of his regular encyclicals, papal pronounce-

ments and observations on the state of the world are dissected, analyzed and subjected to the closest scrutiny by political analysts around the world.

The most astute of these will surely have highlighted Karol Wojtyla’s declaration, as he traveled through the Baltic countries in 1993: “I myself, after the historical failure of communism, did not hesitate to raise serious doubts on the validity of capitalism.... The situation of exploitation to which an inhumane capitalism had subjected the proletariat since the beginning of industrialized society was indeed an evil which the church’s social teaching also condemned.” During the same trip, the Pope stated that any system that denied “individual dignity” was flawed. Both capitalism and communism had failed in this respect, he declared.

The crux of all of Pope John Paul II’s statements on the world’s political, economic and social systems is found in his frequent efforts, through many of his public statements, to outline a “Third Way,” an alternative to the extremes of communism and capitalism.

Panzer Kardinal

The Pope is the last absolute ruler, specifically as a head of state, remaining in Europe. He is the final and ultimate

authority on all matters of faith in the Roman Catholic Church, an enterprise which counts almost one billion adherents within its universal parish. When the Pope speaks of “individual dignity” within the terms of the Church’s “social teaching,” these are clearly matters defined in the Roman Catholic dogma over which he holds total sway in interpretation, and a total commitment to educating the world in its tenets.

Yet behind all this is another mind, working in tandem with the Pope as chief guardian of the faith, holding the second most important post in the Vatican — “Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.” This is the modern umbrella term adopted by the Roman Catholic Church for the old Vatican “Office of the Holy Inquisition.” This powerful office in the Catholic Church is held by a white-haired, 71-year-old Bavarian career churchman, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

Styled the Panzer Kardinal by the German press, this controversial “Prince of the Church” demonstrates a brilliance of intellect and combative approach in attendance to his duties. Chief confidant and advisor to Pope John Paul II, the two have created a formidable team. In fact, it is the Panzer



Prince of the Church: Cardinal Ratzinger holds the second most important post in Vatican City.

Kardinal who articulates many of the Pope’s public pronouncements.

Any consideration of a “Third Way,” an alternative socio-economic system to those of classic capitalism and communism, will inculcate the ideas of this German cardinal. Greatly

GREGORZ GALAZKA/CORBIS

influenced by Augustine from the beginning of his days as a seminarian, Ratzinger's intellectual inclinations were also shaped by the philosophies of Heidegger, Jaspers, Steinbüchel and Bonaventure. But his social teaching came from studying Joachim of Fiore, Hegel and Marx, against the backdrop of Roman Catholic Social Doctrine. All of these studies appear to have finally solidified in Ratzinger's mind under the influence of Bonaventure's Theology of History. Consistent with Bonaventure's thinking, Ratzinger's philosophy seems to embrace the prospect of the installation of Paradise in today's world through the institution of the Catholic Church. "The object of hope is not the better world of the future but eternal life. The expectation of the better world supports no one" (Ratzinger, *Salt of the Earth*, p. 118).

Of course, such a concept denies scriptural truth, which points toward the closure of the age of man and the ushering in by Jesus Christ of the Kingdom of God on earth. It is precisely the hope of the World Tomorrow, established by and under the direct rule of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that has motivated that Church which Jesus Christ established, the Church of God (Acts 20:28), for almost two millennia. Unless Jesus Christ returns to this earth to impose His perfect religion, under the perfect millennial government of the Great God Father of the universe, there can be no hope of eternal life! (Isa. 9:6-7). (Write for your free copy of the books *Mystery of the Ages* and *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* for a scriptural explanation of God's plan for mankind.)

That the Vatican will be the medium through which this "paradise on earth" is established in this day and age is certainly not doubted by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of

the Faith. "The church will, in the foreseeable future...be what you could call a complementary movement, if not a counter-movement, with respect to the prevailing world view. At the same time, however, it will prove its necessity and its human legitimacy" (ibid., p. 164).

In this classic interview between German journalist Peter Seewald and Cardinal Ratzinger, one has to search for hints of the real agenda of this master of concealment, and the Polish Pope he serves. Yet, for those who are aware of the front-line role which the Catholic Church will play in events climaxing at the close of this age, the clues are there. "One can probably say that hardly any other institution provokes the world more than the Catholic Church—and strangely, that it provokes even the Western world, which has been shaped by Christian faith and the church. In many respects, however, it says something for the Catholic Church that she still has the power to provoke, that she is a thorn in the side.... This shows that she means something and that you can't simply pass over her and go about the day's business" (ibid., p.123).

That the Catholic Church is seen in the papal team's eyes as vital to the survival of mankind is born out in the Cardinal's response to Peter Seewald's question on the Church's mission for the world. "We can say with certainty backed up by empirical evidence," Ratzinger said, "that if the ethical power represented by [Catholic] Christianity were suddenly torn out of humanity, mankind would lurch to and fro like a ship rammed against an iceberg, and then the survival of humanity would be in greatest jeopardy" (ibid., p. 227).

Commenting further on the Church's role as we enter the twenty-first century, "The Church must exert

herself to bring man to the point where he is up to the challenge of himself, as it were, where he can confront his physical ability with a corresponding moral ability.... It belongs to man's essence to need authority" (ibid., p. 234). That this authority will emanate from the papacy is certainly fundamental to the Pope's thinking, as witnessed in his apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adventiente," in which he stressed that "the Church...is able to cover the whole of humanity with her branches."

Questioned by journalist Seewald on whether the current world economic system can survive, the Panzer Kardinal replied, "It is apparent that in the long run it can't continue as it is.... We live in a whole network of fictions and contradictions.... This process cannot continue on indefinitely." Having in mind the farcical situation which developed in America when it became unable to pay its debts in 1996, Ratzinger declared, "Suddenly the state can no longer pay its debts and must close shop, so to speak, and furlough its civil servants, which is a crying contradiction because the state has a responsibility for holding the whole together. The incident has shown in a drastic way that our system contains gross mistakes" (ibid., p. 274).

Towards 2000

The Pope sees the year 2000 as a pivotal point in the history of man and the Catholic Church. The apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adventiente," written to the bishops, priests and the faithful in preparation for the "jubilee" year of 2000, declares that year to be a



PT PHOTO

very special “year of grace of the Lord.” In that letter, he further admonishes the Church, declaring that it “cannot cross the threshold of the new millennium without encouraging her children to purify themselves, through repentance of past errors and instances of infidelity, inconsistencies and slowness to act.” Setting the pace, apologies have been forthcoming for the Vatican’s failure to condemn the holocaust during the Nazi era. Galileo has been reprieved as the church publicly removed his status of “persona non-grata.” The Vatican has established a program to publicize and shape both church and public opinion leading up to the year 2000. Two great synods [ecclesiastical councils], a Pan-American and an Asian synod, are planned. The Asian synod will explore how the Catholic Church can penetrate the Asian religions. The pan-American synod will seek to merge the Catholic faith of Latin America with Catholicism in North America.

A radically new relationship to Judaism has been developing over the past decade under this highly political Pope. His prime aid, this quintessential Vatican politician, Joseph Ratzinger, observes, “The star points to Jerusalem. It dies out and dawns anew in the Word of God, in the Holy Scriptures of Israel.” Building on this mystical pronouncement, Ratzinger’s political statement on the Church’s relationship with the Jews is somewhat more pragmatic: “There is no doubt that we must live and reflect on our relation to Judaism in a completely new way, something that, as a matter of fact, is underway. This does not mean that the

difference has been removed; in a certain sense we may even experience it more intensely. But it does have to be lived on the basis of reverence for one another and of an interior belonging together. We are on our way to that point” (ibid., p. 247).

As one studies his writings and the public papal pronouncements prepared by Cardinal Ratzinger, as one analyzes his responses to questions in his best-selling book interview of 1985, *The Ratzinger Report*, his masterful tactics of avoidance and obscurity certainly have to be admired. His brilliance of intellect, eloquence of speech and clever use of the language of diplomacy all combine to yield a strong impression that here is a man who has not just been a popemaker for decades. Here is a power broker extraordinaire—a behind-the-scenes brain who has done much to maneuver the ancient woman of Rome into a position of powerful influence on the world scene, most particularly in shaping the future of Europe.

When asked, “What is the most fascinating thing about being Catholic for you personally?” Ratzinger replied, “The fascinating thing is this great living history into which we enter...that one institution [the Roman Catholic Church] is...preserved in its continuity.”

Grafted into this “great living history,” and in fact a most essential component of it, is the institution of the old Roman Empire. In fact, the history of the Roman Church and the history of that old Roman Empire which rose and fell repeatedly throughout the past 1200

years in Europe are inextricably tied together.

During her well-publicized speech in Chicago in 1997, Margaret Thatcher declared, “It is time to recognize, even in Brussels, that the age of empire has passed.” British author Adrian Hilton, in his startling book *The Principality and Power of Europe*, challenges Mrs. Thatcher’s conclusion thus: “But has it?... For there is reason to think not only that the papacy is gaining increasing political influence in the world, but that the EC [European Community] may indeed bear a more than shadowy resemblance to a European imperial ideal that has never been entirely forgotten.” Author Hilton observes that the Vatican normally thinks in centuries. “And in John Paul II we have the most political Pope of modern times. It is in the movement towards federalism of the Common Market, with the coming members of Eastern European countries, as well as in the turmoil in the Soviet Union, that the Pope may see the greatest possibility for an increase in Catholic political power since the fall of Napoleon, or since the Counter-Reformation” (op. cit., pp. 16-18, emphasis mine).

As *The Trumpet* has pointed out in previous articles, the Common Market of Europe, now forming the European Union, was founded and has developed under the direction of Roman Catholic politicians—Robert Schumann and Jean Monnet its founding fathers, Paul-Henri Spaark, Konrad Adenauer, and on down to the likes of Jacques Delors and Helmut Kohl—all Christian Democrats, all practicing Catholics. The economics of the European Union have been shaped by Catholic social doctrine. This is profoundly evident in the EU Social Charter and the socialist politics of such as Jacques Delors. As Adrian Hilton observes, “If European federal-

The Woman of Rome: The Vatican (far left) positions itself to shape Europe’s future; Ratzinger (with Pope John Paul II, middle) says, “The star points to Jerusalem” (below).



MASSIMO SAMBUCETTI/AP WIDOWORLD



PT PHOTO

ism triumphs, the EC will indeed be an empire” (ibid.).

Euro-Federalism and the Third Way

In his publication “The Social Order of Tomorrow,” practicing Catholic Otto von Habsburg calls for a “Third Way,” an alternative to traditional capitalism and socialism. The vehicle through which the Third Way will be imposed on the EU member states will be the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM). This will be the catalyst that enforces the Third Way on the European Union and establishes it as a Federation of European states—in fact a European empire—under the domination of the ruling financial power in Europe, Germany. As Hans Tietmeyer, governor of the Bundesbank, has stated, “A European currency will lead to member nations transferring their sovereignty over financial and...monetary affairs” (Bernard Connolly, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*).

Utilizing apocalyptic language, Adrian Hilton opines, “There is no doubt that the European Central Bank defined in Maastricht [the Maastricht Treaty on European Union—1992/96] would be the sort of Beast that would need to override any ‘inconvenient’ oscillating electoral preferences....” Revealing the major influence on the development of the ERM, French President Valerie Giscard d’Estaing observed, “Perhaps when we discussed monetary problems, the spirit of Charlemagne brooded over us” (ibid.).

Paul-Henri Spaak, former Belgian Prime Minister, president of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe from 1949 to 1951, declared “We do not want another committee.... What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass in which we are now sinking. Send us such a man and, be he god or the devil, we will receive him” (Adrian Hilton, *op. cit.*, p. 19).

The EU cries out for a real LEADER! A leader of authority who can weld the fractious nations of the Union together so that their combined socio-economic and political strength will be given a common direction. Your Bible says that such a leader will arise. He is called a “beast” in Revelation 17 where we read that ten nations and their leaders are to come under his sway for a short

time. “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Rev. 17:12-13).

Prophetic scripture also predicts that a great spiritual leader of a predominant, universal religious body will arise as the primary spiritual influence on a great beast-like economic, political and military power, which will not only dominate Europe, but which will influence total world trade! “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Rev. 18:3). The pieces are in place on the board; the strategy is set. All that remains is for “checkmate” to be called by this great spiritual leader, who will dominate the European political leader. The whole world will stand aghast as the forces which have built the European Union into the power it is today combine, under the twelve-star banner of the Queen of Heaven, to form the final resurrection of that old Roman Empire.

It will be trade within that economic system touted by the Vatican as an alternative to communism and capitalism, that empowers the rise of the beast of European Union for a brief moment in time. This is prophesied in the 18th chapter of the book of Revelation. “For the merchants are the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries are all nations deceived” (Rev. 18:23; see also vv. 11, 15). As British author John Laughland comments, “From its inception Europe has been an economic community” (*The Tainted Source*, p. 145).

Yet it has been a divided economic community, busy in trade across national borders and too often busy at war across the same borders. This verse declares that the spiritual influence which will bind this union together for its slender moment of glory will be “sorceries.” This word comes from the Greek *pharmakeia*, literally meaning sorcery, witchcraft, deception, seduction. These are all tools of the woman who mounts the economic beast power of Europe as “the great whore that sits upon many waters with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.”

There is one vital aspect of the Third Way that neither the Pope nor the European House of State have publicized. Perhaps they are not aware of it—or if they are, the reasons that they have not publicized it are obvious. It is the end result which the Third Way has on non-member countries—those who resist or do not qualify for membership in the economic union of Europe. Mr. Hilton puts it this way: “A form of slavery may be imposed.... Financial controls on the restriction of freedoms amount to a more subtle form of slavery—money is power. Those who control the interest rates become the master of the poor—especially if they cannot be removed from power by popular vote.”

The months ahead, leading up to full implementation of the European Monetary Union and the launching of its single currency, the euro, are crucial to the rise of the Euro-beast, that European economic power which will quickly move to fill the vacuum created by the Asian financial meltdown and the impending bankruptcy of the U.S. You need to watch these events and prepare for their impact on your life. Remember God’s admonition to those willing to heed—“He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches” (Rev. 3:22).

It is time to heed and to take action. As our editor-in-chief noted in a recent co-worker letter, “Instead of bringing peace, the Catholic Church is prophesied to play a key role in starting a nuclear World War III!” Crucial to this action of the Catholic Church will be their supervision of the implementation of that Third Way, which will replace traditional capitalism and communism in the coming European Federation.

Write for your free copy of our booklet *Nahum: an End-Time Prophecy for Germany*, and read of the startling prophecies, at the brink of imminent fulfillment, which will shape the political, economic, religious and social affairs of this world in the years just ahead. More than that, this booklet will give you hope for the glorious future which awaits mankind upon the termination of the brief and cruel rule of the biblical beast and the false prophet, at the coming of the King of kings, the Prince of peace—Jesus Christ—to impose God’s perfect socio-economic system under His government on this earth forever! ◆

THE KEY OF DAVID

TELEVISION PROGRAM

TELEVISION LOG

United States

WGN—6:30 am ET, Sunday (Nationwide cable)
WPHL—6:30 am ET, Sunday (Northeast United States cable)

Alabama, Montgomery—WHOA 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Arizona—KUSK 9:30am MT, Sunday
 Arizona, Phoenix—KSAZ 6:30 am MT, Sunday
 Arkansas, Little Rock—KASN 8:00 am CT, Saturday
 California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Los Angeles—KCBS 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Oakland—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Diego—KGTU 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Francisco—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, San Jose—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 California, Sacramento—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
 Florida, Jacksonville—WTEV 6:30 am ET, Saturday
 Florida, Orlando—WRBW 7:00 am ET, Saturday
 Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Georgia, Atlanta—WGNX 6:30 am ET, Saturday
 Illinois, Chicago—WCIU 6:30 am CT, Saturday
 Illinois, Chicago—WGN 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Illinois, Decatur—WAND 7:00 am CT, Sunday
 Indiana, Indianapolis—WNDY 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Kansas, Topeka—WIBW 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Kansas, Wichita—KSAS 10:00 am CT, Sunday
 Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 10:00 pm ET, Saturday
 Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 11:30 pm CT, Sunday
 Louisiana, Shreveport—KMSS 8:00 am CT, Sunday
 Massachusetts, Boston—WSBK 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00 am ET, Sunday
 Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul—WFTC 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Minnesota, Rochester—WFTC 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Missouri, Cape Girardeau—WDKA 11:30 pm CT, Sunday
 Missouri, Kansas City—KCWB 6:30 am CT, Saturday
 Missouri, St. Louis—KPLR 6:00 am CT, Sunday
 New Jersey—WPHL 6:30 pm ET, Sunday
 New Mexico, Albuquerque—KOB 8:30 am MT, Sunday **
 New York, Buffalo—WIVB 6:30 am ET, Sunday
 New York, New York City—WPXN 12:30 pm ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Asheville—WHNS 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Cincinnati—WKRC 5:30 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Cleveland/Akron—WVPX 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 Ohio, Columbus—WWHO 6:30 am ET, Sunday **
 Oklahoma, Tulsa—KOKI 9:00 am CT, Sunday
 Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCO 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Oregon, Eugene—KLSR 7:00 am PT, Sunday
 Oregon, Portland—KPDX 7:30 am PT, Sunday
 Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WPHL 6:30 am ET, Sunday

Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh—WPGH 7:30 am ET, Sunday
 Pennsylvania, Red Lion—WGCB 8:30 am ET, Sunday
 South Carolina, Columbia—WOLB 8:00 am ET, Sunday
 South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WHNS 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00 am ET, Sunday
 Texas, Corpus Christi—KDF 6:30am CT, Sunday
 Texas, Dallas—KDFI 8:30 am CT, Saturday
 Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30 am CT, Sunday
 Texas, Tyler—KLTU 10:30 am CT, Sunday
 Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30 am ET, Sunday
 Washington, D.C.—WUSA 7:00 am ET, Sunday
 Washington, Seattle—KTZZ 7:30 am PT, Sunday
 Washington, Spokane—KXLY 6:00 am PT, Sunday

Australia

Network 10—4:30 am, Sunday
 —Channel 10, Melb., Syd., Brisb., Perth, Adelaide
 —NRTV, North New South Wales
 —Capital TV, South New South Wales
 —Southern Cross TV, Victoria
 —QTV, Queensland

Britain and Europe

Channel 7—04:00 GMT, Sunday (Astra 1A, 7)
 —08:00 GMT, Sunday (Astra 1A, 7)

Canada

VISION Network—9:30 am ET, Sunday (Nationwide Canadian cable)

Alberta/Calgary—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 Alberta/Edmonton—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 Alberta/Red Deer—KXLY 7:00 am MT, Sunday
 British Columbia, Prince George—CKPG 8:30 am PT, Sunday
 British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00 am PT, Sunday
 New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday
 Quebec, Montreal—CKMI 11:00 am Sunday

India and Southeast Asia

Asian Television Network—5:30 pm, Sunday (India Standard Time)
 (Pan Am Sat 4)

New Zealand

TV3—6:00 am, Friday

Philippines

IBC TV—7:00 am, Sunday

Worldwide

WWCR—4:30 pm, ET, Monday (Shortwave Radio) 15.685 MHz

** Indicates a new station or time change



World News Watch

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape.”

◆ EL NIÑO

A freak of nature

When will the devastation of El Niño end? Scientists reassure us that the deadly weather patterns should abate by the end of April. Leaving a wake of death and destruction, this season's El Niño phenomenon lived up to its deadly forecast.

In the fall of 1997, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists and other weather researchers warned of an unprecedented warming of sea surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean region. These abnormally high tem-

peratures are responsible for building the destructive weather patterns that are rhythmically impacting the Americas and other regions of the world.

Flooding in Peru has left over a quarter of a million people homeless. Well over 100 people have lost their lives in mudslides and flooding which was triggered by El Niño rains in Peru alone. Further north, the west coast of Mexico has also been attacked by unusually high amounts of rain. California has been ravaged by torrential rains and mudslides as well.



Raging rivers overflowing their banks and flooding communities dominated national news during February. Tornadoes that ripped through central Florida left 40 people dead and twisted the lives of hundreds of other residents. These tornadoes proved to be the most devastating in Florida's history.

In the northern tiers of the United States, residents

enjoyed warmer than usual weather.

“There seems to be no relief in sight. The El Niño pattern will continue ‘much the same’ in both California and Florida, chiefly in the form of ‘heavy episodic events,’ said Ants Leetmaa, director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center in Washington” (Washington Post, Feb. 2, 1998). That is until the end of April or early May. When all is said and done, many expect the human and financial tolls to be greater than the El Niño of 1982-83. That occurrence “was the strongest this century, [costing] the United States about \$2.5 billion in disaster damage and crop losses” (ibid). ◆

◆ CREDIT

It's the economy, stupid!

Character does matter! (See this month's Trumpet feature beginning on page 2.) But for a moment, let's suppose that President Clinton's campaign slogan is true: “It's the economy stupid!”

In recent months, The Trumpet has exposed what should be obvious to all Americans: The U.S. debt is out of control. It's over 5.5 trillion dollars! Our economic Titanic will only sail a bit longer before striking an iceberg. But why should we be concerned about our astronomical debt when it does not directly affect us?

What about us? What about our individual financial ship? Are we sailing in safe waters, or like the Titanic, sailing through great oceanic ice fields, dodging one iceberg after another? Statistics should set off alarm bells for each of us. Consumer debt, which includes credit card charges and automobile loans (but

not home mortgages), has escalated to 1.4 TRIL-

LION DOLLARS! That's one-fourth of our nation's debt!

As a people, our ability to consume is unrivaled by other nations. Americans make up only five percent of world population, but use one-third of the world's resources. Since the mid-1950s, the amount of goods and services we consume has doubled.

The increased popularity of credit cards has contributed to the inability of many American's to control spending habits. Americans possess over one billion credit cards. Only one-third of card-users pay off their balances in full. The rest opt for monthly piecemeal payments at crippling interest rates. It's no wonder more than a million Americans declare bankruptcy each year.

If it is the economy, and most Americans give the economy an A+ approval rating, we must be stupid. ◆



TSUNEO NAKAMURA/INDEX STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ UNITED STATES

U.S. vs. Iraq: Bowling to peer pressure

“The only serious constraint on U.S. military action [in Iraq] is U.S. public opinion.” So says news analyst Joseph de Courcy of Intelligence Digest.

Indeed, America, as the world's only superpower, can more or less do what it wants regardless of what the rest of the world thinks. But it is not the rest of the world that President Bill Clinton is worried about.

Courage to make strong, even unpopular, decisions is essential to real leadership. But the Clinton administration's ship of state seems wholly steered by public opinion polls. And as the lead stories in this Trumpet issue point out, the U.S. public is proving itself a poor judge.

Never was this problem more on parade than during the globally televised February 18 town meeting at Ohio State University, where the Clinton administration attempted to shore up public support for military action in Iraq. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger encountered a noisy, opinionated crowd and considerable opposition to another war with Iraq. Hecklers shouting, “One, two, three, four, we don't want your racist war!” interrupted Madeleine Albright several times. Although the disrupters were a small minority, the overall mood of the meeting was one of distrust and disgust with

U.S. policy.

After the meeting, the Clinton administration claimed victory and “overwhelming support” for their policy. Others didn't see it that way. One major European ally called the meeting “a tactical mistake” by the administration because the show was almost certainly seen in Iraq and “may have inadvertently given Saddam Hussein good cheer.” Not to mention its fueling U.S. public criticism.

So what happened? Just two days later, February 20, Washington approved a last-ditch diplomacy trip by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, despite stern internal warnings that it would undermine America's leverage. And sure enough, Annan returned with a deal that relieved the U.S. public—no shots were fired after all! But now, even Saddam is claiming victory. Why shouldn't he? His popularity in the Arab community is up; he raised the enemy U.S.'s dander for months with no harm done; he is still in power.

And at the same time, America's prospects for taking decisive action against Iraq are severely crippled. After all, if the public didn't want a war before, while Hussein was flagrantly violating UN mandates, what about after a compromise which seems to have smoothed everything over? How easy it is for uninformed, unconcerned people to look the other way. And how easy for politicians whose prime concern is approval ratings to follow suit.

In the words of De Courcy, “Being the world's only superpower is not a popularity contest.” Turn it into one, and you won't stay there for long. ◆

◆ ALAMOGORDO

German base steps on U.S. toes

With over a thousand military families and 90 fighter planes, a German military migration is evicting U.S. residents on American soil.

As we reported in the August 1996 Trumpet, a German training center has been established at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. The facility houses 42 Tornado fighter planes and 24 R-4 Phantom fighters and was proudly dubbed by the Pentagon as the first permanent foreign military base to be built in America.

In an agreement between the German and U.S. governments, New Mexico was selected as base operations for its wide open spaces which are more suitable for German Tornado pilot training than densely populated Europe. The program is to be expanded with the addition of 30 more German planes and the tripling of the current number of low-level test flights. Plans are also underway to create a new bombing range taking up to ten square miles of public land in south central New Mexico.

The German Tornados are designed to fly low and fast, avoiding enemy radar. However they are not avoiding the anger of many in New Mexico and its bordering states with claims that the U.S. is sleeping with the enemy. CNN Earthwatch, of February 15, 1998, reported that “opponents are upset that German flyers are using U.S. airspace and rattling their ear drums and they point to the recent tragedy in Italy in which a low-flying U.S. naval plane clipped a ski lift cable and left 20 people dead.”

In his August 1996 Personal, Gerald Flurry wrote, “People were saying that Germany and the world were too civilized to plunge this planet into a world war. Then came World War I—the worst war ever. Then came World War II, far worse with the death of 50-60 million people! Are we too civilized for such a tragedy today? And what if our gamble with Germany today is dead wrong? As Churchill said, it is a mistake you make only once! All Americans would pay the deadly price! It gives us the potential to be attacked and destroyed from within. Is there no risk in America allowing the Germans to establish a sophisticated military base in our land? History thunders a warning to our unteachable leaders!”

With the memoirs of man's failure printed on the pages of time, George Santayana's famous statement that those who fail to learn from history are destined to repeat it rings in the ears of avid world watchers. The permanent German Air Base in Alamogordo is a mistake you make only once. Now, with the U.S. standing on the threshold of attack from within, will its leaders awaken from their stupor in time to find that they have been sleeping with the enemy? ◆



PT PHOTO

Willkommen,
Luftwaffe!

COMING IN THE
Trumpet

EMU Takes Off



Eleven of the fifteen member nations of the European Union have now qualified as candidates for the Union's most ambitious project—the adoption of a single currency. The European Union will endorse their official choices of those countries which will now proceed with full economic and monetary union at a special summit in May.

Euro-skeptics are increasingly sounding strong warnings about the risks to international economic stability posed by the European single currency. Sterner voices are being raised concerning the prospect of the loss of national sovereignty by member nations of the EMU to the German-dominated European Union. What are the facts relating to this historic move by the EU and how will the EMU impact you?

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