

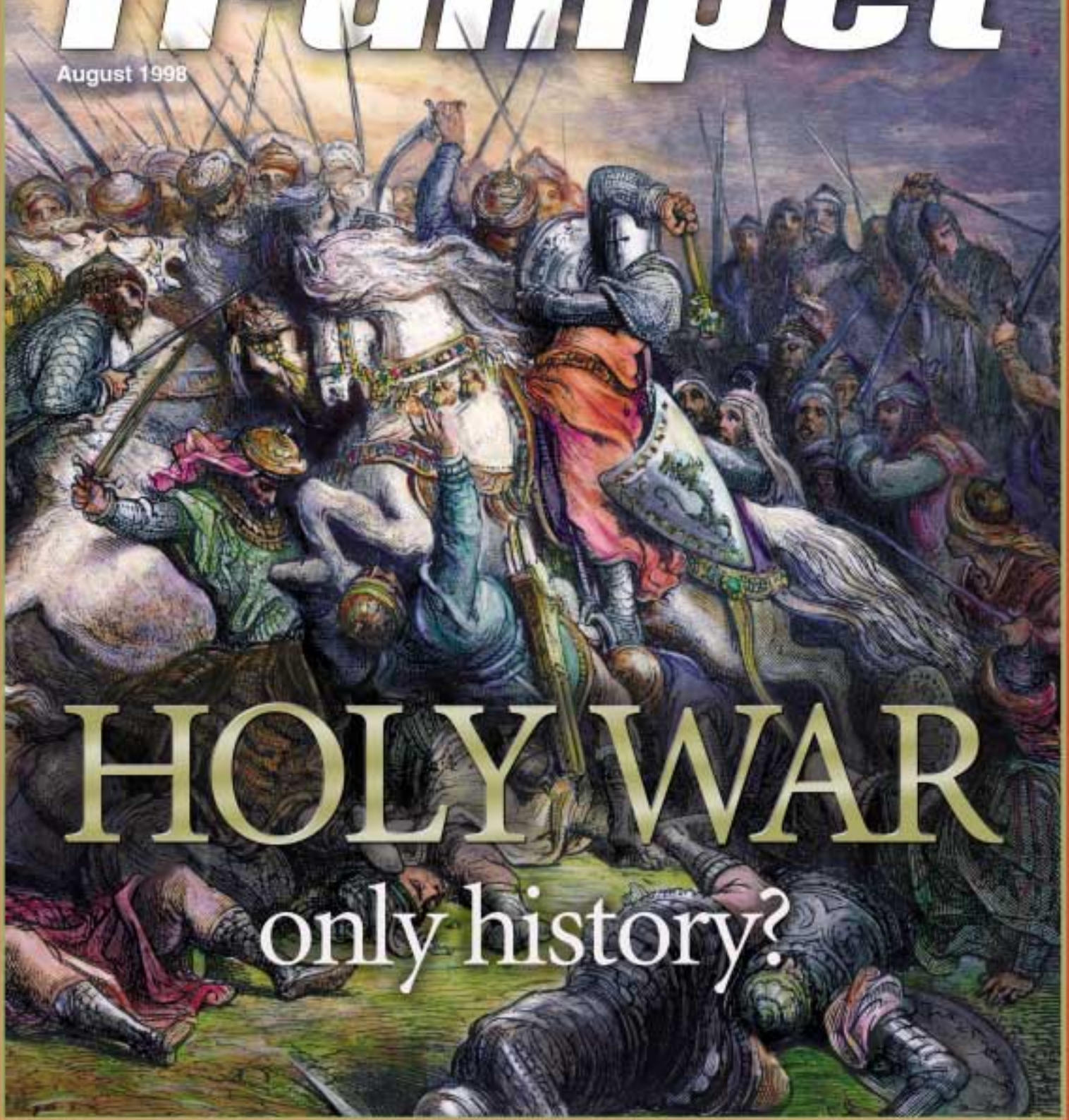
AFRICA: A CONTINENT IN CHAOS



The Philadelphia

Trumpet

August 1998



HOLY WAR

only history?

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Gerald Flury



Taiwan Betrayal

The U.S. President made a well-publicized trip to China in July. It helped President Clinton's image at home. But what about America's image before the whole world? And Taiwan?

While America has been trying to isolate Iran, the number-one terrorist nation in the Middle East, China has been helping them (and other U.S. enemies) build their military—including nuclear power. Chinese leaders have been called the “butchers of Tiananmen Square.”

They have imprisoned and/or killed their own young people for seeking freedom.

The people of Taiwan broke away from China's tyrannical rule in 1949. They now have 21 million citizens. America is their most important ally—the source of their military armaments. Without America's military and psychological support, they would have already been conquered by mainland China. They have little or no chance to survive without our support.

They have a strong democratic rule and they love America. Around 95 percent of their people are against allying with China. On the other hand, China has been one of America's greatest enemies. And yet, the President let China write his script in what he said about Taiwan on this latest trip!

Here is a quote from the Dallas Morning News (emphasis mine): “What has shaken and disappointed MANY Taiwanese is a SCRIPTED STATEMENT Mr. Clinton made Tuesday [June 30] AT THE URGING OF CHINESE

OFFICIALS. In Shanghai, Mr. Clinton expressed U.S. commitment to what is known in Taiwan and China as the ‘three nos’: no U.S. support for a declaration of independence by Taiwan; no U.S. support for the existence of ‘one China-one Taiwan’; and no U.S. support for Taiwan's membership in international organizations in which membership is based on statehood...

“Mr. Clinton is the first U.S. President to PUBLICLY oppose Taiwanese independence and to verbalize such a restrictive policy toward Taiwan” (July 3).

So there was a heavy price the U.S. had to pay for this greatly publicized visit. The Chinese leaders pressured the President and America to speak against our freedom-loving friends before the whole world. And he is the first President ever to do so publicly!

The people of Taiwan fear for their future. They feel betrayed. Lee Kue-Hsiung, deputy director of the Institute of International Relations in

“For a long time, U.S. support has been vital to the psychological security of the people of this island. Now, I think a lot of people will feel threatened about the future security of Taiwan.”

—Lee Kue-Hsiung
Institute of International Relations
in Taipei

Taipei, said this: “For a long time, U.S. support has been vital to the psychological security of the people of this island. Now, I think a lot of people will feel threatened about the future security of Taiwan.” Many others who were interviewed expressed similar fears. Chen Yu-Chang, a 20-year-old pre-med student at Taiwan University, said, “I think the U.S. may put China ahead of Taiwan, and that worries me. If anything happens, I'M AFRAID THE U.S. MIGHT SACRIFICE TAIWAN.”

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THE LAST C

THE CRUSADES WERE A series of Catholic “holy” wars to wrest control of the Holy Land from Moslems. They produced some of the bloodiest battles in history.

Did you ever wonder how the Catholics could reconcile that “holy” slaughter with the Bible, which states, “Thou shalt not kill”? Or how they can read the Sermon on the Mount and still lead the religious world in spilling rivers of blood?

They are called the Christian Crusades. That label itself is a deception. They were primarily Catholic Crusades. Other Christian religions have their problems, but let’s not blame them for what the Catholics did—and are going to do. Some background will help us understand.

Pope Urban II

In 622 A.D., the Catholics fought and were defeated in a crusade against the Persians and the Jews. Some 60,000 Catholics were killed, and 35,000 enslaved. The fall of Jerusalem left the Catholic world shocked and in mourning.

This war left Catholics bitter against the Jews for the role they played in the war. Much anti-Semitism began because of it.

Some historians consider this the First Crusade. But the crusades we best remember came later, beginning in the eleventh century.

Pope Urban II unleashed a savage Catholic army and started these later crusades. This “righteous” army marched 3,000 miles to conquer the Holy Land. What the Pope preached and practiced came to be known by most people as the Crusades.

The Holy Land: Jews, Moslems and Catholics have spilled rivers of blood for control of Jerusalem.

RUSADE

Most people think the crusades are a thing of the past—over forever. But they are wrong. There is going to be a final crusade, and it is going to be the bloodiest one of all!

BY GERALD FLURRY

Here is a quote from the book *Crusades*, by Terry Jones and Alan Ereira, which became a BBC television series (emphasis mine): “By summoning an army under the banner of the Cross, THE POPE WAS EXTENDING THE CHURCH’S MANTLE OVER ALL CHRISTENDOM. THIS WAS THE IDEA AT THE VERY HEART OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PAPACY; in place of separate local churches at the center of discreet communities, THERE WAS TO BE ONE OVERARCHING CHURCH, RULED BY ONE OVERARCHING POPE. The Crusade was to be its expression and its instrument.”

They state that this thinking was AT THE HEART OF THE PAPACY. The popes wanted to rule any church called Christian. Through the Holy Roman Empire, they also tried repeatedly to rule the entire world. They have succeeded six times and are about to succeed again, for the last time, according to Bible prophecy. (Write for our free booklet *The History and Prophecy of Germany*.)

The Protestant churches are prophesied to be brought back into the Catholic Church (Isa. 47). Most of it will be done through bloodshed. Remember, this thinking is at “the very heart of the revolutionary papacy.” That means this philosophy has motivated them for nearly 2,000 years. And they still believe violent and bloody crusades are righteous. Has

Christian soldiers: Crusader savagery was motivated by false notions of righteousness.

anybody ever heard them repent of this condemning history? The answer is no.

History proves the Catholic Church to be one of the most militant institutions ever created. They do not believe in a democratic philosophy. They have often “converted” people by the sword. And yet, this world seems unwilling to hold them accountable for their war crimes.

Modern historians have shown how closely they worked with the Nazis. It was through the Catholic Church that most of the leading Nazis escaped after World War II. We have shown in past articles how well-documented that history is. No one should doubt it. (Read *The Unholy Trinity* by Mark Aarons and John Loftus.)

And doesn’t that crime reveal that

the Catholics were deeply involved with the Nazi war machine?

This subject is too important to let our emotions stand in the way. Because the worst is yet to come!

The last crusade is going to be the supreme Inquisition of all history. It is time we understood their bloody history and let it be a warning!

The world seems almost unaware of these monstrous crimes.

Let’s continue the quote: “Urban’s army would also rescue Jerusalem, the spiritual (and therefore the physical) CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. He hoped that the redeemed Jerusalem would be directly ruled by the Church.

“Every man who enrolled for the struggle must mark himself out by wearing a cross and, most important, vow to continue on his way until he reached Jerusalem.

“Urban’s method of raising this army was completely original; as well as pay, he could offer paradise—anyone who took part had all their sins forgiven. ‘Whoever for devotion alone, not to gain honor or money, goes to Jerusalem to liberate the Church of God can substitute this journey for all penance.’”

Any Bible student ought to know that only God can offer paradise and forgive sins. But that is the big problem with most Christians: They don’t believe and obey the Bible!

The whole world, including the religious world, is deceived (Rev. 12:9). Enormous problems, like the Crusades, are going to continue until we confront our own deception.

Let’s conclude the quote: “By



saying that carrying out a military/political enterprise would make you a better person, wiping out past sins, Urban had invented a way by which every person could internalize papal policy. Fighting in the Pope's cause was not only an obligation, it made you righteous. With that one idea, mass political action was launched. With that one idea, ideology was born. With that one idea, the Crusade was set in motion. URBAN DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE HAD DONE."

This Pope certainly did not know what he had done. What he began led to a number of indescribably brutal wars between Catholics and Moslems.

The real tragedy is that the world, like Pope Urban II, still does not understand what he did, and what the Catholic Church continues to do. Their real beliefs surface when they gain power. And today, they are building the greatest power they have ever had. All we need to do is understand just some of their history to predict what is

coming. And it is far more predictable than most historians believe. If you understand their history, their future is very predictable. Add Bible prophecy to that equation and you will see that this world faces a frightening specter.

Fighting on Both Sides

The Crusades created rivers of blood. And it was all done in the name of God. Of course, the Moslems responded with massive slaughters against the crusaders, also in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

Jerusalem is considered a holy place by both religions. It is indeed considered the "center of the universe" to the Catholics. They believe conquering Jerusalem makes them righteous. It has been their ideology from the beginning. It is still true today. The fruits are there to prove it. The Bible says that "by their fruits you shall know them." They believe in war as an instrument to achieve their religious goals.

"The following morning the Crusaders re-entered the al-Aqsa Mosque and slaughtered every Moslem sheltering there. No one knows how many

died; the Moslem chronicler reports 70,000. ONE OF THE CRUSADERS REPORTS PICKING HIS WAY THROUGH A MESS OF BLOOD AND BODIES MORE THAN KNEE-DEEP" (ibid.). This is only one episode of many. Many people have seen pictures of this very mosque.

How many Moslems still remember their history of this mosque being knee-deep in Arab blood? And all of this savagery supposedly made Catholics righteous! A warrior who burned Arab babies in the crusade was considered worthy to gain glory for all eternity! Does this really make sense to a sound mind?

"But killing, the Pope now declared, need not be a sin after all. It depended on who you killed. In fact, if you killed the enemies of Christ, killing did not require penance—it was the penance. HOLY SLAUGHTER COULD BE AS EFFECTIVE A DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY AS PRAYER, OR FASTING, OR PILGRIMAGE...."

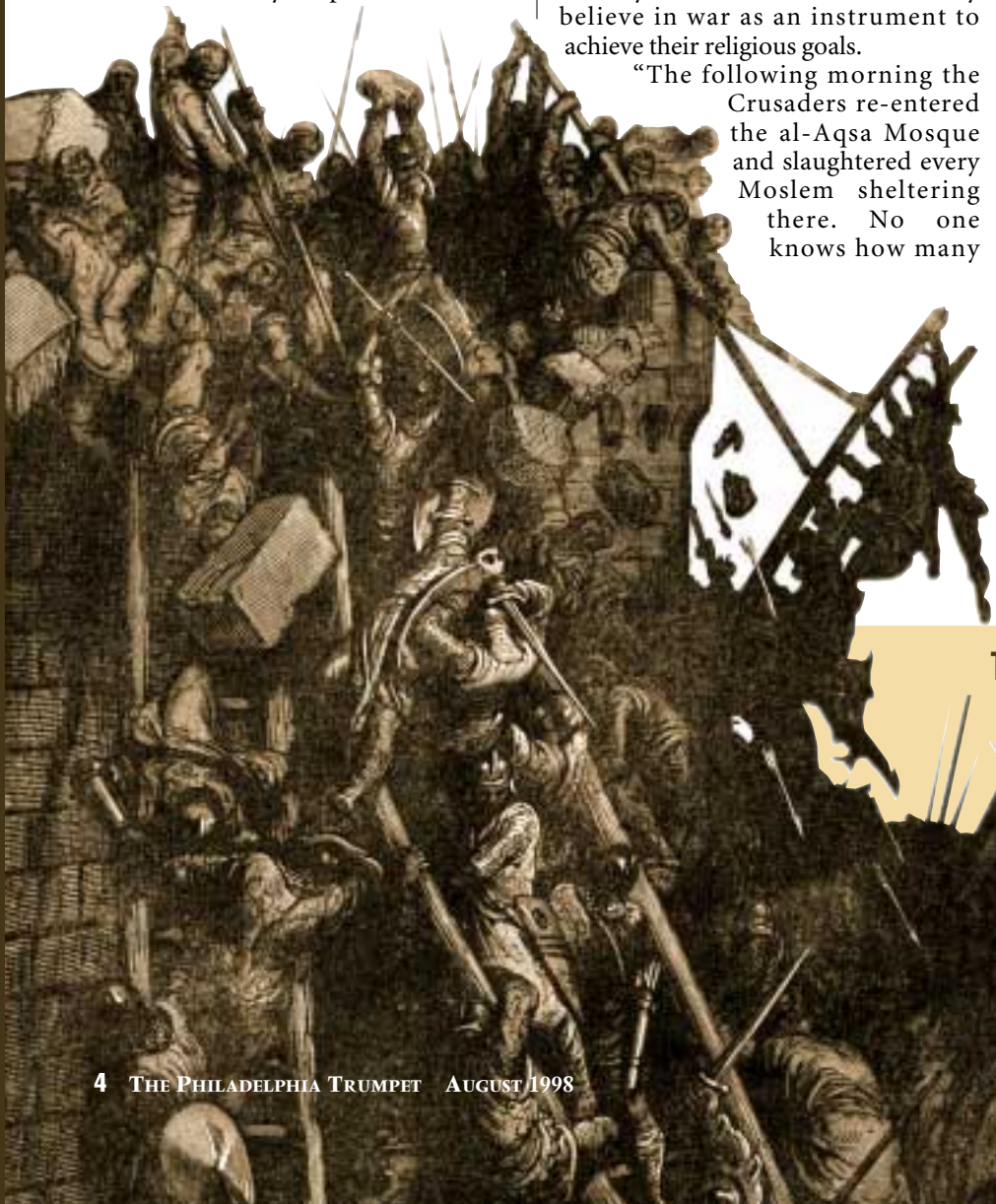
The Pope said, "Now we are proposing that you should fight wars which contain the glorious reward of martyrdom, in which you can gain the title of present and eternal glory...."

"The Pope had also pointed out the importance of rescuing Jerusalem from the infidel. He seems to have suggested that 'rescue' meant 'seize and keep'" (ibid.)

The Pope also said, "Take the road to the Holy Sepulcher, rescue that land from a dreadful race and rule over it yourselves."

Moslem and Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem were slaughtered like pigs. And all of this was done by Catholics who presumably became more righteous in the process.

Were these killers true Christians? A true Christian is one who follows Christ. If we look in the gospels, Christ tells us to love our enemies, even die for



The Crusades created rivers of blood—on both sides. And it was all done in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides?

Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?



Pope Urban II

"Now we are proposing that you should fight wars which contain the glorious reward of martyrdom, in which you can gain the title of present and eternal glory...."

"Take the road to the Holy Sepulcher, rescue that land from a dreadful race and rule over it yourselves."

Urban II convinced followers of the concept of killing heretics for penance.

them—not kill them!

The memory of such horrendous massacres still lives in the minds of many Arabs.

Those memories have provoked Arabs and Jews to massacre Catholics throughout history in a similar manner—all in the name of religion.

The Fourth Crusade

The Fourth Crusade was launched from the little Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which was captured by Catholic crusaders during the Third Crusade. Crusaders attacked Alexandria, Egypt, on their way to the Holy Land.

Here is what Steven Runciman wrote about the Fourth Crusade in *A History of the Crusades* (emphasis mine): "King Peter arrived at Rhodes early in the month, and on the 25th the whole Cypriot fleet sailed into the harbor, 108 vessels in all, galleys, transports, merchant ships and light skiffs. With the great galleys of the Venetians and those provided by the Hospital, the armada numbered 165 ships. They carried a full complement of men, with ample horses, provisions and arms. Not since the Third Crusade had a proportionate expedition set out for the Holy War...."

"During the Friday night there was fierce Moslem counterattack through one of the southern gates, which the Christians in their excitement had burned down. It was beaten off; and by

the Saturday afternoon, all Alexandria was in the crusaders' hands.

"THE VICTORY WAS CELEBRATED WITH UNPARALLELED SAVAGERY. TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES OF HOLY WARFARE HAD TAUGHT THE CRUSADERS NOTHING OF HUMANITY.

The massacres were only equalled by those of Jerusalem in 1099 and Constantinople in 1204. The Moslems had not been so ferocious at Antioch or at Acre. Alexandria's wealth had been phenomenal; and the victors were maddened at the sight of so much booty. They spared no one. The native Christians and the Jews suffered as much as the Moslems; and even the European merchants settled in the city saw their factories and storehouses ruthlessly looted. Mosques and tombs were raided and their ornaments stolen or destroyed; churches too were sacked, though a gallant crippled Coptic lady managed to save some of the treasures of her sect at the sacrifice of her private fortune. Houses were entered, and HOUSEHOLDERS WHO DID NOT IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS WERE SLAUGHTERED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. Some 5,000 prisoners, Christians and Jews as well as Moslems, were taken to be sold as slaves. A long line of horses, asses and camels carried the loot to the ships in the harbor and there having performed their task were killed. THE WHOLE CITY STANK WITH THE ODOR OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL CORPSES" (ibid.).

This author said, "THE CRUSADES WERE THE POPE'S WORK." The crusade philosophy has made Catholic popes the bloodiest religious leaders ever!

Still, most people try to hide from this frightening reality. That is the main reason why the worst Catholic crusade

is yet to come. Mankind refuses to believe the truth and believe God.

The world so quickly forgets. And because they do, the massive bloodshed continues. The Catholics did these appalling, despicable deeds before the world. But has anyone heard them repent before the world?

There is good news. Jesus Christ is personally going to stop the next crusade, but only after the worst suffering ever on this earth (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22).

Cyprus

More than one crusade has been launched from Cyprus. Will we see the last crusade launched from there as well? Is history about to repeat itself?

Turkey, just north of Cyprus, has been a strong member of NATO for many years. Yet, a German-led European Union (EU) rejected them from joining the EU—even though they have been applying since 1963, when there were only six members! Nine new countries have joined since then, and 11 more are on the waiting list.

Cyprus is also on the list to join the EU. Their chances look good.

Why has the EU consistently rejected Turkey? Is it because Turkey is predominantly Islamic?

The EU is prophesied to be ultimately comprised of ten nations, dominated by Catholicism. Already the EU is being called the Holy Roman Empire. They have traditionally been the enemies of the Moslems.

And why does it look like tiny Cyprus will become a member of the EU? Is the EU already thinking about Cyprus as a launching pad from which to protect their Jerusalem interests?

We don't know if Cyprus will become a member or not. But you can

be certain that the EU is thinking about how to protect the holy places in and around Jerusalem. They have thought like this for almost 2,000 years!

There is a real crisis in Cyprus today. Some people fear a war between Greece and Turkey, who share the rule of this island. Russia is about to sell missiles to the Greek Cypriots, and the Turks say that means war.

Here is what Christopher Lockwood, diplomatic editor in Nicosia, wrote in the Daily Telegraph, March 30: "The EU has maneuvered itself into a position where it may soon have to take a bitterly divided island, with a propensity for violence and even war, into its bosom.

"It has poisoned relations with Turkey, a crucial NATO ally; made a solution to the Cyprus problem harder to achieve than ever...."

Why would Europe risk such serious problems, even warfare, over this tiny island?

Even the people building the EU don't fully understand what is happening. Is there a spirit and force behind these events which the world does not see? Are they being led by a power with a master plan? "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And THEY WORSHIPPED THE DRAGON WHICH GAVE POWER UNTO THE BEAST: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" (Rev. 13:3-5).

If this world truly understood what is happening in Europe, they would be trembling in fear.

Does this great evil spirit being, Satan the devil, have plans for Cyprus? Is there a final crusade planned to be launched into the Middle East from there? This evil spirit being knows Bible prophecy and what the future holds.

The beast will hold power for three and a half years, and then Christ is going to destroy that evil empire forever! We are entering the worst times ever, but they lead into the best news we could ever receive!

Final Crusade Prophesied

One of the main tourist attractions in Jordan is the Crusader castles. The Catholics built most of them to war against the Moslems and control Jerusalem. These castles are stark reminders of the bloody past—and a far more bloody future!

Where is it all leading? Nothing is more important for you to understand. History is about to be repeated. Bible prophecy tells us so.

The Jews have Jerusalem now. But not for long. Both Moslems and Catholics have designs for Jerusalem. These two great powers are about to clash again—go head-to-head in the final crusade over Jerusalem!

Iran recently conducted major war games code-named "Road to Jerusalem." Between 150,000 and 500,00 soldiers participated.

What could be more provocative? They are advertising their strategy to the world. Few people understand this Moslem passion for Jerusalem and its holy sites! They are the kind of passions that cause war!

Iran will undoubtedly lead what the Bible calls "the king of the south." This power will be comprised of the radical Islamic movement. Iran is working fiercely to lead this radically militant religion.

Iran has virtually destroyed the peace process single-handedly. But still, the world continues to talk about peace. Iran and radical Islam don't want peace, and words won't deter them.

Here is what Joseph de Courcy said in a recent edition of Islamic Affairs Analyst: "Subscribers should be in absolutely no doubt about this. From Iran's support for subversion in Bahrain, through its improving ties with Egypt, its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamist revolutionaries in Khartoum, to its close strategic alliance with Moscow, everything has the same ultimate purpose: the liberation of Jerusalem from under the Zionist yoke."

The U.S. has tried to isolate Iran. Almost no other nation supports us. This attempt has failed. The U.S. is fighting against Bible prophecy.

Iran has nuclear bombs. They believe America can be neutralized by terrorism—perhaps nuclear terrorism.

Here is what Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in 1996: "We know but one word: struggle, struggle. Jihad, jihad, jihad. When we stop our intifada, when we stop our revolution, we go to the greater jihad, the jihad of the independent Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem."

Jihad is the Arab cry for holy war. They are going to get their war. But it isn't going to be holy. It's going to lead to the worst suffering this planet has ever experienced!

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Dan. 11:40). This king of the south is undoubtedly the Iran-led radical Moslems. They are strong and are PUSHING others around in the Middle East.

Soon they are going to PUSH at the king of the north, or the so-called Holy Roman Empire—the same religious power that was behind the Crusades.

And that push is surely going to revolve around Jerusalem.

A bloody past: The remains of Shobak castle in Jordan.



Yasser Arafat

"We know but one word: struggle, struggle. Jihad, jihad, jihad. When we stop our intifada, when we stop our revolution, we go to the greater jihad, the jihad of the independent Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem."

Islamist revolutionaries seek a complete takeover of Jerusalem at all costs.



Just 20 years ago, nobody could have even imagined two world powers coming out of the Middle East and Europe. But God knew exactly what was going to happen. Nobody but God could have inspired these prophecies. Everybody can see these two great powers today.

Just look at what is happening in Europe—and has been for years. The Pope is working feverishly to revive the Holy Roman Empire. Here is what he said in Spain, November 9, 1981 (emphasis mine): "It can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that it is precisely in Christianity that are found those common roots by which the continent has seen its civilization mature: its culture, its dynamism, its activity, its capacity for constructive expansion in other continents as well; in a word, all that makes up its glory...."

"Find yourself again. Be yourself. Discover your origins, revive your roots. Return to those authentic values which MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE and your presence so beneficent in the other continents."

During the Inquisition, OVER 50 MILLION innocent people WERE KILLED IN THE NAME OF "CHRISTIANITY"! That's right—50 million! And you can add many millions more as victims of the Holy Roman Empire. Shouldn't the whole world fear a Pope who would say, "DISCOVER YOUR ORIGINS, REVIVE YOUR ROOTS. RETURN TO THOSE

AUTHENTIC VALUES WHICH MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE"? Those "origins" and "roots" and that "history" caused many millions of people to die!

In Revelation 17, God paints a vivid picture of a great church as a lavishly dressed harlot, holding sway over the nations. God sees things as they truly are! Let's look at God's view.

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Rev. 17:6). God sees this whore "drunken" on the blood of the saints! Is killing God's saints "glorious"?

The Holy Roman Empire is going to come at the king of the south like a whirlwind. Will there be a surprise attack from Cyprus? Will we see the final crusade launched from there? A whirlwind comes suddenly. So it doesn't appear the attack will be launched from Europe.

We must understand the Holy Roman Empire and the Crusades to understand the Catholic passion for Jerusalem. They have a long history of spilling rivers of blood over Jerusalem.

Notice what their first action is after they are victorious. "He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon" (Dan. 11:41). They "enter" into the glorious land, or the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this is a peaceful entry—not forced.

The Jews appear to invite them in as peace keepers. But it leads to a great double-cross, prophesied in Ezekiel chapter 23. (Write for our free booklets, The Ezekiel Watchman and

Hosea.)

This will lead to a disaster where no stone is left on top of another stone at the Wailing Wall (Matt. 24:1-3). Those are Christ's own words!

The Jews should remember the history of the violence and bloodshed by the crusaders. Then perhaps they would choose differently.

"He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (Dan. 11:42-43). Other countries are going to fall to this great power.

Twice it mentions that Egypt will not escape. For the past 20 years, Egypt has been the most moderate nation in the Middle East. Iran has PUSHED them toward their camp. That is because Egypt fears terrorism and their own radical Moslems. We have seen that happen before our eyes, just as God prophesied it would!

The Good News

Then the Holy Roman Empire is going to face disaster. "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (v. 44). The Russians and Chinese will then prepare for war with Europe. The Europeans

Any child should understand that the fruits of the Holy Wars have been diabolical

will see it happening and strike first. They will, however, be defeated.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet HE SHALL COME TO HIS END, and none shall help him” (v. 45). Notice the religious leader moves his headquarters to Jerusalem—and not just for protection. He could have gone to many other cities that would have been safer. But this is a religious act of faith. Jerusalem is considered to be his most holy place on earth—the “center of the universe.” Still, he comes to a most ignominious end. Nobody is there to help him.

There should be no chapter break between Daniel 11 and 12. The story flow continues to illustrate that this religious war triggers a nuclear World War III.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan. 12:1). There has never before been trouble like this. God promises to protect His people physically. Otherwise, they would perish in a nuclear nightmare.

As bad as this news is, IT LEADS TO THE BEST NEWS THIS EARTH HAS EVER HEARD! “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (v. 11). The daily sacrifice, or God’s Work, is removed when God takes His people to a place of safety. That happens because the abomination of desolation, or the king of the north, conquers America and Britain—unless we repent (Matt. 24:15; Luke 21:20-21). But when that happens, you can start counting days to the return of Jesus Christ. He will end these so-called “holy wars” forever.

Any child should understand that the fruits of the “holy wars” have been diabolical! There is no excuse for America and Britain not knowing the truth. God has been sending His message in power for over 60 years! They have rejected it repeatedly. That is why they now must suffer so intensely. Finally, God will get their attention and lead them to peace, full joy and abundance. ♦



Fulfilling prophecy: Cyrus, founder of the Persian Empire.

Many scoff at Bible prophecy. But consider the fact that certain events in the book of Daniel concerning the Middle East are supported by documented history. Further, the Bible recorded this history 400 years before it occurred.

The history and prophecy of the Middle East

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

FOR MOST, THE FACT THAT DANIEL 10 and 11 record nearly 400 years of Middle Eastern conflict is not a big deal. After all, there are thousands of history books, many of which give a much more detailed account of the history than Daniel. But what makes Daniel’s version different is that it was written before the events happened! That’s right. Daniel wrote about 400 years of history before it was history! That makes it FULFILLED PROPHECY. But part of this recorded history is yet to be fulfilled. Daniel said it would happen at the “time of the end.”

In this article, we will cover both parts of Daniel’s prophecy: that which has already been fulfilled, and that which will be fulfilled. Once you discover how astonishingly accurate Daniel was in recording events that have since happened, there should be

no question that what he said would happen in the near future WILL, in fact, happen. As we study this passage, please read along in your own Bible, and learn this vital Middle East lesson in history and prophecy.

A Great Conflict

Daniel 10:10 through 12:4 is the longest single vision in the Bible. God revealed it to Daniel during the third year of the reign of Cyrus the Great (Dan. 10:1)—around 555 B.C. That date alone makes what Daniel wrote in chapter 11 astonishing.

Daniel 10:1 says the vision given to Daniel “was true, but the time appointed was long.” Moffatt translates this better: “the true revelation of a great conflict.” That’s what this prophecy is about—GREAT CONFLICT. Lange’s Commentary entitles this vision of Daniel “great tribulation.” It’s a vision about

Medo-Persian Empire



violence, warfare and bloodshed. And as we shall see, it all revolves around the Middle East.

Let's pick up the story in verse 14: "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." "Latter days" means the time just prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Even though much of this prophecy has been fulfilled centuries ago, the main fulfillment of this passage is during the latter days—the time we are living in now.

Verse 1 of chapter 11 is actually a continuation of the thought in chapter 10. We now come to the specifics of this incredible prophecy.

The End of Persia Prophesied

"And now will I show thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the FOURTH shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia" (v. 2). Remember, Daniel received this vision during the third year of Cyrus the Great—the founder of the Medo-Persian Empire. God said there would be four more kings to reign after Cyrus. Actually, there were at least 12 more Persian kings after Cyrus, but there is a reason God only drew attention to the four who followed him.

Cyrus had two sons, Cambyses and Smerdis. After inheriting his father's throne, Cambyses secretly killed his younger brother Smerdis. Cambyses ruled from 529 to 522 B.C. His reign was short-lived, because after returning to Persia from an Egyptian expedition in 522, he found one by the name of Gomates who had usurped the throne by impersonating Cambyses' dead brother! Cambyses was so disheartened he committed suicide.

After discovering the imposter, however, Persian nobles rejected him in favor of Darius I, who ruled from 521 to 484 B.C. This third king who followed

Cyrus has been called "the second founder of the Persian Empire" because of his empirical expansion efforts and his popular domestic policies.

Darius' son, Xerxes, inherited the powerful empire his father had built. He was the strongest and richest of all Persian kings, just like it says in Daniel 11:2: "and when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF GREECE" (Revised Standard Version).

Let's now get historical confirmation of these prophesied events from Myers' classic volume *Ancient History*: "After crushing the Egyptian revolt and suppressing another uprising in Babylonia, the Great King [Xerxes] was free to devote his attention to the distant Greeks" (p. 93). Just as Daniel said! Xerxes stirred up his empire against Greece. But it ended in disaster when his naval fleet, as Myers says, was "cut to pieces." It was the beginning of the end for the Persian Empire, as Myers notes: "The power and supremacy of the Persian monarchy passed away with the reign of Xerxes. The last 140 years of the existence of the empire was a time of weakness and anarchy, which presents nothing that need claim our attention in this place" (ibid.). Note that! After Cyrus, Myers feels that only four other Persian kings are worth mentioning!

As we continue from this remarkable prophecy, you will see that there are just too many historical details revealed in advance for this to be mere coincidence. Verse 3: "And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will." Verse 2 said Xerxes began tangling with Greece. And in verse 3, we read that a mighty Grecian king stood to "rule with great dominion." His name was Alexander the Great. He arrived in 334 B.C. to crush what

ALEXANDER
"And a mighty king shall stand up..."

remained of the Persians. (It had been in a steady decline for over a hundred years, ever since Xerxes made the mistake of attacking Greece.)

Myers notes that once Alexander slew the weak Persian king, he regarded himself not only as conqueror, but as successor to the Persian throne. This is especially interesting considering what God revealed in Daniel 2 about four world-ruling empires that succeed each other up until Jesus Christ returns to this earth to set up His Kingdom. Alexander's Grecian Empire was the third of these biblically prophesied world powers. (First was the Chaldean Empire, then Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonian, and finally the Roman Empire.)

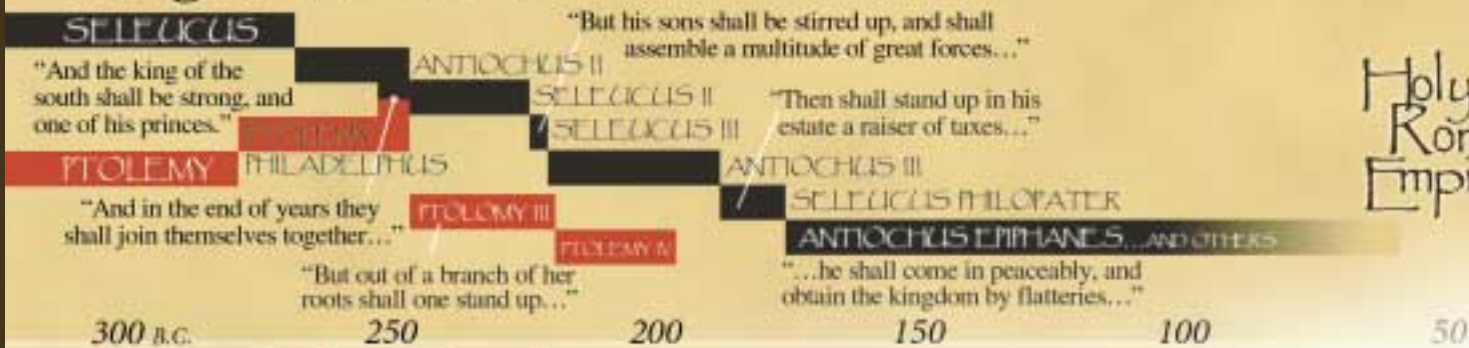
Alexander's Empire Divided

Continuing in Daniel 11, verse 5: "And when he [Alexander] shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those." Alexander's reign was cut short in 323 B.C. by his untimely death at age 32. There was no one strong enough to rule the vast expanse of his territory. Thus, his kingdom was divided into four parts, each ruled by one of Alexander's generals. Myers describes the fragmented state of the empire after Alexander's death: "Besides minor states, four monarchies rose out of the the ruins. Their rulers were Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus Nicator, and Ptolemy, who had each assumed the title of

Greco-Macedonian Empire

SELEUCUS
CASSANDER
LYSIMACHUS
PTOLEMY
"...his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven..."

King of the North



Holy Roman Empire

King of the South

king. The great horn was broken, and instead of it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven” (pp. 286-287). Again, note that! In that last sentence, Myers refers to Daniel 8:8! (Study Daniel 8:2-8, 20-22 as a parallel to Daniel 11:5.) Even Myers can’t help but draw attention to Daniel’s amazingly accurate prophecy, written 200 years before Alexander’s empire was divided among his four generals!

Cassander ruled over Greece and Macedonia and Lysimachus ruled Asia Minor. These two were the weaker of the four generals.

The other two, however, are significant, especially in how they set the stage for two centuries of conflict and struggle in the Middle East. It is these two kingdoms, one north of Jerusalem, the other south, that Daniel 11 primarily focuses on in the next several verses.

Kings of the North and South

Seleucus ended up with Alexander’s far-eastern territory, all the way to India. His western boundary included the region of Syria. He ruled the same general region of ancient Assyria, and also Babylon. “This kingdom,” according to Myers, “during the two centuries and more of its existence, played an important part in the civil history of the world” (p. 290).

Ptolemy captured Egypt, Judea, and part of Syria. This kingdom was perhaps the most important of the four divisions, insofar as its influence upon civilization.

“And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion” (v. 5). This verse more specifically explains how the two strongest empires of the four divisions

developed. For a while, after Alexander’s death, Ptolemy (Egypt) was the most powerful (“the king of the south shall be strong”). Seleucus Nicator was originally one of Ptolemy’s generals (or “princes”) in Syria. But while Ptolemy was tied up in war after Alexander’s death, Seleucus gained control in the north, founding the dynasty of Seleucidæ in 312 B.C. And as verse 5 says, this dynasty actually exceeded the king of the south in power and might. It was the kingdom of Seleucus that then most closely resembled the great empire under Alexander.

Notice the amazing details God provides in verse 6: “And in the end of years they shall join themselves [or ‘associate themselves’] together; for the king’s daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement....”

After 50 years, this prophecy was fulfilled to the letter. By this time,

Antiochus II (called Theos) ruled the northern kingdom in Syria. His wife’s name was Laodice. Largely because of his wife’s influence, Antiochus II was persuaded to initiate war with Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of the south, in 260 B.C. The war was terminated in 252 when, as prophesied, the king of the south’s daughter came to the north to “make an agreement.” Antiochus Theos banished his wife Laodice when Philadelphus offered his daughter Bernice. The two married and both kingdoms temporarily joined themselves together. “But she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm...” (v. 6). In other words, though strengthened by that union, neither Antiochus Theos nor Bernice could retain that power.

Continuing from this incredible verse: “But [Bernice] shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.” Indeed, after Ptolemy Philadelphus died in 247 B.C., Theos



promptly gave up Bernice and retained Laodice as his wife. Still fuming from being banished years earlier, Laodice stayed with Theos long enough to conceive and then promptly murdered her husband, thus securing the throne for her son, Seleucus II. She then tracked down Bernice and assassinated her as well, squelching the last hope of the Ptolemies to have a descendent on the Seleucidæ throne in the north.

The story continues in Daniel 11: “But then shall arise a scion of her [Bernice’s] own family, in succession to his father, who shall head an army to enter the fortress of the king of the north; he shall take action and master the men of the north” (v. 7, Moffatt). The King James translation says one “out of a branch of her roots” would stand and fight against the king of the north. This branch from her own family was none other than Ptolemy III, Bernice’s brother. He invaded Syria in 245 B.C. and quickly avenged his sister’s death by murdering Laodice. Verse 7 was precisely accurate in describing Ptolemy’s victorious conquest. He acquired most all of the Syrian realm, from Cilicia to the Tigris, and besieged “the fortress of the king of the north” in Syria.

Verse 8 says Ptolemy III would carry many captives and spoils back to Egypt, which he did—history confirms more than 2,500 molten images and vessels. God also prophesied that Ptolemy’s reign would continue longer than his counterpart in the north, Seleucus II. God was right again. Ptolemy outlasted him by four years.

“But his [Seleucus] sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress” (v. 10). The plot thickens! After Seleucus II died, what was left of his kingdom was divided between his two sons, Seleucus III (226-223) and Antiochus III, called “the Great” (223-187). The prophecy in verse 10 quickly narrows its focus to one of these sons, Antiochus III, no doubt because the other died three years into his reign. Verse 10 describes the two expeditions Antiochus led against Egypt. The second one, after 27 years, enabled him to re-capture his fortress, Seleucia.

Verses 11-12 prophesied that the young Egyptian king, Ptolemy IV

(Philopater), would not wallow in defeat: “In a fit of mad rage the king of the south shall march out to fight the king of the north, who shall raise a large army, but it shall fall into the hands of his foe and be taken prisoner, to the proud joy of the king of the south, who shall rout tens of thousands of them” (Moffatt).

Once again, Egypt gained control of Judea, but only for a short time. Verse 13 foretold another resurgence by the king of the north in this see-saw battle over the Middle East. It says after “certain years” (actually it was 12 years, bringing us to 205 B.C.), Antiochus III

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returned with greater riches and a bigger army. Antiochus garnered military support from Philip of Macedonia and others. Jewish historian Josephus says many Jews helped in this fight against Egypt.

Now consider how accurately God foretold of this anti-Egyptian alliance hundreds of years in advance: “And in those times there shall MANY stand up against the king of the south...” (v. 14). Indeed, Daniel 11 is an astonishing prophecy! The next time someone tries to cast aside the Bible as flawed and uninspired, have them try to explain away this prophecy!

The next several verses give more details concerning Antiochus the Great’s conquests. Verse 15 says he would come upon Egypt and “take the most fenced cities,” a probable reference to Antiochus’ capture of Sidon. Verse 16 says “he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.” The “glorious land” refers to the land of Judea. After Antiochus captured Sidon, he defeated Egypt at Mount Panium in 198 B.C. and assumed control of Judea. This fulfilled prophecy is important because it sets the stage for a latter-day prophecy discussed at the end of Daniel 11, which will again revolve around the glorious land.

In verse 17, Daniel wrote, “He shall

also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom....” Antiochus’ success in Phoenicia, Syria and Judea prompted him to go after the “whole kingdom,” meaning Egypt. Verse 17 continues, “And he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.” After his military venture into Egypt in 198 B.C., Antiochus the Great offered his daughter Cleopatra (not the Egyptian queen of 31 B.C.) to the young Ptolemy, hoping to gain complete possession of Egypt. It didn’t work, as verse 17 verifies. Cleopatra knew she was only being offered as bait. She betrayed her father and gave her full support to her new husband, the king of Egypt.

Antiochus focused his energies elsewhere. “Thereafter he shall turn to the coastlands of the West [off Asia Minor] and capture many of them, but a certain Roman general shall put a stop to his defiant insults and pay him back for them” (v. 18, Moffatt). By this time, the Romans were beginning their ascension to world rule. The young Roman general mentioned in this scripture is Lucius Scipio Asiaticus. He crushed Antiochus’ forces in the Battle of Magnesia in 190 B.C.

Tail between his legs, Antiochus III returned to his own land (v. 19). He died in 187 B.C.

“Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle” (v. 20). Antiochus was succeeded by his son Seleucus Philopator (187-176). As the scripture notes, he was famous for collecting taxes. He sent a tax collector by the name of Heliodorus throughout Judea, hoping to raise money for the waning empire. The scripture says his reign would be short-lived and that he would not die in anger or battle. History confirms that his brief, 11-year reign was cut short by his tax-collector Heliodorus, who poisoned him.

Since Seleucus left no heir, the other son of Antiochus the Great was left to wrest control of the empire from Heliodorus. The other son was called Epiphanes (Antiochus IV).

Thus we reach a critical turn in the Daniel 11 story. Antiochus Epiphanes was responsible for setting up the abomination of desolation. This is significant because of a prophecy

concerning an end-time abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15; Luke 21:20). (There is also a spiritual dimension to this story because it revolved around the temple anciently. Today, in this end time, the Church is that temple; Eph. 2:21.)

Antiochus Epiphanes

Antiochus Epiphanes was a ruthless dictator who obtained rule through deceitful lies and flatteries. Verse 21 of Daniel 11 said he would “come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.” Rawlinson gives the historical account of this event in his authoritative *Manual of Ancient History*: “Antiochus, assisted by Eumenes, drives out Heliodorus, and obtains the throne, B.C. 176. He astonishes his subjects by an affectation of Roman manners.” Antiochus Epiphanes gained control by pretending to be someone he really wasn’t.

Continue in verse 22: “The opposing forces shall be swept before him and shattered, and so shall God’s high priest” (Moffatt). In this verse, we begin to see how much Antiochus hated the Jews. Rulers before him had typically treated the Jews well. But Antiochus Epiphanes’ ruthlessness toward the Jews far surpassed that of his fathers’ (v. 24). Verse 22 says Antiochus would even go so far as to murder the Jewish high priest. History confirms that Onias III was high priest in Judea at the time, and that Antiochus put him to death in 172 B.C. According to Rawlinson, Jews “were driven to desperation by the mad project of this self-willed monarch.”

In 168 B.C., Antiochus pillaged and desecrated the Jews’ temple in Jerusalem. Greek historian Polybius observed that he “despoiled most sanctuaries.” He also burdened the Jews with unbearable taxes. “Throughout the turbulent changes of its past history,” Werner Keller writes in *The Bible as History*, “Israel had been spared none of the horror and ignominy which could befall a nation. But never before, neither under the Assyrians nor under the Babylonians, had it received such a blow as the edict issued by Antiochus Epiphanes by which he hoped to crush and destroy the faith of Israel” (p. 331; see also I Maccabees 1:44). Much of this struggle between the Jews and the Syrian Kingdom is recorded in the book of Maccabees (in the Hebrew

Bible).

Verse 23 shows that even though this vile human being only had a few supporters at the outset, he eventually gained a large following through deceit and flatteries.

Verse 24: “He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers’ fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.” In this end time, we will witness another force that enters into the Holy Land “peace-

In this end time, we will witness another force that enters into the Holy Land “peaceably.” But they will not really want peace.

ably.” But like Antiochus, the leader of this end-time, peace-keeping force will not really want peace.

Verse 25 tells of another great clash between Epiphanes and the king of the south. It was his second successful Egyptian campaign. This clash revolved around Jerusalem. Verse 27 says both kings were mischievous and lied to each other.

On his return from Egypt, Antiochus encountered another Maccabean insurrection. Verse 28 reveals that his heart was against the “holy covenant.” “He shall do exploits” means Antiochus just did as he pleased against the Jews. He massacred them.

In verse 29, God prophesied of a third campaign into Egypt. But this one did not go well for Antiochus. Verse 30 says the “ships of Chittim” came against him. He was cut off by a Roman fleet from Cyprus. Defeated and dejected, Antiochus returned to the land of Judea and took his frustration out on the Jews. Verse 30 says he again had “indignation against the holy covenant”—God’s people. Then it says he had intelligence with a disloyal contingent of God’s people. In other words, he was plotting deceitfully with people inside the temple.

Verse 31: “And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away

the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the ABOMINATION THAT MAKETH DESOLATE.” Here we find the Bible’s first reference to the abomination of desolation. Consider the scene as Daniel describes it. Moffatt says “armed forces shall be set on foot by” Antiochus. It is talking about an army in Jerusalem. This army is what makes Jerusalem desolate. It desecrates the holy place and takes away the daily sacrifice (see also Dan. 8:11, 24). This happened in 167 B.C. Tradition says that Antiochus built a statue of Jupiter Olympus in the holy of holies—the holiest place inside the temple. He tried to stamp out the Jewish religion altogether.

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits [or TAKE ACTION]” (v. 32). Most of the Jews were deceived by flatteries. (The same has occurred to God’s people in this end time.) But there were a few who did make a stand and take action. A few Maccabees acted on what they knew to be right. These few instructed the many, as it says in verse 33. Some of those faithful few even lost their lives for doing what was right.

Throughout history, it has always been the few who have stood up and done what was right. There were just a few during Christ’s day. Many of them were martyred. Jesus was crucified. (In this end time, it is again the few who have resisted the deceit and stood for right.)

Verses 34-35: “Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” This prophecy describes the present condition within God’s Church today. But it also describes the history of God’s Church in general. God says many of understanding have fallen to deceitful lies and flatteries. When that happens, their only “help” comes from the faithful few who take a stand.

The New King of the North

We now come to a critical transition in Daniel 11. “And the KING shall do according to his will; and he shall EXALT HIMSELF, and MAGNIFY HIMSELF above every god, and shall speak

marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done” (v. 36). II Thessalonians 2:4 shows that this verse directly relates to an end-time prophecy being fulfilled in God’s Church. (For more on this subject, request your free copy of Malachi’s Message.)

But there is also important history recorded in verse 36. As we have already noted, when Antiochus went down to Egypt for the third time, his forces were resisted by Roman ships. Antiochus’ Syrian kingdom was on its last leg. By 65 B.C., they were swallowed up by the Roman Empire. The region became a Roman province.

Now here is the key point. Because the Roman emperor now controlled Judea, references to the king of the north from this point on in Daniel 11 refer to the Roman Empire, not Antiochus. Verse 36 is an apt description of Roman emperors who have historically done according to their own will, even exalting themselves above God.

Elsewhere in Daniel (chapters 2 and 7), God prophesied of four world-ruling empires that would succeed each other right up to the return of Christ at the end of this age. The Roman Empire was the fourth and final empire to rule before Christ’s return. True, the empire was crushed in 476 A.D., but passages in Daniel and Revelation prophesied of seven resurrections of what became known as the “Holy” Roman Empire. In 554 A.D., Justinian began that restoration. Since that time, there have been five more resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire, meaning there is to be one more before Christ returns. That’s what makes this prophecy at the end of Daniel 11 so critical.

Verses 37-38 continue to describe this new line of Roman rulers in the region called the “king of the north.” Historically, Roman emperors have set themselves up to rule in God’s stead.

Verse 39: “Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.”

These rulers of the king of the north do practice a religion, but as verse 39 says, it’s the religion of a strange god.

Prophecy Shifts to End Time

Now we see how this amazing prophecy in Daniel 11 will affect everyone on this earth. Verse 40: “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” This brings us right up to date with today’s news. Moffatt begins verse 40 by saying, “When the end arrives.” This refers to the days we are living in right now.

God says that when the end arrives, the king of the south will push at the king of the north—or the Roman Empire, which, for the last 1500 years, has resided in the heart of Europe. The word “push” in verse 40 means to strike or to wage war against. It denotes violence. Both sides will be motivated by radical religion. Centuries of recorded history prove that when it comes to religion in the Middle East, it often means WAR.

Who is this king of the south which pushes so violently? Anciently, it was south of Jerusalem in Egypt. In this end time, it will comprise a conglomer-

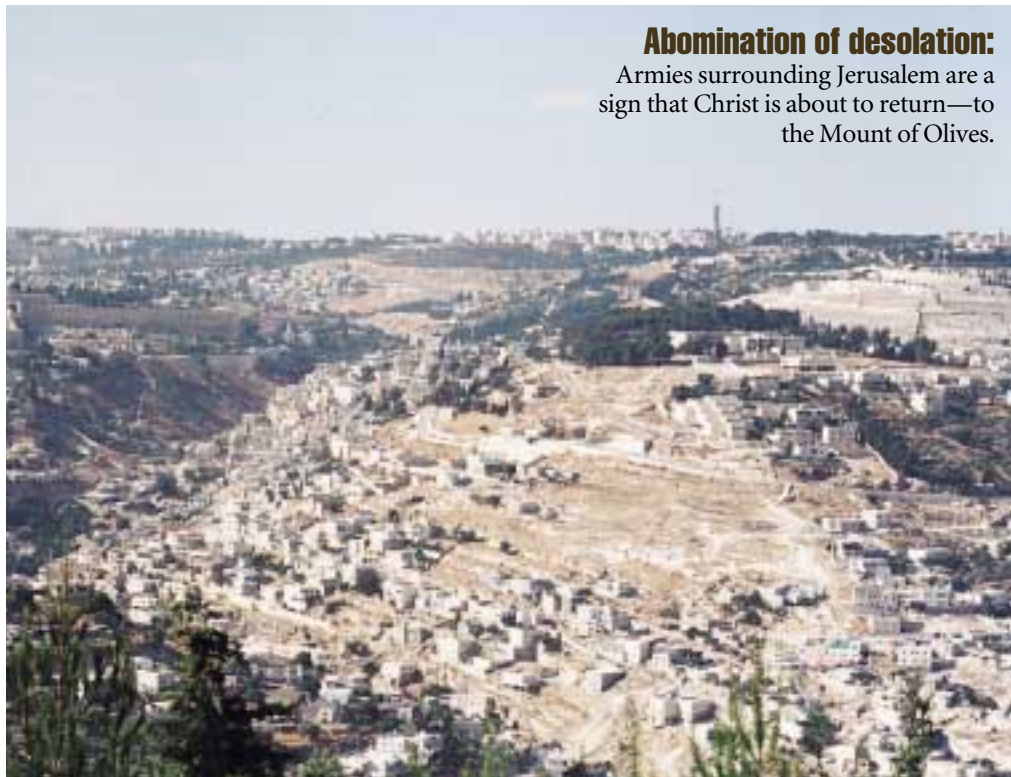
ate of nations much larger and more powerful than ancient Egypt. Much of this force will be south of Jerusalem, but not all of it. Certainly, though, we know it will be south of the resurrected Roman Empire.

The nations in and around the Holy Land, for the most part, are Islamic. It is this great power, fast becoming a force to be reckoned with, which is the king of the south. Most notable among the rising tide of radical Islam is Iran, which, since the end of the Iran-Iraq War in 1988, has accumulated massive military capability. They are considered the world’s number one sponsor of terrorism. And with the support of many other Islamic nations, like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt and Libya, Iran will be able to deliver a formidable “push” against the king of the north.

But as the next verse reveals, it will be no match for the whirlwind response of the European force it will encounter. We can see this force now developing, but the sheer force of its power will not be unveiled until this moment. Verse 41 says many nations “shall be overthrown”—more than just Egypt (as in ancient times), although verse 42 shows that they will certainly be a part of it. God says Egypt will not escape the whirlwind—neither will the rest of the king of the south.

Abomination of desolation:

Armies surrounding Jerusalem are a sign that Christ is about to return—to the Mount of Olives.



The only peoples who will be spared are the Edomites, the Moabites and the children of Ammon—the modern-day region of Jordan.

Then the king of the north “enters” into the glorious land—or Jerusalem. The Hebrew word for “enter” indicates a peaceful entry. But, like Antiochus Epiphanes, the king will deceive with flatteries, and what will be revealed is another ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION. This king of the north will eventually conquer all the end-time nations of Israel. (For more on this subject, write for The United States and Britain in Prophecy.)

Verse 44: “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” Tidings to the east (the Orient) and the north (Russia) will worry the king of the north. Other scriptural passages discuss this communist army which challenges the king of the north for supremacy.

Verse 45 shows that the king of the north will establish its headquarters in Jerusalem—in the “glorious holy mountain.” But the communist hordes will descend upon that holy mountain, gathering 55 miles north of Jerusalem in the place called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). The end of the “beast” and the “false prophet” will be near.

Now continue in Daniel 12:1. Remember, this is all one vision. Notice what these events lead to: “And AT THAT TIME shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall

be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” It leads to God protecting His people in a place of safety.

Then, at the time of the resurrection of the saints, Christ will return to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem—that holy mountain—and put a stop to the violence and bloodshed. The saints will rule with Jesus Christ and help to establish God’s government over all the earth (Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14, 18, 27; see also Rev. 11:15).

This vision, recorded from Daniel 10:10 through 12:4, begins with the kingdoms of Syria and Egypt that developed soon after the death of Alexander the Great 2,300 years ago. But it concludes with the resurrection of the saints and the return of Jesus Christ and the eventual peace and happiness He will bring to this world. What a vision!

Now here is the point: Most of that vision, as we have already noted, was fulfilled to a tee centuries after the book of Daniel was recorded. Now what does that mean to you? Doesn’t it mean that the remaining, unfulfilled details of this vision are sure, and they WILL HAPPEN? Of course they will.

A European superpower is fast becoming the world’s greatest power. The rise of Islam is there for all to see. These two powers will clash. The abomination of desolation will be set up in Jerusalem one last time. And just as surely as those events will unfold, Jesus Christ will return to this earth in power and glory, as dozens of scriptures confirm!

The question is not whether or not those events will occur. The question is, What are you doing to prepare for it? ♦

Cyprus: The Bridge

The Mediterranean powder keg is attracting much attention. What is really happening in Cyprus?

BY GARETH FRASER

NICOSIA, CYPRUS: “A CORNER OF Earth Touched by Heaven,” declares the Northern Cypriot tourist commission. Yet this little island nestled in the eastern Mediterranean has witnessed some of man’s bloodiest history.

Fortified by its high-tech military bases and surrounded by water for good natural defense, Cyprus has long enjoyed the favors of NATO and the British, Turks and Greeks. But now the island is forming a new alliance with the European Union.

Cyprus is no stranger to foreign rule. It has been governed by Assyria, Egypt, the Roman Empire, the Franks, the Venetians, the Ottoman Empire and Britain; it is now divided between the Turkish Cypriots to the north, who possess 37 percent of the island, and the Greek Cypriots to the south (63 percent).

The historical division of Cyprus between the Turks and Greeks came to a head in 1974, when Turkey annexed the northern third of the island. A new crisis looms due to Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides’ plan to acquire surface-to-air missiles from Russia later this year.

Today we see foreign ministers, ambassadors and presidential envoys jet-setting to Cyprus to present their latest peace proposals to the opposing sides. All major world players are involved in the Cyprus crisis: the United States, Europe, Russia and NATO. Why so much interest in Cyprus? What is behind all of the tension, nationalistic rhetoric and negotiations? What does the future hold for this tiny Mediterranean island? To

Fateful rendezvous:

Armageddon, the gathering place of end-time armies.



...e to Jerusalem



understand the events of today, it is necessary to return to the history of Jerusalem and the Crusades.

Richard the Lion-Hearted

In 1171, the Moslem champion Saladdin made himself the supreme ruler of Islam in the East and prepared for "jihad," or holy war, to recover Jerusalem from the Christian crusaders. For Saladdin and the fanatical Moslems, Jerusalem was their holy place, their home.

The French king of Jerusalem, Guy de Lusignan, was greatly disliked by the crusaders and was unable to exercise any tangible control over the region. The passionate Moslem forces attacked this weakness. In 1187, on the scorching, sandy plains of Hittin, Guy de Lusignan and his army were crushed. After a two-week siege, Jerusalem was taken by the Moslems.

The fall of Jerusalem sent shock waves throughout Christendom. The three great monarchies of Europe at that time, England, France and Germany, were now forced to bury their rivalries for one common goal—the

recapture of Jerusalem. To meet their objectives in this crusade (historians label it the Third Crusade), they needed a base of operations off the coast of Palestine. They decided that their united forces must take the city of Acre in Israel. The Germans marched overland; King Philip of France and Richard the Lion-Hearted of England agreed to take the sea route together. In 1191, they set sail from Sicily, where they had spent the winter.

While Philip sailed for Acre, Richard's fleet was scattered by a fierce storm and was forced to seek refuge in Crete and Rhodes. Three of his ships were driven near the shores of Cyprus where they sank. Surveying the scene of tragedy, Richard immediately landed his crew and attacked the natives on shore. The islanders were ill-equipped and no match for the English archers and armored knights. The next day, the Cypriot nobles sought audience with Richard, pledging their allegiance to the King of England and accepting his supreme authority over their strategic island outpost. Cyprus had accidentally fallen into Richard's hand, and he

subsequently used the island as a supply bridge on his road to Jerusalem.

Ruling powers in Cyprus have since realized that holding the island is essential to exerting influence in the eastern Mediterranean. The British, who governed the island from 1879 to 1960, and who oversaw its independence, currently manage two military bases in southern Cyprus. These bases proved vital in the 1992 Gulf War, as they supplied British and allied forces in the Persian Gulf.

European Overtures to Cyprus

Recently, the European Investment Bank (EIB) loaned over 42 million euros to Cyprus for two projects supporting the local economy as it gears up for a closer relationship with the European Union (EU). In 1991, the EIB moved into the Mediterranean by investing in the Cyprus Development Bank. Europe has expressed further interest in the two-year-old Cypriot Stock Exchange, with many companies establishing financial portfolios and substantial investments. Also, Cyprus is a popular tourist destination for residents of the European 15-nation team.

Cyprus, of recent years, looks more to the EU for its security. Cypriots see no choice but to embrace membership in the EU as soon as possible. Many feel this the only way to national security and a solution to the Cyprus problem. Since Cyprus is a Christian country surrounded mostly by Islam in the Middle East, a union with Europe would provide the protection they have been eagerly searching for.

In the past, Greek Cypriots have been disillusioned with the efforts of Britain, the U.S. and the UN to solve the internal division on the island. The turn in focus to the EU has been dramatic in the last couple of years. British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated recently that he is willing to give up British military bases in Cyprus in favor of a multinational force. That seems to be a synonym for the UN or NATO or, more likely, a European conglomerate.

There are great parallels between Bosnia, Albania, Cyprus and Israel. These areas of great ethnic conflict are increasingly coming under the guiding influence of Europe. Europe needs Cyprus for its strategic locality and is playing its cards close to its chest to ensure its integration into the Euro family.

Because of common ethnic and religious history, there is a blind love of EU-member Greece among many Greek Cypriots, in spite of the military junta backing the coup of 1974 which led to the invasion from Turkey. The bond in the hearts of Greek Cypriots with mother Greece eclipses the reality of the ineffectiveness of Greece to bring about a solution for the island. Many Greek Cypriots still desire “enosis,” or union, of an undivided island with mother Greece. Greece’s EU membership provides the Cypriots the ideal opportunity for achievement of enosis.

Already there are European troops in Cyprus under the auspices of UN peacekeeping forces. As the EU moves more into Eastern Europe and the Balkans, repeating the history of the old Holy Roman Empire, it would seem inevitable, given the facts of Bible prophecy, that they will draw Cyprus into their fold as a bridge into the Holy Land.

Europe Rejects Turkey & Islam

Previous editions of *The Trumpet* have pointed to mounting tensions over Cyprus. First we highlighted certain key factors to watch as the year unfolded: “Greek-Turkish relations are currently under severe strain as a result of Cyprus’ intention to purchase Russian S-300 missile systems. Turkey has declared that this would mean war. Greece has declared that it will come to the aid of Cyprus in the event of any aggressive action by Turkey. Russia too exhibits no signs of backing down” (Dec. 1997). Last month *The Trumpet* warned, “Watch for more overt diplomacy from the European Union, which can ill afford ructions between its member nation, Greece, and a Turkish nation already aggrieved by Helmut Kohl’s rash rejection of their candidacy for EU membership.”

Since 1963, the Turks have sought closer ties with Europe. They believe that their long history as power player in Europe, their post-World War II track record as a cooperative NATO member and their vibrant economy entitle them to better treatment by the Europeans.

Turks were furious when the Europeans accepted Greece but rejected their bid for EU membership. The EU cited these reasons for rejecting Turkey: a poor human rights record, internal Kurdish conflict and current

disputes with EU member Greece. Recently the Union has begun dialogue with the Greek Cypriot administration and, so doing, ignited the tension further. On a recent visit to Nicosia, Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem stated, “The treatment by the EU of the Greek Cypriot administration as the representative of the whole of Cyprus constitutes the first step toward escalation in the eastern Mediterranean, which can be very dangerous.” Mr. Cem called upon the EU to evaluate its future moves carefully before aiding in the architecture of another war on the island. In today’s diplomatic minefield, Europe’s actions in favor of the Greek Cypriots are speaking louder than their carefully spoken words.

The Turks sternly criticize Europe as a “Christian Association” unwilling to admit an Islamic member. They cite anti-Turkish discrimination in Germany, home to 2.5 million Turks, many of them migrant workers. Many Germans fear that EU membership for Turkey would prompt more Turks to move to the Fatherland for employment. Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, incensed by Germany’s influencing the EU’s negative tack toward Turkey, likened its European policies to those of Adolf Hitler’s plan of aggressive eastward expansion. When asked why his country had been denied entry to the Union, he replied, “Religious discrimination, of course.”

Earlier this year, U.S. special envoy to Cyprus Richard Holbrook, addressing a conference on German-American ties, said, “I must say with all candor that the decision on December 13 in Luxembourg [to exclude Turkey from the Union] severely complicated the search for stability and peace in the eastern Aegean.”

With Turkey as a vital ally of the United States and an active member of NATO, and with its faltering relations with the European Union, many observers fear that Ankara will begin to turn from its Western alliances.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church has courted its wayward Orthodox children in Cyprus. Recently the Pope

awarded Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides the Gold Medal of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher. This was in recognition of his services and understanding while leading the delegation of the Joint Constitutional Commission of Roman Catholic religious groups in Cyprus. This clear show of support from the Vatican did not go unnoticed by the Muslim Turks. They well remember the period in Cyprus when the Pope ensured religious dominance of the island by the Vatican.

Russian Missile Crisis

The Greek Cypriot government’s decision to spend \$680 million on Russian S-300 missiles has served to heighten tensions on the island and abroad. The Greek Cypriot President has stated that the missiles are purely for defensive purposes—however, the S-300s provide a modern, mobile, highly lethal system capable of intercepting any kind of aircraft, cruise missile or tactical ballistic missile. Covering both low- and high-altitude engagements, the missile has a range of 150 km. It not only will cover all of Cyprus, but also important areas of Turkey where major military installations are located.

NATO believes that its enlargement is the key to security in the area. However, with Russia’s staunch decision to sell the missiles to the Greek Cypriots, NATO influ-

ence on Cyprus seems uncertain. This chain of events will no doubt please the Russians, who are already opposed to any further expansion of NATO.

The inevitable addition of Russian personnel to install, train and assist in the operation of the S-300 system has made Western sources edgy. The system will give both Russia and the EU the capability to keep a “watchful eye” on further British and American maneuvers in the region via the sophisticated radar system which comes with the S-300s. As a countermeasure, Turkey has begun inspecting ships sailing in the Bosphorus Straits, apparently bent on preventing missile deployment. If unsuccessful here, it has also threatened to attack the missiles once they are installed.



Odd man out: Turkey’s Yilmaz accuses the EU of religious discrimination.

Russian economic and security interests in Cyprus have grown since 1989 brought the fall of the Berlin Wall and break up of the USSR. As a part of the expansion of Russian business interests, thousands of off-shore companies have registered in Cyprus, and many more thousands of Russians have taken up residence on the island.

Adding to the tension over the missiles, four Greek F-16s and two transport carriers landed at the Greek Cypriot military installation in June to verify the operational readiness of the base. In defiant retaliation, six Turkish F-16s flew into Northern Cyprus. Turkey keeps 35,000 troops on high alert in North Cyprus and has repeatedly stated that they are ready for any potential conflict in the region.

Bridge to Jerusalem

If pro-Christian Europe has her way, which is likely from all indications, this strategic sea gate of the eastern Mediterranean may soon fly the 12-star flag of the EU.

Yet once again, the world is destined to see Islam pitched against Vatican-dominated Christianity in a "holy war," with Jerusalem as the prize. Cyprus is to figure prominently in one of these mighty battles for control of the strategic Middle East.

The prophet Daniel tells us how events will unfold: "For ships from Cyprus shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary of strength; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation" (Dan. 11:30-31, NKJV). This old naval base which formed such a vital link in the European thrust to Jerusalem during the Crusades will again see ships set to battle between a modern European power and a powerful Islamic force.

As with the First Crusade, the fanatical Islamic power bloc, having pushed militarily at the king of the north, will be defeated (Dan. 11:40-41).

Cyprus once again will have played its strategic role as the bridge to Jerusalem for the powers of Europe in their final resurrection of that ancient Holy Roman Empire. ♦

—with JAMES LEIGH in Cyprus



Merchants of Death

The sale of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons is spreading at an irreversible rate. The world is being swept toward Armageddon in a torrent of greed.

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND nuclear warfare is a nightmare just waiting for a delivery system. Many experts consider missile technology sales to terrorist nations, especially in the Middle East, to be the world's biggest threat to international security.

Last June, the North Korean government put a gun to mankind's head by saying they won't stop selling missile technology to other nations unless America ends the economic sanctions imposed on North Korea after the 1950-1953 Korean War. North Korea's most recent customer: nuclear-equipped Pakistan.

China, too, is handing out ammunition to the madmen of the world by continuing its negotiations to sell important missile technology to Iran and Libya. The U.S. Congress is presently investigating reports that this American missile technology was provided to China (possibly illegally) and used to improve China's strategic nuclear missiles. In spite of a 1994 agreement not to sell such dangerous technology, Chinese leaders apparently

feel fully justified in their actions.

The Middle East is a veritable tinderbox of doomsday arsenals. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt and Libya all have advanced missile technology and one or more forms of chemical, biological and/or nuclear capability. According to arms-control experts, there are at least 25 countries from the steppes of Asia to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea which now have or are developing weapons of mass destruction. The Wall Street Journal of February 18 stated, "The Middle East is thick with them, whether it be nuclear warheads in Israel, anthrax in Iraq or missiles tipped with nerve gas in Iran."

Deadly Cargo

The real fear about spreading missile technology is not the missiles themselves, but the deadly cargo they can carry.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, over 30,000 nuclear weapons, plus weapons-grade uranium and plutonium sufficient to make an additional 100,000 weapons, became accessible to terrorist nations. Intelligence Digest of June 26 states, "Russia's one remaining strength is its ability to supply arms and

technology to states that are blacklisted by the U.S. and Western Europe.”

Today, becoming a nuclear power is more a matter of the pocketbook than the brain. The materials and the expertise can already be found in the marketplace—all it takes is money—and there is no way to undo the knowledge of how to make these nightmarish weapons. One of the lessons being written with the blood of human misery is that there is always a market for the technology of death—no matter how much human suffering it causes.

Likewise, chemical and biological agents are easy and cheap to manufacture and can kill people by the hundreds of thousands. Chemical and biological agents are the poor man’s atom bomb. Recipes for biological weapons can be found on the Internet. All that is needed is about \$10,000 for a beer fermenter, a biological “starter” culture, and a gas mask.

Doesn’t human life mean anything to these merchants of death? Has their twisted malice taken them beyond all human sensibilities and turned them into vicious animals? Don’t they care

about the horrible suffering and agony which chemical and biological agents cause?

Witch’s Brew

One of the deadliest chemical agents is a poison called VX. One tiny drop of the liquid form of VX absorbed through the skin causes nausea, convulsions and seizures, killing victims within minutes as they gasp helplessly for air because of paralyzed chest muscles. U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen recently stated that Iraq still has enough stockpiles of VX to “kill every man, woman and child on the face of the earth”—as well as bombs and missiles capable of delivering the witch’s brew.

Sarin nerve gas was used in 1995 by the Aum Shinrikyo (Sacred Truth) cult in Tokyo’s subway to kill a dozen people and injure another 5,000. Iraq used sarin in its war with Iran in the 1980s as well as on unsuspecting and unprotected Kurds and Marsh Arabs in March 1988, massacring 4,000. Like all nerve gases, sarin suffocates by paralyzing respiratory muscles and can result in

death within 15 minutes.

Mustard gas, which is easy to manufacture, was also used by Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. The horrors of mustard gas and its gruesome cousin, chlorine gas, were first introduced to humanity during World War I. Exposure to mustard gas immediately causes severe eye and lung damage, as well as serious skin blistering, and is lethal in large doses.

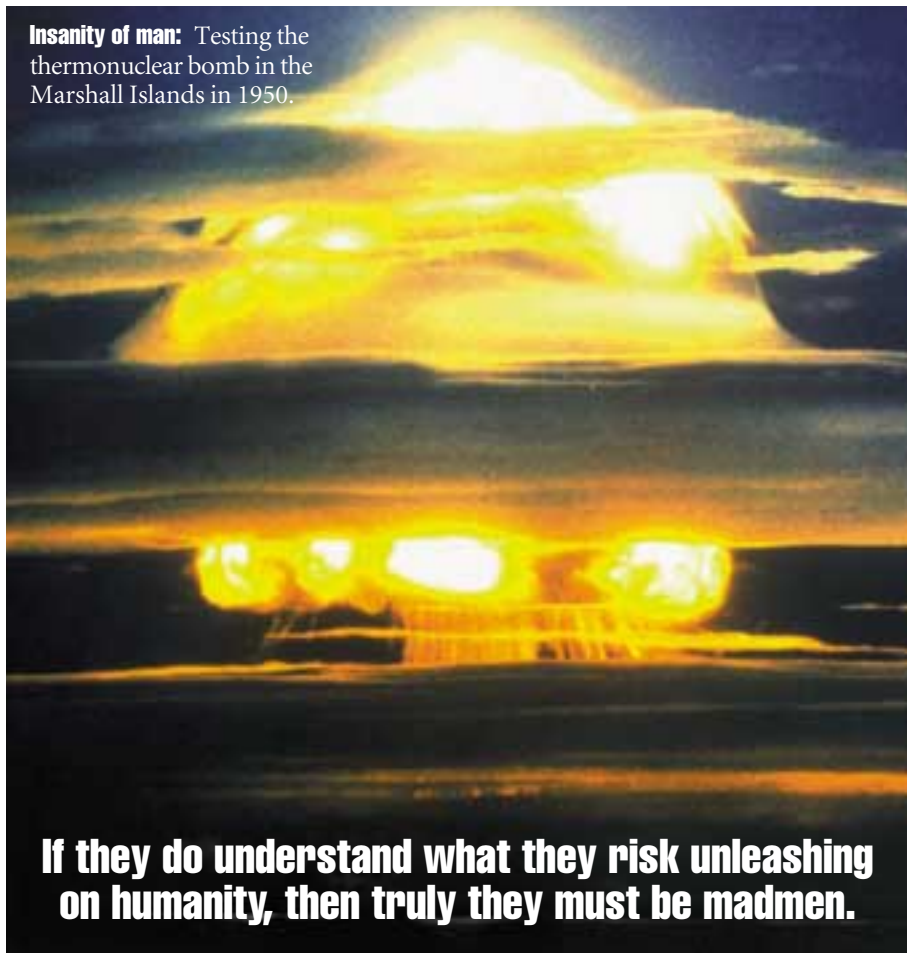
Novichok is designed to be absorbed directly through the skin and is up to ten times more toxic in humans than VX. A microscopic amount can kill. In lethal doses, Novichok shuts down the nervous system and causes paralysis, killing much like a pesticide kills an insect. But even in sub-lethal concentration, the effects are devastating, causing immediate choking and collapse. And those “lucky enough” to live are plagued with toxic hepatitis, chronic liver disease and epilepsy for the rest of their tortured lives.

Botulinum is one of the most deadly biological agents known to science—15,000 times as powerful as VX nerve gas and 100,000 times worse than sarin. This extremely lethal toxin, derived from the bacteria which causes botulism (a severe form of food poisoning), likewise paralyzes the respiratory muscles and suffocates its victims within 12 to 36 hours.

Anthrax spores are a powerful biological poison produced by animal bacteria which can be spread through the air, and cause black pustules, vomiting, fever, pneumonia, septic shock, meningitis and death by suffocation within two to four days. A gram of anthrax culture contains a trillion spores, theoretically enough to kill 100 million people. U.N. inspectors have confirmed that Iraq produced some 8,000 liters of anthrax spores during the 1980s—enough to kill every person in the world.

Ricin is a potent biological agent derived from the castor bean which can be spread by aerosol or in liquid form. Ricin causes blood poisoning and leads to heart failure, or worse, a collapse of the circulatory system, causing a slow, agonizing death. There is no antidote.

Even without a missile delivery system, chemical and biological weapons are a major threat wherever there are people. By putting a chemical or biological mixture into a paint sprayer powered by an air compressor,



Insanity of man: Testing the thermonuclear bomb in the Marshall Islands in 1950.

If they do understand what they risk unleashing on humanity, then truly they must be madmen.

triggered by a timing device, terrorists could easily kill and injure thousands. An office building could become a virtual coffin for hundreds of people simply by slipping a toxic agent into air ducts and letting the fans distribute the airborne death to unsuspecting workers who, within minutes, will be writhing and dying in agony.

Horrors of Nuclear War

An article entitled "Practicing for Armageddon" in the March 9, 1992, Newsweek told about the horrifying effects of a nuclear detonation on the human body. It said, "Nuclear explosions produce thermal radiation, blast and nuclear radiation. Thermal radiation (heat and light) results from the fireball that forms when huge amounts of thermal energy superheat the air surrounding the detonation. Two pulses [of energy] are emitted. The heat from the first pulse destroys the fluid and/or other tissue in the human retina, causing permanent [blindness in those who survive]. The second pulse inflicts skin burns so grotesque that a Hiroshima survivor, Dr. Michihiko Hachiya, reported patients with facial features melted together.

"Next, a shock wave develops from the fireball's expanding gases and high pressure, bringing death from unbelievable winds that LITERALLY RIP THE FLESH FROM THE BODY. The shock wave also brings severe compression (overpressure). In many cases, this overpressure squashes the body, causing organs to hemorrhage and rupture. Initial and residual nuclear radiation deal the final dose of death, entering the body by inhalation, ingestion and absorption. Its effects are found in destroyed bone marrow, collapsed lungs, gastro-intestinal damage, cell mutations and tissue ionization. In [tissue ionization]..., naturally occurring water and salt in the body ionize (chemically alter) and may form into a compound called sodium hydroxide...a substance similar to toilet-bowl cleaner. GROTESQUE? SHOCKING? UNIMAGINABLE? Absolutely. But that is the REALITY of NUCLEAR WEAPONRY."

Do the leaders of India and Pakistan really comprehend what they are doing? Do those selling weapons of mass destruction truly understand the hideous effects of their merchandise? If they do understand what they risk unleashing on humanity, then truly

There Is GOOD NEWS!

Very few have ever realized that Jesus Christ came as a NEWSMAN—reporting NEWS for the future. He spoke of 20th-century world conditions—and WORLD GOVERNMENT to come. The world has misunderstood, perverted, maligned His unique message.

The word gospel means "GOOD NEWS." And His was news for the FUTURE.

He described today's violent, chaotic world. In the pivotal prophecy of the New Testament of the word's best-selling book, He graphically described the international chaos into which the world is rapidly plunging right now. He said the violence would explode into a world trouble so great, that unless God intervened, no human would remain alive.

Yet, He promised, the all-powerful God would intervene supernaturally to cut short this world chaos (Matt. 24:21-22).

No book has so great a sale as the Holy Bible. No book ever was so misunderstood, maligned, distorted, misrepresented. Those who profess to use it as the source of their religion promulgate doctrines diametrically opposite from its teachings. They quote (or misquote) only a fraction of its verses.

Few know that a whole third, approximately, of that book is devoted to FUTURE NEWS of world happenings. News about various governments. News about the great MASTER PLAN for solving all this world's troubles. News of the now soon-coming peaceful and happy WORLD TOMORROW—on through CENTURY 21.

It's the BEST NEWS you ever read!...

Humanity WILL SURVIVE! There will be a happy WORLD TOMORROW. Mortal humans do have a stern lesson to learn first. Human bungling will bring accelerated world trouble before God-ignoring humanity will be willing to learn. But WE SHALL LEARN!...

Jesus' Gospel (and remember gospel means "good news") was actually His ADVANCE NEWS REPORT of the KINGDOM—the GOVERNMENT—of GOD, soon now to bring us world PEACE.

The KINGDOM of GOD is, simply, the world-ruling GOVERNMENT of God. It is absolutely not a sentimental, ethereal, imaginary something "set up in the hearts of men." It is REAL! It is SOON COMING!

And Jesus Christ was born to be the KING of that WORLD GOVERNMENT (Luke 1:30-33; John 18:36-37; Revelation 19:11-16; 11:15). As General Douglas MacArthur promised the Filipinos he would return, so Jesus promised His disciples He would return—and now, SOON, to RULE THE WHOLE EARTH! ♦

—HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG (The Good News, September, 1985)

they must be MADMEN who will take their places right alongside Adolf Hitler, Stalin and every other mass murderer in history!

The Mind of Satan in Mankind

The possibilities for mass destruction are almost endless if people are of such a mind. And where does that mind come from? This madness can only be attributed to the influence of the "god of this world," Satan the devil (II Cor. 4:4), who was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). God revealed to the late Herbert W. Armstrong that Satan is the "prince of the power of the air" who can literally broadcast attitudes of rage and HATE-FILLED INSANITY into the minds of those who are ignorant of his devices (Eph.

2:2; II Cor. 2:11).

Satan is filled with wrath because there is only a short time remaining in the 6,000 years of this present age of human misrule in which he has reigned supreme on the earth (John 14:30; Rev. 12:12). Soon the returning Jesus Christ will dethrone Satan (Rev. 20:1-3) and his broadcasting will finally cease after millennia of driving mankind into bloody fits of vengeance and wrath. Satan will almost accomplish his goal of destroying even the "very elect" of God (Matt. 24:21-22, 24), but our Creator will not allow His plan of salvation for mankind to be defeated. In the meantime, however, mankind must learn to see clearly who and what we have so horribly become under the wretched influence of Satan. ♦



AFRICA

Is there any hope for Africa? This great land mass, home to millions living in misery, is slipping out of its third world category into a classification of its own—the Nth world—defying comparison with conditions extant in any other area of the developing world.

BY RON FRASER

TAKE A COUNTRY, ANY COUNTRY, ON THE GREAT EXPANSE of the African continent, and, in the main, the same description applies—civil strife, disease, hunger, deprivation, exploitation, poverty. If ever a land mass on the face of this strife-torn earth were to exemplify the Shakespearean phrase of “man’s inhumanity to man,” it has to be Africa.

Of 174 countries measured on the United Nations human development index, the island tourist meccas of Mauritius and the Seychelles are the only African countries which fall within the top 60 nations on that scale. The UN’s human development index grades countries on attributes of national wealth, civic stability and the population’s general quality of life. Of the 53 countries which comprise Africa, 41 are graded as among the bottom 60 countries on this index. This means that the African land mass contains the largest number of lowest-achieving nations, with the lowest incomes, and the highest levels of poverty and disease on earth.

Africa is, literally, largely a continent of misery. Think of Africa and you think of famine, particularly in Chad, the Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Somalia. Think of civil war and one can list 27 African countries which suffered at least one violent change of government since decolonization. In the case of Nigeria alone, six coups have occurred in just 27 years.

Africa is the AIDS crucible of the world. It is the continent where ethnic hatred between black and black far exceeds that of black and white in the Western world. Of

A CONTINENT IN CHAOS

some of the continent's most extreme racial or religious wars, none can match Algeria. Though spawning some of the most barbaric behavior between this war's antagonists, Algerian news has become so "old hat" that the world press has mostly given up even bothering to report on it. It was the incessant need to constantly give to relief causes in many hopeless situations in Africa that spawned the term "donor fatigue." Africa is the world's own basket case.

What hope is there for Africa? Perhaps the best way to answer that question is simply to take the two richest countries on the continent and subject them to a reasonable analysis.

Best of the Worst

Following the frenetic scramble for African real estate by the competing colonial powers during the late 1800s through to 1912, it became apparent that the choicest parts of this great continent had fallen into the hands of the British. To students of Bible prophecy this ought not to have been a surprise. Though many have joked that Britain acquired a vast empire in "a fit of absent-mindedness," the prophecies of the Bible clearly indicate that Britain was to inherit the choicest parts of the most blessed lands on earth. (For clear proof of this, write for your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Unlike many other competing colonial powers, most African peoples who were ruled by colonial Britain thrived under their administration as part of a great and far-flung empire. People were given opportunity for education and advancement, allowed to maintain their rich cultural heritage, but penalized for acts of inhumanity. Clinics were set up for dealing with sickness and disease. The British colonial countries of Africa developed multifarious local tribal systems into thriving, productive economies of world standard.

With the rise of Irish resistance, however, and the exploitation of its methods by Ghandi in achieving independence in India, resistance to colonial governments soon spread like

a rash throughout the world. Although a handful of African countries, notably Egypt and Ethiopia, had achieved independence prior to the mid-1950s, the avalanche of independence gained momentum in 1956 and swelled to a mighty rush in the 1960s. Since then we have witnessed a monotonously predictable outcome in most of these de-colonized African nations. The bountiful benefits of benevolent colonization have been traded largely for inept administrations—ill-conceived, ill-trained, exploitative of the nations' populations. Often, huge advantage was taken by a privileged ethnic ruling family or tribe, largely salting away the fading wealth of their lands in a combination of Swiss bank accounts, hugely ornate mansions and ridiculous projects of dubious economic worth. Out of this mess, two countries remain the greatest in present wealth and potential for development on the conti-

Nigeria. To the north, the Muslim Hausa dominate with a culture largely influenced by the Arabs who regularly crossed the Sahara via the old camel trading routes. The Yoruba populate the West. They have quite an elaborate political-religious hierarchy and a history of active trade through the length of the West African Coast. Eastwards are the Ibo, an egalitarian people living within a largely unstructured village society. Predictably, upon attaining independence in 1960, three political parties emerged, built around each of these tribal groupings. Civil war came early with the Ibos attempting to carve out their own territory in the Biafran conflict. Biafra spawned the largest and the most costly civil war in independent Africa's history.

Biafra collapsed in 1970 and, surprisingly for an African leader, the incumbent president of Nigeria, Lieutenant-Colonel Yakubu Gowon,

NIGERIA

Boiling to the surface:

Abiola's death sparked riots in the streets of Lagos.



ment of Africa—Nigeria and South Africa, both of them once part of a mighty British Empire. These countries represent the best of what remains of the once thriving African trade economies. Both also exhibit the continent's worst traits.

NIGERIA

Populated largely by three massive and highly developed tribes, ethnic animosity runs deep in

did not permit reprisals against the Ibo rebels. Deposed in 1975, Gowon's successor was assassinated in 1976. Various coups and counter-coups followed in Nigeria, leading to a succession of military governments. With the sudden death in June of General Sani Abacha, from a supposed heart attack, the latest military leader to take over the presidency in Nigeria is General Abdul Salam Abubakar. Pledging to hand over the reigns to a

Think of civil war: 27 African countries suffered at least one violent change of government since decolonization. Nigeria alone has had six coups in just 27 years.

democratically elected government by October, the strongest proof of his intentions would have been the release of Moshood Abiola, the jailed Nigerian opposition leader. On the eve of his release, however, Abiola also died of a suspected heart attack.

Abiola's death sparked off social unrest as old ethnic rivalries surfaced once again. The sacking of the Nigerian government assembly by General Abubakar, hard on the heels of Abiola's death, further complicated the continuing political confusion in this country. The UN viewed the need for stability in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, sufficiently important to send Secretary-General Kofi Annan on an "urgent mission" to Lagos in June to negotiate Abiola's release. Kofi Annan's visit coincided with that of Commonwealth Secretary-General Eneka Anyaoku. Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth in 1995 due to the summary execution of a number of minority rights activists. It is interesting to note that the visits of Annan and Anyaoku to Nigeria were preceded by that of an EU envoy. The EU has a special interest in Nigeria as



an oil-producing country.

With a population growing at a rate among the highest in the world, Nigeria is projected to have at least 618 million people within her borders in less than 50 years—more than the present population of the whole continent of Africa! Oil rich and containing vast mineral resources, Nigeria will be watched closely by the major industrial economies of the world. Her biggest trading partner, the U.S., wishes to ascertain whether this second-greatest economy in Africa will yet defy the wearying trends of the self-seeking native despots in Africa and offer a stable transition from military to free democratic government.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mountainhead of the dreams and hopes of the world for a positive change from the wearying monotony of hopelessness on the African continent, the new South Africa has now had four years to strut its stuff on the world stage. What has this once richly blessed, beautifully situated, bountifully endowed country achieved since the 1994 transition of government? Sadly, it has achieved the predictable. Cronyism and corruption in government, ineptness in administration, self-seeking leaders exploiting the trappings of undeserved office, ex-Soviet-trained guerrillas given authority over national security, downgrading of education standards, reduction in health services, the general degrading of the whole quality of life—the new South Africa exhibits them all. Yet, so rich was this nation's economy prior to the 1994 handover of power to the Mandela government (despite the sanctions imposed upon it by a world uniquely ignorant of the true nature of the challenges which she faced), that many businesses still thrive.

The principal attraction to European settlers in South Africa was her gold and diamond reserves. The country also contains deposits of many

New king in town: Abubakar, latest military leader to seize control of Nigeria.

other valuable ores. Yet South Africa contains no petroleum deposits. Obviously, in today's oil-based economy, this is a significant strategic weakness. On the other hand, one of South Africa's strategic economic strengths in relation to other nations within the African continent is that it generates about half the electricity used in Africa. The export of this energy by South Africa to numerous African countries gives it the potential for quite a reasonable level of diplomatic clout in the electricity importing countries.

However, it is the possession of know-how, technology and materials of a more politically potent energy source which is the wild card in South Africa's hand. The possession of residual materials left over from the country's nuclear armaments industry is causing more than mere heart flutters in the inner breasts of Western intelligence agencies.

During 1993, then South African Prime Minister F.W. De Klerk confirmed to the world that South Africa had produced seven Hiroshima-style weapons. In 1995, a former aid to Mr. De Klerk claimed in a press statement that these weapons were destroyed, with production and test facilities rendered harmless. Current intelligence speculates that the number of bombs may have been 24, most being sent to Israel, but it is possible not all of those weapons remaining in South Africa were destroyed.

According to the U.S. National Security Council, there exists deep concern within U.S. intelligence agencies that residual materials from South Africa's nuclear weapons program may too easily find their way into the wrong hands. The South African government is presently reeling under the combined negative forces of recession, a dramatically plunging rand (her currency) and skyrocketing interest rates. Added to these stresses on the nation's economy and security is South Africa's easily penetrated borders.

In light of the shock wave rippling around the world following India and Pakistan's recent demonstrations of their nuclear capability, the West looks

The bountiful benefits of benevolent colonization have been traded largely for inept administrations—ill-conceived, ill-trained, exploitative of the nations' populations.

with jaundiced eyes on South Africa's relationship with Iran and Libya. Reports in 1996 indicated that Iran had already recruited South African nuclear scientists to work on the atomic energy program of this dominant and aggressively extremist Islamic power. The continuing strong links between President Mandela's government and many of the terrorist regimes that funded the ANC's bid for power are the weak links in a potential chain of events which could see South Africa, with its rapidly shrinking home economy, bend the rules by supplying nuclear technology, materials and equipment to one of these extremist nations.

A further fly in the murky ointment of South Africa's economy under existing ANC rule is its burgeoning conventional armaments industry. Boasting over 700 companies producing a huge range of military material, South Africa is increasingly emerging as an important supplier of weaponry to a whole range of countries. The prospect of arms sales to Syria and Rwanda two years ago brought stout protests from Western governments. President Mandela's retort was to thumb his nose at world opinion and declare that "we will conclude agreements with any country we wish to!"

Since then, South Africa has concluded deals with Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Lebanon and the turbulent Congo. The latest deal cut between South Africa and Libya is a \$450 million arms-for-oil contract. Negotiated by South Africa's Secret Service, sanctioned by President Mandela, this deal facilitates the supply of Libyan oil in return for South African weapons and spare parts. This flagrant breach of the UN arms and trade embargo on Colonel Gaddafi's regime causes deep concern that the deal could also involve South Africa supplying information to Libya about chemical and biological weapons developed during the apartheid era. The Libyan intelligence service is now well established in South Africa.

Defenseless Waters

Paradoxically, while South Africa's

armaments industry tries to exploit the highly competitive and ruthless international trade in military hardware, its own defense forces have weakened considerably since the ANC takeover in 1994. South Africa sits on one of the great sea gates of the world, the Cape of Good Hope. Nearly 1000 oil tankers and 30 percent of all cargo shipped to the U.S. and Europe pass round the Cape each year. In terms of its own exports, 95 percent of South Africa's outflowing goods leave the country by sea. If war in the volatile Middle East ever closed the Suez Canal again, the Cape would, overnight, become an even more vital choke point for international sea trade.

Yet, South Africa's navy, with 3,500 kilometers of coastline in addition to the Cape, plus some islands in Antarctica to patrol, is under-equipped, grossly under-financed and poor in staff morale. It has no aircraft carriers, no jet aircraft, no submarine-hunting or amphibious ships. South Africa lies as a sitting duck to any aggressive power with a modern navy. Not only that, but the ease with which southern Africa could suffer a modern invasion from the sea becomes even more apparent when it is realized that no other country south of Nigeria in the west and Kenya in the east possesses a navy of any real worth.

Shadow of Death

Our quick review of these two countries of greatest potential in Africa, Nigeria and South Africa, shows that the best of the worst in this continent hardly encourages great hope for the future. Even more discouraging, there exists one overwhelmingly pervasive



THE UN HAS ISSUED A WARNING THAT AFRICA COULD, WITHIN LESS THAN A GENERATION, BECOME A CONTINENT OF ORPHANS.

problem in the continent of Africa which casts its great black shadow of death over both present and unborn African generations—AIDS.

Last June, the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) in Geneva released its most pessimistic assessment to date of the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Africa contains two-thirds of the world's total AIDS victims; 21 million suffering souls are infected with this insidious virus in Africa. This picture becomes even more horrific considering that 90 percent of these carriers of the disease do not know they are infected.

The W.H.O. draws a terrifying comparison between the AIDS explo-

Two-thirds of the world's AIDS victims are African: 21 million suffering souls. What's worse, 90 percent of these carriers don't know they are infected.

“POLITICAL VICTORY ASSUMES A ‘WINNER-TAKE-ALL’ FORM WITH RESPECT TO WEALTH AND RESOURCES, PATRONAGE AND THE PRESTIGE AND PREROGATIVES OF OFFICE.” —UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

sion in Africa and the great plague of the Middle Ages. The W.H.O.’s field workers report that AIDS has drastically strengthened its stranglehold on central Africa and is now scything its way with increasing rapidity through southern Africa. Equal numbers of men and women are infected. Yet, the most worrisome findings reveal that HIV on this continent has hit children harder than in any other place on earth. Almost nine out of ten children in the world who are infected with HIV live in Africa. In addition to providing life to Africa’s out-of-control population, Africa’s mothers are, increasingly, spreading death, passing on the virus during pregnancy, childbirth or lactation. Africa is creating its own brain-drain, as statistics indicate that AIDS primarily affects the most upwardly mobile members of society. The W.H.O. declares that African nations should prepare to lose between 10 and 30 percent of their key work force to AIDS within the next decade. The disease will result in 10 million children being orphaned within the next four years. The UN has issued a warning that Africa could, within less than a generation, become a continent of orphans.

In a comment on the best of the worst in Africa, Peter Piot, director general of UNAIDS, has stated that the rate of transmission of the virus in Nigeria and South Africa has been grossly underestimated.

The gains in life expectancy made in African countries dependent on Western pharmaceutical drugs have paradoxically been wiped out by a virus for which medicine has failed to find a preventive barrier. Pre-AIDS life expectancy in Uganda was 59 years. Post-AIDS life expectancy has plummeted to 31.

One Man Rule

Washington Post reporter Blaine Harden has stated that Africa’s problems are “preliminary readings from the world’s messiest experiment in cultural and political change.” He describes how colonial administrations

have been replaced by the era of His Excellency, the “Big Man.” Africa is learning a hard lesson. Her colonial benefactors may not have been perfect overlords. But her post-colonial “big men” have betrayed Africa. “More than 150 leaders, many of them ‘President for Life,’ have come and gone as the continent has been sucked downward in a spiral of declining per capita food production and unpayable foreign debt, of civil war and rampant corruption” (Blaine Harden, *Africa*, pp. 218-219).

Commenting on this phenomenon, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan declared, “Political victory assumes a ‘winner-take-all’ form with respect to wealth and resources, patronage and the prestige and prerogatives of office.” This is “one-man rule,” the wrong way! It is the way of the rapacious dictator, the “Big Man,” which has shepherded nearly all of Africa into rank poverty, economic and social dissolution. As an experiment in democracy, Africa has failed abysmally. “Not one African head of state, even in nations that tolerate a measure of democracy, has permitted voters to end his reign” (*ibid.*, p. 219).

Future Hope

Africa has been destroyed largely by one-man rule, badly, often horrifyingly administered. Paradoxically, Africa’s only hope lies in one-man rule. Bible prophecy declares that King David will rule the nations of Israel with one-man rule in God’s coming government on earth (Jer. 30:9). Further, prophecies indicate that there will be a new era of re-colonization of the gentile nations by biblical Israel (Isa. 11:10). They will teach proper one-man rule, under the supreme Head of perfect government, administered by Jesus Christ, as Head of state and Head of religion—both King and High Priest. Authority will be delegated via a pyramidal hierarchy of future king-priests. They will oversee the reconstitution of the earth’s environment into an enriching abode for all life (Isa. 35:1-2).

Africa—corrupt, sick, starving



Africa—will bloom and blossom into an unheard-of, disease-free lushness that will support teeming millions of Canaan’s offspring, colonized under the benevolent rule of king-priests (Isa. 11:4). The wild game of Africa will reproduce plentifully. Even the aggression of the lion will be tamed (v. 7). There will be peace, harmony, unity among clans and tribes (v. 9). The contented populace of this great continent will celebrate with joyful festivity in an annual rejoicing over the perfect form of government to which it will be their privilege to subscribe (Zech. 14:16).

Sound like a dream? It’s more sure than the temporary reality of today’s prevailing chaos in Africa! Its inevitability is underwritten by the more sure word of prophecy of the one who created both man and his living environment (II Pet. 1:19). Write for your free copy of our booklets *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision* and *South Africa in Prophecy*. They will give you a vision that will enable you to look to the future with real hope, secure in the knowledge that the chaos and corruption in this world’s present society will soon be replaced with an era of peace and true harmony between all peoples on this earth, unmatched by anything which man in all of his vain attempts has ever before achieved. ♦

Personal *(From page 1)*

This is a typical view.

But is America listening?

The Chinese leaders would not allow three Radio Free Asia journalists to even come into China and report on the President's visit because they have reported on human rights abuses in China.

Once again, the President and America surrendered to their demands.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich was "gravely concerned" about this incident. He said to the President, "You should bring them [the three journalists] with you in person as your guests on Air Force One." Of course, the President didn't do so. That would have offended "the butchers of Tiananmen Square"!

We not only betray the Taiwanese, we betray our own ideals of freedom. America has been thinking this way so long that few people are concerned.

How about God? Is He concerned? The Bible prophesied that God would "break THE PRIDE OF OUR POWER" in this end time (Lev. 26:19; Dan 9:13-14). Once again, America has showcased its BROKEN WILL to the whole world. Check your history books and see if this is not unprecedented in the history of any other real superpower. Does the world have any fear of this "superpower"? Are we still a "superpower"? Write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

God also prophesied about our "lovers" betraying us, unless we repent. God is a God of justice. If we betray others, it is justice that we also be betrayed. Perhaps it is the only way we can learn how horrifying betrayal is.

We can begin to understand this betrayal by fully trying to learn how the people of Taiwan feel about our President's visit to China. Could we give them a fraction of the attention we recently gave China?

How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? These 21 million people are going to be FORCED into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America.

Does freedom really mean so little to us?

True history is going to judge us very harshly. So is God! ◆



Germany and the Vatican

☞ Please send the free reprint of "The Holy Roman Empire." I have the courage to face the truth about the Vatican, though it seems impossible to believe. ☛

Woman—Taunton, England

THE TELECAST THIS WEEK ON THE RECENT German elections and their prophetic significance was perhaps the strongest program yet. I certainly believe that it's a divine miracle that you can speak to the world in such a forthright manner and yet stay on the air!

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

WE HAVE BEEN READING THE TRUMPET FOR a year now and have realized profound ideas. What you've said about spiritual Israel in prophecy has made a great deal of sense to us. I realize your conviction is for us to repent. What I have missed is an idea on where we might go before we may be attacked by the king of the north, or the ten-nation Roman Empire. I have most of your literature. In one article in *The Trumpet* it says we may have to flee to escape nuclear attack. Where in the world can we go? Thank you for your insights. I am so glad you are willing to stand up and educate us while most people go around ignoring the signs of Christ's coming.

Lancaster, Calif.

◆ God promises a place of protection from the coming Tribulation in passages like Revelation 3:10 and 12:14-17. God has not yet revealed where that will be, or when to go. We are to watch and pray so we are counted worthy when the time comes (Luke 21:36). *The Trumpet* is an excellent guide on what to watch.

YOUR JUNE 1998 ISSUE IS SO MEATY. YOU seem to really be finding your voice on the world's geo-political framework. Your viewpoint is always unique, but always backed up with substance from many viable sources.

Pine City, Minn.

AS A CHILD 40 YEARS AGO, I REMEMBER reading about the United States of Europe and other end-time events in the *Plain Truth* my parents received. It was an interesting magazine, and I felt Herbert Armstrong had been touched by

God with insight into the scripture, especially about the end time. I was pleased to hear Mr. Flurry preach about Iran's leadership today and how it fits in with end-time scriptures, and to hear Gerald Flurry was carrying on Herbert Armstrong's ministry.

Tampa Bay, Fla.

News Behind the News

I THOUGHT THE ARTICLES IN THE JULY *Trumpet* were most informative and truthful. The article "What You Don't Get on Broadcast News" by Dennis Leap was right on the target.

Gainesville, Fla.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH, AND I think *The Trumpet* is telling people who will listen and have the courage to face the truth to get not only the big overview, but also to get a correct understanding of world events. One of the biggest problems of man is his downright refusal to understand that he is not obeying God's laws. All that the Bible says is coming true! Especially man's disbelief, because of his selfish ego, ignorance, fear and lack of appreciation of the Bible.

Youngstown, Ohio

THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT "NEWS behind the news" magazine. It is a wonderful gift to receive from you.

Lancaster, Pa.



Letters to the Editor must include the writer's name and address, and should be sent to *The Trumpet*, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to 405-359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@pcog.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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Have You Heard the True Gospel?

As strange as it may seem, today's churches have lost the true Gospel that Jesus preached.

BY ERIC ANDERSON



ASK ANY PROFESSING Christian if he believes the gospel, and he is sure to immediately respond with a resounding "Yes!" But press that same person to explain just what the gospel is and, if he is able to reply at all, he will almost certainly give a wrong answer!

This is shocking! Jesus Christ commanded that true Christians repent and believe the gospel. How can one believe it if he doesn't even know what it is? Jesus also commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15). Again, how could they, unless they understood the gospel message to begin with?

Further, God inspired the apostle Paul to pronounce a double curse on all who would teach a gospel other than the true message Jesus brought (Gal. 1:8-9). Many of this world's churches are in danger of bringing such curses upon themselves and their followers simply because they don't know what the true gospel is!

Believe it or not, today's churches have lost, changed, twisted and perverted the true gospel. Some groups have actually changed the name of the gospel. They interpret it as the "social gospel," the "gospel of wisdom," the "gospel of grace" or some other non-biblical title.

Why isn't the true gospel of Jesus being preached by the churches today? Have you ever heard Christ's own gospel—the very message He preached? You need to understand His message! It is necessary to believe that gospel to be saved!

Let us prove, using God's inspired scriptures, just what is the true gospel message.

By far, the most common mistake

has been to take the words "gospel of God" and apply them to a different, false message from the one brought by our Savior. Usually, churches preach a message about Jesus—about His birth, life and death.

Some preach the subject of law and grace—usually underscoring that "obeying the law is not a prerequisite for salvation"—as the gospel message.

The English word "gospel" means good news. But what is this good news all about?

This, too, is erroneous.

Actually, the plain truth about the gospel message is simple and easy to explain, although it has been forgotten by this world.

The English word "gospel" comes from the word "God-spell," meaning good news. Even this is usually understood by most churches. But what is this "good news" all about?

No clearer verse can be found to answer that question than Mark 1:14. Read it in your own Bible: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God."

There it is: The gospel is the good news of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD!

This message of the Kingdom of God is not preached by the world's churches, and hence they do not understand the truth about that glorious Kingdom. Yet, that Kingdom is spoken of throughout the Bible!

The prophet Daniel speaks of this Kingdom in Daniel 2:44: "And in the days of these kings [i.e., a prophesied end-time empire of united nations] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Isaiah the prophet also speaks of this kingdom: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.... Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice" (Isa. 9:6-7).

Many other verses could be cited. It is quite clear that what the prophets speak of here is indeed an actual kingdom, with laws, rulers, domain and subjects—not some ethereal place set up in "the hearts of men."

The Kingdom of God is a literal kingdom to be set up here on planet earth during the 1000-year reign of Christ after His second coming. It will break in pieces the kingdoms of this world and rule the physical nations of this globe, with Jesus Christ as the head. It will be a time of great peace, prosperity and tranquility, when all of God's perfect laws and ways are administered (Isa. 11:1-10; Mic. 4:1-5).

As the New Testament emphasizes, those who are saved will rule with Jesus Christ over these nations as kings themselves, but with eternal life as spirit beings (Rev. 3:21). And, astoundingly, Hebrews 2:6-7 says men are now only a little lower than angels! The saints will be made GREATER than angels! They will be members of God's own family, on His own plane of existence, hence God-beings themselves, under the Father and the Son (Rom. 8:12-17; I John

3:1-3; I Cor. 15:35-58).

Therefore, the Kingdom of God is, in its spiritual sense, the government of God—administered by the family of God, a family whose members are on the God level. (For further proof, request our free booklet *God is a Family*.) When the time comes in God's plan when all physical humans who will qualify for that Kingdom have qualified and have been "born again" into that family, then the Kingdom will comprise only spirit beings who are literal children of God.

That is truly breathtaking news! It is the same message of good news—the ONLY gospel—which Jesus Christ brought. In today's chaotic and problem-ridden society, the very best news you can hear is the good news of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ was the divine messenger who delivered the Father's mes-

sage to Peter and the other disciples to preach the gospel. "Then he called his twelve disciples together... and he sent them to preach the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:1-2). Later, He sent out 70 more men to preach the same gospel (Luke 10:1-2, 9). After the resurrection, before miraculously ascending to heaven, Jesus again taught His disciples about the Kingdom (Acts 1:3).

During the first 20 years after the Church was founded in A.D. 31, a fierce controversy arose as to whether the gospel was about Christ or Christ's message. A great false church rose to teach a false gospel about the person of Christ (II Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15). From that time on, a spurious gospel was preached in the name of traditional Christianity, by which Satan deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

God's one true Church, however,

is a book which encapsulates the gospel message. It is a book of great hope for humankind. If you don't already have one, write for your free copy.

The Philadelphia Church of God, sponsor of this magazine, is an extension of the exact Church that was built by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong nearly 65 years ago. We teach the same gospel message that Jesus taught almost 2,000 years ago. We still read, follow and preach the teachings God restored through Mr. Armstrong. We do not worship this man, but we do hold him in high respect as the end-time apostle God used to raise up the Philadelphia era of the Work of God.

Revelation 3:8 talks about a Church with little strength, few in numbers, but which has kept the word of God and not denied the truth. Jesus promises to set before that Church an



Herbert Armstrong

***Mystery of the Ages
encapsulates the
gospel message. It is
a book of great
hope for mankind.***



sage (John 12:49-50; 14:24). He is called the "Word"—the communicator of God's great plan for humanity. He had no doubt about what comprised the gospel. He preached it everywhere He went (Matt. 9:35; Mark 1:14-15).

The apostles were not confused about the message either. They knew the gospel was a message about the Kingdom of God (Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31). They prefaced their preaching with explanation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah—the "messenger of the covenant" who was expected (Mal. 3:1-3)—and they used the undeniable reality of the resurrection to prove it.

The original apostles knew the gospel was not merely about the person of Christ, but about WHAT HE SAID. It was the gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 24:14), and it was preached to Jews and gentiles alike (Acts 10:34-38).

Before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ

has not forgotten the truth about the gospel of the Kingdom of God. God raised up a man in this end time to take His gospel message around the world as a witness. This human messenger was prophesied to come on the world scene shortly before the return of Christ (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6; Matt. 17:10-11).

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of this age] come" (Matt. 24:14). Only ONE MAN fulfilled this prophecy in this end-time: Herbert W. Armstrong. He died in 1986. No other religious figure on this globe has preached the true gospel worldwide.

On page 291 of his book *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "This gospel [of the Kingdom of God] now has been preached into every nation." Mr. Armstrong accomplished this mission. He was not bragging about himself, merely stating facts. *Mystery of the*

open door to preach the gospel until the work of the Church is completed. It is a small Church which is "prophesying again" a message from Almighty God to many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings (Rev. 10:11).

The churches of this world are teaching a false gospel—in complete ignorance of the family of God. What a pity! And what a curse this ignorance has brought them.

The gospel is the good news of the coming Kingdom of God and the all-powerful God family which will rule the earth. It includes the details of salvation and of how one can be born into that glorious Kingdom. How inspiring!

This world's temporary loss of the meaning of the true gospel may sadden those who patiently wait for God's Kingdom. Yet we may rest assured in the knowledge that, nonetheless, the Kingdom is one step closer to being here every day! ♦

STEPHEN FLURRY

Hooray for the 2000 Bug

With technology as it is, a massive shutdown might be just the thing



THE OTHER NIGHT, LIKE GROUNDHOGS ON THE first day of spring, folks in the neighborhood came out of air-conditioned hibernation and stood on their front porches.

"Did you lose power too?" my next-door neighbor shouted to the little old lady across the street.

"Yes, I did," she answered, her voice cracking.

Oklahomans are no strangers to power outages. But on this night, there was no thunderstorm or tornado warning. It was just hot and humid. Not the usual conditions for power outages.

"I called the electric company," my neighbor turned and said to me. "They must have had a transformer or something go out"—whatever that means. "If they don't do something fast," he said, "I'm going to my sister's house. I don't do well in the heat."

With only 30 minutes of daylight left, my wife and I hurried inside to finish the dishes and light candles. Time management was top priority.

Turns out, an underground electric cable failed somewhere close to our home. Crews switched electricity to other circuits and power was restored within a couple hours.

The next day, at the office, I read that officials blamed the power failure on heavy summer electric usage. While reading, I noticed my voice mail indicator illuminating. (We had been without voice mail services for several days. Lightning hit a transformer or something.)

The early fraud alert department at Citibank Visa left a message saying there had been "unusual" activity on my account. When I called to investigate, I found that Citibank's automated menu options had been changed to expedite service. After punching dozens of numbers over what seemed like an eternity, I finally tracked down a Homo sapien.

"Yes, hi," I said. "I was contacted by your fraud alert department concerning my account."

"Yes, your balance is \$4,239. Does that seem about right?"

"No, not at all."

She backtracked her way through my statement, beginning with my most recent charge.

"Yes. Yes. Yes," I said, confirming each charge. "Wait a minute," I said, suddenly. "What was that last charge?"

"\$3,874 for Alodwani Fashion."

"Alodwani Fashion?"

"Yes," she said. "It looks like it's a clothing store in Saudi Arabia."

"Saudi Arabia?"

"Yes, in the Middle East."

"Oh, I know where it is. But I've never been there."

"You don't have to be there to make the charge."

"Okay. I've never charged anything to Saudi Arabia either," I said.

"Well then, as a safety measure, we better close your account," she advised.

"Does that mean someone illegally used my number?"

"Could be," she answered. "But that's not always the case. Sometimes it could be the merchant's mistake, or even a computer error."

Could have been a transformer or something.

Turns out, I have to sign and notarize an affidavit and return it to Citibank before their fraud department can investigate the mistake. In the meantime, I have to wait a couple weeks before they can open a new account.

My recent bout against technology's pitfalls has me wondering. Have we become too dependent on technology? What if a really big transformer-or-something causes the whole information age to come to a screeching halt?

By now, most have heard of the 2000 bug—a potentially massive computer malfunction caused by a simple two-digit date that programmers installed years ago to save valuable computer space and time. The problem is, when 2000 rolls around, only the most recent computers and software will recognize it as such. The rest will roll back to the year 00. The effects of this seemingly little mistake could be widespread, causing traffic lights to malfunction, hospital equipment to short-circuit, government agencies to shut down, and bank accounts to go haywire. Some are saying the bug could even KO electric companies. Our neighborhood found out how that would be the other night, even if only for a couple hours. What about an outage much more widespread? Forget about two hours without power. What about two weeks, or months?

All this talk (along with my technology bout) also has me wondering—do we even need all this technology? What if we didn't have electricity fueling modern amenities, like lights, appliances and air conditioners? We wouldn't waste 10 to 20 hours a week on television. More family time. More reading. Without air conditioning, we'd spend a whole lot more time on the porch chatting with neighbors. Without lights or other power-driven appliances, certain tasks would have to be done by sundown. Then everyone could experience the serenity of finishing a day by candlelight, before retiring to bed early.

What if there were no automated menu options, no voice mail and no e-mail? We would then deal with people direct, face to face. Now that would be a real communication boom. That would be the information age.

And what if all credit card accounts were shut down? We could then tackle America's \$1.4 trillion consumer debt. We could cut up more than one billion credit cards. No more debt. No more mysterious charges to Alodwani Fashion. A lot more savings.

In short, life would be simpler, and in many ways, better. Some say the 2000 bug will only be a minor glitch. Others predict something far more "catastrophic." I'm beginning to think the latter might not be so bad.

THE KEY OF DAVID

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 CT, Sunday
Arizona—KUSK 9:30 am MT, Sunday
Arizona, Phoenix—KSAZ 6:30 am MT, Sunday
Arkansas, Little Rock—KASN 8:00 am CT, Saturday
California, Concord—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00 am PT, Sunday
California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00 am PT, Sunday; 9:00 am PT, Monday
California, Los Angeles—KCBS 7:00 am PT, Sunday
California, Oakland—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
California, San Diego—KGTU 7:30 am PT, Sunday **
California, San Francisco—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
California, San Jose—KICU 8:00 am PT, Sunday
California, Sacramento—KTNC 10:00 am PT, Sunday
Colorado, Alamosa—KOB 8:30 am CT, Sunday
Florida, Jacksonville—WTEV 6:30 am ET, Saturday
Florida, Orlando—WRBW 7:00 am ET, Saturday
Florida, Tallahassee—WTLH 8:30 am ET, Sunday **
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
Maryland, Baltimore—WUTB 7:00 am ET, Sunday **
Massachusetts, Boston—WFXR 8:00 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 6:00 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 Mexico, Farmington—KOB 8:30 am CT, 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 7:00 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—WOLO 8:00 am ET, Sunday
South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WHNS 7:00 am ET, Sunday
South Dakota, Sioux Falls—KDLT 6:30 am CT, Sunday **

Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00 am ET, Sunday
Texas, Corpus Christi—KDFI 8:30 am CT, Sunday **
Texas, Dallas—KDFI 8:30 am CT, Sunday
Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30 am CT, Sunday
Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30 am CT, Sunday
Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30 am ET, Sunday
Washington, D.C.—WUSA 7:00 am ET, Sunday
Washington, Seattle—KONG 8:00 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

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

Fiji

FIJI TV—12:00 pm, 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

Sri Lanka

Dynavision—11:00 am, Sunday

** Indicates a new station or time change

COMING IN THE
Trumpet

TRUE LEADERSHIP...



COMPTON ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Where has it gone?

GLOBAL PROBLEMS ARE MOUNTING RAPIDLY. NO ONE APPEARS TO HAVE THE SOLUTIONS OUR world desperately needs. We have no solutions because we are in a crisis of leadership.

Where are the Churchills, the Roosevelts, the De Gualles of our day?

Why does our modern society lack leadership?

Will effective leadership be seen on this earth again?

The next issue of The Trumpet will show examples of history's most influential leaders and how leadership can and will return to this seemingly hopeless world.

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