

**A BIG U.S.
CON JOB**

The ugly fruits of greed

ISRAEL'S SECRET STRIKE

All evidence shows that Israeli jets knocked out a nuclear facility in Syria. Why is no one willing to talk about it?

OUT OF FOOD

Global demand is up—
and supplies are down.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

THE PHILADELPHIA

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**Can
This Man
Save
Israel?**

Likud Party Chairman
Benjamin Netanyahu



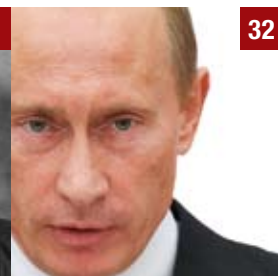
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COVER Likud Party Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu/Adrian Dennis/AFP/Getty Images
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Gerald Flurry

Close to Armageddon

MOST JOURNALISTS AGREE THAT ISRAELI F-151 JETS made a surgical strike on a military installation inside Syria. The date was September 6.

The Syrians are not talking because they have been humiliated. Other top government officials who know about the attack are not talking either. In fact, they have *never* been so abnormally secretive about anything! Israel has had almost total censorship, which is nearly unheard of. Why are they all so secretive?

The *Spectator* quoted “a very senior British ministerial source” as saying this: “If people had known how close we came to World War III that day there’d have been mass panic. ... [Prime Minister Gordon] Brown really would have been dealing with the bloody book of Revelation and Armageddon” (October 3).

This is a reputable news-magazine quoting “a very senior British ministerial source” who said that to reveal news of this attack would have caused “mass panic”!

Why? Because people would then have known how close we came to World War III! According to this source, the prime minister of Britain (*not* of Israel) “would have been dealing with the bloody book of Revelation and Armageddon.” This seems to be about the worst description he could give us.

So if leaders are thinking that way in Britain, what does this mean? It means that nations other than Israel believe the whole world will be pulled into any military whirlwind in the Middle East, especially if it’s nuclear.

Here is another statement from the *Spectator*: “According to American sources, Israeli intelligence tracked a North Korean vessel carrying a cargo of nuclear material labeled ‘cement’ as it traveled halfway across the world. On September 3 the ship docked at the Syrian port of Tartus, and the Israelis continued following the cargo as it was transported to the small town of Dayr az Zawr ... in northeastern Syria.

“The destination was not a complete surprise. It had already been the subject of intense surveillance by an Israeli Ofek spy satellite, and within hours a band of elite Israeli commandos had secretly crossed into Syria and headed for the town. Soil samples and other material they collected there were returned

to Israel. Sure enough, they indicated that the cargo WAS NUCLEAR.

“Three days after the North Korean consignment arrived, the final phase of Operation Orchard was launched. With prior approval from Washington, Israeli F-151 jets were scrambled and, minutes later, the installation and its newly arrived contents were destroyed.

“So secret were the operational details of the mission that *even the pilots who were assigned to provide air cover for the strike jets had not been briefed on it until they were airborne*” (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

The world knows that Israel has nuclear bombs and submarines with nuclear cruise missiles.

Syria already has one of the world’s deadliest stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. It wanted the nuclear material to complete its weapons of mass destruction program. This is one of the supreme goals of any terrorist-sponsoring nation.

Such a program is the most efficient way to kill large numbers of human beings, including women and children.

Apparently Syria was about to construct a nuclear facility. The Jews believe they cannot allow this to happen since Syria is one of their nearest neighbors. Also, Syria is second only to Iran in state-sponsored terrorism! It isn’t hard to imagine Damascus giving nuclear devices to terrorists.

Do we really know how insanely dangerous this world is?

One of the *Trumpet’s* contacts in Israel said he wondered why Israel was calling up its national guard before the September 6 attack. After he learned some sketchy details of what happened, he knew why. Israel was preparing for war—possibly a war involving WMDs. And we can’t rule out the use of nuclear weapons, even from the Arab side.

There seems to be clear evidence that the Russians had some nuclear weapons stolen. Who got them? Syria? Iran? Many journalists think it was Iran.

This problem goes much deeper than Syria and Israel. Syria is a surrogate of Iran. The king of the Muslim world is Iran.

Charles Krauthammer wrote this in his September 21

See **ARMAGEDDON** page 15 ▶



CON

The

That Turned the World Against America

How greed almost triggered a global financial collapse—
and why we can expect the fallout to continue. BY ROBERT MORLEY

THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL system came precariously close to seizing up recently.

In fact, as far as some big banks and financial institutions were concerned, for a moment in time, the system was in a full-blown cardiac arrest. Liquidity, the flow of money—the lifeblood of today's economic structure—came uncomfortably close to clotting up in August this year.

Defibrillators sizzling and money flowing, central banks around the world acted in concert to jump-start financial markets, slashing lending rates and injecting nearly a half trillion in dollar steroids into the economic pulmonary system.

But contrary to what the big media outlets may have reported, it is actually inconsequential whether or not central bankers succeeded in temporarily stabilizing markets.

Irrevocable damage to America's economic system has taken place.

And because the world's largest economies are so closely intertwined, the effects will not be limited to the United States. Confidence in the world's financial system—a system based on the dollar as the reserve currency—is failing, not because of a liquidity crunch, a popping housing bubble, or the myriad of other commonly cited economic causes, but because of broken faith. The result in the end will be a new world financial order—one without America at the head.

Here is what happened and why you need to know about it.

Erosion of Faith

The world's economic system is built on trust. Money is no longer backed with tangible assets. The only thing giving the dollar in your wallet purchasing power is the perception that it will be able to buy a similar batch of goods tomorrow as it can today. But here is the catch. There is

no standard that determines what a dollar is worth—ultimately it's all relative. Its value could disappear overnight.

The same is true for every currency, whether yen, ruble or peso. Each is backed by confidence—confidence that the national government will act responsibly, confidence that the government will honestly pay its debts (not just print more money), and confidence that the currency will remain a store of wealth.

When that confidence is broken, faith-based economic systems go into meltdown. Investors and international banks flee, currency values plummet, inflation runs rampant and economies are destroyed.

In August, when fallout from America's popping housing bubble began to hit the market, trust in America cracked—and with it, so too did confidence in the global economic system.

Hamid Varzi, writing for the *International Herald Tribune*, summarized world opinion this way: "The U.S. economy, once the envy of the world, is now viewed across the globe with suspicion" (August 17).

He continued: "The ongoing subprime mortgage crisis ... presages far

deeper problems in a U.S. economy that is beginning to resemble a giant smoke-and-mirrors Ponzi scheme. And this has not been lost on the rest of the world.”

Trust in America is quickly disappearing. Why? Because *America single-handedly brought the international financial system virtually to its knees by foisting off fraud-ridden subprime debt on an unsuspecting world*, which resulted in the ensuing credit crunch.

America will not escape unscathed. You can't cheat the very people you rely upon to lend you money without a backlash.

Here is how American greed ripped off the rest of the world.

America will not escape unscathed. You can't cheat the very people you rely upon to lend you money without a backlash.

Anatomy of a Bubble

In 2000, America faced a recession. But rather than letting the economy rebound, the Federal Reserve decided to slash interest rates to artificially stimulate the economy—even though it knew that doing so would probably create even bigger problems later.

Consequently, mortgage rates in America plummeted and, suddenly, millions more Americans could buy homes. House prices skyrocketed, tripling and quadrupling in some areas. The bubble fed on itself as prospective homeowners, often acting more like speculators, rushed to buy homes as quickly as possible to capitalize on further price appreciation.

As home values rose, fewer people could afford traditional loans. To keep their profits growing, banks and lenders began offering easy-to-get subprime mortgages—mortgages to borrowers normally considered too risky because of their credit history, income status and other factors.

Oftentimes these loans were adjustable-rate, or had initial teaser rates that would ratchet up later. Often the loans were given without any meaningful applicant background checks at all. As long as a borrower could write his own name and yearly income (regardless of whether or not it was true), he could get a loan.

And everyone was happy. Record house prices fueled a building boom and jobs multiplied. Borrowers were glad because they got huge loans and could purchase homes that were rising in value. Real-estate agents were pleased because the bigger the house sold, the bigger their profit. Lenders and loan brokers were cheerful too because they each got

their cut of the action.

But there was just one problem: The whole boom was based on artificially low interest rates. What would happen when interest rates rose, homes stopped appreciating and borrowers had more difficulty making payments?

American banks, understanding the risk involved in holding so many chancy (and possibly largely overvalued) subprime mortgages on their own books, decided to get rid of them. But who would want to buy all the risky mortgages? Certainly not Americans who were

already maxed out on subprime debt. The answer was foreigners.

False Advertising

But here was the catch. To make the sales profitable, the risky mortgages had to be marketed as a “safe” investment.

So American banks sliced and bundled their subprime mortgages together into packages. Using complex computer models, and by geographically and otherwise diversifying the bundled mortgages, American banks CONVINCED world-renowned and trusted American investment-rating agencies like Moody's and Standard & Poor's to give the mortgage securities higher valuations than regular subprimes would typically rate.

Later it became public knowledge that these same ratings agencies, which foreign investors were relying on for impartial advice, *were being paid by the very banks and lenders that were bundling and selling the subprime mortgages*—a huge conflict of interest that produced some terribly misleading data for foreign investors.

It also emerged, at least in Moody's case, that the agency knew for years that some of the mortgage securities it rated as safe were more than 10 times as risky as other similarly rated bonds.

But at the time, even the banks were happy. They could merrily issue subprime mortgages (and still collect all their fees) because they were able to both quickly remove the mortgages from their books and get top dollar for them, thanks to the high ratings. And foreign investors—as well as domestic investors—confidently purchased these supposedly safe mortgage investments (even though they would have known

better if their own greed hadn't blinded their proper due diligence).

That is, until interest rates started to rise—and subprime borrowers began defaulting in droves.

As with all parties, the fun and games eventually came to an end. Suddenly the world woke up to the fact that subprime mortgages were just that—subprime—regardless of what American ratings agencies and banks pretended. As the U.S. housing market slumped, suddenly nobody wanted *any* U.S. mortgage securities anymore, let alone subprime ones.

Investors around the world tried to sell American mortgage securities, but by this time the shoddy credit ratings had become public knowledge. American credit-rating agencies embarrassingly began to issue massive ratings downgrades, and foreign investors found that to get any bidders on their American mortgage portfolios they had to accept steeply marked-down prices.

Hedge funds and other investment vehicles began to seize up as people tried to pull their money out of any and all businesses associated with U.S. mortgages. Panic ensued.

The Crisis Spreads

As the credit crunch spread, it became evident that the “made in America” economic crisis was not contained. America's trade partners would also take the hit for the moral breakdown in America, a breakdown that could have been avoided had *greed* not been such a big factor.

Banks and mortgage lenders across Europe and America began to fail.

German, French and British banks, as well as stock market investors around the world, got hit especially hard as the credit crunch and fears of new restrictive lending practices shook international bourses. Investors lost billions.

Things got so bad in Germany that the government had to step in to save two banks from failing. In France, BNP Paribas, one of the nation's largest banks, had to suspend redemptions from three investment funds it managed.

In Britain, Northern Rock Plc., the nation's fifth-largest mortgage lender, experienced an unprecedented bank run as customers lined up for hours to clamor for their money when it was re-

vealed that it was having trouble accessing enough credit to continue normal operations. The *Telegraph* compared the scene to something out of Zimbabwe. The *Sunday Times* reports that when all the books are balanced, Northern Rock may be worth zero.

And the few big-name collapses experienced so far may be just the beginning.

Backlash

You can be sure that billions in losses— all as a result of what amounts to a con— will not pass without a response. International backlash is growing.

“The entire world is growing in its disgust for having been defrauded,” said economic analyst Jim Willie. “French, British, German, Japanese and Chinese banks have been harmed from ingesting falsely labeled food items. What was sold as AAA-rated milk products was actually highly toxic acid ...” (321gold.com, September 7).

For example, in a foreign-policy speech on August 27, French President Nicolas Sarkozy called for an enhanced global rule book to avoid financial crises—a rule book governing America. Sarkozy, who has vowed to “moralize financial capitalism,” said America’s crisis could recur if “the leaders of major countries” did not take “concerted action to foster transparency and regulation of international markets” (*International Herald Tribune*, August 28).

Peter Bofinger, a member of the German government’s economic advisory board, agrees. “We need an international approach, and the United States needs to be part of it,” he said (*New York Times*, August 29).

Dick Bryan, a professor of economics at the University of Sydney, also said the world must respond. “There is the need to challenge the sovereignty of national regulators,” he said. “Why should the rules of lending in the U.S. be left to U.S. regulators when the consequences go everywhere?” In this globalized world, “a problem in one location is a problem everywhere,” he added (*ibid.*).

If and how long Washington can resist international pressure is unclear. So

far its response has been that it wants “no form of oversight,” according to Kenneth Rogoff, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (*ibid.*).

But a new global rule book may be the least of America’s worries.

While regulators in the U.S. have been unreceptive to international monitoring, Europe and Asia, unlike in years past, now have growing financial leverage up their sleeves.

What if foreigners stopped lending to the U.S.? Worse, what if they started dumping U.S. debt in the form of treasuries and bonds?

“America depends on the rest of the world to finance its debt,” Bofinger reminds us (*ibid.*). If foreigners stopped

dropping to unprecedented lows. In October, the dollar fell to the lowest it has ever been against the euro. It dropped below the value of the Canadian dollar, a 31-year low.

So while U.S. officials brag that all will work out just fine and that the credit crunch is contained, they are missing the bigger point: *America cheated the very people it depends upon for loans.* Now, foreigners are voting with their feet and are choosing to reduce investment in America. They are abandoning the dollar.

As Jim Willie warned, we “might be in the early stages of ... a boycott of U.S.-dollar-based financial assets” (*op. cit.*).

But who can blame them?



In Britain, Northern Rock Plc. had an unprecedented bank run. The *Telegraph* compared the scene to something out of Zimbabwe.

buying America’s financial products, it would be a catastrophe.

Boycotting the Dollar

Foreign willingness to purchase U.S. debt has kept interest rates low in America—thereby creating millions of jobs in real estate, home construction, remodeling and other associated industries. The U.S. has become so dependent on foreign money that if foreigners stopped lending to America, the America of today would not survive.

Even now, the foreign backlash is beginning to be felt. The U.S. dollar is

Greed and corruption have been exposed for being endemic to so many levels of America’s economy. Who is to say that even U.S. government bonds more closely resemble subprime mortgages than their conventional reputation as a safe investment?

The world is approaching the end of an era. America’s moral collapse now lies exposed to all—a virtual death sentence for an economic system based on trust. America’s reputation as a financial safe haven is being replaced with subprime status—and as foreigners have found out, subprime risks just aren’t worth it. ■

From the
News Bureau

RON FRASER



Pillaging Africa

CHINESE INVESTMENT IN AFRICA HAS GROWN MASSIVELY over the past 15 years. Trade between China and Africa grew by 700 percent during the 1990s. It doubled from 2002 to 2003. Trade between the two again almost doubled during 2005. Increased Chinese imports of *oil* from African nations, in particular Sudan, accounted for most of this growth. All this activity has led to China becoming Africa's third-most important trading partner, behind the United States and France and ahead of Britain.

China's increasing investment in Africa has spurred into action other contenders for Africa's raw materials wealth, not the least being the European Union's leading nations, France and Germany. Each of these powers seeks to extend its individual hegemony within this greatly underdeveloped continent, in particular in the territory that each once ruled before decolonization took effect.

Indeed, in a race not unlike that of colonial days, Africa, it seems, is once again up for grabs.

EU states, intent on securing new sources of energy in order to lessen their dependence upon Russia, are increasingly looking toward North Africa. Market monitor RiskCenter.com reported, "The region has for many years been a significant contributor to European gas supplies, but recent deals and current market noises point to this contribution witnessing sizeable growth. ... For the EU, North Africa will be a key component of its energy future" (August 15).

The Chinese have been buying favor with African nations by direct investment in infrastructure—roads, rail, electricity distribution, port development, etc.—to aid in their procurement and shipment of raw materials, especially much-needed oil and gas. By contrast, Germany's heightened involvement is coming significantly from a different quarter: that of *military* involvement.

China certainly has the cash for capital investment, but the German-led EU has the regional proximity of its military forces to secure Africa's raw materials and China's African assets. It also has the benefit of lingering attachments and interests within much of Africa as a result of its colonial history.

Both the German-dominated EU and China have a huge thirst for energy-based resources. There may yet be a deal done between the two that will eventually block out the U.S. and Britain from access to Africa's energy wealth.

Reporting on Germany's involvement in the volatile, oil-rich region of Sudan, German-Foreign-Policy.com observed: "Following the UN's decision to deploy troops to Sudan [where China has heavily invested], warmongers in Berlin are pushing for German participation. German

foreign-policy specialists from the opposition, as well as from circles close to the ruling CDU party, are calling for Germany showing a presence in the western Sudanese province of Darfur, at least with military observers or high-ranking officers" (August 10).

Typically, Germany seeks first to penetrate Africa under the umbrella of its allies, in particular the U.S. "It is, above all, Washington and Berlin who are pushing for a UN-mandated

Several powers seek to extend into this underdeveloped continent, especially in the territory they ruled in colonial days. Africa, it seems, is again up for grabs.

intervention in Darfur and seeking to militarily roll back the influence of the Sudanese central government. Regional secession is not being ruled out" (ibid.).


This is classic German foreign policy. The same strategy worked brilliantly in the Balkan Peninsula, where Germany motivated an illegal war fought largely by its allies, the U.S. and Britain, and gained for the European Union (i.e. Germany) the land hinge between Eastern and Western Europe. Having then ensured the involvement of the German Navy running security for the EU in the Mediterranean, the German-led EU took over Malta, which Italian Prime Minister (then European Commission president) Romano Prodi described as the EU's stepping stone to Africa.

Now the battle is joined for the further spread south by the EU behemoth.

But it is not only the U.S. that is being played for a patsy to secure German interests in Africa. Berlin is currying the favor of *African* allies in support of its plans to dominate the raw materials (in particular oil and gas) and cheap labor that are the continent's greatest economic assets. "Ghana and Nigeria are playing decisive roles with their participation in the Sudan deployment and are receiving millions in German financial aid, for the maintenance of their troops. *Further militarization of the African continent is a direct consequence*" (ibid.; emphasis mine).

As we watch Germany push its influence south of the Mediterranean into Africa, having already, via the EU, virtually taken over Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, including the island nation of Cyprus (on the doorstep of the Middle East and a short distance from Jerusalem), we would do well to remember an ancient prophecy in the book of Daniel. Speaking of a religiously motivated great northern power to arise just prior to Jesus Christ's return, the prophet declared, "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the *south*, and toward the *east*, and toward the *pleasant land*" (Daniel 8:9).

Watch Africa. Watch Germany—and, above all, watch Jerusalem! ■



What
will you
do ...

When the

Food

Runs Out

Food shortages are about to become a reality—
and it's our own fault. **BY RON FRASER**

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO the wheat mountains, the great surpluses of butter, dairy and plenteous agricultural products once stockpiled in North America, the British dominions and Europe? We do not hear of huge surpluses in food production anymore, of massive stockpiled reserves for shipment to countries in famine or as a hedge against times of extreme weather or blight by disease.

Those days are over. In America, for example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is projecting wheat supplies for the 2007-2008 crop year will drop to their lowest level in 59 years.

The days of plenty are a thing of the past. Prepare now for increasing shortages of staple food products.

Twelve years ago, the *Trumpet* said this about the prospect of a national food shortage occurring in America: "In 1994, a Washington-based research group warned of a potential national food shortage and its consequences by or before 2030. *But figure in the increasing occurrences of floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, drought and other unnatural disasters and it is sure to occur much sooner than predicted.* ...

"With food as our largest export product, the United States stands to lose the most in any trade war if any 'natural' or *unnatural* disasters should cause us to have a bad year. National reserves for our own needs, in case of just such an emergency, are very small and would barely last long enough to get us through to the next growing season. Who would help us, the greatest humanitarian nation ever, should we have a crisis?" (March 1994, emphasis mine).

Who indeed, with the U.S. having become the second-most hated nation in the world, next to tiny, embattled Israel!

Just what are the facts relating to worldwide food production? The reality is that a number of historical leaders in agricultural exports are becoming net *importers* of food products.

A Multitude of Causes

A peek at the stock market reaction to investment in basic staple-diet products tells the story. Global agricultural commodity markets are on a roller-coaster ride, with supplies dropping and prices rising. The price of corn has shot through the roof due to a

ISTOCK PHOTO

combination of bad weather and increasing demand for the crop from the growing ethanol industry. The price of wheat escalated 54 percent in just three months earlier this year and shows no sign of a slowdown. In the global grain-growing industry, land devoted to cultivating wheat and barley has been declining for the past 25 years. Demand is rapidly overtaking supply in our grain markets.

World food prices have risen by almost a third in the past year, according to Australia's Westpac-National Farmers Federation Commodity Index. Senior Westpac economist Justin Smirk stated that one reason for the rising prices was Australia's drought, which has hurt the nation's critical beef, grain and dairy exports. Other contributors to the high prices include adverse weather conditions in Europe and in the United States.

The *St. Petersburg Times* reported that the trend is also bad in Russia: "Prices rose by as much as 30 percent for 9 out of 10 food products in September, the Russian Statistics Committee (Rosstat) has said, leaving ordinary people stressed and angered as basic products such as milk and vegetable oil are hit by rising inflation" (October 12).

"The soaring price of wheat is not an isolated phenomenon," the *Telegraph* recently observed. "All around the agricultural markets prices are rising. Corn doubled last year, while the price of soybeans is more than 50 percent higher than it was 12 months ago" (September 6).

On top of all that, the dairy industry faces disaster, not only because of lost production due to adverse weather upheavals in a number of primary producing nations, but also because of prime breeding stock lost due to foot-and-mouth disease and bluetongue virus.

To add to the emerging global agricultural crisis, food aid to less-developed nations is being curtailed. It's not only donor fatigue that is harming the world food aid effort; it's the failure of those nations that have given the most aid in the past to maintain their usual production levels. Due to soaring food prices, the amount of food aid provided by the U.S. government, the world's dominant donor, is at its lowest level in a decade, according to recently released data from the Department of Agriculture. The U.S. purchased less than half the amount of food this year that it did in 2000.

The *Telegraph* aligns with the *Trum-*

pet's comments of 12 years ago: "If food prices are really on the move again, history suggests we should be worried" (op. cit.).

A History of Mismanagement

The problem this globe now faces is that most of its arable land is already under production, and 35 percent of that land is seriously degraded due to the intensive chemically based farming practices fashionable since World War II. Add to this the increasing dependence of the farm sector on hybrid varieties that have no capacity to self-replenish (courtesy of the rapacious designs of such corporate entities as Monsanto Chemicals) plus the continuing escalation of energy prices, and you have a recipe for agricultural disaster.

Simply put, we are about to reap the

We are about to reap the whirlwind for the ignorance and greed practiced by our agriculture industries over the past 60 years.

whirlwind as a result of ignorance and greed practiced by our agriculture industries over the past 60 years.

Add to this the increasing flight from the dollar, with China potentially cashing in U.S. bonds; oil contracts, traditionally concluded in dollars, now increasingly being written in euros, rubles and yen; the U.S. subprime lending market crash—and the writing is on the wall for those with the courage to admit reality. The world's systems of agriculture and commerce stand on the brink of disaster.

For the greater part of the 20th century, Herbert W. Armstrong warned of the very state that the world—in particular the English-speaking nations—has now entered. Fifty years ago, he declared: "I repeat—IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!"

"Yes, time is running out on us, fast, and we're too sound asleep in deception to realize it!

"Our peoples will continue only a few more years in comparative economic prosperity. This very prosperity is our fatal curse! Because our people are setting their hearts on it, seeking ease and leisure, becoming soft and decadent and WEAK!

"We're GOING THE WAY OF ANCIENT ROME—to a greater fall, because we're bigger and more prosperous, and have farther to fall!

"Then, suddenly, before we realize it, we'll find ourselves in the throes of FAMINE, and uncontrollable epidemics of DISEASE. Already we're in the beginning of a terrible famine and we don't know it—a famine of needed minerals and vitamins in our foods. Our peoples have ignored God's agricultural laws. Not all the land has been permitted to rest every seventh year. The land has been overworked. Today, the soil is worn out. And food factories, in the interest of larger profits, are removing much of what minerals and vitamins remain—while a new profit-making vitamin industry deludes the people into believing they can obtain these precious elements from pills and capsules purchased in drug stores and 'health food' stores!

"And all this state of affairs because *man is in defiance of his Maker!*"

The fact is, until man gets it right with his Maker, the troubling signs that we see impacting humanity more and more week by week will only accelerate into untold disaster of

global proportions. The sure word of biblical prophecy guarantees that. And that word is much *more* sure than the word of any human "expert" or commentator on today's scene!

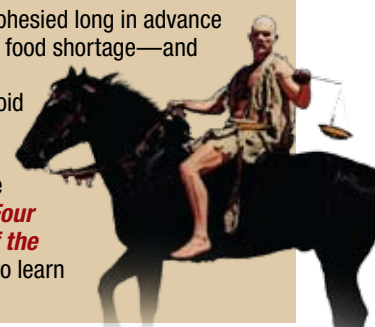
If ever there was a need for you to seek and find the solution to these accelerating woes of humanity, surely it is now, before it becomes too late to do anything about it. Request your own copy, gratis, of our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*, and learn about the only true *hope* mankind has for becoming part of the *solution*, rather than aggravating the cause of its own increasing sufferings. ■



YOU CAN SURVIVE the coming food shortage

The Bible prophesied long in advance of the coming food shortage—and it also reveals the way to avoid the coming suffering.

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“The Best Man I Ever Knew”

The data and the real-life proof is in: Fathers make a huge difference.

BY PHILIP NICE

TRUMPET PHOTO

ON NEW YORK'S EAST TWENTIETH Street, a man walks up and down a candlelit room. The shadows cast by his large, powerful physique move softly, almost gingerly. He moves this way because in his powerful arms he holds "a very small person."

An almost appalling contrast to the broad, brawny father, the limp and weak form of the child gasps desperately to choke down a breath. Another violent respiratory attack wracks his weak body so violently that his worried parents fear he will die before the morning.

Although the child survives the night, his long list of ailments apparently will doom him to a life of disability: chronic colds and coughs, nausea, fevers, diarrhea, sleeplessness, lack of appetite, malnutrition, and, of course, relentless asthma.

"I feel badly," the toddler tells his mother. "I have toothache in my stomach."

When the man is at work, his son's condition is exacerbated. His mother is afraid he will never turn 4. But the mere sight of his father's robust frame striding back home again through the doorway is virtually a miracle cure for the little boy, who all but worships his father.

This father's gifts of fruit, treats, trinkets and, most of all, attention and love, filled his children's hearts with an adoration that was ardent and complete.

But Theodore Roosevelt Sr. would do much more for his sickly child than feed him peaches as he lay spread-eagled on the porch or hold him close when the inevitable asthma attacks returned. Besides demanding strict discipline and charitable morality from his children, Theodore Roosevelt challenged his all-but-invalid son: "You must make your body. It is hard drudgery to make one's body, but I know you will do it."

With the help of his father, "Teedie" Roosevelt Jr. *would* do it. The "very small person" would build for himself a powerful frame and a personality to match, graduate from Harvard, travel the world, lead men in combat, enforce the law, ranch, develop his mind, and become the most dynamic, bombastic, and youngest man to literally bound up the steps of the White House as the president of the United States of America.

Thirty-seven years later, Theodore Roosevelt would remember his father as "the best man I ever knew."

"Handsome dandy that he was, the thought of him now and always has been a sense of comfort. I could breathe, I

could sleep, when he had me in his arms. My father—he got me breath, he got me lungs, strength—life."

That Was Then ...

Fifteen miles and over a century away, children in Newark, New Jersey, might consider such an environment and such a father as Theodore Roosevelt Sr. a fantastic fairy tale.

The city is suffering from an intensifying horror story of violent crime, explosively punctuated by the execution-style murders of three young people in a schoolyard in early August. The college students were forced to kneel against a wall and then shot in the head at close range in a gruesome slaying that brought Newark's bloody crime problem back into the spotlight.

New Jersey's largest city watched its homicide rate jump from 68 killings in 2002 to 106 in 2006. Its violent crime rate is twice the national average.

"Newark doesn't really have crime hot-spots," one prominent crime expert said. "It has a couple of cool spots."

Four of the six suspects arrested were teenagers: an 18-year-old, a 16-year-old and two 15-year-olds. It's hard to imagine—perhaps impossible—that any of these children had a father or knew a father or had ever heard of a father like Theodore Roosevelt Sr.

More of the Same

The usual hue and cry followed the slayings. Officials vowed to uncover the root causes and the real solutions to Newark's endemic violence. Some say more stringent measures against repeat offenders will prevent such horrific headlines. Others feel more effective prosecution is the answer; in the county containing Newark, fewer than half of the murders result in convictions. Still others think more security cameras will do the trick and are increasing Newark's surveillance cameras from 24 to 74.

"I think it will be a good idea, surveillance cameras, because Newark is scary," one resident said (CBS, August 14).

The *Economist* reported that the "real problem" is an ineffective policing strategy, and that the real solution is developing a new crime-fighting theory to fit mid-sized cities (August 17). And from all quarters, leaders are calling for additional funding, hoping that a congressman signing another check will end the misery.

But reading these clichéd "solutions" to the "real problems" behind our sick so-

ciety is almost as unbearable as the endless accounts of the crimes themselves.

"A renewed campaign," "additional funding," "more policies," "supplementary programs," "enhanced strategies" and, again, "additional funding": Is this our best hope for a city—and a world—gone horribly wrong?

Fifty more cameras?

When it comes to violent crime and the rest of our societal ills, we are only *managing* the chaos. We are not solving the real problem.

The Real Problem

The real problem in 21st-century Newark and in cities across the United States and around the world is this: *They lack enough strong fathers.*

Newark neighborhoods are especially afflicted. Only 32 percent of boys and girls in the city grow up living with two parents of any kind—whether they are Rooseveltesquely involved in their lives or not. A shocking 60 percent grow up with *no fathers at all.*

Steven Malanga cut through the noise of "new initiatives," "promises of reform," and "additional funding" in his article "City Without Fathers" (*City Journal*, August 9). "Behind Newark's epidemic violence are its thousands of fatherless children," Malanga wrote.

"[M]uch of the reaction, though well intentioned, misses the point. Behind Newark's persistent violence and deep social dysfunction is a profound cultural shift that has left many of the city's children growing up outside the two-parent family—and, in particular, growing up without fathers."

"It isn't that traditional families are breaking up," he continued, "they aren't even getting started. The city has one of the highest out-of-wedlock birthrates in the country, with about 65 percent of its children born to unmarried women."

Malanga goes on to report that 70 percent of fatherless children in Newark are born into poverty, and 83 percent of poor families there are led by single parents.

Children without fathers are five times likelier to be poor, and are 54 percent likelier to be poorer than their absent fathers, according to Fatherhood.org.

Children born out of wedlock are three times likelier to drop out of school than the average student, and much more likely to become a welfare-dependent adult. Around 70 percent of prisoners convicted of violent crimes grew up fatherless.

By these statistics, just *having* a father

in the house, even if he is less than ideal, makes a difference in many cases.

The Conspiracy

As destructive as the effects of fatherlessness are, the problem is only getting worse. Nationwide, a *third* of children are born to mothers who are unmarried. Four out of 10 children—more than 25 million—live without their biological fathers.

The truth is, there is an active and successful conspiracy in Western culture aimed at reducing and ultimately destroying fatherhood. Fatherlessness continues to destroy young people because leaders and experts tell you—despite all evidence to the contrary—that *it isn't even a problem*.

Anti-father thinking found eloquent expression in “Deconstructing the Essential Father,” a June 1999 *American Psychologist* article in which researchers Louise B. Silverstein and Carl F. Auerbach asserted that fathers are obsolete. They claimed that “a wide variety of family structures can support positive child outcomes.” If you wonder what that means, Silverstein and Auerbach made it clear: “Neither the sex of the adult(s), nor the biological relationship to the child has emerged as a significant variable in predicting positive development. One, none, or both of those adults could be a father (or mother).” This is a simple case of allowing politics to trump truth. Such thinking ignores an enormous amount of research.

Elsewhere, the authors explicitly stated: “We acknowledge that our reading of the scientific literature *supports our political agenda*” (emphasis mine). What agenda is that? “We are ... interested in encouraging public policy that supports the legitimacy of diverse family structures, rather than policy that privileges the two-parent, heterosexual, married family.”

Such thinking has found its way firmly into public education, into mainstream entertainment, into the political views of “centrist” candidates. But as much as these authors would disagree, public policy that supports same-sex parenting and other non-family cohabitation situations *is* intended to destroy



THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR.

GETTY IMAGES

of the bills prohibits state funding for programs that do not support deviant sexual practices, which affects churches, day cares, pre-schools, senior services and other organizations.

Saying that “a wide variety of family structures” that delete the father can be successful constitutes blatant disregard for the definitive literature on the subject, the Holy Bible. Herein lies another major problem: Even *religious leaders* act shy about what God actually says in His Word about family and the father role, which represents Him.

Newark households give us a reality check, if we're willing to accept it.

The Rise of the Father

Today, fatherhood is failing.

Millions of children worldwide grow up with fathers who do not know and do not fulfill their God-ordained roles. Some simply disappear as soon as they hear “I'm pregnant.” Some are too absorbed in their careers to pay any attention to their children when they arrive home. Some are worse for their families when they *are* home than when they are absent.

The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt, by Edmund Morris, describes a giving, attentive, masculine—though imperfect—father. Millions of children desperately crave the attention, constructive discipline and even the restrictions with which Theodore Roosevelt Sr. governed his family.

Yet even the father of the dynamic, active, iconic 26th president of the United States did not fully understand the deep truth and awesome meaning behind fatherhood. Although he employed some of the same principles that can be found in the Bible, he did not know about the incredible human potential revealed in the divine institution of family. However, you *can* know the inspiring purpose and vision behind family by reading *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, available free of charge upon request.

Don't be discouraged. The epidemic of fatherlessness and the ugly world it is producing is simply the last labored gasp of a world that must soon admit it hasn't figured out how to live. Although fatherhood seems doomed in our so-called advanced Western society, those who are attempting to deconstruct it altogether

the traditional family, which is built around fatherhood.

Western society has divorced itself from fatherhood. Reasoning from more than two generations of evolutionary hypothesizing, educators and the leaders they produce have declared the traditional father not only non-essential, but also an archaic, oftentimes *negative* influence. Politicians are increasingly taking up the cause on behalf of scholars like Silverstein and Auerbach. For instance, Democratic presidential candidates have committed to overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, which, for federal purposes, defines marriage as a heterosexual union. In October, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed four bills, written by California's first openly lesbian senator, that promote homosexual, bisexual, transsexual and other deviant lifestyles. Two of them affect the classroom, as early as the kindergarten level; one suggests that these lifestyles must be portrayed in textbooks and instruction, and in a positive light. “Dad” and “Mom” or “husband” and “wife,” for instance, will likely have to be eliminated from textbooks, instruction and activities, or portrayed alongside homosexual, bisexual and transsexual ideas. Another

are actually on the losing end.

Soon, the ultimate Father will intervene in human affairs, leaving the voluble “experts” speechless. Through His Son, God the Father will re-establish *family* and *fatherhood*—which have been under attack since the very first family in Eden—as the core of humanity. He will

enforce His laws of love governing family.

As a result, the full, incredible human potential of each child will be unlocked. Children everywhere will have a loving, giving, masculine, authoritative father to guide them, not into the way he thinks is best, but into the right way of living clearly commanded in God’s Word, the

Holy Bible.

The change between the children of today and the children of tomorrow will be even more brilliant, more inspiring than the rise of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. from sickly invalid to adventurer and world leader. And the fathers of tomorrow will amaze even Theodore Roosevelt Sr. ■

LIVING

“Go After Your Family”

Some heart-to-heart advice for fathers BY JOEL HILLIKER

“GO AFTER YOUR FAMILY LIKE YOU GO AFTER your job.” The words struck as if being chiseled into my granite brain.

I was talking with an older man, a man I admire deeply for his sincere devotion to God and his exceptional family.

How do you get the balance right between family and work? I had asked. I often get this question and have felt inadequate to answer it.

But that advice was wonderfully clarifying: “Go after your family like you go after your job.”

I do go after my job. It is always on my mind at some level. As I read, study, converse and think, I am mulling ideas for articles, pondering points and specifics, imagining possibilities for better headlines, considering how to improve a publication, weighing how to better employ staff—and all the while, petitioning God for His help in these areas.

Being the successful head of a household requires similar passion.

I have spoken to many men who, like me, naturally take a passive approach—sitting back and merely reacting to what is happening in the family. That doesn’t mean not being involved. But it is being a policeman, busting crimes, or a fireman, dousing flames, rather than truly leading the family as God intends.

Perhaps one of the biggest tests of leadership is not just to accept things as they are, but to imagine things as they could be. Many men do this in their jobs. Far fewer do this in their homes.

What do our families lack? Where are our families weak? Are our wives and children living up to their potential? What can we do to inspire them to achieve greater heights? With God’s help, we can achieve a lot by pursuing answers to these questions with diligent, creative thought and disciplined study.

Seek out and take note of fresh ideas. Make your time together productive. Be alert to hidden aptitudes in your wife and children. Be open to new opportunities. Remember those activities that magnify your interaction with one another and that everyone enjoys. Take mental notes of negative patterns in your family’s conduct—

bickering, laziness, sloppiness, wasted time. Keep a record of ideas you’d like to implement, things you’d like to change, and review it somewhat frequently.

And above all, pray often—actively—in detail—with zeal—to keep God involved in all of these things.

“Go after your family like you go after your job.”

Perhaps this seems overwhelming. *When I go home I just want to relax*, we may say. *I don’t have the energy to be The Big Idea Daddy.*

There is truth to that. Going after anything is more difficult than just going along. And we do need some down time in our family time.

But consider God’s instruction to husbands and fathers, and you quickly see that He expects a proactive, passionate effort. For our marriage, He instructs, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25). To fathers, He says, “[T]hou shalt teach [God’s words] diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

We can’t accidentally obey these commands. We have to go after them.

Down time must not completely consume family time. We can’t allow our personal interests to always supersede our family’s interests—not if we are to follow God’s instruction.

The man I spoke with said, “You can tell the difference between when you’re going after them and when you’re not.” I have found that to be true. There is a bright line between when I’m aware of my family’s needs and actively working to fulfill them, and when I’m preoccupied with other things. I can tell when I’m leading, and when I’m merely reacting.

Keeping negative worldly influences out of our homes, and putting God’s influence in, is a struggle. We need to fight our own passivity, and approach our duty with energy, drive and creativity.

Take the advice. Bring some passion to the job—the critical career—of leading your family to a productive, enriching, satisfying and fun life of purpose. Go after your family. ■

MY FATHER STATED ON television in January 2006 that Benjamin Netanyahu might return to power in Israel. Two months later, his Likud party got trounced in parliamentary elections. Its 38 seats in the 120-seat parliament got slashed to just 12.

Today, however, Likud has revived—and Netanyahu, judging by recent public opinion polls, is first in line to succeed Ehud Olmert as Israel's next prime minister.

How close are we to a rightward shift in Israeli politics? And should that happen, how will it impact the status of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the Jewish state?

More Concessions Offered

No political party in Israel has ever obtained a simple majority of seats in the Knesset (61). The party with the most seats, however, forms a majority rule by coalescing with enough parties to maintain control. Olmert's Kadima-led government consists of a five-party coalition—Kadima (29 seats), Labor (19),

Shas (12), Yisrael Beiteinu (11) and Gil Pensioners (7)—totaling 78 seats. Israel's next parliamentary election isn't scheduled until March 2010. But if Kadima's coalition breaks up before then, it would force early elections.

Jerusalem's status as Israel's capital city is one critical issue now testing the strength of Olmert's government. Just before the Knesset began its winter session, Olmert's top deputy, Haim Ramon, proposed packaging Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem within a future Palestinian state. Regarding the Old City, Ramon suggested a "special regime" be responsible for managing the holy sites. Israel, he said, would retain control over the Jewish quarter and the Western Wall, as well as other Jewish holy sites.

The prime minister followed up on Ramon's proposal by telling parliament that he would not "look for excuses to block peace efforts" (Associated Press, October 9). He said Israel would have to give up some of its "deepest desires" to obtain peace.

Predictably, Palestinians reacted to these enormous concessions by demanding much more. "We are talking about

full control" over the Old City, said Adnan al-Husseini, an aide to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas—including the Wailing Wall (*New York Sun*, October 12). President Abbas followed that up by demanding a full Israeli withdrawal from all territory acquired during the 1967 war. "We have 6,205 square kilometers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," Abbas said in an interview with Palestine tv. "We want it as it is" (Associated Press, October 10).

As it is, of course, half a million Jews reside in those "occupied" territories. It would be like the Gaza disengagement 50 times over. It's no wonder Olmert's approval ratings are so low—and Benjamin Netanyahu's are on the upswing.

Netanyahu's Angry Reaction

Olmert's plan for re-dividing Jerusalem has sharply divided members of the Knesset, as highlighted by Netanyahu's parliamentary speech on October 8. "According to the government's plan," he said, "Israel will withdraw to the 1967 lines, hand over half of Jerusalem to the Palestinians and relinquish Israeli control over the holy sites in the city. Let there

Can This Man Save Israel?

How the resurgence of Likud may actually hasten the division of Jerusalem.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



GETTY IMAGES

be no confusion—this is the plan. All attempts to disguise it are futile.”

He pointed to Israel’s most recent retreats as proof that withdrawing further would have disastrous results. Leaving Lebanon and Gaza enabled Iran to set up bases on Israel’s northern and southern frontiers. “And now,” said Netanyahu, “the government plans a further withdrawal in Judea and Samaria—a move that will inevitably create in the center of the country a third Iranian base that will threaten Jerusalem and the entire coastal plain. These three tentacles of the Iranian octopus will thus envelop Israel from every side!”

Later, Netanyahu asked, “How many times is it possible to repeat the same blunder, to proceed with the same blindness? ... The government concedes everything in advance. It erodes Israel’s positions in any future negotiation—and gets nothing in return. This is not how you negotiate! This is not how you make peace! But the government contends that by offering these far-reaching concessions, it is strengthening the moderates and weakening the extremists. *The opposite is true.*”

How true that is! And yet, succumbing to pressure from the U.S. State Department and from left-wingers in the Labor Party, Olmert forges ahead with his suicidal mission of helping build a terrorist state bordering Israel on every side! But there is a political price: If he pushes too hard with his appeasement proposals, right-leaning members of his coalition might jump ship.

This is exactly what Netanyahu is angling for. “I ask you, my friends in Shas and Yisrael Beiteinu,” Netanyahu said in his speech, “What are you doing in this government? Do you really agree with a policy that would have Hamas rule over neighborhoods in Jerusalem? ... You are not preventing the danger by sitting in the government. On the contrary, you are giving legitimacy to a dangerous initiative and allowing it to happen.”

Between them, conservatives in Shas and Yisrael Beiteinu fill 23 seats in Olmert’s coalition. If they left, the coalition would suddenly be in the minority.

“If you are tired, step aside,” Netanyahu said—a not-so-subtle reference to Olmert’s infamous “we are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous” comment shortly before becoming prime minister. “If the government has stopped believing in the justice of our cause,” Netanyahu concluded, “if it is weary of standing up to our enemies—

it must do one thing: Go to the people and set a date for elections.”

Besides the status of Jerusalem, Olmert is feeling heat on other fronts. He is currently undergoing three criminal investigations, which is unprecedented in Israel’s history as a state. Added to that, when the Winograd Commission releases its final report on Olmert’s mishandling of last summer’s war in Lebanon (which the commission has promised by year’s end), some insiders have speculated that Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak may remove his party from the coalition in an attempt to topple the government.

So Netanyahu may get his wish for new elections sometime in 2008. And if he does, he may well become Israel’s next prime minister.

If that happens, will his hard-line stance save Jerusalem?

Recycling Failure

If Prime Minister Olmert’s plan of appeasement sounds familiar, it’s because it mirrors Ehud Barak’s proposal at Camp David in 2000. With considerable pressure applied by an American president in the final year of his second term, Barak offered Yasser Arafat East Jerusalem, most of the Old City and control of the Temple Mount in hopes of securing a promise of peace.

Today, as Netanyahu stated in his October speech, it’s the same lady—and she didn’t even bother to change her dress. The American president is now George W. Bush, who, heading into the final year of his presidency, seems just as desperate for a last-minute peace agreement as his predecessor was. And following in the footsteps of Madeline Albright, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated, “Frankly, it’s time for the establishment of a Palestinian state.” Ehud Olmert is playing the part of Ehud Barak, who now serves as Olmert’s defense minister. Yasser Arafat has been replaced by his trusted assistant of 40 years, Mahmoud Abbas. And the venue—Camp David—has been relocated to Annapolis, Maryland—assuming present-day negotiations don’t break down before the late-November summit. So the faces have changed, but the principal terms of the peace agreement are exactly the same.

The situation on the ground, however, is vastly different today compared to 2000, making the stakes for Israel much higher and *far more* dangerous. Abbas is similar to his predecessor in that he refuses to disarm terrorists or end the in-

citement against Israel which is perpetuated in Palestinian schools and on tv. But unlike Arafat, he is viewed as a weak leader in the Arab world—even among Palestinians. And his corrupt Fatah government *doesn’t even speak for half the Palestinian people*. He’s already surrendered to Hamas in Gaza! Remarkably, Western nations have responded to that weakness by funneling billions of dollars into his Palestinian Authority, trying to prop up the more “moderate” terrorist branch of the Palestinian people.

But it’s not international aid that’s keeping Abbas’s government afloat—it’s the Israel Defense Forces. Abbas may be a corrupt and inept leader wading in cash, but he knows that if Israel’s army were to withdraw unilaterally from the West Bank *today*, the Palestinian Authority, and possibly even his own life, would cease to exist TOMORROW in another Gaza-like civil war with Hamas.

Mahmoud Abbas wants a Palestinian state. He obviously wants Israeli forces to retreat. But above all, HE WANTS TO SURVIVE—which is precisely why he *can’t* compromise with Israel. As Caroline Glick wrote, “Abbas’s stances are a reflection of his *inability* to make any concessions for peace” (*Jerusalem Post*, October 4; emphasis mine throughout). And so he’ll continue making unreasonable demands, blame Israel when negotiations break down, and all the while conducting back-channel negotiations with Hamas in hopes of surviving politically.

In an interview with the Palestinian-operated Ma’an News Agency on September 20, Ahmed Yousef, who advises Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, said Hamas was engaged in secret discussions with Abbas’s Fatah movement aimed at reconciling the differences between the two estranged parties. A few weeks later, Ma’an reported that 25 Fatah leaders in the West Bank and in Gaza wanted to “hold talks with Hamas to end the current impasse” (October 16).

These are the negotiations that really matter to Mahmoud Abbas. And unlike the “peace” process with Israel, he is willing to make concessions to Hamas.

Still, Olmert’s government blindly presses ahead under the illusion that appeasing terrorists will somehow result in lasting peace.

Perfect Preview

During the Camp David summit in 2000, Yasser Arafat had been offered East Jerusalem and most of the Old City, including

custodianship of the Temple Mount. He demanded more: "I will not agree to *any* Israeli sovereign presence in Jerusalem, neither in the Armenian quarter, nor in the al-Aqsa Mosque, neither on the Via Dolorosa, nor in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. They can occupy us by force, because we are weaker now, but in two years, ten years, or one hundred years, there will be someone who will liberate Jerusalem" (MEMRI, Aug. 28, 2000).

For Arafat, the peace talks had been nothing more than a charade. Israel offered one concession after another in order to keep momentum going for negotiations. But Arafat never conceded *anything*, and after talks broke down, he launched the second intifada. He called it "the al-Aqsa intifada," implying that the Temple Mount was somehow in grave danger.

Incredibly, Ehud Barak responded to Arafat's war by sending Israeli negotiators to Taba, Egypt, in January 2001, offering Arafat complete sovereignty over the Temple Mount. He tried to appease the Palestinian Authority, which had sanctioned the intifada, even as the war was raging! Arafat ignored the offer and unleashed more than 500 suicide attacks against Israel over the next five years.

The Camp David-Taba disaster gives a perfect preview of what will result from the latest round of Israeli concessions. In fact, Palestinian officials are already issuing threats of a third intifada. "If the talks fail," said Palestinian chief negotiator Ahmad Qurei, "we can expect a third and *much more severe intifada*" (*Jerusalem Post*, October 11). Another official with close ties to Abbas, Azzam al-Ahmed, said the repercussions of failure at Annapolis "will be more dangerous than what happened after the failure of Camp David" (*Jerusalem Post*, October 2).

And what would constitute failure, from the Palestinian perspective? The *Post* cited another Palestinian official who referred to Camp David. He said the second intifada began when the Palestinians realized Israel was "not serious about achieving peace."

Isn't it unbelievable? Like Arafat, Abbas and his emissaries speak of Israel's unprecedented—some would say *suicidal*—concessions at Camp David and Taba as insincere, cynical attempts to pretend that it wants peace. And yet, the popular misconception today among left-wing media elites is that *Israel* is the main obstacle to peace. In actual fact, Israelis are so desperate for peace that they are

recycling policies that have already been tried, tested and failed! And this time, they are offering the same concessions without asking for *anything* in return.

Noting the one huge difference between today and the 2000 talks, Caroline Glick wrote, "Seven years ago, Barak's offer of territory was based on the expectation that in exchange for territory the Palestinians would eschew terror and live at peace with Israel. Today, after seven years of war that was largely directed by Fatah, after Hamas's takeover of Gaza

dominated Palestinian insurgence, backed by Iran, will TAKE HALF THE CITY BY FORCE! That's what your Bible prophecies, which is why we have been making that prediction for several years now.

Notice Zechariah 14:1-2: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and *half of the city shall go forth into captivity*, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city." This is clearly an end-time prophecy, as verses 3 and 4 make undeniably clear: "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." East Jerusalem's captivity occurs just before the Messiah's appearance on the Mount of Olives! That's how close we are to the end of this age.

If you are still skeptical of the Bible's authority, consider this: Isn't it ASTOUNDING, amid all the current discourse about splitting Jerusalem in half, that an end-time prophecy written 2,500 years ago says Jerusalem will be cut in half right before Christ returns? Just think about that for a minute.

Now back to my father's Jan. 6, 2006, *Key of David* program. Here was his Bible-based forecast:

- He said *Hamas* is "about to get control of the Palestinians." Three weeks after that program aired, the Palestinian people shocked the world by electing a Hamas majority into the Palestinian Legislative Council. Today, Hamas has complete control of Gaza militarily—and its sights are set on the West Bank and Jerusalem.

- He said *current peace negotiations* would undoubtedly get hung up over the Temple Mount. According to a report from Arutz Sheva, Olmert has essentially agreed to the concessions offered at Taba, which include Palestinian sovereignty over the Temple Mount, but not the Jewish quarter of the Old City or the Wailing Wall—the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. But a senior adviser to Mahmoud Abbas recently said the Western Wall "is part of Islamic heritage that cannot be given up, and it must be under



PEACE will come

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Incredibly, your Bible answers this question in detail with absolute authority. The Bible forecasts when and how real peace will come to Jerusalem, the Jews, and all the nations of Israel. Request your free copy of *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to learn this city's future headlines in advance!

and Iran's takeover of Hamas, this expectation is no longer realistic. By offering Barak's concessions for a second time, Olmert isn't simply offering land. He is sending the message that Israel neither expects nor demands that the Palestinian state live at peace with Israel" (op. cit.).

Give them what they want and expect virtually nothing in return—that's how desperate the Olmert government is for peace. Yet even that won't satisfy the Palestinians. And it might well result in Olmert getting booted from office.

Taken by Violence

Israel *will* eventually give up East Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount—but it won't be through negotiation. A Hamas-

Muslim control” (Arutz Sheva, October 12). The sticking point, as my father forecasted, is the Temple Mount.

• He said Israel is “going to be taken by force, and you need to realize that. Now, *that might also indicate that the Likud, or the conservative party, will get in power.*” In March 2006, my father followed up that program with this comment in the *Trumpet*: “[B]ased on the conflict Zechariah describes between the Palestinians and the Israeli government ... *Benjamin Netanyahu’s conservative Likud party could bounce back and win the Israeli elections ...*” That didn’t happen in March 2006. But look at the situation today. An October poll revealed that if elections were held right now, Likud would win 28 seats and Kadima’s majority would plunge from 29 to 13.

If Netanyahu becomes Israel’s next prime minister, how would that impact the status of Jerusalem? He would undoubtedly return to power on the same platform he outlined in his October 8 speech:



OLMERT

“Keep Jerusalem United.” And while his will to fight against terrorism might be far stronger than Olmert’s, by that point, it will be too little too late.

Too much damage has been done.

“Perhaps Israel’s greatest diplomatic failure since 2000,” Glick wrote in her column, “has been its failure to disavow Barak’s offers and remove them from the negotiating table. Once Arafat refused Barak’s far-reaching concessions and chose instead to launch a war against the Jewish state, Israel had numerous opportunities to make clear these concessions were no longer on offer. Disavowing them is crucial not simply because they are diplomatically unwise. They are strategically suicidal” (op. cit.).

A seven-year record of surrendering without a fight is not exactly a position of strength for the next prime minister to operate from—no matter how conservative he might be. And even if he does resolve to fight, the Israeli people have already been conditioned to give up half of their capital.

It wasn’t like that in January 2001, when Israel’s populace first learned about

See **ISRAEL** page 34 ►

Washington Post column: “Iran’s assets in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq are poised and ready. Ahmadinejad’s message is this: If anyone dares attack our nuclear facilities, we will fully activate our proxies, unleashing unrestrained destruction on Israel, moderate Arabs, Iraq and U.S. interests—in addition to the usual, such as mining the Strait of Hormuz and causing an acute oil crisis and WORLDWIDE RECESSION.

“This is an extremely high-stakes game. The time window is narrow. In probably less than two years, Ahmadinejad will have the bomb.

“The world is not quite ready to acquiesce. The new president of France has declared a nuclear Iran ‘unacceptable.’ The French foreign minister warned that ‘it is necessary to prepare for the worst’—and ‘THE WORST, IT’S WAR, SIR.’”

France is a member of the European Union. You can see that the EU is being drawn into the Middle East vortex.

Europe is going to clash with Iran and radical Islam soon. The EU is going to win, according to Bible prophecy. (Request our free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* for more details.)

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that Israel must be “wiped from the map.” That statement certainly indicates that he plans on using nuclear weapons to achieve that goal.

President George W. Bush said on October 18: “I’ve told people that, if you’re interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing [the Iranians] from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon.”

THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT A NUCLEAR IRAN WILL TRIGGER WORLD WAR III! Nuclear weapons will cause it to “push” even harder in its foreign policy (Daniel 11:40).

Bible prophecy agrees with President Bush!

This problem is all about whether human beings can survive. It is time to wake up to what is happening in this sick world! Europeans are just waiting on a strongman to lead their superpower. They won’t have long to wait.

Government officials may continue to keep the Israeli strike shrouded in mystery, but the problem won’t go away. The Middle East is *rapidly* becoming more volatile, and everybody knows it. We are frighteningly close to

World War III.

Today we have nuclear megabombs—thousands of times more powerful than the atom bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan. Those *tiny* bombs (by comparison to our nukes today) caused Japan to surrender quickly in World War II.

So what is the solution? Is there any hope that mankind can survive?

If we only look to men and women, there is no hope!

Here is the giant paradox. Journalists and politicians keep referring to the book of Revelation and to *Armageddon* to make us see how serious the danger is, but they never seem to discuss the *conclusion* of Armageddon. The hope and the solution are imbedded in the Armageddon statement. Read Revelation 16. Armageddon is in the context of God’s wrath because of our sins. We will only escape that wrath if we conquer our sins.

It is *God* who gathers those armies to Armageddon! (Revelation 16:15-16). The Bible command is: “*Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame*” (verse 15). It is our shameful spiritual nakedness that fills God with wrath! If we remove that shame, we don’t have to fear nuclear war!

If people are going to continually invoke the word *Armageddon*, they ought to understand the conclusion of that bloody scene! **ARMAGEDDON IS CONCLUDED BY THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH!** Even if we don’t remove our shame, He is still coming. That is what Armageddon is all about. Those armies in Armageddon are going to be brought to Jerusalem to fight the Messiah.

This is a biblical prophecy that should cause us to stop and ponder. Before it’s over, the Valley of Jehoshaphat—which runs between the Old City of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives—will flow with blood up to the horses’ bridles! That valley is where most of the soldiers of Armageddon will die.

This is how people must learn lessons if they won’t heed the Bible’s message today. But human nature is rebellious and extremely self-willed. People usually have to learn the hard way.

Thankfully, all of this devastation will end with the greatest news this world and even the universe has ever experienced! And it all follows on the heels of Armageddon. ■

EUROPE

Getting Tough With Russia

RUSSIA UNDER PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin is growing more assertive, and Europe is reacting. European Union foreign ministers discussed how to curb Russian aggression at a meeting in Viana Do Castelo, Portugal, September 7. In addition to working toward a common position on the issue of Kosovo, the ministers called for a stronger stance in dealing with Moscow.

"In the past, Poles were accused of Rusophobia, and their doubts concerning Moscow were ignored in the EU," said Polish Radio (September 10). It is not the case anymore. Fears over Russia's growing influence in the energy sector, as well as its aggressive maneuvers over the past year, have brought Eastern Europe's "Rusophobia" more into the mainstream.

From the assassination of Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko to the missile that landed in Georgia, events over the past 12 months have given the EU great cause for concern.

"Our eastern neighbor creates a political problem," said France's head of diplomacy, Bernard Kouchner (ibid.).

"Russia should behave like a responsible state if we have to cooperate," said British Foreign Minister David Milliband.

The EU's external relations commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, raised concerns about Russia's human rights record and its questionable democracy. Russia has also frustrated Europe with its opposition to independence for Kosovo.

Although EU foreign ministers at the Portugal

summit were unanimous in wanting to take a harder line toward Moscow, some EU states believe the Union still needs to be more unified in its policies on Russia. Several nations were disappointed that the EU did not censure Russia over the Georgian missile incident, for example.

"This systematic slowness is because we cannot agree [on] a common approach as we try to make the best deals on a nation level," Latvian Foreign Minister Artis Pabriks said. "This makes the EU vulnerable" (Reuters, September 7).

Fear of Russia is sure to



CRITICISM Joining the chorus of criticism against Moscow, France's head of diplomacy, Bernard Kouchner, called Russia a "political problem."

prove an important catalyst for European integration. Few things cause nations to set aside their differences and to unite more than a common threat. Watch for Europe to unify in order to deal with Russia, first by seeking a treaty with Russia to secure its eastern flank, and later, the Bible prophesies, through war.

Germany Invited to Nuclear Club

DURING WORLD WAR II, ALLIED SCIENTISTS RACED against German physicists to be the first to develop an atomic bomb. The Allies succeeded, and Germany was defeated. Today, nuclear-armed France is offering to open its nuclear defense door to neighboring Germany.

In a meeting in Germany on September 10, French President Nicolas Sarkozy shocked German officials by offering them access to France's nuclear defense system. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier declined the offer, with Steinmeier stating that Germany has no intention of becoming a nuclear power.

Still, with this offer, the door is wide open for Germany to begin acquiring nuclear weapons, a possibility that puts many history-conscious pundits ill at ease. The present German administration may not seem interested in accepting the keys to the bomb, but a future administration may be very interested.

As the world focuses on the Middle East, North Korea and the U.S. presidential race, the boiling cauldron in the heart of Europe is about to spill over onto the world for the third time in a century. To learn more about Germany's history of war and its future, request a free copy of our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



OMINOUS OFFER Merkel (right) declined Sarkozy's offer to access France's nuclear arsenal.

ECONOMY

Greenspan: Euro Could Replace Dollar

FORMER U.S. FEDERAL Reserve Bank Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned that the dollar's days as the world's reserve currency may be numbered, and that a trend to replace the dollar has already begun.

Though some have speculated this is an inevitability, these predictions, published September 20 in a German magazine, are particularly shocking considering their source. Greenspan was the central banker responsible for overseeing the dollar's value for over 18 years up until 2006.

In the interview published in *Stern* magazine, Greenspan said it was "absolutely conceivable that the euro will replace the dollar as reserve currency, or will be traded as an equally important reserve currency."

If the former chairman's words prove true, the dollar's present downward slide will continue. Greenspan noted that at the end of 2006, two thirds of all currency reserves were held in dollars, as opposed to 25 percent for the euro. If central banks continue to increase euro proportions at the expense of the dollar, demand for the dollar will fall and excess dollar supplies could start flooding the market.

In fact, this trend is already under way, as evidenced by the recent breakdown in the dollar's value. In recent months, the dollar has hit all-time lows against the euro and multi-decade lows against many other currencies. The dollar has also reached new lows against oil

and wheat, and a 28-year low against gold.

Greenspan also stated that although more countries still use the dollar as a reserve currency, the greenback doesn't actually have "all that much of an advantage" over the euro any longer. In terms of cross-border trade, the dollar accounts for 43 percent, while the euro is used in 39 percent of such transactions.

The trend to adopt the euro as a reserve currency has greatly benefited Europe. In addition to the prestige and power gained by the European Central Bank, Europe's economy has also profited. With

the euro's emerging role, Greenspan said Europeans are beginning to experience the benefits that reserve currency status has given Americans—including lower interest rates and higher growth with diminished inflation concerns.

Loss of the dollar's reserve currency status would be a huge blow to the United States. It would drastically undermine the dollar's value and cause Americans to lose many unique economic blessings that they have become used to. Economic conditions in the U.S. may be about to radically change.



ALAN GREENSPAN

Japanese Pay for Oil in Yen

JAPANESE OIL REFINERS have started paying for Iranian crude oil in yen instead of dollars. Japan's largest oil refiner, Nippon Oil Corp., announced the change in September; Cosmo Oil Co. and Japan Energy Corp. followed suit in October.

How significant is it that more and more nations are ceasing to use the dollar to conduct international trade?

Since the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement, the U.S. dollar has been the world's primary reserve currency. As such, the dollar has been used by the majority of nations to pay for crude oil. The resulting massive demand for dollars has allowed the United States to accumulate trade deficits and fiscal debts without experiencing the negative economic impacts that such imbalances normally cause.

This past July, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)

general manager of crude oil marketing and exports, Ali Arshi, sent a letter to Japanese oil refineries requesting that all future crude oil shipments be paid for in yen. Three major Japanese oil refineries have already complied. Will other Asian oil refineries follow suit and move away from the U.S. dollar?

As the largest overseas holder of U.S. treasuries, Japan is a key supporter of the U.S. dollar. Yet Iran is Japan's third-largest oil supplier. In the words of one Tokyo investment securities analyst, "What else can Japan do but accept the [Iranian] request, once the oil producer sent its wish?" (Bloomberg, July 13).

Already, approximately 65 percent of Iran's crude oil exports are based on the euro and another 20 percent on the yen. Iran is casting



off the dollar and doing all it can to persuade the oil refineries of Japan to do the same.

Central banks in South Korea, China, Taiwan, Russia, Syria and Italy have announced plans to reduce their dollar holdings.

As nations and corporations turn their back on the greenback, the decreasing demand for America's currency may cause its already weakening value to plunge to new depths. This development suits Iran just fine, as it would like nothing better than to destroy the dollar and, simultaneously, the economy of its arch-enemy, the United States.

WEATHER

Southeast U.S. Parched

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS IN the southeastern United States are shriveling, and local governments are calling for sweeping restrictions to conserve what little water they have left. More than a quarter of the region is suffering from "exceptional" drought, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's most severe classification.

Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama are baking under exceptional or extreme droughts. Mississippi, Georgia and Florida are also suffering from severe drought, moder-



DEAD Lakes in Florida, like Lake Okeechobee, are reaching all-time water-level lows.

ate drought or abnormally dry conditions.

Conditions are the worst in more than 100 years in many areas. Some cities, including Atlanta, Georgia, could run out of water by February, which would affect more than 4 million people. Siler City, North Carolina, has ordered water use cut in half.

State and local leaders are imposing restrictions on outdoor and even indoor water use. Households, restaurants, businesses and industries are being ordered to sharply curtail water use.

If voluntary measures don't work, some leaders have indicated that declaring a state of emergency and imposing mandatory rationing will be their only choice.

The dry conditions are also breeding wildfires, with North Carolina suffering from about 6,000 of them so far this year, 2,000 more than usual. Over 33,000 acres have burned, twice the average.

"We've run after fires hot and hard all during the summer, and it's not going to go away for the rest of the year," state forester Dan Brandon said. "It's an extraordinary situation. I've never seen it like this before" (*Charlotte Observer*, October 16).

For more on negative weather trends and their cause, read our August-September 2007 cover story.

EGYPT

Following Iran's Footsteps

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE Muslim Brotherhood has released a draft document outlining a detailed political platform. The blueprint reveals the radical nature of the group and its goal of establishing an Islamic state in Egypt reminiscent of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's highly popular though officially banned fundamentalist organization, has transformed its image in recent years from known terrorist organization to legitimate political group. It has increasingly presented itself as a reform movement.

The hard-line draft political platform released in September, the Brotherhood's most concrete policy paper to date, forbids Christians and women from holding the presidential office and establishes a board of Muslim clerics to oversee the government.

Abdel Moneim Said, head of the Al Ahram Center for Strategic and Political Studies, called it "an assassination to the civic state."

The Associated Press stated: "The proposed commission *recalls the system in Iran*, where clerical councils have final say on a wide range of political issues and can even vet candidates running for president and parliament" (October 11; emphasis ours).

Though the Brotherhood has been banned from government since 1954, its members (fielded as "independents") captured a fifth of parliamentary seats in 2005 elections.

Just as democracy has facilitated the rise of Hamas, Hezbollah and other organizations rooted in terrorism, so has it opened doors for the

Muslim Brotherhood. Dissatisfaction with the autocratic rule of President Hosni Mubarak, together with a general push by the United States for democratic reform in the Middle East, has enabled Muslim Brotherhood members to become the largest opposition group in Egyptian politics.



VOCAL A Muslim Brotherhood MP protests inside Egypt's parliament.

As discontent with Egypt's political system increases, Islamists are increasingly being seen as a

Cairo more closely with Tehran, a prospect that is in line with end-time biblical prophecies.

Libya Elected to UN Security Council

ON OCTOBER 16, LIBYA WAS ELECTED by an overwhelming majority to the world's premier security body. Claiming 178 out of a possible 192 votes from United Nations members, the former state sponsor of terrorism joined Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica and Croatia as one of the five rotating members due to take their seats on Jan. 1, 2008.

These five nations will join five others that have another year on the council as well as its five permanent members: the United States, China, France, Russia and the United Kingdom.

This appointment is the latest in a string of ludicrous decisions made by the body intended to regulate international peace and security. Earlier this year, Syria was elected as recording secretary of the UN Disarmament Commission, and also as deputy chairman of the General Conference of the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, just as its own nuclear ambitions started coming under close scrutiny. Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe was appointed to the chair of the Commission for Sustainable Development even when his government had all but destroyed the country's sustainable wealth in the course of a single generation. And Iran was re-elected to the senior office of vice chairman of the UN Disarmament Commission just as Tehran was outwardly discussing and engaging in enhancing its own nuclear ability.

Now Libya is on the UN council responsible for maintaining international peace and security when less than 20 years ago Libyan agents orchestrated the infamous

Lockerbie bombing, which saw 270 people killed as Pan-Am Flight 103 went down over northern Scotland.

Such appointments would be laughable if they were not so fraught with potential disaster.

In Libya's case, Tripoli has tried desperately to clean up the stain on its reputation created by the bombing, and its election is seen by some as a reward for good behavior. Following Lockerbie, the UN-imposed sanctions, and Libya eventually admitted civil responsibility and promised to pay reparations to the families of the victims.

Sanctions were lifted entirely in 2003 when long-standing



QADHAFI

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi announced to the world that Libya would abandon its nuclear program. Since then, the West has cozied up to Libya: Britain promised Security Council action if Libya was attacked with certain weapons; France entered a \$405 million weapons contract with the North African country; the U.S. looks to send Condoleezza Rice to Libya as the first top U.S. diplomat to visit in over 30 years, following a meeting in September with the Libyan leader's son.

However, though its face has changed, Libya's heart has not. While Tripoli now looks north for company, the Bible prophecies that ultimately it will look east—and embrace radical Islam. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in May of last year: "Look for Libya to become more aligned with Iran in the near future. It gave up its weapons of mass destruction as it leaned toward the West. But that foreign policy is going to change."



NAVAL POWER China seeks to control the maritime route to the Middle East—making the Indian Ocean of prime importance.

CHINA

Gaining Control of Indian Ocean

CHINA IS SEEKING GREATER strategic control over the Indian Ocean. With 85 percent of its trade being sea-based, this historic land power has been striving to increase its maritime routes over the past two decades. As the oceanic route between China and the Middle East, the Indian Ocean is of vital strategic importance to Beijing. China is moving to control this trade route.

This past March, the Chinese-financed port of Gwadar opened in Pakistan. Then, in early September, the financial adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, Dr. Salman Shah, met with Chinese bankers, financial institution leaders and shipbuilding company representatives to discuss the Chinese-Pakistani joint construction of two giant shipyards in Gwadar and Port Qasim. These shipbuilding facilities are to cover approximately 500 acres each and have the capacity to hold 600,000 tons of dry weight cargo, making them ideal for the construction of heavyweight ships. The Chinese—already the world's fourth-largest shipbuilders—will have joint control over Gwadar and at least a strong presence in Port Qasim.

The Chinese Navy's

presence in Gwadar and Port Qasim gives Beijing a measure of control over one of Earth's most strategic sea gates, the Strait of Hormuz, which is the

entrance to the Persian Gulf. Through this strait passes 13 million barrels of Middle Eastern oil each day. It is for this reason that Gwadar has been called the "Chinese Gibraltar."

China is in a key position to exert its influence over

the Strait of Hormuz, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The Panama Canal has been under the control of a Chinese firm since 1999. In addition to Gwadar and Port Qasim in Pakistan, China is also currently interested in Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port and Myanmar's Sitwe (Akyab) Port. Beijing's entrance into the Indian Ocean represents yet another prize for this aggressively expanding naval heavyweight.

For more information on China's continued rise as a global power, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

Venezuela's Growing Oil Partner

VENEZUELA AND CHINA ARE STRENGTHENING THEIR relationship through energy trade, announcing in September a \$10 billion project to develop Venezuela's oil-rich Faja del Orinoco region. According to Energy-Daily.com, this is part of a "continuing effort by Caracas to bolster ties between the two countries" (September 12).

The announcement is seen as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's latest move to turn away from the United States and toward other nations, particularly those considered unfriendly toward Washington.

Venezuela currently relies on the U.S. to buy most of its oil exports. That could change, however. Venezuela has already announced it will buy 13 oil rigs from China, and last year it concluded a \$1.8 billion petroleum construction and equipment deal. Chavez also stated last year he wanted to double oil exports to China to 300,000 barrels per day.

Now, with Chinese involvement in the Orinoco project, Caracas is taking even more bold and enabling steps away from the U.S. The Venezuelan state-owned energy company said it would partner with a Chinese firm to build three refineries in China.

The Orinoco project alone will produce a maximum of 1 million barrels per day, according to Venezuelan Energy and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez.

In his decade as president, Chavez has blasted the U.S. and President George W. Bush, tied himself closely to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, paid a state visit to Saddam Hussein, met with Libyan dictator Muammar Qadhafi, explored selling energy to North Korea, and strengthened his country's ties with Iran. Of all his attacks on the U.S., reducing oil deliveries could prove to be the most dangerous.



RIG DEAL Venezuela plans to buy 13 oil rigs from China.

EU Leaders Ink New Treaty

OCTOBER 19, EUROPEAN Union leaders finalized the text of the Lisbon Treaty, previously known as the EU reform treaty. The document is scheduled to be signed at the next session of the European Council, on December 13. This replacement for the failed European Constitution is set to take effect in 2009, pending ratification by all member states.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported, "While the Lisbon Treaty lacks the national anthem and other trappings that helped make the constitution a little too transnationally unifying for voters in some countries, its main goal is the same: greater political power that could harness the EU's economic prowess and give the bloc more global influence" (October 19).

The constitution founded in 2005 after Dutch and French voters rejected it in referendums. And though EU bureaucrats have toned down its language, in reality the Lisbon Treaty functions as a cloaked constitution. With a Parliament-elected EU president, an EU "foreign minister" and a more efficient voting system, it could unify the EU as never before.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is desperately trying to convince the British people that the Lisbon Treaty is just "a modest piece of housekeeping," and that it is too complex for a referendum (Economist.com, October 19). Approximately 70 percent of Britons support a referendum.

Many Britons do not want the EU to increase its power over them. This may prove to be the critical stumbling block for the Lisbon Treaty's ratification—or the final argument that edges Britain out of the European Union.

TALKING TURKEY Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, left, and President Abdullah Gül, right, lead a nation gaining relevance in world politics.

Why Turkey Matters

Turkey's increasing significance is arresting the world's attention. Here's why it should arrest yours. BY JOEL HILLIKER

SUDDENLY, TURKEY IS ALL OVER the headlines.

Most Americans would tend to underestimate its significance. But why, in the midst of October, did an outburst of public discussion center on whether to call the World War I-era Turkish killing of Armenians a “genocide”? Why did Congress raise the issue, and why did the White House scramble to squelch it?

The crux of debate rested on the potential for losing Turkey's help in the war in Iraq. Its role as vital supply route for U.S. troops took center stage. In fact, some analysts suggested that the Democrat-led Congress pushed the “genocide” issue to alienate Turkey in an underhanded effort to spite the president and torpedo the Iraq war.

Is it really possible that this nation—about which few Americans concern themselves—could make the difference between victory and defeat in Iraq?

Who knew Turkey was so important?

At the Crossroads

The instant clamor surrounding that single issue is a meaningful symbol of just how much this historically pivotal

nation is rising again to prominence in modern geopolitics.

Turkey sits right at the crossroads of a developing clash of civilizations. Its population is almost wholly Muslim, but its constitution is staunchly secular. It is a democracy and a constitutional republic, yet since 1960 its military leaders have overthrown four duly elected governments for being too religious. It is anchored to the Middle East as a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, yet welded to the West within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. On top of that, a pillar in its foreign policy for a generation has been its bid for membership in the European Union.

The U.S. is not alone in trying to come to grips with this complex geopolitical puzzle. Nations across the globe are coming to see that, for all its contradictions, and after decades of quiet since the Ottoman Empire collapsed at the end of World War I, Turkey is shaping up to be an extremely significant global player. As the world increasingly fractures into regional blocs—the United States, the Middle East, Europe, Asia—Turkey remains a distinct entity whose value to all of these powers is rapidly rising.

This exceptional position, which we can witness developing right before us, appears to be *setting Turkey up perfectly for the unique role it plays in end-time biblical prophecy.*

Why the World Is Taking Note

Turkey is attracting interest for a number of reasons.

First, its economy is on fire—it is one of the fastest-growing on Earth. Since 2002, under the leadership of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the economy has transformed. It is now the largest Muslim economy, and the largest in the region. Turkey is a member of the G-20, a gathering of the world's 20 largest economies. It is playing its cards wisely, reducing restrictions on trade with Muslim states while simultaneously cultivating relationships with European and other nations.

As Dr. George Friedman put it, “The ability of Greece, Armenia, Syria, Iraq and Iran to remain hostile to Turkey decreases as the Turkish economy grows. Ideology and history are very real things, but so is the economic power of a dynamic economy” (Stratfor, July 31).

Of course, a large Turkish economy

means a large Turkish military. Already it is NATO's second-largest armed force after the U.S., with over 1 million uniformed personnel. This reality has several ramifications regarding the balance of power in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Second, Turkey is comfortably stepping into a ready-made role as a vital energy hub linking Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia.

This is one of the most geographically strategic countries in the world—a literal bridge between continents. On its west, Turkey borders Greece and Bulgaria—EU nations; on its south, Syria, Iraq and Iran—Middle Eastern Muslim states; and on its east, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan—former Soviet republics. It connects to the Mediterranean, Black and Aegean seas, and encompasses the vital Bosphorus and Dardanelles sea gates, linking Central Asia to the Mediterranean. In a world increasingly driven by energy politics, its unique location translates into valuable energy transit routes for more and more nations.

With Russia aggressively taking over global oil and natural gas markets, uncomfortable customers, particularly those in Europe, are actively seeking energy from other sources. Turkey is in the right place at the right time, with major oil pipelines being built across its soil, circumventing Russian territory altogether. It is proving itself a worthy middleman for energy from not only former Soviet republics Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, but also Iraq and Iran. In addition, Turkey, in conjunction with foreign investors and companies, is building new oil refineries that will increase its worth even more. Analysts say the nation's refining capacity should double within only a few years.

This reality seems tailor-made to suit Ankara's foreign-policy interests, because the entity hungriest for non-Russian energy happens to be the very one Turkey has been working so hard to pretty itself up for: Europe.

Naturally, the whole situation also deeply concerns Russia, whose monopolistic energy tendencies are undercut by Turkey's activities. On top of that, Russia is robustly fighting a strong Islamist incursion on its southwestern border,

particularly against Muslim separatists in Chechnya—and it possesses proof that Turkey has financially supported and trained Chechen terrorists in their struggle for independence.

A third reason for Turkey's growing relevance—as became abundantly evident in October—is its role in the unfolding drama surrounding the future of Iraq.

flights to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The upshot is, Turkey feels very comfortable with ignoring Washington's wishes and doing what it feels it must to protect its own interests.

Recent events highlight just how monumental this change is.

In an October attack, PKK rebels killed 13 Turkish soldiers; the people of Turkey

A BRIDGE BETWEEN CONTINENTS



A Strained Alliance

The Iraq war has created bad blood between the U.S. and Turkey. The Turks have long struggled with a restive Kurdish population in their southeast region, driven by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). This terrorist group seeks to carve an independent Kurdish state out of territory in southeast Turkey, as well as parts of Syria, Iraq and Iran. Whatever differences these four nations have, they are united in their determination to stop Kurdistan from materializing.

The fact that the U.S. empowered the Iraqi Kurds by eliminating Saddam Hussein rocked the American-Turkish alliance. In 2003, Ankara simply refused to let the U.S. invade Iraq from Turkish territory—a major snub from a NATO ally. Add to that a turning of the historic tables: With a growing economy and military, Turkey simply isn't as dependent on the U.S. as it once was. In fact, since the U.S. has gotten entrenched in Iraq, it has come to depend deeply on Turkey: 70 percent of its Iraq-bound air cargo and 33 percent of its fuel passes through Turkey, and it heavily uses the Incirlik Air Base for refueling operations and cargo

angrily demanded retaliation. The government bombed and shelled northern Iraq, and then the parliament approved plans to launch a ground invasion.

All this fuss puts the U.S. in an awkward spot. The Kurdish north has been the most stable part of Iraq since Saddam Hussein's ouster in 2003, and Washington would rather nothing upset that. Supporting Turkey could well alienate the Kurdish allies the U.S. has built there, and the whole situation may further destabilize Iraq—something U.S. and Iraqi leaders are desperate to avoid.

But the amazing thing is, the Turks just don't care. "We don't need anyone's advice on northern Iraq and the operation to be carried out there," Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said. Reuters reported that the crowd in Istanbul cheered this pronouncement, and cheered again when he said that the U.S. "came tens of thousands of kilometers and attacked Iraq without asking anyone's permission."

Amid these developments, the timing couldn't have been worse for the U.S. congressional committee's "genocide" resolution. Turkey bristled at the news, recalling its ambassador in the U.S. and threatening to close its doors to American troops.

Anti-American demonstrations spilled into the streets, according to the *Jerusalem Post*. “All prospects look bad ... and relations with the U.S. have already gone down the drain,” Turkish foreign policy expert Semih Idiz said.

The White House responded by going into full damage control mode: It issued public statements condemning the measure, it essentially apologized to Turkey’s leaders, and it finally convinced Congress to kill the resolution. The fervor of the response revealed just how desperately the U.S. needs Turkey’s cooperation in order to resolve the crisis in Iraq in a manner suited to its own national interests. But the U.S. isn’t the only country in that situation. So is the other primary external player in this theater: *Iran*.

An Islamic Shift

In practical terms, as Washington contemplates reducing its presence in Iraq, its primary concern is to try to prevent Iran from simply taking over—not just Iraq but virtually the entire Middle East. In Turkey, it sees the closest thing it has to a regional counterbalance to Iran.

Unfortunately, it so happens that all this friction between Ankara and Washington has strengthened Turkey’s historically wary relationship with Iran.

Something else that could strengthen this relationship—and markedly change the balance within several of the precarious situations in which Turkey plays a role—occurred on August 28, when Turkish parliamentarians elected a former Islamist as president.

The new president, Abdullah Gül, is a bit of a puzzle. He was a cabinet member in one of the Islamic governments the military ousted in the 1990s—yet he has been a leading supporter of his nation’s EU membership bid. His devotion to Europe certainly placates the nation’s generals and military commanders, but his religion still chafes against their fierce loyalty to the secularist ideals institutionalized in 1923 by the nation’s founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. His political party, the AKP, has an Islamist pedigree and maintains pan-Islamic ties throughout the region. Turkey’s secularist military suspects that it retains a masked Islamist agenda.

Stratfor noted that, because the president chooses judges and hence dominates the judiciary, having Gül as president means that “for the first time since the founding of the Turkish republic more than 80 years ago, a political force rooted in Islamism essentially con-

trols all of the key civilian institutions of the state” (August 29, emphasis mine). Stratfor expects the AKP to seek to use its new power as a beachhead to move the nation away from secularism and toward the freer expression of religion in public life; it anticipates drama ahead as the AKP is forced “to balance pan-Islamic issues with Turkish nationalist objectives” (ibid.). Though this analysis probably overstates how much Turkey will change under President Gül, we would not be surprised to see the nation proceed with a more sympathetic economic and for-

restraining influence on Iranian power is a nightmare for Israel, which Iran has committed itself to eliminating.

Tensions between Washington and Ankara over Iraq have already opened a door for the Islamic Republic. Suspicion between Turkey and Iran has thawed in recent years, and ties have improved. The fact that Turkey is now ruled by a Muslim—albeit Sunni—rather than a secularist certainly doesn’t hurt.

The more cooperative these two nations are, the more latitude the Turks are likely to give Iran without feeling di-

DREAMSTIME



The Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey

eign policy toward the leading Arab and Muslim energy producers in the region.

Any shift within Turkey away from secularism and toward Islam could help alter the balance of power in the Middle East—most notably, in favor of Iran.

A Nightmare for Israel?

In 1996, Turkey inked a mutual defense deal with Israel that, for years, analysts credited with contributing to the relative stability of the region. The *Islamic Affairs Analyst* went so far as to say that Israel’s enemies respected Turkey enough that the Jewish state’s national survival was all but assured as long as the deal stood.

Events in the past couple of years, however, have shown that whatever deterrent effect Turkey once had has already weakened to some degree: Iran and Syria have unleashed forces in Lebanon and within Israel against the Jewish state with few qualms. But, given Turkey’s new Islamic leadership, this trend could get worse.

Any further weakening of Turkey’s

rectly threatened as Tehran pursues its regional ambitions.

Watch for that cooperation to increase—and for Iran to become even more brazen.

Unrequited Love

What does Turkey get out of the deal? If nothing else, it gets Iranian energy—energy it can pass on to Europe.

The two countries have just completed an oil pipeline that will pump 500,000 barrels of Iranian oil a day into Turkey. And the Turkish Petroleum Corp. has announced plans to invest \$3.5 billion in Iran’s South Pars natural gas field. This project would include building the means to transport Iranian gas through Turkey to Europe. The U.S., though flatly opposed to the deal, can do little to stop it.

Ultimately, even under an Islamic president, it appears *Europe* is who Turkey most wants to please. Ankara simply sees Iran as a workable partner in increasingly procuring the energy that Europe

desperately wants. Radio Free Europe reports that for decades to come, Iranian gas may be Europe's most viable source of non-Russian gas. Nothing Turkey could do would strengthen its value to the EU more than its growth as an energy hub.

Even the slippage in Turkey's relationship with the United States is driving it more toward Europe, according to Semih Idiz. Speaking of the Iraq crisis, Idiz said, "Having its relations with the U.S. 'electrified,' Ankara will be more and more eager to grab hold of the EU anchor" (*Turkish Weekly*, September 1).

Only one major issue separates Turkey from all the other nations being granted their pass into the EU: religion.

President Gül has strongly emphasized his intent to forge ahead with plans to join the European Union, plans that will require further economic reforms and constitutional amendments. His ally, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, also from the Justice and Development Party, has outlined a five-year program to increase individual freedoms, further boost the economy, and, above all, strengthen the nation's case for EU membership.

Biblical prophecy indicates, however, that although Turkey will remain committed to its romance with Europe, all these efforts are doomed to fail—just as they always have.

Turkey's Image Problem

From the time Atatürk himself famously admonished his countrymen to "turn toward Europe," Turkey has labored, to varying degrees, to cast itself in the image of the West. For the past decade, it has worked overtime.

Still, for every obstacle Turkey hurdles, the EU throws up another. Since 1987, when Turkey applied for full membership, 15 other states have cut to the front of the line and been accepted: Austria, Finland, Sweden, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania. The Turks have watched the Union swell from 12 states to 27, while they remain peering through the window from the outside.

Now, the prospect of becoming an energy bridge to the Continent has inflamed Turkey's hopes of *finally* convincing the EU to return the love.

Those hopes are wasted. Try as it may to overcome it, Turkey clearly has an image problem among Europe's decision makers—and even its voters. Just this year, France elected a president—Nicolas Sarkozy—who campaigned on opposition to Turkish EU membership.

Why? Why is Europe so opposed to considering Turks European citizens? Only *one* major issue separates Turkey from all the other nations being granted their pass into the Union: *religion*.

The fundamentally Roman Catholic continent simply has no intention of incorporating 70 million Muslims in one swoop. And Turkey—with its Ottoman history, which at one time threatened Catholicism's very existence—has particularly negative associations in European minds. As Bernard Lewis expresses it, "[T]here is still a reserve of mistrust, and even at times of hostility [toward Turks], with roots deep in the European Christian past" (*From Babel to Dragomans*).

The election of an openly Islamic president has only solidified Europe's unspoken yet inflexible resistance to embracing Turkey. Still, given this nation's growing strategic value to Europe, watch for the EU to continue to dangle carrots and incentives to keep the Turks onside. And as Europe grows in power in the time ahead, Ankara's devotion to the European cause will only grow along with it.

Thus, Turkey is destined to remain suspended between worlds—always searching, ever more desperate to please.

A Shocking Betrayal

These trends become far more significant in light of the Bible's description of Turkey's place in end-time events. It is only with the revelation of God's Word that we can understand *why Turkey truly matters*.

The biblical prophecies regarding events in the Middle East are clear: A Muslim-Jewish war is about to erupt—initiated by Islamic forces clearly unrestrained by Turkey or anything else. That conflagration will trigger a series of events leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

When the Muslims move to sack Jerusalem, it will provoke a united European bloc of nations to intervene. This bloc will set up armies around Jerusalem—appearing like a "peacekeeping force"—but quickly transforming into a deadly war machine (Luke 21:20). It won't be just Ar-

abs or Muslims that suffer at their hands; this European power will turn its full force on the nations of Israel—including America and Britain. This horrifying double-cross is discussed in Ezekiel 23. Many in the Jerusalem area will be trapped!

The Prophet Obadiah recorded an extraordinary prophecy about "Edom," whose modern descendants are the Turks. (Request a free copy of the *Trumpet's* December 1997 article "Turkey: An Act of Revenge!" for a detailed explanation of this prophecy.) It shows how Turkey, possessing the escape route via land—the Cilician Gates mountain pass—will actually betray those Israelis, Americans and British who are trying to escape, delivering them into the hands of their conquerors. This is one last act, true to present form, of Turkey attempting to curry favor with Europe!

The description of these events reveals several things that illuminate the meaning of present-day headlines.

One, the fact that those escapees look to Turkey strongly indicates that Turkey's alliances with the U.S. and with Israel will remain, at least in name.

Two, the betrayal may mean we can expect still more friction to develop within these alliances, like that which has arisen over the "genocide" question and the Kurd condition in Iraq. Though the U.S. still enjoys the support of Turkey's secularist military, anti-Americanism is rampant and growing within Turkish media and among the Turkish people—a fact that the U.S., as desperate as it is to retain Turkey's help, is willing to overlook.

Three, for Turkey, relations with Europe will continue to trump all other foreign-policy considerations.

Thus, based on biblical prophecy, in the end the *Trumpet* expects recent events that have thrust Turkey into the headlines only to cement the unique position this nation already occupies in modern geopolitics. They may tax Turkey's agreements with the U.S. and Israel, but will not destroy them. They may increase Turkey's cooperation with Muslim states, shifting the balance of power in favor of Iran, but that cooperation will fall short of a full-scale alliance. And most importantly, they will strengthen Europe's resolve to keep Turkey at arm's length, but do nothing to diminish Turkey's undying resolve to get into Europe's bed.

And as Obadiah's prophecy reveals, that nation's willingness to do *anything* to serve this ambition—including betrayal—will lead to its ruin. ■

WHEN SHINZO ABE RESIGNED as Japan's prime minister September 12, Japanese politics plunged from confusion into chaos. Abe's resignation was a sucker punch to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), whose reputation and influence had already ruptured badly this year amid a series of scandals and cabinet reshuffles.

The winds of change are gusting through Japanese politics.

The historically dominant and staunchly pro-American LDP suffered its most debilitating blow in July when, for only the second time in 50 years, it lost majority control over the upper house of parliament, this time to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). This defeat handicapped the party's control over the government, diminishing its ability to dominate political issues and set the national agenda.

On September 23, LDP members voted the moderate Yasuo Fukuda to replace Abe. Though this move helped stabilize the national leadership, ultimately it will do little to stem a broader movement gaining momentum within Japanese politics—one of enormous import.

This movement, which flows swift among Japan's increasingly popular opposition parties, seeks the restructuring of foreign policy in two important ways: First, it seeks to temper Tokyo's strong and submissive relationship with Washington. Second, it seeks to improve Japan's relations with its traditional Asian competitors, most notably China.

It has become obvious that a primary by-product of the LDP government's weakening is the emergence into mainstream politics of this double-pronged movement. Though it is unfolding within a government far across the Pacific, it carries grave consequences for the U.S.

Implications of a Weakened LDP

The political state of the LDP has grown so gaunt, and the influence of the rival DPJ so strong, that it has become exceptionally difficult for Fukuda and his party to maintain Japan's full-fledged support of the United States. Despite the fact that a born-and-bred LDP ideologue still runs the government, Japanese support of America is now weaker than ever.

Fukuda may have done his part to consolidate America's relationship with Japan, but the LDP simply lacks the political influence of yesteryear that would enable it to keep Japan a dedicated in-

America's Loss,



Asia's Gain

A political movement could boost Japan's relations with its Asian neighbors—and evaporate its alliance with America. BY BRAD MACDONALD

strument of American foreign policy.

Washington is monitoring the LDP's weakened position closely—particularly since it could hinder operations in Afghanistan, where Japan plays an important supporting role to the U.S. Navy. One of the main issues triggering Abe's resignation was his failure to secure DPJ support for an anti-terrorism bill that would enable Japanese Maritime Defense Force vessels to continue providing logistical assistance in Afghanistan. As of this writing, it remains unclear whether a deal can yet be struck. The LDP has already made significant concessions in an attempt to get a compromise bill approved. In mid-October, the cabi-

net agreed on a new bill that, if approved by parliament, would reduce Tokyo's support for U.S.-led combat missions. It would limit Japan's involvement to refueling vessels on patrol and not those involved in military operations. Fukuda's government made the changes in the mission "in hopes of mollifying opposition critics who said it involved Japan too deeply in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan" (Associated Press, October 16). Still, the DPJ insists Japan's involvement be scrapped entirely.

As tension brews, U.S. officials have become increasingly concerned that the sentiment runs deeper than merely Japan's lack of support of this one opera-

tion—and that DPJ leaders could further fracture the Japanese-American security and military relationship. They have subtly warned Fukuda that unless the LDP regains control of the government, the broader relationship between Washington and Tokyo will suffer.

Drawing Closer to Asian Neighbors

Fukuda might be trying to toe the LDP party line in his approach to America, but he is *rewriting* his party's historical approach toward Japan's regional competitors, particularly China and North Korea. Fukuda has a reputation as a foreign-policy dove. He has "long emphasized the importance of building strong ties with China and the rest of Asia and represents a break from the nationalist Abe and his predecessor, Junichiro Koizumi" (*International Herald Tribune*, September 23). This is bound to force change in Japanese-U.S. relations.

During a televised debate in September, Fukuda spent considerable time highlighting his goal to redirect foreign policy in a manner that will improve Japan's relationship with its neighbors. "China is now aiming at a free-market economy. They are making an effort," he said. "We need to cooperate with them." He has also promised that as prime minister he will not follow in the steps of Koizumi and Abe and visit the Yasukuni Shrine, which is generally viewed as a symbol of Japan's past militarism and heavily criticized by neighboring peoples who were past victims of Japanese aggression.

Fukuda also seeks to soften Japan's long-time hardline approach toward North Korea. During his campaign, he told his people that Tokyo needed to "make conversation to some extent" and "must not close the road to talks." Interestingly, he used the rationale that doing so would be following the U.S.'s example.

These remarks about improving relations with Asian states, particularly China, highlight an important trend. Japanese politicians on both sides of the aisle are coming to realize that the entire balance of power in the Far East is radically different than it was 20, 10 or even 5 years ago. Not long ago, China was little more than the whipping boy for human rights activists, a deprived nation largely marginalized from global politics. To-

day, however, with China a legitimate regional and global power, Japan is having to be more considerate of Chinese interests. It sees China's influence in the region is waxing strong, while America's is waning. In other words, a reorientation toward Asia simply makes sense.

In practical terms, this means Japan can no longer exist as an unquestionably loyal extension of U.S. foreign policy. The wealthier states such as China, South Korea and even India become and the greater geopolitical influence they acquire, the more Japanese politicians have to moderate their support of the U.S.

As much as Prime Minister Fukuda may want to believe otherwise, furthering Japan's relations with Asian states cannot truly occur without tempering its security and military relationship with Washington. Ever since China emerged as a competitor with American power, the Sino-American relationship has swung between cautious skepticism and downright hostility. From Beijing's perspective, improving the Sino-Japanese relationship would require Tokyo moderating its relationship with Washington as much as it would Japan and China working together directly to rebuild bridges.

TIMES ARE A CHANGING
Politicians like Ichiro Ozawa, who favors reorienting Japan away from the U.S., are gaining popularity.

If Ozawa becomes prime minister, America will be first to feel the shift in Japan's foreign policy.

For now, Japan remains under the watch of a man set on ensuring Tokyo remains a staunch supporter of America. But this does not mean that the movement to temper this relationship and expand relationships within the region will not gain steam. First, the LDP lacks the political strength to ensure Japan remains a firm U.S. ally. Second, the LDP itself now realizes the need for Japan to reorient itself within Asia's new balance of power equation.

And third, the LDP could actually lose control of Japan's government to the far less pro-American DPJ.

Ozawa: A Man to Watch

This year, Ichiro Ozawa, the gregarious leader of the DPJ, emerged as the power forward of Japanese politics. When he and his party snatched dominance of the upper house of parliament in July, he made history by breaking the LDP's half-century dominance over the government.

This success didn't satisfy Ozawa's ambition; it fueled it.

With the LDP floundering, Ozawa is currently making a play for full power. In October, he confirmed his desire to run the country, telling reporters, "[W]e want to have an early election as soon as possible and take control of the government" (Agence France Presse, October 16).

LDP shenanigans are partly responsible for empowering the increasingly popular opposition party, but one should not underestimate the power of Ozawa's personality. He is called the gorilla of Japanese politics, and is a political powerhouse to be reckoned with. "Nicknamed 'The Steamroller,' Ozawa is branded by some as a 'wolf in sheep's clothing' and a man guilty of 'patricide,' while others see him as a talented reformer and an anomaly in Japanese politics" (Spiegel Online, September 17).

The Steamroller looks to flatten LDP leader Yasuo Fukuda. Ozawa is painting the Liberal Democrats as "America's lackeys," a disunited, decrepit relic of a party incapable of running the government. "Since the DPJ's landslide victory in the upper house, Ozawa is now closer to his lifetime political goal than he has been in a long time: Ozawa wants to snatch power from the Liberal Democrats, who have ruled Japan almost without interrup-

tion since 1955. He intends to wear down Abe's successor so that he is forced to dissolve

the lower house of parliament, where the ruling party holds a two-thirds majority, and call for new elections" (ibid.).

Ozawa is an ardent critic of Japan's support of U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He regularly takes potshots at Japan's unquestioning loyalty and has stated publicly that Japan's military should only participate in missions mandated by the United Nations.

Earlier this year, he broke no sweat telling Thomas Schieffer, the U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, that he opposed Japan's participation in the war in Iraq because President Bush instigated the war without a sufficient UN mandate. When Schieffer responded by warning Ozawa of the potential damage to bilateral relations, "Ozawa suddenly became a popular hero among his fellow Japanese" (ibid.). This willingness to confront Washington has boosted Ozawa's popularity in a nation united by its deepening mistrust of the American superpower.

Don't be misled; Ozawa is no pacifist, upset by Japan's growing military ambitions. To the contrary, he fervently supports altering Japan's pacifist Constitution and making the nation a more influential military power. He simply believes Japan is strategically and militarily too closely aligned with America. Ozawa does want a stronger, more proactive Japanese military—he just wants it to operate with greater independence.

At the same time, Ozawa is not calling for the complete dissolution of the Japanese-American relationship. He simply wants the terms and requirements of the relationship rewritten to give Japan a stronger voice in Washington and greater independence—a relationship built more on Japan's terms and less on America's.

This year Ozawa and his party built their political success on this platform. "Koizumi and Bush, Abe and Bush—from our perspective, those relationships were too close," said Shinkun Haku, a Democratic Party member.

Solid relations with America are important, he said, "but is it right to look only to the United States and turn our backs on China and South Korea?"

Ichiro Ozawa is a man to watch. If Prime Minister Fukuda cannot consolidate LDP ranks, restore the party's reputation and curb Ozawa's growing popularity, elections appear inevitable.

If Ozawa becomes prime minister, America will be first to feel the shift in Japan's foreign policy. Ozawa would surely reduce further, perhaps eliminate, Japan's support in Iraq and Afghanistan. He would almost certainly maintain friendly rhetoric with America, and likely work, at least in the short term, to keep the relationship intact. In time, however, Japan would grow more deeply motivated by national self-interest and less concerned about pleasing its American friends. Ozawa's subtle antipathy toward America would be manifested in a less U.S.-centric, more regional-friendly foreign policy.

Broader Implications

It is evident that soon—whether the Japanese government is led by Fukuda and the weakened LDP or Ozawa and the DPJ—we can expect the staunch support America has received from the Japanese

government since World War II to become a pleasant fact of history.

When this occurs, America's ability to project power within the Pacific will diminish. The loss of Japanese support will have great impact on U.S. foreign policy in Asia—particularly toward China and North Korea, which have traditionally respected, even feared, Japan's powerful military as a proxy of U.S. foreign policy.

Eventually, when Japan successfully integrates itself into the Asian landscape,

not feed off of American aid, we would witness a remarkable change in attitude toward the United States. Friendship would quickly evaporate" (April 1968).

Consider the history of Japanese-American relations. This relationship is not only comparatively young, it has very little depth. America and Japan share few religious, cultural or even historical ties.

In fact, just over 60 years ago, Japanese pilots were bombing U.S. naval frigates as the Imperial Japanese Navy attempted to obliterate the U.S. Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor. Only six decades ago, Japan was an Axis power bent on destroying the United States!

Japanese imperialism was driven into submission only after atomic bombs were detonated on two Japanese cities. Then, with the war ended, the U.S. set about rebuilding Japan. After destroying Japanese willpower and bankrupting the nation financially, politically and socially, it was easy for the United States to hand Japan a constitution and impose Western-style democracy.

As healthy as U.S.-Japanese relations appear today, this history—not to mention the vast religious, cultural and ideological divides between these two states—is working against the relationship.

Until recently, Japanese leaders made the simple choice to toe the American line and operate within Asia as an extension of U.S. foreign policy. But the emergence of China, South Korea, and even India in recent years as powers in their own right has complicated matters. Today the decision to provide unfailing support to America—an ailing superpower distracted by numerous conflicts and no longer the security blanket for Japan that it once was—is not nearly so easy.

It's important we watch Japanese politics, whatever course they might run. Sooner or later—more probably sooner—this movement inside Japan that demands the tempering of relations with America and the advancement of relations with Asian states will evolve into a full-blown reality.

When this occurs, the United States of America will lose one of its most trusted allies!

Asia Unites!

The current movement in Japan away from America is the beginning of a larger trend. Soon, as Bible prophecy shows, the nations of Asia will grow even closer together. Write for a copy of our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* to learn the fascinating details.



and particularly in a closer relationship with China, America will find itself on the opposite end of the spectrum in its relationship with Japan.

It may sound inconceivable, but when China and Japan become allies (which is more plausible than many like to accept), it will be the Chinese that end up enjoying the military, strategic and geopolitical benefits of a close relationship with Japan rather than the U.S.

Together, these nations could become a mighty force of opposition against America!

Forty years ago, the *Plain Truth*, with Herbert W. Armstrong as its editor in chief, warned about this scenario: "Despite popular belief, Japan is not permanently committed to a pro-Western position. America has foolishly followed the policy of assuming that ... Germany and Japan can be converted to the virtues of democracy in less than a generation. ... Both Japanese and Germans are willing, for the present, to put up with their so-called democratic form of government—until some serious internal crisis is precipitated. ... Japan tolerates her present form of government as long as it is economically expedient. If the time were ever to come—and it will come—that the Japanese could

Unwed Parents Common in UK



On the other hand, married women in the 40-to-64 demographic have “significant health advantages.” Mothers are also healthier than women who did not have children.

Husbands gain better health from

marriage as well, and their wives enjoy better financial circumstances.

Some sociologists and policy experts are joining those who say the government should promote marriage and stop rewarding cohabitation. “There should no longer be any argument about the importance of marriage,” the Center for Policy Studies’ Jill Kirby said. “It is not simply traditional, it protects children best and gives them the optimum

WITHIN A GENERATION, most British children will not know what it is like to have married parents, according to figures published October 4 by the UK Office for National Statistics.

The report found that the number of unmarried couples living together has soared 65 percent in the past decade. It forecasts an additional 250 percent increase by 2031 for ages 45 to 64, at which point cohabitating couples and single mothers will dominate the average British household.

Britain currently has 2.6 million single mothers, an 8 percent increase in the past 10 years. In London, 22 percent of families are led by single moms. Additionally, only 70 percent of Britain’s cohabiting couples are married.

Does it really make any difference, though?

The same report indicates that Britain *suffers* with every married two-parent household it loses. Children living with married parents are statistically more likely to earn good marks in the classroom and continue their formal education for longer. Children living without married parents not only do worse at school, but they also are more likely to contract serious illnesses.

The report also found that single mothers are less healthy than their married counterparts, even linking illness with divorce and separation.

start” (*Telegraph*, October 5).

“People used to say it made no difference how you lived, but we have lots of research now which shows it does,” Robert Whelan, deputy director of think tank Civitas, said. “However, if you have a tax and benefit system which rewards cohabitation and living apart, this is what happens” (*ibid.*).

Conservative leader David Cameron said it was dangerous to ignore that “one in two cohabitating parents split up before their child’s fifth birthday, compared to one in 12 married parents” (*ibid.*). Cameron called family breakdown the “central factor” in Britain’s social breakdown.

As the family deteriorates into minority status in Britain, watch for the nation’s social problems to multiply. For more on the real, inspiring purpose of marriage, request our free booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*



STRAFFORD/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Obesity a “Disaster”

TWO THIRDS OF AMERICAN adults are obese or overweight, said the Trust for America’s Health report “F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies Are Failing in America, 2007.” Perhaps more disturbing is the finding that the percentage of overweight *children* ranges from a low of 8.5 percent in Utah to a high of 22.8 percent in Washington, D.C.

The problem is multiplying. Adult obesity rates have risen in 31 states since last year. (No state experienced a decrease.) All this despite weight-loss products and services being a \$35 million annual industry.

“We find this report to be a devastating indictment” said Dr. James Marks, senior vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which funded the project. “We’re in the middle of a public health crisis that is still deteriorating rapidly, and we’re treating it like a mere inconvenience rather than the emergency it is” (*HealthDay News*, August 27). Citing the discovery that the number of states whose obese residents make up over a quarter of the population has more than doubled in just two years, Dr. Marks said, “That’s not sending a wake-up call. We’re ringing the disaster alarm.”

The solution to America’s obesity problem is healthful foods and physical exercise. Visit theTrumpet.com to read our August 2005 article “The Clean Life” to learn more.

Teens: Joy Comes From Family

A POLL CONDUCTED IN APRIL BY THE Associated Press and MTV asked teens the open-ended question: “What makes you happy?” Although money, sex, music and other factors were examined by the study, the top answer teens gave was *spending time with family*.



Teens in wealthier families were generally happier than those who were poorer, but very few listed money as what made them happy. Also, being sexually active made them less happy.

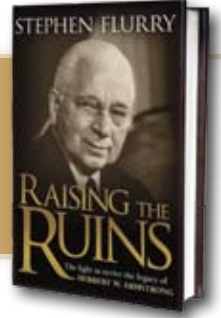
According to the same report, a majority of young people thought that eventually marrying and having children of their own would make them happy.

Nearly three in four teens said their relationship with their parents made them happy, and when asked who were their heroes, half responded with Dad or Mom.

While these results might seem revelatory to some, the *Trumpet* has consistently maintained that family life is the most vital part of a young person’s life. Although millions of teens are turning to ever-worsening vices—drugs, alcohol abuse, illicit sex, degrading entertainment—these diversions are actually robbing them of joy.

For more on the all-important institution of family and its transcendent purpose, read “Taking Time to Save Our Teens,” from our July 2007 issue.

In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is part two of the 12th chapter.



STEPHEN FLURRY
Stewardship
 PART TWO

Making millions of dollars evaporate

WHEN MR. TKACH DECIDED to pursue accreditation for the college in 1988, he wrote, “[W]e must recognize that Ambassador College now serves a greater and broader purpose for God’s work than it did in its earlier days.” So they began pouring money into the college.

In Mr. Armstrong’s day, the annual spending on the college had been about 10 percent of the overall budget. In 1989, that figure increased to 14 percent: Of the \$210 million the church spent, \$30 million went toward the college.

In 1990, the church spent almost \$222 million (\$10.6 million more than it received)—17 percent of which went toward the college. So in the same year they slashed just about every program due to the budget crisis, they upped their college budget from \$30 million to \$37 million—a 23 percent increase. “During 1990,” according to the *Worldwide News*, “the church funded approximately \$15,663,000 of construction costs for needed dormitories, classrooms and offices to accommodate the consolidation [of both campuses in Big Sandy].” That same year, the *Plain Truth* circulation had to be cut from 6 million to less than 3 million, they had to “trim” at least 122 television stations from the budget and the *Good News* and the toll-free number had to be cut entirely.

Here is a simple comparison between budgets for 1987 and 1990. In 1987, Tkachism spent \$180 million. The budget breakdown looked like this:

- Publishing—24 percent
- Local congregations, field ministry—23 percent
- Broadcasting and proclaiming the gospel—18 percent
- Management and general—18 percent
- Ambassador College—10 percent
- Member assistance—4 percent
- Ambassador Foundation—3 percent

In 1990, after spending \$222 million, the breakdown looked like this:

- Local congregations, field ministry—26 percent
- Publishing—19 percent
- Ambassador College—17 percent

- Management and general—17 percent
 - Broadcasting and proclaiming the gospel—14 percent
 - Member assistance—4 percent
 - Ambassador Foundation—3 percent
- Spending on Ambassador College in 1987 amounted to \$18 million. Three years later, after huge cutbacks in preaching the gospel, the college budget had more than doubled. Ambassador College had become Tkachism’s baby.

■ **COUNTING THE COST**

In his book, Mr. Tkach Jr. piously compares himself and his fellows to the Apostle Paul, who “suffered the loss of all things” in order to “win Christ.” He wrote, “Our membership losses have resulted in a corresponding drop in income. ... With dramatically fewer members and greatly reduced income, expenses had to be cut as well. ... We were forced to lay off most of our headquarters staff, cut circulation of [and later charge for] the *Plain Truth* magazine, sharply reduce subsidies to [and later close] Ambassador University, end our acclaimed performing arts series at Ambassador Auditorium, and sell off many of our assets [including the auditorium]. ...

“So you do the math. What do these figures tell you? If the changes in the Worldwide Church of God are some kind of con job—some cynical, conspiratorial plot hatched in secret back rooms—then we’re not very adept at pulling it off.”

Let us then, as he suggests, do the math. First, consider the golden years of Herbert W. Armstrong’s work in the Worldwide Church of God—after he set out to get the church back on track in the late 1970s and through to the mid-1980s, when the church experienced such abundant growth. During the last five years of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, between 1981 and 1985, this is the annual revenue he had to work with:

- 1981: \$108 million
- 1982: \$121 million
- 1983: \$132 million
- 1984: \$148 million
- 1985: \$164 million

It amounted to \$673 million. Compare that with the first five years of Tkachism:

1986: \$182 million
1987: \$192 million
1988: \$201 million
1989: \$212 million
1990: \$211 million

Tkachism's five-year total AMOUNTED TO \$998 MILLION. *Can you believe that?* They had about a *billion* dollars to work with their first five years!

Talk about *golden years*. This was when Tkach's entourage was living large! It's when they decided to close the Pasadena campus and pump all that money into Big Sandy. It's when they changed the commission and slashed spending on numerous programs established to preach the gospel to the world. It's when they reduced the *Plain Truth* circulation from 8.4 to 2.7 million and *The World Tomorrow* from 382 stations to about 100. It's when the *Good News* and Mr. Armstrong's books were retired permanently—*Mystery of the Ages* found to be "riddled with error."

And it's when they tricked members into thinking NOTHING had changed, except perhaps some *minor* things that Mr. Armstrong himself supposedly wanted to change.

Tkach Jr. wrote, "The Worldwide Church of God reached its peak attendance in 1988—two years after Mr. Armstrong's death—with 126,800 members and 150,000 in attendance. Those figures stayed relatively stable *until 1992*, when a slight dip was noted." Isn't that amazing? It didn't even dip *until 1992*. They got the power they needed to do away with Mr. Armstrong's teachings in 1986 and the additional benefit of a membership and income *on the rise*, thanks to the popularity of Mr. Armstrong's teachings.

And you wonder why they didn't tell 150,000 church members *in 1988* that *Mystery of the Ages* was RIDDLED with error? *I can give you about one billion reasons why.*

Let's do more math. Consider the income for Tkachism's *second* five-year period, between 1991 and 1995:

1991: \$197 million
1992: \$191 million
1993: \$176 million
1994: \$165 million
1995: \$103 million

It wasn't until 1995 that the church's income *finally* fell below the revenue Mr. Armstrong generated in his last year. Of course, Mr. Armstrong's \$164 million would have had more purchasing power in 1994—amounting to about \$226 million. But still, Tkachism's revenue for 1994, the year Tkach Sr. gave "The Sermon," as his son called it, was *\$165 million*.

Total revenue during their *SECOND* five years amounted to *\$832 million*. Where in the world did all *THAT* money go? They shut down the Pasadena campus and the toll-free number in 1990. *The World Tomorrow* went off the air in 1994. The concert series ended in 1995. *Plain Truth* circulation had plummeted. About the only thing going for the church was the college in Big Sandy—and they decided to close that in 1997. Yet Tkachism had *\$832 million* to work with during this second five-year period.

Tkachism is obviously *not* the story of a few courageous leaders who counted the cost and were willing to give up everything for the sake of God's truth. Between Mr. Armstrong's death and the year *Transformed by Truth* was released in 1997, Tkachism received *nearly \$2 billion* of income. And that's just the revenue. The book value of all the property and equipment they inherited from Mr. Armstrong

was \$83 million, according to their 1987 audit. And nearly all of that was paid for.

Adjusting figures for inflation, imagine if you inherited an estate today worth \$150 million and you could count on it generating another 2½ to 3 *billion* dollars over the next 10 to 12 years. That's the position the Tkaches landed in when Mr. Armstrong died. Yet look at what they have to show for it.

You do the math. How could these men do *so little* with so MUCH? These men didn't sacrifice anything—except the *lives* and *investments* tens of thousands of *others* made in support of Mr. Armstrong's work.

Had it happened in the corporate world, the CEOs and executives responsible for hijacking a corporation and then treacherously robbing its investors of their future would have been FIRED, if not *prosecuted* in a court of law.

But in the world of Tkachism, a giant, conspiratorial con job, hatched in the secrecy of back rooms and then carried out by cynical, self-righteous imposters, is hailed as a courageous success story of service and sacrifice for the good of mankind.

■ FUNDING THE PENSIONS

In recent years, Tkachism has harshly criticized Mr. Armstrong for never starting an employee retirement plan. "In the past," Tkach Jr. wrote in 2003, "the Worldwide Church of God in the United States and elsewhere made no provision for the retirement of its employees. This was a decision made by others before the current administration and was inherited by us." Of course, Mr. Armstrong always had a generous assistance program designed to help those in need. But it was funded by *tithe*-payers, and tithing is now bad, the Tkaches say. *So Mr. Armstrong just couldn't do anything right!*

"The results of these unfortunate policies in our past are now being remedied," Tkach continued. "We are making plans to enroll U.S. church employees in a retirement plan funded by proceeds from the sale of the Pasadena property."

And they're to be commended for this new financial model! They stopped doing ANY KIND OF WORK in the early 1990s and wound up with perhaps \$100 million worth of property and facilities just sitting there collecting dust. So they sold it all and placed the "bulk of the sale proceeds," according to Ron Kelly, in a formal pension plan for *current* employees. They SOLD everything Mr. Armstrong and his faithful supporters built for doing *God's work* and then set aside the proceeds for those who stayed through the transformation and remained loyal to *Tkach*. There's nothing brilliant about that. It's more like a payoff.

Tkach Jr. called the church's lack of retirement funding an "unfortunate" policy that his administration inherited. To use that excuse in 1986, when his father took over, or even in 1995, when he replaced his father, is one thing. *But to blame Mr. Armstrong for the lack of pension planning in 2003?*

What, exactly, did the *Tkaches* ever do for their retirees between 1986 and 2003? Quite a few of the long-time ministers who stayed with the WCG began retiring during the mid-1990s, long before the property ever sold. Couldn't the Tkaches have taken steps in that direction years earlier, if it was such an egregious error made by Mr. Armstrong? As we have seen, the WCG was still collecting hundreds of millions of dollars each year in the early 1990s. They had more than \$2 billion in revenue to work with between Mr. Armstrong's death and when they finally sold the property in 2004. Couldn't they have carved

out some kind of pension plan from \$2 billion?

Herman Hoeh, Norman Smith, Dean Blackwell and Richard Rice—all long-time evangelists in the WCG—retired in 1996. But it's supposedly *Mr. Armstrong's fault* that the Tkaches never got around to developing a retirement program until 2004—18 years after *Mr. Armstrong died*?

Dr. Hoeh was one of the first four to graduate from Ambassador College. Norman Smith was ordained as an evangelist in 1957—Dean Blackwell in 1964. All these evangelists, by the way, were in their 60s at the date of their retirements—Hoeh was 67, Smith was 66, Blackwell was 64 and Rice was 60.

Before the Tkach pension plan could move forward in 2004—contingent on the sale of the property, of course—the WCG had a “discretionary assistance program” in place for its former, retirement-age employees. According to Tkach Jr., 240 retired employees qualified for assistance as of March 2003, which cost the church \$350,000 per month. On average, that amounts to \$1,458 per month for each retiree, or \$17,500 a year—not exactly a lucrative retirement package.

Perhaps that's why Dean Blackwell—an evangelist of 32 years—got a part-time job at a Dillard's department store after he retired.

■ MR. ARMSTRONG'S RETIREMENT POLICY

Retirement was a rarity for WCG ministers before Mr. Armstrong died. I mean, unless you are physically incapable of working, how do you retire from serving *God*? Moses never retired. Neither did Peter, John or Paul. “The United States is the only nation on Earth that retires people at age 60 or 65,” Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1979. “In the United States most have come to suppose that people naturally begin to lose their mental faculties even as early as 55.” Mr. Armstrong didn't subscribe to that line of thinking. He proved by his own work that the most productive years of life can be long after the “normal” retirement age. In fact, the work of the Worldwide Church of God really didn't go *worldwide* until after Mr. Armstrong turned 60.

And had Mr. Armstrong not been brought back to life in 1977, Garner Ted's liberals would have destroyed the church long before the Tkaches ever did. It was in August 1977, when Mr. Armstrong was 85, that his heart and breathing both stopped. He had no pulse—no blood pressure. A nurse frantically administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and massaged Mr. Armstrong's heart. After about a minute-and-a-half, he was breathing again on his own.

Seven months after his resuscitation, Mr. Armstrong said this to a group of WCG ministers in Pasadena: “Shortly after they'd told me what had happened [heart failure], I felt that if my work in God's hands were finished and God didn't have any further use for me in His work, that I would rather have remained dead.”

Like the Apostle Paul, he had a “desire to depart” if God was finished working through him. But God wasn't, as Mr. Armstrong would later explain: “It is now clearly evident that God brought me back for a vital purpose, by CPR, from death by heart failure. Had I remained dead the church of the living God would have been virtually destroyed by the liberal element that had crept in, especially in headquarters administration during my absence from Pasadena.”

And so, at 85 years of age, and in poor health, he took

charge and single-handedly put the Worldwide Church of God back on track! Retirement was never an option—even if liberal ministers might have *wanted him* to retire. If God kept him alive, it was to WORK. “I never expect to ‘retire,’ though I passed the so-called ‘retirement age’ long ago,” he wrote in 1971. “I expect to stay in harness as long as I live.”

And because he did that, even after congestive heart failure, he not only removed the liberal element—HE LED THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD INTO ITS GOLDEN AGE! Herbert W. Armstrong's greatest contribution to the Worldwide Church of God was made *after* God brought him back to life in 1977.

At the time Mr. Armstrong's heart had failed him, liberals had come close to destroying the church. The *Plain Truth* circulation had fallen to just over 1 million, the *World Tomorrow* program—with Garner Ted at the helm—could be seen on only 50 stations, and Ambassador College had turned into a secular institution.

While recovering in 1978, Mr. Armstrong stepped up efforts to write more for the church's publications. He completed work on his best book to that point, *The Incredible Human Potential*. To get the college back on track, he had closed Big Sandy and decided to start over in Pasadena with one freshman class, making sure that it began as *God's* college. On the TV program, he took over broadcasting responsibilities for the first time at age 85! In his early years, Mr. Armstrong pioneered the radio broadcast. But when it transitioned to TV in 1967, Garner Ted became the presenter. That changed abruptly when Mr. Armstrong fired his son in 1978 for trying to take over the work.

So his first year after heart failure was not easy to say the least. And the pressure only intensified in 1979 after Ted and other dissidents convinced California's attorney general to launch an assault against Mr. Armstrong and the church. Ted couldn't overpower his father from the inside, so he attempted to do so from the outside. But his attack again fell flat on its face in 1980.

And then the church really took off. The same year the state of California attacked, Mr. Armstrong reestablished the *Good News* magazine, which had turned into a cheap tabloid. He restarted it in 1979 with a circulation of 120,000.

As the church entered a new decade, Mr. Armstrong concentrated his energies on *family*. “The very foundation of any stable civilization is a solid family structure,” he wrote in 1979. He knew the church's stability depended in large part upon the strength of its individual families. His two-fold plan—Youth Opportunities United (YOU) for teenagers and Youth Educational Service (YES) for pre-teens—was designed to bring families closer together and to support parents in educating their children in the ways of God. In 1981, at the age of 88, Mr. Armstrong started a new magazine for young people—*Youth 81*. Later that year, he reopened the college campus in Big Sandy. He regularly visited the church's youth camps during the 1980s. In fact, it was while Mr. Armstrong was visiting the youth camp in Orr, Minnesota, in 1985 that he became too ill to continue with his travels, which prompted his early return to Pasadena and eventual death. His last field visit in 1985 was to a *youth camp*. Then, back in Pasadena, one of his last public appearances was before the *students* at Ambassador College, when he handed out *Mystery of the Ages*.

These many youth activities established and emphasized at the end of Mr. Armstrong's life had a tremendous impact on me personally. Besides drawing me closer to my parents, they strengthened my relationships with other like-minded

peers who wanted to succeed in life and avoid the common pitfalls of youth in this evil age. I traveled all over the Northwest with my youth group for sports tournaments, dances, talent shows and other activities. After my father was transferred in 1985, I had the same experiences in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. I attended WCG youth camps in Minnesota and Texas and was accepted as an Ambassador student in Pasadena and Big Sandy. This was all during the 1980s.

It was the work Mr. Armstrong did at the *very end* of his life, as an elderly man, that impacted my life the most.

And like the youth programs, every other church activity enjoyed prosperous growth after God raised Mr. Armstrong back to life in 1977. By the time he finally died in 1986—at 93 years of age—the church’s annual income had about tripled. And after taking over responsibilities as full-time presenter on *The World Tomorrow* at age 85, the program became one of the highest-rated religious programs on television. The *Plain Truth*, *Good News* and *Youth* circulations all skyrocketed.

In 1985, while nearly blind, Mr. Armstrong began yet another monumental project. “With the writing of the new book *Mystery of the Ages*,” he wrote, “God has helped me this year to do the best work of my 93 years of life!” He did his BEST work during his 90s! In fact, before he died, Mr. Armstrong said he had understood more in the last 10 years of his life than he had all the previous decades put together.

That’s a tremendous level of achievement for a man who would have rather died at the age of 85. “It would be so nice if I could retire,” Mr. Armstrong told a group of ministers in 1981, “because it’s a pretty heavy load I have to carry. But I’m not thinking of myself, I’m thinking of what I’ve been called to do. And it must be done.”

Mr. Armstrong kept right on serving God even as an elderly, blind man. And in doing so, he got the Worldwide Church of God back on track, defeated the state of California in a nationally known lawsuit, became one of the most popular religious personalities on television, nearly quadrupled the church’s growth in every major category, raised up and promoted numerous youth programs, traveled the world to meet with presidents and prime ministers and wrote a 363-page book.

■ “FOR MANY PEOPLE”

Herbert W. Armstrong prepared his last will and testament on Jan. 12, 1986—four days before he died. Knowing he was near death, his first directive was that Herman Hoeh officiate the funeral “without pomp and undue ceremony.”

In his second directive, he bequeathed all his property of “every kind and nature” to the Worldwide Church of God. *Think about that*. He had been pastor general of that church for more than 50 years. And though it started pitifully small, at the time of his death, the church’s annual income was \$164 million. As founder and pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong could have amassed a personal fortune by the time he died. As it was, the house he died in belonged to *the church*. The plane he traveled in belonged to *the church*. The cars he commuted in belonged to *the church*. And what he actually did own at the time of his death—even though he had three living children—he left to *the church*.

Had he been in it for the extravagant opulence that Tkach Jr. accused him of, can you imagine what kind of retirement package he could have set up for himself after 30 or 40 years

as pastor general? Yet, he served God and tirelessly worked right up until the day he died. And at his death, every material possession he owned went right back to the church.

In his will, he explained that he chose not to leave his descendants anything—not because of any ill will toward them—but because he believed they had “adequate means of their own” and because leaving what he had to the church would ensure that it “be put to more permanent and beneficial use for many people.”

That about sums up Herbert W. Armstrong’s legacy.

Even on his deathbed, his final wish was for everything he owned to go toward the work so that “many people” might benefit.

Mr. Armstrong put *God’s Family* and *God’s work* first. And as difficult as that might be to grasp, looking at it humanly, isn’t that what we should expect from a man of God? Jesus Christ, after all, said, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.” That’s what Jesus taught—and *lived*.

Wouldn’t you expect Jesus Christ to put God’s Family and God’s work first? “I MUST work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work,” Christ said. It wasn’t an option for Him—He HAD to work. He never considered retirement. He kept right on working until the day mankind murdered Him for putting God first.

PUTTING GOD AND HIS WORK FIRST IS THE BASIC THEME OF THE BIBLE.

Herbert W. Armstrong put this principle—THIS LAW—into action. He *gave* and *gave* and *gave* and *gave*. Then he died—exhausted from the heavy load God had laid on his shoulders. But God brought him back to life—and though he would have rather died or at least retired, he kept right on giving for ANOTHER 8½ YEARS! His lifelong work of service and sacrifice for the good of *others* proved, as our Savior promised it would, that it truly is more blessed to give than to receive.

God blessed everything Herbert W. Armstrong did.

Yet it didn’t take long for Tkachism to ruin it all.

■ HISTORY REPEATED ITSELF

“I want you, brethren, to think about and understand what happened to God’s Church in the 1970s lest history repeat itself! I want you to see the ‘fruits’ of rebelling against God’s way and God’s government.” Mr. Armstrong issued that warning to the WCG less than seven months before he died.

He told us EXACTLY what would happen if we didn’t learn the lesson of the 1970s. He wrote, “The ‘fruits’ of the rebel leaders and ‘liberals’ of the 1970s should now be clear to all. After some 35 years of steady growth in all facets of the work of God’s Church, the rate of growth began to slow, then ceased entirely in some areas, and, finally, even decreases began to be experienced in the number of radio and television stations, *Plain Truth* circulation, number of prospective members, number of co-workers, amount of income for the work, etc.—all under the ‘leadership’ of the liberal element. These are well-documented facts that cannot be denied.”

Facts are stubborn, but so is Tkachism. Even though the lessons had been thoroughly documented, they REFUSED to heed them and decided to go their own way after Mr. Armstrong died.

And history ended up repeating itself. ■

Embracing Authoritarianism

Russia's president has revealed his intent to hold power beyond his legally prescribed limit. Few are surprised—and no one can stop him. BY JOEL HILLIKER

VLADIMIR PUTIN IS IGNORING a lot of lectures from the West lately. Lectures chiding him for his return to Communist-style rulership tactics. Lectures about the importance of democracy. Lectures from people genuinely concerned that Russia has become a bit too powerful for everyone's good.

President Putin can well afford to ignore those lectures.

Most people in the West shed no tears after the Soviet Union dissolved and Russia stumbled and bumbled through the 1990s. Vladimir Putin shares the sentiment of most of his countrymen—that the 1990s were a decade of humiliation. Since assuming the presidency in 2000, the shrewd ex-KGB agent has gone about setting things right again. And he has largely succeeded.

He has systematically streamlined his nation's political architecture in order to amass his personal power. He has consolidated and nationalized his nation's formidable energy resources and used them as foreign-policy weapons. He has overseen an oil-and-gas-driven economic revival. He has rebuilt his nation's military.

In the process, Putin has brutally squashed an uprising in Chechnya, clamped down on independent Russian media, attacked human rights organizations, and intimidated his rivals into silence. His government has been implicated in several shady incidents: the poisoning of pro-Western presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko prior to Ukraine's 2004 elections; a massive cyberattack against Estonia after it moved a prominent Soviet-era statue; the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya; the lethal poisoning of spy-turned-Putin-critic Alexander Litvinenko.

In short, Putin has engineered a remarkable, mercurial return to

international prominence and power for Russia—and in classic Russian authoritarian style.

And while foreigners lecture him nervously, Putin's popularity among his people soars between 70 and 80 percent.

"Souls Molded by Czarism"

Apparently, most Russians simply don't balk at authoritarianism. It is in their blood. Post-Soviet efforts to remake Moscow into a representative government couldn't erase the indelible stamp that centuries of despotic czarist and communist rule left upon generations of Russian minds.

In his book *Our Culture, What's Left of It*,

Theodore Dalrymple reviewed Marquis de Custine's work *La Russie en 1839*, a deeply perceptive analysis of Russian society under the czars. "[O]n the basis of his understanding of the Russian character, Custine could prophesy [in 1843] that within two or three generations a violent cataclysm would occur that would spell not liberation but a renewed and more terrible form of despotism, for *men with souls molded by czarism would have no vocation for freedom*," Dalrymple wrote. "The turmoil that Russia has experienced in escaping the legacy of communism would not have surprised Custine in the least, nor would he have expected a happy outcome at any time in the foreseeable future" (emphasis mine).

Little wonder, then, that lectures from foreigners (and, to this point, that is the extent of the international response to Russia's reversion to authoritarianism) have done nothing to curb Putin's actions.

In fact, with America mired in the Middle East, with Europe still acutely dependent on Russia's oil and gas, with China and other Asian nations strengthening ties with Moscow, with his domestic enemies silenced and his people behind him, Vladimir Putin has a remarkably free hand to mold his nation's future as he wishes.

**Russian President
VLADIMIR
PUTIN**



"The Beginning of the Putin Era"

There is one slight road bump: The constitution (adopted in 1993) demands that Putin vacate the presidency when his second four-year term ends March 2. It is becoming clear now that he will circumvent this limitation with ease.

Speculation on how he would do it has roiled for years. On September 12, the answers started to come. In keeping with a pattern of extreme actions he has taken throughout his presidency in order to consolidate his power, Putin dismissed the prime minister and dissolved the government. The prime minister claimed to have requested the action because, in the words of Fox News, "with elections approaching, Putin needed to have a free hand to make decisions, including those concerning appointments" (September 12). Putin installed a virtual unknown into the prime minister's office.

Then on October 1, Putin provided a solid clue as to the course he may take: He suggested that after elections, he could *assume the prime ministership himself*. The Russian Constitution is ambiguous enough that, with a simple majority vote in parliament, he could reinvent the post to become the most powerful in the nation, reducing the presidency to a ceremonial role.

In addition, Putin broke from his policy of refraining from membership in any political party. October 1, at a party congress, Russia's leading party, United Russia, invited the president to join; Putin replied, "I thankfully accept your proposal that I should head the United Russia ticket"—thus marking his entrance into parliamentary politics.

Putin has said he favors lengthening presidential terms to five or seven years, but that he won't change the constitution as president. This comment led to speculation about whether he might go ahead and change it once he becomes prime minister. The *Sunday Times* reported that a group of former KGB officers in the Kremlin are urging him to do just that, and to then, after a short span as prime minister, reassume the presidency, extending his reign for 14 more years. "This is only the beginning of the Putin era," said Russian political consultant and analyst Vyacheslav Nikonov (October 7).

"For him, Russia is a great power, and it will be back as one of the biggest powers," Russian expert Pierre Lorrain said. "Putin

wants to be the man that makes that turnaround" (*Christian Science Monitor*, October 4).

In another move to strengthen his power, Putin has pushed through new election rules that will almost certainly eliminate the last pieces of parliamentary opposition to the Russian president. The rules may give United Russia up to 75 percent of the vote in the country's December 2 parliamentary elections.

Under the new rules, Russians will vote for parties rather than individual candidates. In addition, the Kremlin now requires each party to carry 7 percent of the national vote to gain seats in the Duma, Russia's legislative body, up from 5 percent; and each must prove to the Kremlin that it has 50,000 members, up from 10,000, in order to be considered an official party.

"This is the first time in post-Soviet history when only the Kremlin decides who can participate and who can't," minority party MP Vladimir Ryzhkov said.

Reports suggest that minority parties have been disbanded even if they meet the new standards. Ryzhkov's Republican Party was dissolved this year under these pretenses, though Ryzhkov said it easily met the requirements. The Other Russia party has also been disbanded.

This is precisely the kind of behavior that gives people in the West Cold War nightmares. European leaders are especially nervous because of their bloody history with Russia—coupled with their uncomfortably deep need for Russian energy.

By stark contrast, the Russian establishment and most of the Russian people are tickled. "Most Russians want Putin to stay on because they feel he is giving them back their pride," says Russian political commentator Vladimir Pozner.

Russia is embracing an authoritarian leader driven to pilot his nation back to the great-power status he feels it deserves. This development has dangerous implications.

Tying Europe in Knots

Already, Putin has shown himself committed to undermining U.S. and European policy on Iran. Virtually the entire Western world is unified in at least some effort to keep nuclear weapons away from this terrorist-sponsoring state. Putin's Russia, by contrast, has defiantly supported Iran's nuclear program and exercised its position on the UN Security Council to undercut U.S.-led attempts to

punish Tehran. In a visit to the Iranian capital in October, he made it clear that Russia would prevent the Caspian states from participating in any U.S. military strike against Iran.

Another major point of contention is Kosovo. Europe and the United States have endorsed Kosovo's bid for independence from Serbia; Putin has said he will back Serbia—an endorsement that single-handedly threw into question a thorny issue Europe had already considered resolved.

"From the Baltics to the Balkans, Russia's resurgence is beginning to tie Europe in knots; creating tensions among nations and fears of ethnic instability and border disputes, and divisions between the U.S. and its continental partners," reported the *Christian Science Monitor*. "In nearly every key relationship Russia has with Europe, the Kremlin under Vladimir Putin ... has pushed its way back to a central place at the decision-making table on Kosovo, Iran, energy, military alliances, and nuclear proliferation. And as a key supplier of natural gas to Europe, it's managed to do so at very little economic risk to itself, say diplomats and experts in Europe" (*ibid.*).

In the background of the whole issue is the fact that this former superpower is loaded with nuclear weapons—a fact Putin enjoys reminding the world of from time to time. October 18, for example, he announced plans—which he called "not only big but grandiose, and ... fully realistic"—to modernize Russia's military and bolster its "nuclear triad" with new missiles, bomber aircraft and submarines. Not only can Russia credibly back its foreign policy with the threat of using weapons of mass destruction, but it can also share that devastating technology with anyone it may consider an ally in its campaign to level the global playing field.

Biblical prophecy clearly describes the inevitable return of Russia as a great power. It shows how Russia's resurgence will help ignite and draw together a European superstate—and subsequently contribute to an enormously destructive world war. (Request your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

Under Vladimir Putin, we are witnessing this transformation take place before our eyes.

And though many nations don't like what they see unfolding, they can do little to stop it. ■

the stunning concessions Barak had offered Arafat. Jerusalem's mayor at the time, *Ehud Olmert* of all people, organized a "One Jerusalem" demonstration in which 400,000 Israelis from all over the country assembled at the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City to declare their support for a united city under Jewish sovereign rule. It was Israel's largest protest in its history.

That spontaneous reaction in support of one Jerusalem has long since evaporated; the weak will of Israel's leadership these past seven years has spread like cancer all over Israel.

From the Jewish perspective, as I wrote in the July *Trumpet*, the real significance of the failed negotiations between Barak and Arafat in 2000 is not that Arafat refused to accept half of Jerusalem—it's that an Israeli prime minister actually made the offer. Before July of 2000, that had never happened. But with Jerusalem placed on the table as a bargaining chip, and left there ever since, Israelis have had several years to warm up to the idea. A poll by Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies in May found that 58 percent of Israelis supported the idea of giving up parts of Arab East Jerusalem if it would solidify a peace deal with the Palestinians.

Today, it would be difficult imagining 40,000 Jews, let alone 400,000, rallying to protest the division of their capital.

On the other hand, imagine the Arab reaction to an Israeli politician arriving seven or eight years after Camp David promising to disavow everything Barak and Olmert conceded.

Mahmoud Abbas would be the real loser in that scenario, looking at it politically. And Hamas, which has been calling for negotiations to cease between the Palestinian Authority and Israel (not to mention the destruction of Israel as a state), would be vindicated throughout the Arab world. *Haven't we said this all along*, Hamas would gloat. *Negotiations with Israel are futile; it has never been serious about achieving peace.*

However the details play out, prophecy is sure. The violent division of Jerusalem doesn't depend on a conservative government being elected in Israel. But if Benjamin Netanyahu does return to power, as my father suggested in early 2006, you can definitely see how the Zechariah 14 crisis would come to a head much more quickly. ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri
Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun
Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun
Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am
Arizona, Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun
Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun
California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri
California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri
Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tallahassee-Thomaspville 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun
Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed
Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon
Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue
Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCXP 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KPFX 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun
Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun



North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSB 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBB 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXV 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPRX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVVB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVVB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWYY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWYY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
Alberta, Calgary CICT 12:30 am, Mon
Alberta, Edmonton CITV 12:30 am, Mon
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; BCTV 12:30 am, Mon
Manitoba, Winnipeg CKND 12:30 am, Mon
Maritimes CIHF 12:30 am, Mon
Ontario CIII 12:30 am, Mon
Quebec, Montreal CKMI 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Regina CFRE 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Barbados CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 6:00 pm, Tue

Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KWHM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWVB 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun

New stations are added often.

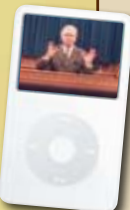
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Why the Pope Offends

I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR your excellent article about the papacy criticizing other religions ("Why the Pope Offends Muslims, Jews and Protestants," October). Yours is one of the very few magazines that dare to raise criticism concerning the pope. The problematic history of the papacy is hardly ever mentioned in the media here in Europe. Letters by readers to newspapers criticizing the Inquisition during the allegedly "Holy" Roman Empire are usually not published. There is no public debate concerning the crimes committed in the name of the church throughout history and hardly any debate concerning the recent scandal in the church in respect to the molesting of children by members of the clergy. In Germany alone, the two established churches (Roman Catholic and Lutheran) are subsidized by the state with €14 billion every year. No politician has the courage—or even the desire—to cut those subsidies. We have to face the truth that our government financially supports an institution that has caused a lot of suffering in history.

Rolf Blumquist—GERMANY

Our Loveless World

AS A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN, I wanted to send my heartfelt, deep appreciation for the message contained in "Surviving Our Loveless World" (October). While our prophetic theologies may not align, this message of love and law in a world spinning out of control is needed and appreciated. Well written; well done. ...

Jim Taylor—MASSACHUSETTS

REGARDLESS OF ONE'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, it is interesting to read the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. It has become a valuable resource against which to compare news and comment from other media sources.

CORRECTION In "The Return of Rafsanjani" (March 2007), we stated that Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was the head of the Assembly of Experts. At that time, he was actually the first deputy chairman of the assembly. He had won the most votes of all candidates in the December 2006 election. On Sept. 4, 2007, he became the chairman.

es. However, I find most Americans too busy being consumers to heed any warnings. I think it was President Bush who, during a crisis, urged people to "go shopping," and they did. ...

T.M.—NORTH CAROLINA

The Golden Years

I JUST READ THE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY a senior citizen ("The Golden Years," August/September). It was a delightful read. I am a "baby boomer," 52 years old, who totally agrees with the idea that the ways of old are going out with the wooden nickel and the 5-cent cigar. Seniors today are many times seen as burdens to their families, which is a shame. I have a good friend who is in her 90s, and I look forward to talking to her every day on the phone. She gives me advice about many things in life. Compared to her, I'm a whippersnapper! But I love talking to her—telling me about her past is indeed a window to an era long since past. To those who see their elders as burdens, think again. One day we'll be in that situation, and how will we like it if we're not treated well? Also, treasure their company and memories of the past because when they're gone, another window on the past will shut. ...

Paul McGraw—NEW YORK

PRISON IS A DISMAL AND DEPRESSING place. Your publications always help remind me that God has a bigger and better plan for me and others, and that His plan is getting close to completion. I need that kind of hope at this point in my life. Thank you for your wonderful work.

Subscriber—MARENISCO, MICH.

Raising the Ruins

I READ THE BOOK *RAISING THE RUINS* by Stephen Flurry and enjoyed it immensely. I have been looking for your organization for a long time. That was an amazing struggle for all of you to endure. Congratulations to Stephen Flurry and all of you for persevering! ...

Dorothy J. Tonkens—MILLTOWN, N.J.

... HAVING READ THROUGH ALL THE ARTICLES written in the *Trumpet* from 2003 till now, two countries that have been prominently referred to most are America and Britain. I'm living in a Third World country ... and it's interesting to know that

whatever happens in developed countries like the U.S. and Britain can affect developing countries like mine. ... America was so blessed that it became very powerful in politics, economy, military, science, technology, and, of course, freedom—more than any nation—[but] America has totally turned its back against God Almighty like never before. It has become sinful with all kinds of evil and wicked activities. It encourages, supports and even makes laws to protect some of these sinful activities, thus losing the willpower to fight against the very evil that it supports itself. ... The Holy Bible speaks firmly against ... adultery, same-sex marriage, prostitution, abortion (murder), pride, illegal drug business, pornography and so on. The list may go on, but these are the core activities that the American government cannot fight against; though it may try to, it will never succeed unless it turns to God for total forgiveness and salvation. ... I summarize my comments with three questions: 1) How can America win the war against international crimes, poverty, drug trafficking, pornography, prostitution, etc., when its backyard is full of these? 2) How can America win the war against international terrorism when the very terrorists who believe in Allah (God) see America as a nation full of evil? ... 3) How can America forcefully introduce democracy into other nations when that very democracy encourages evil deeds in its own backyard? ...

Jiggy Ben—PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Punishing Weather

I FINALLY FOUND THE MISSING LINK IN my undergraduate thesis through the cover story you had this August ("Flash Floods, Scorched Earth"). I am researching on related topics about disaster and disaster reporting, and your explanation of why our weather is acting so strangely enlightened me to the fact that it is not just global warming alone that's causing these things to happen. Though I am worried that putting your article in my thesis would jeopardize my graduation, I still feel that God plays a big part in this phenomenon and that man's sin is the root of all these. ...

Stephen Norries Padilla—PHILIPPINES

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

Fool's Paradise

History shows how easy it is to ignore danger. BY RON FRASER

A RECENT VISIT TO AUSTRALIA LEFT ME NOTING ONE glaring similarity between Aussies and Americans. The leftists have brainwashed both societies into living in a fool's paradise.

They have accomplished this in each of these countries since World War II by a combination of deft use of the education system, a takeover of the mass media, and promulgation of liberal-socialist legislation by the left.

It is no mere coincidence that the last great crop of leaders of real character, of true statesmen and heroes in battle, emerged from the pre-World War II, pre-liberalized education system.

By contrast, the free democracies of the world (largely comprised of the English-speaking peoples) are today being led by prime ministers and presidents who developed as individuals within post-World War II society. These have been the years of the feminizing of society, the blurring of gender roles, the emasculation of language, and the neutering of anything that might smack of the old values upon which our respective nations were built.

We now live out the legacy of the Marxist-Leninist theoreticians' takeover of education in the '60s, its flower-power results of the '70s, the corporate greed backlash of the '80s, and the self-fulfillment rush of the '90s. Today we see the high penalty we must pay for satiating our senses at any price: the accelerating meltdown of the whole post-war system!

Read the signs: The consumer society is simply doomed!

Whether it be our national debt, the state of our increasingly incompatible multicultural societies, the transfer of major industries offshore, the conversion of our once-great agricultural export economies into net importers, the volatility of our stock markets, the increasing gender confusion within society, or the rising hatred for people of Anglo-Saxon and Judaic stock—threats to the freedoms hard won in World War II currently abound.

What is it about us essentially peace-loving, generally good-natured Anglo-Saxons that causes us to ignore any powerfully aggressive threat to our freedoms until our enemies try to smash us?

Should it not have been obvious, given their history, that the Teutonic peoples of Europe would use the Treaty of Versailles as a cloak under which to heap retribution on those nations that humiliated them in World War I? Ought it not to have been self-evident that a signature on a piece of paper of a rabble-rousing, Jew-hating tyrant gave absolutely no protection whatsoever against his imperialistic drives in 1939? Should it not have been clear to all that a corpulent, gun-toting, scraggy-bearded Palestinian addressing the United Nations was simply enhancing his platform calling for the annihilation of the tiny



ISTOCK PHOTO

nation of Israel? And should it not have been apparent to any level-headed political leader, looking into the eyes of a former Russian KGB agent who suddenly rises to the presidency of his own country, that he is certainly *not* "a man I can trust"?

Reflecting on better times, British politician Lord Hailsham, in an address to the Churchill Society in Canada, raised the question, "Has anyone paused to wonder whether

the ideas and the ideals which this great man [Churchill] fostered and defended in his long public life have worthy defenders left upon this Earth today?" Lord Hailsham added, "History is *now*, and no one knew better than Winston that history is, always, ours to make" (*The Heroic Memory*).

Any realist would have to agree that the history that Western—in particular Anglo-Saxon—civilization is writing today is a history we are bound to regret.

Western society's decline may have been accelerated by the

events of 9/11. The signs are, its fall is but a matter of time. But, inevitably, history shows, we will have to learn this the hard way.

As we either ignore or remain willingly ignorant of the hard facts of the impending doom of our hedonistic way of life, will it yet again take an enemy intent on smashing us over the head to wake us up to the reality of our great moral decline into Romanesque decadence?

While Western mass media remain stupidly hypnotized by a petty Persian windbag and lesser extremist Islamists loud on rhetoric and great on blowing themselves and others to bits, we ignore one great fact of history. The major threats to the freedoms of the Anglo-Saxon peoples have always been initiated from the continent of Europe.

Though Imperial Japan did raise a dire threat to our existence in World War II, it did not initiate that war on the West. The two greatest wars in man's history were launched against the free West from Europe.

That such a catastrophe could again be perpetrated against our shores from Europe is incomprehensible to our education-ists, our politicians, press and mass media. But inerrant Bible prophecy clearly indicates that it *will* happen yet once again!

You need to study our booklet revealing the prophecy of *Nahum* for real insight into the history and the future of a great nation even now on the verge of grasping the power to instigate such an act.

Our prayer is that you will *break out* of the fool's paradise that currently enraptures Western society, and really *WAKE UP* to the reality of what is *truly* happening on the world scene ... *before* it is too late! ■



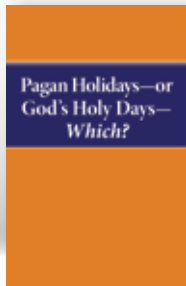
HO, HO, HOAX



**What do you know about the origins of Christmas?
Can you pass this true/false test?**

- T / F Christians exchange gifts following the example of the wise men.
- T / F Christmas is celebrated on December 25 because it is Jesus's birthday.
- T / F The Christmas tree tradition began after the birth of Christ.
- T / F The "mother and child" story began with Mary and the baby Jesus.
- T / F Jesus Christ loves Christmas trees and Santa Claus.

How did you do?



Believe it or not, *all* of the above statements are *false!*

Surprised? Very few people know why they believe what they do. Did you know that the Bible has quite a lot to say about the non-Christian origins of Christmas traditions? To learn the amazing truth about Christmas and which days are truly God's holy days, request our free reprint, "Why Christmas Is So Important to God" and our free booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*

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